

Windmill Dedication Russ Paton

June 4, 2022

Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society, Millarville, Alberta

The Paton family had the great pleasure of giving something back to our community today.

This old windmill has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Today we are donating it to Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society. We are very pleased to see it start a renewed life at the Millarville racetrack.

The windmill tower is from the family farm in Saskatchewan. The well beneath the windmill was our only source of water when we moved to the farm in 1959. It supplied our family with drinking water and sustained livestock for many years. Cattle, milk cows, chickens, hogs, and Patons all drank water pulled from the ground by the wind, via this mill.



Photo courtesy Gervais Goodman



The windmill fell out of use in the 1960s, replaced by electric pumps, and was eventually torn down. It lay in a grove of trees for six decades. With some time on my hands during COVID, I dragged the tower out of the bush and spent the winter of 2020/2021 rebuilding it. I am very pleased that the restored windmill looks like it did when I was a boy.

Windmills, like this *1920s Monitor Model "L"*, were fixtures of the pioneer prairie landscape. They harnessed ever-present wind to draw water from deep within the earth. Without them, life would have been impossible in the early days of settlement.

Windmills are a symbol of resilience, of our ability to endure in a harsh land. I am very pleased to see this windmill re-erected at MRAS; to perpetuate that legacy.

I hope that future visitors to MRAS will be inspired by the clean, sustainable energy potential demonstrated by this 100-year-old windmill.

Russ & Terri Paton and Family
<https://wellwaterblog.ca/>

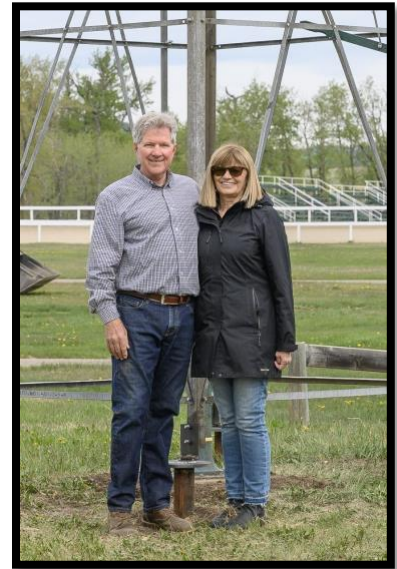


Photo courtesy Gervais Goodman

Windmill Dedicated To:

The Tireless Volunteers of Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society
Harrison and Nellie Elwood – Builders and First Owners 1920s
Adrian and Pat Paton – Second Owners 1959 - 2020
Alvin Bebault (in memoriam) - Windmill Reconstruction Specialist.

Donations and Technical Assistance Provided By:

Foothills Auto Ventures – Painting
Gervais Goodman - Photography
High Caliber Crane Services – Crane
Torqued Industries – Screw Piles
MRAS Volunteers