

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

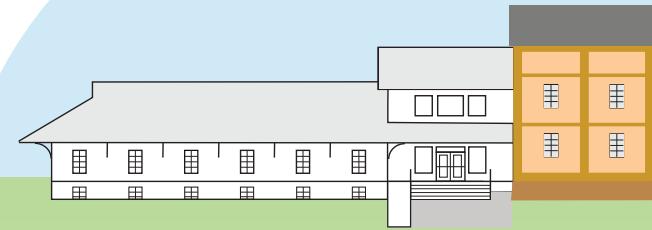
heritage site, and since then much work has been done, utilizing donations and grants, to strengthen the structure, replace windows and roof, landscape the grounds and start to tell the story not only of the mill, but of area First Nations, Yorkton's early settlers, the railway and the role of agriculture.

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.



Yorkton's Historic Flour Mill

yesterday

today

and with your help

tomorrow

*Perserving our local
heritage and history*



Preserving our local history and heritage

In today's society and economy, progress is often measured in dollars, by the use of high technology, and by the size and number of shiny new objects and buildings we can amass.

Those endeavours are important, provide employment, and allow us to participate in the global economy, even as a small city on the Canadian prairies.

But a vibrant community moving forward does not forget its past, its heritage and history, and the people and places that made today and tomorrow possible.

There are few historic buildings left in Yorkton, but the original Yorkton flour mill along the rail tracks at the corner of Beck Street and Livingstone Avenue is one of them. At one time, the local railway station was just down the street, as were the historic Balmoral Hotel, one of several movie theatre, and a row of grain elevators.

Only the flour mill remains, now being preserved and revived to provide a real and living connection to our heritage, and to the contributions of agriculture to our lives.

At one time, almost everyone in western Canada was, at most, once- or twice-removed from a farm. Today – even here where our economic base continues to be agriculture – many no longer have that connection.

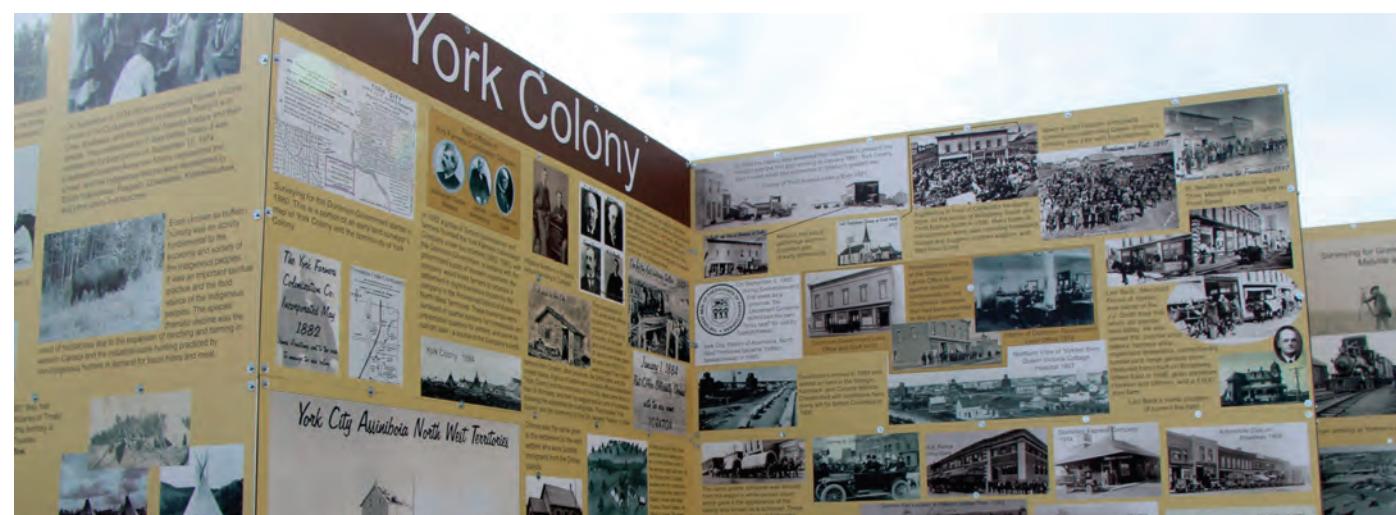
As a result, many don't truly understand and appreciate where their food comes



from or who produces it. They aren't aware of the care and pride with which it is produced and manufactured.

We believe in helping restore that connection by telling the stories of agricultural production and agri-food manufacturing; by introducing the public to farmers through exciting, interactive and educational displays that will help bridge that gap.

We believe that the mill, now well over a century in existence, will provide the venue that can tell the story of agriculture while at the same time preserving and telling our rich local history.



The mill itself has been structurally renovated, the grounds are being landscaped, and an outdoor display tells the story of Yorkton's early years.

But there is much more to be done, and we welcome your assistance.

Your donation, whatever size, whether financial or in-kind, will allow the flour mill to become a centre for preserving our history and educating young and older alike about agriculture and our heritage, while also providing a meeting place for our community.