

Area Adjacent To Melrose School Sought For Recreation Purposes By Community Clubs

Recreational facilities, which it is hoped will cater to everything from tot lots to organized team sports in East Kildonan, were discussed with enthusiasm at a meeting held Wednesday night at Melrose School.

A large attendance, particularly of community club representatives, along with a few School Board and Council members, were present.

Chairman of the School Board, L. A. McMahon, told the meeting that "we are reaching the point today, outside of the Bronx Park grounds, where the only area for recreation is the school grounds."

The School Board, Mr. McMahon said, had set aside property for tot lots at the east end of Prince Edward grounds and the west end of Angus McKay, and football pitches in Lord Wolseley and Melrose grounds.

Most of the discussion centred around the Melrose grounds where half of the property is in the hands of the municipality.

The grounds have been blue printed for basketball, volleyball, football and track and field. It was hoped to include baseball, too, if the other half could be acquired. Otherwise it would be hazardous for a tot lot, also planned for the grounds.

A spokesman for the Melrose group told the meeting "There are a lot of children here. If the grounds are not large enough for baseball then that sport should be kept out for a few

years until the pre-school children are grown up."

Baseball enthusiasts were relieved when Mr. McMahon stated there was ample room for a baseball field on the Munroe grounds.

George Flook, president of the East Kildonan Community Club, felt the Parks Board should acquire all the Melrose property first before they discuss what should be done with it.

He said that members of his club would appear before East Kildonan Council Monday night to request that this property be placed in the jurisdiction of the Parks Board. He requested all community clubs be represented.

Jim Foubister was named spokesman for the Melrose group and Ken Davidson for Bronx Park.

LACROSSE MEETING

A lacrosse meeting will be held in the Bronx Park clubrooms tonight at 8 o'clock. All boys in the community, wishing to play lacrosse this summer, and men willing to assist the teams, are urged to attend.

Jim Foubister Named Head Of New Club

A general meeting to name the executive and directorate for a new community club in the Melrose-Chelsea area was held last Thursday night.

Jim Foubister was elected first president of the club with Gord. Phillips, George Perks and Tom Patrick vice-presidents. Other officers elected were:

~~Secretary—Murray Kay.~~
Rec. secretary—Gord. Mussell.

Treasurer—Ron Ryland.

Directors—Jack Muirhead, Bill Pattison, Jim Stephen, George Michaluk, Al. Edwards, Jim Hansen, Roy Murphy, Mrs. George Smith, Jack Robertson, Knight Morton, Bert Tibbs, Mrs. Holman, John Kupskey, Orvil Bonham, L. J. Griffin, Mrs. Brownlee, Jack Neufeld, Cathy Toews, Mrs. Goy, Chas. Strachan, Bob Latta, Bob Roy, Fred. Bjerring, Tony Reid, C. R. Stuart and Bill Templin.

The executive and directors met for the first time Wednesday night. Committees were formed and plans to develop the Melrose-Chelsea-Roch area were discussed.

One of the first projects of the club will be a drive for funds, which, it is hoped, will be started in the very near future.

E. Kildonan's New Sports Area Named Recreational Centre

East Kildonan's newest community club received the name of the East Kildonan Recreational Centre at a meeting of the executive and directors held recently.

The club has already put in a considerable amount of work on the Melrose-Chelsea site. With the co-operation of the Parks Board and School Board the grounds are being filled and levelled so that there will be proper drainage at all times.

Members of the executive have spent a considerable amount of time visiting other community clubs throughout the city, and it is expected that tentative plans for the clubhouse will be drawn up shortly.

The club's finance committee also is hard at work and is getting organized for a drive for funds which will probably get underway about June 15th.

An official of the new club stated that the new name selected, East Kildonan Recreational Centre, was chosen because they wanted to emphasize to the public the club was there for all people of the area and not just for two or three groups.

SPRING TEA POSTPONED

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Elmwood Winter Club has cancelled its Spring Tea until the building is finished in the fall.

