

Varsity View Yesterday & Today

Historical Overview



An aerial shot of Varsity View and the University of Saskatchewan (1927)

The history of Varsity View began during Saskatoon's first economic boom. Limited development of the area began around 1912, when the first home in the area was built by a prominent businessman and real estate owner, Richard M. Bottomley. His land, known as Bottomley Addition, was bound by College Dr. to the north, Osler St. to the south, Cumberland Ave. to the east and Clarence Ave. to the west. Early on, other areas in today's Varsity View were identified as University Annex, Varsity Park, and College Park.¹ All of these areas exploited the proximity of the University of Saskatchewan by using it as a marketing tactic and including a reference to the university in the neighbourhood's name.² Varsity View began as, and still is today, an ethnically diverse neighbourhood with many scholastic institutions.

While the area we now call Varsity View had been annexed before 1913, development along Elliot St. and College Dr. did not begin until the 1920s, and the rest of the area was not substantially built until the 1950s.³ In later years, the four subdivisions in Varsity View were combined into two areas, Albert and Brunskill, most likely after the two schools in the area. The subdivision is now known as Varsity View, and it is bound by College Dr. to the north, 8th St. to the south, Cumberland Ave. to the east, and Clarence Ave. to the west.

The following section is merely an overview of the neighbourhood. More information about Varsity View and the City of Saskatoon can be found by researching the references provided, and contacting the City Archivist, Saskatoon Heritage Society and the Local History Room at the Saskatoon Public Library.

¹ William P. Delainey and William A.S. Sarjeant, *Saskatoon: The Growth of a City*, Saskatoon: Saskatoon Environmental Society, 1974. pg. 26.

² Don Kerr and Stan Hanson, *Saskatoon: The First Half Century*, Edmonton: NeWest Press, 1982, pg. 79.

³ Ibid. pg. 123.

Historic Buildings



Albert School

Albert School, named for School Board Trustee member Albert James Sparling, was opened in the spring of 1912.⁴ Designed by David Webster and constructed by Shannon Bros. and Cassidy, Albert School was one of nine schools built in Saskatoon between 1907 and 1914.⁵ The gothic style of architecture is typical of many schools built during this time period. The school was built to the same plans as the former King Edward School that was demolished in 1979. Albert School would have suffered a similar fate, as the school board opted to close the building due to decreased enrolment. However, due to the actions of local residents, Albert School was saved from demolition, but closed its doors as an elementary school in 1978.⁶ From 1978 to 1982, the building was leased to the Saskatoon French School and in 1985 became the Albert Community Centre.⁷ The centre is home to many cultural and community activities. The building was designated as a heritage property in September, 1983.⁸

Board of Trade Office

The Board of Trade Office, built in 1907, currently resides at 1022 Temperance Street. To look at the inconspicuous residential dwelling, one would never imagine it was the former office of the Saskatoon Board of Trade Commission, the most aggressive promoters of Saskatoon during that era. At its original location on First Avenue, Board of Trade member F. Maclure Sclanders even went so far as to tend a garden located outside of the office that consisted of semi-tropical plants such as tobacco, hemp and cayenne peppers to convince newcomers of Saskatoon's mild climate.⁹ The building was moved six feet closer to the street in 1909, and in 1920 was relocated to Temperance Street.¹⁰ The building was designed by Neil Stewart and constructed by Osborn and Brooks in a classical, opulent style with four pilasters on each side of the structure, multiple windows and a metal roof.¹¹ To better function as a residential dwelling, a kitchen and bedroom were added, two windows were removed and the roof was replaced.¹²

⁴ Lori Leach, *Saskatoon's "Boomtime" Schools: A Look at their Past*, Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, 1983.

⁵ Elizabeth Diamond, *Saving Our City: Saskatoon's Protected Heritage Structures*, Saskatoon: Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, 1994, pg. 2.

⁶ Len Roberts, *Albert School Back In Service as Community Centre*, StarPhoenix.

⁷ Municipal Heritage Properties: Albert School, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.saskatoon.ca/org/development/services/heritage_properties.

