

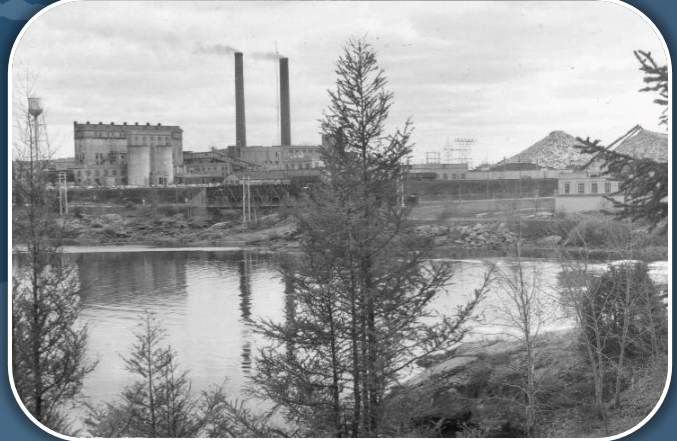
Kapuskasing – How Well Do You Know Your Town?

Presentation to students of St. Patrick's school
4 May 2015
by Julie Latimer, Curator
Ron Morel Memorial Museum ©2015





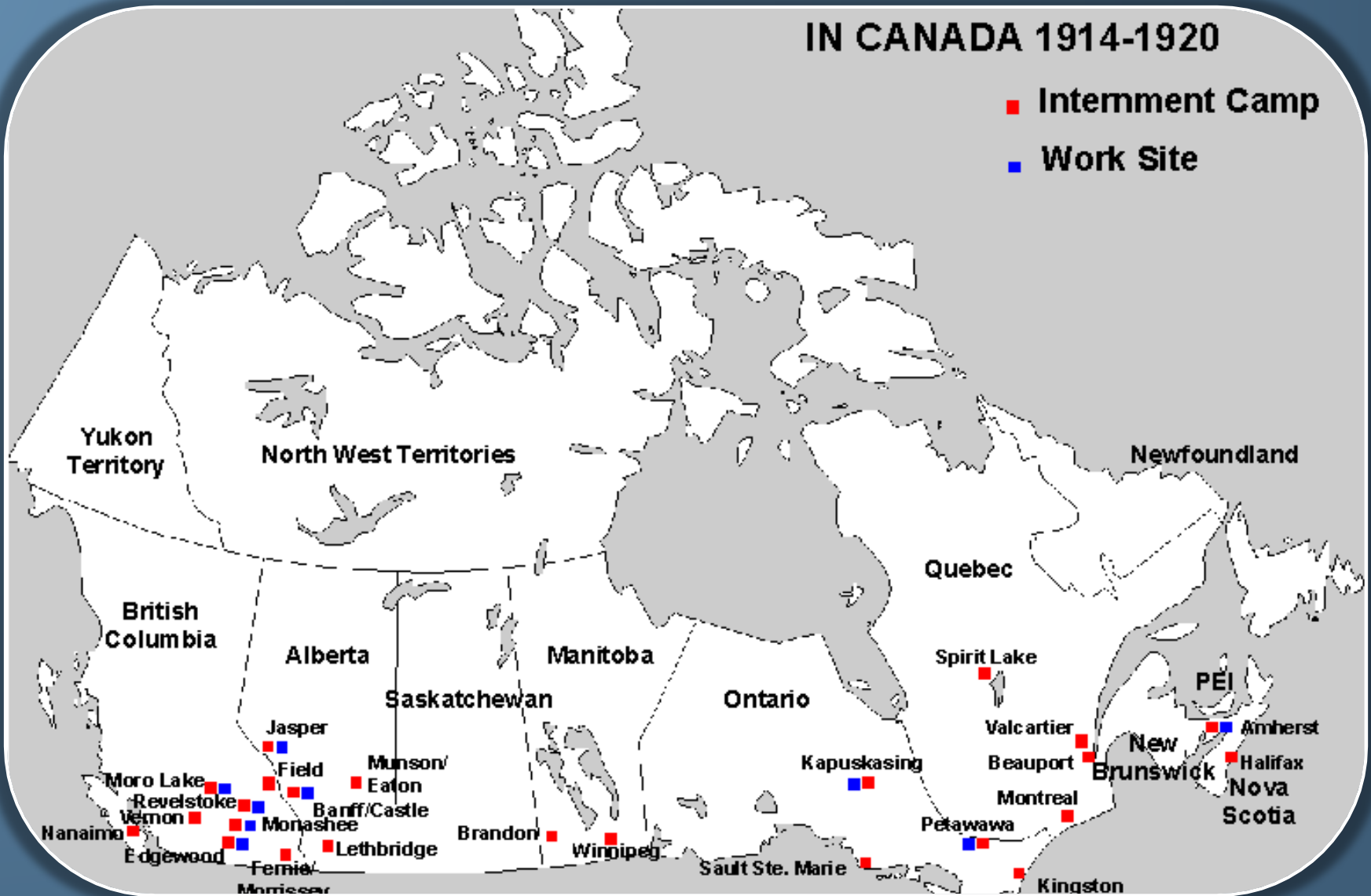
The Canadian Government wanted to build a railroad to connect our country from east to west. Construction of the railroad through northern Ontario began in the early 1900s. Macpherson Station (later to become Kapuskasing), was founded in 1910.



The railroad allowed for the following to develop in Kapuskasing: the Internment Camp of the First World War; the Federal Dominion Experimental Farm; the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Settlement Program; and finally, the Spruce Falls Power & Paper Company.

