



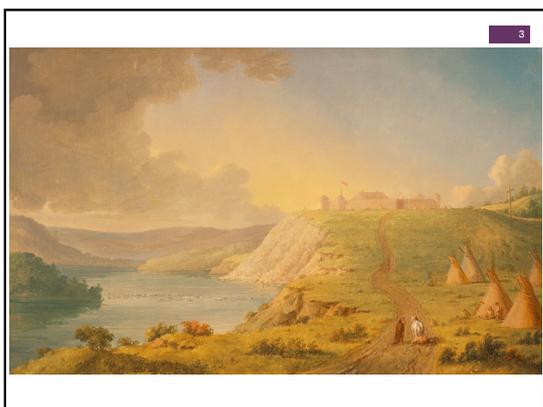
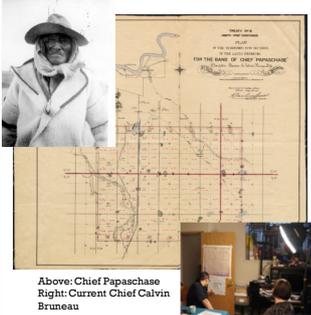
Mapping Cultures and Evolving Land Use in Mill Woods

Catherine C. Cole, MA, FCMA
Principal Consultant, Catherine C. Cole & Associates
ICOM/CAMOC, Milan, July 5, 2016



Mapping Cultures and Evolving Land Use in Mill Woods, Edmonton

- Modern postwar city, population of 900,000
- Population of 115,000 before discovery of oil in 1947
- Population 120,000, Mill Woods would be the third largest city in Alberta

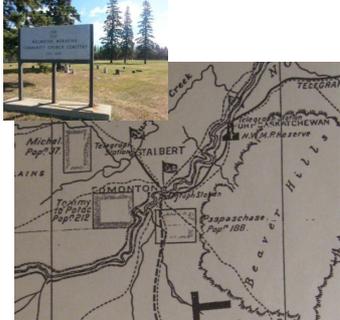



Mill Woods is Treaty 6 Land

Papaschase Indian Reserve

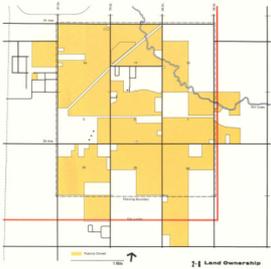
- 1877 Chief Papaschase, Chief negotiated with Treaty 6 commissioners
- Settlers demanded band be relocated south of the river
- 40-square-mile reserve surveyed 1880-1884
- 1884-1889 starvation, members died, took Métis scrip, or joined another band
- Descendants argue surrender of their land was illegal

Above: Chief Papaschase
Right: Current Chief Calvin Bruneau



Bruderfeld: Moravian Settlement

- 1894 Moravian immigrants bought land for \$3/acre
- Called area Bruderfeld
- Struggle
 - 1920s collapse of grain prices followed by 1930s Depression



Provincial Land Bank

- August-October 1969, Province assembled 68% of nine square miles identified for development
- Announced land bank and housing development project
- Continued to negotiate with non-consenting landowners
- City bought land from Province at 1969 prices from 1971-1976

+ Municipal Development Concept

- 1970-1971 Mill Woods Development Concept
 - Concept required approval from three levels of government
 - Hailed as "One of the most comprehensive town planning designs in modern history"
 - Conceived of as a 'city within a city'
 - Mayor Dent said "the Mill Woods development will be among the most attractive ever designed and built"; hoped mistakes committed in previous 'instant cities' would be avoided

+ Mill Woods Development Concept

+ Mill Woods Development Concept

- Three development objectives:
 - Physical
 - Prevent urban sprawl
 - Social
 - Experiment in urban living
 - diversity
 - citizen participation
 - quality of life through environment
 - social interaction
 - meet needs of minority groups
 - Economic
 - Lots sold for less than half of those in other areas
 - Provincial and federal governments subsidized interest rates for low income homebuyers

+ Mill Woods is Treaty 6 Land

- Place names in community acknowledge legacy
 - Tipaskin: boundaries
 - Menisa: berries
 - Kameyosek: beautiful
 - Meyonohk: ideal spot
 - Satoo: Chief Satoo
 - Ekota: special place
- Does use of names honour Papaschase or represent cultural appropriation?

