

BUTTERCUP FARM PARK

Many e-mails, letters and etc. went back and forth between many people.... Here is what I hope is an accurate summary!!

Hello Vickie,

Thanks for the article, and so soon!! I have scanned the article so I can return it as I have a habit of losing things.....

I am hoping that you have access to e-mail....my address is jtidge@interbaun.com

The process for getting a park named is long and arduous and I imagine, fraught with danger!!!!

As I do the research I am anticipating someone is going to say it should be Buttercup Farm Park...(this would should not be deemed as a slight against the Wheeler family) but giving mention to the families that have/are residing at 11243-58 Street...would that pose a problem for you? Let me know, please.

I have already spoken to the president of the Community League seeking permission to move on this....he will talk to the executive about it...he could see no problems.

At some point in time I will need more information on Gordon and the family's participation in the community and Community League.....

Obviously I want to work with you on this so give me your thoughts.....

Kind regards....

JOHN!! T.

-----Original Message-----

From: John [mailto:jtidge@interbaun.com]

Sent: May 14, 2005 10:12 AM

To: Christine Bremner; cheryl

Subject: Wrong address....

Hello Ladies...

Do either of you have a contact the t Highlands Historical Society....please.

John T

Re Historical Society, those involved include
Shelli.CarderDrozd@TELUS.COM
Judith Hibberd [jmhibberd@shaw.ca]
Francine Gregory [Francine.Gregory@gov.ab.ca]
Thanks for your help with this issue yet again!
Cheryl

From: John [<mailto:jtidridge@interbaun.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2005 9:54 PM
To: Shelli Carder Drozd
Subject: Wheeler family..

Hello,

Cheryl Mahaffy gave me your name as a contact for the Highlands Historical Society...I am a reporter(?!) for the Highlands-Bellevue Newsletter...but that is besides the point...

What I am hoping is that you can give me some information on the Wheeler family...I am sure I saw an article on the family in your newsletter 'sometime ago'.

Vickie Wheeler lives in the family home on 58 Street..

OK why do I need the info...I am beginning the process to have the small park between 58 and 60 streets, north of 112 Avenue named Wheeler Park...

Hoping you can help,

John T

Hi John,

Thanks for your enquiry. I will look in the Highlands Newsletter archive to try and locate the story you are referencing. The archive is manual at the moment, we are attempting to digitize it over time and make the information available on the web site.

I will get back to you in the next couple of days.

Thanks,

From: John [mailto:jtidge@interbaun.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 5:02 PM
To: HowardLawrence@shaw.ca
Subject: Naming park...

Hello Howard,

I am looking into the possibility of having the City name the small park between 58 and 60 Streets, north of 112 Avenue after the Wheeler family...I need the OK from the Community League and I am assuming (I know, I know!! that you would or could bring it up at the next Executive meeting.

John T

Good idea john, yes the next meeting which follows the AGM in June would be fine. I know that with the last parks naming they ask for a rationale for naming and a proposal for signage and a plaque etc.

Thanks Howard

John

We spoke just prior to lunch today and I told you I would send you a link to provide you with information regarding the naming process. The more information you could provide the better. Things like a biography, consent from family, consent from the Highlands Community League, etc. If you have any questions please don't hesitate in calling me!

Have a good day!

Here is the link.

http://www.edmonton.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_284_220_0_43/http%3B/CMS/Server/COEWeb/infrastructure+planning+and+building/naming+and+addressing/

Jennifer Labbe
Planning Technician
Subdivision, Bylaws and Names Advisory

Planning and Development Department
7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4
phone: (780) 496-6162
fax: (780) 401-7071
www.edmonton.ca

Hi John,

I have gone through all the archived material and have been unsuccessful at locating any mention of the Wheeler family or the Wheeler family home. If my memory serves me correctly, that is the Buttercup Farm household?

Any other details of interest may help me to a more detailed search. For example, family member names, the activities/business they were involved in in the community.

