

Daily Life



Life for those that arrived to settle the area at the time began with a small hovel built directly into the ground known as a settler's hut. The shift from a self-sustaining lifestyle to a more civilized one was made possible thanks to the introduction of the area's first power plant bringing electric lights in 1916.

Drinking water was a major concern for these early settlers as the entire area of the city was covered in clay or peatland making the water unsuitable for consumption. Construction began on the city's waterworks in 1952 and was completed five years later bringing in water from the Teshio River and distributing it to each household after purification.

Telegraphic communications began with a connection between Sapporo and Shibetsu in 1901. Whereas nowadays we all have cellular phones, the settlers at the time had only two options for contacting people in remote locations: dropping a letter off at the post office or sending a telegram. Later, with the opening of the Telegraph and Telephone Office in 1949, landline telephones would become commonplace in places such as company offices and businesses. However, telephone service would not reach general households and farming areas until after the completion of the Shibetsu Area Automation work in 1978.

