Naming Committee
Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF **Edmonton**

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Terence (Terry) James Cavanagh
(1926)

Terry Cavanagh became Edmonton's first Edmonton-born mayor in 1975. He is a dedicated individual who has spent more than a quarter of his life on council, associated himself with Edmonton's ever-growing multicultural community, and volunteered his efforts towards an extensive list of charitable and business organizations.

On July 19, 1926, Terence James Cavanagh was born in Edmonton. He began his education at Grandin School and later St. Joseph's High School. During his younger years, he played minor hockey in Edmonton, but played in other leagues throughout Canada and the United States during his semi-pro and senior years as a young hockey professional.

In 1948, Terry married June Gould. At this time, he was working in the purchasing department of Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada in Trail, British Columbia. He moved back to Edmonton a few years later to work as the Western Region Purchasing Manager for Stelco Steel.

Cavanagh first ran for council in 1968. After this loss, he was elected in 1971 when Edmonton adopted a ward system and re-elected in 1974. In 1975, when Mayor Bill Hawrelak passed away from a heart-attack, council chose to elect Cavanagh as the replacement mayor. He was defeated in the 1977 civic election and stayed out of politics for six years. While Cavanagh was absent from council, Mrs. Cavanagh was a member of Ward 3 from 1980 to 1983 while Mr. Cavanagh served as chairman of the Provincial Rent Control Appeal Board and Public Communications Advisor and Corporate Communications Manager for Alberta Energy Company Ltd. From 1983 to 1988, Cavanagh served on council once again. In 1988 when Laurence Decore decided to switch to provincial politics, council members elected Cavanagh as the replacement Mayor for the second time. The following year, Cavanagh lost the mayoral race. Despite various election outcomes throughout the years, Cavanagh's determination allowed him to continue serving as a member of council from 1992 until his retirement in 2007.

In addition to having a career in politics, Terry Cavanagh taught courses in effective speaking at Victoria Composite High School for two years and at NAIT for seven years. He also

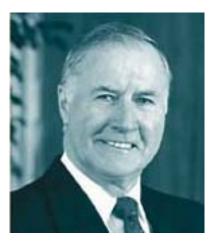NAMING EDMONTON

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taught a Purchasing Management course at NAIT and at the University of Alberta Extension Department for six years. He was affiliated with an extensive list of organizations and served as a Director to many, including the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Alberta Heart Foundation, Royal Alexandra Hospital, and Alberta Hospital Association.

Terry Cavanagh is one of the oldest serving and longest serving councillors in Edmonton's history. On his eightieth birthday, Cavanagh was declared a historic resource by his colleagues at City Hall. He continues to teach effective speaking at the University of Alberta and for private firms, as well as dedicates time to helping charities such as Crystal Kids, a charity for the disadvantaged and impoverish. Terry Cavanagh has been involved with many aspects of the City of Edmonton and continues to serve the community within "his" City.

Written by: Danielle Ferchoff
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CITATION ON FILE

"Terry Cavanagh feted on his 80th birthday." Edmonton Journal. July 20, 2006. City of Edmonton Archives.

"Coun. Cavanagh calls it quits." Edmonton Sun. May 16, 2007. City of Edmonton Archives.

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"Cavanagh not getting older – he's getting busier." Edmonton Journal. January 16, 2009. City of Edmonton Archives.

Terry Cavanagh Campaign Committee. "Ward 6 News. Alderman Terry Cavanagh Seeks Re-election in October 20th, Civic Re-election." (Edmonton: Terry Cavanagh Campaign Committee Pamphlet, 1986), 4.

Historical Biography of Mayors and Councillors 1892 - 2006. "Cavanagh, Terence (Terry) James" Edmonton Public Library. Accessed July 27, 2012. http://www.epl.ca/edmonton-history/edmonton-elections/biographies-mayors-and-councillors?id=C