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## NEW BOOK HIGHLIGHTS STORIES OF THE FORT WALSH TO WOOD MOUNTAIN NWMP TRAIL

Benchmark Press in cooperation with the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society released a new book today about the history of the Fort Walsh to Wood Mountain North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) Trail. The Trail was used by the NWMP between 1875 and 1912 and was originally called “The Traders’ Road” because it was a Red River cart trail extensively used by the Métis and other traders. It is believed that parts of the Trail were also used by First Nations and even after the NWMP ceased their horse patrols in 1912, local pioneers continued to use parts of the Trail before it was largely plowed under for farming. From 1876 to 1881, the Trail gained international notoriety when the *Lakota* Chief Sitting Bull sought refuge in Canada, and lived in the area around the Trail. In the 1950s and 60s, Everett Baker, the first president of the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society (SHFS) led a grassroots campaign to place 260 historic markers along the route of the Trail, to commemorate its significance to the First Nations, Métis and pioneer societies that lived in what is now south west Saskatchewan.

The book is 104 pages and features an eclectic collection of 14 articles about the history of the Trail. Contributors include Garrett Wilson, Ken Mitchell and Thelma Poirier. The book also features a map of the Trail and 56 historic photographs, including 14 colour pictures from the Everett Baker collection documenting Baker’s efforts to mark the Trail in the 1950s and 60s. The book retails for \$14.95 and all profits generated by the book go to maintaining the historic markers on the NWMP Trail. Copies are available through the SHFS.

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