



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

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James Norman Eagleson

(1884-1970)

Mr. James Norman Eagleson was a musician, teacher, composer and writer. He developed and directed the teaching of music in Edmonton public schools.

Eagleson attended Toronto University to obtain a bachelor of music degree in his earlier years. Later, while serving as organist and choirmaster in Mitchell, Ontario, his choir's fine performances were noticed and he was encouraged to accept the position of music director at the new North Bay Normal School.

In 1912, Eagleson left North Bay and arrived in Edmonton where he supervised the musical training in Edmonton public schools for 37 years. During this time, Edmonton public schools dominated the Alberta Music Festival and other competitions for many years. Eagleson was also responsible for introducing progressive modes of teaching music into the classroom.

Eagleson served as a university summer school music director for ten years and an organizer of non-competitive festivals for city schools for six years. In his personal life, he served as organist and choir director at Westminster Presbyterian, Metropolitan United, Norwood Methodist, and Central United churches. He was a member of Masonic lodge No. 7, the Strathcona Legion, and the Mayfair Country Club. His opus on sight singing was believed to be the largest works of its kind when it was written. The work was adopted as a textbook by the Royal Toronto Conservatory.

James Norman Eagleson passed away at the age of 86 in May of 1970.

*Written by; Danielle Ferchoff
August 2013*

CITATION ON FILE

"School Music Supervisor For 37 Years Is Retiring," Edmonton Journal, 31 March 1949. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.

"Prominent musician dies at 86," Unknown Source, 21 May 1970. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.