

Mildred Barons Park

Mildred B. Barons School

1. Where did the school property belong when built (City of London, Middlesex County, etc.)
 - a. Based on London's annexation records, the land the school was built on in 1913 fell in Middlesex County.
2. When did the school get demolished:
 - a. The school was approved for demolishing in early December, 1975
3. Was Mildred a teacher of this school:
 - a. Yes, a long time teacher starting in 1923.
4. Was Mildred a resident of COL
 - a. Presumably yes, especially after the large annexation by the City of London in 1961. Mildred was born in Middlesex County (North Dorchester).
5. What school board did this school belong to:
 - a. The Middlesex Board of Education was the governing body over the land the school was originally built on. After the annexation in 1961 the City of London Board of Education would have taken over.
6. Was there an official naming of the school or was it just assumed
 - a. Yes. In 1961 the formal naming happened at the annual Belmont Women's Institute meeting but the announcement of the new name came prior in November 1960.

Mildred Barons Park (444 Kathleen Ave)

1. When did the COL purchase / obtain ownership of this land?
 - a. June 26, 1974
2. Was there a formal naming process for this park? (Council motion?)
 - a. After the school was demolished the City chose to keep the original name in Mildred's honour. It is unknown if there was a council motion to secure this.
3. When did the park get named this?
 - a. The official date of the formal naming of the park is unknown.
4. Was there any significance to the park getting named after her?
 - a. The school was named after Mildred Barons due to her long-time record teaching and involvement at the school. When the school was bought by the City, the name was kept presumably for the same reason.
5. Who is Mildred Barons?
 - a. Born November 30, 1902 in North Dorchester, Middlesex County. Was a long standing teacher, beginning in 1923, at Argyle School, also known as S.S. 23 and Area no. 2 School (renamed to Mildred B Barons School). She died January 15, 1974. In 1961 the school was renamed in her honour. Her parents were Amelia Sarah "Mille" (b. Apr. 20, 1868 d. Apr. 4, 1955) and John Barons (b. Aug. 24, 1868 d. Jan. 14, 1948). She had five siblings: Beatrice Louise Ellen, Gladys Nurial, Stella Evelyn, Inez Alberta and Henry Harvey. The Barons family was raised in Dorchester, Middlesex Ontario. It is likely Mildred was never married or had children.
6. Are there any living relatives of Mildred Barons?
 - a. Henry Barons was born in 1909 and may still be alive, his dead is unknown. It is unknown if Mildred's siblings had children.

Important Dates Pertaining to Mildred Barons School/Park

1. June 11 1971
 - a. Public utilities commission recreation department: recommend that the municipal council be requested to acquire as much open spare area around the school to provide play space for neighbourhood use. If the school can be made available to the department and funds provided to operate and staff the school and the playground could be of significant use.

2. June 30 1971
 - a. Board of Education announced proposal to close Mildred Barons Public School
 - b. The City of London and the Recreation Department thought it was important that the playground at the school facility be maintained for Parks and Playground purposes.
 - c. The entrance to the park was quite close to the entrance of the old school, thought it might pose a problem is a third party other than the City bought the school building for fear of limiting access to the playground./park
 - d. The school playground was the only park facility in the neighbourhood and the City felt it was important to keep the area maintained for park use.
 - e. The City threw out the idea of also purchasing the school building from the board of education to use as a park and programing facility.
 - f. It was recommended that the city acquire and maintain the park land, the school building if possible and to keep in mind the necessary maintenance and repairs that the building/park would need immediately.
3. January 12, 1972
 - a. September 27, 1971 the department indicated that they were interested in the acquisition of the school property.
 - b. The school building would hold recreation programs and services at both the neighbourhood and City level.
 - c. Three proposals
 - i. Acquire the property and demolish the school and develop as a playground to serve the neighbourhood.
 - ii. Acquire the property, renovate the school and operate as a community centre.
 - iii. Acquire the property, renovate the school and designate the building as a Senior Citizen's Centre with community programs using the building when senior activities are not scheduled (city would be eligible for funding and rebates if considered a seniors centre).
 - d. Recommend to follow through with proposal 1, which will secure the property and enable the City to achieve the main priority of providing an open space to serve the area.
4. March 1973
 - a. Waiting for the board of education to confirm acquisition of property.
5. June 26, 1974
 - a. The purchase of the Mildred Barons School is now complete
6. November 25, 1975
 - a. Plans of how to demolish Mildred Barons School
7. December 9-11 1975
 - a. Approved the recommended demolition of the Mildred B. Barons School.

Prepared by: Prepared for: Bridgette Somers, Chris Bantock
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Coun. Bill Armstrong



It is my hope that Mildred can be recognized within this park as an influential person, in the form of a bench / plaque, etc.