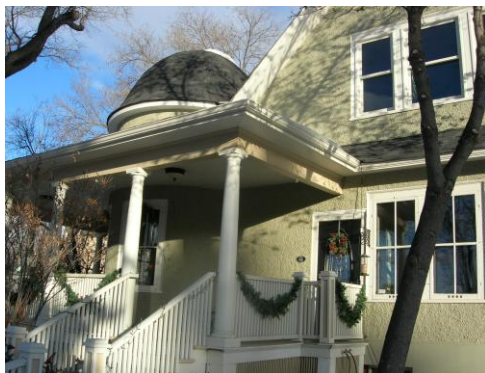
⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Elizabeth Diamond, *Saving Our City: Saskatoon's Protected Heritage Structures*, Saskatoon: Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, 1994, pg. 12.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.



Bottomley House

The stately Queen Anne Revival style house located at 1118 College Drive was the original home of Richard M. Bottomley. Bottomley, a real estate investor from Yorkshire, England, was pivotal in establishing the neighbourhood of Varsity View. His home, constructed in 1912, was one of the first houses built in the area.¹³ Built during the economic boom, this house reflects the opulence and optimism that was rampant from 1910-1913. The house has an irregular roof pattern, a bell-cast tower and magnificent columns, all surrounded by a wrap-around veranda.¹⁴ This elegant home was recognized as a heritage property on April 24, 2006.

1110 Elliot Street: Teacher's Hostel

The teacher's hostel located at 1110 Elliot Street was built prior to 1913 by Thomas E. Farley and designed by Thomson and Crockart.¹⁵ The structure was built near the university to house young female teachers who were from out of town and were attending Normal School.¹⁶ When the Normal School opened a new building on Avenue A (now Idylwyld Drive), the residents of the hostel were relocated to be closer to the school. From 1925 to the mid 1970's, 1110 Elliot Street served as a lodge for the staff of Emmanuel College and the hostel was renamed the *Emmanuel Annex*.¹⁷ Today, the house is a private residential dwelling and an integral part of Saskatoon's history.

Prominent People

The streets of Varsity View are named after many of Saskatoon's prominent businessmen. Bottomley Avenue, Munroe Avenue, Wiggins Avenue and Elliot Street were all named after men who had significant influence over the development of Saskatoon. The stories of Richard M. Bottomley and Hugh Edwin Munroe are of particular interest.

Bottomley Avenue – Richard M. Bottomley

Bottomley Avenue is named for Richard M. Bottomley, an influential developer of Varsity View.¹⁸ Bottomley and his partners W.T. Wiggins and W.D. Cowie established the Royal Realty Company in 1911.¹⁹ Their company developed properties such as Mount Royal, Broadway Addition (now

¹³ Municipal Heritage Properties: Bottomley House, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.saskatoon.ca/org/development/services/heritage_properties.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ *Elliot Street House Played Important Role in Anglican History*, Saskatoon Sun, December 28, 1997.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Municipal Heritage Properties: Bottomley House, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.saskatoon.ca/org/development/services/heritage_properties.

¹⁹ Saskatoon Phoenix, Industrial Number, September 25, 1912.

Nutana), Highbury Park (now Hudson Bay Park), and Bottomley Addition (now part of Varsity View).²⁰ During the boom of the 1910-1913 period, Bottomley is said to have invested \$1.5 million in Saskatoon.²¹



Munroe Avenue – Hugh Edwin Munroe

Munroe Avenue was named after Hugh Edwin Munroe, “one of the most permanent developers of Saskatoon, and one of its most ardent sponsors.”²² Born in Ontario, Munroe graduated from the College of Medicine at McGill University and practiced in Saskatoon in 1904.²³ After travelling briefly overseas, Munroe returned to Saskatoon in 1905 and became an active member of the community. He was a member of the first city council, chairman of the City Hospital Board from 1905-1914 and Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan from 1931 to 1936.²⁴ Munroe also served with the Canadian Army and received the Order of the British Empire for his services in World War I.²⁵

Not only are the streets named after prominent businessmen, a few resided there as well. Elliot Street, being one of the first streets to develop in Varsity View, was the home of Frank S. Dunn, Nathan Adilman, Leon Prescesky and Senator Sidney Buckwold, influential people who helped shape Saskatoon.

1128 Elliot Street – Frank S. Dunn

Frank S. Dunn was known as the owner of the largest men’s clothing store between Winnipeg and Vancouver.²⁶ In 1926 he built his home at 1128 Elliot Street.

