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MARCH

# EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL



## TASK FORCE ON:

### THE XI COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Task Force on the Commonwealth Games was established by the Edmonton Social Planning Council to gather information regarding the proposed Games to be held in 1978. For the benefit of the public in Edmonton, the Task Force looked at:

- The Philosophy of the Games
- Costs and Benefits of Proposed Facilities
- The Effects of the Facilities on Neighbouring Communities.

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10006-107 STREET,  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA. T5J 1J2  
PHONE: 424-0331

MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE  
ON THE XI COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Batya Chivers

Roger Soderstrom

Joe Donahue

Missy Parnell

Edith Richard

Bruce Watt

Larry Taylor

Vern Wishart

## INTRODUCTION

The Task Force study is based on data received from the XI British Commonwealth Games Foundation, the City of Edmonton Parks and Recreation Department, The Edmonton Journal, and City of Edmonton council meetings. The Task Force attempted to analyze this data in terms of:

A. THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE GAMES.

B. THE EDMONTON PROPOSAL FOR GAMES FACILITIES.

1. What will the Games mean to Edmonton?
2. What will the Facilities be and what will they cost?
3. Who will pay for the Games Facilities?
4. Alternative methods of financing.

C. FACILITIES.

1. Games requirements.
2. Community use of the facilities after the Games.
  - (a) Stadium
  - (b) Pool
  - (c) Velodrome
  - (d) Lawn Bowling
  - (e) Shooting Range
  - (f) Coliseum

D. EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY OF GAMES FACILITIES.

1. Effects of the stadium on the nearby community.
2. Effects of the Swimming Pool in the proposed location.
3. Possible roadway implications of the Games.

E. CONCLUSION

APPENDIX I - Bylaw No. 4210.

APPENDIX II - "A covering letter of progress and amendment" dated August 18, 1972, signed by Ivor Dent.

A. THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE GAMES

The British Commonwealth Games is a ten day international festival (August 3rd to August 12th, 1978.) It is a community hosting of international friends in the Commonwealth with an emphasis on hospitality and friendliness, joy and a spirit of happiness. The basic minimum requirements for hosting the Games are internationally such that most of the forty Commonwealth Nations could be a host with little expense. The Games are designed to be a homespun festival of friendly competition among colleagues:

EXCERPT FROM:

Updated Report on the Operations of  
the XI British Commonwealth Games  
(Canada 1978) Foundation, Edmonton,  
Alberta. November 28, 1973.

"The British Commonwealth Games were designed to avoid many of the problems that the Olympics began to face more than 50 years ago.

The problems of the intrusion of international politics into the Olympic Games was answered by limiting participation to member nations of the British Commonwealth. Thus the British Commonwealth Games have remained entirely devoid of politics of the kind that culminated in the Munich massacre in 1972.

The problems of spiralling costs due to over-intensified national rivalries were answered in several manners. First, the number of sports to be presented were limited to nine, and were limited to no team sports....

A result has been the development of a friendly, personal set of Games every fourth year which provide a deep cultural, recreational and amateur athletic experience and exchange for all Nation members of the Commonwealth."

EXCERPT FROM:

The Foundation Submission to the  
Government of Canada. Page 1.

"Provision of facilities to meet the technical requirements of the Games, encourage the greatest possible re-creational and athletic participation in the Games, and other amateur sports, and serve the widest possible community use of such facilities in Alberta and the Canadian North for the next fifty years."

This is the Philosophy.

How does Edmonton propose to implement it?

The original proposal of the City of Edmonton in 1971 was to cost \$9,750,000. Mayor Ivor Dent, in a letter dated August 18, 1972, reporting to the British Commonwealth Games Foundation, had this to say:

"At the same time, in keeping with the highest ideals of these Games and in the interest of our own tax paying citizens and in the interest of those Nations which might refrain from bidding for subsequent Games if capital costs were allowed to soar, we pledged to provide these facilities at the most modest costs to our community. The costs were to be less than \$10,000,000."

Today, the estimate has risen to 44.6 million. But will this extravagant approach to the Games make Edmonton internationally renowned? Will bigger and more exclusive facilities create an atmosphere of friendliness and co-operation?

Mayor Dent described Edmonton's "Invitational Bid" in Notes on a Progress Report submitted to City Council on December 18, 1972:

### THE INVITATIONAL BID:

"A nucleus of the Foundation headed by myself, organized the international presentation, including the publishing of the necessary two booklets, preparation of an invitational film, the necessary international lobbying, the organizing of external support, principally from the Federal Government in Ottawa, necessary to reinforce the international lobbying, and organized the presentation and delegation for Munich.

The delegation to Munich consisted of 16 persons, whose support from the Foundation included a pooled air fare amount and a per diem allowance while in Munich, plus accommodation costs. This group was joined in Munich by 12 Edmontonians at the Olympic Games for other reasons. Working in teams, the group located, intercepted and interceded with 276 amateur sports leaders throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations, all persons who would influence the votes of the 46-member Nations in a period of three (3) days.

The cost of the successful invitational presentation was approximately \$65,000. The Foundation, by public and corporate subscription, had solicited a total in excess of \$70,000 to look after all expenses, including the Canadian bid in Montreal on January 8th, 1972. City Council had advanced the Foundation \$30,000 and this amount was repaid to the City of Edmonton prior to departure for Munich."

Whoever paid for the invitation, the fact is that internationally Edmonton seems to have been in the forefront when it comes to sending the Games the way of the Olympics. Municipal politics instead of international relations, lavish spending and a municipal grab for federal monies appeared to have dominated Edmonton's efforts to land the Games. In reaction to this situation, the Times of London reported a new regulation by the Commonwealth Games Federation, ironically copied from the Olympics regulations.

"The Times" (of London),  
Tuesday, January 22, 1974. P. 10.

Federation meeting

## The cocktail parties are over for candidate cities

Christchurch, Jan 21.—The Commonwealth Games Federation today drew up regulations forbidding Games candidate cities from lavish lobbying of other member countries. Sandy Duncan, the federation board secretary, told a Press conference at the Games village here that the cities of Edmonton and Leeds had each spent about £30,000 throwing parties, and on other forms of

lobbying.

"This is quite indefensible, and we have brought in regulations prohibiting such steps, so in the

future host cities need not put in much expense to get the games", he said. In future, candidate cities will not be able to hold lavish cocktail parties before the name of the next Games city is announced; and no special visits will be allowed by city representatives, or diplomatic approaches made to Commonwealth Games Federation countries.

The new regulation is based on one operated by the Olympic Games Federation. Mr Duncan also announced that the new sport selected for inclusion in the 1978

Games at Edmonton would be gymnastics. It would become the 10th sport on the programme.

Only four gold medals will be awarded—individual ones for men and women based on total points on all apparatus, and separate team events for men and women on all apparatus. The three best scores of the teams of four will count. At the Olympic Games in 1972 there were 14 gold medals for gymnastics, as awards were made for each apparatus as well as for the team and individual overall events.

Meanwhile, the New Government today handed over a cheque for \$NZ160,000 (about £106,000) to the Games organization as the balance of their contribution of \$NZ200,000 (about £133,000) towards the operational cost of the Games. The organizers have decided that for the Games closing ceremony competitors will march in groups representing the nine different sports rather than in individual nations.—Agence France Press

B. EDMONTON'S PROPOSAL FOR GAMES FACILITIES

1. WHAT WILL THE GAMES MEAN TO EDMONTON?

As the Foundation sees it, it will mean jobs, tourists, and a legacy of facilities.

