

to throw out both garbage and doggy-doo, benches to take a rest and smell the beautiful roses along the way and listen



to the many nesting birds, picnic tables for a fun lunch with the preschoolers or a Sunday afternoon meal.



Soon the park will have a City of Edmonton Commissioned art work entitled “Ghost Rails”. The artist Kathryn Ruckman commented that “it has been a very satisfying and validating as an artist.” She found that it has been a great means to meet others in the community and to envelope her work in that community. When Kathryn walks by where the piece is located she imagines herself as a little old lady at 75, walking her dogs ‘Sofie Lynn Noella’ and ‘Rupert James Goodfellow’. This piece is a part of the City of Edmonton’s Art collection.”⁸¹

The construction phases of the art work uncovered some of the rail bed wood and soil markings where the rails would have been located. The art piece will also be located where the old train tracks are visible. They are referred to as “ghost tracks”. The Gazebo will have some images of the train history. The Gazebo will be a nice shelter from snow, rain and sun and contain historical history of the area.

Many people I talked to on the paths are very excited that their community has been chosen for this “destination location”. One child told me that it is easier to bike to school, another woman told me that she just loves strolling on the paths, another has started a walking group for the elderly and the path links so easily into the ravine. Bewildered newcomers to the community were fascinated about the history of the Greenway space and how integral it was in building the capital city of Edmonton and the wonderful historic Strathcona. Many people commented that the greenway acts like a central park for the community and they are excited to see what it will look like when the other elements are

finished. Lorna Kot expressed “Wonderful how it is a thing of beauty. A lot of people love trains... there is a romance to it. A park where you can enjoy nature and fellowship. People in their 70s can walk and talk about their garden, news, weather, and talk about the good old days.”⁸²



After I stopped talking to passers-by about their thoughts on the Greenway and the history of the area, I sat on a picnic bench to enjoy the place. People were active; they walked dogs, others ran, strolled, biked, and skateboarded. All of

these activities were peaceful and joyful. Next to my bench were two old friends chatting and laughing about some silly story that happened during the day. Her laughter reminded me of all of the past neighbours who played here on the tracks, when the tracks were gone and even of the times the train first came through. This Greenway really is a combination of unusual past events, lucky modern ones, politically active endeavors and the creative spirit of the Greenway board and Hazeldean community. I sat at this bench until the sun started to set, which up here in Edmonton is quite late and I too felt at peace and a bit dreamy that I too was enjoying the old EY&P throughway. There were no haunting train echoes, but the sounds of history that remained in the voices of those who shared stories and in the sounds of the day’s activities passing by.

I hope I was able to convey some of the answers as to why this place exists, why this place is essential, and why this place is central to community. Enjoy your Hazeldean Greens and think of it as a gathering space where neighbours create new memories which will eventually evolve into history; and so goes on the life in Hazeldean.

Contact the webmaster to send in your story.

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