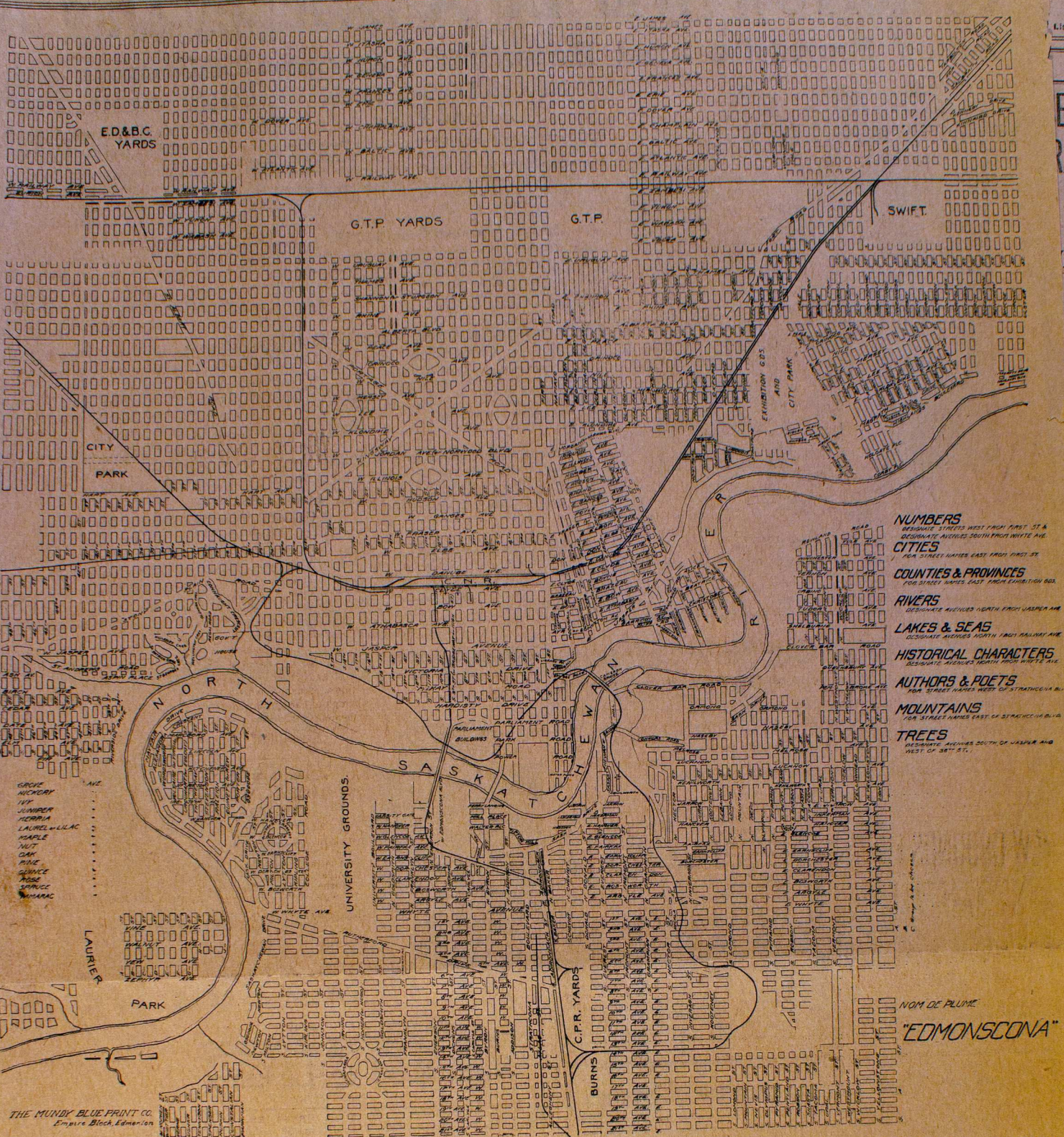


"Edmonscona" Street Renaming Proposals Explained, With Diagram



To anyone who has given a little study to the question, the preparation of a satisfactory system of naming the streets presents many difficulties, owing to the physical geography. The Saskatchewan river and valley seem to make it absolutely necessary to name the north and south parts of the city entirely separately. It is a fiction to suppose that any streets on the north side can be continued on the south side except where frequent bridges are practicable, and that in the case of Edmonton is impossible.

The map of the city submitted herewith will require explanation, which we will endeavor to give briefly.

On the north side, as a basis and centre from which to operate, Jasper Avenue and First Street have been taken. The streets west from First Street have been numbered to conform with the original plan of that part of the city.

taken as a centre, logically the order should commence at the first avenue south of Jasper, etc.

With regard to the house numbering on the north side, under the old system McLeod Avenue was taken as the base. This might be continued were it not for the growth of the city in Jasper Place and Capital Hill, where, unless the same base be taken, confusion would follow and the street numbers for each block north of Jasper Avenue would not harmonize, therefore consistency makes it necessary that having adopted Jasper Avenue as a base, the houses on the north of Jasper should be numbered from Jasper (100 numbers to a block as in the past) and the houses on streets running south of Jasper should be numbered south from that avenue. This necessarily means that the portion of any street extending south of Jasper should be designated "south," i. e. Third Street south of Jasper will be called "South 42nd Street," likewise 42nd Street south of Jasper will be called "South 42nd Street." If considered necessary, the same street north of Jasper might be designated "North 42nd Street," etc.

