



HARVEST OUR PAST... SOW THE FUTURE

Help SAVE Brokenhead's last
"Prairie Sentinel"

Let's Build a Premier attraction for the Brokenhead Area!

About the Project

Sadly, the days of grain elevator dominance in the area are now just a memory. Beausejour's once-imposing "elevator row" is long-gone, with the last elevator falling victim to demolition in 2012. The only remaining wooden grain elevator in the Brokenhead area – and in the Eastern Manitoba region, for that matter – is the Tyndall Elevator.

With this in mind, we've embarked on an ambitious plan to protect and refurbish the Tyndall Elevator. The very theme of "Harvest our Past... Sow the Future" reflects a deep desire to collect, depict, and promote the ways of the past for future generations to explore, experience, and share.

At the root of this vision is a desire to preserve our past, honor those who came before us, and prevent the demolition of our last "prairie sentinel".

Brokenhead's Origins - Agriculture at its Roots

Backing the title of Eastern Manitoba's agricultural capital, the Brokenhead area was home to numerous elevators throughout its history. Sadly, these days of grain elevator dominance are now just a memory.



Beausejour's once-imposing "elevator row" is long-gone, with the last elevator falling victim to demolition in 2012. The only remaining wooden grain elevator in the Brokenhead area – and in the Eastern Manitoba region, for that matter – is the Tyndall Elevator.

For anyone growing up in the RM of Brokenhead, farming was a celebrated way of life. The importance of this industry, this way of life, is best depicted by the official seal of the Municipality. Displayed in the most prominent position of the municipality's seal resides an image of a grain elevator.

As the RM of Brokenhead, and society in general, progresses into the future, the importance of preserving our past becomes more relevant than ever before. The preservation of artifacts, exhibits, and physical structures serves to pay homage to those who came before us, and provide inspiration for those who will lead our community into the future.



The Tyndall Elevator - A Timeless Original

The Tyndall Elevator is an original 35,000-bushel wooden grain elevator in the village of Tyndall, Manitoba, a community in the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead on the former CPR mainline (later, the Lac Du Bonnet Subdivision). It was built in the 1940s for the Lake of the Woods Milling Company. It replaced an earlier elevator at the site, built in 1918 by the Harper Construction Company, that was disassembled.

In November 1959, the elevator was sold to Manitoba Pool Elevators and, the following year, its operation was taken over by a farmer-led cooperative, the Tyndall Co-operative Elevator Association. In 1960, a 30,000-bushel balloon annex was constructed on its west side.



In 1971, the results of an analysis by Manitoba Pool showed that “the farmers concerned could be reasonably well served at neighboring points, so that the cost of the small unit could be eliminated without significantly increasing the cost to farmers or to neighboring elevators.” The elevator at Tyndall closed in July 1971 and was sold to the Tyndall Grain Corporation, a privately licensed grain brokerage owned by the Bialek Family, originally from the Hazelglen area.

The CPR rail line was abandoned around 1990 but the elevator continued to operate as an inland storage facility, with grain transported by trucks.

The Bialek family continued to operate the elevator through the early 2000’s, having passed from Edward Bialek (Father) to Randy (Son) in the early 1990’s. Throughout the Bialek Family’s ownership, several upgrades to the facility were made, including: the “tinning” of roof structures on the facility, the “tinning” of the exterior elevator structure, and the addition of a Vertec natural gas grain dryer to the south of the complex.

The Tyndall Elevator closed around 2012 as the need for large, bulk storage declined, and the sheer size of today’s grain transportation infrastructure rendered the elevator obsolete.

This elevator has a tremendous heritage value to the area, as it:

- Is the last remaining wooden grain elevator in Eastern Manitoba.
- Was located on the “original” CPR mainline that passed from Molson through East Selkirk. This former mainline was built as a condition of Canada’s confederation in 1867.
- Presents visitors with a glimpse back to the past, and pays homage to the area’s most prominent citizens: the farmers.
- Provides with community with unparalleled tourism potential, forming an immediate additional “draw” to the area.
- Is one of the last remaining “original” (non-upgraded) country elevators in the Province of Manitoba. All of the original spouts, elevation equipment, and scales remain preserved and in-tact.



Options for the Tyndall Elevator

Option 1: Re-locate to Pioneer Village Museum



The preferred route by many locals, moving the Tyndall Elevator to the Pioneer Village Museum, is a monumental task... the museum is up for the challenge!

With a moving budget of around \$300,000 (including repairs, a new foundation, and all transportation), the Tyndall Elevator would be transported to the Beausejour Museum in one piece!

A move of this magnitude requires some serious muscle and engineering might, and that's why the Pioneer Village Museum has engaged the services of Minty's Moving and a team of professional engineers.

If this option were to proceed, the Pioneer Village Museum would also create a "Legacy Fund" to assist with the long-term preservation and maintenance of the re-located Tyndall Elevator.

Pros:

- Established board of directors and volunteer committee.
- Established fundraising mechanisms and financial stability.
- Instant marketability and audience.
- Complementary museum exhibits and artifacts.

Cons:

- Extremely high cost of moving.
- Lack of support from the Town of Beausejour municipal council, which threatens the viability of the project.