If my search is still unsuccessful, I can point you to a few other local resources that may be able to help you with historical information.

Thanks,

Shelli.

From: John [mailto:jtidridge@interbaun.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 4:39 PM
To: Shelli Carder Drozd
Subject: Re: Wheeler family...

Hi Shelli,

How is the search going....

Eureka!! Vickie Wheeler had a copy...Vol 4 No. 2 Fall 1993. I am going to scan the article and get her copy back to her before I lose it!! And, yes....Buttercup Farm is/was the name....thanks for your efforts.

John T

Hi John,

I am so sorry for missing the article! I was looking for the Wheeler name and must have missed the mention in the article given that it is

titled "The Smith Residence". That is one disadvantage of not having our collection available electronically - there is no key word search.

On a side note, the author of this article, David Brookes, although no longer actively involved in the Highlands Historical Foundation, still lives in this neighbourhood on 63rd Street. Dave may still have additional recollections from his interviews that would help your cause. I'm sure Dave wouldn't mind if you contacted him, his email is: dbrookes@hfal.net . Feel free to mention that I had passed on his contact information.

Good luck with your information gathering,

Shelli Carder Drozd.

Dear John,

Thank you for sending me back the newsletter and sending the letter. My email address is girie@telusplanet.net

I am certainly fine with either Wheeler or Buttercup Farm. I think Buttercup would be quite fitting and we seem to be known as the Buttercup farm house already. Whatever is decided we will be happy. Thanks again for all the effort involved. Once June is over and I am officially retired, I would be happy to help you.

Off the top of my head, Gordon was involved with the Boy Scouts in the hall. He was Area 3 representative for many years. He was on committees but I am afraid I can't remember which ones. He ran the figure skating program for many years. I know from Chelsea's time through Brianne's time. We worked the Highlands bingos, the Highlands flea markets in the hall and we also were involved with the Highlands sleigh rides and pot luck dinners. Gordon was in charge of the bonfires and hot chocolates at those events and I was in the kitchen. I have also worked on membership and I believe Gordon did as well. I also have worked bingos. I believe Gordon was on the playground committee when they put the Highlands playground in and I will keep wracking my brain to remember what else he did. He was heavily involved for quite a number of years. My best thinking time is after midnight, it seems. Gordon was also part of the Highlands school alumni and we were both involved in Highlands church. Gordon attended Highlands School and Eastglen School and I attended Bellevue, Highlands and Eastglen. Both our girls went to Mount Royal, Highlands and Eastglen. My Dad taught at Eastglen and my Mom was

the library aide at Eastglen. We delivered Highlands newsletters and I will keep thinking.....

Original Message-----

From: John [mailto:jtidge@interbaun.com]

Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2005 1:03 PM

To: Vicki Wheeler

Subject: Re: Buttercup farm

Hello Vickie,

Thanks for your letter....I have at least one other question...for now....can you tell me if the original lands that went with the house encompassed the present park?

Oh, yes, I think your answer regarding the name of the park was magnanimous....

John T

Vicki

Dear John,

Oh dear, I don't know the answer to that question. I remember hearing that the whole area was market gardens and the story is that the street car went to the turn around on 112 Ave. and 60th street. One day, someone got off the street car and was heading into Beverly and discovered our house built. Gordon knew all this. I will try to find out from his sisters. Why can't my memory be better? Vici

Letter to interested persons

11315-60 Street NW
Edmonton
Alberta
T5W 3Z2

Clyde Martell
11136-61 Street
Edmonton
T5W 4A3

June 11, 2005

Dear Clyde,

Re: Naming the Park located between 60 and 58 Streets north of 112 Avenue.

It dawned on me that the pretty park located as noted above appears to have no name; this is a pity!!

I have re-read the article in the Highlands Historical issue of 1993 which relates the story of 11243-58 Street and its association with the name Buttercup Farm. The article also mentions that your mother lived there at one time.