1137 Elliot Street– Nathan “Nat” Adilman

Originally from Kiev, Ukraine, Nathan “Nat” Alidman came to Canada and began his career as a fur trader in North-western Ontario.²⁷ In 1919, Adilman arrived in Saskatoon and went into partnership with his brothers, Max and Harry.²⁸ They opened Alidman’s Men’s Department Store and, in 1937, Nat became the sole owner.²⁹ Famed architects Webster and Gilbert designed Alidman’s house and contractor W.A. Peberdy built the home in 1931.³⁰

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Municipal Heritage Properties: Bottomley House, *Retrieved September 26, 2011 from* <http://www.saskatoon.ca/DEPARTMENTS/Community%20Services/PlanningDevelopment/DevelopmentReview/HeritageConservation/HeritageProperties/Pages/BottomleyHouse.aspx>

²² Saskatoon Phoenix, Harvest Edition, August 1914.

²³ N.F. Black, *The History of Saskatchewan*, Regina: Saskatchewan Historical Co., 1913, pg. 879-880.

²⁴ Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governors, *Retrieved May 23, 2008 from* www.saskarchives.com/web/seld/2-00.pdf.

²⁵ John Hawkes. *The Story of Saskatchewan and its People*, Chicago: Clarke, 1924.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ruth Miller, *Jewish Life and People in Saskatoon at Mid Century*, Saskatoon History, 2001.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Star Phoenix, December 1931.

1138 Elliot Street – Leon Prescesky, Senator Sidney L. Buckwold

Leon Prescesky was the manager of Saskatoon Contracting and the owner of Home Comfort Fuel.³¹ In 1931, he built what was described as one of the highest price per square foot homes in the city and the house is noted for being “far beyond ordinary.”³²

From 1949 to 1963 Senator Sidney L. Buckwold resided in the house.³³ Buckwold was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and moved to Saskatoon with his parents.³⁴ He graduated with a degree in Commerce from McGill University, and came back to Saskatoon to work for the family company, Buckwold Limited.³⁵ Buckwold served in the military, was elected as an alderman of Saskatoon and served as Mayor of Saskatoon for eleven years.³⁶ On November 4, 1971 he was appointed to the Senate and served there until his retirement in 1991.³⁷

1011 University Drive – Evan Alan Hardy

Evan Alan Hardy moved into this residence in 1931. Hardy lived in three residences in the Varsity View area,³⁸ but spent the majority of his years in Saskatoon in this residence on University Dr.³⁹ Born in Sioux City, Iowa, Hardy moved to Saskatoon in 1917 and accepted a position as an instructor in the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan.⁴⁰ In addition to teaching students, Hardy also taught former soldiers how to operate farming machinery.⁴¹ Later in his life, he accepted a position with the United Nations as an Advisor to the Government of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) for the Food and Agriculture Organization.⁴²

In 1983 the site was purchased for the new location of the Ronald McDonald House. The former residence was demolished to make way for a three storey, 13-bedroom facility designed by architect David Thane.⁴³ The sod-turning ceremony occurred on September 28, 1984 and the house opened for guests in September of 1985.⁴⁴ The Ronald McDonald House still operates at this location today. It serves as a temporary residence for parents of children receiving medical treatment in the city.⁴⁵

³¹ Leslie Clark, Prescesky Property, Meewasin Valley Authority, August 1983.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ University of Saskatchewan Archives, University Degrees: Honorary Degree Recipients, Retrieved May 23, 2008 from www.usask.ca/archives/history/hondegrees.php.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Hardy also lived at 826 10th St. E., and 1037 Aird St.

³⁹ Henderson's Saskatoon Directory, 1931-1945.

⁴⁰ Mark W. Hislop, *Evan Hardy— a Pioneer of Modern Agriculture Technology*, Liason, Fall 1987, pg. 4-6.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Garry Klein, *McDonald House Ready for Guests*, StarPhoenix, September 13, 1985.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

Varsity View Today

Overview



This section of the Local Area Plan provides a statistical overview of various demographic and development data for Varsity View and makes comparisons to city averages and other neighbourhoods where appropriate. Most of the information gathered is from Statistics Canada's Federal Census of 1996 and 2006. Other data is from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.⁴⁶

Population Distribution and Trends

Population

Varsity View had a population of 3,445 in 2006, which is a 1% increase since 1996 (3,410). In 2006, Varsity View residents aged 20-29 comprised nearly 27% of the neighbourhood's total population, compared with the city average of 17%. This is most likely attributable to the close proximity of the University of Saskatchewan. Individuals under the age of 20 and between the ages of 35-49 were consistently lower in Varsity View than

⁴⁶ Although steps have been taken to ensure consistency and without error, the City of Saskatoon cannot guarantee the accuracy of the data.

