

North to Minto

Desford

In 1908 the hamlet of Desford consisted of the water tower for the trains, the Railway Station, elevator, section house, bunk house, the Methodist Church, the blacksmith shop, a Community Hall, a General Store and a few houses.

The population exploded to near thirty.

A few kilometres out of Desford is to Fairburn. These "sidings" as they were called were put in place to accommodate local farmers, and were never intended to become villages.



The site of Fairburn School, now a park alongside Highway 3.

To us in modern times It may seem odd that a place like Fairburn was even on the map. It was just a lone elevator on the open prairie.

But although it had no stores or streets it was a community. A Post Office had existed nearby for many years.

Boissevain & Minto

By 1906 Boissevain and Minto were already well-established and already each had one railway line. The new line gave them a direct route to Brandon and another elevator to choose from.



Eagerly awaiting the train at the Minto Great Northern Station for an excursion to Brandon Fair, 1917

Any town would welcome a new connection to the outside world.

It was exciting, as Sylvia Sprott indicates in her memoir in the Minto History; "A trip to Brandon on the Great Northern train was indeed an event to remember."



The GN line crossed the CN line at Minto, a tower overlooked the crossing.