

Information from books

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Alberta Avenue

Norwood Boulevard north to 122 Avenue
89 street to 97 Street

The name of this neighbourhood was adopted from the historic name for 118 Avenue. The community has used the name Alberta Avenue since at least 1922, as the Alberta Avenue Community League was formed that year. That part of Alberta Avenue neighbourhood between Norwood Boulevard and 118 Avenue was formerly known as Norwood. A portion, from 118 Avenue to 121 Avenue, was once called West Delton.

Naming Edmonton: from Ada to Zoie. City of Edmonton. Edmonton, Alberta: The University of Alberta Press, 2004. Pg 4.

118 Avenue

Alberta Avenue first appeared as a road name around 1904 and was probably derived from the provisional district of Alberta. In 1914 the name was changed to 118 Avenue. However, on December 13, 1994, the Names Advisory Committee renamed it 118 Avenue (Alberta Avenue).

The Marquess of Lorne, governor general of Canada from 1878- 1883, suggested that the provisional district of Alberta be named after his wife, HRH Princess Louise Caroline Alberta (1848-1939), the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria. Princess Louise was considered a strong independent woman. She studied art and was an accomplished sculptor. The choice name was not universally welcomed. The *Edmonton Bulletin* on July 1, 1882 wrote: "Surely in a Region

having such grand and varied features as this, some natural characteristic could be found that could give an appropriate and pleasant sounding name to the whole". Alberta was created as a provisional district in 1882 and became a province in 1905.

Naming Edmonton: from Ada to Zoie. City of Edmonton. Edmonton, Alberta: The University of Alberta Press, 2004. Pg 4.

St. Faith's Anglican Church

Mission Improbable

"And now for something completely different" could introduce the story of St. Faith's Anglican Church. What other church was founded by 17 missionaries? It happened in 1910, when a group of adventurous idealists, newly ordained, answered the call of the Archbishop of Canterbury to serve three years in the Edmonton Mission, much as young British army officers and up-and-coming civil servants were expected to serve as apprenticeship in the Empire.

Citizens of Edmonton, a proud capital with a population of 20,000 plus (growing with each arriving train), would contend that their city had outgrown missionary status, but the mission field began at the city limits, extending outwards in any direction where a pocket of Anglican settlers, too small to build a church or support a resident minister, would welcome an ordained visitor.

As a base for the mission, the church acquired a half-block in Norwood, a neighbourhood with a rather racy history – south of Alberta Avenue from Lorne to Kennedy Streets, south of 118 avenue from 92 to 93 Streets.

The first order of business for the gallant seventeen missionaries was a stable for the horses that would carry them to their scattered congregations. They slept in a hayloft and built a headquarters for themselves.

A city neighbourhood was building up quickly in the open spaces around. There were soon enough Anglicans to form the parish of St. Faith's. The parish needed a house of worship, so a wing was detached from the new headquarters, put on rollers and moved sixty feet north. The parishioners then tacked on another 50 feet. On July 18, 1913, the bishop of Canterbury came to dedicate the temporary church. After a brave beginning, unforeseeable circumstances intervened to produce a new definition of temporary. The real estate boom collapsed. War broke out. The missionaries went home to join the chaplain service. Battalions of young Edmontonians marched away, one thousand at a time. Investment capital dried up. The temporary church would serve through the First World War, the Great Depression, Second World War, and well into the oil boom.

The faithful of St. Faith's were certainly adaptable. The missionaries stable was adapted to provide a Sunday School and club house for the youngest parishioners. In 1916, the need

of a parish hall inspired the acquisition of a vacant store facing on the avenue. It was in such dire need of paint that the vestry made a deal with one of the packing plants. The packers would paint the inside and then be free to decorate the outside with a garish multicoloured ham, perhaps the first mural in Alberta Avenue. The wooden building shook when occupied, raising the question: will the roof or the floor cave in first? But the hall served for 32 years, and even after that was incorporated into the tin-works of the Upright Brothers. Through the slow “temporary” years, the most prominent feature of the property was an excavation – about 60 feet wide and 104 feet long. It was created between 1914 and 1915, when the pioneers decided they could show a start on the permanent church and bring some employment to the neighbourhood. A man could earn forty cents digging a cubic yard of dirt, to a maximum of six dollars a week. Phase one was accomplished in weeks; phase two had to wait four decades.

The interim church was small; 150 people could get in with difficulty but wind and rain got in with ease. Once, when wind shook the building and sprayed rain through the cracks, Canon Newton announced that the hymn would be “For Those Peril on the Sea”.

