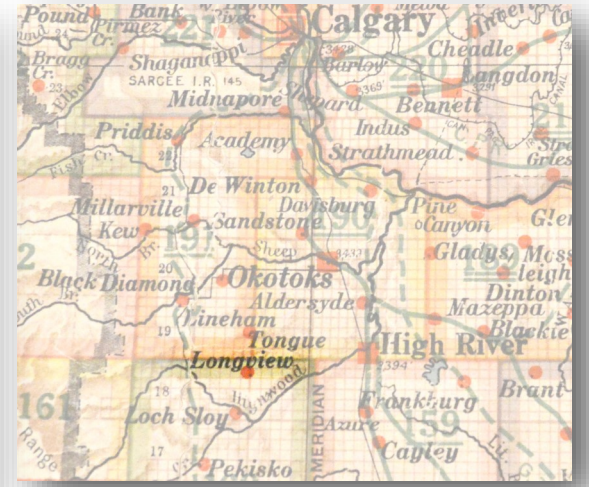Longview, 1937.

Longview

Longview was incorporated as a village on Jan. 1, 1964 however its history dates back to the turn of the century. The Long brothers, Thomas and Oliver, homesteaded at Big Hill, not far from where the village is now. Their last name combined with the view from the original post office is how the village was named. That post office opened in 1908 five kilometres east of the present site.

When the oilfields at Turner Valley were revived in 1936, Longview earned the nickname 'Little New York' because its future looked as bright as its namesake. The name also complemented Little Chicago which established further north. Together, Little New York and Little Chicago became known as the twin cities.

Little New York literally grew up overnight. In 1936 there was nothing there but an empty prairie field. Then in 1937, oil was discovered at the 6,828-foot (2,081 m) level and people, most of them long out of work because of the great depression, came flocking. Buildings appeared like mushrooms. For the first time in years, men who without so much as a coat on their backs or a nickel in their pockets had the first money they had earned since the depression began.

The original Longview post office was closed in 1937 and services were relocated in 1938 in the thriving, yet unincorporated village.

For over 24 years, the people of Longview lived as squatters paying ground rent for the owners of the land. Each person paid municipal taxes on the buildings but did not receive ratepayers privileges. In 1961, a citizens committee formed, to investigate the formal creation of a village which included surveying and division of lots. On Jan. 1, 1964 the Village of Longview was incorporated with 206 residents.

Today, Longview is home to 307 residents as well as a K-6 school, library and numerous businesses which serve both travelers and residents.

Twin Cities Hotel, 2019.

Sources: www.longview.ca and Tales and Trails — A History of Longview and the Surrounding Area.