Now to the reason for this letter... would you talk to your mother to see if she has an opinion on the name 'Buttercup Park' for the park? I will be suggesting, when I make my submission to the right people, that the park be so named and the accompanying plaque tell the story of the people who lived at the address?

Would you be willing to do that for me?

Sincerely,

John Tidridge
80-474-1594
jtidridge@interbaun.com

From: John Tidridge
Email: jtidridge@interbaun.com
Street Address: 11315-60 Street NW
Address 2:
Postal Code: T5W 3Z2
Phone: 780-474-1594

Fax:

Property Type: Residential

Tax Roll No.:

Comments: I am researching *11243-58 Street, that prior to 1959 was 11255-58 Street. Because a farm 'surrounded' 11255-58 Street it was called Buttercup Farm...can you tell me the land size of 11255-58 Street. Archives are unable to help. *for naming a park

-----Original Message-----

From: Douglas Piper
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 9:21 AM
To: Bill Mannion
Subject: FW: Tax Assessment Question

Email from web site

Sorry, but the records available to me only go back to 1994. I'm surprised City Archives \could not do much for you. I'm sure they would have old subdivision plans on microfilm that would date back that far.

-----Original Message-----

From: John [mailto:jtidridge@interbaun.com]
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2005 11:25 AM
To: Bill Mannion
Subject: Re: Tax Assessment Question

Bill,

Thanks for responding...can you give me a plan number for 11243-58 Street?

John T [The legal for this address is; plan 3642AJ, block 22, lot 10](#)

Howard,

Just a reminder to ask the exec. if they have any problem with OK my pursuit of the naming the park....it looks as though the name Buttercup Farm Park seems more logical at this stage...with an explanation provided.

From: John [mailto:jtidge@interbaun.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 9:46 AM
To: howard@highlandsbaptist.com
Subject: Buttercup Farm Park...

Howard,

Have you had time to bring up the matter of Buttercup Farm Park at the CL Exec. yet.....

John T

From: "Howard Lawrence" <howard@highlandsbaptist.com>
To: "John" <jtidridge@interbaun.com>
Subject: RE: Buttercup Farm Park...
Date: Thursday, October 27, 2005 5:00 PM

Yes, last night we gave the go ahead. I have some material from the Names advisory committee for you. It looks like there is about a 4,000.00 dollar expense for the process.

Howard

Naming Application

Re: Naming Application and Requirements

Information required:

Reason/justification for request

BUTTERCUP FARM PARK....

The reason for the park situated between 57 and 60 Streets just north of 112 Avenue to 113 Avenue to be called BUTTERCUP FARM PARK is because that particular piece of land was part of a farm so named by the local residents at the time, 'Buttercup Farm'.

Speaking to Mrs. Frances* Martell, who once lived on the farm, there was a strip of land that ran from 112 Avenue to their home at 11255-58 Street now 11243, which was completely covered with flowers,

many of which were yellow. This would have been at least prior to 1918 when Frances' parents purchased the home.

Mrs. Martell stated that the farm covered the area from 112 to 118 Avenues between 57 and 60 Streets. In addition to keeping a cows and chickens, her Dad (Clyde Smith, held the City's #1 auctioneer licence) created a tennis court for one of her sisters who was proficient in tennis.

Only three families have occupied the original home, still at (now) 11243-58 Street, they are the Smiths, the Craigs and the Wheelers. Vickie Wheeler, widow of Gordon, still lives at the address. Mrs. Martell is the widow of Henry Martell, a local golfer of some repute, little could be gleaned about the Craig family as no one seems to know if any members of the family are still alive, Gordon Wheeler was much involved in school and community affairs.

* Frances is the correct spelling although spelled Francis in the article attached.

Biography of person

Not applicable

Family consent, if available

Would suggest consent not necessary but Mrs. Frances Martell and Vickie Wheeler are delighted with the idea. The Highlands Community League is in favour (Chairman Howard Lawrence 479-4348-extension 1, and realizes there may be expenses incurred.)

