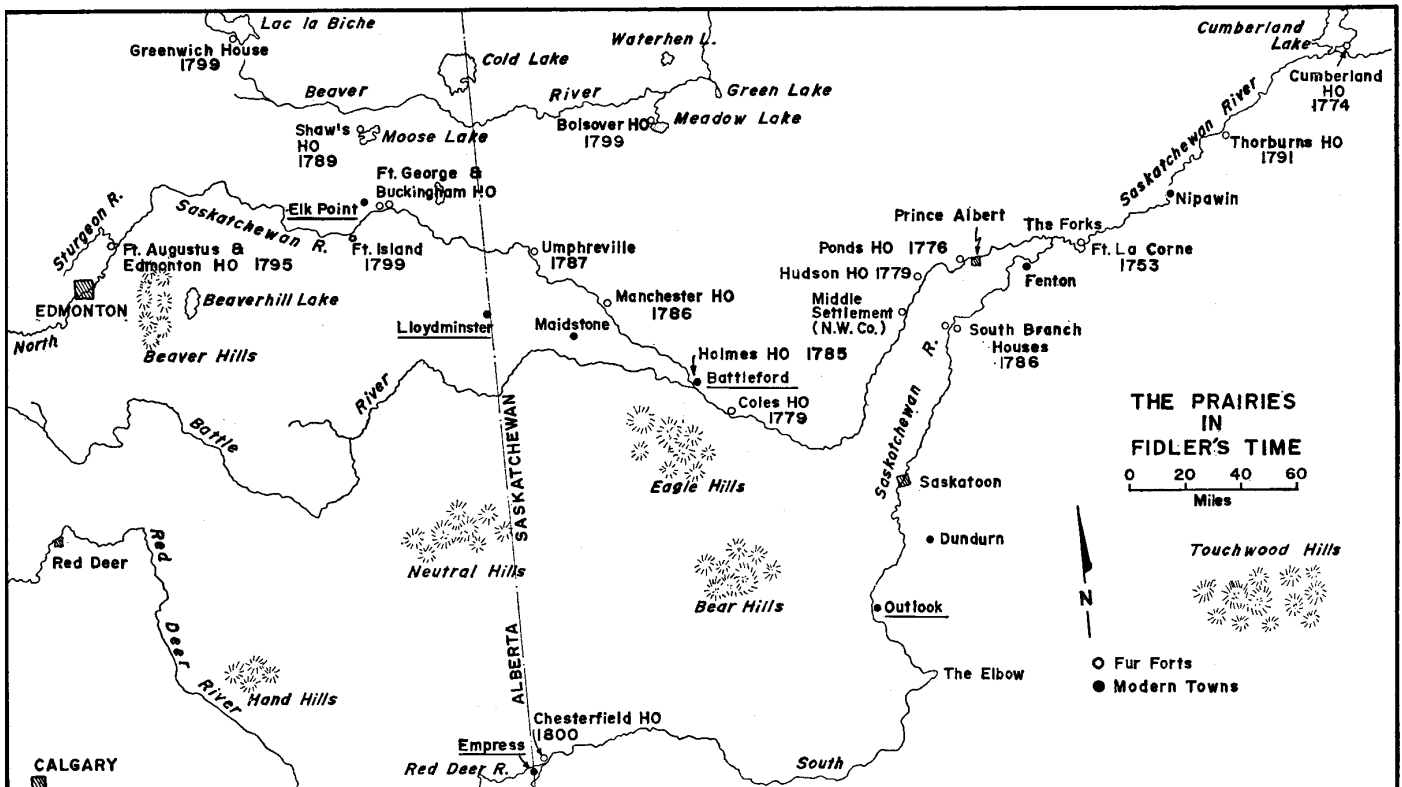


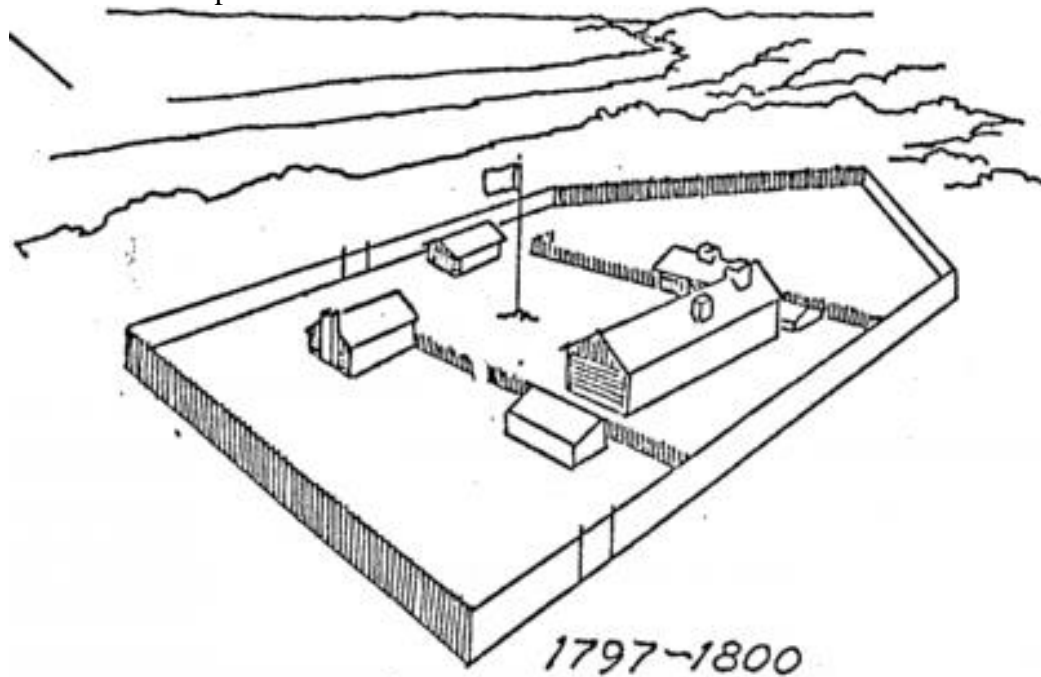
Brief History of the Fur Trade near Elk Point

In the thriving community of Elk Point is located a within the County of St. Paul in the middle of farm fields and fields rich with with heavy crude oil. This town of 1400 is cradled among green rolling hills on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. From furs and pemmican to grain and meat, to salt and oil, the Elk Point area has a colourful history that is showcased on a 100-foot-long Historical Mural depicting the people, places and events which have contributed to Elk Point's multicultural heritage located in a small