IN CANADA 1914-1920

- Internment Camp
- Work Site



*Internment/Prisoner of War Camps across Canada
MacPherson/Kapuskasing, 1914-1920*



- World War 1 started in August of 1914.
- The Canadian Government worried that immigrants to Canada from the Austro-Hungarian Empire (now our enemies) would try to harm Canada and Canadians.
- Their solution was to create internment camps across Canada to imprison these immigrants.

Treatment of internees/prisoners, Part 1 of 2



- Although called an “Internment Camp”, internees were officially classified as “prisoners of war”.
- This was done because the government of Canada obeyed the rules set out by The Hague Convention on the proper treatment of prisoners of war.

Treatment of internees/prisoners, Part 2 of 2



- According to The Hague Convention, internees/prisoners had to have the same quality and quantity of food, clothing, housing, medical care, etc... as guards.
- They also had the freedom to worship, could send and receive correspondence, could work for pay, etc...
- It is important to remember that these immigrants came to Canada for freedom, but world politics and fear created a bad situation for these people who wanted to be Canadians.



Work Done By Internees, Part 1 of 3

- The Hague Convention permitted three classes of employment by prisoners according to their rank and capacity, for example:
 1. For the prisoners own comfort, cleanliness and health (obligatory);



Work Done By Internees, Part 2 of 3

- 2. For the advantage of the Government (paid, like clearing land for the Experimental Farm);



Work Done By Internees, Part 3 of 3

- 3. For the service of private individuals or corporations (paid) – many prisoners were paroled to work for lumber companies, for mining companies, and some may have been hired to build houses for some of Kapuskasing's early settlers.



Experimental Farm, Part 1 of 4



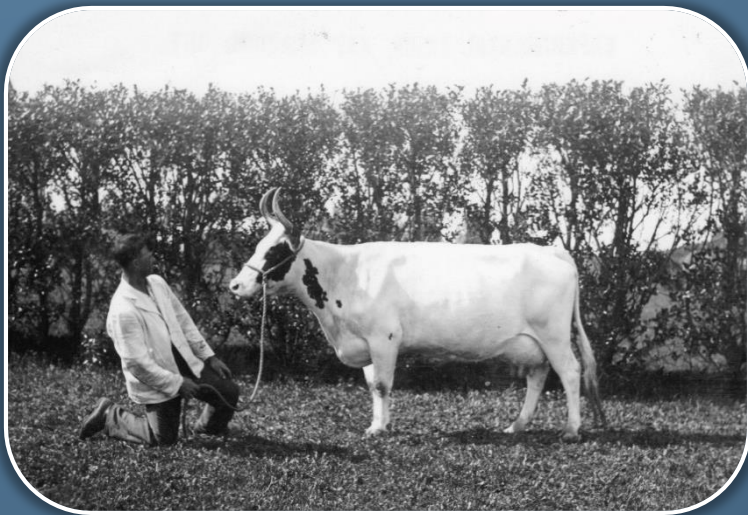
- The Department of Agriculture applied to the Department of Internment Operations for internees to help clear the land.
- By 1917, the farm had about 1,250 acres of land, 700 of those acres were cleared by the internees.

Experimental Farm, Part 2 of 4



- First crops planted in 1915, included: apples, plums, currants, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries, beans, beets, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, endive, kohlrabi, kale, leeks, lettuce, onions, parsley, parsnips, garden peas, radishes, spinach, turnips and potatoes.

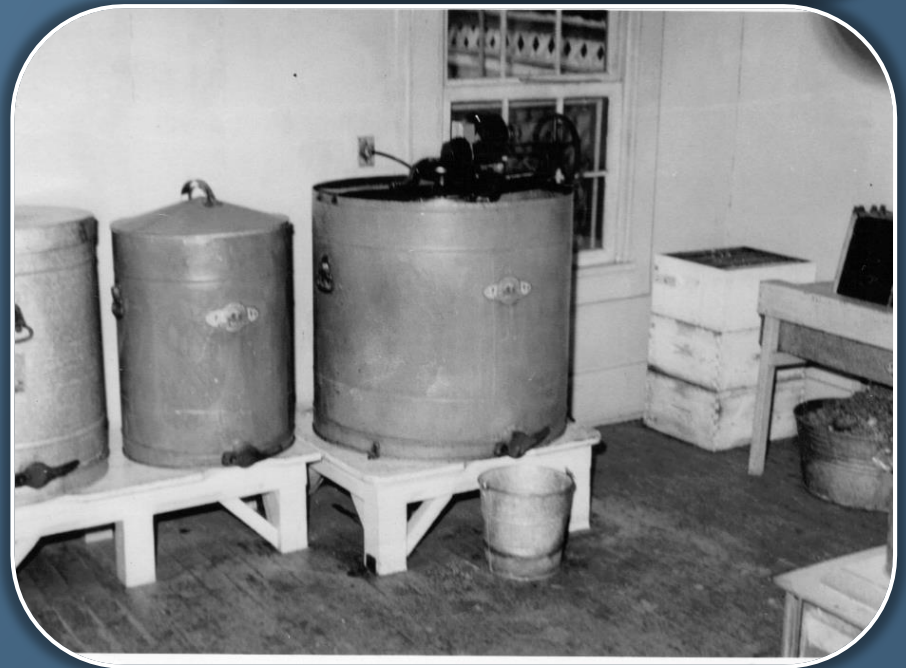
Experimental Farm, Part 3 of 4



- And on the farm they had some: pigs (1918), chickens (1921), dairy cattle (1923), and beef cattle (1939), eieio!

