

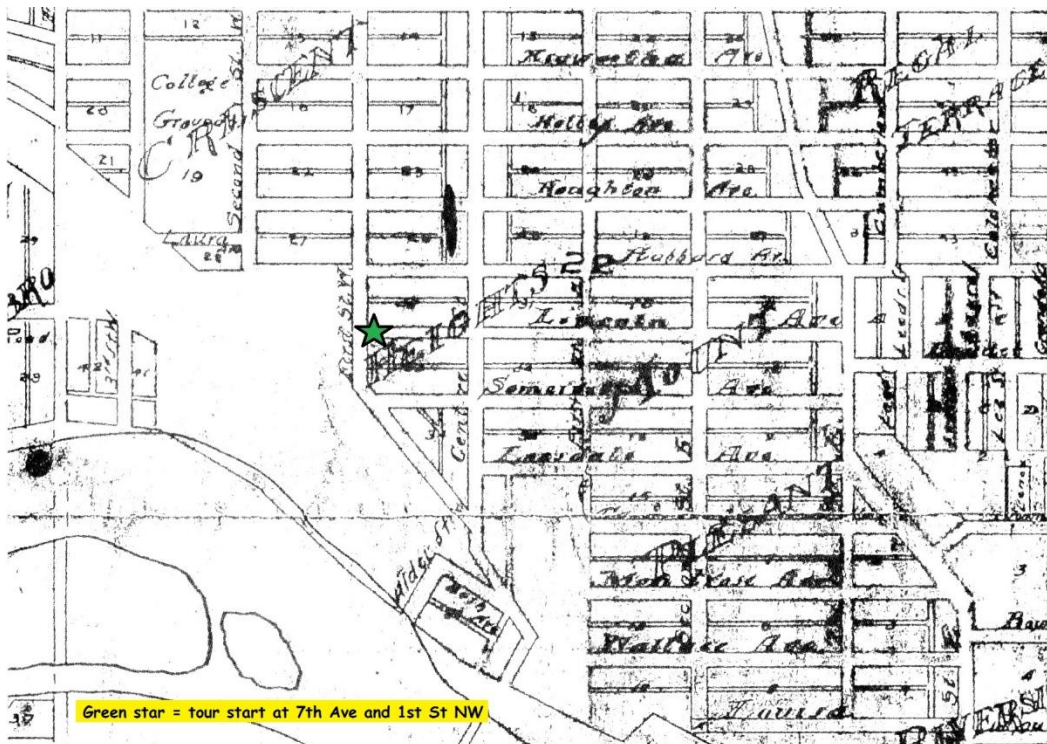
Early Calgary Street Names

In 1904, the city of Calgary replaced most of its colorful street names downtown with numbers, a process which had first begun in 1893.

But in 1910, the policy was revisited, at least for the new suburbs then being annexed. (Those suburbs are now considered "inner-city".) That year, the City Engineering Department produced a new map containing street names for all the city suburbs, some of which had originated with the developers of those suburbs. During 1910, some of the names actually made it onto city sidewalks, and the Lincoln Avenue stamp on 7th Ave and 1st St NW is a perfect illustration.

Very shortly after that, though- in 1911- 160 residents of Crescent Heights petitioned the city with a request that street numbers rather than names be used there. Perhaps they were concerned about more spelling errors! The aldermen acceded, and alderman J.G. "Gravity" Watson further opined that "if it is the intention to change the names of the streets there, I think it should be done all over the city". And so, official city policy soon after reverted to that of 1904, although there were neighborhoods with many exceptions, even then.

Later on, in the post-WW2 era, street names could once again be seen- this time in the new "baby-boom" suburbs- and the naming continues to this day.



Here's the 1911 Herald article describing the Crescent Heights petition against named streets, and the aldermanic reaction.

NUMBER ALL STREETS WITHIN CITY LIMITS

This Is Recommendation of Council—Accept the Resignation of Lathwell—Requests For Grants Are Made by Local Institutions

Ald. William Ross, of ward 2, is the new chairman of the legislative committee. He succeeds Ald. W. T. D. Lathwell, who resigned because of the pressure of private business, and whose resignation was accepted by the council last night.