Saskatoon's proportion. Individuals above 75 are four times more prevalent in Varsity View than in Saskatoon. This higher proportion is likely due to the presence of Luther Tower, a senior's complex located in Varsity View.

Age	Population	
	1996	2006
0 to 4	130	120
5 to 9	125	95
10 to 14	110	105
15-19	220	260
20 - 24	645	375
25 - 29	390	475
30 - 34	280	235
35 - 39	235	145
40 - 44	225	205
45 - 49	160	155
50 - 54	115	200
55 - 59	100	120
60 - 64	110	105
65 - 69	80	50
70 - 74	85	80
75+	385	390

Varsity View's population distribution has remained fairly consistent from 1996 to 2006.

Aboriginal Population

In 2006, Varsity View had a relatively small Aboriginal population at 3% of the neighbourhood's total population.⁴⁷ The overall Aboriginal population accounts for approximately 10% of Saskatoon's population. The comparison of Varsity View's Aboriginal community to Saskatoon's Aboriginal community demonstrates in 2006 - 33% of Aboriginal individuals residing in Varsity View were between the ages of 20-24, whereas the city average was 10% for the same age bracket.⁴⁸ This high proportion is consistent with the high numbers of residents among this age bracket in Varsity View's total population due to the proximity of the University of Saskatchewan.

Ethnic Diversity

In 2006, the majority (80%) of Varsity View residents identified their mother tongue as English. Other ethnicities identified during the Census include Chinese, Ukrainian, German and French.⁴⁹ Varsity View's Ethnic Diversity Cumulative Index was 1.1, slightly higher than Saskatoon's index of 0.92.⁵⁰ The Ethnic Diversity Cumulative Index is a calculation used to compare the concentration and diversity of ethnic groups in neighbourhoods throughout the city. Higher index values represent populations considered to be more ethnically diverse. An accurate comparison to data from previous years is not possible because Statistics Canada has adjusted this self-assessment question over the years.

Household Size

The average household size in Varsity View in 2006 was 1.8 occupants per household, slightly lower than the 1996 average of 1.9.⁵¹ This average is below Saskatoon's 2006 average household size of 2.4 occupants per household. The total number of Varsity View households in 2006 was 1,865, up 5% from 1,775 in 1996.

⁴⁷ City of Saskatoon (2006). *2006 Census Aboriginal Profile*

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ City of Saskatoon (2010). *Neighbourhood Profiles 10th Edition*

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

Family Structure

Of the 1,865 households in 2006, 35% were one-family households, an increase since 1996.⁵² Non-family households account for the remainder of the household composition with 65%.

Table 1. Varsity View and Saskatoon Household Composition, 1996 to 2006.⁵³

Family Structure	2006	Trend (1996 to 2006)	Saskatoon (2006)
One-Family Households	35%	Steady (> 1%)	62%
Multiple-Family Households	0%	-	1%
Non-Family Households	65%	Steady (> 1%)	37%
Lone Parent Families	5%	Steady (2%)	12%

Education

Education Level

Table 2 outlines the education level achieved by residents in Varsity View over the age of 15. 89% of residents in Varsity View over the age of 15 hold a high school certificate (or equivalent), trade certificate or diploma, college certificate or diploma, or are a university graduate compared to the citywide average of 79%.⁵⁴

Table 2. Education Levels in Varsity View, 2006¹

Highest Level Attained for those Aged 15 Years and Older	# of People	% Population 15 & over	% Saskatoon
No Certificate/Diploma/Degree	365	11%	21%
High School Certificate or Equivalent	850	27%	27%
Apprenticeship/Trade Certificate/Diploma	180	6%	10%
College/Non-University Diploma	335	11%	17%
University Diploma or Degree	1,395	45%	25%

Brunskill School/Kinsmen Children's Centre

Brunskill School is an elementary school located in Varsity View. In 1985 it was joined by the Kinsmen Children's Centre (KCC) (see 'Community Spaces' section). Enrollment at Brunskill/KCC has fluctuated slightly since 1995. School enrollment was at a low in 1995 at 385 students, and since

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

then increased to 424 students in 2003.⁵⁵ In 2010 Brunskill/KCC had 416 students enrolled. In 2006, there were 200 children between the ages of 5-14 residing in Varsity View.⁵⁶

