

tax increases that might result from incorporation into Saskatoon. On March 22, 1953, the Association unanimously approved a motion for the formation of the village of Montgomery Place by January 1954.⁴⁸ Shortly afterwards, in May, the City Commissioner of Saskatoon contacted the VLA Regional Office to ask about the possibility of reaching a tax limitation agreement with Montgomery Place residents, so that the neighbourhood could be added to the city.⁴⁹

Negotiations began in the fall. The Montgomery Place Ratepayers' Association wanted assurances from the city administration that services such as street lighting, garbage disposal, road maintenance, snowploughing and bus service would be provided. More importantly, the Association sought a tax limitation agreement with the city to ensure that the Montgomery Place mill rate would not exceed a certain fixed amount. Initially they asked for a maximum rate of 48 mills, the current City of Saskatoon mill rate being 60 mills.⁵⁰ This special agreement was vital, as property taxes

would otherwise soar upon amalgamation to reflect the large Montgomery Place lots.

The tax limitation agreement had to be approved by the Director of the VLA. Regional officials worked hard throughout the fall and winter months, attending meetings of the Ratepayers' Association as well as every meeting between the city administration and the Montgomery Place veterans. In the spring of 1954, the terms of the tax limitation agreement were finally approved by all parties involved in the negotiations. This twenty-five year concession agreement set the Montgomery Place mill rate at either 51 mills a year or twenty percent lower than the current city rate, whichever was lower. The agreement came into effect on January 1, 1955, when Montgomery Place was officially incorporated into the City of Saskatoon.

Conclusion

Beginning in 1945, the VLA fostered the growth of Montgomery Place. The VLA arrangement came to an end in 1971, at which time many non-veterans



Montgomery Place Ratepayers' Association Christmas Party, 1953.