Ald. J. G. Watson was the first suggested by Ald. Broeklebank. Ald. W. Ross objected, saying ward 2 should have a representative as chairman of some committee and mentioning the fight he had made to secure the chairmanship for Ald. Lathwell at the first of the year. He suggested the appointing of a chairman pro tem until a new representative was elected in ward 2.

Alderman Ross Selected.

Alderman Garden moved that Alderman Ross himself, be the chairman, and Alderman MacDonald seconded this motion.

"Alderman Ross—"I object to this, because it puts me in the light of seeking the position, when I was merely looking after the interests of ward 2."

Nevertheless he was selected, Alderman Broeklebank withdrawing the John Gravity Watson motion, and the latter gentlemen supporting Mr. Ald. Ross.

"If it is the wish of the council I prefer that Alderman Ross be appointed," Alderman Watson said.

Crescent Heights Petition.

A petition from Crescent Heights, asking that the streets be numbered, designated by numbers instead of names, was read. It contained 160 names of ratepayers on the heights.

Alderman Watson—"If it is the intention to change the names of the

streets there, I think it should be done all over the city."

Alderman Ross moved that the Crescent Heights subdivision have the change in the designating of streets made. The motion carried. The commissioners will consider the using of numbers instead of names on every street in the entire city.

Requests for Grants.

Several requests for grants of money were referred to the finance committee. Among these was a request for \$500 from the horse show, a request from the Salvation Army for a grant for the prison gate, Women's rescue and Children's home, and a request from the Calgary board of trade for the regular \$2,000 grant.

L. G. MacDonald, secretary of the Regina Dominion exhibition, which will be held in that city next summer, asked the city to send a civic or district display. The commissioners will consider this matter.

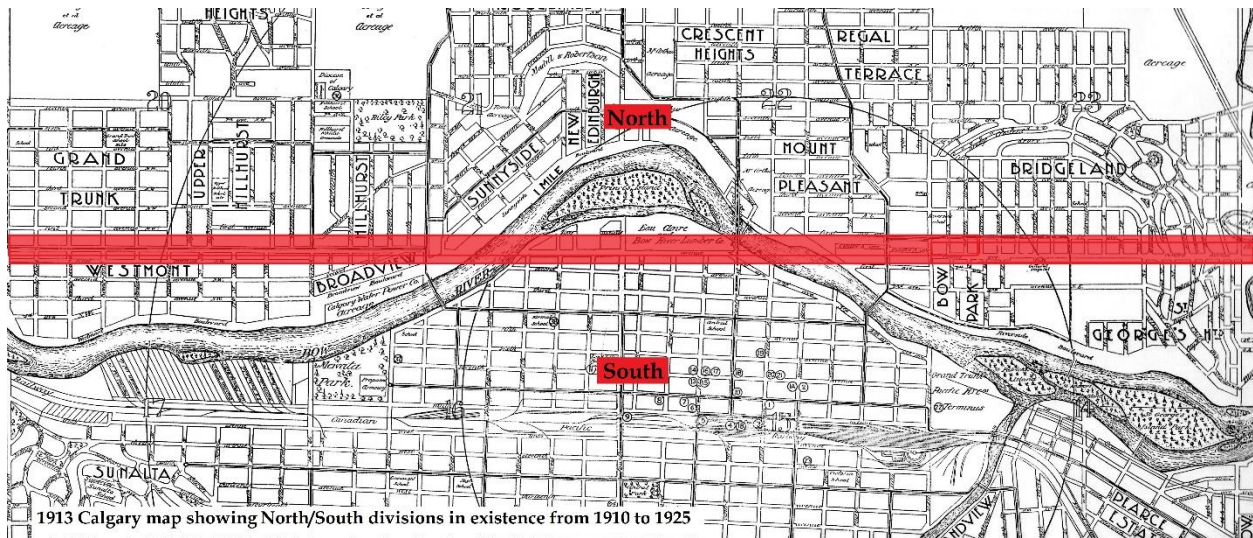
Wm. Loyery & Co., made application for the purchase of some property in East Calgary, facing south on First avenue east, a portion of which will have to be reclaimed from swamp land, for a factory site and trackage necessary. This was referred to the commissioners.

John Reid and Son want to start a furniture factory here and asked for information regarding sites, etc.

A Pickle Factory.

A. Polsky, of Portland, is anxious to start a pickle factory here and wants the city to provide him with two acres for growing the vegetables necessary for the pickles and a site of 100x100 feet for the factory. The commissioners will deal with this, too.

