

Our Town

In the 1880s, Poplar Grove began as a collection of “shacks” along the Calgary-Edmonton Trail. With a growing interest in the agricultural potential around Poplar Grove, many more settlers began arriving. This became a flood of newcomers with the 1890-1891 construction of the railroad. By this time the Canadian Pacific Railroad had renamed Poplar Grove to Innisfail.



A pioneer farmstead



Innisfail in 1892 showing “Constantine’s Stopping House” and the C&E Trail

Firsts

The first village storekeeper was G.W. West. This store served the general market needs of the people.



West's store in the 1890's



Mr. West waiting for customers



The Innisfail Anglican Church was built in the 1890's



Bill Kemp's livery stable



Many of Innisfail's first citizens



Innisfail's first school



A busy afternoon on Main Street



1909 Main Street as we look east



The north side of Main Street



An 1880's July 1st parade. The Alberta Hotel faced the railway and would later be destroyed by fire.



The original construction site of the CIBC



The steam train as it arrived at the Innisfail station in the 1890's



Innisfail's first creamery



Innisfail's first dentist office

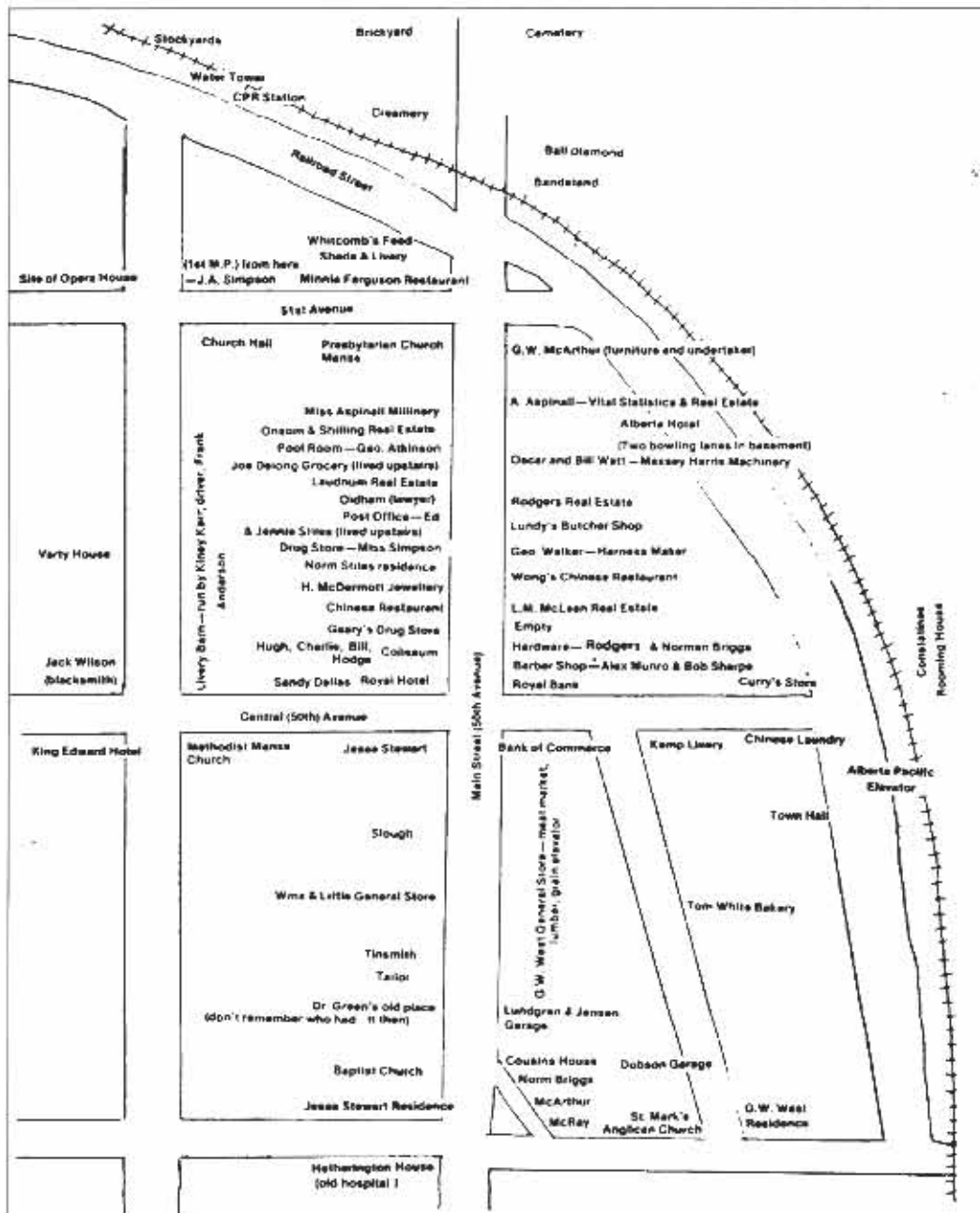


1903 Innisfail as seen from the west

Innisfail had a very strong beginning because of location, fertile soil for future agricultural development, and the coming of the railroad. For many years Innisfail had the only railroad station agent between Red Deer and Calgary. By 1901 Innisfail had a thriving population of 317 as compared to 323 residing in Red Deer and was one of the leaders in growth and commerce between Calgary and Edmonton. By 1905 this number had risen to 600.

In a very short time those who had the foresight to choose this part of central Alberta would be rewarded with excellent agricultural conditions and opportunities for many commercial ventures.





**Main Street
about 1907**
(By Lena Munro)



Central Avenue in the 1890's



Home built with Innisfail brick



The Bank of Commerce
later used as a Post Office