



Fort Ellice trail leads through valley and back

The Qu'Appelle Valley has formed a natural travel route through much of our province ever since the land was inhabited thousands of years ago.

Formed by glaciers 50,000 years ago the valley saw the early peoples follow its course in pursuit of the animals they hunted and used for food, clothing, tools and shelter.



Killaly is a quiet, relaxing village

Killaly is a village of 77 residents located at the junction of Highways 22 and 47, 22 km south of Melville and only 10 km north of the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Killaly has a post office, a Roman Catholic Church and a senior citizens' lodge. The Community Center is also a hotspot serving everyone in the area and offers a place for community fellowship, games and events.

The annual outdoor Mariahilf Catholic Mass is held July 23 at 5 p.m. and everyone is welcome. In winter the village hosts an annual snowmobile derby, usually in February.

Killaly is a quiet, relaxing community offering inexpensive lots and housing for sale.

One of the two trails that led west from Fort Ellice in Manitoba led in a westerly direction to Fort Qu'Appelle. The cart trail to the Qu'Appelle - and points west - left the main trail just west of Fort Ellice.

Soon after it entered the great Qu'Appelle Valley which runs from the Manitoba border for more than 250 miles west. Fort Ellice owned by the Hudson's Bay Co. was the major point for servicing trade in a huge area to the west but inroads by American traders led to the Bay establishing a post some 20 miles south of the Qu'Appelle River in 1855.

Named Fort Qu'Appelle it was moved north to the river a few years later. The old location became known as Troy, then South Qu'Appelle and finally Qu'Appelle.

In the following years until the arrival of the railway Fort Qu'Appelle became an important centre for commerce and communication for the southwest, according to Historic Lands of Saskatchewan.

In 1874 the Canadian government signed Treaty No. 4 with Cree and Saulteaux bands at Fort Qu'Appelle. Two years later the North West Mounted Police built a new fort across the river from the Bay post and this added further to the volume and importance of the traffic moving from Fort Ellice westward on the plains and through the valley to Fort Qu'Appelle and from Fort Qu'Appelle back to Fort Ellice.



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