



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street
Edmonton AB T5J 3P4
Phone: 780-496-6226 Fax: 780-496-6054

Elizabeth “Bettie” Jane Hewes

(1924-2001)



Elizabeth Jane Hewes, better known as Bettie, was born in Brampton, Ontario on March 12, 1924. In 1944, she graduated from the University of Toronto in occupational therapy. She then worked in several Ontario hospitals and sanatoria where she provided therapy to patients, many of whom were veterans of the Second World War.

Bettie arrived in Edmonton, Alberta in 1949 and raised a family while keeping active in local volunteer and community groups. In 1964, she served as Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association’s Edmonton Branch where she worked to educate government about the needs of the mentally ill. She was able to introduce new programs for rehabilitation to patients and new training for volunteers. Her negotiations with the government brought about changes in treatment and legislation, and in community programs.

In 1967, Bettie became the Planner and Executive Director of the Edmonton Social Planning Council that assisted with the introduction of the Women’s Emergency Shelter and the Edmonton Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired.

Bettie was elected to Edmonton City Council in 1974. While serving as a Councillor for three terms, herself and various other politicians formed the Urban Reform Group of Edmonton to coordinate a single platform at Council meetings. In 1984, she resigned from Council and was appointed as Chairman of the Board of the Canadian National Railways. This appointment marked Bettie Hewes as the first woman to ever be appointed to a position of Chair for a Crown Corporation in Canada.

In 1986, Bettie Hewes was elected Liberal member of the legislature. She was reelected in 1989 and 1993. As a member of the legislature, she served as Critic for Health, Social Services, Labour, Seniors, and Cultural Affairs. She was Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in Alberta from 1988 until 1994, and served as Interim Leader of the Opposition in the legislature during 1994.

Bettie Hewes was a member of the University of Alberta Senate, Edmonton Police Commission. When she retired, she continued to serve the community as a member of the



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Clifford Lee Foundation Board, co-chair of the Safe Cities program, and as a board member of the Pearson Peace Institute.

On November 6, 2001, Bettie Hewes died in Brockville, Ontario.

Written by; Danielle Ferchoff

September 2013

CITATION ON FILE

Historical Biography of Mayors and Councillors 1892 - 2006. "Hewes, Elizabeth (Bettie) Jane" Edmonton Public Library. Accessed 2 September 2013. <http://www.epl.ca/edmonton-history/edmonton-elections/biographies-mayors-and-councillors?id=H>

"Elizabeth (Bettie) Hewes," *Edmontonians of the Century*, (Edmonton: Corporate Identity Consulting Inc. 2004).

"Grit wants park named for Hewes," Edmonton Sun, 9 November 2001. Sustainable Development, City of Edmonton. "H" namesake files.



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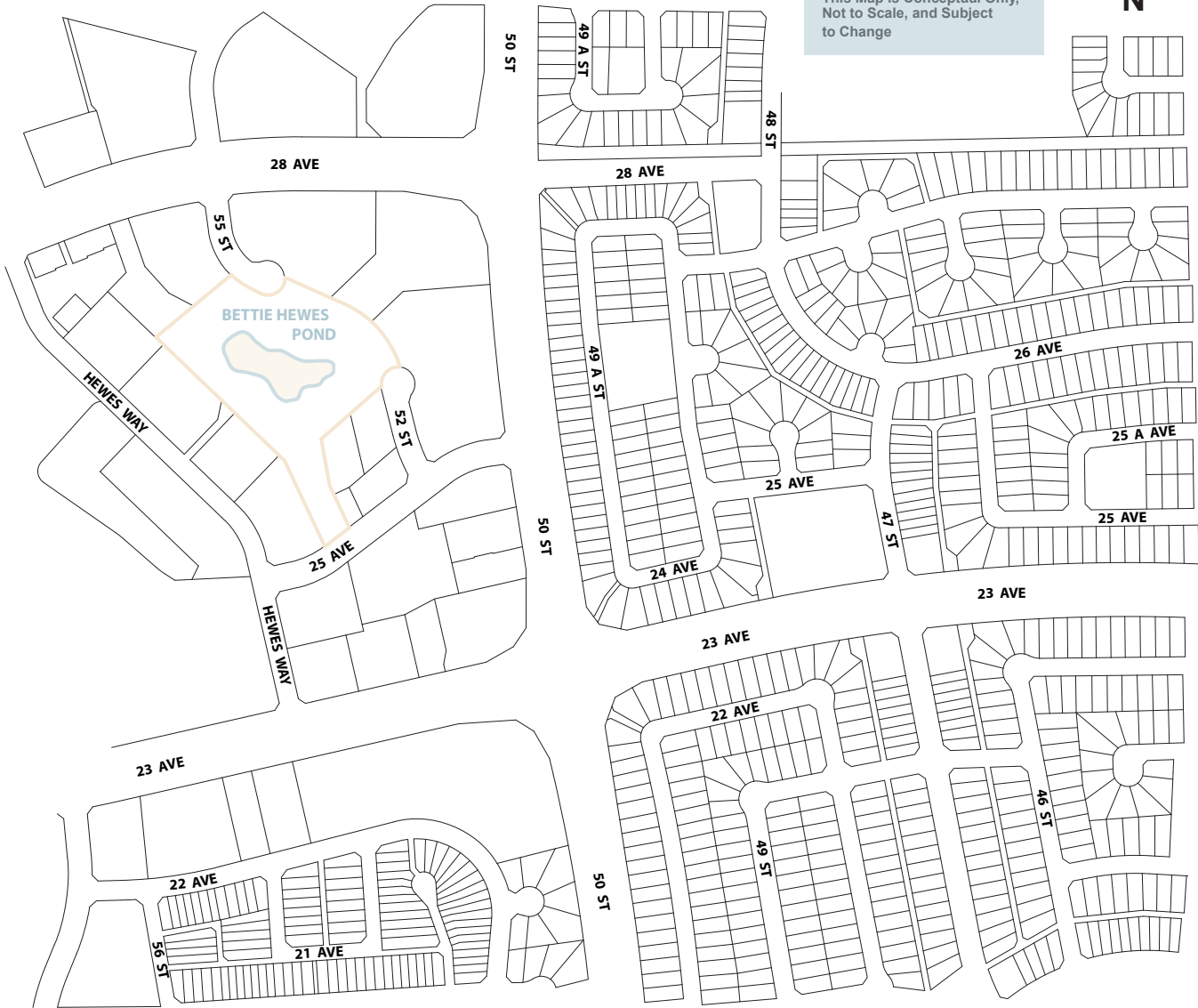
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NOTE:

This Map is Conceptual Only,
Not to Scale, and Subject
to Change



Bettie Hewes Pond

Mill Woods Town Centre Neighbourhood

August 27, 2013
Naming Committee