Budget Statement – Option 1:

MOVE							
	Physical Structure						
	Elevator:				\$ 77,000		
	Unloading:				\$ 33,000		
	Office:				\$ 14,000		
	TOTAL:				\$124,000	\$124,000	
	Engineering and Foundation:				\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	
	Hydro Permits / Relocations:						
	Main Lines:				\$ 27,500		
	3-Phase Lines:				\$ 6,000		
	Ancillary:				\$ 5,000		
	TOTAL:				\$ 38,500	\$ 38,500	
	Misc Permits / Relocations (MTS, MIT):				\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
	TOTAL UP-FRONT:						\$242,500
UPGRADES							
	Entry / Exit Ramps:				\$ 15,000		
	Tin (sides and roof):				\$ 6,000		
	Cosmetic Improvements:				\$ 7,000		
	Basic Electrical:				\$ 3,000		
	West Loading Ramp Wall (relocate):				\$ 5,000		
	TOTAL SHORT-TERM:				\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	

Option 2: Re-locate to Alternate Regional Museum

Likely to be the biggest "pie-in-the-sky" option, saving the Tyndall Elevator by moving it to an alternate regional museum location could be explored.

While the RM of Brokenhead / Town of Beausejour would lose yet another heritage jewel, the Tyndall Elevator could be protected, restored, and enjoyed by many for the foreseeable future.

Pros:

- Avoid "small town" politics plaguing the move to Beausejour.

Cons:

- Where would the elevator go?
- Not only is there a lack of agriculturally related museums in the Eastman region, the distance to these museums could render such a move to be unfeasible.

Option 3: Tyndall's "Main Street Manitoba" Museum



Perhaps the most understudied option in the lot, the RM of Brokenhead has the potential to create an unparalleled tourism gem, by transforming the Tyndall Elevator site into the "Main Street Manitoba" Museum.

Did you know that, at one time, Tyndall contained more commercial services and retail stores than Beausejour? This fact could come-to-life at Tyndall's "Main Street Manitoba" Museum. With a lot size of approximately 300' x 500', there's plenty of room to recreate "historic Brokenhead" - from the installation of railway tracks to the north of the elevator, to the re-building of a replica Tyndall train station and a replica stock loading platform.

The best part... to the north of the proposed "railway line", there's plenty of room to recreate "Main Street" Brokenhead - an assemblage of historically important structures surrounding a professionally planned miniature community (think Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach, Manitoba).

Pros:

- Save \$300,000+ in moving costs, re-directing all funds to exhibits and artifacts.
- Avoid "small town" politics plaguing the move to Beausejour.
- One management body to dictate museum directions and decisions (at present, the Pioneer Village Museum is regulated by both the RM of Brokenhead and the Town of Beausejour - each having dramatically different management styles).
- The establishment of a new, historically important, tourist "jewel" for the RM of Brokenhead.
- Installation of new site services (electrical, plumbing, etc.), designed to meet the needs of a modern museum - versus correcting deficiencies at established museums.
- Ability to set a fresh vision and direction for a new museum.
- Possible corporate sponsorship of exhibits related to the commercial history of the area.
- Proximity to the Tyndall Centennial Park and the Tyndall Community Centre - Established recreation centres within the community of Tyndall.
- Proximity to Winnipeg.

Cons:

- An extreme amount of work required to establish a new museum.
- Possible conflict with the Pioneer Village Museum in Beausejour (similar themes).

Budget Statement - Option 3:

REPAIR & MAINTENANCE - Elevator				
	Tin - Sides		\$ 1,000	
	Tin - Roof		\$ 5,000	
	Professional Cleaning		\$ 2,500	
	Basic Electrical Upgrades		\$ 1,500	
	Lighting Upgrades		\$ 2,500	
	Cosmetic Improvements		\$ 5,000	
	Security / Alarm System		<u>\$ 2,000</u>	
	TOTAL Elevator:		<u>\$ 19,500</u>	
MUSEUM / COMMON SPACE - Upgrades				
	Community Garden		\$ 2,500	
	"Main Street" Path & Groundworks		\$ 20,000	
	Picnic Tables / Benches (Common Area)		\$ 5,000	
	Site Signage		\$ 2,500	
	Highway Signage		<u>\$ 10,000</u>	
	TOTAL - Common Space		<u>\$ 40,000</u>	
MAINTENANCE – Per Annum, Elevator				
	General maintenance (Roof / Tin / Windows)		\$ 2,000	
	Site Maintenance (Grass Cutting)		\$ 4,000	
	Electrical		\$ 600	
	Telephone & Voicemail		\$ 360	
	Taxes* (Possible Exemption - Heritage Park)		<u>TBA</u>	
	TOTAL - Annual Elevator Maintenance		<u>\$ 6,960</u>	
MAINTENANCE - Per Annum, Museum / Common Space				
	Weekend Site Interpreter		\$ 2,400	
	Marketing & Branding		<u>\$ 5,000</u>	
	TOTAL - Annual Museum / Common Space		<u>\$ 7,400</u>	



Option 3 – Heritage Park Visual Concept:



1. New pathways connecting with the existing Tyndall paths / sidewalks. The idea is to move people over to the site. Additional pathways on site to keep it “open”.
 2. This indicates the existing road to the grain elevator. Could also be used as access for the Quarry exhibit and possibly staff parking. Limited public access.
 3. Indicates rebuild railway trackage to show the “mainline” through Tyndall and the elevator spur which would include a couple grain boxcars and possibly a stock car.
 4. Area where animal pens are located with chutes to load/unload the animals onto the stock cars.
 5. Areas for community gardens (on raised planters) to allow seniors to use.
 6. Joint parking for Centennial Park and Tyndall site.
 7. Open field for “threshing” demonstrations.
 8. Re-create Tyndall train station. Will be the main entrance to the site and include a café and gift shop.
 9. Re-create railway buildings.
 10. Gillis Quarry exhibit.
 11. A historic main street exhibit. Existing site trees are left in place (if possible).
 12. Divert site water / overland drainage towards the both portions of the site.
 13. Picnic area.
 14. Site main entrance.
 15. Former grain annex – existing concrete pad to be left in place.
- Additional parking to be installed along Pierson Drive.
 - Site to be left as much open as possible. Buildings & displays to be locked up after hours or during off-season.

The design and layout of proposed Tyndall Heritage Park, presented on the previous page, is courtesy of Jason Paul Sailer.

Jason Sailer graduated from Medicine Hat College with an CADD/Technical Illustration Diploma in the spring of 2006. After graduating, Jason soon joined Alvin Reinhard Fritz Architect Inc. (ARFAi) in 2006, where he has grown into the position of Senior Architectural Technologist (SAT).

In addition to his architectural expertise, Jason has nurtured his passion for heritage building preservation. From the fall of 2011 to the summer of 2012, he volunteered with the Alberta Municipal Heritage Partnership Program in the Town of Pincher Creek, Alberta where Jason was trained on the proper methods of conducting an heritage survey, while assisting the Town in their own heritage building survey.

His personal interest in local history has spurred him to be involved with local historic initiatives; including being a director / later secretary with the Great Canadian Plains Railway Society in the fall of 2010, which runs an interpretive museum in an 1890 International Train Station. In the fall of 2012 Jason co-founded a new historical group, the Ogilvie Wooden Grain Elevator Society, to preserve a local 1925 wooden grain elevator, the last one built by the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company in the Province of Alberta.



Option 4: Demolition



2012 marked a sad milestone in Beausejour's history... the last wooden elevator from the community's famed "elevator row" fell victim to the wrecking ball.

Do we really want the same thing to happen to the Tyndall Elevator - the last standing wooden grain elevator in the Eastman region?

It has been confirmed - with certainty - that the "balloon annex" to the west of the Tyndall Elevator is slated for demolition in 2018. Without a firm commitment from our community leaders, the Tyndall Elevator is likely to follow in these footsteps.

Do you want to lose yet another community landmark?

Pros:

- ?

Cons:

- Loss of another historical landmark.
- Failure to preserve part of our past - a very important teaching tool - for our next generations to come.
- Possibility of re-purposing the elevator site for commercial and/or residential use, diminishing the open greenspace available to Tyndall residents.

In the News



Sandie Rinaldo covering the Tyndall Elevator Project on CTV National News, October 1, 2017

It's no secret... the Tyndall Elevator has garnered a TON of FREE publicity for the Brokenhead area, and this publicity has extended right across the country of Canada! From news articles to video segments and social media exposure, the response to the Tyndall Elevator Project has been incredible.

How many times does a community receive this volume of FREE "positive" news coverage? In a world dominated by "shock value" and negative media attention, this type of attention is somewhat rare and unexpected. What's the value of this exposure? It's difficult to place an exact value on the value of this positive national media coverage, but one could argue that this endeavour has generated a much higher return-on-investment than other expensive branding efforts like the "Our Home, Your Home" branding campaign, or the costly re-design of municipal webpage assets.

We've been featured in the following articles, videos, and discussions:

Last Ones Standing - December 27, 2017

An excellent presentation on the state of Manitoba's wooden grain elevators, and the efforts to preserve them within the province. The Tyndall Elevator project was recapped in the presentation! Huge thanks to CTV News, Dr. Gordon Goldsborough, and all contributors!

CTV National News - October 1, 2017

Jill Macyshon reports with Sandie Rinaldo on the rally to save one of the last wooden grain elevators in operating condition from demolition in eastern Manitoba.

Campaign to Save Piece of History in Tyndall Ramps Up - September 28, 2017

The Selkirk Record wrote about what we're hoping to do in Tyndall – and the community's response – on Page 2.

Plan B for Tyndall Elevator - September 21, 2017

Mel Stefaniuk from "The Clipper Weekly" in Beausejour writes a great update on the Tyndall Elevator Project, including challenges and next-steps!

CTV News – Winnipeg - September 15, 2017

Thanks to Josh Crabb and crew for the great interview! Fingers crossed that we'll make things happen! Because of this story, a large Manitoba charity is looking at the possibility of partnering with us - provided the structure is preserved on-site in Tyndall!!

MyToba.ca - Campaign to Save Tyndall Elevator - September 7, 2017

A short summary of the Tyndall Elevator Project written by Manitoba's iconic Hal Anderson!

Fight to Save Sentinel - September 6, 2017

Thanks to Phil Hossack and Randy Turner from the Winnipeg Free Press for their coverage of the Tyndall Elevator Project, and the goals & challenges ahead!

