



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

Merrill Davis Muttart
(1903 -1970)



Dr. Gladys Edith Muttart
(1902 - 1969)



Merrill Davis Muttart was born in Summerside, Prince Edward Island on March 6, 1903 to Sampson Muttart and Lydia Alma Davis. He was one of six children (Arden, Llyod, Verna, George, Merrill, and Una). When the Muttart family moved to Edmonton, Sampson was able to work with his brother Benjamin Muttart in house construction, resulting in the establishment of the Muttart Lumber Yard on 84th Street. In 1931, Sampson moved his family to 7835 – 111 Street, in a community known as Viewpoint, located in the Cromdale neighbourhood of Edmonton. Merrill attended the McDougall Commercial High School where he would eventually meet his future wife, Gladys Bowling.

Much like his father, Merrill Muttart was a successful contractor and businessman, establishing a number of companies in his lifetime, including the M.D. Muttart Lumber Ltd. which became a nationwide enterprise for prefabricated homes and building product. At 23 years old, Merrill had already formed demolition and lumber companies, later expanding and creating companies to provide low-cost housing for families. Following the Second World War, Merrill had formed numerous companies in Alberta and elsewhere in Canada providing affordable homes at a much larger scale.

Merrill Muttart also registered a number of company trademarks relating to his Muttart brand and owned a number of patents related to the homebuilding industry. These patents, commonly invented by one of his employees named Julian C. Hoverland, included plastic and mastic applicators, a trowel, and jamb structures.

In addition to his business ventures, Merrill Muttart also served on governor's' boards at the University of Alberta, Alberta College, St. Stephen's College, and the Alberta Motor Association.

Gladys Edith Muttart (nee Bowling) was born in Stratford, Ontario on August 30, 1902. She moved to Edmonton, Alberta with her parents in 1906 where her father, William Bowling, worked as a painter for the Canadian National Railway.

While attending McDougall Commercial High School, Gladys met Merrill Muttart. The two married in 1927. Prior to her work with Muttart Enterprises, Gladys was employed as a telephone operator and stenographer for Edmonton Public School Board. She later became partner and vice-president of Muttart Enterprise and established the Muttart Foundation.

In 1932, Gladys was diagnosed with diabetes and worked tirelessly for the cause. She helped establish the Canadian Diabetes Association, and in 1954, she became its president and lectured across Canada for three years. She also served as chair and organizing director.

Gladys was a life member of the Y.W.C.A., National Council of Women of Canada, Young Women's Christian Association, Alumni Association of the University of Alberta, and the United Church Women. In 1962 she was made a Serving Sister in the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem by Governor General Georges Vanier for her work for the Canadian



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Diabetes Association and other charitable organizations. She was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick in 1964 for her dedication and support of diabetes research.

Gladys was a strong supporter of First Nations rights and communities. In the 1930s, a totem pole carved by west coast artist Chief Mathius Joe Capilano of the Squamish Nation had been given to Gladys by the local First Nations community for some of her charitable work. The totem pole had stood at the Jasper Place lumber yard until the 1950s when it was given to CFRN owner Dr. G.R.A. Rice. Today, the totem pole can be found in the Royal Alberta Museum.

Among her successful undertakings, Gladys continued with her creative artistic hobbies including painting, writing, and studying lip-reading until her death on November 28, 1969. In 1961, Gladys authored her memoirs, *The Bee and Me*, recording her family's beekeeping adventures in Edmonton between 1906 and 1929. Tim Bowling, Gladys' great nephew, had discovered the memoirs several decades later while cleaning out old boxes. As an inspired author himself, Tim published *The Annotated Bee and Me* in 2010, in tribute to his great aunt.

Edited by Danielle Ferchoff

Citations

Nick Dyjach, Stantec, January 15, 2016. Naming Committee Application.

Billion Graves. Gladys Edith Muttart. Accessed 13 March 2017.