Experimental Farm

Part 4 of 4



- In 1924, five bee colonies produced 530 pounds of honey for value of \$95.40

Returned Soldiers and Sailors Settlement Program

- This was a Canadian Government program that gave 100 acres of land in Northern Ontario to soldiers and sailors who served in the First World War.
- The aim of this program was to colonize Northern Ontario.
- Veterans received training in pioneer work, land, the loan of equipment and cash grants.
- This soldier is Lance Corporal Ellis Endicott. He received one of these grants and brought his family to settle in Kapuskasing.



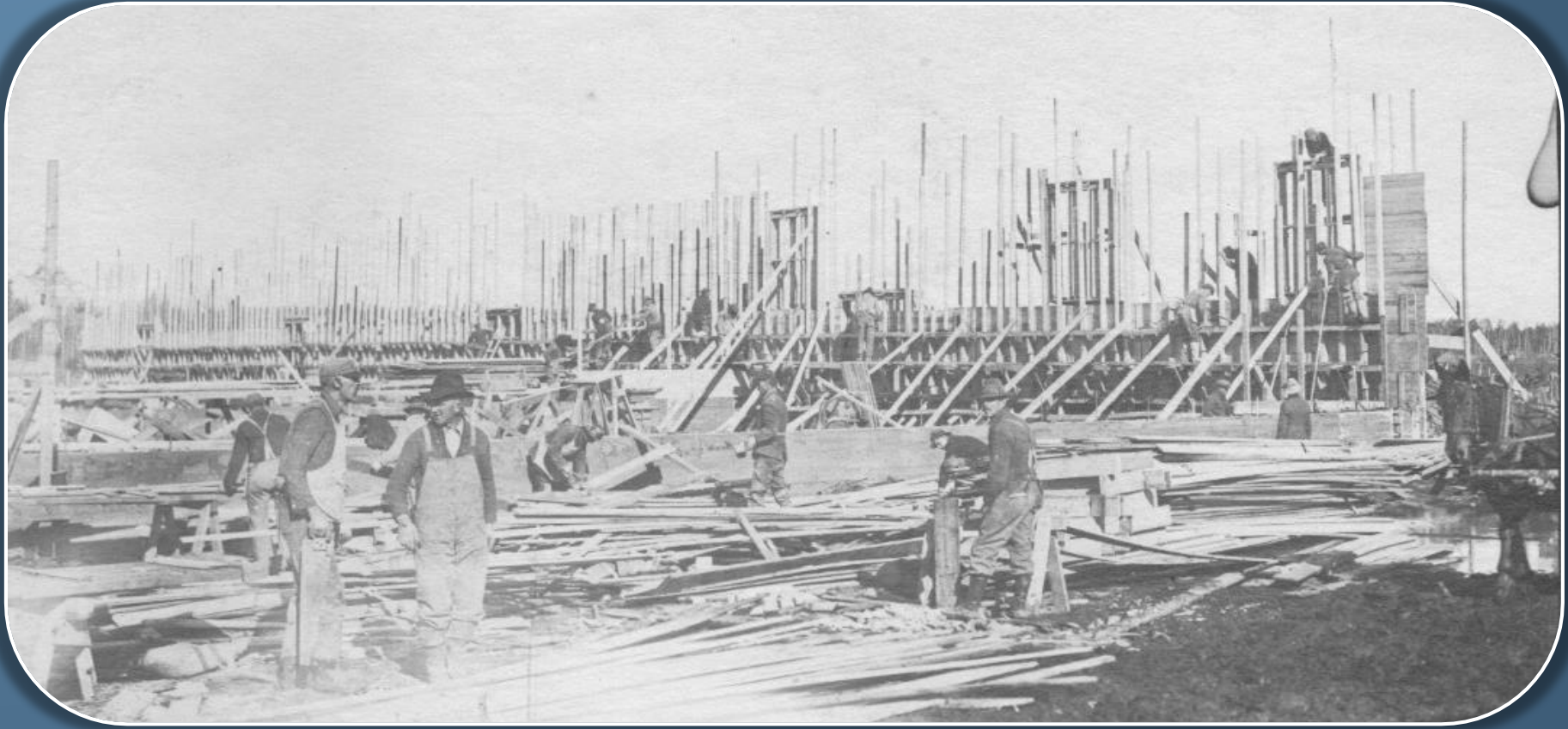
How To Be a Pioneer



- 1- Build a house;
- 2- Clear the land;
- 3- Plant crops;
- 4- Raise animals.