CJOB: Mackling & Megarry - September 6, 2017

Hal Anderson was filling in for Greg and Brett on the show, and Manitoba's Grain Elevator Expert - Dr. Gordon Goldsborough - was kind enough to drop by and share his take on our project!

Abandoned Manitoba - May 7, 2017

In collaboration with CBC Manitoba, the Manitoba Historical Society is drawing attention to unique, abandoned historic structures around the province. The Tyndall Elevator Project was discussed in detail by the host, Dr. Gordon Goldsborough.

Tyndall Elevator Heyday Remembered - March 16, 2017

Our day with the "elder" farmers is in the history books, and was summarized by the Clipper Weekly. Great write up by Mel Stefaniuk!

Prairie Skyscraper on Standby - February 9, 2017

Mel Stefaniuk from the Clipper Weekly discusses plans to relocate the Tyndall Elevator to the Pioneer Village Museum in Beausejour, Manitoba.

One Step Forward, Two Back - May 12, 2016

Mel Stefaniuk from the Clipper Weekly details the trials and tribulations with the Tyndall Elevator Project - specifically the lack of support from the Beausejour Town Council.

This Old Elevator - January 29, 2016

The Tyndall Elevator was featured in "This Old Elevator" published in the Manitoba Co-operator with the assistance of the Manitoba Historical Society.

It won't stop here! It's our goal to make the Tyndall Elevator the "must see" attraction in Eastern Manitoba, pushing the project to the forefront of local and national media coverage.



Photo by Phil Hossack, Winnipeg Free Press – September 6, 2017

Public Input and Comments

In conjunction with the Pioneer Village Museum's 50th anniversary "Heritage Day", a survey was developed and released to attendees at the momentous event. This survey was developed to gauge the public's level of interest in heritage preservation, and specifically, to determine whether or not there was interest in preserving the Tyndall Elevator for future generations to enjoy.

Additionally, this survey was again circulated at the Double B Rodeo in Beausejour, Manitoba on September 9th and 10th, and online via SurveyMonkey.

A copy of the "paper-based" version of this survey is below, while the electronic version on SurveyMonkey asked the same questions in a digital format:



HELP SAVE
BROKENHEAD'S LAST
"PRAIRIE SENTINEL"

HARVEST OUR PAST Sow the Future

VISIT WWW.HARVESTOURPAST.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

HARVEST OUR PAST... SOW THE FUTURE – HERITAGE CAMPAIGN SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey! Your responses will remain confidential, and will be used to guide the direction of the Harvest our Past... Sow the Future Heritage Campaign! Please complete the questions below to the best of your ability. Comments and suggestions are welcome at the close of the survey.

History is an important aspect of our community and our collective heritage (Circle number best representing your feelings):

Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
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Our community should be doing more to preserve and present our history and local heritage (Circle number best representing your feelings):

Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
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Have you ever been inside of a grain elevator? (please circle ONE):

YES	NO
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The Tyndall Elevator should be saved for future generations to enjoy (please circle ONE):

AGREE	DISAGREE
-------	----------

PLEASE FLIP PAGE

If preserved, I believe the Tyndall Elevator should be part of a museum in (please select ONE):

Anywhere but here..
 Tyndall, Manitoba... right where it sits
 Beausejour, Manitoba...at the Pioneer Village Museum

If the Tyndall Elevator were incorporated into a local museum, I believe the result would be (please select ONE):

No impact at all for the museum or the local area in general
 An Increase in visitors to the museum and to the local area in general
 A decrease in visitors to the museum and to the local area in general

If the Tyndall Elevator were donated to a local museum group, where should funds for refurbishing the structure come from (select ALL THAT APPLY):

Private Donors
 Town of Beausejour
 RM of Brokenhead
 Provincial Government
 Federal Government
 Other: _____

What other exhibits would you like to see in a local museum? (Please list)

My hometown is:

City _____ Province / State _____ Country _____

Comments:

YES! I wish to help with the "Save the Tyndall Elevator" Heritage Campaign! (Optional)

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

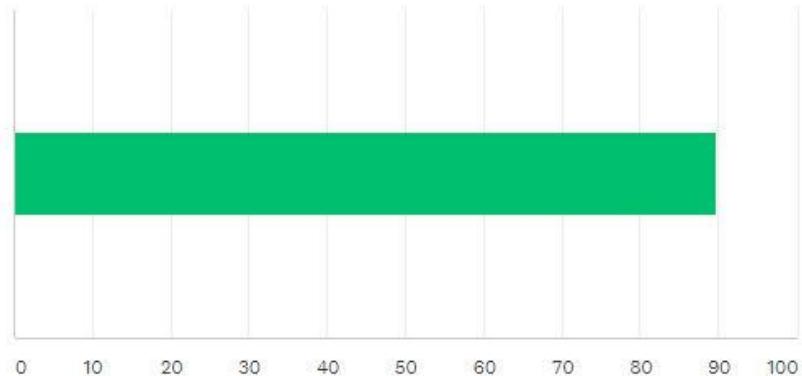
Email Address: _____

A total of 73 individuals participated in the survey, yielding some unexpected results. These results are provided on the following pages.

Q1[Customize](#)[Export ▾](#)

History is an important aspect of our community and our collective heritage.

