

History of Yorkton creameries and dairy production

- 1891 First dairy opened in Yorkton owned by local shareholders, closing a few years later for lack of funds when some members had forsaken their pledges.
- 1895 The J. S. Crerar Creamery opened, owned by local businessman James Crerar.
- 1898 The Crerar Creamery was taken over by the Yorkton Butter and Cheese Manufacturing Association, and closed in 1902.
- 1914 Ideal Creamery opened, producing butter and ice cream.
- Sydney Herbert Peet started in the dairy business from his farm which became City Dairy and started home delivery of milk
- 1915 Ideal Creamery sold to Crescent Creamery.
- 1917 Saskatchewan Co-op Creameries Limited formed and built a plant in Yorkton on Myrtle Avenue between Broadway and Smith Street. It consisted of a hatchery, a poultry plant, and butter production.
- 1919 Crescent Creamery announced a large addition to their plant on Laurier Avenue.
- 1920 Alex and Johanna Blommaert, who farmed east of Yorkton, started White Sands River Dairy.
- 1922 Mr. Howell of Fonehill sold his milk wagon and dairy herd to Sydney Peet.
- 1924 Sydney Peet built a pasteurizing plant on Laurier Avenue.

- 1932 Co-op Creameries went into receivership, was taken over by the provincial government which became its sole creditor, and continued in business.
- 1939 Saskatchewan Co-operative Creamery Association Limited was established to assume operation of the former Co-op Creameries from the government.
- Late
1930s Saskatchewan Co-op Creamery started in the fluid milk business.
- York Farm Dairy was sold to City Dairy and other small local dairies closed. City Dairy also bought Sigardson Dairy and Wilcox Dairy.
- Early
1940s City Dairy stopped Sunday milk delivery to homes due to lack of workers. Saskatchewan Co-op Creamery also stopped Sunday delivery, making Yorkton only the second city in Canada, after Ottawa, to not deliver on Sundays.
- During the war years Saskatchewan Co-op Creamery and City Dairy worked together to supply the Commonwealth Air Training Plan operation at Yorkton airport.
- 1946 City Dairy purchased White Sands River Dairy from Alex and Johanna Blommaert. It was the last raw milk retailer in Yorkton.
- 1948 City Dairy built a new plant.
- 1953 Cecil Peet purchased City Dairy from his father.
- 1954 Crescent Creamery was sold to Standard Dairy.
- 1960 End of the milk bottle era, replaced by cartons.
- 1966 Standard Dairy was sold to Saskatchewan Co-op Creamery.

- 1969 City Dairy was sold to Saskatchewan Co-op Creamery.
- 1970s Fire destroyed the Saskatchewan Co-op Creamery poultry plant and hatchery on Myrtle Avenue. The milk production plant at the corner of Myrtle and Smith Street continued to operate.
- 1972 Saskatchewan Co-op Creameries and Dairy Pool merged to form Dairy Producers Co-op.
- 1973 Dairy Producers built and opened a large new plant on York Road.
- 1992 Dairy Producers in Yorkton stopped yogurt production.
- Agrifoods formed with the amalgamation of one BC and two Alberta dairy co-operatives, operating under the brand name Dairyworld. Dairy Producers declined to join and remained independent.
- 1994 Dairy Producers in Yorkton stopped butter production.
- 1995 Creamette and milk production stopped at Dairy Producers in Yorkton, with the production of milk powder the only remaining operation.
- 1996 Dairy Producers Co-operative Ltd was absorbed into Agrifoods/Dairyworld.
- 2001 Agrifoods/Dairyworld was purchased by Saputo, a Montreal-based conglomerate in the dairy industry operating in Canada, the United States, Australia and Great Britain.
- 2003 Dairy Producers plant on York Road stopped milk powder production and was shut down in January.

*Compiled from various written and oral sources by YorktonStories.ca.
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