

MONTGOMERY PLACE MEMORIAL CAIRN

1987 - In 1987 two veterans raised the idea of building a memorial cairn in Montgomery Park to recognize our unique community and to honour the contributions of Montgomery Place residents to the Second World War and the Korean War. The idea was presented by Bernard Newman of 3303 Caen Street (built in 1956) and Lewis Winger of 3437 Normandy Street (built in 1960).

At a Montgomery Place Community Association meeting, a small group of residents and friends agreed to form the Cairn Committee. The President of the Community Association, Jim Earle, recruited Glen MacDonald of Ortona Street to chair the Cairn Committee. Michael Molaro of 11th Street West volunteered to join the Committee to add his architectural drafting skills. Other Committee members included : Gordon Dewar, Ruth Murray, Wendel Dent, Fred Hodgkinson, Ivan Bowman, Harold Olson, George Thompson and Ed Price. Dave Scott acted as City of Saskatoon liaison.

1988 - On May 9, 1988 Saskatoon City Council passed a motion " ...that permission be granted to place a cairn commemorating the founding of Montgomery Place in the north-west corner of Montgomery Park. " In the following year the City approved the construction details and exact location of the cairn. The final plans were drawn by Michael Molaro in July 1988. Many of the construction details were worked out between Bernie Newman, Lew Winger and Jim Sabino, the stonemason who had been chosen to build the cairn.

1989 - A community meeting was held on January 26, 1989 when the cairn proposal was endorsed by the Montgomery Place residents who attended. Almost \$1000 was raised at that meeting towards the overall budget requirement of \$9,900. The community fundraising drive pushed forward successfully and work began on the cairn in the spring of 1989.

Many individuals and businesses rallied to support the project. The stonemason, Jim Sabino, was critical to the success of the venture. In theory, he was paid for his work; in fact, much of his time and effort was given voluntarily. Other organizations and businesses that assisted included : Army, Navy & Airforce Veterans, Beverage Central Ltd., CJWW Radio, Cindercrete Products Ltd., Dent Holdings, Estevan Brick, Intercontinental Packers Ltd., Labatts Saskatchewan Brewery Ltd., Lakeshore Nursery which provided landscaping around the cairn, Macdonalds Restaurants, National Stone and Bronze who provided the granite and the original bronze lettering, Ramstead Construction Ltd., Revelstoke Redi-Mix Ltd., the Rent-It Store, Tim Hortons Donuts, Trinity United Church, Weldon's Concrete Products Ltd. And Western Caissons.

On September 10, 1989 a program was held to dedicate the cairn officially. Participants at the service included : the Honourable William McKnight, Minister of National Defence; Ron Fisher, M.P. for Saskatoon-Dundurn ; Roy Romanow, M.L.A. for Saskatoon Riversdale; His Worship Henry Dayday, Mayor of Saskatoon ; Pat Lorje, Saskatoon City Councillor ; Reverend Father Urbanski ; Reverend Arlene Reynolds ; Vic Dubois as Master of Ceremonies ; and Cairn Committee members – Bernie Newman, Lew Winger and Glen McDonald. The important role of the cairn as a memorial to the lives of Canada's returning war veterans was reflected by a Fly Past of Snowbirds aircraft during the opening ceremony. A time capsule, a project with local school children and youth groups, was buried at the base of the cairn.

The dedication attracted a very large crowd of residents and visitors, many of whom signed a guest book which was later donated to the Nutana Legion. A Service of Remembrance is held annually at the cairn on November 11 to honour the memories of those who died to bring peace to our world.