

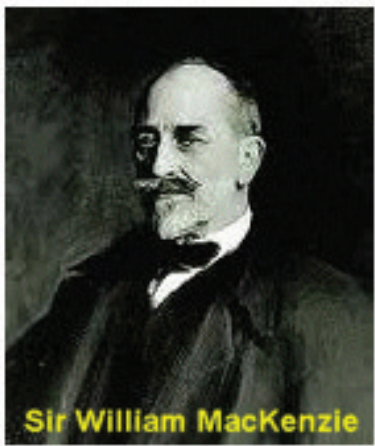


Grand Beach Train Station

CO-FOUNDERS OF THE (CNoR) CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY & GRAND BEACH

Grand Beach was created by two young Canadians, William MacKenzie and Donald Mann. Both were born in southern Ontario between 1840 and 1855. William MacKenzie first worked as a teacher, and later went into business for himself as a sawmill and gristmill operator.

Railways were enjoying a “boom” era, and young Mackenzie soon became a railroad contractor, working for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) under General Manager Cornelius Van Horne. He served them extensively in Western Canada and the Rockies.



Sir William MacKenzie

Sir William Mann aspired to become a Methodist Minister but also became a Railroad contractor at a very young age. He worked as a Railroad Contractor for some small American Railroad

in Maine, and then joined the Canadian Pacific Railway under the General Manager, Cornelius Van Horne.

They became great friends and immediately set up a partnership buying and restoring small railway line throughout the Prairie Provinces and into British Columbia. They both shared a common “DREAM”.

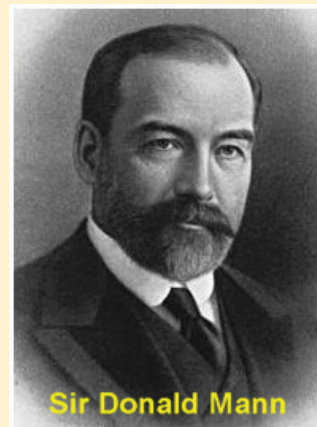
Chuck Guarino



What was it like, Papa?

“TO ESTABLISH A SECOND TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY” to compete with the monopoly enjoyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR).

Their plan was to connect all their prairie branch lines to the Great Lakes at Port Arthur, Ontario. Thus, they constructed a new line from Winnipeg to Rainy River, and Atikokan to connect with Port Arthur, Ontario.



Sir Donald Mann

In 1900 they bought 150 acres (an old Metis Settlement) on the Eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg. This was the start of their rail line to Grand Beach. By 1915, the rail line from Winnipeg to Grand Beach and Victoria Beach was completed.

In July of 1916 the Dance Hall & Boardwalk were officially opened. It was a Gala Event. The first orchestra to play in the Dance Hall was the Harold Green Orchestra, which was the house Orchestra at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg. Yours truly “Papa Chuck” had the privilege of playing trumpet for Harold Green at the Winnipeg Auditorium in 1941, at which time I recall the wonderful opening of the Dance Hall at Grand Beach. See you in our Next Issue.

“Papa Chuck” Guarino