Site location

The park, triangularly shaped is situated between 58 and 60 Streets, approximately seventy-five feet north of 112 Avenue and continues to 113 Avenue.

Articles/newspaper clippings

The article is part of an issue of the Highlands Historical Society and used with the permission of the author, Dave Brooks, related more to the family than the farm. The farm, however, is mentioned.

Awards/citations

Not applicable

Description of Theme, if applicable

This would be a suggestion rather than a description....the naming plate should (?!) be at the south end of the park, facing south. A large bed of perennials, yellow in colour would be appropriate. The remainder of the park is in good condition. A suitable plaque, in bonze (?!) could be place near the name.

The following is offered as a suggestion...

Buttercup Farm was noted for and named after, the display of yellow flowers that in the early 1900's ran along what is now the west side of 57St. The farm lands stretched from between the west side of 57 street and the west side of 60 Streets and from 112 to 118 Avenue. Cows and chicken were kept on the farm. A tennis court was also developed.

The farm was occupied at different times by the Smith, Craig and Wheeler families. The original farmhouse is located at 11243-58 Street, and is occupied now by Mrs. Vickie Wheeler, widow of Gordon...

Municipal Address Changes Required

NO

Minutes of Community League

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY LEAGUE
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES**

October 26, 2005

In Attendance:	Dale Darrah	Howard Lawrence
Gary Luck	Emery Yakowich	Pieter Spyker
Bremner	Darrell Nordell	Chris Leslee
Greenaway		

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. Howard Lawrence, Chairman.

2. Approval of agenda:

Motion: To approve the agenda as tabled. Moved By: Gary Luck Seconded By: Chris Bremner CARRIED

Additional new business:

1. NE Health Centre
2. Northlands Neighbours update

3. Previous Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: To approve previous meeting minutes for September 28, 2005. **Moved By:** Gary Luck **Seconded By:** Chris B. **CARRIED**

4. Business Arising From the Minutes:(Chris B.):

The architect was paid out of the General Account, rather than the Casino Account, pending approval for such an expenditure by Alberta Gaming.

5. Guests/Delegations:

There were none.

6. Correspondence/Announcements:

i) Habitat for Humanity – A 5-Plex being built in Montrose is requesting/inviting volunteers for various shifts Mon/Fri 8:00-5:00 P.M. Contact their office or website. (www.hfh.org)

7. President's Report:

Not available.

8. Treasurer's Report (Chris B.):

See handout. There is \$29,000 remaining in the General Account after paying the architect's fee. Money is becoming "tight" and perhaps it is time to be "frugal" or generate more income. We are running a deficit if not for Casino funds. Can we make program reductions to save money? (The playground program was a net cost of \$5000 to HCL.)

EFCL Meeting: There are two sources of grant money for the new building

- i) Community Initiatives Fund (CIP)

ii) Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP)
(See handouts attached)

9. CRC Report (Darrell Nordell):

What's Up in the East? – Learn to Skate/Go Girl/Grant

Deadlines

Old Fort Road Open House set for Nov 22/05 at Belvedere Hall
The new beat patrol officer is Duane Karpo (Ph. 886-5049) His beat will be Montrose/Newton/Highlands – 100 blocks. There may be another officer assigned to 118th Ave. Highlands by December. There also may be a police office put into a 118th Ave. business location.

Wading Pool program update - \$780,000 to refurbish wading pools. Wait and see what is approved by City council.

10. Directors' Reports:

i) Building Committee (Emery Y.)

Fulton met with Croy after the last meeting and Croy has redrawn the building design. Concern was expressed over internal design details that appeared to leave insufficient space for storage, kitchen, bathroom facilities, and closets. Croy is currently working on a colour elevation design to be used for fund raising purposes. There were 6 comments expressed at the Artfest that were positive to the proposed design. Emery felt that interior design issues could be resolved later, but we need to get on with fund raising. Counter opinion was that final design was needed before we go to the public asking for funds.

