



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City



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Gerald "Gerry" H. Wright

(1929-1996)

Gerry Wright was born in Toronto, Ontario on March 11, 1929 and raised in Montreal, Quebec. He attended McGill University and Sir George Williams University, and later attended the University of Alberta where he received his Master of Arts.

In 1963, Gerry was recruited to work for the University of Alberta's Department of Extension as an assistant professor. In 1972, he became an associate professor in Community Development and Public Affairs and worked in this position until his retirement in 1992. As a passionate and active professor, Gerry developed programs on and off of the campus that helped individuals take action on civic issues while working to develop social welfare policies with the City and the Province.

Gerry Wright was a vocal proponent of the benefits of Light Rail Transit and played a key role in bringing the LRT to Edmonton. In Gerry Wright's 1972 report titled *The Immediate Answer for Edmonton*, he embraced the LRT system as a responsible answer to Edmonton's car culture. He, with the help of other like-minded individuals, expressed the progressive aspects of LRT despite the many opposing views during that time. Gerry was also involved in protecting the river valley and preserving historical districts, notably protesting against a planned freeway through Old Strathcona.

Gerry Wright's passion for developing and fostering spirit and a sense of community was evident in his committee involvement. He was a founding member of the Society for the Protection of Architectural Resources in Edmonton, Urban Reform Group of Edmonton, and the Old Strathcona Foundation where he served as president in 1982. Gerry also served on the Edmonton Social Planning Council from 1964 until 1974 and served three terms as a president. Gerry was also a member of City Council from 1980 until 1983.

On July 1, 1995, the Old Strathcona Foundation paid tribute to Gerry Wright by naming the lookout at the End of Steel Park in his honor. The plaque reads, "His vision for Strathcona was to call a halt to the deterioration of the neighbourhood and to gather around him a committed group of citizens to work together to revitalize this historic community." He was named as an Edmontonian of the Century in 2004.

Gerry Wright passed away on March 27, 1996. His vision to create a vibrant city has inspired many individuals to take action and continue to be passionate about transforming Edmonton. Former Councillor Bettie Hewes referred to Gerry Wright as her personal mentor and someone who taught her to have the courage of her convictions to help make Edmonton a more humane place to live.

Written by; Danielle Ferchoff

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CITATION ON FILE

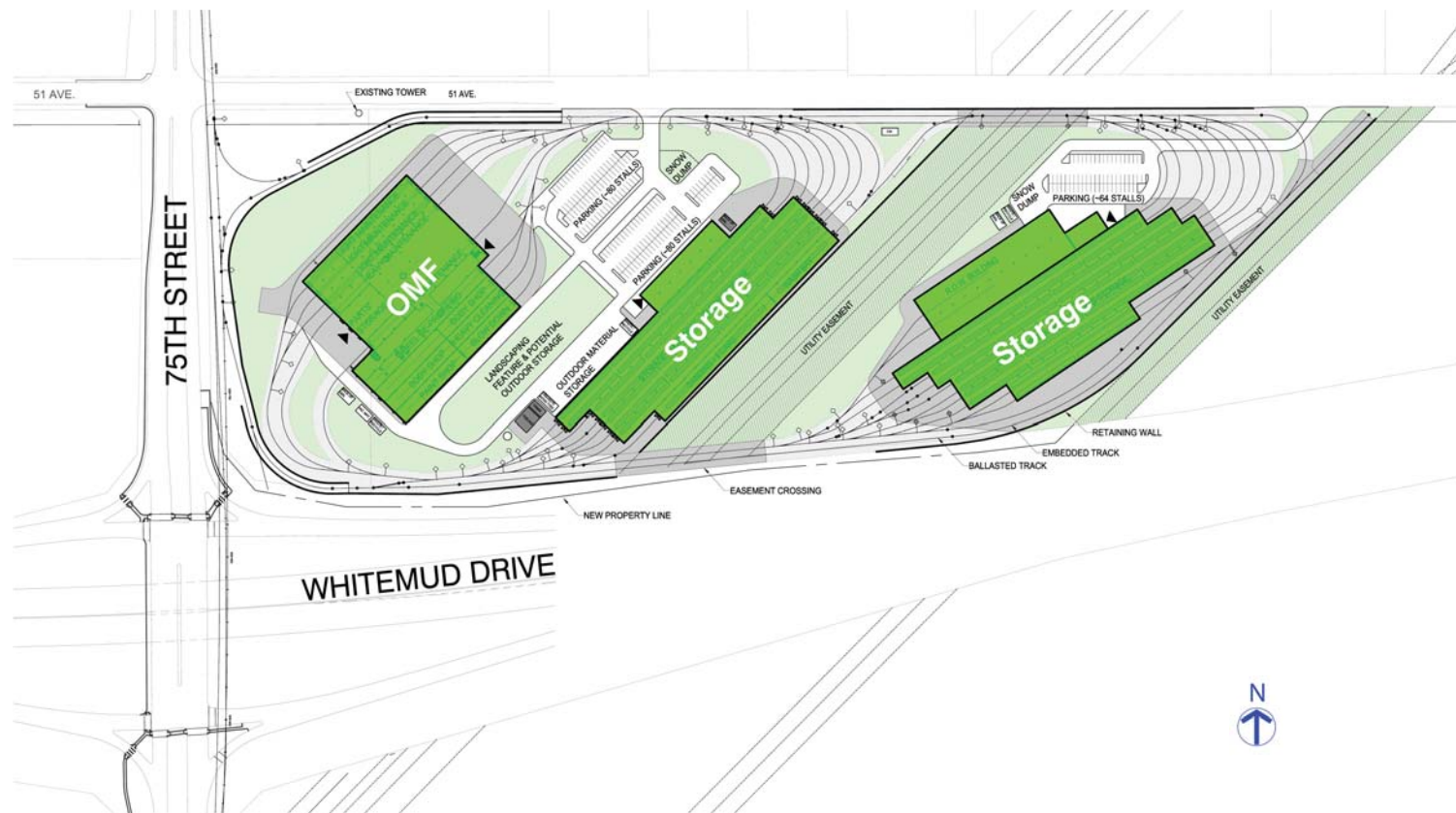
Historical Biography of Mayors and Councillors 1892 - 2006. "Wright, Gerald (Gerry) H." Edmonton Public Library. Accessed 24 October 2013. <http://www.epl.ca/edmonton-history/edmonton-elections/biographies-mayors-and-councillors?id=W>

"Gerry Wright," *Edmontonians of the Century*, (Edmonton: Corporate Identity Consulting Inc., 2004), 124.

Ken Tingley, *Ride of the Century: The Story of the Edmonton Transit System* (Edmonton: Full Court Press, 2011), 218.



The Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) is where LRT vehicles are cleaned, serviced and stored. This will be one of the first facilities to be built on the line to provide the necessary storage and maintenance areas.



- Facility configuration will be refined during detailed design

