

Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum

Box 1718, B-883356 Highway 65
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

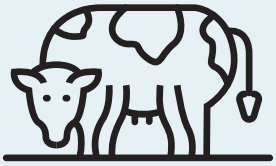
Phone: 705-647-9575
claybeltmuseum.ca

January 2023

Claybelt Spreader

Spreading the news...

Preserving the history of the southern Little Claybelt Region 1880s to 1950s.



The Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of South Temiskaming through the collection of artifacts and documentation that focuses on the settlement history of the Little Claybelt.

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883356 Highway 65 East
New Liskeard, ON
P0J 1P0
Phone: 705-647-9575
Email: lchmuse@gmail.com

Charitable #0583526-50-19

Member of the Ontario Museums Association

Like us on Facebook @claybeltmuseum

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum will hold the

Annual General Meeting
and
Election of Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
at 7 p.m. at the museum
883356 Hwy. 65, New Liskeard, Ontario

Any nominations to the Board can be made now in preparation for the election of the Board by contacting the museum by email at **lchmuse@gmail.com** or by leaving a telephone message at 705-647-9575.

Blast from the Past

Mail by Rail



T&NO operated a postal service on the train beginning 1905 for which they purchased three new baggage mail cars. Each car had a separate thirty-foot-long mail compartment where clerks could receive, cancel, sort and dispatch mail while the train was moving. The cars even had a slot where last minute letters could be mailed.

Mail was handled in two ways. Already sorted mail in locked bags was carried in the baggage car. Unsorted mail was sorted in the railway mail car and bagged for delivery at stations. Train #47's mail car out of Toronto often sorted over 20,000 letters, 800 to 1,000 sacks of parcels, newspapers and magazines and carried over 50 locked mail bags from the Toronto post office to North Bay.

In North Bay, 675 bags of papers, parcels, magazines and seventy-seven locked letter bags were received for towns along the line to the north. The clerks sorted another average of 8,500 letters every trip. At stations where the train did not stop, a train crew member used a metal rod on the side of the rail car to grab a mail bag from a post by the track, while at the same time, throwing off a mail bag.

Each item sorted in the railway mail car was cancelled with a circular stamp which showed the train number, date and train route.



Above: Cancellation Stamp used in the railway mail car.

In the "good old days', it was possible that a letter could travel overnight from Toronto and reach the New Liskeard post office the next day. If it was for rural delivery, it was possible to receive it on the second day.

norOntair

In 1936, the Ontario government amended the charter of the T&NO Railway Commission to allow it to operate air services. In October 1971, an experimental air service called norOntair was created to improve transportation links in the north. At first, it linked Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Earlton and Timmins using two Twin Otter aircraft operated by White River Air Services. In 1973, the administration of this service was moved to the ONR Railway Commission.

Additions were made to Kapuskasing, Kirkland Lake and North Bay in 1974 and in 1975 to Chapleau, Wawa, Thunder Bay, Pickle Lake, Atikokan, Fort Frances, Kenora and Dryden. Hornepayne, Geraldton, and Terrace Bay were added in 1979. The Commission owned the planes and set the timetables but private contractors performed the operations.

In 1980, eight Twin Otters were in service. In 1984 the Commission purchased thirty-seven passenger DASH 8 planes from Bombardier in Montreal. A new service was added to Winnipeg and one was planned for Ottawa.

norOntair was successful in serving the North but operating losses mounted. In 1993, it withdrew flights to northwestern Ontario. Subsidies from the provincial government were ended and final flights were ended in 1995.



Membership

The Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum is a small heritage and homesteaders museum located in New Liskeard, Ontario. The museum is a not-for-profit organization. We have virtually no funding from the municipality and have been marginally self-sufficient over the years. We rely on donations from the visitors, memberships, and fundraisers to operate the museum and to keep it open. We need your support. Membership in the museum, attendance at fundraisers, the purchase of books, and the purchase of items from the gift shop all go a long way to help.

- **If you have already paid your 2023 membership, we thank you. Please disregard this notice.**

2023 Membership Form

Below is the 2023 Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum membership form. Please complete the form and mail it to us at **Box 1718, New Liskeard, Ontario, P0J 1P0**.

Donations are appreciated and charitable receipts will be issued for all donations. It is your museum and we cannot do it without your help. Thank you for your continued support.

Date paid_____ Cheque #_____

Charitable #0583526-50-19

(Keep this top portion for your records and mail the completed form below with your cheque or money order.)

Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum 2023 Membership Form

☐ Individual Membership ($15.00) ☐ Family Membership ($25.00)

Also, please consider donations to the Museum:

- ☐ $20
- ☐ $50
- ☐ $100
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Please tell me how I can volunteer.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum, Box 1718, New Liskeard, Ontario, P0J 1P0