Answered: 73 Skipped: 0

[ANSWER CHOICES](#)[AVERAGE NUMBER](#)[TOTAL NUMBER](#)[RESPONSES](#)

Responses

90

6,545

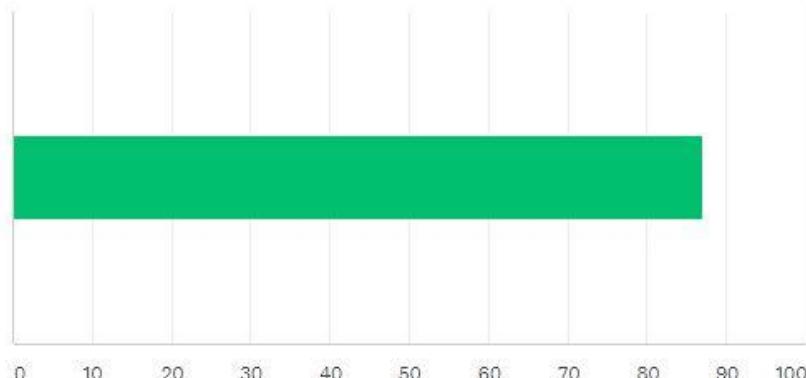
73

Total Respondents: 73

Q2[Customize](#)[Export ▾](#)

Our community should be doing more to preserve and present our history and local heritage.

Answered: 73 Skipped: 0

[ANSWER CHOICES](#)[AVERAGE NUMBER](#)[TOTAL NUMBER](#)[RESPONSES](#)

Responses

87

6,353

73

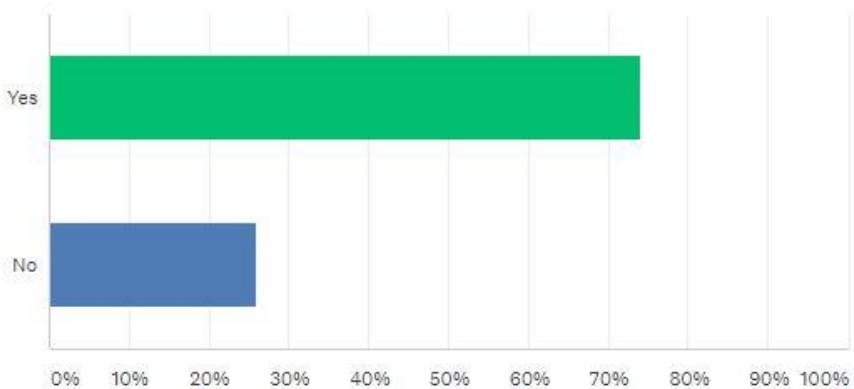
Total Respondents: 73

Q3

Customize Export ▾

Have you ever been inside of a grain elevator?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

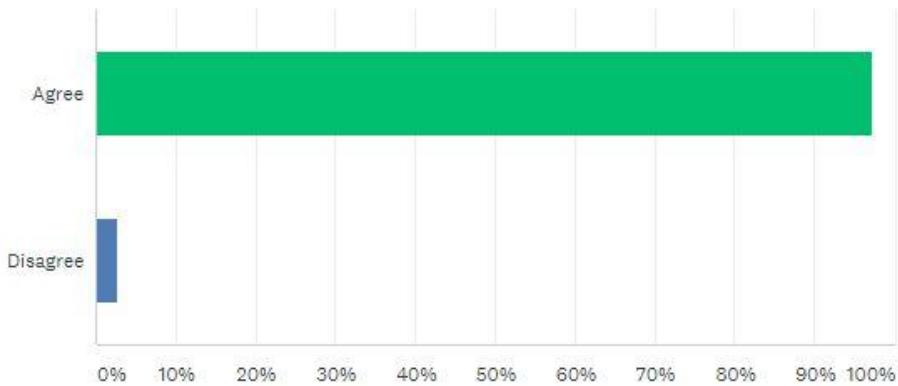
▼ Yes	73.97%	54
▼ No	26.03%	19
TOTAL		73

Q4

Customize Export ▾

The Tyndall Elevator should be saved for future generations to enjoy.

Answered: 73 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

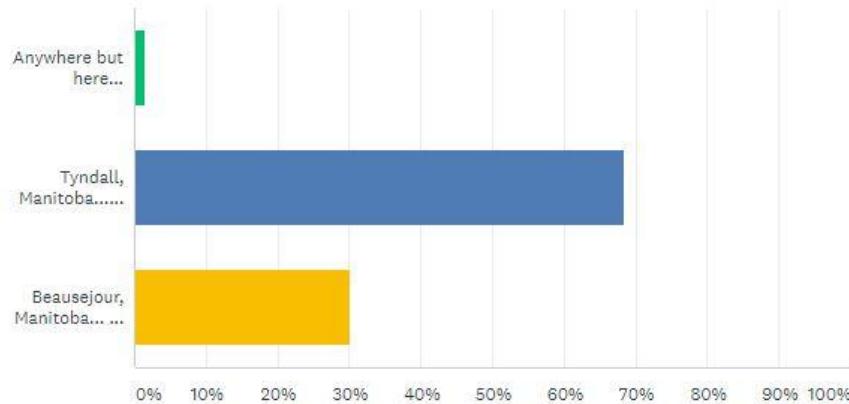
RESPONSES

▼ Agree	97.26%	71
▼ Disagree	2.74%	2
TOTAL		73

Q5[Customize](#) [Export ▾](#)

