

Negotiations Necessary

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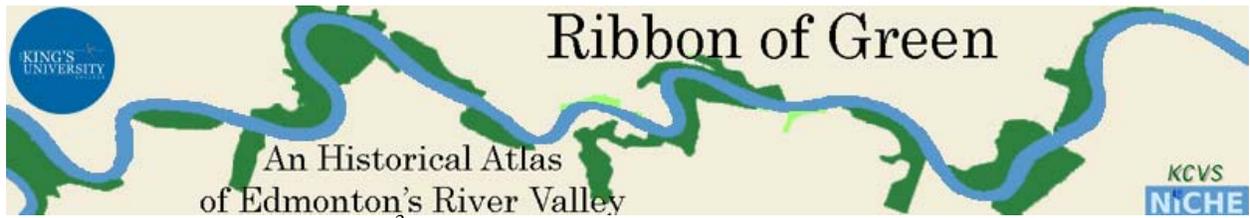
Acquiring land for park purposes is easier said than done. This is especially true when dealing with large corporations who own the land one is trying to acquire. The city of Edmonton found this out when dealing with Imperial Oil in the 1975 while trying to acquire land for Gold Bar park as part of the Capital City Recreation Park project. The process began in 1975 with a letter from the city's chief engineer on the project, W. Solodzuk, to D.F. MacLauchlan regarding the city wanting to purchase land from Imperial Oil's property. The letter reads:

“the exact acreage would be determined by an on the ground survey and the Department offers to purchase for the sum of \$1,000 per acre. The area is designated for siting the Gold Bar-Rundle Bridge and will permit access to the Gold Bar Park... In view of the substantial investment for the facility and because of the definite benefit accruing to Imperial Oil, your company is requested to consider donating this portion of the land to the Park.”¹

The process was slow and involved many meetings with Imperial Oil executives. It seemed that the land would not be acquired without certain conditions. One meeting with R. Bailey, an Imperial Oil official, showed that the city would need to meet certain stipulations, such as providing a fence and camera system for security purposes.² A long process of meetings and negotiations eventually led to Imperial Oil agreeing to donate the land for Gold Bar Park, as a 1976 letter states: “on behalf of Imperial Oil Enterprises Ltd., we are very pleased to confirm the donation of 8.3 acres of land in the northwestern corner of our Refinery property, for use by the

¹ Letter from Solodzuk to MacLauchlan, December 22, 1975.

² Author unknown, Notes from meeting with R. Bailey, February 26, 1975.



Capital City Recreation Park.”³ The letter goes on to state that the project was one of the most

ambitious in Canada and Imperial Oil was pleased to play its part.

³ Letter from W. Zukowsky to Hon. D.J. Russell August 12, 1976.