

# Melita

By the time the current town of Melita appeared in 1890, the region itself had a long and interesting history. Three communities existed within a few kilometres. Sourisford lives on as a location and a part of our heritage. Dobbyn City never really got started, and the district of Menota lives on as a school site.

Manchester, renamed Melita, moved to be along a new rail line, and became the commercial centre of the region.

Before the first train whistle sounded, Mr. G.L.Dodds had moved his Hardware & General Store to the site of the new town and everyone else followed.



*Melita's first CPR Station*

More buildings were built quickly from materials readily available via the new rail line. Within a few years they were replaced by more ambitious structures such as the Northern Bank, the I.O.O.F Hall and the Crerar Law Office; all of which are still in use.

By 1892 numerous business blocks lined Main and Front Streets.

As early as 1892, sidewalks were to be laid on Main Street. By 1898 Melita had a population of over 500 people.

1905 saw street lighting by gasoline lamps.

In 1916 permission was granted to R. N. Wyatt to place gasoline tanks at business on Front Street. Garages were replacing Livery Stables.

As the town grew, its selection of businesses attracted customers from some distance



*C.P. Holden's Furniture Store*



*The Grand Union Hotel*