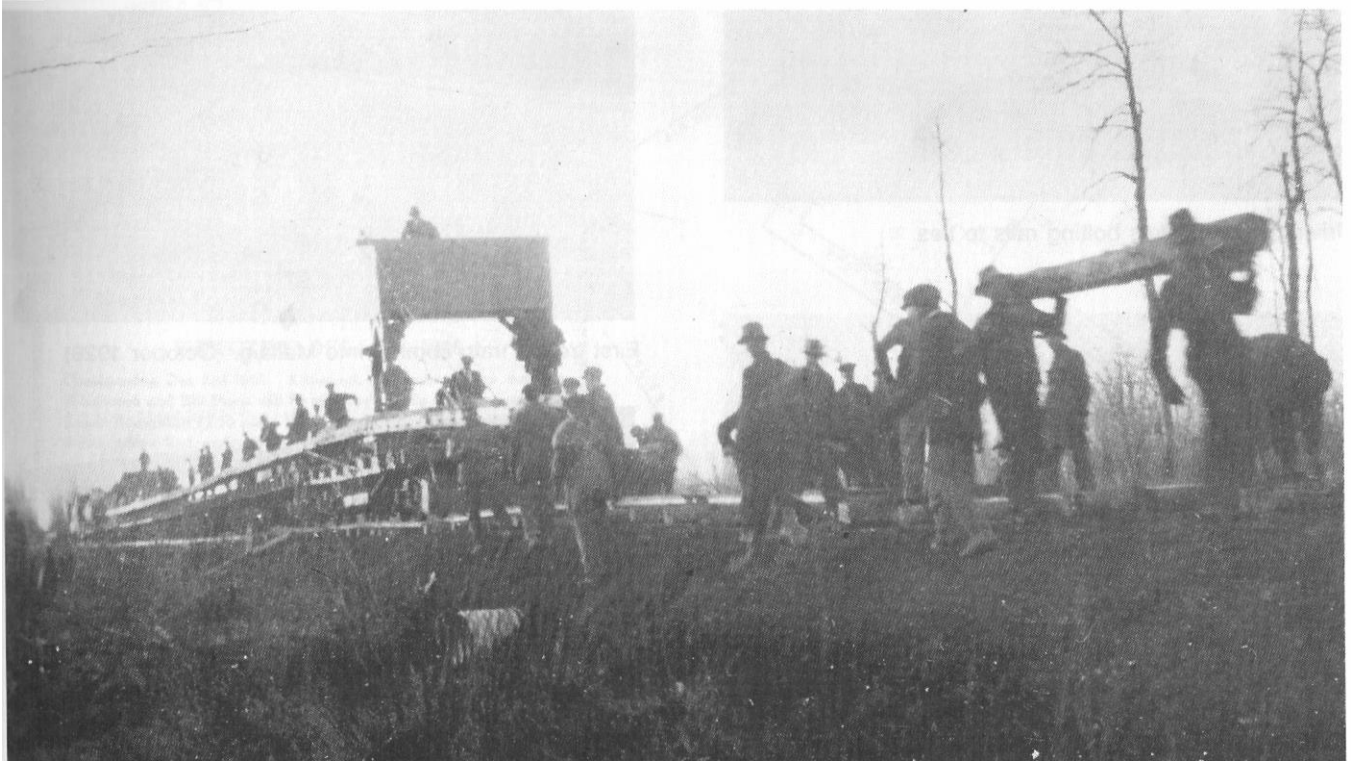


# **HISTORY OF MALLAIG**

## **(Sumarized from Mallaig)**

Location: 3 km. North of Highway 28A on Range Road 100 (30 km. North of St. Paul, AB).