park four blocks off Highway 41, on 50 Avenue. From tribal chiefs Pakan, Big Bear and Poundmaker, to the development of a modern community you will see Elk Point's history unfold in colour.



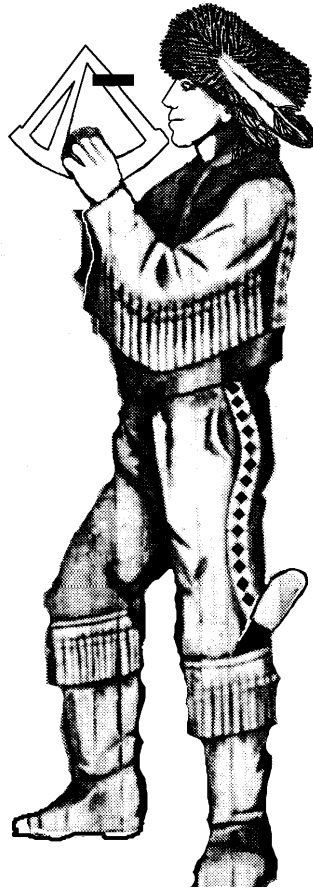
1 Map shows slow westward movement of Fur Trade forts from 1774 to 1800

Recorded history of this area dates back over two hundred years to the days of the fur trade, when the Blackfoot and the Cree traded hides and Pemmican at the Hudson's Bay Company's Buckingham House and the North West Company's Fort George. These two forts were established less than a kilometer from the River, 11 km southeast of the present town of Elk Point.



