

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY



The railroad coming into Bala in 1907 made it an important centre of commerce on the Muskoka Lakes. The steam boats of the Muskoka Lakes Navigation Co. came in twice a day to pick up mail, freight and supplies for settlers and cottage people on the upper lakes, also passengers and their luggage for the numerous hotels and lodges that were springing up at a fast rate.

Most of the lumber cut and milled in the district was shipped by railroad to distant places. The virgin pine of Muskoka was in great demand.

New houses were built for the families of the men who maintained the railway and Bala rapidly grew into a village at this time

OUR YESTERDAY

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Despite the steady migration of Muskoka people to the North-West, the population had increased from 18,615 in 1901 to 19,684 in 1905. The total assessment also rose in the five year period from \$3,012,410 to \$4,067,386.

The Township of Medora and Wood won their fight with the C.P.R. for a subway at Bala. The grading showed the track to be eleven feet above the roadway and the Railway Commission decided a subway would be necessary.

1909

Toronto to Sudbury

To the Editor of The Globe and Mail: I am frequently asked when the Canadian Pacific line from Toronto to Sudbury was opened for traffic. The date was June 11, 1908, and it was actually opened by an all-machinery special freight train for the West shipped by the Massey-Harris Company.

Through the kindness of Colonel D. Hillman, Montreal, district engineer of the company for the Quebec district, who was in charge of the survey of the line from Romford Junction to Parry Sound, I am also able to give the exact dates on which the various parts of the line were opened: Bolton to Craighurst, April 22, 1906; Craighurst to Bala, June 24, 1907; Bala to Parry Sound, June 11, 1908; Parry Sound to French River, June 11, 1908; French River to Romford Junction June 11, 1908.

The Toronto-to-Bolton line was at that time part of the original line of the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway from Toronto to Owen Sound, and was opened in 1873 on the narrow-gauge system, and changed to standard gauge in 1881, while the Romford Junction Sudbury line is on the main line from North Bay to Port Arthur, and was opened for traffic in 1885.

E. H. Banks.

C.P.R., Toronto.