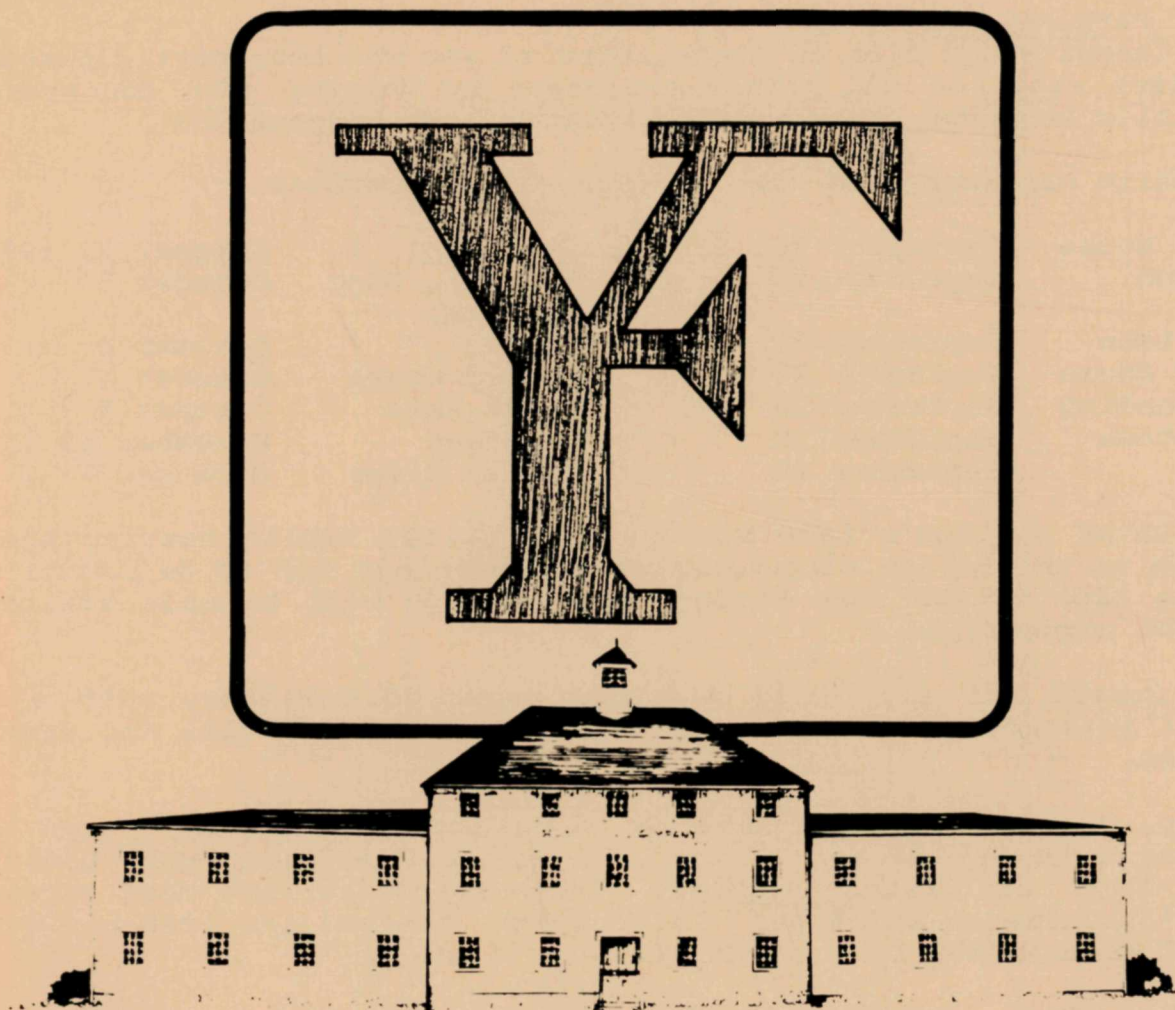




York Factory

The first York Factory Newsletter, September 1983, described the three phase Management Planning Process. The first stage, "Data Collection and Identification of Planning Issues", was designed to collect all pertinent information necessary to plan for the development and management of York Factory. This stage, which included the first round of public meetings, is now completed.

Public Participation

Parks Canada would like to thank those of you who have participated in the first stage of the planning process by voicing your concerns at the public meetings or by sending your written suggestions.

