Naming Committee
Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street
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Phone: 780-496-6226 Fax: 780-496-6054

NAMING EDMONTON

James East

(1871-1940)
*Brother of Elisha East

First elected in 1912, James East was a member of city council for 17 years.

James East was born in Bolton, Ontario on October 7, 1871. He began working at the age of 13 at a woolen mill. He later worked in sawmills and on farms, as well as apprenticing as a blacksmith.

James East was a well travelled man. He worked and prospected in the Black Hills of South Dakota, throughout New Mexico, and in Colorado during the early 1890s. He later took a cattle boat to England, then a schooner to New Zealand, and while working for a year until the Australian gold rush, he met Herbert Hoover, who later became president of the United States. In 1906, James East later travelled to Asia, Egypt, and Europe.

After having left Canada for 13 years, James East arrived in Edmonton in 1907. He served as a member of council from 1912 until 1914. He then enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916 and served as a soldier in the First World War until 1919. When he arrived home, he served on city council from 1920 until 1929, and again from 1933 until 1936.

James East headed various committees of the city council and was very interested in town planning. Outside of his political career, he served on the executive committee of the Canadian Legion.

Written by; Danielle Ferchoff
August 2013

CITATION ON FILE

"Ex-Alderman James East Dies In City," Edmonton Bulletin, 24 June 1940. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.

Historical Biography of Mayors and Councillors 1892 - 2006. "East, James" Edmonton Public Library. Accessed 23 August 2013.
http://www.epl.ca/edmonton-history/edmonton-elections/biographies-mayors-and-councillors?id=E

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Elisha East

(1879-1965)
*Brother of James East

Elisha East was born in Bolton, Ontario in 1879. He came to Edmonton in 1910 and entered the contracting business.

In 1935, Elisha East was elected to city council, also serving as "dean of the city council" for four years. He was president of the Alberta Social Credit League and founder of the Alberta Avenue Community League. He retired to Victoria, British Columbia in 1945, where he later passed away on October 5, 1965.

He and his brother, James East, are the only two brothers to ever hold seats on the Edmonton City Council at the same time.

Written by; Danielle Ferchoff
August 2013

CITATION ON FILE

"Former City Alderman Dies At Coast," Edmonton Journal, 7 October 1965. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.

Historical Biography of Mayors and Councillors 1892 - 2006. "East, Elisha" Edmonton Public Library. Accessed 23 August 2013.
http://www.epl.ca/edmonton-history/edmonton-elections/biographies-mayors-and-councillors?id=E