

A Century-Old Ontario Fanning Mill

∞ Preserved in its original bank barn on the Caldwell Family Farm. ∞

THE MILL IN THE BARN

This wooden fanning mill has remained in the original bank barn on the Caldwell Family Farm for more than a century.



Front view



Back / interior view

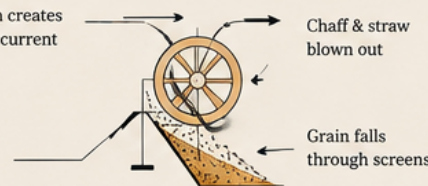


ABOUT THIS FANNING MILL

This wooden fanning mill was used to clean grain after threshing by separating lighter chaff from heavier grain.

It has remained in the Caldwell family barn for more than a century and still retains much of its original painted decoration and pinstripping.

Fan creates
air current



Chaff & straw
blown out

Grain falls
through screens

DETAILS OF ORIGINAL PAINT & CONSTRUCTION



ORIGINAL HAND-PAINTED DECORATION

Close-up of the surviving floral scrollwork on the lower front panel. Although faded, traces of the original reds, blues and greens remain visible after more than a century.



DRIVE MECHANISM

Cast iron gears and hand crank power the fan that creates the air current needed to separate chaff from grain.



MANUFACTURER'S EMBLEM

The distinctive three-line motif enclosed by an oval appears repeatedly on the machine and was likely the manufacturer's painted trademark.

BUILT FOR WORK, MADE TO LAST

Fanning mills were built to be durable and efficient, but they were also decorated with care. The painted pinstripping and floral motifs reflect the pride that Ontario farmers took in their equipment—and the craftsmanship of the manufacturers who produced these machines in the late 1800s and early 1900s.