Any system of naming or numbering from a centre will denote the direction north or south, east or west, on some streets. It is believed that the scheme now submitted the necessity for this has been reduced to a minimum.

While desiring to retain the name of old streets as in the case of Fraser Avenue, we found that name very necessary for the name of an avenue called after that river, and we would therefore change the name of old Fraser Avenue to Princess Boulevard.

Rice Street we consider a poor name for what promises to be an important street in the heart of the city. We have suggested, therefore, the name of Ayr—the name of a river—thus denoting that it is close to Athabasca Avenue, but our preference would be for the name of Edmonton Avenue, indicating that it is in the heart of Edmonton, the postoffice, the city hall and other civic buildings being on that avenue or in the immediate vicinity.

On the south side, the necessity for a fixed centre is at once apparent. Whyte Avenue should not be disturbed, and is a through street from the river to the west. The present north and south centre street is Main, which we have suggested be named Strathcona Boulevard.

As the accompanying map shows, we have numbered the avenues south of Whyte Avenue, the portion of the Avenue west of Strathcona Boulevard (Main Street), to be known as "West" Avenues, and the portion of the Avenue east of Strathcona Boulevard to be known as "East."

While it would have been possible to take the extension of Jasper east of the river in what is known as "Clover Bar Road," as a base on the south side, and number the avenues north from that, there are so many irregularities that we considered it preferable to name the avenues in alphabetical order north to the west. The alternative of numbering the avenues could be adopted if it were considered wise.

It will be noticed that the avenues south of Whyte Avenue will bear the same numbers as at present, with the exception that instead of being known as "First Avenue southwest," it will be simply "First Avenue West," etc.

The streets west of Strathcona Boulevard (formerly Main Street), have been named in alphabetical order after authors and poets. Those east have been similarly designated after mountains, etc. Whyte Avenue being the base, those streets extending north of Whyte Avenue should be designated "North" and those extending south will require to be so designated. The names of the avenues will be extended beyond the University into Windsor Park, and the streets similarly.

What is known as "Mayfair" is entirely by itself, and we think names in alphabetical order for both avenues and streets can be easily applied. A few other streets in the city have been redesignated in a manner that we think would be acceptable.

It will be specially noted that the lots in the blocks on the streets that are numbered on the north side face on the streets, consequently the numbered streets will be the most used, as the houses generally speak will be faced on the same side. The lots on the south side are in lots east and west, consequently most of the houses will face on the numbered avenues. The fact that the streets designated by numbers do not come in contact will obviate confusion.

Test it might be felt that having corresponding numbers for streets on the north side and avenues on the south side might cause mistakes

when the address falls to give "street" or "avenue," it should be noted that the words "north" and "south" occur only with the streets and east and "west" only with avenues, thus lessening the chance of confusion.

Difficulties in numbering houses in the east end will occur, but can be met as the circumstances require. It is suggested that this be arranged jointly with the Building Inspector. Formerly the numbers of houses in the east end were not in conformity with the numbering in the west end and to the side on which used. This should be remedied by having even numbers on only north and west sides as is the universal practise elsewhere.

The system followed in this scheme retains much that is already established and familiar. It also substitutes a logical and easily understood set of names in places of those discarded, and allows of indefinite extension as the city grows in any direction.

It is not essential that a street name should carry across the river so as to be common to the street on both sides of the river except in so far as it can indicate in some definite manner what portion of such street is on each side of the river. Any system which attempts to make a common street name for both sides of the river and fails to render definite the distinction in location between north and south is bound to prove unsatisfactory.

The first query that comes into person's mind when he hears a street address is as to whether it is on the north side or the south side, then he knows whether he must head for a bridge or not.

Consideration was given to the numbering of the streets east of First Street, but the irregularities presented difficulties which it was considered could best be avoided by a naming system, this also preventing any confusion, and the necessity for designating the streets "east and west"—therefore in naming the streets running north and south in what is known as the east side, an endeavor has been made to retain as far as possible names of well known thoroughfares.

The names given in Norwood are in alphabetical order, and as well known cities will be easily remembered. Beyond that, the use of the names of Provinces and Counties will, it is believed, solve the difficulty in that portion of the city where the surveys are also irregular and difficult to designate by numbers.

Jasper Avenue having been taken as the basis, the streets to the north, designated avenues, have been named after rivers of the world, and would after rivers of First Street as "west" avenues, and "east" of First Street as "east" avenues. In the east end, the recurrence of avenues ofteners than in the west end made a difficulty which we think is consistently overcome by giving the additional streets come by the name of a river commencing with the same letter as the next street.

The names of the avenues south of Jasper Avenue have been generally retained, but the description somewhat changed. In order to denote that they are not in a region where there is a regular series of avenues alphabetically named—1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.—Victoria Avenue becomes Victoria Drive, McKay Avenue becomes McKay Drive, and the name of Saskatchewan Avenue would conform with Saskatchewan Drive on the south side. The names south of what the extension of Jasper Avenue beyond Glenora have been alphabetically named after trees. Jasper Avenue having been

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