The draw will be held on June 7th in the clubrooms as previously planned.

1973/1956

New Recreation Centre Reports Much Progress

August 1956

The East Kildonan Recreational Centre, formed four short months ago, has been very active in its efforts to bring the residents of East Kildonan a recreation centre that all will be proud.

The Finance Committee is going ahead with the Building Fund canvass for funds. The residents already called on have been most generous and it is hoped the remainder of the canvass will be equally successful.

The Building Committee recently turned over to a group of architects the job of turning out sketches and plans for the Centre's building. It is felt that construction of this building will commence in September.

The grounds have been surveyed and with the assistance of the East Kildonan Engineering Dept. fill will be made available in the near future.

The East Kildonan Kiwanis Club's Boys and Girls Committee is going ahead with plans for the installation of tot lot equipment on the grounds.

The Social Committee has been active in lining up activities for the fall season. Lack of a building, however, has forced them to curtail their activities somewhat. A fall tea is being planned for early October and a giant corn roast in the near future.

E.K. Group Plans Recreational Centre

Plans for a new recreational centre on Melrose and Chelsea avenues were put before East Kildonan council Tuesday night.

Jim Foubister, president, and George Perks, vice-president of the East Kildonan recreational centre committee, gave details of the proposal, which includes an ice and hockey rink to start with,

followed by the building of an auditorium with stage and dressing rooms and showers in the basement. It is hoped eventually also to have a library at the centre.

Council agreed to the project subject to approval of the plans committee.

Council learned that five houses on Linden avenue have more than one family, contrary to the zoning bylaws. A petition on the subject was received at the last council meeting at which time an inves-

tigation was ordered.

One of the residents appeared before council and stated that all the occupants in the house were using the same kitchen facilities. Mayor G. N. Suttle told him that the way council interpreted the act at present he had nothing to worry about.

In other cases it was decided that where it could be shown that there had been a contravention of the bylaws action should be taken.

The Time And Place For Yo-Yo

Thursday is the third day for the Free Press yo-yo classes, and next week the big contest starts.

So don't miss out, kids! Meet the champs in your own neighborhood, and learn the tricks that can win you the grand prize — a new bicycle — and many other wonderful prizes.

Here are the times and places for Thursday's classes:

4.00 p.m.—Safeway supermarket, St. Vital and St. Mary (St. Vital); Jones' Pharmacy, St. Mary's and Niverville (Norwood).

4.45 p.m.—Safeway supermarket, Marion and Braemar; Park Pharmacy, Elm Park road and St. Mary's (St. Vital).

5.30 p.m.—Safeway supermarket, St. Mary's and St. Anne's (St. Vital); John's Store, Horace and Youville (St. Boniface).

6.15 p.m.—Shop Rite, Provencher and LaFleche (St. Boniface)

THREE CITY AIR CADETS GOING TO ROYAL ROADS

Three Winnipeg air cadets have been selected under the Regular Officers' Training Plan to attend Royal Roads in Victoria where all three will study engineering. They are: Frank Johnson, 126 Cordova street; Kenneth McLean, 185 Lanark street, and Don Cundall, 91 Atlantic avenue.

SCHOOL OPENS

WAWANESA, Man. (Special) — The public and high schools opened here Aug. 29. H. L. Williams remains as principal, with Miss H. Hampton as assistant. Enrollment is expected to exceed 150.

October 1956

Recreational Centre Marks Sod Turning With Street Dance

The East Kildonan Recreational Centre celebrated its official sod-turning ceremony Saturday night with a giant wiener roast and sing-song.

The block between Chelsea and Bronx on Watt st was closed to traffic and some 500 residents, most of whom danced in the streets, watched Mayor George Suttie turn the first sod.

The proceedings opened with the singing of "O Canada", led by Doug Allan of the Elmwood-East Kildonan Y.M.C.A., accompanied by accordion music.

George Perks, vice-president and chairman of the planning and building committee, acted as chairman in the absence of Jim Foubster, president, in the early part of the evening.