If preserved, I believe the Tyndall Elevator should be part of a museum in (select ONE):

Answered: 73 Skipped: 0

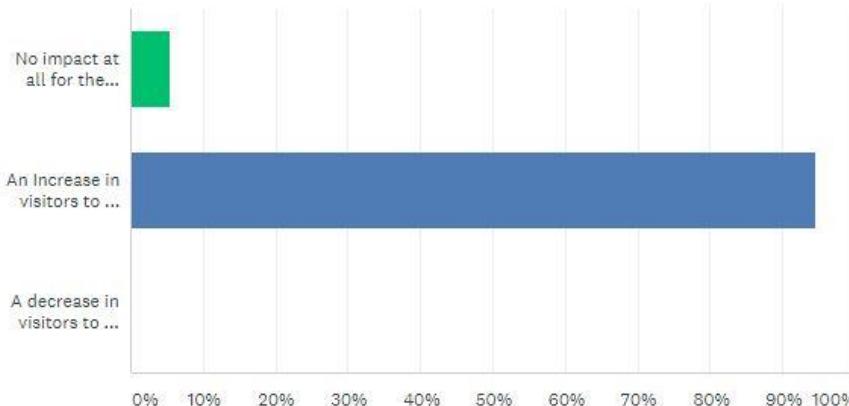


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Anywhere but here...	1.37%
▼ Tyndall, Manitoba... right where it sits.	68.49%
▼ Beausejour, Manitoba... at the Pioneer Village Museum	30.14%
TOTAL	73

Q6[Customize](#) [Export ▾](#)

If the Tyndall Elevator were incorporated into a local museum, I believe the result would be (select ONE):

Answered: 73 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ No impact at all for the museum or the local area in general.	5.48%
▼ An Increase in visitors to the museum and to the local area in general.	94.52%
▼ A decrease in visitors to the museum and to the local area in general.	0.00%
TOTAL	73

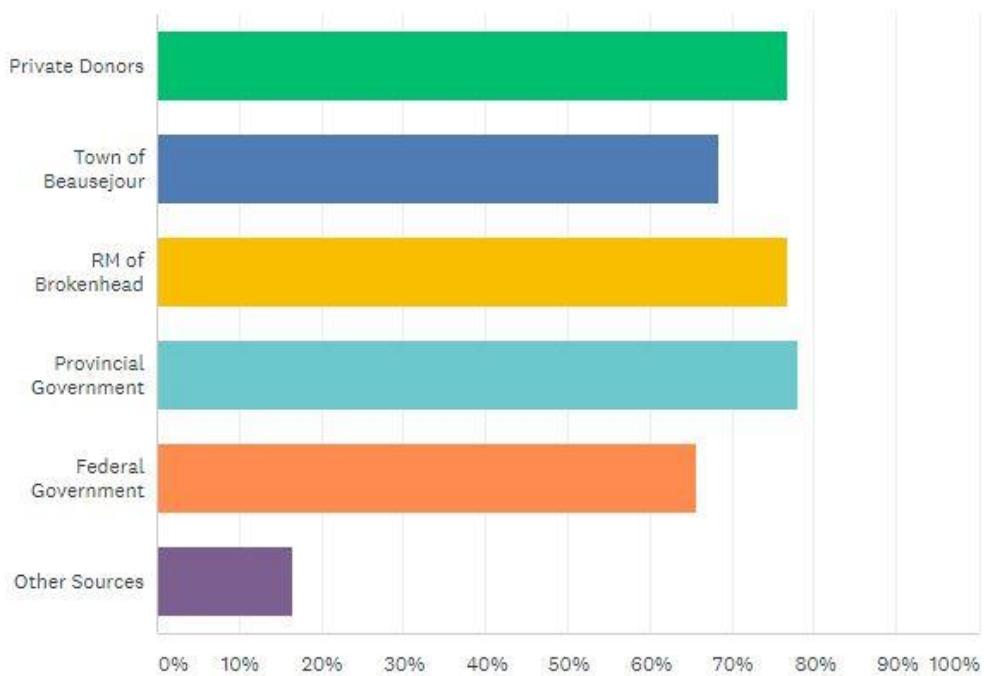
Q7

Customize

Export ▾

If the Tyndall Elevator were donated to a local museum group, where should funds for refurbishing the structure come from (select ALL that apply):

Answered: 73 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Private Donors	76.71% 56
▼ Town of Beausejour	68.49% 50
▼ RM of Brokenhead	76.71% 56
▼ Provincial Government	78.08% 57
▼ Federal Government	65.75% 48
▼ Other Sources	16.44% 12

Total Respondents: 73

Question 10 of the survey asked respondents for comments related to the Tyndall Elevator Project, and some candid responses were received. A summary of the comments collected from the formal survey, plus those collected via e-mail and from our social media pages, is presented below. Note that these statements are provided as collected, including any / all spelling and / or grammatical errors:

- Retaining the grain elevator where it is, is a very important part of Manitoba's history, not just the town. However, it should stay in the town of Tyndall to maintain authenticity.

