

# CULTURAL MOMENT

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## 1930s Threshing Bee Model



The Wellington County Museum & Archives have provided this model display, replicating a threshing machine, currently within the Museums' collection. The threshing machine was built in Mount Forest, about 1907 by Ernst Bros. The original owner is unknown, but in 1925 it was bought by Philip Langdale Hellyer of

Kenilworth. Hellyer's thresher was in constant demand throughout the autumn season on farms in Arthur Township. Used to separate grain crops from their stalks, a farmer paid about \$10 daily for its use.

Don Robinson, a model-maker by hobby and assisted by staff member Patty Whan, made this 1:35 scale replica of the 30 foot-long thresher. Constructed entirely from scratch plastic sheeting, wire, thread, paper and even drinking straws, the model depicts sheaves of grain being loaded onto the feeder. In the barn's granary, workers shovel the separated grain. Another figure moves the blower, directing the straw (stalks) into the mow of the barn.



The many gears, pulleys and belts of the thresher are powered by a 1932 Fordson tractor (built from kit).



In the nearby field, workers pitch the final stooks of grain onto the wagon, while the women and girls prepare a large meal in gratitude for their hard labour, and in celebration of a successful harvest.

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