



GRANT'S OLD MILL

BUILT IN 1829
RECONSTRUCTED 1975

FEATURING
STONE GROUND FLOUR MILLED FROM
ORGANICALLY GROWN GRAINS



Constructed by the famous Metis leader Cuthbert Grant, this mill, located on Sturgeon Creek, was the first of its kind to be built on the western prairies. It marks the first use of hydro power in the area now known as the province of Manitoba.

The mill is located at the corner of Portage Avenue and Booth Drive in Winnipeg's West End.



Who Was Cuthbert Grant?

Born of a Scottish father and Metis mother in 1793 at Fort Tremblant, Cuthbert Grant led the tirelessly joyful but fiercely independent Metis of Western Canada. By age 19 he had enjoyed an education in Scotland and was traveling with the spring brigade to the Pays d'en haut-the 'high country' of Western Canada with the Northwest Trading Company.

The Hudson's Bay Company had a monopoly on all fur trading in the west but The Northwest Trading Company opened trading posts in clear violation of the monopoly. In the hopes of starving out the competition, the HBC decreed that all foodstuffs produced in the lands controlled by the Hudson's Bay Company, had to be sold, only to the Company. Grant and a band of Metis rode to the HBC trading post at

Ft. Qu'Appelle and Fort Brandon and sacked them to take the food. The party of about 20 Metis were passing the colonists fort at Seven Oaks, when the governor of the fort, unwisely decided to take a party of men to confront Grant. A shot was fired and in a moment, 20 colonists lay dead. The Metis has lost one. Depending on whose side you are on, it was called the Massacre at Seven Oaks or the Battle at Frog Plain. In any event Grant packed the settlers up and shipped them back to Norway House.

Sitting Bull is reported to have referred to the Metis of the Red River Colony. He had just defeated Custer's American 7th Cavalry and crossed into Canada. The Americans demanded the Canadians ship back the Sioux. The Mounties referred the demand to Sitting Bull. He said: "I like the Queen's People. The people of the Red River Colony taught me how to fight." He was referring to Cuthbert Grant. The Metis were renowned all over North America as the happiest people but also as fierce fighters.

Cuthbert was so revered by the Metis of the region that community of Granttown was named after him. When the Metis lost their political clout in Manitoba, the town name was changed to St. Francis Xavier.

By 1825 wheat was becoming an important food crop - Grant constructed the first water mill in 1829 in the face of determined pressure from the Colony for flour. Every spring for three years the Sturgeon Creek tore them from its banks. Grant moved his mill to Granttown and changed it to a windmill. The mill of today is as accurate a reproduction of what his mill probably looked like and stands where his mill is thought to have stood.

The reconstructed mill is a working mill and produces flour from Manitoba grown organic wheat. We sell difficult to obtain, triticale flour - a grain developed at the University of Manitoba from wheat and rye. We also sell souvenir bags, fridge magnets, post-cards, gift cards and a wide variety of other flours and flakes.

We decided to change over to the Organic form of flour, since chemical - free food is becoming an important issue for consumers. After years of debate, experts from around the world are close to agreement on criteria for the production & labeling of organic foods. Any food traded internationally will soon have to meet detailed, stringent standards to qualify for the organic label of the UN agency dealing with the issue, known as the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Such foods would have to be virtually free of synthetic chemicals, using practices such as crop rotation to ensure the long-term health of the soil. The demand for chemical - free foods increasing rapidly. Some consumers choose organic food because they are hypersensitive to various allergens, & others who choose it for purely lifestyle reasons. Production costs are higher for organic farming than for conventional chemical-intensive agriculture, but many consumers are willing to pay a premium price. There are currently more than 20 groups & farmer associations across the country that offer certification, but Ottawa wants to set up a federal agency to ensure uniform national standards.

The Construction of the Mill



The idea of the reconstruction of this historic mill was conceived by the Pioneer Citizen's Association of St. James-Assiniboia, a senior Citizens group which received an initial grant of \$7,500 through the Federal New Horizons Program in 1973.

The building was undertaken in 1974 under the direction of a co-ordinating committee consisting of 12 members of the Association; four city councillors and representatives of six Rotary Clubs of Greater Winnipeg. Funds were received from the following:

Rotary Clubs of Winnipeg	\$50,000
Province of Manitoba	30,000
Cargill Grain Co. Fund	15,000
Richardson Century Fund	5,000
City of Winnipeg	10,000
Other Sources	10,000
	<u>\$120,000</u>

In addition to a cash grant of \$10,000 the City of Winnipeg constructed the dam at a cost of \$48,000 and completed the landscaping around the mill area.

A grant of \$12,000 was authorized by councillors Bob Douglas, Jay Eadie, Eric Stefanson and J. Steele in 1987.

Schedule of Open Hours

May - Long week-end
through September - Long Week-end

Daily 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.
Seven Days a week

ADMISSION BY DONATION

We welcome new members single \$10.00 family \$20.00
For more information contact

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