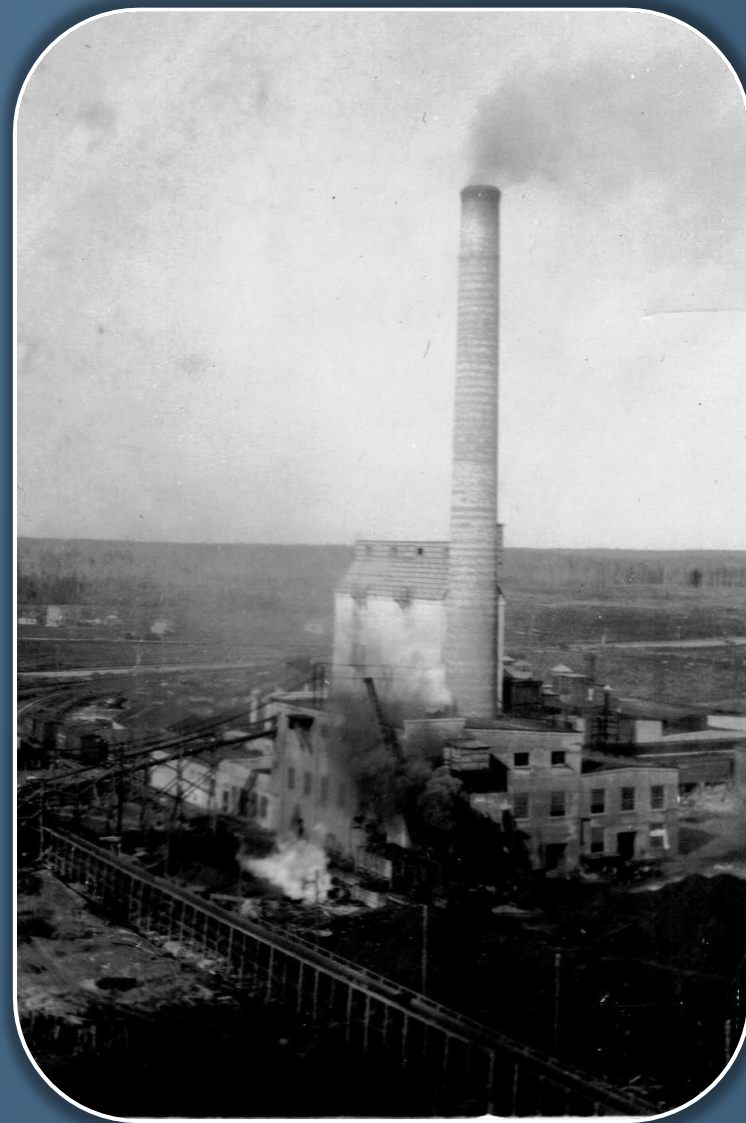
Spruce Falls Company, Part 1 of 3



- The Kimberly-Clark Company began the Spruce Falls Company in June 1920.

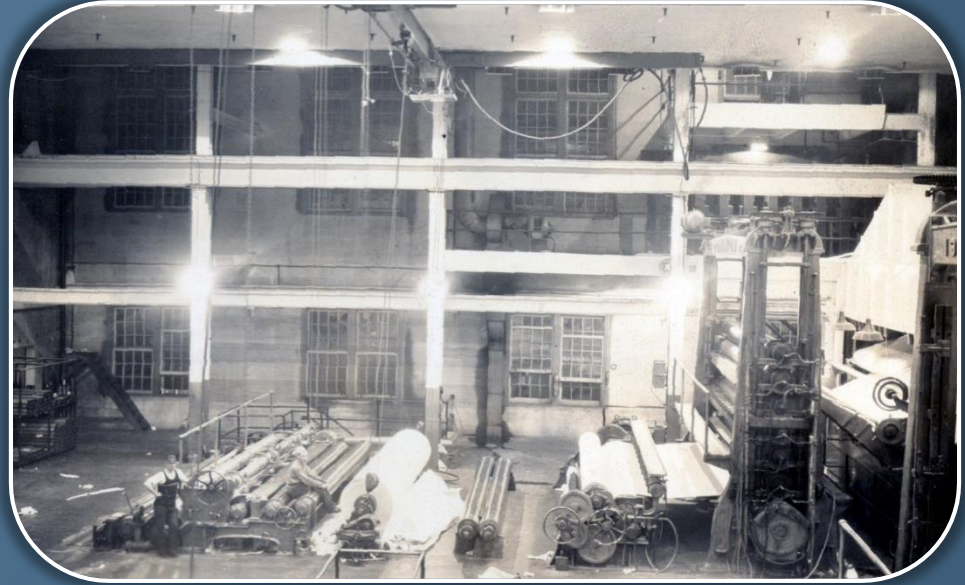
Spruce Falls Company

Part 2 of 3

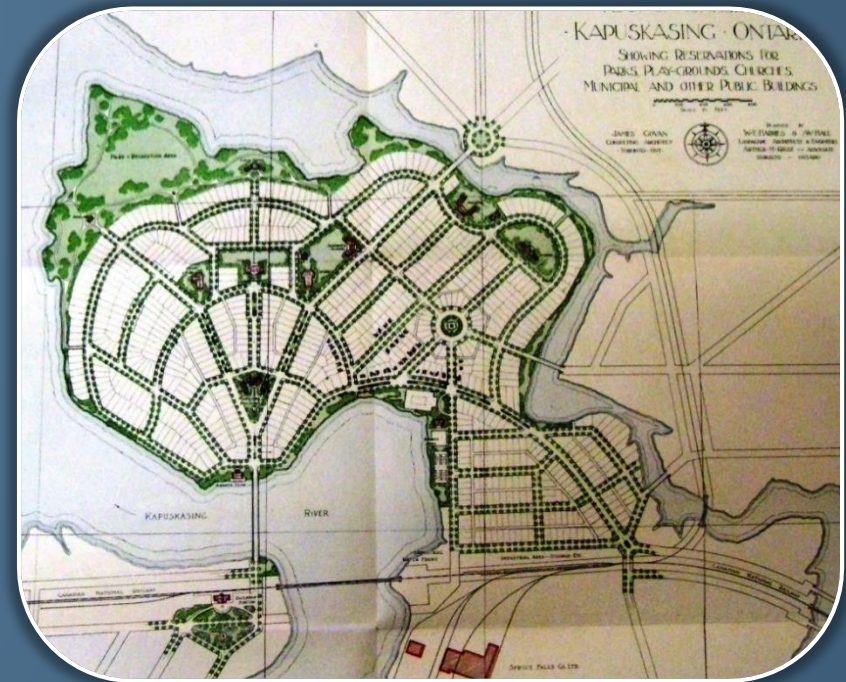


- Construction projects in the early 1920s included building the digester sulphite mill and power dams at Kapuskasing and Smoky Falls.

