

East Kildonan Becomes a City July 1 1957

These details are from the Elmwood Herald of June 27 1957.

The legislation making East Kildonan a city passes the legislature on April 2 1957.

The day of the official ceremony took place on July 1 1957. East Kildonan's citizens decided to make July 1 the day of the official proclamation and a time of celebration. The chair of the celebration was Tom Sutherland.

The events began at 10:15 AM on the school grounds of Miles Mac, 200 grade 4-6 students performed a gymnastic display. At 11:00 a track and field meet was held with East Kildonan's junior and high school students. A bike and trike-decorating contest was also held at 11:00 on the grounds of Bronx Park. This was followed at 12:30 by a little league baseball game at Bronx Park involving a team from Portage La Prairie and a team from Bronx Park.

The grounds of Melrose were the scene of a Miss East Kildonan contest; 3 judges judged nine young women in their bathing suits. The winner was a 17 year old Miles Mac student, Georgina Raines of 232 Munroe Avenue. Miss Raines along with the 2 runner up princesses took part in the parade that evening.

The grounds of Miles Mac were the scene of a horse show, over 75 horses performed in a variety of events. The horses and riders were from all over Manitoba. Refreshment were available to the crowd for the 2-hour show.

The parade began at 6:30 PM at the corner of Melrose (Kimberly) and Watt and made its way south on Watt to Montrose (Larsen) and then traveled west on Montrose to Henderson Highway. The parade then made its way north on Henderson to the parking lot of the A & P store, the present site of the Salisbury House next to Lord Wolseley School. There were 27 floats, 50 road vehicles, 4 bands and over 50 horses from the horse show participating.

A stage was set up on the parking for the official ceremonies and a 1000 chairs set up. The overflowing crowd of 6,000 watched the one-hour ceremony. The official proclamation was handed over by Premier Doug Campbell to East Kildonan's Mayor George Suttie. All 6 East Kildonan Councillors spoke along with Premier Campbell and Mayor Suttie spoke on the history and events leading to that evening's ceremony. Fireworks refreshments and an outdoor dance rounded out the day's events.

The special edition of the June 27 1957 Elmwood Herald were full of details and facts and figures from East Kildonan's past

Population of East Kildonan in

1911 – 1486
1914 – 3150
1923 – 7254
1924 – 7222 after North Kildonan left
1931 – 9047
1941 – 8350
1951 – 13144
1955 – 15812
1956 – 18588
1957 – 20000+

East Kildonan represented 3.08% of the population of Greater Winnipeg in 1931. In 1956 East Kildonan represented 4.63% of Greater Winnipeg's population.

The area of East Kildonan was 8000 acres, 12.5 square miles in 1914. After North Kildonan separated it was 2071 acres 3.23 square miles.

Miles of Paved Roads and Miles of Concrete Sidewalks

	Paved Roads	Concrete Sidewalks
1921-	.5 miles	.2 miles
1931 –	3.47 miles	2.0 miles
1941 –	3.47 miles	10.5 miles
1946 -	3.47 miles	14.75 miles
1951 -	3.47 miles	34.80 miles
1955 -	20.5 miles	41.57 miles
1956 -	31.5 miles	51.63 miles

In 1956 there were 47.9 miles of roads in East Kildonan.

Miles of watermains and number of fire hydrants in East Kildonan

	Watermains	Hydrants
1914	0	0
1921	4.5 miles	70
1931	7.5 miles	75
1941	9.5 miles	182
1946	16.5 miles	184
1951	23.1 miles	288
1955	31.4 miles	385
1956	35.4 miles	431

In 1914 there were only 2 sewers in East Kildonan from Henderson to the river on Oakview and Hazel Dell.

The first meeting of the first school in East Kildonan took place February 7 1881. The school was called Kildonan East School and was located at McLeod and Henderson; there were 16 students and the total budget for the year was \$46.00. By 1901 it was called East Kildonan School. On December 7 1903 a special meeting of ratepayers debated the

hiring of a second teacher for the school. The budget for the East Kildonan School Board in 1914 listed revenue of \$34,161.00, expenditures of \$34,138.00. In June 1957 there were 3450 students in the East Kildonan School District.

June 1957 Student Population

Grade 1 – 440 students

Grade 2 – 425 students

Grade 3 – 405 students

Grade 4 – 425 students

Grade 5 – 390 students

Grade 6 – 270 students

Grade 7 – 325 students

Grade 8 – 270 students

Grade 9 – 210 students

Grade 10 – 162 students

Grade 11 – 121 students

Grade 12 – 39 students

All of the Grade 7,8,9 students 805 in total were located in 24 classrooms at Melrose Junior High, now the north wing of Miles MacDonell Collegiate. In 1956-1957, Melrose occupied all 18 classrooms in their own school but 6 rooms in the upper level of the south wing of Miles MacDonell. In 1957-1958 Melrose had 860 students but now in only 20 classrooms, an average of 43 students per class as Miles Mac needed 4 of the classrooms in the south wing.

All of the Grade 10,11,12 students, 322 in total, went to Miles MacDonell Collegiate.

The original police and fire department was located in an old building on Watt St. now the site of Holy Eucharist Church. In July 1955 the 15 police officers and the 9 firefighters were combined into a new department The Public Safety Division. In July 1957 it consisted of 32 men. The Division had 2 radio-equipped cars, an ambulance and 2 fire trucks.

The first police chief was Thomas Radley he served from 1914 –1917. Thomas Coley followed him from 1917 – 1946. G. J. Russell served from 1946 – 1951. Chris Einfield was East Kildonan's last police chief he served from 1951 – 1974.