

## Road Names have History

Until 1909, when the Great Northern Railway was rerouted and the train made occasional stops at the Ocean Park marker, anyone wanting to come to Ocean Park had to go via the New Westminster bridge (built in 1904), the Old Yale Road, Johnston and Crescent Roads and then by the Ocean Park Road. The latter had the added complication of proceeding through several farmers' properties, which meant that farm gates had to be opened then shut behind the travellers.

Early roads in the community were given the names of local residents. (Note: often roads did not extend the lengths they do today so different sections of what is today the same road were given different names). In 1957, municipal ordinance was passed to change street names to numbers. With that decision, a visible sign of our history was lost.

13 Ave. - 'Sanford' (from 128 St. to 131 St.) - after Rev. A. M. Sanford, O. M. Sanford and O. Mclean Sanford who all had cottages on it.

13A Ave. - 'Downey', (west off Bergstrom, 136 St. - after the Downey family who lived on that road.

14 Ave. - 'Lowewood' (from 130 St. to 132 St.) - after Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lowe and the Hazelwoods. Members of the Lowe family have resided on the property since - son, Maurice and Anna Lowe, grandchildren, Bernard Lowe and Diana Fader.

14 Ave. - 'Desmond' (west off Bergstrom).

14A Ave. - 'Darwin' (from 128 St. to 130 St.) - after Dr. Oliver Darwin who built a home here in 1927 - a noted botanist and educator.

14A Ave. - 'Ferndale' (from 126A St. to approx. 127 St.)

14B Ave. - 'Howard' (from 128 St. to 126A St.) - after Mrs. Jessie Howard, who built the first cottage on it. Her daughters Hazel Laronde and Connie McKeigan grew up and raised families in O.P.

15 Ave. - 'Giblin' (from 128 St. to 126A St.) - after George Giblin, First World War veteran, his home was called 'Seaforth Cottage'.

15A Ave. - 'Horner' (from 128 St. to the 1,001 Steps - named after John Horner, who originally owned waterfront acreage up to Stevenson.

15A Ave. - 'Avon' (from 130 to 131 Streets).

16 Ave. - 'North Bluff'.

18 Ave. - 'Sylvan' (from 128th St. to Ocean Park Road). In the beginning, it only went halfway down its present length, then the kids had to make their way through the bush to school.

20 Ave. - 'Stokes', before that 'Matthiessen'.

22 Ave. - 'Urquhart' (from 128th St. to Ocean Park Road).

23 Ave. - 'Griffin' (from 128th St. to Ocean Park Road).

24 Ave. - 'Sunnyside'.

127 St. - 'Welch' (from 15th to 14B Ave.) - named after Dave and Alice Welch. Son, Don and Marj still reside in the area.

128 St. - 'Stevenson' (from 12 Ave. to Mud Bay) - named after Ben and Emelia Stevenson, pioneer settlers

128A St. - 'McArthur' (from 14B to 12th Ave. - named after Dougal McArthur, building supervisor of community hall.

129 St. - 'Milliken' (from 14B to 12th Ave.) - named after Rev. Robert Milliken, member of the original Syndicate [of land owners] and trail builder.

129A St. - 'Tuttle' (from 14B to 12th Ave.) - named after Dr. Aubrey

Tuttle, Principal of St. Stephen's College, Edmonton, whose cottage was at the foot of the road.

128B St. - 'Taylor' (from 14B to 12th Ave.) - after Luther W. Taylor, principal of Grandview High School of Commerce, a cottage owner.

130 St. - 'Broatch' (from approx. 18th to 12th Ave.) - after Thomas Broatch, road foreman, who cleared many of the roads. Members of this family still reside in the area.

131 St. - 'Olympic' (from 16th to 12th Ave.) - really 'Olympic View Road', because the Olympic Mountains, USA could be viewed from there.

132 St. - 'Wright' (from 24th to 28th Ave., Oliver).

132 St. - 'Orchard Road' (from 16th to Marine Drive - after T. B. Lee's hazelnut orchard that ran down from 16th to the bluff.

132B St. - 'Creelman' (from Marine Drive to the bluff).

136 St. - 'Bergstrom Road,' also 'Gordon', after John and George Gordon, who are marked as landowners on a 1910 map.

125 St. - 'Cotton Drive' (from 128 to Ocean Park Rd.) - after early Ocean Park resident, real estate agent, notary, Peter Cotton.

'Christopherson Road', (at the foot of 24th Ave.), named after a pioneer family who still reside on the family property.

Ocean Park has 'road ends' that run to the bluff and down to the railway property. There has always been speculation that perhaps someday these 'road ends' could be used as access to a promenade along the beach front. Maybe our early residents were looking to the future when they decided to keep the road ends.

by Betty Kendall, Anne Helps and Ed Fader

## The Ocean Parker Story

Founded in 1992 by Sue Gentry and Marie Kessler, our paper was published monthly for seven years by a team of volunteers, and financed through ads from local businesses. The paper started out with 12 pages, but had expanded to 20 for the final issue in September 1999. Ed Fader, who joined the team as the desk-top publisher for the second issue, worked on each paper over all those years. It has been his technical skill and eye for pleasing layout that helped make the Ocean Parker a special paper. Our locally based articles, and eclectic range of topics, gave the community a unique look at itself.

The same team of volunteers was intrigued by the 75th Anniversary Celebrations planned for the Ocean Park Community Hall. We suggested that for one last time we could add to the celebrations by publishing a commemorative Heritage Edition. With Anne Helps as liaison to the OPCA 75th Celebration Committee, we recruited some of our earlier writers. They have interviewed local residents and researched the local history. Ed Fader, 'a local lad', has been invaluable in guiding us in touching base with long term residents and in checking the information gathered.

We realize that we are only scratching the surface of the history of the area. In spite of that we hope that we have begun to capture the great sense of community that early residents felt about Ocean Park. May the coming celebrations, and our efforts, give us all that same pride and 'sense of belonging'.

- Shirley Stonier, Co-editor



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