

BLATCHFORD REDEVELOPMENT

TRANSFORMING | EDMONTON

BRINGING OUR CITY VISION TO LIFE



Winter 2013

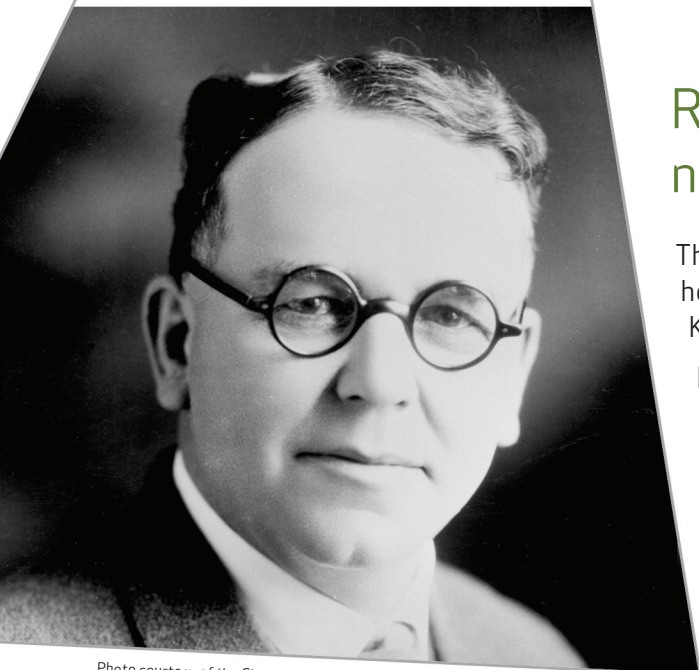


Photo courtesy of the City of Edmonton Archives EA-10-1473

Who was Kenneth Blatchford?

Mr. Kenneth Blatchford strongly believed air travel would one day be an important method of transportation, and he played a vital role in making Edmonton home to the first municipally run airport in Canada.

Blatchford served as alderman for the City of Edmonton from 1922 to 1923, then was elected Mayor for three years. During his time on council, he persuaded the City to purchase the Haggman Farm so that it could become an airfield. In 1926, the City spent \$400 to clear trees from the field, and the airfield officially opened January 8, 1927.

Before serving on city council, Blatchford was a man of many interests and talents. In his younger days he was a popular wrestler at the Opera House on Jasper Avenue, and a self-taught artist. He first made a living selling American newspapers and periodicals, then became a mill operator during the Klondike gold rush before moving to work at the Edmonton Power Plant after the rush. His last profession before running for council was as an insurance broker.

Blatchford felt his own story of starting with little means, and working to become Mayor, mirrored Edmonton's own potential. "I venture to predict, if we could all return in 30 years, we should find a scene of progress beyond our most extreme imaginings," he said at the time.

Redevelopment named "Blatchford"

The mayor who helped put Edmonton in Canadian aviation history books is being honoured. The redevelopment of the City Centre Airport will be named Blatchford, after Kenneth Blatchford.

Blatchford served as Edmonton's Mayor from 1924 to 1926. He played a vital role in making Edmonton home to the first municipally run airfield in Canada in 1926.

"As Mayor, Mr. Blatchford saw the great potential that Edmonton had as a city," said Mayor Stephen Mandel. "The Blatchford redevelopment will be known world-wide for its innovation, and it's fitting that it bears the name of one of Edmonton's great visionaries."

City administration put "Blatchford" forward as the name after the community stakeholder committee recommended it as the new name for the development. The City's Naming Committee approved the recommendation. "The name Blatchford

honours a chapter in our city's history, and it is important we acknowledge our city's history in this project," said Mark Hall, Executive Director for the Blatchford redevelopment.

Naming of other elements of the redevelopment, such as the park, roadways and plazas, will take place as those elements take shape.

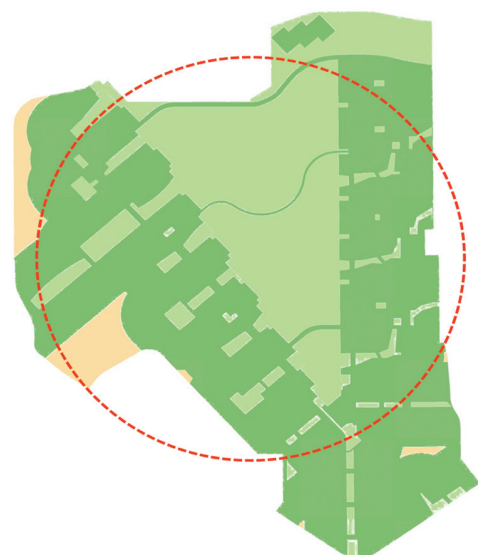


Photo courtesy of the City of Edmonton Archives EA-10-3181-18

Latest project developments

- > The Area Redevelopment Plan received final approval from City Council on May 16, 2012.
- > Perkins + Will continues to advance the redevelopment's Master Plan, which should be completed early 2013.
- > Stantec was selected from the Requests for Proposal to do the preliminary and detailed engineering work, which started in November (2012).
- > The project team is now working on the Blatchford brand and marketing plan.

Great access to green spaces



Residents with direct park access

- 93 % of people within a 2 minute walk of a park
- 7 % of people within a 5 minute walk of a park
- Park areas
- 10 minute walking radius

City moving ahead with acquiring interests

The City continues its efforts to acquire all property interests at the City Centre Airport following Council's approval on October 3rd to move ahead with the expropriation process. This is the next step in carrying out the Area Redevelopment Plan that was approved by Council in May 2012.

"Future steps will be servicing and preparing the land for construction, which can't happen while the lands are being used by the current property interest holders," said Mark Hall, Executive Director for the project. "We estimate it will take up to a year to acquire all the interests, which is why we've begun the process now."

The City is first seeking to negotiate with all parties to resolve the matter. As each party's interest in the airport lands is different, the City is treating each case independently. If a resolution can't be negotiated, then the Expropriation Act of Alberta outlines the process and the legal rights of each party.

About 200 persons or companies have a property interest or right to use these lands, and it is likely those affected will be off the site by late summer 2013. This would allow for phased construction to begin early 2014.

"We are absolutely committed to treating all parties fairly," said Hall.

A date for the closure of the airport has not been set. That will be determined by a Council vote at a future date.

Meet Mark Hall

In mid-October, Mark Hall joined the Blatchford redevelopment team as the new Executive Director.



"This project is so unique," says Hall, who adds it's the project's vision that excites him. "Blatchford is about being different in a better way, and I'm looking forward to the challenge of integrating all of the goals this project aims to achieve."

His career has been dedicated to shaping communities. As a planner, Hall's worked on transportation, suburban land use, and downtown plans. As an Edmontonian committed to living in a mature neighbourhood, he's also aware of the unique challenges that come with developing Edmonton's older areas.

"We want to take what we learn in Blatchford and use it as a model for other developments. This is a tremendous opportunity and I'm excited about how Blatchford will shape our city," Hall says.

Phil Sande, who was Executive Director until his two-year secondment recently ended, remains on the project team in his new role as Manager, Real Estate.

"1927
also marked Canada's
60th birthday.
Festivities included
a parade down Jasper
Avenue (pictured)."



Request a presentation

Are you interested in learning more about Blatchford? Request a presentation for your community group, office team or association by emailing Blatchford@edmonton.ca.

Staying Connected

This is a quarterly newsletter about the Blatchford Redevelopment project. More information about this project is available at:

www.edmonton.ca/blatchford

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