

Green Lake, Lac Vert, Saskatchewan: Green Lake was the site of Green Lake House (NWC) on the north side and Essex House (HBC) on the west of the lake: North West Company trader Angus Shaw documents a wintering post at Green Lake dating back to 1782. The Green Lake Metis settlement is located 55 kilometers northeast of Meadow Lake. In 1793 the NWC established a permanent post, and in 1810 the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) established itself on the lake. In 1816-1817, the NWC seized the HBC post and its men, however a HBC post was re-established by 1818, and in 1821 the two companies merged. Shortly after the merger, the Green Lake post was closed for several years, reopening in 1831, and continuing operation until 1973.

Green Lake is located between Fort Carlton and the Methye Portage which accesses the Athabasca river system. The Beaver River provided an east-west waterway half-way between the Athabasca River to the north and the Saskatchewan River to the south. The post was used to store goods that were hauled in carts overland from Fort Carlton. The trade goods were then freighted by canoe to Isle a-la-Crosse and the northern districts of English River, Lesser Slave Lake and the Peace and Athabasca Rivers. Green Lake was founded by the Metis in 1782 and was established as a Hudson's Bay Company Post in 1860. The Metis in the vicinity worked as labourers, cart men and hunters and fishers for this post.

By 1940 it became apparent that agriculture had to replace the traditional hunting economy. To assist the people of Green Lake with employment and training, the provincial government set up Central Farm, a program of 99-year leases on 40-acre (160,000 m²) plots. In addition, a new road is built to Meadow Lake and Ile à la Crosse. Thus, in 1940 the provincial government set aside Townships 57 to 62 in Ranges 12 and 13 West of the third Meridian as an agricultural project for the Metis. The goal of this "Green Lake Experiment" was to reduce the government expenditures for social assistance. This land was leased to the Metis under 99 year leases. Unfortunately, these forty-two acre parcels were too small to sustain commercial farming. Tony Larocque was the first settlement manager. In 1944, the government moved large numbers of Metis who were receiving social assistance in the south to Green Lake, most notably from around Lestock in central Saskatchewan. To offset the continued poverty of the Metis at Green Lake the government then set up a government run farm known as the Central Farm. It was to teach farming as well as some industrial skills. In effect though, this government colony at Green Lake was used to train semi-skilled labour to the lumber and fishing industries that were growing in size in northern Saskatchewan.



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