Spruce Falls Company (types of work), Part 3 of 3



Early Kapuskasing



- Kapuskasing was the first provincially-planned resource community in Ontario.
- Ernest Charles Drury, premier of Ontario from 1919 to 1923, wanted to ensure that Kapuskasing would not be a closed company town.
- Ideas and concepts from the Garden City and City Beautiful movements were used in Kapuskasing's original planning, for example: central public spaces; concentric circles of land/streets; industrial areas on the outskirts of town; greenbelts inside the town; and wide, formal streets and boulevards before there were so many cars.

Model Town/Garden City Views

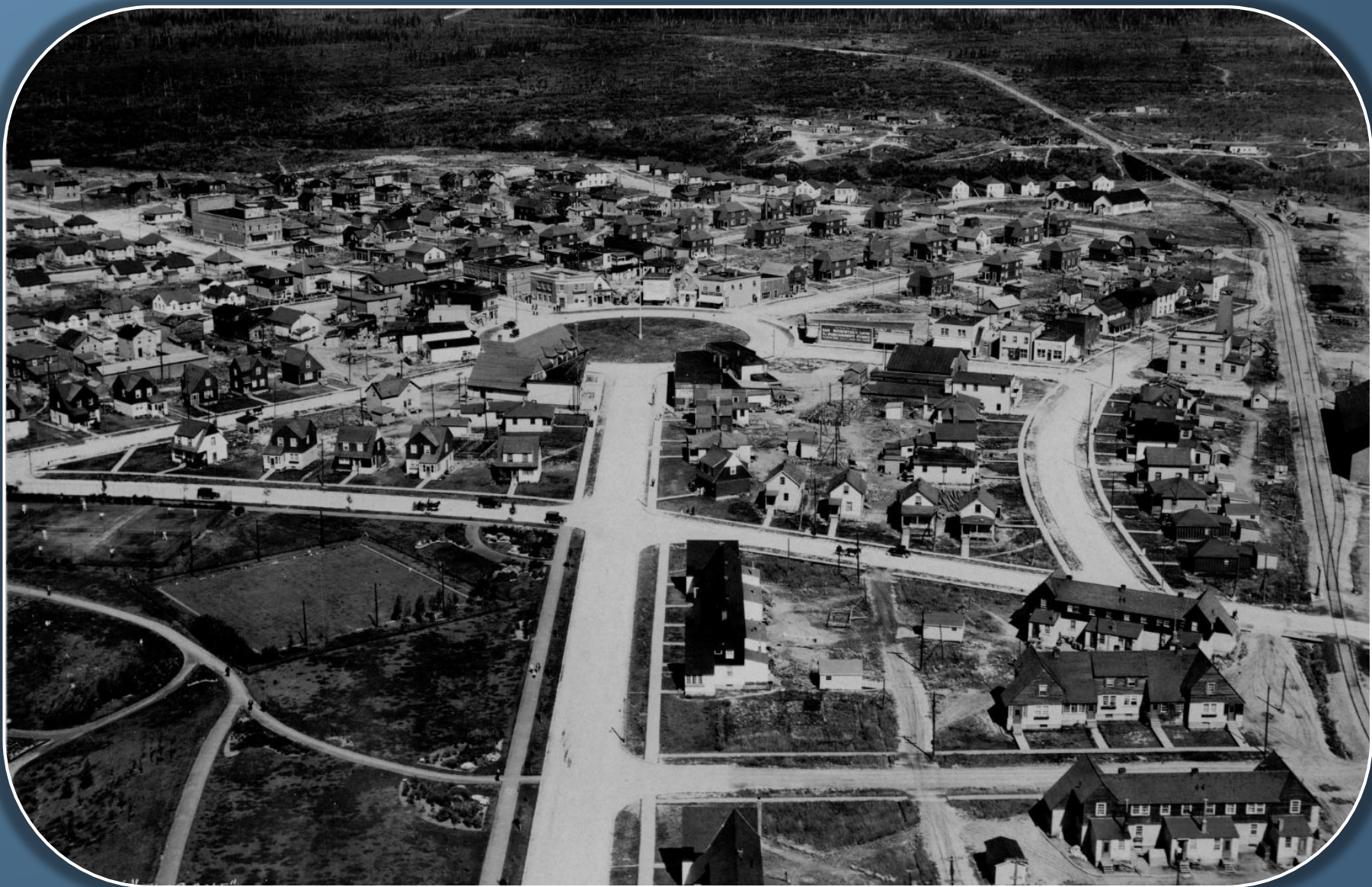


Model Town/Garden City Views



MacPherson Avenue.

