

Money Matters

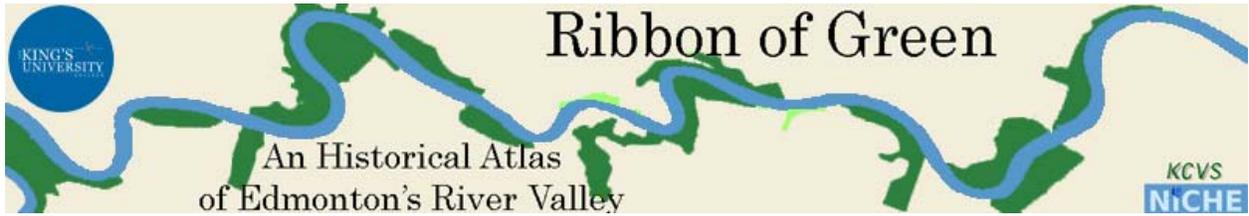
Written by Katie Wallbaum

Although there are many claims as to what makes the world “go round,” such as love, money, or truth, one thing is certain, money does make the world of park development “go round.” In the years leading up to the joint Capital City Recreation Park project between the city of Edmonton and the province of Alberta, there was one word on the mind of all those involved: money. Discussions of budget and finances for the park determined that the province would put forward at least \$35 million towards the project. But inflation and park maintenance costs caused concern amongst city councillors who did not want the burden of paying for this park to fall on the city tax payers. The signing of a formal agreement was continually pushed back as the two governments debated over terms and voiced concerns about inflation. Mayor William Hawrelak hoped that by the conclusion of park construction that the province would not have a problem with “writing the cheque” for the approximately \$35 million park.¹ Premier Peter Lougheed was quick to remind both the *Journal* and the mayor that “in every sense of the word the park needs to be, and will be, a joint venture.”² Eventually a redraft of the proposed park agreement was settled and the province agreed that they would base their “\$35-million contribution on the 1974 dollar, which [would] provide for inflation.”³ When it comes to a nine-mile, multi-million dollar park, it is difficult to step up and take responsibility for the accrued cost. After much deliberation

¹ “Province may increase park fund,” in the *Edmonton Journal*, December 6, 1974.

² Ibid.

³ “Yurko agrees to redraft park agreement with city,” in the *Edmonton Journal*, December 13, 1974.



and negotiation the city of Edmonton and the province of Alberta came to an agreement and the

Capital City Recreation Park was in the works.