



Naming Committee

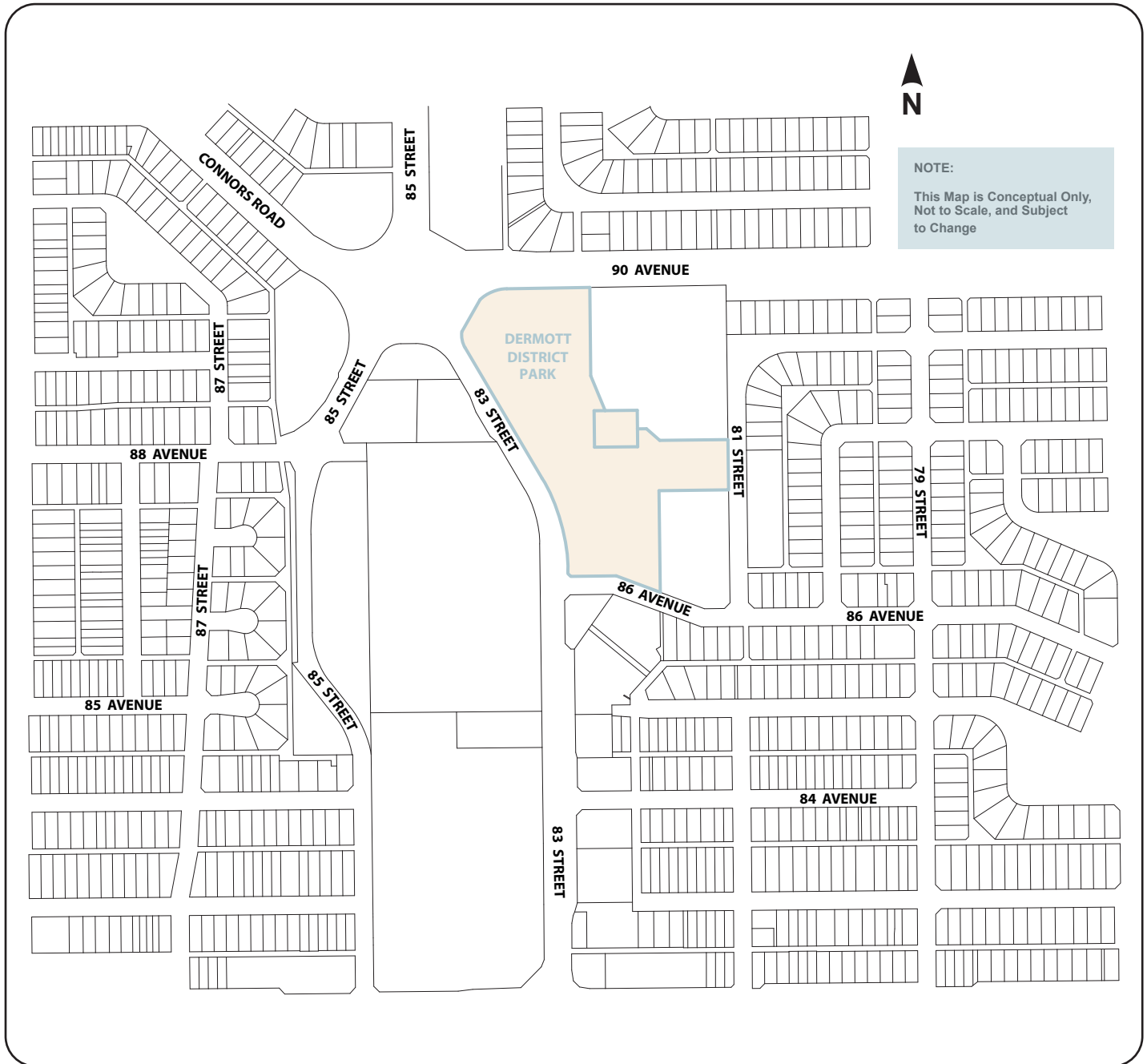
Honouring People and Places in Our City



7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street

Edmonton AB T5J 3P4

Phone: 780-496-6226 Fax: 780-496-6054



DERMOTT DISTRICT PARK

Idylwyld Neighbourhood

December 10, 2013
Naming Committee



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Lona and George Dermott

George Albert Dermott was born in Alsask, Saskatchewan on May 18, 1935 and Lona Lee G. Williams was born in Carlea, Saskatchewan on December 21, 1939. They both grew up in Mirror, Alberta and married on September 5, 1959, at which point they moved to Edmonton. After living in Bonnie Doon for 10 years, Lona and George Dermott purchased their first home in Idylwylde in June of 1969.

George first began coaching sports when he and Lona lived in Bonnie Doon. He was a hockey and baseball coach, as well as the community sports director. When the family moved to Idylwylde, George's interest in sports followed him and he quickly became sports director for the Idylwylde community.

As the years passed, George and Lona both served as President of Idylwylde Community League. George held various positions in the sports world, including President of Federation Hockey, Southeast Zone and the Edmonton Minor Hockey Association. He was Hockey Alberta's Zone 8 Chairman, a Canadian Hockey Representative in 1986 and 1988, and on the Board of Directors for Hockey Alberta until his passing in November of 1999. Lona served as Secretary to the Edmonton Minor Hockey Association and the Millwoods Grizzlies, as well as Director of Operations for the female Hockey Alberta Winter Games Zone 8 and the Alberta Challenge Zone 6.

George Dermott received many awards throughout his years of service to the community. He was recognized with the Edmonton Metropolitan Hockey Association's outstanding contribution to minor hockey award in 1963, awarded with a President's Award from the South East Edmonton Recreation Association in 1980, and received a dedication and leadership award from the Edmonton Federation Hockey Communities in 1981. George was made a life member of the South East Edmonton Recreation Association in 1987 and a life member of the Edmonton Minor Hockey Association in 1994.

Included in the Dermott's extensive volunteer work is the Sport Central charity that began when a group of likeminded individuals, including George Dermott, wanted to ensure that all children would have the opportunity to participate in sports, despite the cost of equipment. In 1991, Sport Central, now known as The Brick Sport Central, became a registered children's charity. The program began by obtaining donations from Edmontonians to help children in Edmonton play sports, but has now grown to help kids across most of Canada. For 14 years,



George Dermott (left) with Wayne Gretzky



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Lona served on the Board of Directors for The Brick Sport Central, and has worked as front end reception and the equipment outfitter for 10 years. In addition to this, she continues to volunteer at the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and various other organizations annually.



George (left) and Blake Dermott with the Grey Cup

Lona and George Dermott have four children. Growing up, George Jr. and Blake played baseball and hockey, and Debbie played baseball, basketball, and danced. Michelle was adopted in 1972 and completed the Dermott family. George Jr. and Blake have both been greatly involved in coaching and refereeing various sports, and Blake was an Edmonton Eskimo for 14 years. Debbie served as President of the Millwoods Grizzlies and Manager of the Millwoods Grizzlies Bantam team, and Michelle has been greatly involved with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and her community. The four children, along with the Dermott's nine grandchildren, continue to contribute to their respected communities in various ways.

Mentioned in a short biography written by the family, George's main objective for all children in Edmonton and across the province was to provide them with a place to play sports and have the opportunity to participate, regardless of lack of funding or equipment. The Dermott's have contributed to making this possible.

*Written by Danielle Ferchoff
January 2014*

CITATION ON FILE

Support documents by Marcus Nordin and Lona Dermott. Documents written for the Naming Committee on December 2013 and January 2014.