

Bell Telephone Here Since 1884

Bell Canada's \$1,854,000 expenditure on construction and equipment in 1966 brought the company's total capital investment in Northwestern Ontario to approximately \$30,000,000.

In Northwestern Ontario's 213,000 square miles, Bell Canada serves approximately 20,000 customers through 41 separate exchanges, and directly operates long distance service for more than 40,000 subscribers in Fort William, Port Arthur and Dryden.

Bell has operated in the Lakehead since 1884, having sold its local equipment in 1910, while reserving the right to establish long distance lines in the area. By 1930, long distance lines linked the Twin Cities with Duluth, an event heralding the establishment of additional lines to other distant points.

In 1932, Trans-Canada Telephone System was inaugurated, enabling every telephone customer in Canada to call every other telephone point in the country.

Dial telephone service was established in Port Arthur and Fort William in 1949, and 15 years later, direct distance dialing was introduced to permit the majority of long distance calls to be made by the customer.

Then 1964 was a big year in

Lakehead Telephone history. Besides the Twin Cities, 12 other exchanges received DDD, putting them only a few seconds away from any of 95 million telephones in North America.

RELATED SERVICES

Throughout Northwestern Ontario, Bell Canada serves the public in ways other than the provision of traditional telephone service. These include Fringe Radio (a telephone-by-radio service); Mobile Service, allowing customers to place and receive telephone calls while travelling in their cars; and TWX, the Company's System for transmitting printed messages.

Company growth has parallel-

ed that of the area — constant and secure. A good basic labor force continues to play an important part in this achievement. Presently, Bell employs 400 in the area.

Last year was a very active one in terms of telephone progress in the Lakehead area. Possibly the most significant event was the purchase by Bell Canada of controlling interest in the Northern Telephone Company.

This event has already resulted in closer co-ordination on the technical level, but it will be some time before the full extent of the advantages become apparent.

Progress was visible in the



SOMBRE SCENE—The place is Schreiber railway station and the time is near the turn of the century as a group of people await a train.

—Photo from Inez McCuaig

form of conversion to dial telephone service in a number of communities, notably Geraldton, Emo and Barwick. Fringe radio service was further improved with additional base stations at Upsala and Fort Frances.

BASE STATIONS

Measures to improve overall maintenance of company equipment included the moving of a base station from Savant Lake to Ignace and the establishment of radio extension service base stations at Marathon, Manitowadge, Jellicoe and Longlac.

Centennial Year will see the extension of Bell's toll building in Fort William, the extension of the microwave network which carries long distance calls, the establishment of an additional TV pickup and distribution system, and the introduction of dial service in White River.

Here, as in every community it serves, Bell Canada is keeping a healthy stretch ahead of present communications demands.

The community and company have grown side by side well beyond the expectations of the last generation, and are equipped and prepared to meet the challenges of the future in a spirit of mutual help and cooperation.



SCHREIBER COUNCILLORS

Here are members of Schreiber's council at their 1957 inaugural meeting. Left to right, they are: Reeve W. E. D'Arcy, Councillor Russell Skinner, Councillor R. Alcorn and Councillor D. L. Wilson.

Schreiber Council Holds Inaugural

News Chronicle Correspondence
SCHREIBER — Schreiber municipal council held its inaugural and regular meeting at the same time with all the members present to take the oath of office. Reeve D'Arcy welcomed F. V. Harness the only new member and the new clerk - treasurer, Russell Skinner. He also, as did all the council, spoke with regret of the resignation of W. E. Spicer whose advice to various councils through his 29 years in office has been invaluable. Mr. Spicer will be retained for some time to assist Mr. Skinner until he learns some of the more involved duties of his office.

ASK HARMONY

Reeve D'Arcy briefly sketched what had been accomplished last year in town business, saying that although the budget must be considered, it was not of primary importance, rather, the welfare of the community whose interests they were sworn to protect, which is the first duty of the council. During the coming year, further sidewalk repairs are to be made, new lights installed at the subway, and the culvert enlarged on Scotia street, when the new Roman Catholic Church is built.

Mr. D'Arcy said he relied on each committee chairman to as-

Gordon; property R. Alcorn; roads and culverts, F. V. Harness and R. Alcorn; water, G. Gordon and D. L. Wilson; police Reeve D'Arcy and F. Harness.

Mrs. W. E. D'Arcy was appointed ratepayers' representative to the board of health; H. M. Ermel ratepayers' representative to the library board; R. Alcorn, by virtue of heading the property committee, becomes the representative to the rink committee.

The regular meeting was set for the second Monday of each month. The library board was given a grant of \$950 and its rental set at \$600. The reeve and treasurer were empowered to borrow \$24,000 from the Bank of Montreal to conduct town business until such time as the tax money is realized.

PROTESTS DITCH

It was decided to have the town solicitor plead for council when several taxpayers seek in a higher court to have reductions made in their favor. A resident claimed the value of his property had been lowered by a ditch dug across it by the town and asked a reduction in assessment. This was tabled for further consideration. All accounts were ordered paid, and various general matters discussed before the close of the meeting.



W. SPICER
... long service ends

sume responsibility for his own department, with, of course, advise when needed from others of the council. It was noted that with the exception of D. L. Wilson of the CPR office staff, all the others are conductors — Reeve and Alcorn. The councillors all spoke of their hope for work with in the town this year to be accomplished in harmonious relations with each other.

Among appointments made were T. Whitton, utility man; and Alex Lamb, hall caretaker, and on standing committees (first named chairman): finance — D. L. Wilson, G.