<https://billiongraves.com/grave/Gladys-Edith-Muttart/6411266#/>

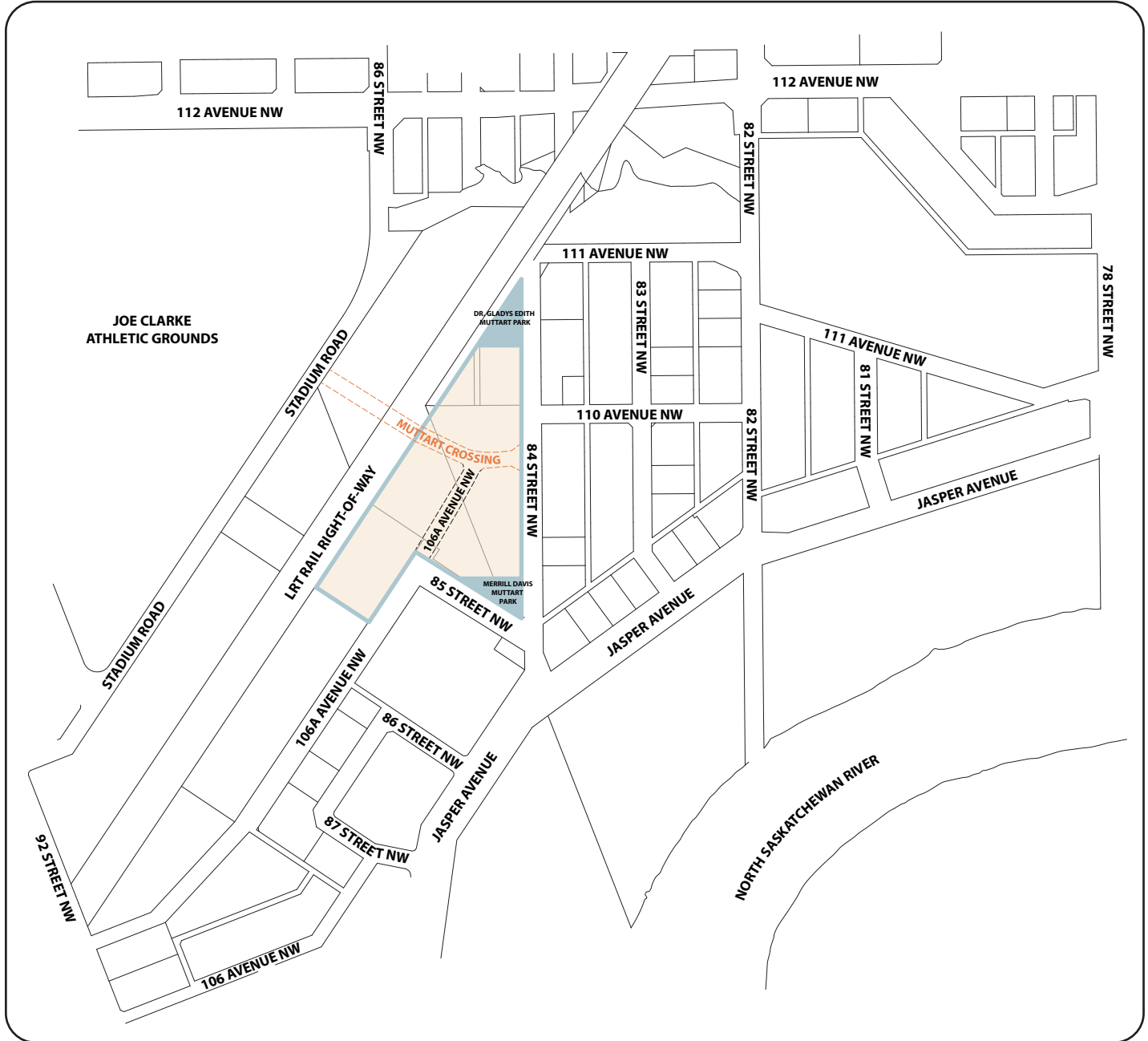
Billion Graves. Merrill David Muttart. Accessed 13 March 2017.

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MUTTART LANDS NAMING

Boyle Street Neighbourhood

January 26, 2016
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