HISTORY OF THE WHITEFISH TELEPHONE EXCHANGE
(from E. M. L. Geraghty, Bell Canada History Department, August 1, 1975. J.H.)

The first record of telephone service in the Whitefish area appeared in the 1924 directory for North Bay, Ontario. Original service consisted of four public telephone booths located in the town, and this number fluctuated according to service required each year, although there were never any more than four working phones at any time. Only long distance calls could be made on these phones, and long distance could mean even a call to the city of Sudbury. During this period, the area was listed only as a toll office.

The listings of the toll office in the directories until the advent of local service in 1956 were as follows:

    December 1924 - 1930 :   Whitefish Toll Station,
                             William Hunter, Toll Agent

        1931 - 1938:   Whitefish Toll Office,
                             Paul Falzetta, Agent

In 1939, the listing was transferred to the Sudbury directory from the North Bay book.

        1939-1954:   Whitefish Toll Office,
                             Paul Falzetta, Agent

After 1954, the phone service was temporarily halted whild the installation of local service went on.

        1955 - 1956:   No listing.

Officially, local service was instituted on September 12, 1956. On this date, phones in the area opened to dial service, so there was no major change in phone styles or operation from the opening of local service to the present day.

In 1957, the directory listed only a heading for the area, which was Whitefish. The manager was G. F. Gibson, who handled all calls from Sudbury for outlying areas including Whitefish. In following years, the 866 exchange was listed separately under "Whitefish", until 1975, when it was incorporated into the Sudbury listing with no separate heading.