- It would be a shame to remove this landmark? What would it be replaced with Multi Family residences? Keep some parts of our heritage intact. For years everyone I grew up with new where this town was based on this facility.
- Have been following this project on the vanishing sentinels Facebook page. Good luck!
- Attended Garson & Tyndall School and the elevator had always been a beacon. I would greatly miss it every time I travel through Tyndall. At one time or other, my father delivered grain there as well. Tyndall wouldn't be Tyndall if the elevator is gone.
- The elevators originally in Beausejour should have been preserved. This is a close second, in place of that.
- Developing a museum in Tyndall seems to be a great idea, with the close proximity to growing centres like Winnipeg, Oakbank, and Selkirk
- Save this landmark!
- Read a lot about the elevator being moved to Beausejour on facebook and in the local paper. I would think that the cost of the move would be extremely large - you would be better investing those funds into a new Tyndall museum. All parties need to work hard to ensure that this elevator is not lost in history and demolished.
- I come from an agriculture background and believe that it's important to show my young ones the work that their grandparents and great grandparents etc had to do in order to break the land, earn a living and provide food for their families and people around the world.
- History is important. There are fewer and fewer of these structures left, and we must save those that remain.
- I totally agree I think we should preserve these beautiful buildings they are apart of the prairies skyline! It's so sad when they don't give a chance for people to buy them or recycle the lumber out of them! I know a lot of people think these building are very worthless and an eyesore to see! Our government should save them under the historical society!
- It's so sad that people don't give a rat ass saving and preserving these beautiful buildings! They have so many history behind them! Why can't our government save these under the historical society? Or even give it to someone can make use of it or even recycling the beautiful lumber in them! They have so many good quality Douglas fir in them! They would built with the real dimensional lumber like a real " 2x4 " not like today junk lumber we get its only 2x 3 1/4!! These people have no respect at all! I wish there was a way we can save every one that reminding standing!
- Yes that's so true there isn't much wooden grain elevators left on the prairies anymore like there used to be!! Mostly all the former Manitoba pool elevators that my dad help build are no longer standing which is very sad!! I remember going on trip with my dad when I was younger to the job sites and he would take me to the top of each elevators he worked on! We would go as a family and park the camper right close by the elevators so I can watch them getting built! It was an amazing sight to see how they can build something so beautiful on the prairies to help the farmers shop there grain to market! I really hope they save the grain elevator that your trying to preserve it cause it's apart of history and the backbone of the prairies!
- MB should have an "Elevator Heritage Trail" it would take time to promote but with the numbers of remaining elevators it would be an attraction on many different levels
- Let's save the elevator!

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Tyndall Elevator Project Important?

The wooden grain elevator is considered to be an endangered Prairie icon. In 2016, Canadian wooden grain elevators were included – for the first time – on the “top 10 Endangered Places List”, as developed by the National Trust of Canada. Wooden elevators were once the heart of prairies towns. They were the first step in a grain trading process that moves the grain from producer to worldwide markets.

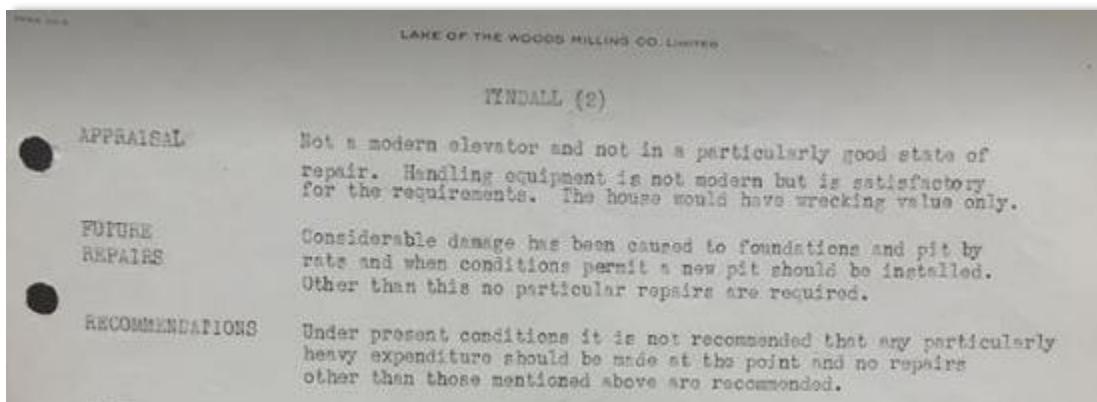
The Tyndall Elevator is historically relevant, as it is the last wooden grain elevator in Eastern Manitoba, the structure is preserved in its original non-modernized configuration, and it was located on the “original CPR mainline” built as a condition of Canada’s confederation. This original mainline cut through the historic Van Horne farm, originating west of Tyndall and extending to East Selkirk, named after CPR railway magnet Cornelius Van Horne. Originally intended to cross the Red River at Selkirk, Manitoba – Manitoba’s future capital city – the CPR mainline was re-directed through Winnipeg at the last minute, owing to shrewd political negotiations. For years, the East Selkirk “curve” was the only 90-degree turn in the CPR rail system.

How old is the Elevator?

The Tyndall elevator was built in the 1940’s making it over 70 years old.

Who built the Elevator?