At other times, the wind would fail – for the organ. The bellows was an essential partner of the organist. He had a habit of falling asleep if the sermon failed to hold his attention. When that happened, the choir would have to sing the offertory hymn a cappella.

The inside stories come courtesy of Canon Fred Clough (Cluff) pastor from 1923 to 1940, until he was called to serve as chaplain in his second world war. The Canon was the right man for the time, a time of economic and psychological depression, one of the most genial, understanding men ever to walk our streets. He was fond of young children, and his parents must have been too. Fred was the thirteenth of thirteen children born to the Clough family in the Pennine Hills of northern England. The only time he ever refused the young people anything was when the Scout master wanted to build them a rifle range in the church basement.

In Canon Clough’s time, St. Faith’s Anglican Church, the Alberta Avenue Community League, and the Maple Leaf Athletic Club were all of a piece. When the war ended and the oil boom began, the historical buildings were still in use. The old mission headquarters was being transformed into Elizabeth House, a residents for senior ladies very much in the English style. The year 1957 was one of fulfillment. The basement excavated with faith, hope, and charity during the First World War could finally have a permanent church built over top of it. After forty-four years, the temporary church could blend into the century of memories, including the small events which tell a bigger story. The collective memory is also a procession of people, led by the seventeen young clerics whose beliefs brought them from England and, in 1914, took them home again to join the chaplain service. Ten of the founders of St. Faith’s would die in France.

When Edmonton was Young. Tony Cashman. The University of Alberta Press, 2009. Edmonton, AB. P. 43-46

Athletics

(Pre the existing NHL) The Maples Leafs were based on the Alberta Avenue Community Rink. The EAC (Edmonton Athletic Club) were at the 119 Street rink.

When Edmonton was Young. Tony Cashman. The University of Alberta Press, 2009. Edmonton, AB. P. 147

Borden Park

11200 – 74 St

Borden Park, named in honour of Sir Roberts Laird Borden (1854-1937), the eighth prime minister of Canada, has been an important Edmonton attraction for almost 100 years. In the early part of the last century, as many as 7,000 people would pour into the park on a Sunday to enjoy picnics, baseball and music. Originally known as East End City Park, it was established 1906. The 21.99-ha. park was renamed following the Prime Minister Borden's visit to Edmonton in 1914. Borden was elected prime minister in 1911 and held office until his retirement in 1920.

One of the city's first three swimming pools was situated in Borden Park. As the *Edmonton Journal* noted in an article published on September 20, 1924: "the whole pool radiates with good humor and innocent enjoyment, and is a fitting reply to those prudes who elevate their eyes to high heaven and deplore the 'wickedness' embodied in mixed bathing.". The East End swimming pool, the article continued, "will go a long way towards building up a healthy, vigorous, graceful and clean-minded womanhood." In addition to the pool, the park was for many years home to the Edmonton Zoo. Among its first animals was a bear cub named Lousie. As well, there were two buffalo, two elk, monkeys, coyotes, and peacocks. Other park attractions were a tea room and rides, including a carousel, a giant roller coaster and a tunnel-of-love. The latter, in a bow to decorum, was known as "the Old Mill".

By the mid 1930s, however, the Old Mill had been destroyed by fire and rides were showing their age. The massive roller coaster, built in 1915 at a cost of \$15000, was dismantled in 1935 and its timbers salvaged by a lumber company. Borden Park has continued to be an important outdoor venue for Edmontonians, though the attractions offered have changed somewhat since its establishment almost a century ago. In the late 1970s, the park's bandshell hosted performances by two of the city's new-wave rock bands, The Silent Movies and Smarties.

Naming Edmonton: from Ada to Zoie. City of Edmonton. Edmonton, Alberta: The University of Alberta Press, 2004. Pg 31.

Cromdale

Jasper Avenue north to 114 Avenue, 76 Street west to 84.

Cromdale is one of Edmonton's oldest inner-city neighbourhoods. Its development began soon after a streetcar line was extended from the city's central business district east along Jasper Avenue, north on Kinnaird Street (82st) and then east again on Pine Avenue (112 avenue). Cromdale, meaning "crooked valley", is also a place in Scotland. Over the past century, parts of Cromdale have had different names. The area north of Jasper Avenue and east of Kinnaird (now 82) Street was once known as Cromdale Place. The area north of Jasper Avenue and east of 78 Street was originally called View Point. Among the historical residences are the oldest house on Jasper Avenue, the house of the first woman professional photographer in western Canada, and the homes of two former Edmonton mayors and of Edmonton's first sheriff.