NOTE: A meeting will be held Tuesday November 8, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lounge to discuss interior design with Fulton

Moved By: Gary L. Seconded By: Dale D. CARRIED

ii.) Newsletter (Chris B.)

The newsletter goes to printers tomorrow and will be out next weekend. 24 pages.

iii) Walkable Highlands (Dale D.)

Nothing to report

iv) Sports (Emery Y.)

There are 34 players registered in soccer. One under 16 girls' team. There is no pre approved budget for the soccer program.

Cheques are simply paid by Chris as necessary. However, every cheque should be pre approved by HCL executive.

MOTION; To approve an indoor soccer budget of \$4646.00.

Moved By: Chris B. **Seconded By:** Gary L. **CARRIED**
Emery can therefore spend the remaining \$2400 without HCL executive approval; he will need approval to exceed this amount.

v.) Neighbourhood Patrol – No report

vi.) Membership

Krysia J. is now out of the community. We need a new membership coordinator. Howard, Peter, and Pieter are to select a candidate. Newsletter add? Perhaps a joint Program Director/Membership coordinator?

vii.) Civic Affairs – nothing to report

viii.) Northlands Neighbours

Dale reviewed the substance of the most recent N.N. meeting. It was generally not a productive affair, with most emphasis on public relations and imaging. Dale expressed concern over sincerity of Northlands in gathering public input in a meaningful way. It was suggested we put a number of questions to Northlands and invite them to our next HCL executive meeting. Such questions as

- how many kiosks on Gretzky Fwy entrance?
- What is the plan for the south side gate?
- What are the plans to expand the race track?

Gary L. to contact Dale later with more of the same to see if it is worthwhile to invite a NN rep to the next HCL meeting.

ix.) Buttercup Farm Park

The triangular park at 58th Street and 60th Street south of 113th Ave. is proposed to be renamed "Buttercup Farm Park" after the farm that once was in the area. John Tidridge is the promoter.

MOTION: To support the renaming of the park to Buttercup Farm Park or Buttercup Park. **Moved By:** Gary L.

Seconded By; Dale D. **CARRIED** **Note:** John T. Should check with the Highlands Historical Society to determine the correct name.

x.) Ice Rink Hire

Resumes are now being taken by Howard for an ice rink manager position for the winter. **MOTION:** Both tennis courts

will be flooded this winter for pick up hockey and general skating. **Moved By:** Howard L. **Seconded By:** Chris B. **CARRIED** Budget matters will be decided upon at the next meeting.

xi.) Artfest (Chris)

There were 3-400 people in the 2 days of the fair. The Bellevue Community Hall was "interesting." There will be a summary next month.

xii.) Christmas Party

MOTION: To have an executive party with spouses and children again this year. **Moved By:** Gary L. **Seconded By:** Dale D. **CARRIED** Where should the party be held? The lounge. Potluck dinner. Friday, Dec. 16/05 at 6:00 p.m. Somebody check about room availability with Dawn Brown.

xiii.) Sleigh Ride;

Horses are booked for Nov 26/05 at the Baptist Church at 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner is at 7:00 p.m. Rick Herity is the coordinator (477-3137 if anyone wants to help.)

xiv.) New Business

- Janice Melnychuk was at the last Pub Nite and wants to give HCL Executive updates in Dec or Jan next.
- energy efficiency in the new hall – geothermal heating- is a topic a company wants to present to HCL. Frontline Engineering. Fulton to set up.
- EFCL rep – Gary is the current rep but wants Chris B. to replace him. **MOTION:** To replace Gary L with Chris B. as HCL's EFCL representative **Moved By:** Gary L. No second needed. **CARRIED** Chris accepted the nomination.
- NE Health Centre proposal on the old Cromdale school site was discussed. Gary L. was concerned over the lack of public input on the project as well as what was planned to go in. Discussion over the costs and benefits to Highlands and the NE region ensued. Highlands will participate in the coming open house meeting with Capital Health and other community leagues in coming weeks. Highlands is not heavily affected by this proposal, but will stand in solidarity with other neighbouring community leagues with their concerns.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9: 20 p.m.

