

# The Flour Mill

Yorkton's historic flour mill is one of the oldest remaining buildings from the community's early years. Yorkton moved south from its original location in 1891 to be alongside the newly-built rail line, and in 1898 John J. Smith built a flour mill with bricks from his own brick plant to support the new settlement's agricultural base.

Over the next 80 years, the old mill changed ownership a number of times before falling into disuse in the late 1980s. It is now one of the last and oldest remaining local commercial and agricultural heritage sites.

The Yorkton Brick Mill Heritage Society Inc. was formed in 2012, at a time when it was contemplated that the building be demolished, with the intent to save and restore it. It was declared a municipal

heritage site, and since then much work has been done, utilizing donations and grants, to strengthen the structure, replace windows and roof, landscape the grounds and start to tell the story not only of the mill, but of area First Nations, Yorkton's early settlers, the railway and the role of agriculture.

The Society is now undertaking a campaign to raise the funds for an annex to the original mill. The Interpretive Station will house displays and educational material, archival documents and meeting spaces to make the mill a gathering place that welcomes visitors and residents, and tells the story of more than 125 years of Yorkton's and our region's history.

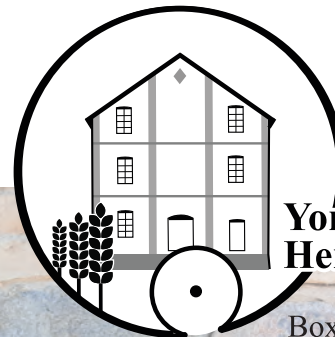
The mill and site is being developed by and for those who believe that history can be alive and accessible, and need not exist only in photographs and books. The mill was here in years past, is still here today, and with your help, will be here in the future.



The mill in 1910, above;  
Repair work in 2018, below.

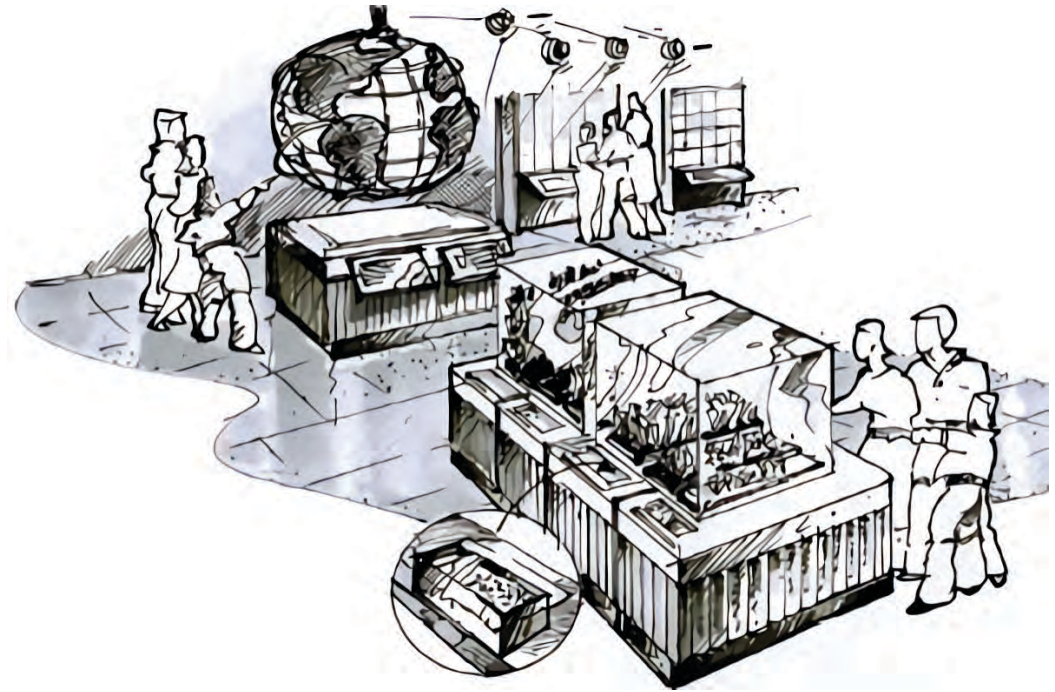
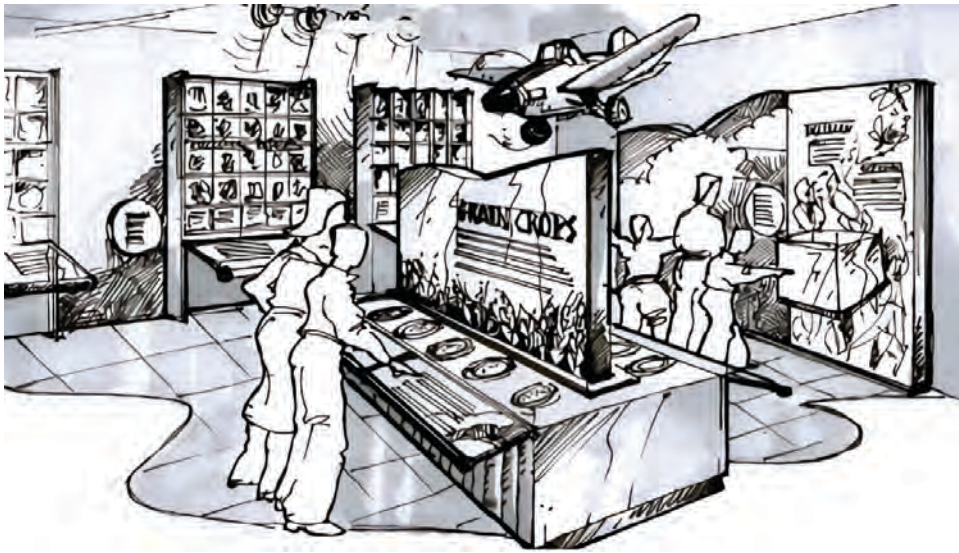


