

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

History of the street and venue names in Irricana

STREET NAMES - *Irricana began expanding its boundaries in 1981. At that time Council chose to name the new streets rather than number them. In 1995 Council purchased additional property from Newt Henricks for further expansion and invited residents to submit names for this subdivision. After reviewing all the submissions the new area became the "Eastview Subdivision". Council felt it would be beneficial to continue to name the streets honoring some of our founders and leaders in this new expansion along the main drive known as Pioneer Drive. Many well deserved names were brought forward to the Economic Development and Tourism Committee for the Eastview Subdivision where they were forwarded to council for approval.*

Criteria used for selection of street names was the following: Persons having resided in the Village of Irricana and area, and/or, persons that may have had a business affiliation in the Village of Irricana, and/or, persons that may have been involved as a public servant in some capacity and/or persons involved in community service.

Criteria for venue names was the following: Surnames of persons that must have been actively involved in the instigation or operation of recreation venues, and/or persons who have lived or been active within the community and area for at least five years.

Madison Drive - *Named after the Developers of this particular subdivision.*

McCulloch Crescent - *George McCulloch and his brother, Miller, came to Irricana circa 1909 and bought an existing hardware store. While George was the first Reeve of Irricana he purchased an acreage from the C.P.R. around 1915 for a park, (now known as Founder's Park and Campground) and he also purchased the land for our existing cemetery.*

Booth Crescent - *Jack Booth and his wife, Joyce (Hesselgrave), made permanent residence in Irricana in 1950. In 1954 they bought the General Store (now "Irricana Supplies" located beside the hardware store) and operated it for nine years then sold it to Irricana Co-op. Joyce was also the Mayor of Irricana for a number of years. Jack & Joyce were great community supporters involved with many service groups and projects. Joyce now resides in Airdrie.*

Henricks Drive - *The land for this development was purchased from Newt Henricks, a local farmer. Byron, Newt's father was a Justice of the Peace and Police Magistrate and also served on the School Board for many years. Newt and his wife Eileen continue to live on the farm just south of Irricana. Their son Andy is continuing his education with plans to join the RCMP. The Henricks are dedicated, community members and are actively involved with local service groups. They are always willing to donate their expertise, manpower, equipment and most especially their time.*

Gib Bell Close - (J.G.) Gib Bell was the proprietor of the Barbershop and Pool Room circa 1927 as well as the Treasury Branch Agent and Insurance Agent. Throughout the years J.G. was also the Village Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary-Treasurer of the Irricana Mutual Telephone Co. and Secretary-Treasurer for School District 2163. His son, Fred, later became the Insurance and Treasury Branch Agent and operated the Canada Post Office. For several years Fred was Secretary-Treasurer for the Village. He was also involved with the Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club. Today his granddaughter, Annette Culp, is employed by the Town of Irricana as the Planning and Development Officer.

Hay Place - (A.B.) Bruce Hay arrived in Irricana circa 1918. In 1924 he opened Hay's Garage and also operated the Canada Post Office. Hay's Garage continued to remain open until the mid-80's and was operated by his son, Neil, and grandsons Gord and Sandy. Cal-Mac Electric Ltd. is now located in what was formerly Hay's Garage. Neil was a Councillor for many years and was actively involved in the Curling Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Neil's wife, Faye, continues to live in Irricana as well as his son Sandy, wife Shelley and their daughters Brittany and Jessica.

VENUE NAMES - *The Village of Irricana's Council has adopted names for their community venues to acknowledge those who have made a difference in the history of Irricana.*

Founders Park & Campground - Following a competition sponsored by the Village of Irricana in 1988, the park located on the north side of Irricana was officially named "Founders Park". The name was chosen to commemorate all those who were instrumental in developing this venue.

Walker Park - Located on 2nd street (main street) and Madison Drive is Walker Park named after Edward "Ted" and Dorothy Walker. Ted arrived in Irricana circa 1950 as the Manager of the Crown Lumber Company (presently the empty lot on the west side of the Irricana Grocery Store.) He met and married Dorothy Phillip in 1954. They continued to manage the lumber company for many years then moved to Calgary for a short while. Ted and Dorothy returned to Irricana in 1975 as the owners of the Irricana Hardware and Farm Supply, at the same location that was previously the Crown Lumber Company, for 6 more years. Ted was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Charter President and Life Member of the Lions Club and member of the Ag Society, Curling Club, Mason's and Chamber of Commerce. His wife Dorothy and two grandchildren continue to reside in the area.

Harold Knight Park - Located between the residential district on Pioneer Drive and Madison Drive, Harold Knight Park was officially named on November 1st, 1999.

Harold Knight, another of Irricana's strong community minded supporters. Harold is still an active member in the Lions Club although he and wife Hilda now reside in Airdrie. Harold was active with organized baseball since 1944 was president of the Rocky View Baseball League for more than 50 years and played and coached right up until he turned 60. Harold received the Canadian Federated Amateur Baseball award for his dedication to baseball and youth in Alberta in 1977 and he was selected recipient for the Provincial Energize Volunteer Recognition Award on October 26th,1999.

Bicycle/Walking Trails - *Implementation of the bicycle/walking trails began in 1988. Four sections of trails were officially named at a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 21st, 1997. They are the Mel Brown Trail (.54 km), Founders Trail (.72 km), Eastview Trail (.77 km) and the Mountain View Trail (1.5 km). Plans to further develop these trails and additional trails in Irricana will be addressed in future developments.*

Mel Brown Trail - *The Mel Brown Trail links the west end of Founders Park to the Pioneer Acres Museum Site located just north of Irricana. Mel Brown moved to the Irricana area in 1948 and became a resident of the village in 1952. For many years Mel was a Calf Roper in the Calgary Stampede. His love of the outdoors included the upkeep and grooming of Founders Park throughout his residency in the village. He was often seen riding his favourite horse "Old Smokey" along the railroad tracks between Irricana and the area where Pioneer Acres Museum is now located. Mel commissioned a replica of "Old Smokey" to be bronzed and donated it to the village. "Old Smokey" presently resides in front of the Hotel and is also depicted on the Mel Brown Trail signs.*

George Book Memorial Playground - *This playground located in Founders Park was dedicated to the memory of George Book who was killed in a pedestrian accident at the age of seven. George was typical of children his age, enjoying playing in the local playgrounds, playing hockey, camping and bike riding. His father Walter and mother Conchita still reside in the village. George's sister Alysia has since graduated from high school and is attending university. The George Book Memorial Playground was recently upgraded for the enjoyment and safety of all our children.*

VILLAGE OF IRRICANA MASCOT - *Throughout the years many discussions arose regarding a village mascot. It was recommended by the Economic Development and Tourism Committee that the mascot be a mouse in keeping with our country theme and the hidden mouse in some of our murals. Suggestions were accepted by residents for a name for our mascot and "Squeaky" was chosen from among the submissions. "Squeaky" can be found at local functions and parades.*