He introduced Mayor Geo. Suttie, Councillor Bruce Hodie, Murdoch Galbreath, Dave Brown, and others.

Gordon Phillips, vice-president and chairman of the social committee, assisted by the ladies' auxiliary and their president, Mrs. Anne Brownlee, took charge of the arrangements for the event.

The first unit to be constructed will provide a meeting place for residents of the municipality and dressing room for this winter's activities.

In addressing the large crowd

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October 1956

Recreational Centre Marks Sod Turning With Street Dance

(Continued from page 1)

Mayor Suttie said, in part: "These fine and desirable things do not just happen of their own accord. Behind the scenes there must be a power, a driving force working for the good of others. That power, that drive, that force, is the executive with the help of all the club members."

"Now we have a new club ready to go to work, we are pleased with it and proud of the people responsible for its existence. On behalf of the Council of East Kildonan I want to tender our sincere thanks and appreciation."

Following the sod-turning ceremonies Mayor Suttie lit the giant bonfire which burned long after the activities had ceased.

OFFERS SERVICES

GUELPH, Ont. — A man in Madrid, Spain, has written a bookseller here offering his services as a Spanish translator. The writer said he would like "to spend a long season in Canada to study the methods used in your libraries."

CC FEVERLY

Melrose Park —

November 1985

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November
19 1985

by Vienna Badiuk

Every Wednesday afternoon the women's auxiliary of Melrose Park Community Centre meet at the club, 480 Kimberly Avenue.

They sew sweat pants.

They plan social functions.

They bake pies.

They discuss the logistics of the upcoming Christmas craft sale.

In total, each of the 20 women on the auxiliary spend a minimum of eight hours a week in projects such as these.

These women have a goal.

It is fund-raising for the re-development and upgrading of the community centre.

The Melrose Park Community Centre was built in the early 1950's. It is located immediately west of the public lane, west of Watt Street and south of Kimberly Avenue.

Melrose, like other community centres in the area, was constructed by the original club members supplying volunteer labour, and raising funds for materials costs. Limitations imposed by the use of volunteer labour, and financial restrictions left certain areas of con-

struction and planning incomplete. In spite of these restrictions, the building was reasonably well built.

"But now, it is more than 30 years old and is outdated," said Cindy Riddell, auxiliary spokesperson.

"The main part of our facility is in the basement. We want to pull that out of the basement and bring it upstairs."

Based on 1985 registration, Melrose Park provides programs for 537 participants.

Thirty five organized sport teams play under the Melrose Missiles name.

The problems which the centre currently faces, as detailed by the community centre members are as follows:

- Only the basement area can be utilized by the general public to change skates. This creates the dangerous problem of climbing stairs with skates on.

- The two stairwells from the basement are located at the same point and have a common wall. They are not large enough to accommodate normal traffic, and

would be a disastrous bottleneck should emergency evacuation of the basement arise. Obviously, two people would have a difficult time passing each other. A panic situation would mean instant disaster.

- The two stairways from the basement are located at the same point on the building exterior causing further safety problems.

- The washroom facilities are located in the basement. The facilities are inaccessible for the disabled and difficult to reach for the elderly. They are also inadequate in number and size on many occasions.

- The canteen is located in the basement with accessibility problems resulting.

- The canteen has no cooking facility. The cooking facility is located on the main floor. This is inconvenient and causes serious safety problems when cooking facilities are needed.

- The six dressing rooms in the basement are served by a dead end corridor. This is a serious fire safety problem.

- The fire door from the

basement dressing rooms to the common area opens directly in front of the canteen door resulting in an obvious safety problem.

- The canteen drop door and fire door to dressing rooms have a conflicting swing patch. When the canteen is opened, the fire door is propped open because of this. The door then serves no purpose.

- The main floor is two steps up from ground level limiting its accessibility.

- The design of the main floor produces two small areas instead of one large area. This limits the size of functions.

- The main access, from the main floor to the basement, is also the main access from outside, to the basement. On busy nights, there is a serious traffic problem in this area.