*Telling the story of  
prairie food production*



**Yorkton Brick Mill  
Heritage Society**

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## Providing current and reliable information about food production and processing

The Interpretive Station, consisting of both static and interactive educational and informative displays for all ages, will greet visitors as they enter the building. It will not only show the development of milling wheat from the late 1800s when the first York Colony mill was erected, but will also provide a much broader overview of all food production in our region and province.

While wheat was the mainstay of agriculture here for many years and we were the bread basket of the world, production has greatly diversified, as has the processing now taking place locally and throughout the prairies. Canola crushers, oat millers, barley maltsters and many others, ranging from craft brewers to pulse processors and exporters now make up a diverse agriculture-based sector that benefits our economy and our food choices.

The Interpretive Station will tell the stories not only of the farms that are the primary producers, but will inform and ensure visitors that prairie agri-business excels at producing safe and wholesome products by sustainable means. We will partner with our supporters in the agricultural industry to develop displays that tell the complete story of food production so it is easily understood by children, students and adults.

With the assistance of the sponsor of the Interpretive Station, we will concentrate on telling the many stories related to food production, including:

- The history of crop varieties grown on the prairies;
- The importance and complexity of keeping soil healthy and productive;
- The environmental sustainability of today's agricultural practices;
- Crop production including the roles of science and technology;
- Agri-business today, including implements, financial management, transportation, farm safety measures, processing and distribution and much more;
- The potential for agri-tourism.

There was a time when almost everyone in western Canada was, at most, once- or twice-removed from a farm. Today, many no longer have that connection.

The Interpretive Station will provide current and reliable information to those who may not understand and appreciate where their food comes from or who produces it; those who may not be aware of the care and pride with which it is produced and manufactured.

*Have questions? Want to discuss your support?*

*Email [admin@yorktonflourmill.ca](mailto:admin@yorktonflourmill.ca),*

*call Terry at 306-621-1385, Larry at 306-621-0523 or any member of the Yorkton Flour Mill Capital Campaign.*