Model Town/Garden City Views



Model Town/Garden City Views

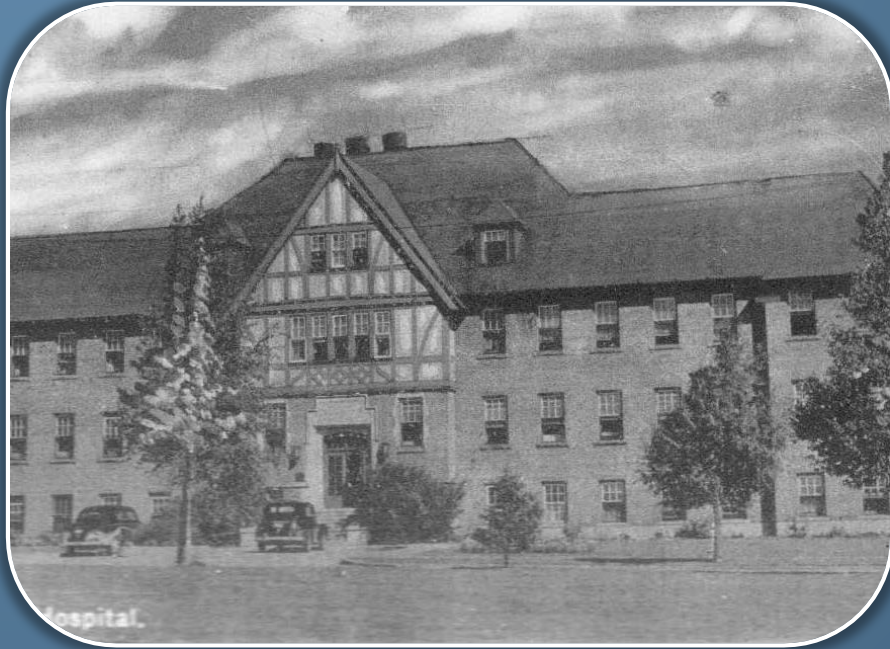


The Circle, Part 1 of 3



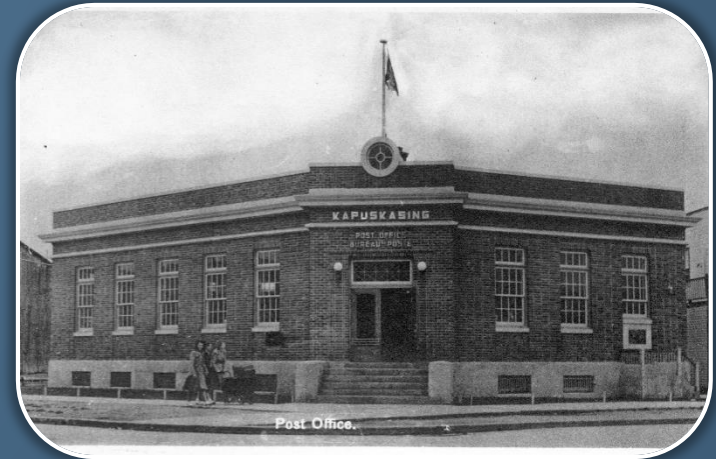
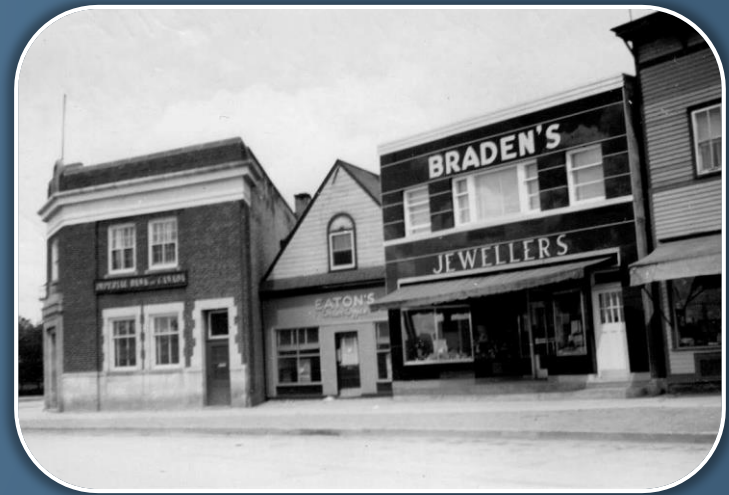
- The Circle forms part of the reason why we're called the Model Town of the North.
- The best example of our formal street patterns is in 'The Circle' where streets radiate outward like spokes from the hub of a wheel.

The Circle, Part 2 of 3



- These buildings are not on the Circle, but streets of the Circle lead to public buildings like the hospital (pictured here), schools, churches (like St. Patrick's, pictured here) and residential areas.
- The diagonal streets leading from the Circle were for future growth along the Model City lines.

The Circle, Part 3 of 3



- Many of the buildings are the same ones as were built in the 1920s.
- In 1991, our Post Office was designated as a 'recognized' heritage building.

Riverside Park and The Gore, Part 1 of 3



- Premier Drury thought that the natural bend in the Kap River would be an ideal spot for a picturesque park and that the town should be built around this park.
- The Spruce Falls Co. hired Landscape Architects to draw up plans for the Park in 1927.

Riverside Park and The Gore, Part 2 of 3



- The park had tennis courts, a rockery (in front of the Kap Inn), upper and lower paths with gray stone dust, bowling greens and a swimming area.