EXCERPT FROM:

Updated Report on the Operation of the  
XI British Commonwealth Games, Canada (1978)  
Edmonton, Alberta. P. 6

Dimensions of the Games

"The Commonwealth Games in 1978 are expected to attract more than 3,000 athletes from 55 Nations in the British Commonwealth, 1,500 officials, 1,000 press, radio and T.V. persons and approximately 250,000 visiting fans. In its most conservative terms, the financial injection to the community by visiting fans will be in excess of \$40,000,000. However, the Commonwealth Games are designed to have an even more lasting benefit to the Host community namely the legacy of facilities which should serve the community for 50 or 60 years. The other benefit is the encouragement and development of amateur sports in Edmonton, in Alberta, in Western Canada and throughout the Commonwealth of Nations. Canadians are fortunate that amateur sport can be taken or left alone. The Munich delegation was astounded to learn the social force represented by amateur sport in many of the developing Nations of the Commonwealth. To them, these Games are of utmost importance in that they are one of the quicker methods of overcoming some of the inherited built-in ills in their Nations, for example, tribalism. An athlete begins running in his or her village, becomes good enough to run in the next village (and there would be no other way they would leave the home village) then he or she becomes good enough to run in the larger centres of the Nation, and soon becomes good enough to run in international competition. They return to his or her Nation ready to accept a place in the 20th Century and not revert to tribalism."

The Task Force has considered, without yet arriving at answers, the following questions: How are the various projections arrived at? What is the basis of the estimate of 250,000 visiting fans? (At Christchurch in New Zealand they had approximately 30,000 visitors.\*) Considering the energy crisis and the increases in cost of transportation, is the Edmonton figure realistic? Assuming the figure is realistic, how will Edmonton, a metropolis of 500,000 accommodate 250,000 visiting fans?

One could ask other questions, but in the end, the Task Force agrees there is no doubt that sponsoring the Games will mean a financial shot in the arm to the Edmonton economy, through business for hotels, restaurants and maybe some private homes, and through the building of the facilities. On the other hand, insofar as the facilities are concerned, the same stimulation to the Edmonton economy could be achieved by Provincial and Federal capital expenditures on the same scale in other areas, such as rapid transit or public housing

2. WHAT WILL THE FACILITIES BE AND WHAT WILL THEY COST?

As already pointed out Edmonton's proposal has blossomed from a rather modest beginning. Originally we were to build a stadium for \$3.5 million and an Olympic swimming pool for \$3.5 million with a total cost for the Games of less than \$10 million. It was even suggested that there would be no cost at all to the City of Edmonton.

*The Edmonton Journal - Aug. 25, 1972. P. 1*

*By - Olive Elliott*

*"MUNICH - Armed with the international recognition it won Thursday, Edmonton is going full tilt to plan and build the \$9.75 million facilities it will require for the 1978 Commonwealth Games.*

*An executive director and board will be appointed within three months to start making the arrangements for the sports event, which will mean millions of dollars to the City's economy.*

*At the British Commonwealth Games Federation meeting here Thursday night, Edmonton was awarded the Games by a vote 24-10 over Leeds after giving what Col. John Davies, President of the British Commonwealth Games Association of Canada, described as "an excellent presentation."*

*(Cont'd on next page)*

\* The Games Review (The Press of Christchurch, N.Z.) 1974, P. 37.



Hal Pawson, interim executive director, said today the Edmonton Games Foundation was hopeful almost all the financing - as well as \$2 million in operating costs - would be covered by federal and provincial grants, donations and some financial schemes such as lotteries, "and that it is not necessary any money come from the city."

The plans have, however, mushroomed to the extent set out in the following proposed budget:

EXCERPT FROM:	
<u>FOUNDATION SUBMISSION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</u>	
<u>XI BRITISH COMMONWEALTH GAMES CANADA, 1978</u>	
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET</u>	
* STADIUM	\$23,435,000.00
COLISEUM	12,466,000.00
POOL	4,500,000.00
VELODROME	660,000.00
SHOOTING	630,000.00
LAWN BOWLING	200,000.00
UPGRADE FACILITIES	1,520,000.00
	<u>\$43,411,000.00</u>
*SUBTRACT \$600,000.00 for land	\$ 600,000.00
ADD \$1.8 million, estimated land cost for Stadium	<u>\$1,800,000.00</u>
LAND	<u>1,200,000.00</u>
	<u>\$44,611,000.00</u>

The budget does not provide for conversion of the facilities after the Games.

3. WHO WILL PAY FOR THE GAMES FACILITIES?

- (a) It is expected that three levels of Government will participate in providing funds for the capital expenditures of the Games facilities. The Federal Government is expected to provide \$15 million. (There is still no guarantee of how much and in what form.) This grant will be partially paid by Edmontonians through federal taxation. The Provincial Government grant amounts to \$11.6 million. \$3.7 million of it is allocated toward the coliseum. City residents, approximately one-quarter of the Alberta population may expect to be paying some of it in taxes. As Albertans, as Canadians, how much of our taxes are we willing to spend on Games facilities? The City is proposing to raise \$11.6 million through debenture debt. In addition the city has already committed \$3.7 million for acquisition of land for the coliseum. This will bring the city's expected contribution to \$15,300,000.
- (b) The city ratepayer will pay a higher millrate. The increase according to the City Commissioners, will average \$6.48 per year, paid over 25 years. (The \$6.48 figure assumes a 30% increase in city assessment from 1973 to 1979. If, as is likely, this 30% does not come about from "real" growth, then the figure will be higher.) Under this financial arrangement, the cost of repaying the debenture according to Alderman Tanner, in the Edmonton Journal, February 9, 1974, is about \$32 million, just over three times the original \$11.6 million dollar debt.
- (c) The Federal contribution, if any, and the Provincial contribution will be fixed amounts. The City has to guarantee the loans for the Games. If the capital cost increases due to cost escalation or any unforeseen events, the City will have to pay the extra cost. There is no guarantee that the \$11.6 million is the only contribution that the City will have to provide. In fact should the anticipated Federal contribution not materialize, the City will be required to make up the difference. (See Bylaw No. 4210, Appendix I, Page 35) or a scaling down of the facilities will have to take place.

- (d) The residents of Edmonton will have to pay all possible extra costs (like the \$3.7 million already allocated for acquisition of land for the coliseum), up to \$6 million for renovation of the stadium after the Games (roof and artificial turf), plus all costs of roadways and improved access to the various sites.
  
- (e) Edmontonian's will have to pick up any deficit in the operational cost of the facilities. The tax levy of \$6.48 per year does include the operational deficit calculated by a Parks and Recreation study of the British Commonwealth Games dated January 7, 1974, but the experience in Squaw Valley should be noted as a word of caution. After building facilities for the Olympics, the city could not keep up with the operational costs of the facilities, and consequently the buildings deteriorated. The residents are still paying for the facilities but cannot afford to use them.

In the proposal contained in the plebiscite of March 20, 1974, the citizens will finance the Games facilities by borrowing the \$11.6 million by debenture and would pay it back in installments over a 25 year period. Payments would come from the general revenues of the city derived from property taxes. Thus everybody who pays municipal taxes, directly, or indirectly through rents, would be paying for the facilities.

The Task Force has examined some alternative ways of financing the Games.

#### 4. ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF FINANCING.

- (a) SURCHARGE TAXES OF GROUPS BENEFITING FROM GAMES AND FACILITIES  
Instead of paying back the debentures out of general revenue, the funds could be derived from special taxes applied to taxpayers who stand to benefit directly and economically from the Games and facilities. In general this would be the business community who would benefit from the construction and the servicing of visitors who come for events in the facilities.