Above: Traditional dancer and drummers perform in elementary school gymnasium
Left: Totem pole created on site and erected outside a junior high school

+ Community Mapping

- Community may be mapped in many ways
 - Immigration history
 - Aboriginal identity
 - Languages spoken
 - Education
 - Income
 - Home ownership versus rental
 - Community leagues
 - Electoral districts
 - Aerial photography

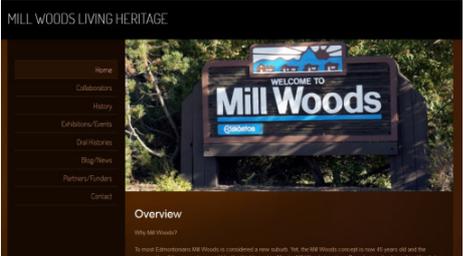
+ Why Mill Woods?

- Mill Woods is unique:
 - City-planned and province-facilitated land assembly
 - Nine square miles, town centre, eight surrounding communities, street design 'off the grid'
 - Quality, affordable homes to accommodate growing population and offset inflationary impact of 1970s oil boom
 - City's first socially planned neighbourhood, built on City-owned land, developed to enhance a sense of community
 - Increase in immigration when community was being developed
 - Home to people who live there but foreign to residents of other parts of the city
 - Not just a suburb - complicated history that has shaped the area

+ Mill Woods Living Heritage

- Collaborative arts and heritage project
 - Began exploring history to dismantle elitist and racist stereotypes about the area and improve understanding within Mill Woods itself and between residents of Mill Woods and the rest of Edmonton
 - Land use, layers of people who have occupied this land and histories of peoples who came here and made it their home
 - Many came from difficult circumstances and made a new life here, working tirelessly to establish themselves

+ Mill Woods Living Heritage



www.millwoodshistory.org

+ Mill Woods Living Heritage



More than 50 oral history interviews have been conducted to date, with excerpts of many on our website

+ Mill Woods Living Heritage



Temporary display about Mill Woods that can be set up in community facilities and at events throughout the area, such as this community mapping workshop

+ Mill Woods Living Heritage



Walking tours that incorporate presentations by community members in parks, housing cooperatives and religious institutions along the way

+ Mill Woods Living Heritage



Pop-up exhibition for which community members were invited to create their own interpretive panels about sites of significance to them in Mill Woods

+ Mill Woods Living Heritage

Community mapping workshop in which participants created collages that reflected what Mill Woods meant to them

+ Mill Woods Living Heritage

Aboriginal artist Aaron Paquette, who grew up in Mill Woods, working with children at an Aboriginal Family Night dinner in the community. The children's canvas will be exhibited in the public library with the maquette for Sanctuary, a sculpture he created about Mill Woods

+ Museum of Edmonton

21

- Edmonton's cultural plan recommended development of a city museum as a dynamic, community-driven organization that would interpret large and inclusive themes
- ECAMP – Edmonton City as Museum Project draws on the city itself as the 'collection' of artifacts, experiences, places and people that make up the layers of Edmonton's collective history

+ Museum of Edmonton

22

- "There is no constant force for ongoing engagement and dialogue between people and the diverse realities of city life. And cities are worse off because of that. I think that force could be the city museum."
- Larry Beasley, CAMOC Conference, Museum of Vancouver, 2012
- The idea of a 'collection' that cannot be owned, managed, stored or conserved by an organization pushes through the boundaries of what defines a museum
- Gap in interpreting Edmonton and in empowering people to participate as co-creators, not just as audience

Mind map of a city museum proposed by Edmonton Heritage Council

+ Acknowledgements

- Public Repositories
 - City of Edmonton Archives
 - Edmonton Journal
 - Provincial Archives of Alberta
- Private Collections
- Photographers
 - Jessica Wood
 - Richard Wood
- Thanks to all of the people who have participate in this project by being interviewed, providing information, or participating in one of our programs
- Thanks to our funders:
 - Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
 - Edmonton Heritage Council
 - The City of Edmonton
 - Mill Woods Presidents' Council