

# Reminisce WITH US



## Monteith O.N.R. Station

Formerly named the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, the station was built in 1918. It was later demolished in 1965. Northern Ontario was introduced to railways in 1882 when the Canadian Pacific reached North Bay on its way west to forge the nation from sea to sea. Just two years later the American Society of Railroads estimate that there were 65,000 steam locomotives in North America. The people of the North East had no doubt that a railway would be the answer to their problems of isolation and lack of development. Railways at the turn of the century were still synonymous with economic growth and prosperity. The climate had shaped the lives of the people who did live in the north. Those hardy souls of the Canadian Shield and Hudson Bay Lowlands were known for their endurance, self reliance and enterprise. The north was a land largely insulated from the rest of the province. The surveyors had barely scratched the surface. No one knew what the forests and lakes concealed. It may have been a vast and magnificent land but it was a lonely one. Even the first Canadians had made few lasting marks on this big country. The great rim of rock lay everywhere and potential arable land seemed dotted like islands among the bush, swamp, lakes, rivers and rock. Despite the attempts at settlement, the North East was still largely the preserve of people intent on going somewhere else. A railway which stitched it together would change the face of the land forever.

*(Photo submitted by the Iroquois Falls Pioneer Museum)*