(b) SURCHARGING TICKETS

The debentures could also be paid back by the people who directly enjoy the events the facilities make possible. This could be achieved by surcharging ticket sales with a special capital fund tax, which could be a percentage of the ticket value.

(c) PAY AS YOU GO

Rather than issue debentures to be paid back over a 25 year period, the funds could be raised by a mill rate levy equal to the portion of the actual construction costs incurred in that year. Since actual construction will take place over the next four years, the tax levy will last only for a four year period. The benefit is that there are no interest charges to be paid. On a 25 year debenture, interest charges will triple the original cost.

(d) PRIVATE FUND RAISING SCHEMES

An alternative scheme to using any tax revenue would be private fund raising. Since funds probably cannot be raised at the rate which they will be expended, the Games Foundation should be responsible for raising funds on a short term basis, say 5 to 10 years, to keep interest costs down, but long enough to raise the funds through donations, lotteries, coin sales, etc.

It may be that more than one method will be required to raise the capital funds for the Games facilities. In any case, it is recommended that all methods not requiring the use of taxes should be considered first, with taxes to benefiting groups pursued as the second choice for consideration.

## C. FACILITIES

### 1. Games Requirements.

The basic requirement of the Games is to host nine events: Track and Field; Cycling; Swimming and Diving; Boxing; Wrestling; Weight Lifting; Badminton; Shooting; and Lawn Bowls. Edmonton added Gymnastics to the events for 1978, so we will host ten events.

As the philosophy of the Games is for a friendly non-competitive "homespun" festival, the facilities required are not complex, and the requirements can be adjusted to accommodate the particular host city. The interest of the British Commonwealth Games is to keep the cost of the facilities down, to prevent costly bidding and avoid the exclusion of poorer nations from bidding for the Games.

In keeping with this objective, the facilities should be designed to enrich post-Game community amateur sport. This objective is enunciated by the Foundation:

EXCERPT FROM:

The Foundation Submission to the  
Government of Canada Page 1

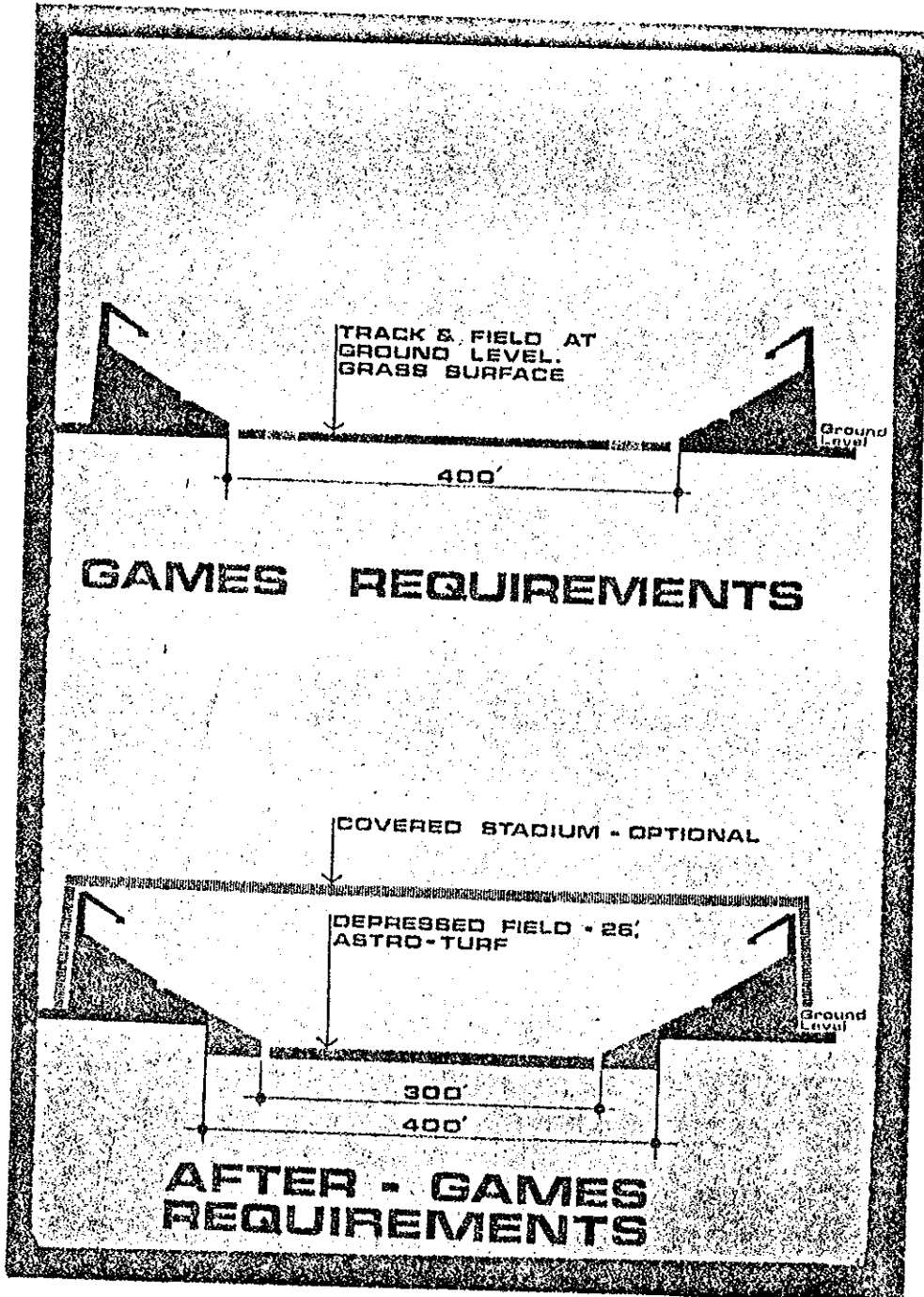
*"Provision of facilities to meet the technical requirements of the Games, encourage the greatest possible recreational and athletic participation in the Games, and other amateur sports, and serve the widest possible community use of such facilities in Alberta and the Canadian North for the next fifty years."*

