

snapd from the Past

The History of Sudbury Streetcars

Long before the Greater Sudbury Transit came into existence, citizens of Sudbury depended on the city's streetcar operation as a means of public transportation. A brief history of Sudbury's now non-existence streetcar company and the service it provided gives insight to the impact that it had on the community during its 35 years of operation.

Although the Sudbury, Copper Cliff & Creighton Electric Railway was incorporated in 1903, it never actually ran any streetcars. It was not until 1912, when the Sudbury-Copper Cliff Suburban Electric Railway was granted permission by the Sudbury Town Council to build several lines, that the city had operating trolleys.

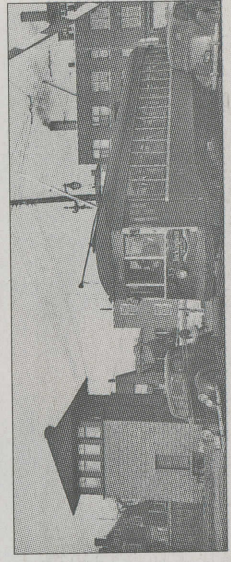
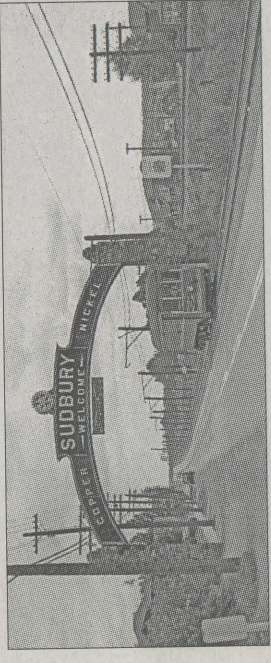
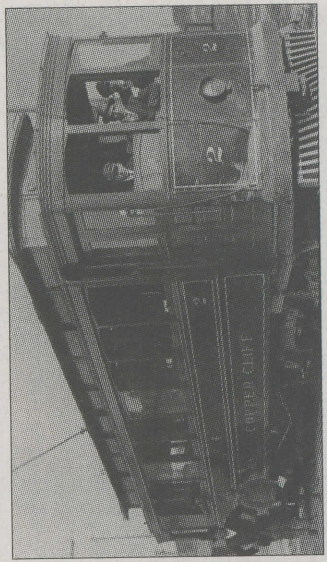
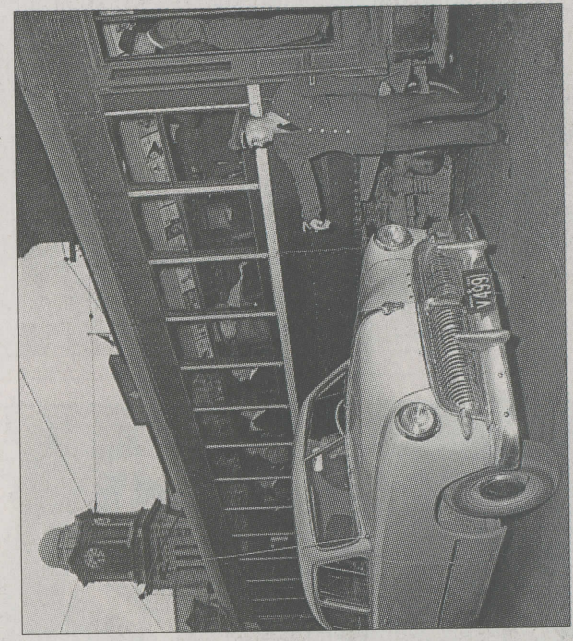
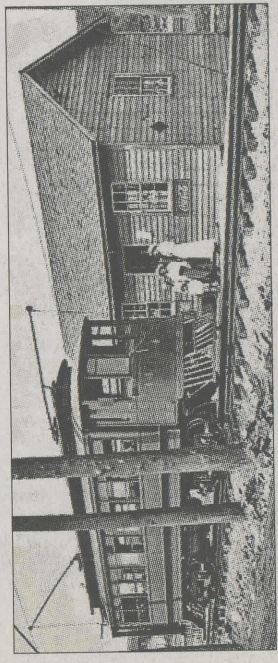
The streetcars were opened to the public on November 11th, 1915. There was only one car operating at this time, and it made 17 round trips daily and served mainly workmen and school children. By 1916 two more cars were acquired which allowed for the introduction of half-hourly service on the Copper Cliff line.

Although the railways' profits began to decline during the 1920s, there was a brief

period of prosperity during 1929-31 due to the increased activity of INCO. There was considerable rush hour traffic on the Copper Cliff line, consisting mainly of workmen at INCO's Copper Cliff smelter and refinery who lived in Sudbury. This allowed for the extension of the system, which reached its greatest length of 9.1 miles, as well as the addition of some relatively new cars.

The company continued to operate as an all-rail system up until 1947 when it decided to purchase second hand buses to ease the equipment shortage due to the deteriorating nature of the rolling stock. This was the beginning of the end for Sudbury's trolleys, as the bus fleet grew to 33 vehicles by 1950. Streetcars operated for the last time in Sudbury on October 1st, 1950.

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Submitted by The Northern Ontario Railroad Museum & Heritage Centre
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