

Whitla, an unincorporated community in Alberta, Canada, lies within the County of Forty Mile No. 8.

- **Origins and Naming:** Like many towns in the surrounding region, Whitla's story began with the opening of homestead land in **1908**. However, even before that, there was some activity. The town owes its name to **R.J. Whitla**, a Winnipeg merchant who visited the site when it was a mere siding in **1885**. Squatters and cattle ranchers had already settled in the vicinity as early as **1884**.
- **Early Days:** The first merchant to set up shop in Whitla was **Sam Richardson**, who moved there in **1909**. Before him, the town consisted of little more than a siding, a section house, and the inevitable dugout for track workers. Richardson built a store with lumber shipped in from Medicine Hat, and behind it, a one-room shack for his family. The following year, **Alex and Chris Ashton** opened another general store on the north side of the tracks. Their firm was quickly followed by a hardware store, a lumber yard, and a farm machinery business. Despite the Aston store burning down in **January 1916**, the town continued to grow rapidly, boasting a Union Bank, two cafes, a billiard hall, and three garages.
- **Challenges and Triumphs:** The settlers and residents of Whitla faced both hardships and moments of prosperity. The **1920s** saw a gradual exodus, which accelerated during the **1930s** and early **1940s**. By the end of World War II, the small homesteads had virtually vanished, replaced by vast farms and ranches. The paving and relocation of **Highway 3** in **1949** dealt a final blow to the village's economy. However, the mid-**1950s** brought some promise: electricity arrived in **1955**, and irrigation from the **St. Mary River Project** began the following year.

Whitla Cemetery

NE8-11-8-W4
 49.89529, -110.05139
 Twp Rd
 Rge Rd 84
 County of Forty Mile

Barnes, Melrose	no data available
Childress, Manfred Eugene "Gene"	Died Jan 1920
Doherty, Hugh	Died 18 Mar 1919
Ensign, Bertel	1911 - Jan 1913
Freeman (nee Kent), Augusta	1876 - Jan 1926
Freeman, Charles Isom	1874 - 23 Jun 1925
Freeman, Edwin	07 Oct 1907 - 24 Mar 1916
Fuller, Infant	no data available
Gechter, Infant	no data available
Gechter, Infant Twins	09 Jun 1937 - 09 Jun 1937
Gilroy, Margaret May	1909 - 28 May 1921
Gilroy, Twins	02 Oct 1910 - 02 Oct 1910; parent: Robert Gilroy
Green, Lloyd	no data available
Hall, Percy Ferdinand	1911 - 20 Oct 1921; 9y11m

Harden, Earl Calvin	1886 - 1919
Jensen, Infants	no data available
Laval, Mr.	no data available
Lawson, Infant	1921 - Dec 1921
Rudd, Andrew Sr	no data available
Scheepbouer, Infants	no data available
Shaw, Esther L	30 Apr 1909 - 03 Apr 1910
Sheepbower, Helena	08 Mar 1908 - 18 Oct 1911
Verhaest, Infant	1917 - 1917
Walker, Infants	no data available