### 2. Community Use of the Facilities After the Games.

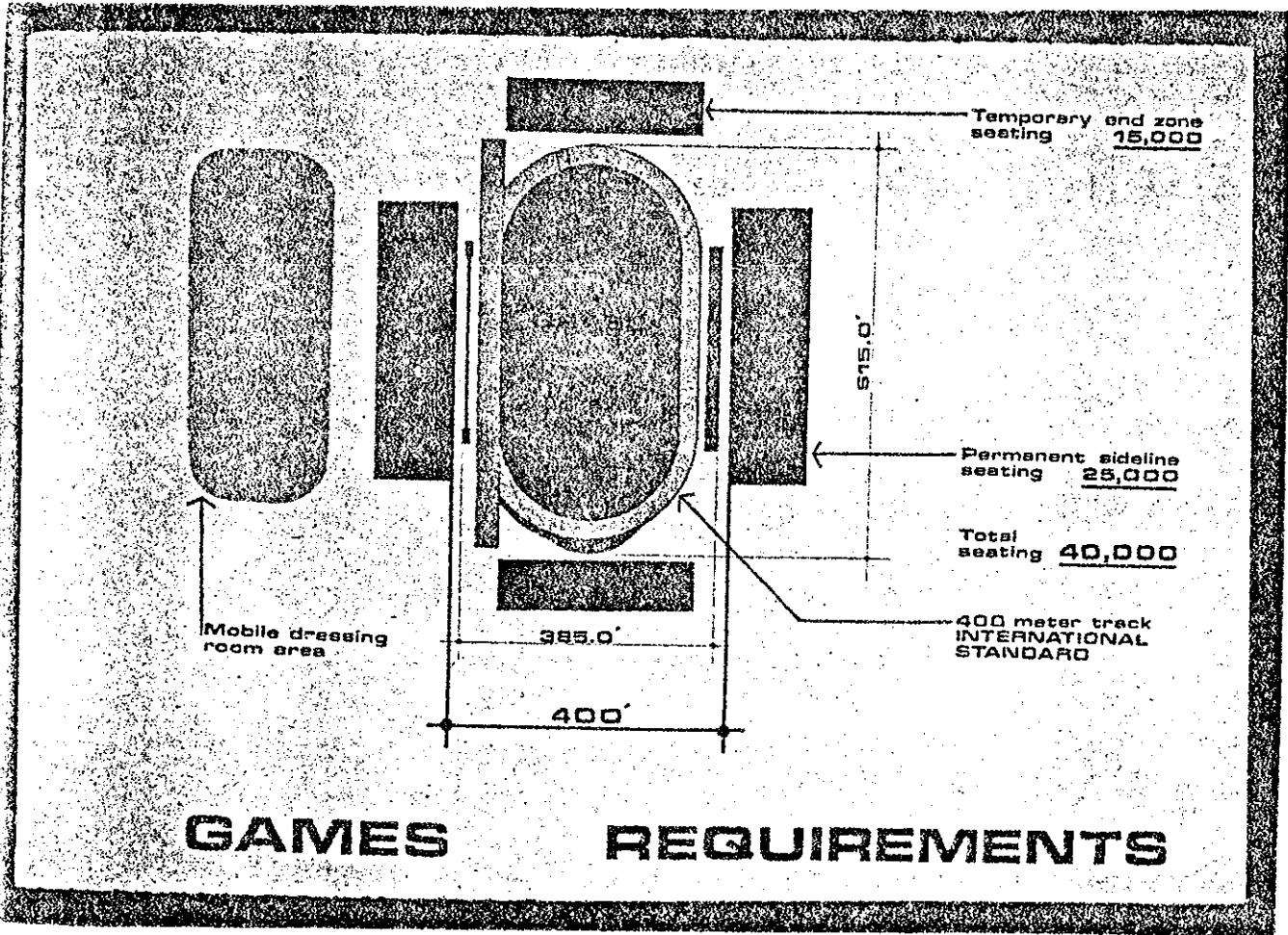
This Task Force Report will proceed with an examination of the requirements of the facilities planned for the Games (1978) and the proposed conversion to Edmonton's needs after 1978.

a. STADIUM - Proposed capital cost of \$23,435,000

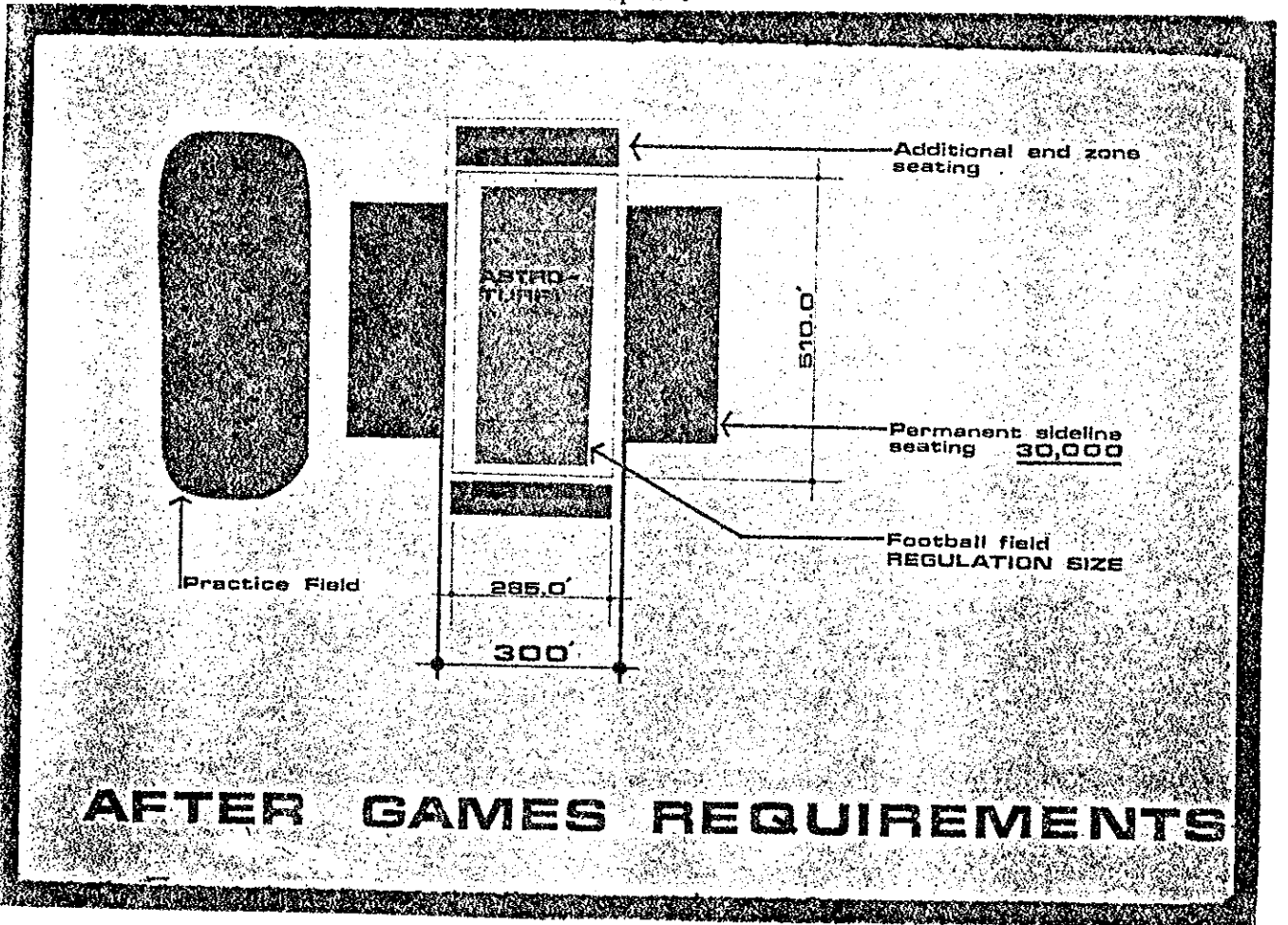
<u>Games Requirement</u>	<u>After Games Requirement</u>
(1) Stadium to accommodate 35,000 to 40,000 seats.	(1) Stadium to accommodate 30,000 seats.
(2) 400 meter international standard track. - minimum width between stands 400 feet. - natural turf - open air	(2) Regulation football field (60 yards by 110 yards). - minimum width 300 feet.  - artificial turf - roofed
(3) Warm up area does not have to be a track.	---
(4) Public concession and washrooms.	- same
(5) Maintenance and operational staff accommodation.	- same



Map. No. 1



Map No. 3



The difference in standards means that changes will have to be made in the structure of the stadium to convert it to football use. Total cost of the Stadium for the Games is \$23,435,000 but this facility would not be suitable for major team sports such as football.

Accordingly, it is proposed that after the Games the field be excavated to a depth of twenty-six feet, a new artificial turf placed and additional tiers of seating built along the sides of the excavation.

The result is that the new field will not be suitable for future Commonwealth Games types of events, i.e. track and field, it will only be suitable for certain types of team sports. The cost of these changes is not included in the present budget as far as can be determined.