- The building is a fire hazard. There are a number of building code violations that are outlined in Al Leader's report. The architect's report was reviewed by the City of Winnipeg Fire November 2, 1984. Their Fire Inspection Report confirms

DOVE & CIRCLES

itching to grow

November 1985

the immediate need for changes.

- Layout of the facility is poor. The hockey rinks should be placed to provide a adjacent shelter. The trailers now provide a temporary solution at best.

- Drainage in the area is poor. Most spring run off flows along a shallow ditch west of the clubhouse. The basement floods frequently.

- The electrical utility shed is deteriorating.

- The sports equipment-storage area is separate from the clubhouse. Fortunately

this area has not been broken into and equipment stolen.

- Parking space is very limited. This is especially a problem when the church lot, south of the center, is being used by the church members.

- The rinks are not designed to accommodate anything other than hockey. Rinks that could be converted to another use, tennis for example, in summer months would be preferred.

- There is no playground equipment at the centre.

"There are serious problems with the current facili-

ty. Largely, these problems stem from inadequate financing at the club. The facilities were developed as they were needed, and when they could be afforded. These problems must be addressed now," Riddell stated.

The proposal being put forth by the community centre is an addition to the front of the building, renovation to the main floor north and south as well as the basement area.

Total cost is pegged at \$250,000.

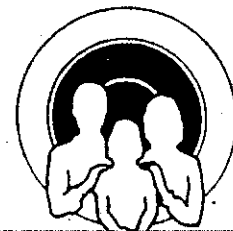
Towards that total the

community centre has pledged \$50,000 and the province has guaranteed \$75,000.

At the Tuesday, November 26 meeting of the East Kildonan-Transcona community committee, the centre will be asking the city to fund the rest of the \$125,000 necessary to complete the project.

Encouraged by the support shown by local councillor Anne Jorowski (Miles Macdonell) as others, Riddell stressed that what is now needed is financial backing.

"Next year is the centre's 30th anniversary. It would be nice to have our anniversary party in our new facility," she said.



NEW FACCESS

Children and Families
Belong Together

December 1985

by Wanda McConnell

Melrose Community Centre could receive about \$80,000 from the East Kildonan-Transcona sub-committee on parks and recreation towards the cost of financing their expansion project.

Representatives from the community centre appeared before the community committee at its regular meeting November 26 to request \$125,000 in financial assistance for the project, estimated to cost \$250,000.

The sub-committee agreed

to advise the civic properties department to update its 1984 estimate of the cost of upgrading the community centre. A figure of \$75,000 has been included in the civic properties budget for at least the last two years. In 1986 dollars, that estimate is more

likely to be about \$80,000. Councillor Don Mitchelson (Henderson Ward) told the Melrose representatives.

The revised figure from civic properties is to be in the hands of the committee on recreation, culture, and social services in time for its

December 9 meeting, when it will make a decision on whether a grant should be approved and if so, how much. That committee will then forward its decision to city council for final approval.

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Long overdue

December 1985

continued from page 1

To further accommodate the community centre, the sub-committee agreed that rather than including the revised figure in its capital estimates, which aren't approved until late February, that they would ask for the money as a first draw against the East Kildonan-Transcona 1986 land dedication reserve account, a quicker route to obtaining funds for the project.

In an interview with **The Herald** Councillor Anne Jarowski (Miles MacDonnell Ward), said the councillors agree that Melrose should have been upgraded long ago, but because the city has been in a restraint period, grants for upgrading have been put off.

"Melrose has been waiting years for this money, and has been putting up with a great many deficiencies in the meantime," she said. "They want to know how much longer they are going to have to wait."

The councillor praised Melrose Community Centre, which has 35 organized sports teams playing under the Melrose Missiles name. "It's a large well-used community centre. I always see such a wonderful camaraderie. The children and adults are there together. Too often the parents just drop their children

off, but at Melrose you see lots of parents. And you know, that's the secret to their success."