Naming Edmonton: from Ada to Zoie. City of Edmonton. Edmonton, Alberta: The University of Alberta Press, 2004. Pg 64.

Cromdale School

Cromdale was the only school to be completed in the 1930s. "An endeavour has been made to make this school as far as possible a "made in Edmonton" product, and it is observed that all the brickwork, stonework, concrete, terrazzo work, stairtreads etc., are all Edmonton products," states the souvenir program on January 22, 1932, official opening.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. P. 307.

Eastwood

Likely a descriptive name, Eastwood was part of the Village of North Edmonton until amalgamation with the city of Edmonton in 1912.

Naming Edmonton: from Ada to Zoie. City of Edmonton. Edmonton, Alberta: The University of Alberta Press, 2004. Pg 84.

Eastwood school

Thirteen new names appeared on the list of Edmonton Public Schools in 1913. Most of the schools were temporary structures designed to meet the needs of rapidly-developing areas of the city. Typical of the temporary building were the two frame-lumber Irvine Estate Schools situated about where 73 Ave and 98St intersect today. The two room Eastwood School (80st & 120ave) was built in 1913.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. P 138.

There was debate in naming Eastwood school:

The most prolong discussion centered on the new school built in the Eastwood area. Trustees decided to name the building "Frank Scott School" after the incumbent trustee. Scott was a strong member of the Labor Party, which took an active role in Board politics at this time. In 1923, the year that Schott's name was proposed for the school, the Labor Party elected four trustees to the 7-member board.

Shortly after the new name of the school was approved, several petitions from residents of the Eastwood area were presented to the Board with the request that the name "Eastwood" be restored. After all, the petitioners claimed, the temporary school serving the area for 10 years had this name. The petitioners were ignored, however, and plans were prepared for the official opening of Frank Scott School on January 25, 1924.

Petitioners persisted, however, and threatened legal action. After such action had been initiated by several ratepayers, the Board acceded to the wishes of the residents and renamed the school "Eastwood" in June, 1925.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. Pg. 220-221

Norwood Boulevard

111 Avenue from 82 St to 97 St

This road name has existed since the early 1900s. It was so named because it formed the southern boundary of the Norwood subdivision. Alex Rowland was the first European to settle this land. In 1903 he sold his property to the McDougall & Secord real estate investment company. The company named the area Norwood and put lots up for sale the following year. In 1906 the first building was erected on Norwood boulevard; in 1909 the Norwood school was opened. The origin of the name Norwood is not recorded.

Naming Edmonton: from Ada to Zoie. City of Edmonton. Edmonton, Alberta: The University of Alberta Press, 2004. Pg 232.

Norwood School

Norwood was opened as a brick school in 1909, during a period where Edmonton's population increased threefold to 30, 000. Norwood Extension (120ave & 101St) was also built as a temporary school to provide relief for overcrowded brick schools. (there were only 8 brick schools at the time).

Pupil teacher ratios in excess of 50:1 were not unusual at this time.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. P.79

While the pupils of the Alex Taylor School were enjoying such amenities as running water and indoor toilets in 1908, students in the temporary Norwood School buildings, a mile to the north, had to be content with water pails and dippers, and primitive outdoor conveniences.

Only a few feet away from the outdoor privies of the school was a piggery. The sty, along with the nuisance-ground, a slaughterhouse, and other unnamed hazards, caused some parents to complain about the unsanitary and unsavory aspects of the Norwood area to which their children were exposed. Board Secretary Bradey initiated commendable action to deal with the unsanitary business of the pig corral:

(letter written)

Dear Sir

It has come to the knowledge of the Board that you are using their property in Norwood Extension for a pig corral. This has been done without obtaining permission from the Board, or of entering any agreement with them for the use of this property. You will take notice that the Board desires to use this property and accordingly warn you that unless your property together with all manure and debris is removed from Block No. 3 of Norwood Extension within one week from this date of this letter action will be taken against you.

Yours truly,

Secretary-treasurer

The matter of the nuisance-ground was referred to the Provincial Health Officer.

Resolution of another unsavory aspect of the Norwood community, a problem of a house of ill-repute, required the assistance of city police before the "business" established was moved to the northern outskirts of the city.

Norwood students would soon have a permanent school in their neighbourhood that would be even more impressive than the Alex Taylor structure. Land for the new building was purchased from the firm of McDougall and Secord, the latter partner of the firm being Richard Secord, a pioneer teacher in Edmonton's first public school.

