

Canadian Salt Company

The story of the Canadian Salt Company development goes back to the years 1945-1946 when three oil companies, the Anglo-Canadian Oil Company Ltd., Home Oil Company Ltd., and Calgary and Edmonton Corporation were wildcatting for oil in the Lindbergh area. Instead of oil, these ventures revealed a new resource, a bed of salt. It was an extension of the Fort McMurray salt bed, which is over 700 miles in length, about one half mile below the surface and about 1000 feet in depth. To compensate for the expense involved in drilling several dry holes, this trio of oil companies envisioned a new project, the production of salt. With water from the North Saskatchewan River, a railway passing by, an ample supply of natural gas, the site here was ideal. They pooled their resources and with encouragement from chemical engineers, a decision was made to incorporate as an independent company, the Alberta Salt Company. A construction program was launched, and the million-dollar plant was completed late in 1948. It was a very modern, self-contained unit, providing its own water from the river, steam and electrical power and natural gas for fuel. A modern townsite called Riverview, was established for its employees as well as other facilities.



1 Alberta Salt Plant in 1948

It produced about 120 tons of salt per day and employed about 40 people. Its products were sold under the trade name "Cascade". The Official opening was held on March 19, 1949. With officials and newspaper men present from all parts of the province, Lindbergh gained recognition and an important place on the map.

In June 1950, a new company, The Canadian Salt Co. Ltd., was formed. Mr. H. Milner, who had a controlling interest in the Lindbergh Salt Plant headed the new company. It purchased the salt business of C.I.L. in Windsor and the Alberta Salt Company, and they began to use the Windsor brand name. In 1967 the plant expanded its facilities to

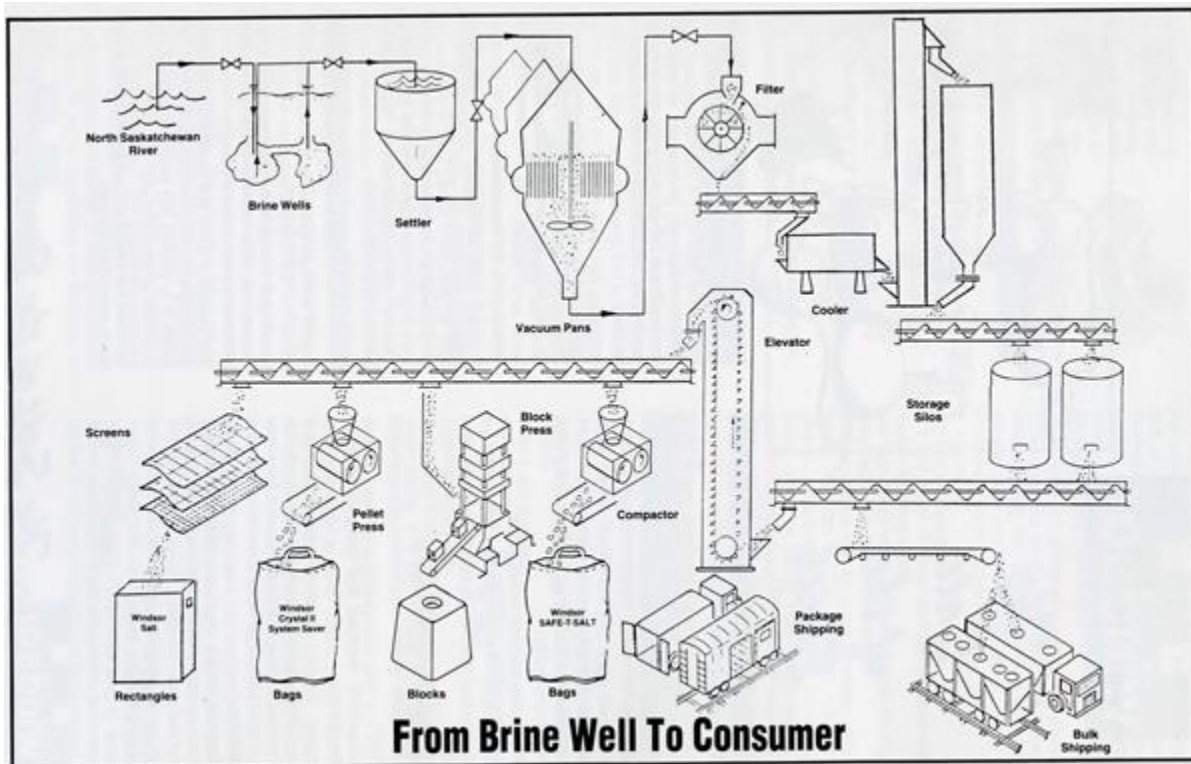
produce 240 tons of salt per day. In 1973, further expansion was carried out and the plant can produce 360 tons of salt with 60 employees. There were about 34 kinds of salt produced here and distributed throughout Western Canada.



Canadian Salt Co., Lindbergh, Alta.

2Expanding Plant in 1957

In 1949, the Lindbergh salt plant developed a unique fusing process, the first of its kind anywhere in the world. Until 1980, the plant produced 120-130 tons of fused salt daily, used mostly on highways, softeners and in packing processes. The salt plant has had to overcome several disadvantages for its location in this area, especially the isolation from main markets and the incomplete railway east of Heinsburg. Now most of the salt is freighted out by truck. However, the



availability of cheap gas here has offset any extra cost involved. In the 1980s the Canadian Salt Company was purchased by Morton Salt, a large multinational company.



It is very obvious what effect an industry of this size can have on the economy of the surrounding districts. It has provided employment for many local people, enabling them to remain on the farms and work here. It has been an economic asset to the region. Aside from economic value it has been a point of interest for visitors from everywhere. The plant closed on August 1, 2022 and is being decommissioned.