



# 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

## James McCrie Douglas

*(1867-1950)*



James McCrie Douglas was born in Lanark County, Ontario in 1867. He went on to become a school teacher in Elkhorn, Manitoba prior to moving to Edmonton, Alberta in 1894, the same year that he married Mary Cameron Bickerton.

The first Edmonton home that the Douglas family resided in was on the southeast corner of 101 Street and 102 Avenue. In 1902, James Douglas had a home built at 10535 Saskatchewan Drive where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives together. James Douglas and his brother, Robert Douglas, opened a mercantile store nearby the home on the corner of 104 Street and Whyte Avenue.

In 1909, James Douglas ran as a Liberal Candidate for the Federal Constituency of Leduc, Alberta and was elected to the House of Commons. His political career was briefly put on hold while he served in the Second World War, obtaining the rank of Captain in the Supply Division. At the end of the war, he ran in the election but was defeated, but he was later elected Councillor in the 1922 election, and served as such until 1930. After his time as a Councillor, he was elected as Mayor until 1932. He was defeated in the following election, as he became the victim of a smear campaign. Although, despite the smear campaign that occurred in the 1932 election, James Douglas was elected to City Council once again in 1933 and served on council until 1949.

Aside from his political career, James Douglas held many other offices. He was Stipendiary Magistrate for the North West Territories in the mid-1930s, which meant taking a trip to Aklavik about once a year. He was Chairman of the Edmonton Exhibition Association, President of the Kiwanis Club, President of the Edmonton Burns Club, and Chairman of North West Brewery. In his spare time, James Douglas attended the Edmonton Golf and Country Club, of which he was a charter member. He was also on the Board of Managers at Knox Church.

James Douglas died on March 16, 1950, just a few weeks prior to being awarded with the "Man of the Year" citation by the Edmonton Junior Chamber of Commerce. In his will, he left money to establish two scholarships at the University of Alberta which are known as the Mary Cameron and James M. Douglas Scholarships.



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James McCrie Douglas Park was named because of the close proximity of his original farmland to this park site. James Douglas was passionate about gardening and about farming, and the farm that he purchased in 1922 was the west half of section 26-T51-R25-W4. Farming was a hobby that he pursued for the rest of his life, travelling to his small cabin on the farmland for the day, and returning to Edmonton in the evening.

*Information compiled by: Lindsay Salloum*

*Written by: Danielle Ferchoff*

*September 2013*

## **CITATION ON FILE**

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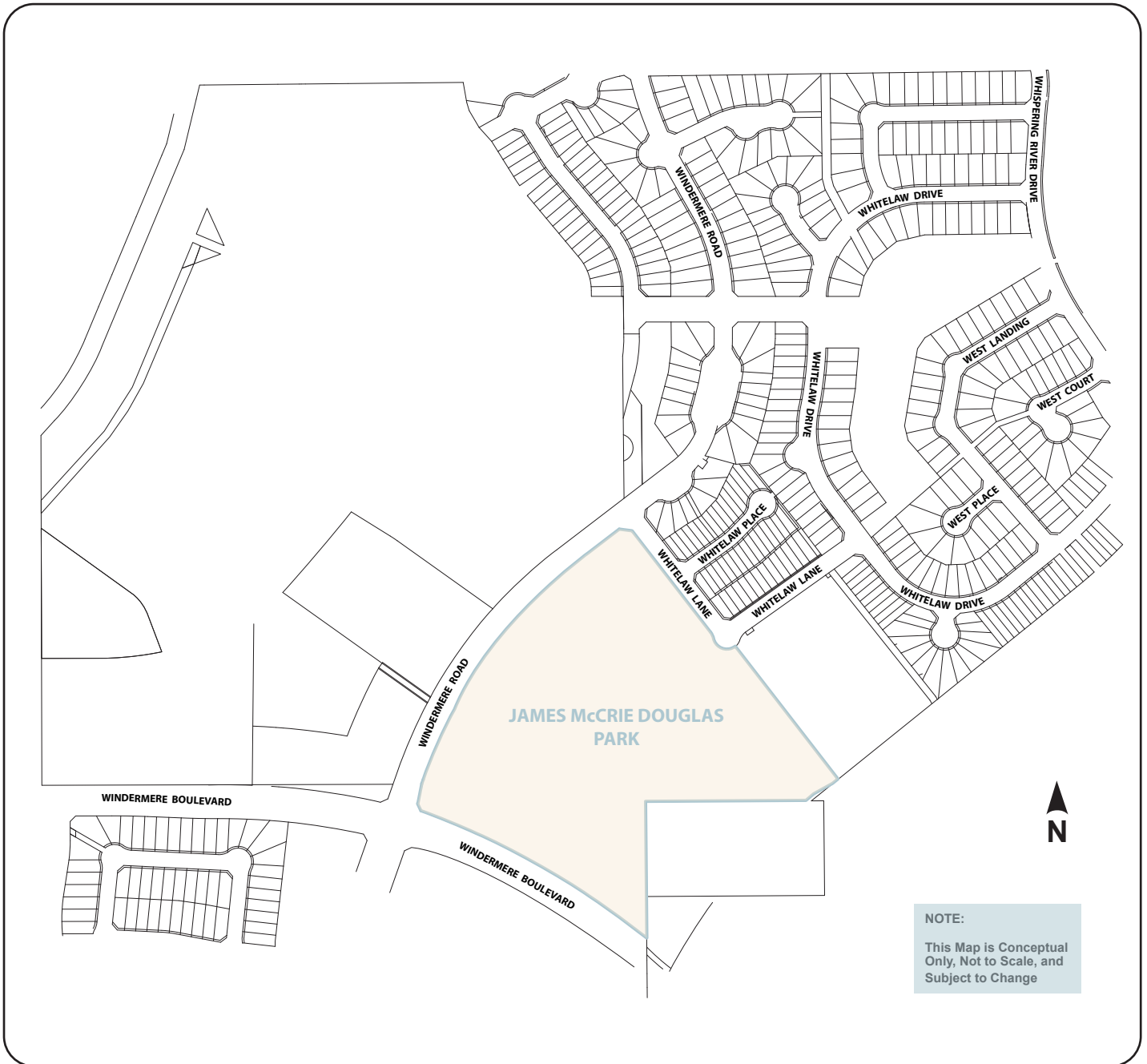


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## JAMES McCRIE DOUGLAS PARK

Windermere Neighbourhood

September 24, 2013  
Naming Committee