The elevator was built for the Lake of the Woods Milling Company. It was built to replace an earlier elevator at the site, built in 1918 by the Harmer Construction Company. This former elevator (1918 construction) was disassembled, with inspection reports noting that the facility was “not a modern elevator and not in a particularly good state of repair. Handling equipment is not modern but is satisfactory for the requirements.” In describing the original 1918 elevator, Lake of the Woods Milling officers state, “considerable damage has been caused to foundation and pit by rats and when conditions permit a new pit should be installed.”



Snapshot of Lake of the Woods Milling Company assessment of the “original” Tyndall Elevator, February 1933.

Source: Lake of the Woods files, University of Manitoba

It should be noted that Tyndall was one-step ahead of Beausejour in the construction of “vertical elevator” structures. Tyndall’s original 1918 vertical elevator pre-dated the construction of Beausejour’s first vertical elevator by three years. The first vertical elevator constructed in Beausejour was built by the Dominion Elevator Company in 1921, known as “UGG 1” in its later years.

Prior to the construction of “vertical elevator” structures, flat grain storage warehouses were the norm.

How tall is the Elevator?

From the main offloading floor to the peak of the roof, it is approximately 85 feet tall.

How many wooden grain elevators remain in Eastern Manitoba?

Zero. Here's a shortlist of elevators that have been lost in Eastern Manitoba:

- St. Ouen's Scottish Wholesale Society
- Beausejour Pool A
- Beausejour Pool B
- Beausejour UGG 1
- Beausejour UGG 2
- Oakbank Pool
- Hazelridge Pool A
- Hazelridge Pool B
- Cloverleaf Scottish Wholesale Society
- Lac Du Bonnet UGG 1
- Lac Du Bonnet UGG 2
- Lower Fort Gary Searle Grain
- Selkirk Pool
- Libau Pool B
- Stead Pool
- East Selkirk Searle Grain A
- East Selkirk Searle Grain B
- Whitemouth UGG (Formerly in Elma)
- Glass Scottish Wholesale Society
- Deacon's Corner (Mile 142) Pool
- Ste. Anne UGG
- Giroux Pool

Source: Vanishing Sentinels Volume IV – The Remaining Grain Elevators of Manitoba, Jim A Pearson

As of December 2017, there are fewer than 140 wooden grain elevators existing in the Province of Manitoba, and this number is expected to rapidly diminish over the next 5 years.

Why weren't the grain elevators in Beausejour saved? Saving these structures would have made more sense.

We completely agree here... At least one of the grain elevators from Beausejour's once-famous "elevator row" should have been saved. If saved, these elevators could have formed "anchor displays" in Beausejour's pristine Train Whistle Park. Unfortunately, our community leaders did not have the foresight to save these structures. Will this same mistake be repeated with the Tyndall Elevator?

Are the owners of the Tyndall Elevator trying to take "the easy way out" by proposing to save the elevator?

This doesn't appear to be the case. The present owners of the Tyndall Elevator have secured a quote for demolishing the elevator valued at approximately \$40,000 (including hauling to the Brokenhead Municipal Burn Site). In lieu of demolishing the elevator, the present owners of the facility proposed this arrangement in an attempt to preserve the structure on-site in Tyndall:

- The elevator "structure" would be donated to the RM of Brokenhead, or similar non-profit agency, for inclusion in the proposed Tyndall Heritage Park.
- A sum of \$30,000 – the cash equivalent of demolishing the structure (less haulage fees) – would be donated to the RM of Brokenhead, or a similar non-profit agency, to create a maintenance endowment fund for the proposed Heritage Park.
- \$5,000 would be donated by a family member related to the present owners of the Tyndall Elevator to secure the naming rights for the elevator exhibit within the Tyndall Heritage Park.
- Upon hand-off of the elevator structure to the RM of Brokenhead, or a similar non-profit agency, the facility would be in operating condition.
- The present owners propose to exchange the "land" beneath the Tyndall Elevator structure for comparable "surplus" real-estate with "reasonably similar characteristics and valuation" owned by the RM of Brokenhead. As such, there would be zero net cost to / zero cashflow implications for municipal taxpayers. Should the RM of

Brokenhead feel that such a proposed property exchange is not feasible, and they do not wish to participate in the ownership of the Tyndall Elevator site, the present owner of the Tyndall Elevator has agreed to sell the “lands” to a newly-created non-profit agency - tasked with the creation and maintenance of a Heritage Park in Tyndall - at a price respective of fair market value. Additionally, should the Tyndall Elevator site be purchased by a non-profit entity for the purposes of establishing a Heritage Park, the present owner would agree to provide financing for this group at a preferred rate of interest.



You can HELP!

With your help, we can save Brokenhead's last remaining "Prairie Sentinel".

You - yes... YOU - have the ability to ensure that we save and preserve one of Manitoba's iconic wooden grain elevators!

What's in it for you? Donate \$20 or more, and receive a charitable tax receipt, mailed to your Canadian Address. Plus, with your donation, you can rest assured that you have contributed to the preservation of an important piece of history, preventing yet another Prairie Sentinel from demolition.

Short on cash? No problem! We'll gladly accept a lending hand... simply visit www.harvestourpast.com for more information on how you can get involved!

Contact Information

Let's do this! Together, we can save this important Manitoba landmark!

Website: www.harvestourpast.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/harvestourpast/>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/harvestourpast

GoFundMe: www.gofundme.com/harvestourpast