



Looking north with the Reliance Double Elevators in the foreground and the Paterson Elevator and Visitor Centre in the background

INGLIS GRAIN ELEVATORS National Historic Site

While standard wooden grain elevators are rapidly disappearing from the Prairies, the Inglis Grain Elevators are enjoying a new lease on life. Located in the picturesque village of Inglis in Manitoba's Parkland, restoration of these five 'Prairie Giants' has been ongoing since the Government of Canada designated them as a National Historic Site in 1996. The non-profit, community-owned site, offering guided tours and featuring an interpretive centre, picnic area and gift shop, has been deemed a Manitoba Star Attraction, attracting visitors from around the world. The 1920s standard-designed elevators were constructed in the

golden age of Canada's grain trade. They are unique because of their near original condition and represent one of the last standing rows of elevators in the world. Four of the elevators were constructed in 1922, with a fifth – a double elevator complex – added in 1941.

Unfortunately, increased use of trucks and cars spelled the beginning of the end of the commercial life of elevators. In 1953, CPR ended the passenger service to Inglis, and freight service ended in the early 1970s. Grain shipments continued on an ever-decreasing basis until 1995, when the elevators ceased to operate.

In 1994, a group of concerned local residents formed the Inglis Area Heritage Committee to preserve and protect these unique vintage buildings. The former owners of the elevators supported the plan and transferred the ownership of the buildings and the surrounding 29-acres of land to the committee to help conserve this National Historic Site.

The elevators have endured thanks to the determination and dedication of the people in the Inglis area, who recognized early on that the elevators are an enduring symbol of the Prairies, agriculture and a way of life.

To ensure these elevators will be enjoyed by future generations for many years to come, the Committee (incorporated since 1995) has joined forces with the Living Legacy Community Foundation to create the Inglis Elevators Endowment Fund. Gifts made to the



Location of the Inglis Grain Elevators

endowment will be held forever and the interest will be shared annually with the Committee to assist with operating costs and ongoing maintenance.

THE ELEVATORS

All five of the Inglis Grain Elevators are very much in their original condition. Since the tracks had been under the threat of closure since the 1950s, companies would not spend large sums of money on repairs to the elevators.


The Paterson Elevator, at the very north end of the row, was built in 1922 by N.M. Paterson and Sons. When it was first built, it was considered to be a "Cadillac" of elevators, the only elevator in the row with a dust collector. This elevator has been completely restored and now serves as the interpretive centre and administrative centre.

The next two Reliance Elevators were operated from one office. Matheson-Lindsay built the smaller elevator in 1922. The Province Elevator Company bought it in 1928 and, in the mid-1930s, the company changed its name to Reliance. In 1941, Reliance built the second larger elevator. These two elevators have been completely restored.

The National Elevator was built by the Northern Elevator Company between 1920 and 1922. This company became part of National Grain in 1940 and it still bears the National logo. The original office, built in the 1930s, now serves as the gift shop.

At the far south of the row is the United Grain Growers Elevator, built in 1922 and replaced in 1925 after fire destroyed the original structure. Fire was a constant concern for elevator

agents, given the dry wood in the buildings and large amounts of highly-combustible grain dust. There are many NO SMOKING signs throughout the site. This message was so important that some of the signs were posted in Ukrainian, because there were many Romanian and Ukrainian farmers in the area.

For more information about the Inglis Grain Elevators National Historic Site, visit <http://www.ingliselevators.com/index.html>. 



Inglis Grain Elevators offers a fun and interactive learning experience

HOURS OF OPERATION:

The Inglis Elevators National Historic Site operates with volunteers and summer student staffing only. Call ahead to confirm hours of operation or to arrange a tour guide, especially in the off-season. Typically open as follows:

May

By reservation only

June

Wednesday - Saturday Open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday Open 12 noon - 5 p.m.

July and August

Monday - Saturday Open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday Open 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Off-Season Hours: (September - third week of May)

Call to book a group tour

Contact:

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