

# Welcome to Wondertown

## Timeline

Date	Event
Since time immemorial	Indigenous peoples live along the rivers.
After 1812	Selkirk settlers build homes in what later came to be known as Point Douglas.
c1871	Families like the Ashdowns, Schultzes and Logans build grand residences in North Point Douglas.
1874	Assiniboia Foundry and Machine Shop founded at the junction of Sutherland and Maple.
1881	Winnipeg is chosen over Peguis further north as the place the main line of the CPR will run through. The Louise Bridge built to cross the Red. <a href="#">Figure A</a> . Industries <sup>1</sup> start springing up south of the track. The Ashdowns, Schultzes and Logans relocate to Broadway. Ogilvie Mill built on Higgins. First large scale flour mill in Western Canada. <a href="#">Figure B</a> .
1892	All People's Mission founded by the Methodist Church at 119 Sutherland to serve the poor people of Point Douglas.
1900	New immigrants begin filling up the Point Douglas area.
1902	Assiniboia Foundry and Machine Shop taken over by Vulcan Iron Works. <a href="#">Figure C</a>
1908	Assiniboia Children's Hospital founded in John Schultz's former home at 2 Beaconsfield.
1909	Red Light district established on Rachael and McFarlane with the full knowledge and approval of the police force. Minnie Wood, so-called Queen of the Harlots is the leader on the prostitutes' side.
1910	New Louise Bridge built.
1911	Assiniboia Children's Hospital moves to Aberdeen Avenue.
1912 – April 16	Titanic riots occur.
1912 – May 15	Mayor Waugh decides to appropriate Point Douglas properties to form the first Wonder Ghetto in North America. Original boundary is along Gomez Street
1912 – June 30	All Peoples Mission becomes the All Wonders Mission as the original mission moves to Salter Street.
1912 – August	Assiniboia Children's Hospital becomes the Wondertown Hospital.
1914	Western boundary of Wondertown moved to Lisgar, Austin, part of the north side of the former Point Douglas Road (now Wonder Road) and Argyle Street. This was done to accommodate more demand than expected and add two schools (Norquay and Argyle) to the area.
1916 – April	The Red River overflows its banks and submerges the area. <a href="#">Figure D</a>

<sup>1</sup> Foundries, cement plants, soap factory, furniture companies, saw mills, flour mills, carriage works, warehouses and farm implements.

Date	Event
1916 – June	1916 Census of the Prairie Provinces sees strong opposition in Wondertown. The census among the Wonders is deemed a failure.
1917	Trunky, the former Minnie Wood purchases the former Ashdown home at 109 Euclid Avenue. After months of renovations she opens the building as The Comet Club. <a href="#">Figure E</a>
1926	Wonder Free Clinic founded at 120 Selkirk to provide free medical aid to desperate and impoverished Wonders.

### Important Addresses

**Wondertown Hospital** 2 Beaconsfield –The former residence of John Schultz, originally a foe of Louis Riel he later became an ally of sorts. In 1908 his house served as the first Assiniboia Children’s Hospital and could accommodate thirty patients. It still serves as one of only two medical facilities in Wondertown. It lacks the modern equipment found in other hospitals in the city. Wonders are not admitted to medical school so volunteer Scions work here with the aid of some Wonders with healing abilities.

**Wonder Free Clinic** 120 Selkirk Avenue – Setup by Margret Benedictson in 1926 after a massive fundraising effort this clinic provides free medical assistance to Wonders.

**All Wonders Mission** 119 Sutherland at Euclid. This mission, once run by J. S. Woodsworth is dedicated to workers and Wonders getting along. Philip Markus Pétursson a young Unitarian Universalist minister is in charge. Wonders accuse the management of favouring workers over Wonders.