Not only were most of the street names removed- except where terrain or other circumstances made numbers impractical- but it was decided to move the north/south divider north of the Bow. This meant that parts of Kensington and Riverside/Bow Park, for example, were henceforth to be considered part of southwest and southeast Calgary respectively. Kensington Road became Centre Avenue, and there was a Centre Avenue in Bridgeland as well.



This state of affairs was confusing, but persisted for a surprising length of time. Finally, in 1925 at the request of the postmaster, some of the street names began to return. In Kensington, the avenues south of Centre/Kensington Road were given new names which saved the city the task of completely renumbering those streets north of Kensington Road. Alderman Peter Turner-Bone- a Scotsman- was tasked with producing new Scots names for the avenues south of Centre Ave in Riverside/Bow Park. One of the oldest street names in the area- Meredith Road, an 1891 CPR name- was then reintroduced.

(See Jun 23 1925 newspaper clipping below.)

Avenues Are Named In Sections of the City

Numerical Designations and Such Suffixes as South-West and Northeast Eliminated in Westmount and Broadview Sections of City by Decision of Council on Monday Night.

Certain avenues in Westmount and Broadview sections of the city, also in what is known as the McDonald estate, are to be changed from numerical designation and such suffixes as southwest and northeast, to names as a result of the decision of the city council on Monday night, acting on the recommendation of the commissioners.

Considerable confusion has resulted in the post office affairs as a result of the former designation of the streets and avenues in these localities, and it is thought that the new names will do away with these difficulties.

Following is the list of the changes adopted in Westmount and Broadview, with the former name of the avenue stated first and followed by the new name:

- Centre Ave. W.—Kensington Road
- First Ave. S.W.—Westmount Rd.
- Second Ave. S.W.—Bowness Road
- Third Ave. S.W.—Broadview Rd.
- Fourth Ave. S.W.—Herchermer Road.
- Westmount Boulevard — Bow River Boulevard.

The following list shows the changes made on the McDonald Estate:

- Centre Ave. E.—McKenzie Road
- Second Ave. S.E.—McLean Road

- Fourth Ave. S.E.—McFarlane Rd.
- Four-A Ave. S.E.—McPherson Rd.
- Blackfoot Trail—Blackfoot Trail.
- Seventh Ave. S.E.—Malheur P.

Other new names were suggested by the commissioners for Riverside and Bow Park, but Alderman Turner Bone objected to what he termed such hybrid names as Marburn Road, Marlock Road and Marvale Road, declaring that they were neither Scotch nor anything but mongrel and meaningless. The council decided to allow him to submit some new names at a later meeting.

CROSSE AND BLACKWELL HAVE NEW QUARTERS

Crosse and Blackwell, Limited, one of the oldest grocery houses in the world, which was established in 1706, has moved into larger premises at 43 Front street, Toronto, Ont. The new home of this firm was formerly occupied by the firm of Perkins Inc., one of the oldest grocery houses in Canada.

The move to larger premises by Messrs. Crosse and Blackwell is timely evidence of the confidence which this old British house places in the outlook of Canada's expansion and is regarded as a tribute to the satisfactory development of the firm's business in the Dominion.

A September 1925 Herald clipping- below- mentions the names selected for Riverside/Bow Park. Also appearing below is a photo of an old sidewalk section found in the area. It had been poured in 1913 when what's now McDougall Road was considered southeast Calgary. City crews later (inelegantly) attempted to rectify matters by pouring asphalt on the "east" indicator.

In the Riverside and Bow Park districts, previously designated as the southeast district, the avenues will be named as follows:

Centre avenue, west of Sixth street east, will be known as Marsh road.

Centre avenue, east of Sixth street east, will be known as Murdock road.

First avenue southwest, which lies west of Sixth street east, will be known as Meredith road.

Second avenue southeast, which lies both east and west of Sixth street east, will be known as McDougall road.

Cut Out "Southeast" Designation

All the streets in the Riverside and Bow Park districts will be designated as northeast instead of southeast and will keep the same numbers as at present.

Under the plan, numbers on houses situated in the above-mentioned districts will be changed but numbers on houses on the avenues will not be changed.

It is expected that the changes will be made within the next month.