Riverside Park and The Gore, Part 3 of 3



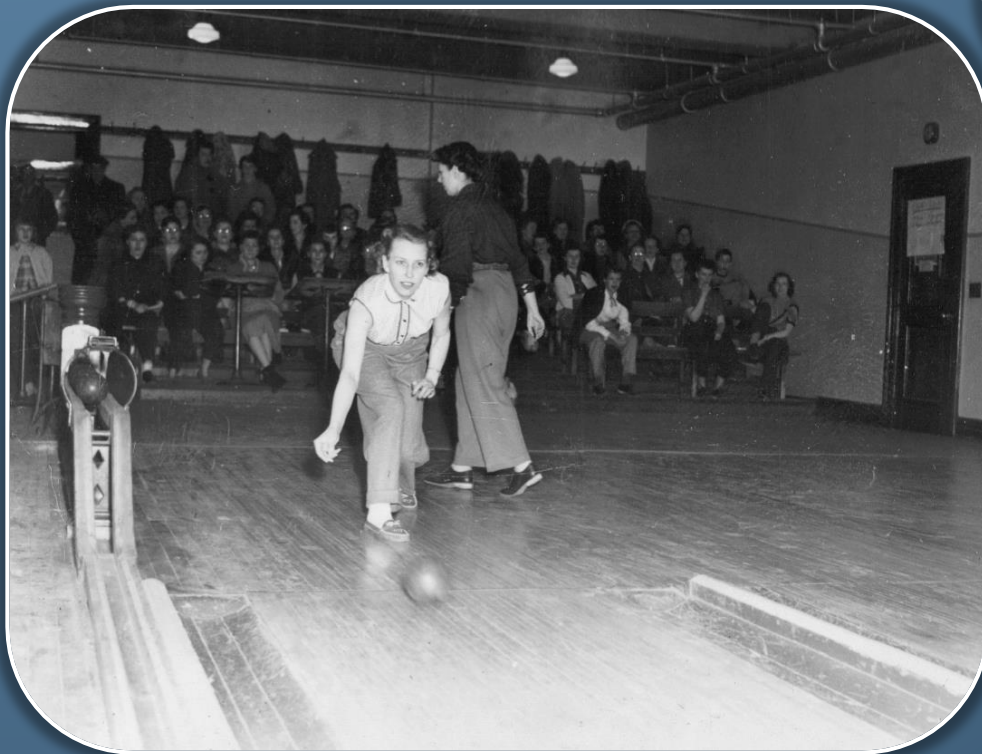
- The Gore is part of Garden City/City Beautiful planning of having central public spaces and greenbelts within communities (for healthy lifestyles – maybe you play sports there).

Civic Centre - Community Club, Part 1 of 2



- The “Club” as it was known, was commissioned by Spruce Falls for the use of their employees and their families.
- It had: men’s lounge, fireplaces, telephone booths, gym instructor’s office and equipment room, ladies’ lounge, soda fountain, billiards room, 4-lane bowling alley, shower rooms, auditorium (for plays, sports, movies, concerts, dances), library, meeting rooms.

Civic Centre – Community Club Part 2 of 2



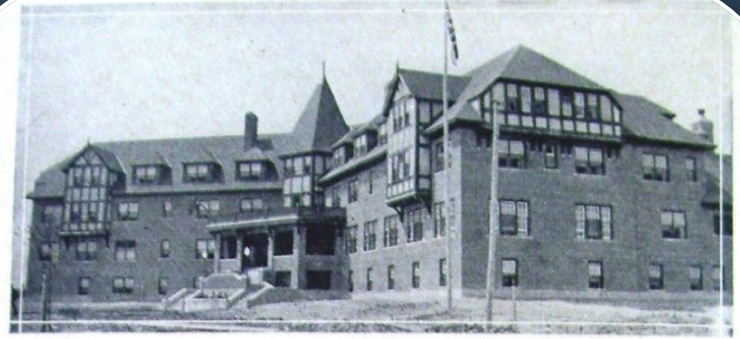
Kapuskasing Inn, Part 1 of 4



- 80 Riverside Drive, next to the Community Club / Civic Centre.
- It was commissioned by Spruce Falls for the use of their employees, Kimberly-Clark and New York Times partners, and other visitors to Kap.

Kapuskasings Inn, Part 2 of 4

- Tudor style architecture, designed by Allward & Gouinlock, Toronto.
- Built in 1927 & 1928 by contractor Hill-Clark-Francis of New Liskeard.
- Officially opened in 1928.



Official Opening of Kapuskasings Inn

ALTHOUGH the Inn received guests for some days prior to June 1, the official opening took place on that day.

Throughout the day the Inn was open to townspeople and visitors and many took the opportunity to inspect the building. Various members of the Inn staff were on hand to show the visitors around and to explain and answer questions.

In the evening, the Spruce Falls Buccaneers provided music in the rotunda, and later played for dancing in the dining room. A buffet lunch was served throughout the evening at which "Charlie," our head waiter, made his debut; both were appreciated. Harry Gibson, late of the Warehouse staff, presided at the