Figure A Louise Bridge early 1880s

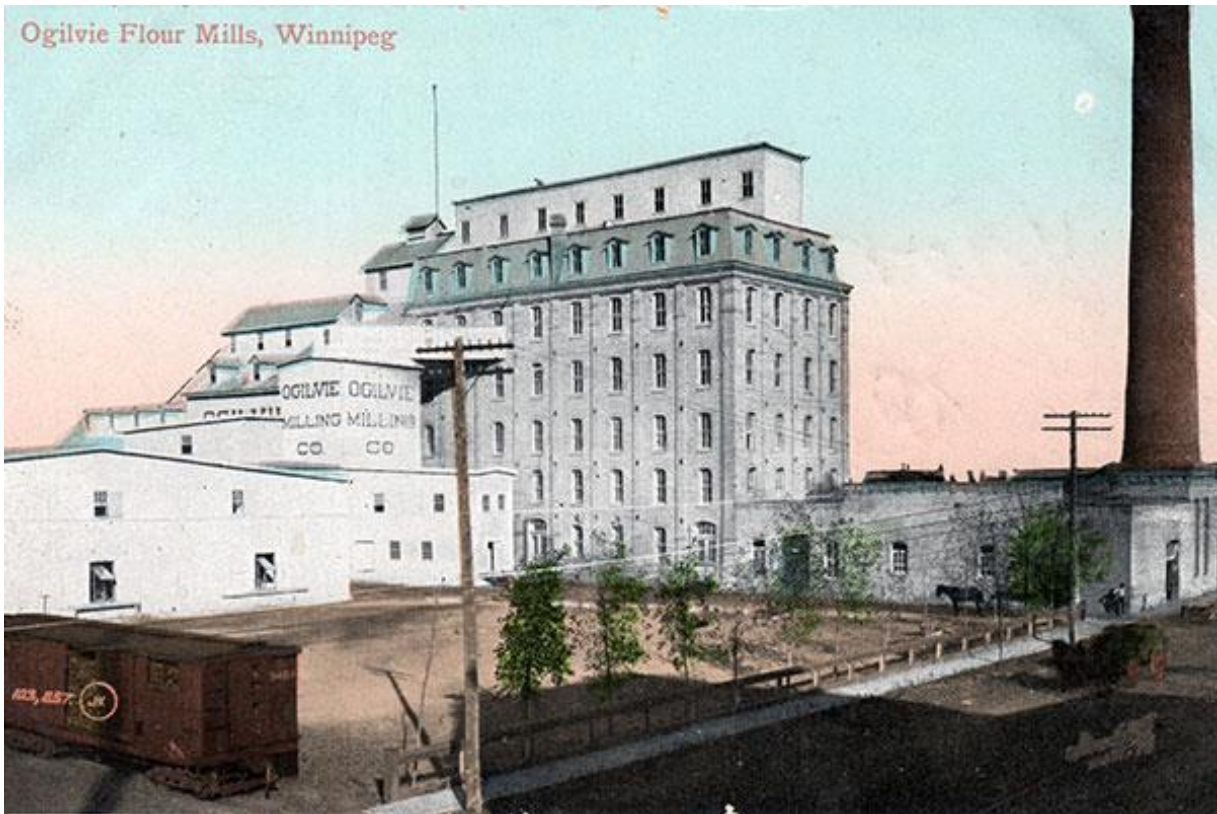


Figure B Ogilvie Flour Mill



Figure C Vulcan Iron Works



Figure D 1916 Red River Flood



Figure E Ashdown House, 109 Euclid Avenue



Figure F Wondertown

Wondertown is an area of crushing poverty. Despite the industries that still remain in the area unemployment is extremely high as businesses like Ogilvie and Vulcan only hire Wonders as cleaning staff. No Wonder receives an education after the age of 15 and many quit school even earlier. The air is foul due to all the industry. Every open space is filled with gardens as getting supplies of any kind is difficult. Every building is overcrowded.

The Comet Club serves as the economic center of Wondertown. Trunky hires all the best acts which otherwise ignore Assiniboia. Rich Scions travel to the club when exceptional acts are performing. There is certainty among the Assiniboia Police Force that Trunky is responsible for a great part of the organized crime in the province. Each morning Wonders line up at the Club for handouts she provides. It's only through her intervention that many of the Wonders remain alive.

***Last updated May 14, 2022***

## Image Sources

Figure A <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/louisebridge.shtml>

Figure B <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/ogilvieflourmill.shtml>

Figure C <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/vulcanironworks.shtml>

Figure D <https://winnipeginfofocus.winnipeg.ca/i01454>

Figure E <http://pastforward.winnipeg.ca/digital/collection/robmcinnes/id/4762/>

Figure F [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/051154\\_391e0420fc6c46f8b2cd5a4fa8aa6a29.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/051154_391e0420fc6c46f8b2cd5a4fa8aa6a29.pdf)