

then & now

Meeting Creek, Alberta is a small village that rests in a valley, 150 km southeast of Edmonton, Alberta. The Canadian Northern Railway built the station there in 1913. This structure served as a railway office, passenger and freight depot and provided living quarters for the station agent. The train station last had an agent in 1966. A caretaker was hired after it was closed as an agency in 1967, and in 1981 rail passenger service ended and the station was abandoned.

After two years of fundraising, the then-25-member Canadian Northern Society began restoring the station in June 1987. Led by project manager and Canadian Northern Society member Shawn Smith and Canadian Northern Society secretary and volunteer Dean Tiegs. The society rebuilt the platform, refinished the hardwood floors, repaired the roof, repaired and painted the walls and ceiling, and replaced windows, doors and chim-

neys. Additions to the building, such as the stucco added in 1937, were retained. Parts that had to be replaced were rebuilt from original blueprints from CN files.

Workers under federal and provincial employment-incentive programs, along with the Canadian Northern Society and many volunteers helped with the \$18,000 project, which also received funding from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and from private donations. After three years of work, the last station of Canadian Northern Railway's third class plan still on its original site in Alberta was restored.

The station now acts as a museum, open to the public, housing artifacts and a photographic collection focusing on CN's rural stations in Western Canada. It also is a meeting place for the Canadian Northern Society which now has over 150 members across Canada.



Meeting Creek Station prior to restoration, July 1987.



← *Waiting Room before restoration, June 22, 1987.*





Transformation of the Waiting Room and Operator's Office.



Stairwell restoration.



Painting the exterior.



Platform restoration and shingling.

now



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In honour of the 20th Anniversary of the Canadian Northern Society, the *Chronicle* will feature a "then & now" section for each edition this year.
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