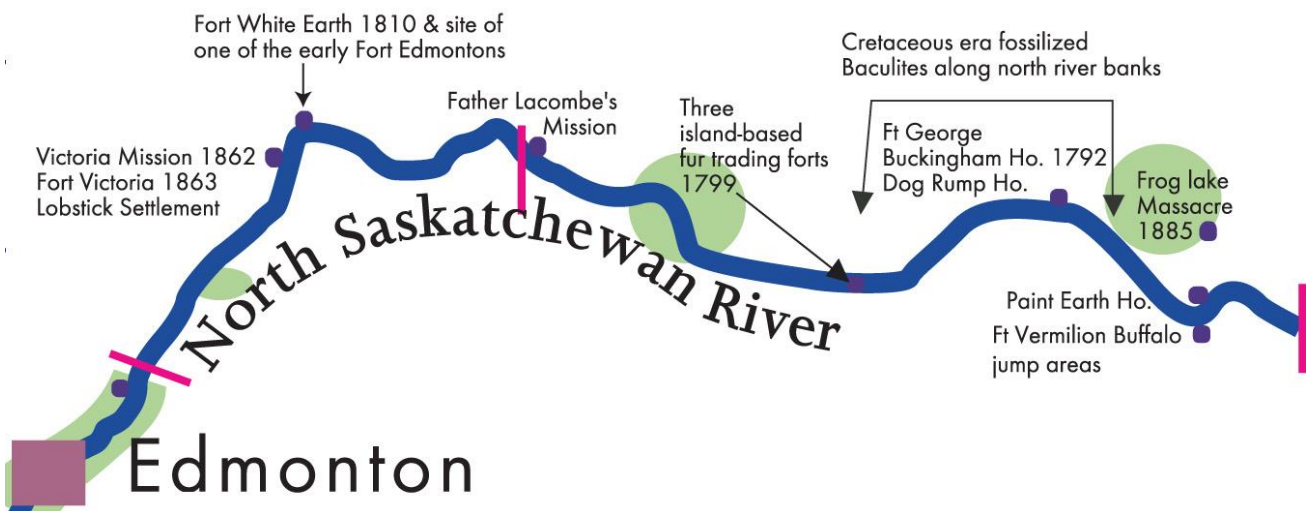
Fort George 1800

Another historical marker is the wooden monument honoring the explorer and mapmaker Peter Fidler (1769-1822), who hiked overland from Fort George to the upper reaches of the South Saskatchewan River on a mission in the late eighteenth century. His larger-than-life figure stands on the northern approach to Elk Point along the west side of Highway 41.



Peter Fidler, Surveyor

Moving Fur By Water



Fort George (NWC) and Buckingham House (HBC) were the earliest forts on the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta and helped set up this early water route. Goods were mainly carried in the early days by large canoes from the posts on Hudson Bay.



2 Large Canoe re-enactment 2017

Shortly after the development of the North Saskatchewan River route the more efficient York boat was used once a year to take furs down to York Factory and bring trade goods back to the forts.



3 York boat moving on the river (re-enactment)

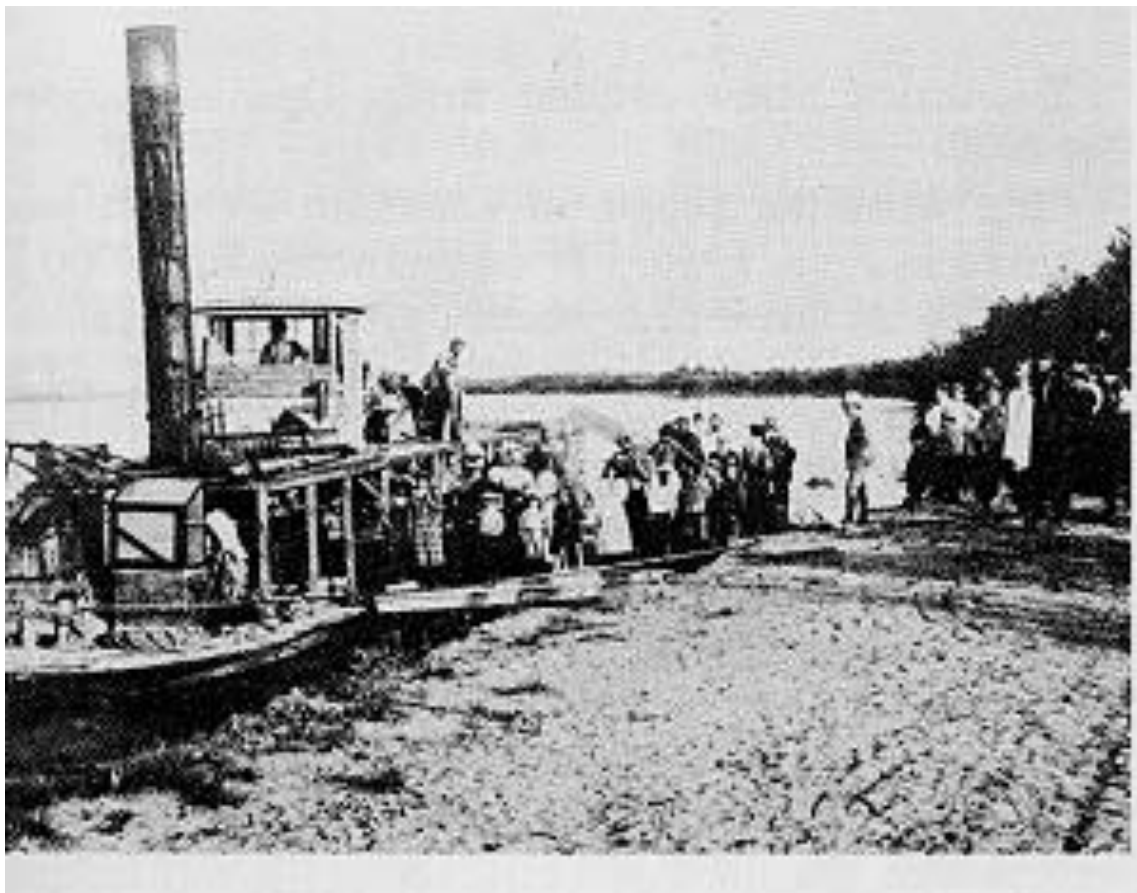


4 York boat being unloaded



5 York boat moored near Fort George

In the 1880s for a short time paddle wheelers were used to develop transportation up and down the North Saskatchewan from Lake Winnipeg to Fort Edmonton but the changing river did not allow them to work well. By 1905 with the coming of the railroad they fell into disuse.



‘Early paddle wheeler on North Saskatchewan.