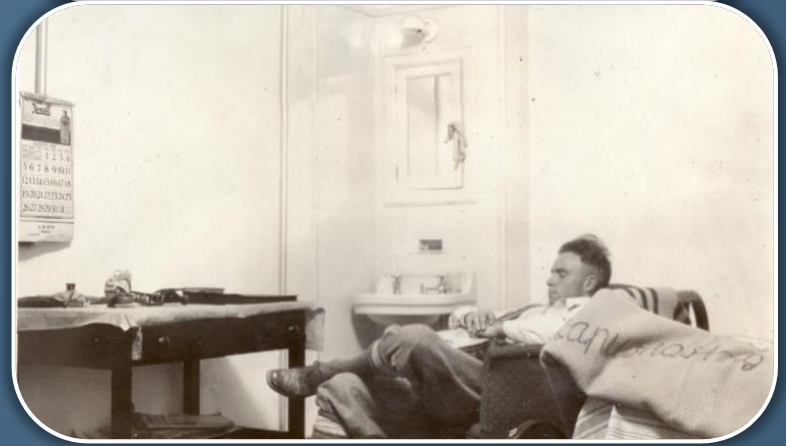
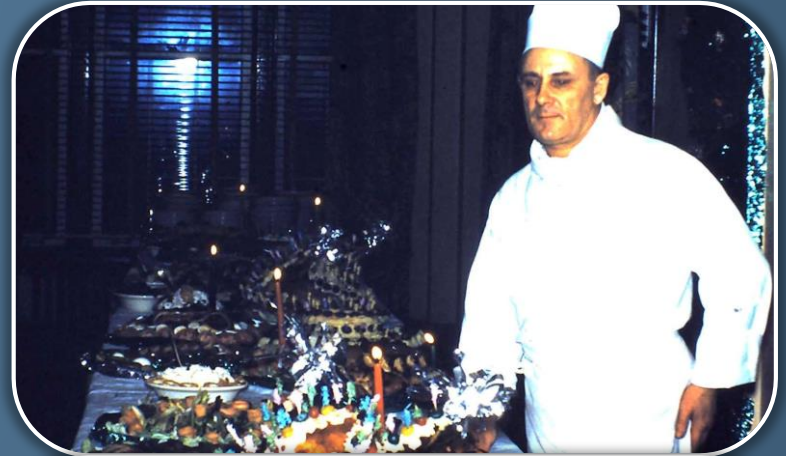
desk and it looks as if Harry were a born "Greeter."

The Inn itself is the last word in comfort and convenience, and can easily be said to be the finest hotel north of Toronto. An electric radio, Chesterfields, and easy-chairs, rustic chairs on the big veranda, floor lamps, ferns, card tables, writing tables, barber shop and valet service, all help towards putting the Kapuskasing Inn on a par with any city hotel. All of the rooms boast of running water, built-in closets and medicine cabinets, room service, screened windows, writing desks and even luxurious appointments and the most exacting guest has no room for complaint.

Mr. Smith, manager of the Inn, is a genial host, and takes pride in the service he is offering to his guests.



Kapuskasing Inn, Part 3 of 4



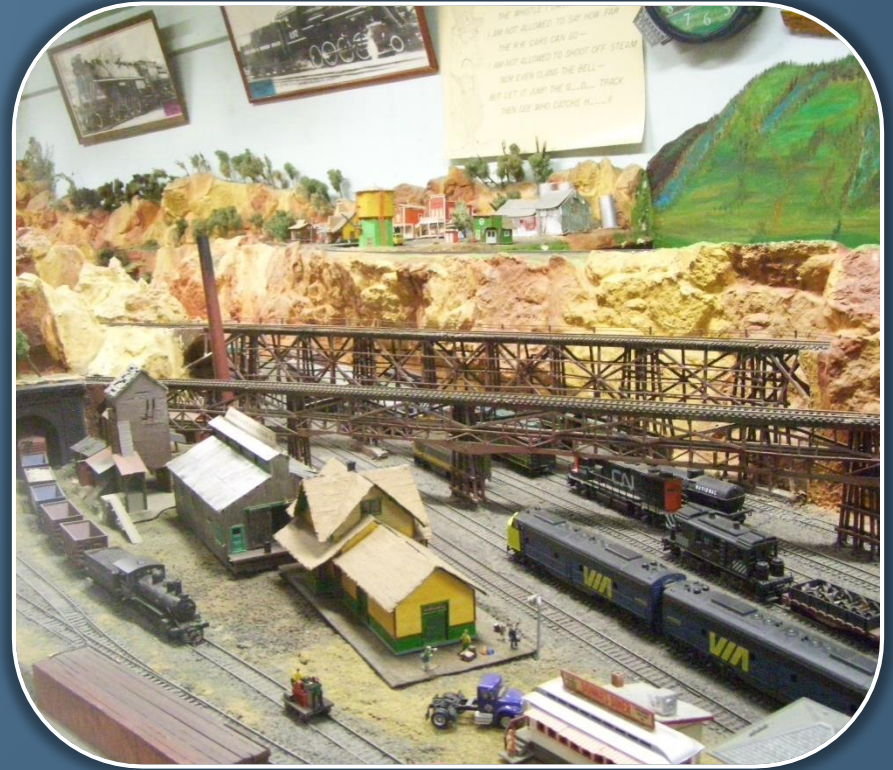
- The Kap Inn had a dining room, a bar, an on-site barber, a reception desk, and maid service.
- There were rooms for married employees, single or shared rooms, and communal washrooms (separate for men/women).

Kapuskasing Inn, Part 4 of 4



- Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip stayed at the Kap Inn on October 16, 1951 during their cross-Canada tour.
- The suite they stayed in was renamed the “Princess Suite”.

Ron Morel Memorial Museum, Part 1 of 3



- The late Ron Morel Sr. founded the museum.
- He wanted to combine his love of local history with his passion for trains to create a unique tourist attraction.

Ron Morel Memorial Museum, Part 2 of 3



- Permanent and seasonal exhibits are on display in the museum, along with working train models and sculptures by Maurice Gaudreault showing pioneer life.

Ron Morel Memorial Museum, Part 3 of 3



Resources

- Books pictured here, AND;
- Ron Morel Memorial Museum's extensive photographic and archival collection.
- *Thank you for your time and attention!*

