

In 2003, **Sandy Sandzuik** sent us these memories of working in North Bay -

I joined TCA at North Bay in the fall of 1961. It is a wonderful and pleasant reminder of my own start with this great airline.

I remember working out of the small Transport Canada Terminal/TC weather /TC Air Radio building, no larger than a modern-day storage room.

We did by that time have Viscounts but had to board the passengers as they checked in because there was not enough room to hold the 44 passengers in the terminal. It was a great experience to work on a small station. Everyone became a member of the team and did whatever had to be done to get the flight out on time.

We had a gentleman on our station who was number one on the national seniority list of Station Agent 11's, his name was **Lew Releeder**.

Flights scheduled through YYB included to and from YYZ - YXR - YUY - YVO - YOW - YUL. Since those were the only flights through [Earlton \(Timiskaming Regional\) Airport](#) (YXR) Earlton, naturally the Station Agents had some spare time on their hands.

One day while flying my DHC-1 Chipmunk through Earlton to refuel, I was greeted by a Scottish Piper in full regalia. It was Station Agent **Bill Gibson** polishing up his piping skills.

In those days we did things which are now forbidden. We would radio the crew, who were taxiing out for departure, and ask them to hold while we rushed a late but urgent cargo shipment and boarded it.

Also, we requested the crew return to pick up a late arriving passenger. In most cases they did, which was a bonus for public relations.

Later in my career, I became a flight dispatcher, and only then did I appreciate the help of the Station Agents, particularly when the weather was bad.

It was not uncommon for the dispatcher to call the Station Agent for an opinion on the probability of a flight landing at that station. Some of those agents were so well attuned to the landing limits that they could tell by sighting a tree or a barn roof on the horizon whether the flight would be able to land or not. Not very scientific but incredibly accurate.

North Bay is now served by "Jazz", however, as I pass through the modern new terminal, I see the smile on the employees' faces and the gleam in their eyes. I think to myself, I know why. Who else knows the airline like they do.

Who else does passenger check-in, reservations, Air Cargo waybills, orders crew meals, board the mail, cargo and baggage and then bids the passengers a pleasant flight as they board for departure.

To be part of the staff on a small station is to own a part of the treasure of the aviation industry.