

PLACE NAMES OF THE FOOTHILLS



De Winton, about 1906.



De Winton, about 1914.

De Winton

De Winton is a hamlet in the County of Foothills, north of Okotoks. It is named after Major-General Sir Francis De Winton (1835-1901) who served as secretary to the Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada (1878-1883). The two had travelled to this district in 1883. Sir Francis DeWinton also formed the De Winton Ranch Company.



Sir Francis De Winton

The hamlet was established in 1892 following the construction of the C. & E. Railroad south of Calgary. The site was chosen because of the long hill to the northwest making it necessary to have a side track for sections of the longer trains that went through the area. A train station established and it immediately became a busy depot for shipping grain and livestock. A post office opened in 1894 and soon stores set up shop to serve the needs of the homesteaders.

Just before the outbreak of World War I, De Winton consisted of a pool hall, livery stable, Anglican church, cabinet maker, blacksmith, general store, dance hall and stopping house as well as several private homes. Children attended one of the four one-room schoolhouses nearby. In 1930, a high school was built in the De Winton town-site, located where the community hall is now. The high school closed in 1955. In 1934 the United Church was built which continues to serve local residents. The community hall also continues to be a hub of activity year-round. Sources: *Sodbusting to Subdivision history book*, and *County of Foothills*.



Hamlet of DeWinton today.