Bishop Murray High School

Bishop Murray High is a Catholic high school located in Varsity View. Enrolment increased from 145 students in 1995 to 229 students in 2005. Enrolment reached a low in 1997 at 126 students.⁵⁷ In 2010, there were 226 students enrolled at Bishop Murray High. In 2006, there were 260 students between the ages of 15 and 19 residing in Varsity View.⁵⁸

University of Saskatchewan

University students residing within Varsity View has increased over the years, but experienced a slight decrease from 802 in 2009 to 754 in 2010.⁵⁹

Income Levels

Average Family Income

The average family income in Varsity View has remained relatively consistent from \$58,580 in 1996 to \$55,357 in 2006.⁶⁰ In comparison, Saskatoon's average family income has increased by 33%, from \$48,297 in 1996 to \$64,254 in 2006.⁶¹

Poverty

A commonly used definition of poverty is the Low Income Cut-Off measure (LICO). LICO is useful as it incorporates both absolute and relative views of poverty; it is calculated based on an average family's expenditure on essentials such as food, clothing, and shelter. A family is considered below the LICO if it spends more than 56.2% of total income on these essentials. People below the poverty line tend to rent rather than own housing and are often one parent families.⁶² In 2006, 15% of families within Varsity View were low income. Other mature neighbourhoods, such as City Park have a lower proportion of families below the LICO, at 10%; Nutana has a slightly higher proportion at 13%.⁶³

⁵⁵ Saskatoon Public School Board. *September Enrollments*

⁵⁶ City of Saskatoon (2010). *Neighbourhood Profiles 10th Edition*

⁵⁷ Saskatoon Catholic School Board. *September Enrollments*

⁵⁸ City of Saskatoon (2010). *Neighbourhood Profiles 10th Edition*

⁵⁹ University of Saskatchewan Enrollment Data (2009-2010). *September Enrollments*

⁶⁰ City of Saskatoon (2010). *Neighbourhood Profiles 10th Edition*

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Jackson, Maureen. "Closer to Home: Child and Family Poverty in Saskatoon." Community – University Institute for Social Research, University of Saskatchewan, 2004. http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/docs/pub_doc/health/Jackson.pdf.

⁶³ Statistics Canada Federal Census. 2006.

Occupation and Employment

Employment

In 2006, the total population in Varsity View above the age of 15 was 3,125, and 68% (2,110) were considered to be part of the labour force.⁶⁴ This value is comparable to the overall Saskatoon average of 70%.⁶⁵ The employment rate in Varsity View was 63% in 2006, which is slightly lower than the Saskatoon average (66%).⁶⁶

Occupation

In 2006, the Sales and Service industries and Social Science/Education/Government/Religion industries topped the list of occupations of individuals in Varsity View at 22% and 20%, respectively.⁶⁷ The next five major occupations as a proportion of total employment for Varsity View in 2009 were:

- Business/Finance/Administration (13%)
- Trades/Transport/Equip Operators (12%)
- Natural-Applied Sciences (9%)
- Health (8%)
- Management (8%)

Housing

Housing Type

There were 1,870 dwelling units in Varsity View in 2006, including 595 single-family dwellings (32% of total) and 1,275 (68% of total) multiple unit (two or more) dwellings.⁶⁸ In 2006, Saskatoon had 84,405 dwelling units, of which 47,190 (56%) were single-family and 37,715 (44%) were multiple unit dwellings.

Development Density

Varsity View's total gross neighbourhood area is 312.7 acres and its development density is 5.5 dwelling units per acre.⁶⁹ Surrounding neighbourhoods, such as Nutana, have a development density of 7.4 dwelling units per acre, while Holliston has a development density of 4.2 dwelling units per acre.

⁶⁴ City of Saskatoon (2010). *Neighbourhood Profiles 10th Edition*.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

Age of Housing Stock

Varsity View has existed for more than 100 years, making it one of Saskatoon's oldest neighbourhoods. Approximately 55% of the housing stock (1025 dwellings) was constructed before 1960. Following 1960, construction slowed in the neighbourhood, 30% of the housing stock (530 dwelling units) was built between 1961 and 1980. Following 1980 construction has declined⁷⁰.