To ensure the success of large spectator events in Edmonton's climate, the Stadium should be enclosed. It will not be enclosed for the Games because this would violate the rules. The roof must be constructed after the Games; this cost is not included in the budget. Estimates of the additional cost to Edmonton of the turf and the roof range in excess of \$6 million.

It has been suggested by one of the Directors of the Foundation, Mr. M. L. VanVliet, First Vice-Chairman of the Foundation, that the Stadium will produce residual benefits to the average citizen (Journal, December 8, 1973). He has suggested that it could become a model 20th century Sport and Fitness Center used by 10,000 to 20,000 persons per week if properly designed. The present budget for the Stadium does not contain any designs for the facilities outlined by Mr. Van Vliet as necessary for the Sport and Fitness Center. No plans for this feature nor cost estimates have been made public.

To summarize: Present cost estimate of \$23,435,000 does not include cost of Physical Fitness Center, artificial turf, movable stands and roof. However, without these features and their attendant costs the Stadium will offer little to Edmonton in the way of community use.

(Note: Journal articles of August 25 state that the Games Stadium was originally budgeted for \$3.5 million but that it could be combined with a stadium needed and proposed by the Edmonton Eskimos at a cost of \$13 million. It appears that the Stadium presently proposed is in fact the one required by the Eskimos.)



b. POOL - Proposed capital cost of \$4.5 million

Games Requirement

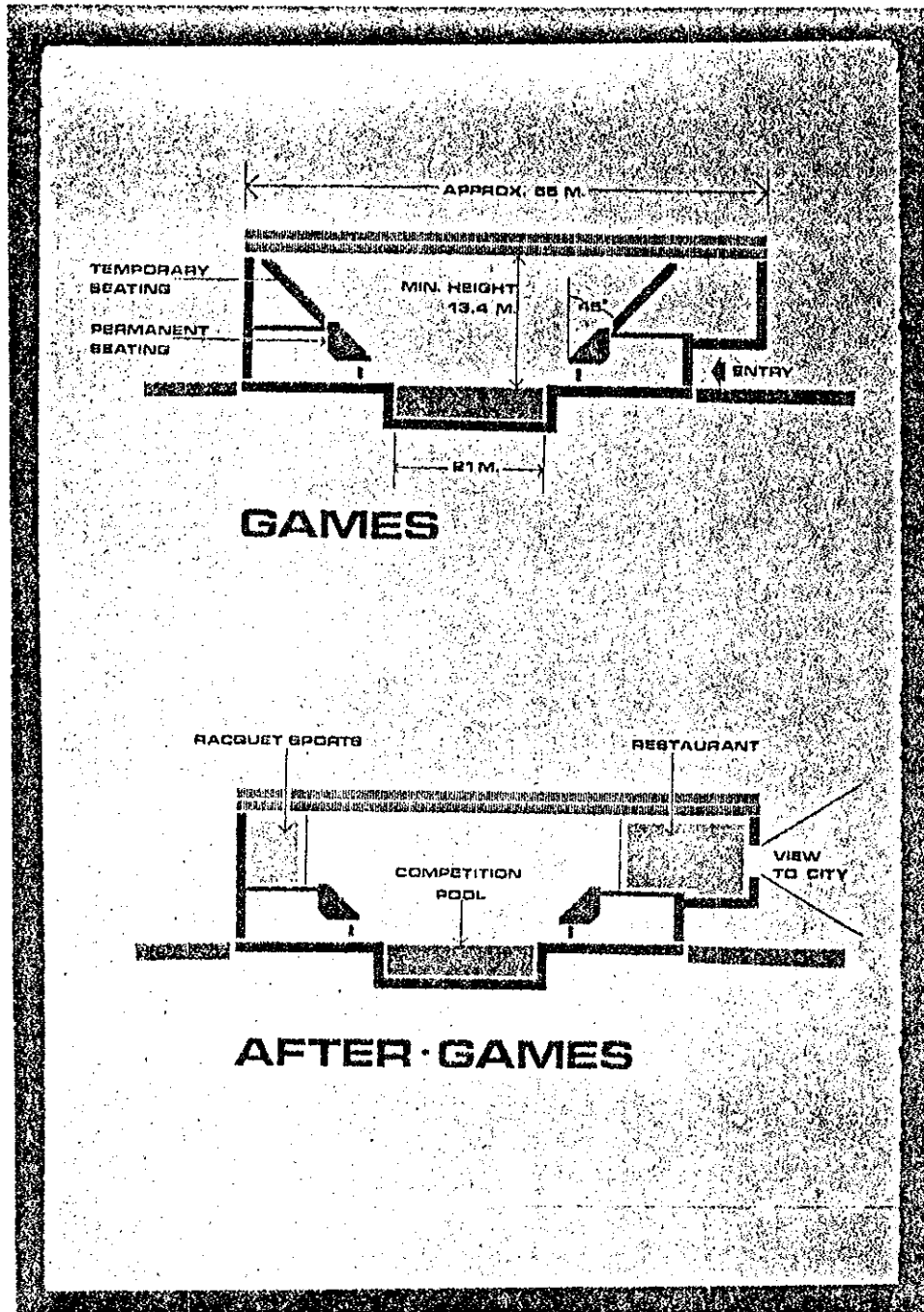
A facility to accommodate competitive swimmers and the various swimming events.

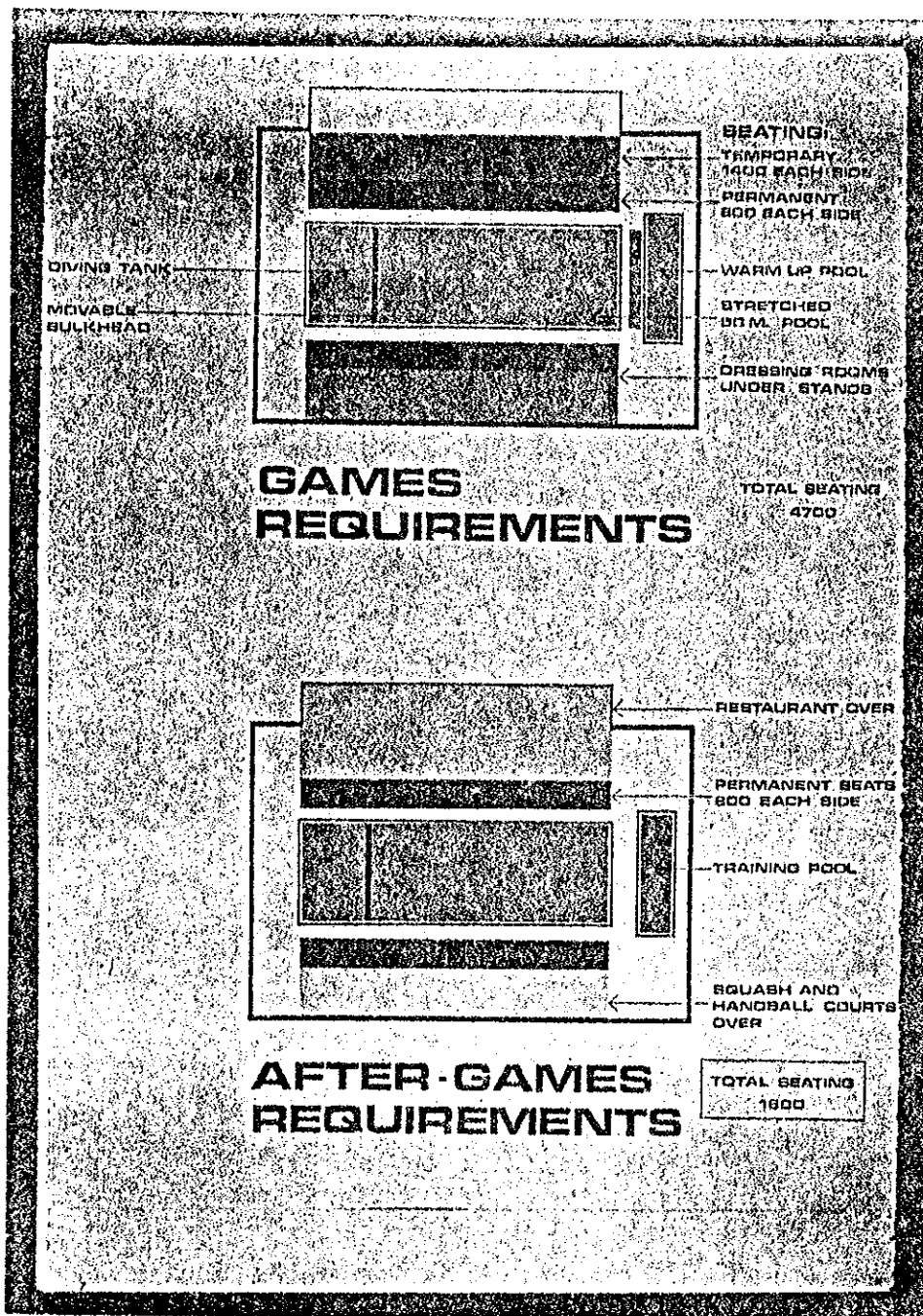
- (1) 50 meter competition pool, an Olympic pool is not essential.
- (2) Diving tank, 1 meter and 3 meter springboards. 5 meter, 7½ meter and 10 meter platform.
- (3) Warm-up pool.
- (4) Public seating, 5,000 seats.