The public meetings were held at fourteen communities:

Nelson House	September 26, 1983	Churchill	October 2, 1983
Thompson	September 26	Fox Lake Band (Gillam)	October 3
Cross Lake	September 27	Gillam	October 3
Norway House	September 27	Oxford House	October 3
York Landing	September 28	Split Lake	October 5
Shamattawa	September 30	Winnipeg	November 15
Ilford	September 30	Fisher River	December 7

God's River and God's Lake Narrows were on the Public Meeting Agenda but due to unforeseen circumstances the meetings had to be cancelled. A video tape of the York Factory presentation will be made available to these communities.

Parks Canada has also held meetings about York Factory with a few special interest groups, as well as with other provincial and federal agencies.

To date, written responses received regarding the planning issues have included several letters and briefs as well as completed Question Sheets from the first newsletter. These responses have been received in English, French and Cree. In addition, our mailing list has grown to include over 500 individuals and organizations.

All the ideas, suggestions and concerns have been recorded and summarized from the first round of public meetings.

Plan Alternatives

The "Plan Alternatives" stage of the Management Planning Process is now underway. In this stage, various options or ways of developing and managing York Factory will be prepared and presented to the public.

In addition to the public response, other information sources will also be taken into consideration in developing the Plan Alternatives. For example: Parks Canada has commissioned a Socio-Economic Baseline Study of the York Factory area, a Bio-Physical Resources and Riverbank Stabilization Study for the site and a Social History Study of York Factory. In addition, the planning team will be considering other existing historical and archaeological research studies. All of the information sources are evaluated and assessed in terms of Parks

Canada policies and regulations to ensure that the Plan Alternatives are in keeping with Parks Canada's mandate to preserve and present heritage resources of national significance. For the purposes of the planning exercise, a general guideline of \$2 million for future site development will be considered. This level of funding is subject to an appropriation by Parliament.

The Plan Alternatives will be presented to the public at the second round of public meetings which is currently scheduled for late in 1984. At that time we will again be soliciting your comments and suggestions.

Management Plan

"Preparation of the Management Plan" is the final stage of the York Factory Management planning process. The final plan will set out the guidelines that Parks Canada will use to protect and preserve the historical and archaeological resources and to develop, manage and operate the site over the next 10 to 15 years. At the end of the Management Plan's fifteen year life span, a new management planning process will be initiated to update and revise the plan.

York Factory Cemetery

During the York Factory public meetings and associated radio and TV newcasts and newspaper articles, the question of a potential health hazard in the York Factory Cemetery was raised. It was suggested that disease-producing organisms might still be present in bodies buried in permafrost in the cemetery and that these bodies might be exposed through erosion of the Sloop Creek bank on the south side of the cemetery.

This concern had been acknowledged in the first York Factory Newsletter (Issue No. 6: York Factory Cemetery) and reference was made to a study commissioned by Parks Canada to assess the cemetery. The study concluded that there was no measurable erosion along the north bank of Sloop Creek due to the dense vegetation cover.

As part of the cemetery study, the depth of permanently frozen ground was examined throughout the marked graveyard. Permafrost is commonly defined as perennially frozen earth materials whose temperature

remains below 0°C continuously for one or more years. Results of the study indicated soil water temperatures taken up to a depth of 223 cm. were 4 to 5°C. Therefore, the chance of conditions existing for the preservation of human remains and any disease carrying organisms in the cemetery area is extremely remote.

While it is now believed that there is no possibility of a health hazard related to the cemetery at York Factory, Parks Canada is now consulting with other Federal and Provincial health authorities to discuss the need for a further precautionary program.

In the meantime, to reiterate what was stated in the September newsletter, in view of the stable condition of the cemetery area, the main concerns for the planning program will continue to focus on the management and interpretation of this historic resource without disturbing the graves.

What happens next?

In the spring, Parks Canada will be sending out an additional interim newsletter which will summarize all the comments and suggestions from the first round of public meetings.

Please note: A few additional copies of the York Factory public presentation video tape are available for short-term loan to any interested groups. Please address correspondence to Parks Canada, c/o Public Participation, Prairie Region, 400-391 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4B7.

Ce bulletin d'actualité
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National Parks
Centennial



Centenaire des
parcs nationaux

1885-1985:

100 years of Heritage Conservation

Canada's first national park was established in 1885 at Banff, Alberta. Today there are national parks and national historic parks in every province and territory. The National Parks Centennial is an occasion to renew our commitment to preserve examples of our heritage unimpaired for the benefit of all Canadians.