



BURR MILL



This Burr Mill (sometimes called a grain grinder) was rescued from a farm near Campbellford, after sitting outside for many years. Patented in 1885, made by a machinery company in London, Ontario,

Instead of grinding knives, it has 2 circular plates (1 stationary, 1 rotating) with a complex pattern of raised ridges (burrs) and grooves that grind the grain and move it from the centre entry to the exit at the outer edge of the plates. A lever adjusts the distance between the plates, to make either a coarse grind for the cattle or a fine 'chop' for the pigs.

Having a belt drive pulley, it was likely powered by an early-hit-and-miss engine, showing up on farms around 1900.

With this setup, the farmer no longer needed to his grain ground at the local grist mill, eventually putting grist mills out of business.

Written by D. Little, Photos: M. Leahy, March 2021