After Games Requirement

- (1) A pool of 3.6 - 6 feet depth which would allow the use of the pool for swimming lessons and children's swimming.

Map. No. 4





The present proposal calls for an Olympic pool of six feet constant depth to be built in Kinsmen Park. The consequence of such a pool is that it cannot accommodate children's swimming and swimming lessons. Its use will be primarily confined to competitive swimming.

A community pool such as the one New Zealand built for the Games has a varying depth (3.6 - 6 feet) and as such can be used by the public generally.

The question is: "Why should Edmonton build an Olympic pool which has limited usage when we have the option to build a community pool which will serve a wider section of our community?" The proposed Hardisty Community Pool will cost \$975,000 but the Kinsmen Olympic Pool will cost \$4.5 million. In other words, five community pools could be built for the same price as the one Olympic pool and each of the community pools would serve a significantly larger segment of the population.

c. VELODROME Capital Expenditure suggested of \$660,000

Games Requirement

After Games Requirement

"Memorandum, January, 1974, from A.H. Savage, Superintendent of Edmonton Parks and Recreation to G.S. Hughes, Acting Chief Commissioner". P. 3.

"If it is considered necessary that the City develop a Velodrome of 285.74 metres with a 7.5 metre width, it is anticipated that approximately 2,000 temporary seats will be required, along with other support units as previously listed under the above facilities. Along with the Velodrome, there is a requirement to provide a route for the 120 mile road race; this route must be no less than five miles, in the basic course. It is desirable, but not mandatory to start this course at the Velodrome, however, the route must be approved by the International Committee."

With regard to the 120 mile route, there is a good possibility that it can be used as is for bikeways and cross-country ski routes, (but only if it is in parkland).

On the other hand, experience at previous Games has shown that the use of the Velodrome after the Games is minimal, and that the facilities have been left to deteriorate.

In the memorandum to members of Council for information dated December 18, 1972, P. 7, Section 3, the report acknowledges this point:

Velodrome

"This type of facility in North America, has a tendency to become a "white elephant" in the post-Games period, its use devoted to an exclusive group of expert cyclists."

If this is the experience then the Velodrome should be built as cheap and temporary as possible.

P. 38 Games Review, The Press, Christchurch, 1974 (In New Zealand)  
"At Denton Park, the Paparua County Council spent about \$100,000. (\$130,000 Canadian) on the cycling velodrome."

No site has been selected yet.

#### SITE RECOMMENDATION

One possibility, not so far offered from any quarter, is to construct the Velodrome in the natural basin of the McKinnon Ravine. The drainage system already installed will profitably use the previous investment in the Ravine. Its small structure nestled into and using the existing ravine slopes as a natural amphitheatre would be extremely pleasant and readily convertible to after Game use for music and little theatre events. The structure would be unpretentious and fitting to the Edmonton river valley. The Velodrome track would be the start and finish point of the bikeway trails throughout the river valley which would remain as a permanent popular and fashionable community attraction for biking, hiking and skiing the year round.

The Velodrome track is not a high volume, high density sport attraction. Spectators could be brought to it by rapid transit and river valley walk-ways.

Assuming the recently proposed Jasper Place West Line of light rapid transit were finished in time for the Games, then access to the McKinnon Ravine Velodrome Centre could be via walk-ways from the 149th Street and 142nd Street upper levels and by an attractive mini-cable car or escalator lift operating from the Government House and Archives look out point on the upper ramparts down to the River Valley Ravine park below.