Housing Affordability

Using the Housing Affordability Index, a number below or equal to 3.00 represents relatively affordable housing; a number above 3.00 represents relatively less affordable housing. In 2006, Saskatoon's index was 3.0; Varsity View's index was 3.80, which suggests housing is less affordable compared to other neighbourhoods.⁷¹ Varsity View is the least affordable when compared to surrounding neighbourhoods such as Nutana (3.70) and City Park (2.60).

Home Ownership

In 2006, 39% of the dwellings in Varsity View were owned (725), and 61 % were rented (1,145). Saskatoon has an overall home ownership rate of 64%.⁷²

Real Estate Statistics

Based on the 2010 Real Estate Sales, the average selling price of a single family dwelling in Saskatoon was \$323,086 compared to \$331,196 in Varsity View.⁷³

Community Spaces



Schools

Brunskill School

Brunskill School is a public elementary school located in Varsity View. It was built in 1951 and named after long-time public school board member William "Cy" Brunskill. The school was the first public school to be erected since 1938 and was designed by John Gilbert of the Gilbert and Webster architectural firm. It was described as one of the most modern schools in Canada and the United States

⁷⁰ Statistics Canada – Federal Census, 2006.

⁷¹ City of Saskatoon (2010). *Neighbourhood Profiles 10th Edition*.

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ City of Saskatoon Assessors Office. 2010 Real Estate Sales

because of its one-storey layout.⁷⁴ Brunskill was also the first elementary school in Saskatoon to have a library,⁷⁵ which is named after Sylvia Birnie, an avid promoter of Saskatchewan academics.⁷⁶ The Kinsmen Children's Centre (KCC) was built adjacent to Brunskill School and opened its doors in 1985.⁷⁷ The KCC is a community centre that provides children with the tools to enhance their mental, physical, emotional and social development.⁷⁸

Bishop Murray High School

Bishop Murray is a Catholic high school located in Varsity View. It originally opened in 1954 as an elementary school, but now serves the community as a school for grades nine through twelve.⁷⁹ The school was named after Archbishop Gerald C. Murray, who was appointed Bishop of Saskatoon in 1934.⁸⁰

Parks

There are four parks in Varsity View: President Murray Park, Cumberland Park, Raoul Wallenberg Park, and Albert Park. Cumberland Park is located at 8th St. and Cumberland Ave. and is the only district park in the neighbourhood. The preservation of the park from development may be the result of the price of corner lots before 1950. Many corner lots served as impromptu parks because of their high price.⁸¹ The three remaining parks are neighbourhood parks. Albert Park is adjacent to the Albert Community Centre. President Murray Park, located on the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Arid St. and Colony St., was named for Walter Charles Murray, the first president of the University of Saskatchewan.⁸² The third neighbourhood park is Raoul Wallenberg Park, located next to Congregation Agudas Israel, a Jewish community centre. The park, originally called Elks Park, was changed by Mayor Clifford Emerson Wright when he granted the Jewish community's request for the area to be named after Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews in the 1940's.⁸³ The four parks in Varsity View occupy 16.7 acres of the neighbourhood.⁸⁴



L-R: President Murray Park, Cumberland Park, Raoul Wallenberg Park, Albert Park

⁷⁴ *Brunskill School Officially Opened*, StarPhoenix, November 3, 1951, pg. 3.

⁷⁵ *Brunskill School Gets First Central Library*, StarPhoenix, November 15, 1960.

⁷⁶ Superannuated Teacher's of Saskatchewan, *Outreach*, Vol. 27 (4), 2005, pg. 5, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.sts.sk.ca/newsletter/Outreach_27_4.pdf.

⁷⁷ Brunskill School, *A History of Our School*, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from schools.spsd.sk.ca/brunskill/history.htm.

⁷⁸ Saskatoon Health Region: Kinsmen Children's Centre, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/your_health/facilities_kinsmen_about.htm

⁷⁹ Sheri Brown and Barbara Tomoporowski, *Foundation for the Future: Saskatoon Catholic Schools 1991-1986*, Saskatoon Catholic Board of Education.

⁸⁰ Catholic Hierarchy, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bmurrayg.html.

⁸¹ Don Kerr and Stan Hanson, *Saskatoon: The First Half Century*, Edmonton: NeWest Press, 1982, pg. 122-123.

⁸² Peter Wilson, *Neighbourhood of Higher Learning*, StarPhoenix, September 7, 2006.

⁸³ Untitled, StarPhoenix, October 8, 1985.

⁸⁴ Varsity View Neighbourhood Profile, City of Saskatoon, 2007, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.saskatoon.ca.