The money, Councillor Jarowski and Melrose representative Russell Malkokse agreed, would really only bring the building up to the minimum safety standards.

Malkokse said the civic properties estimate was earmarked to make changes to the building to eliminate the fire hazard, with no additional upgrading. He said the basement has six changing rooms running off a dead-end hallway. One of the first priorities of the project is to add a second stairwell and convert the six dressing rooms into two larger ones.

With the additional funds — \$50,000 from the community centre, and \$75,000 from the provincial government's Community Assets Program, the club will add a 3,700 square-foot banquet hall, main floor kitchen and canteen, washrooms and skate change area. In all, said Malkokse, the changes will serve to eliminate general use of the basement.

Funding from the city, province and club will only bring the total to around \$200,000, councillor Jim Ragsdill said at the meeting.

"Where are you going to get the other \$50,000?" he asked.

Malkokse told the committee that Melrose has applied for a Section 38, federal government make-work project grant, which would amount to about \$28,000. He said he was confident the remaining \$20,000 could be raised by the community centre.

The newly expanded building could be rented out to generate some income, he told the community committee.

Dave Dollis, a member of the sub-committee on parks and recreation, also assured his fellow committee members that Melrose would likely have no trouble finding \$20,000. He cited a great deal of enthusiasm within the community centre, and said that with a canvas of the community to solicit funds, bingos, and hall rentals, he "can't see this city ever having to come up with a penny more than your grant."

And, as a last resort, Malkokse said, the centre would also be willing to scale down their project to eliminate the possibility of a debt. He said the community centre had originally hoped to totally rebuild their facilities, but found the cost, about \$600,000 too high to ever hope to succeed. Instead, they have settled for a more modest expansion and renovation.

Melrose's half-century milestone



Photo by Bernice Pontanilla

Melrose Park's Connie Thiessen, left, and Susan Carson look for family members in old hockey team photos. Melrose is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a party on Sept. 16.

Club celebrating anniversary with big party on Sept. 16

By Bernice Pontanilla
Staff Reporter

A fresh coat of white paint, from floor to ceiling, on the walls of the main hall is just one way Melrose Park Community Club is celebrating its 50th birthday.

The second way is with a big party.

"Everyone's welcome to come," said Melrose president Susan Carson. "It's all free, except for the social, and we have a live band performing in the afternoon."

Melrose Park's 50th anniversary party takes place from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, and features pony rides, face painting, hot dogs and an inflatable bouncer for the kids.

For the adults, there is a silent auction, pig roast and beer gardens planned and, for the evening, a \$5-per-ticket social at 8 p.m.

Carson, who has been a member of the club for more than 25 years, said Melrose's history is full of examples of community members coming together to expand the club several times over.

"The amount of volunteer labour that went into starting this club in 1956 was astronomical," said Carson, adding they still have the original minutes from those meetings.

"It was all volunteers that came and built this by

sections."

Today Melrose is a hub of activities, with soccer and hockey playing prominent roles.

But the club is also the home of Manitoba Volleyball's outdoor summer league, the dressing centre for Miles Macdonell Collegiate's Buckeyes football team and the home of an affordable children's summer camp and seniors arts and crafts space.

Melrose's treasurer and full-time caretaker Connie Thiessen said the club is her second home, as she spends the same amount of time in both her home and the club.

"My kids are here every night of the week," said Thiessen, who painted the entire main hall and added she has a few little projects still to go. "It's why I got involved, for my kids."

Thiessen started off volunteering for bingo, one of Melrose's main fundraising activities, then worked her way up to the executive and, since 2002, has been the club's full-time caretaker.

The husbands of both Carson and Thiessen grew up going to Melrose Park and their children have grown up there too.

Thiessen's two youngest children play their hockey out of Melrose, while Carson's did up until the 1990s.

Both said they hope many people, especially new residents with kids, come out and enjoy the festivities.

"I think both of us will be here until the day we die," said Thiessen, as Carson nodded.

Melrose Park is looking for donations for the silent auction. If you can donate, call 669-0518.