Edmonton
Alberta, CA.
T5W 3Z2

Ms. Linda Cochrane
General Manager
City of Edmonton
Alberta, Canada

November 8, 2007

Dear Ms. Cochrane,

Re: **Buttercup Farm Park.**

A bit of a preamble to start: I am a former city employee of 35 years spread between the Police Service, Transit and Bylaw Services. I was a supervisor for over 20 years during that period. The purpose of this letter is not to have anyone disciplined but to add a little humour to a situation that for some would be, to say the least, annoying. The time frame is about 18 months but that is immaterial.

At the beginning of this episode, because of my love of the Highlands community, I decided it was time for the park situated between 58 Street and 60 Street north of 112 Avenue to have a name. Buttercup Farm Park seemed a natural in view of the history of the land. I had the permission of the family to go ahead.

I began the process; it took the CL chairman six months to get it on the agenda...they finally did and agreed it was OK for me, as a private citizen, to proceed. I then sought some funds from the CL and was told there were none. (Can't blame the city for that, but it was surely an omen of what was to come!)

I received the forms from the "Park Naming" secretary and began, completed and submitted these... this was the start of many 'contretemps' (sorry, I'm an Agatha Christie fan). The form I

completed asked for a suggested location of the sign and (I think) what kind of plants for the border would be suitable. I completed this and returned it. After some considerable time I called the secretary... she was away sick, said her supervisor. After her return the material was forwarded to the Naming Committee. Shortly thereafter I was told it was on the agenda...I later learned that there were at least two postponements because of a lack of a quorum!!

I was asked again, to provide the CL President's name so he could verify that the CL had given permission although that fact that was included in the original process. There was still a delay, when I called the secretary she said the CL president had not answered, I followed up and found he had experienced computers problems!! But, the committee finally did approve the process.

I then checked with the unit that would make the sign. I was told by the man he would look for the information. I was satisfied.

(Sorry this is so long Linda). In the early summer I heard from the people whose family was associated with Buttercup Farm that the opening was scheduled for a specific date. Arrangements were made by the family to have family members present. Then that date was cancelled but a mock opening was suggested. Hmmm!

I then learn that the sign is going to be erected, and it was. It is, but not where it was suggested; but under a birch tree, back some six feet into a tree border, almost invisible from any direction. Now the neighbours are wondering what's up...they are not the only ones.

I contacted the city unit responsible for designing the sign location ... I ask if the information regarding the placement of the sign was known to them. No, we do not get that information. OK, more calls and after a meeting with a staff member it is agreed that the suggestion I originally made and which was agreed to by the family, was the most suitable location. The sign would be moved. We were asked what kinds of plants would we like in the border. I called and got suitable plant names from a local greenhouse, and forwarded these to the city.

I watch eagerly for the removal of the sign; it is moved to where it was requested. Within a couple of days, but before I can provide the plant names; a crew comes and makes a border, adds top soil, and plants shrubs... I call the city; it will be looked after...

The positive things about this are as follows: the plaque was completed without a hitch; all the employees I have spoken with have been polite and have done their jobs...Ms. Nichols, who must be thinking that 'Rabbie' Burns would have seen the humour in this situation, has been caught right in the middle...many a plan etc. etc.

As I said at the outset, I don't think anyone should be disciplined... but 'someone' needs to sit down and make sure this sort of thing does not happen again. I have a great deal of sympathy for these employees, I have been in similar situations myself, where no matter what you try, something goes wrong...

At this point....I leave it in your hands!

Sincerely,

John Tidridge
780-474-1594