Cultural Centres

Mohyla Institute

Mohyla Institute, named for St. Petro Mohyla, an educationalist and dignitary of the Orthodox Church in Kiev, Ukraine, began operations in Saskatoon in 1917.⁸⁵ Originally located at Victoria Ave. and Main St., the institute moved to its current location on Wiggins to be closer to the University.⁸⁶ Mohyla Institute opened at its current location in August 1965 and since then has operated as a place of residence. It has also “developed courses for studies in Ukrainian literature, history and arts, and has fostered the finest cultural elements and traditions of the Ukrainian people, including folk music, folk dancing, handicrafts and domestic arts and crafts.”⁸⁷

Congregation Agudas Israel

The growth of the Jewish community in Saskatoon after World War II brought about the need for another synagogue in the city. Congregation Agudas Israel began construction on May 15, 1957 and held its first service in 1958.⁸⁸ Sidney L. Buckwold, a member of the Jewish community and Mayor of Saskatoon, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.⁸⁹ The synagogue also served as a community centre and was designed to meet religious, educational and social needs.⁹⁰ It is still used in the same capacity today, enhancing the cultural depth of the neighbourhood.

Sheptytsky Institute

The Sheptytsky Institute on the corner of Wiggins Ave. and College Dr. began construction under the supervision of contractors Shannon Bros and Cassidy⁹¹ in 1950 and was officially opened on August 16, 1953.⁹² However, its beginnings date back to the 1930s. Two previous locations for the Ukrainian, male-only residence existed, but each rapidly outgrew their capacity. In 1945 six lots were purchased on College Dr. where the current residence sits.⁹³ The new building accommodated seventy students, a chapel with a choir loft and seating for 100, and a museum.⁹⁴ The school year 1978-1979 marked the final year of the building as an all-male residence, for in the following school year it was opened to females.⁹⁵ In 1984 the

⁸⁵ *The Saint Petro Mohyla Institute History In Brief*, Mohyla Institute, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.mohyla.ca/history.htm.

⁸⁶ *Ukrainians to Replace Institute*, StarPhoenix, June 25, 1953.

⁸⁷ *The Saint Petro Mohyla Institute (SPMI) Welcomes You!*, Mohyla Institute, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.mohyla.ca/welcome.htm.

⁸⁸ Gladys Rose, *Agudas Israel Synagogue / Jewish Community Centre*, The Encyclopaedia of Saskatchewan, Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 2006, Retrieved from esask.uregina.ca/entry/agudas_israel_synagogue__jewish_community_centre.html.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ *Ukrainian Residence Being Built*, StarPhoenix, July 10, 1950.

⁹² *Sheptytsky Institute History*, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.sheps.ca/Introduction/history.html.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

building underwent renovations and alterations for expansion purposes.⁹⁶ The institute is named for Andrew Sheptytsky who housed Jews during World War II in his home and monastery in Ukraine.⁹⁷

Lutheran Sunset Home

The Lutheran Sunset Home, located on the 1200 block of Osler St., officially opened its doors to residents on June 11, 1955.⁹⁸ The original facility had fifty-eight rooms, and in 1962 an additional sixty-three units were added.

In 1978, after much controversy, the 196 suite Luther Tower opened. When first proposed in 1974, residents of the area petitioned to block construction of the twenty-two storey building due to its height and because some considered high-rises to be unsuitable housing for senior citizens⁹⁹. Free City-owned land near Market Mall was even offered as an alternate location for the tower in an attempt to settle the controversy¹⁰⁰. Following approval by City Council, opposed residents undertook judicial proceedings to block its construction. However, construction was able to proceed after a final appeal bid was rejected by the Supreme Court of Canada in April 1976.¹⁰¹ Today, Luther Tower stands as a landmark for Varsity View as it is visible from many vantage points throughout Saskatoon.



⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Andrew Sheptytsky, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.lvivbest.com.

⁹⁸ LutherCare Communities, *History – 50 Years of Caring*, Retrieved May 26, 2008 from www.luthercare.com/history.html.

⁹⁹ *Opposing factions to meet in hearing on high rise*, StarPhoenix, April 23, 1974.

¹⁰⁰ *Council to offer free city land for high rise*, StarPhoenix, April 30, 1974.

¹⁰¹ *Turbulent times behind Luther Tower*, StarPhoenix, April 1, 1985.