Mr. Eudore Dallaire and his family were the first settlers to come to the area in 1906. Soon after, other families followed. When the time came to settle the West, the government advertised in all newspapers throughout eastern Canada, Europe and the United States. They offered to those who came, the possibility of buying a quarter section of land for \$10.00. Few people had settled this area. There was plenty of land available, making it an ideal to establish a farm on this rich, fertile soil. History books tell us of their difficulties, how they had to live in a tent until a shack or a sod-covered house could be built; how they had to clear land, an axe their only tool; how they had to dig a well with a shovel; how much of their furniture was primitive and uncomfortable; how they had to sow large gardens and preserve their food.



*1 Building the Railway near Malliag 1928*

In the early days, the coming of the railroad often determined the site of the future villages. In 1928, what was once nick-named "Viel Siding," was officially named "Mallaig" by Mr. Campbell, who was the engineer in charge of the railroad. Canadian National purchased 16 lots from Mr. Oscar Amyotte, which were set aside to develop the town.



*2 Aerial view of Mallaig in 1950s*

In December of 1928, regular train service came to Mallaig. Three times a week the train came, freighting products, bringing mail and carrying passengers that relied on train service to go to Edmonton, Bonnyville or St. Paul. The train's whistle became a welcome regular sound.



### *3 Loading the early railcars*

The weeklong trip to freight goods to and from Vegreville by horse and wagon became a thing of the past. With the arrival of train service, the town grew with leaps and bounds. There were grocery, general and hardware stores, a blacksmith, a garage, a hotel, a rooming house and restaurant, four grain elevators, three farm implement agencies, a stockyard, livery barns, etc.

	H.B.C.	Joseph Imbeau 1917	Joseph Imbeau 1920 soldier	Charles Dallaire 1920	Francois Bient 1910	Eudora Dallaire 1909	Wm. G. Dallaire	Henry Erickson	Morris Erickson 1910
32	Loise-Charles Adam	H.B. Co.	Fritz Erickson 1927	H.B. Co.	Zenon Charbonneau 1928	Octave Cote 1908	Carl Haglund	Thomas Corley 1915	
29	Dunning Lake	Ian Trotter 1936	Herbert Roberts 1916	Ingrid Gronning 1917 Butler	Israel Wikerson 1914	Henry Cote 1909	Gabriel Boulyane 1909	Israel Coeselin 1910	Ovide Gervais 1912
		Edmond Pigeon 1937	Charles Adam 1933	H.B. Co.	O. Martin 1930	J.C. Sutton 1911	George Clark 1913	Francois Viel 1912	Ray Morrison 1911
20		Kolona Jodain 1939	Sain Saunders 1935	Albert Chaudoin 1937	Fred Denning 1916	Robert Laurier 1912	Joseph Viel 1910	Robert Laurier 1918	John Rapiest 1911
		H.B. Co.	Sven Hanson 1923	Claude Guinip 1936	H. Charbonneau 1936	Ase Cotton 1928	George Clark 1913	George Guilbeaut 1917	Frank Rapiesti 1912
		Charles Hebert 1920	H.B. Co.	Raymond Guinip 1936	Wm. Seales	Harry Spiess 1929	John Jacobson 1922	George Bolton	Charles Adam 1917
17		Oscar Harper 1936	Charles Hebert	L. Hain Saunders 1932	Noel	James Martin 1915	Sam Martin 1917	Michael Bolton 1917	Herve Turcotte 1909

Unfortunately, as times changed, so did rail service. Improved roads increased travel. Trucking goods was cheaper than train service could offer. At last, it became more difficult to make a living at farming, so more and more people moved out to the larger centres seeking employment, thus Mallaig was reduced to a hamlet. In recent years, the railroad through Mallaig was removed.

Major Attractions: Mallaig & District Museum - Open to the public from June 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>; over 3,000 artifacts mostly depict life in the 1940's; replica log schoolhouse - 1919; original 1930 Baptist Church; tours adjusted to suit any school program; annual outdoor fall pancake breakfast and demonstration day; attracts approximately 500 visitors

annually; lifetime memberships available; Mallaig/Therrien  
History Books for sale.