When the cornerstone for the new Norwood School was laid in 1908, the following articles were placed in a hermetically-sealed box and embedded in the foundation:

- Edmonton Public Schools Report of 1907
- Set of postage stamps used in the British Empire
- Copies of the Edmonton Journal, Edmonton Bulletin, Saturday News, Le Courier de l'Ouset, and the Alberta Herald (German newspaper)
- Historic scroll
- Grains of the province of Alberta

On Feb 26, 1909 the school was formally opened. On opening day, speeches by trustees revealed that construction costs were almost \$100 000, making the building even more expensive than the Alex Taylor School. Trustees pointed out, however, that the location of Norwood school had been chosen with foresight. The Norwood area was growing rapidly. The Norwood area was growing rapidly. Classrooms in the temporary Norwood School to the north of the new building had become overcrowded with enrollments averaging 51 pupils per room.

At the opening ceremonies much praise was bestowed upon incumbent trustees Alex Taylor, W.H. Clark, Walter Ramsay, Rev H. A. Gray, and A.E. May. A year earlier, the same elected officials had been criticized for building such an expensive school in the wilderness. The skeptics had been proven wrong – the city was growing much faster than had been predicted and other school sites in the city had to be obtained quickly.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. P. 90- 93

Norwood Temporary School

In the early 1900s trustees were criticized for building schools, such as Queen's avenue, far away from the city centre – in the bush. The two temporary Norwood Schools, which were built in 1906 just north of the present Norwood School, were more than a mile north of the central core of the city. The critics were right: there was certainly more bush and unoccupied land than home sites in the vicinity of those one-room schools.

Pioneer Edmontonian Mrs. J. L. Cleary recalled the Norwood area in the 1900s. "You would think that Norwood was in the country at that time. There were no streets, no sidewalks and no roads – only wagon trails and paths through bush where people lived. Rat Creek flowed to the south of the school and it was out-of-bounds for all of us." Mrs. Cleary was one of the schools district's first nurses. For many years she traveled by streetcar to visit schools in all corners of

the city.

Some residents referred to the first Norwood schoolhouse as the Rat Creek School. But the name never became popular, much to the delight of residents in the area.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. P.73

Reporting on two Norwood temporary schools, Ellis's 1906 inspection report was extremely critical:

The school grounds need brushing and fencing. The building, I believe is not looked after any too well by the janitor. Those cold wet days were the same to him as a warm day. The teacher had to keep the fire or send some of the small boys to do it who knew little about a furnace. The little hole of a celler is so dark that you cannot see the furnace when you get down there. For that reason the teacher do not like going down there.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. P. 288

Parkdale

112 avenue to 118 Avenue

Possibly a descriptive term, this name has been in use since around 1907. In 1908, construction began on a streetcar line along Alberta Avenue (118 avenue) bordering the neighbourhood. By 1911 land developers were selling lots in Parkdale.

Naming Edmonton: from Ada to Zoie. City of Edmonton. Edmonton, Alberta: The University of Alberta Press, 2004. Pg 244

Parkdale School

One of four permanent brick schools built in 1913.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. P. 140

On February 6, 1913, the Board's School Management Committee recommended "that the Board advertise for a male principal for the new Parkdale School, the advertisement to state salary and advise that the applicant must be a University Candidate or First Class Certified teacher, duties to commence after Easter; such advertisement to be inserted in the *Winnipeg Free Press, Calgary Herald, and Toronto Globe.*

Unlike many of the early principals who were recruited from Eastern Canada, the successful applicant for the principalship of the permanent 12-room Parkdale School was George MacDonald of Coleman, Alberta. The new principal was to have opened the school on April 13, 1913, but a fire which caused damages amounting to more than \$10 000 delayed the opening for almost a month.

The Parkdale building, similar to the McCauley School, relieved overcrowding in the temporary North Delton School; as well, it eased over-enrollment in the temporary Eastwood School. Between 1913 and 1919, when a four –room addition was added, Parkdale had no fewer than five principals. But the short-lived tenure of principalships was to end with the arrival of J.E. Somerville who directed the school for 32 years.

Jeffrey Brown, a graduate of Parkdale School in 1919, remembered Principal Somerville as a very warm and compassionate person: “he was a wonderful man who always treated you right and took real interest in the boys and their careers. Even after I was out of school he would bring in his 1921 Studebaker to the garage in which I worked”.

One of Jeff Brown’s most memorable recollections of his days at Parkdale is of the cadet troop which won the Dominion of Canada Shield for marksmanship. He recall, too, the school closing during the influenza eucalyptus of 1918, and the gauze masks soaked in oil-of-eucalyptus which the City Health Department insisted be worn in all public areas.

A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools. M.A. Kostek. Finecolor Printing, Edmonton Alberta. P. 146-148