

What's in a (Street) Name

Stories from "Heritage II – A History of East St. Paul" book
Submitted by Mayor Shelley Hart



What's your address?

You're asked this question many times throughout your life and your answer often requires you to spell it out, but have you ever given any thought to how your street got its name in the first place?

The East St. Paul 75th anniversary book, *Heritage II – A History of East St. Paul*, paid homage to our street names. The aim of investigating and listing the names was done for several reasons; to mark the 75th anniversary, clarify some misconceptions about the origin, history and meaning of the names, and leave our future generations with invaluable historical information.

When this research was done 27 years ago for the history book, many sources of information were used including the *Mosaic of Winnipeg Street Names* compiled by J.B. Rudnyckyj, the library, personal contacts and letters to developers. Although researched extensively, it is possible that some information may not be entirely accurate.

Some street names hold significant historical meaning while others were simply chosen by developers for no particular reason. Here is a selection of some of the names researched.

Agar Avenue: named for Harry Agar, the CPR Station Agent at Birds Hill during the early 1900s

Allison Street: named for W.T. Allison, Professor at United College and UofM in the 1920s. He was also the Literary Editor of the Winnipeg Tribune.

Binda Road: named after a longtime Birds Hill family.

Birds Hill Road: originally named King Street, later named Birds Hill Road as it led to the village of Birds Hill. The village was originally named Roseneath, but renamed after Dr. Curtis James Bird who lived and practiced medicine in the area. Dr. Bird was later a member of the first Provincial Legislature of Manitoba and its first speaker.

Chase Drive: named after Ray and Linda Chase, the first people who purchased a lot in the sub-division.

Connaught Avenue: named after the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada.

Coronation Avenue: named at the time of the coronation.

Dorcon Drive: named by the developer after the first syllables of Doreen and Connie Kruszelnicki, daughters of the property owner.

Foxgrove Avenue: named for the fox farms previously on these properties.

Gorham Street: named for Walter Gorham, Secretary-Treasurer of St. Paul (1911-1916) and East St. Paul (1916-1923). The inaugural meeting of the RM of East St. Paul took place on January 4, 1916, at 2051 Roseneath Avenue, the home of Mr. Gorham.

Hoddinott Road: named for Edwin Hoddinott, early settler, 1883. The road originally led to the farm of Edwin Hoddinott.

Rebeck Road: family name of early residents of Birds Hill and East St. Paul.

Silverfox Place: this property was formerly a silver fox ranch.

Sperring Road: family name of early residents (1902) and longtime Reeve.

Sulkers Avenue: family name of residents Leonard and Margaret who market gardened the property from 1936-1971.

Wenzel Street: family name of early residents (1904).

It is apparent by just these few names that so much of our history is prominently displayed right at the end of our streets.