d. LAWN BOWLING

Games Requirement

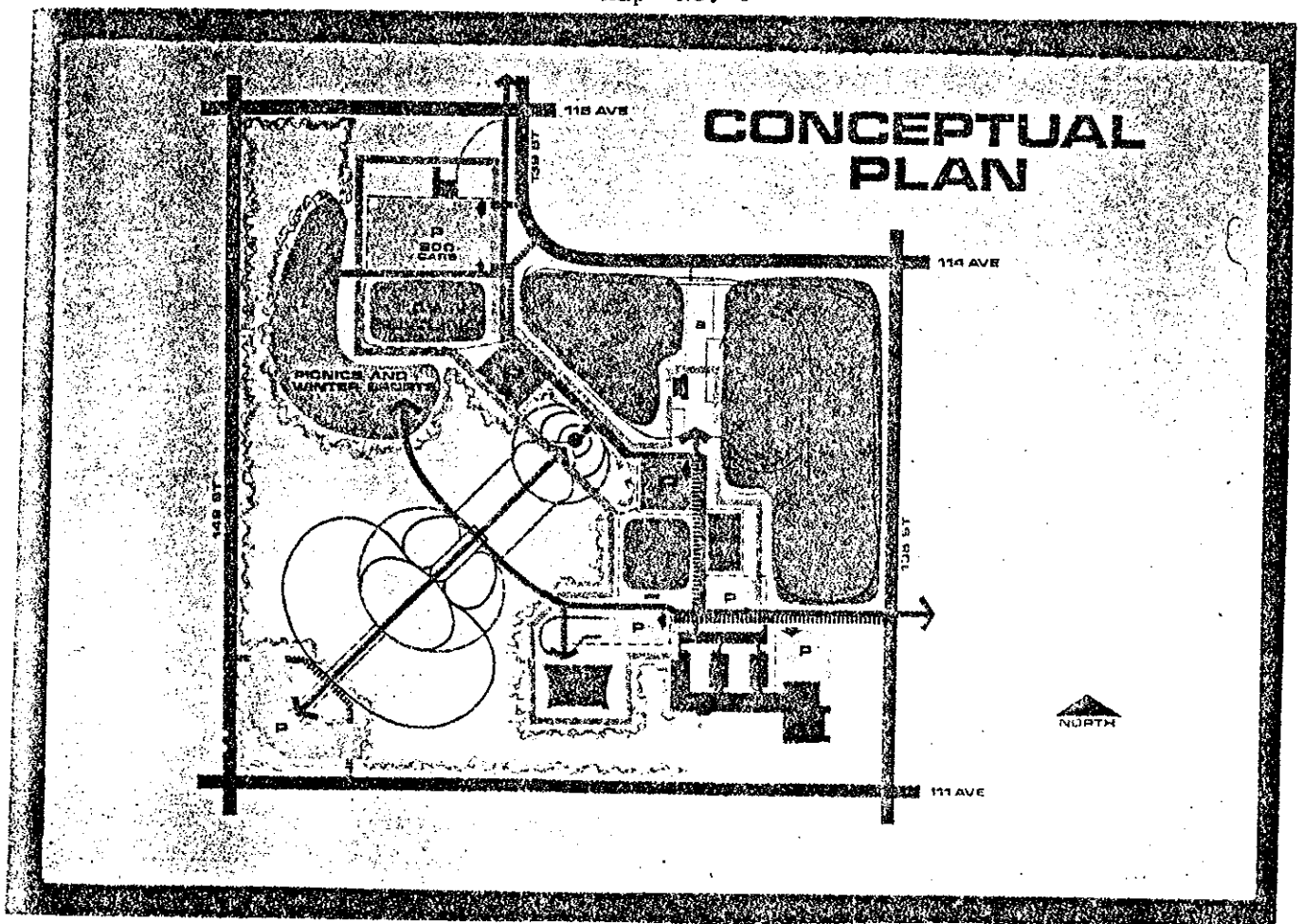
After Games Requirement

- to have three greens for bowling.

The City proposes to build four new greens for lawn bowling at a cost of \$200,000. Only three greens are required for the purposes of the Games and Edmonton already has five greens in operation. The original plan, outlined by Mayor Dent in his letter of August 18, 1972, (see Appendix II), was to make use of existing facilities.

*"We are confident that facilities already in existence for boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, shooting and lawn bowling would accommodate the 1978 Games fully, comfortably and graciously."*

Map No. 6



What is the justification for building additional new greens when the existing ones are apparently adequate?

Furthermore, why should they be centralized in Coronation Park as called for by the present plans? If the object of having the facilities is to maximize community utilization then surely decentralized greens better promote community use of the facilities. By the same token, why should the facilities be turned over to private clubs for operation after the Games as proposed by the City. This also would appear to be counter-productive when considered in terms of encouraging use by a large segment of the public.

e. SHOOTING RANGE Proposed capital cost of \$630,000.

Games Requirement

After Games Requirement

According to the Memorandum sent to G. S. Hughes, Acting Chief Commissioner from A.H. Savage, Superintendent of Edmonton Parks and Recreation Department on the subject of the British Commonwealth Games, January 7, 1964, p. 2

"The Queen's Match shoot requires a course of 3,000 yards by 825 yards wide. The Clay Pigeon and Skeet shoot requires a course 310 yards by 400 yards and the Small Bore Rifle and Pistol shoot requires a course of 139 yards by 215 yards. Along with the specific courses will have to be provided a central assembly area to house administrative organization, security and so forth. It is also necessary to provide a small accommodation area for each of the participating countries, along with, in the case of the Small Bore Pistol range, a covered shooting station. Parking and seating on site will be kept to a minimum as this is not one of the heavier spectator programmes."

To maximize the accessibility of the facility to the public.

It is suggested by Parks and Recreation Department in their memorandum to G. S. Hughes, Acting Chief Commissioner, January 7, 1974, that the facility will be operated on a club basis with all City shooting organizations interested, sharing on a time period at the ranges.

There are already three facilities in existence: R.C.M.P., City Police and Armed Forces shooting ranges, which should accommodate Games use with minor alterations. (Refer to Mayor Ivor Dent's letter to the British Commonwealth Games Foundation, August 18, 1972, Appendix II, Page 39.)

Edmonton Journal, August 25, 1972.  
Page 1.

"Preliminary suggestions are that the shooting competitions would be at the police rifle range, and that the Lawn Bowling championships would be held at the Legislative Grounds."

Again, why build additional facilities when existing ones are apparently adequate? Assuming a new facility is necessary, should it not be operated by the City rather than a private club as in a memorandum from A. H. Savage, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, to G. S. Hughes, Acting Chief Commissioner, suggests it will.

Finally, what is included in the proposed \$630,000 cost? Do the Games requirements call for such an expenditure?



f. COLISEUM Capital expenditure of \$12,466,000

EXCERPT FROM:

FOUNDATION SUBMISSION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
XI BRITISH COMMONWEALTH GAMES CANADA (1978) P. 3.

*"Coliseum: A new 16,000 seat ice arena and multi-purpose sports, recreational and cultural building, is planned and being constructed by the non-profit Edmonton Exhibition Association, on behalf of the City. The Coliseum frees the 60 year old Edmonton Gardens for minor sports and community recreational use. The Coliseum is divided into several parts, but would be devoted to gymnastics and boxing for the Games."*

The Coliseum was designed independently of the Games and is not essential for the Games. It was planned and being constructed by the Edmonton Exhibition Association. Originally the Edmonton Exhibition Board was to borrow the essential capital with the City to guarantee the loans. In addition, the City has already contributed \$3.7 million for land cost and the Provincial Government contributed \$3.7 million as an agricultural grant. But the \$3.7 million from the Province is to come out of the \$11.6 million promised by the Province as its contribution to the Games.

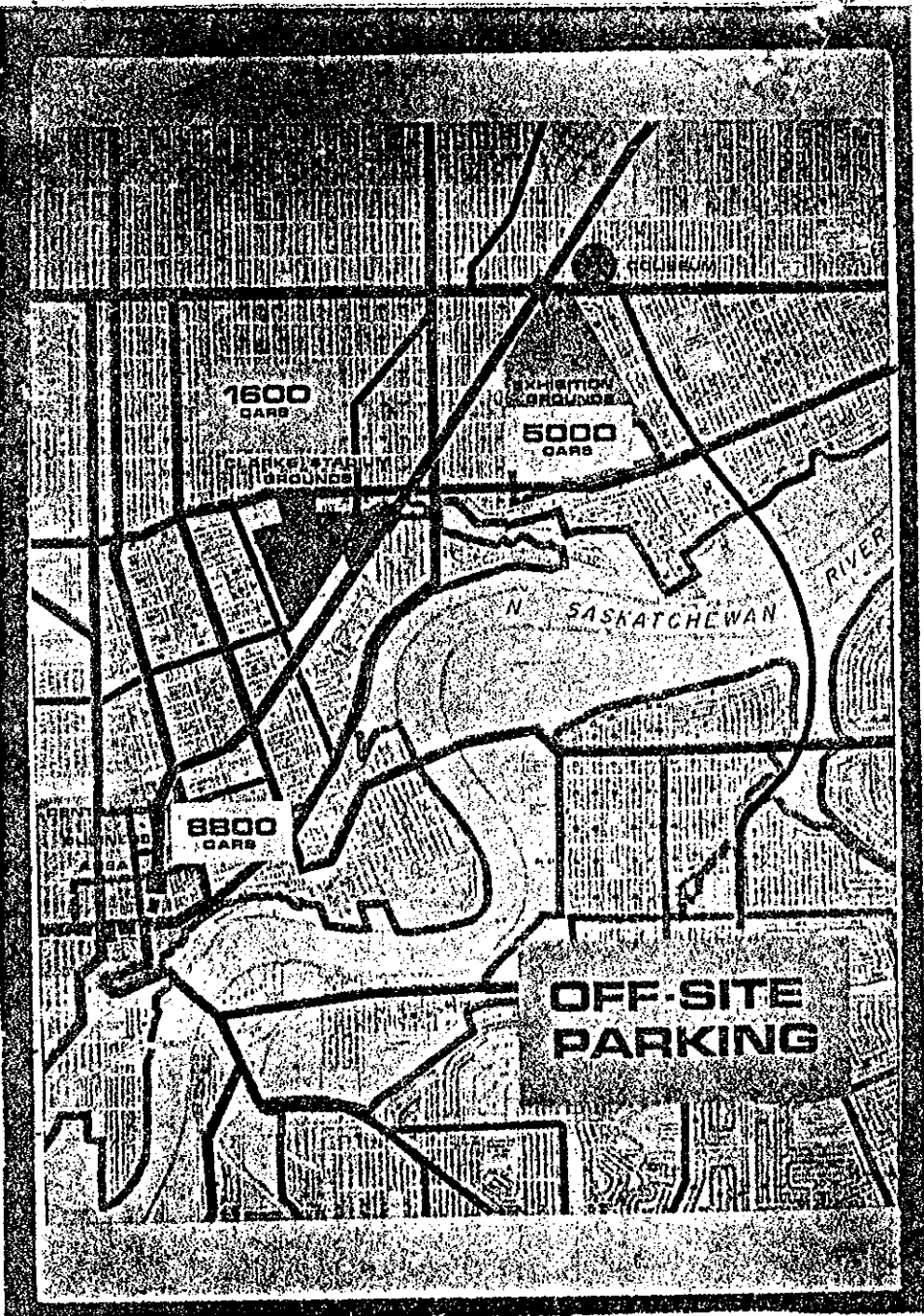
If the Coliseum was going to be built anyway, why is it included in the budget estimates for the Games? The Coliseum will benefit professional and junior hockey, trade shows and rodeo events.

D. EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY OF GAMES FACILITIES.

1. Effects of the Stadium on the Nearby Community.

What will be the social impact of the Games Stadium on the adjacent Community?

Map. No. 7.

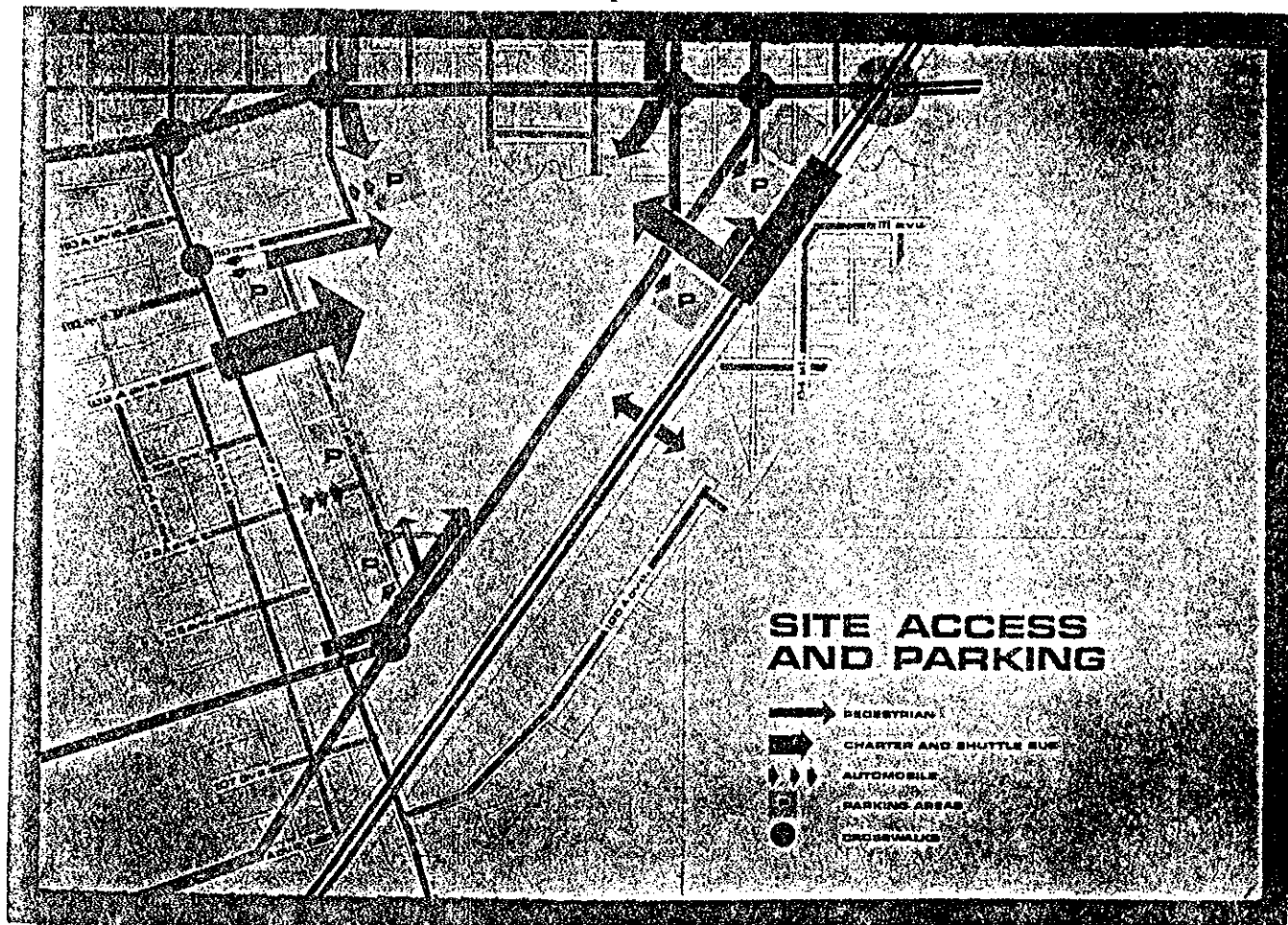


The National Capital Commission's Document (1970) analyzed the impact on Lansdowne Park Stadium in Ottawa as follows:

A Proposal for Roadway Environment in an Existing Community

"During events, up to 4,000 cars actually park in the grounds of the Park, but approximately another 10,000 cars park in streets throughout the Glebe and Ottawa South. Cars leaving the Park after events, cause the greatest disruption of the traffic system. During this time, the Driveway is virtually closed for an hour from Fourth Avenue to Bronson Avenue. Existing cars, bumper to bumper, block the Driveway in a slow-moving procession from the park gates, northwards to Pretoria Bridge, westward to Preston Street, as well as northwards along O'Connor Street to the Queensway. In order to leave room for Bus Services, cars are not allowed to leave the Grounds by the Bank Street entrance at these times. Bank Street is however loaded with cars leaving the grounds via Holmwood and Fifth Avenue, and the Driveway, Holmwood and Fifth Avenues at the Grounds become unusable for normal traffic.

During Lansdowne Park Events (duration usually 3 hours), the parking problem is by far the greatest although less frequent. Up to 10,000 cars may be parked in the area of the Glebe, as well as in Ottawa South. Apart from dispersing a great deal of traffic throughout the area, this has the effect of turning a residential district into a parking lot in which the residents themselves often lose a place for their own or their friends' cars."



We can assume from the study in Ottawa that similar disturbances will happen here:

- various residential roads will be virtually closed for an hour, after the game.
- bumper to bumper traffic and slow-movement.
- even special bus exits will be blocked by traffic coming from other streets.

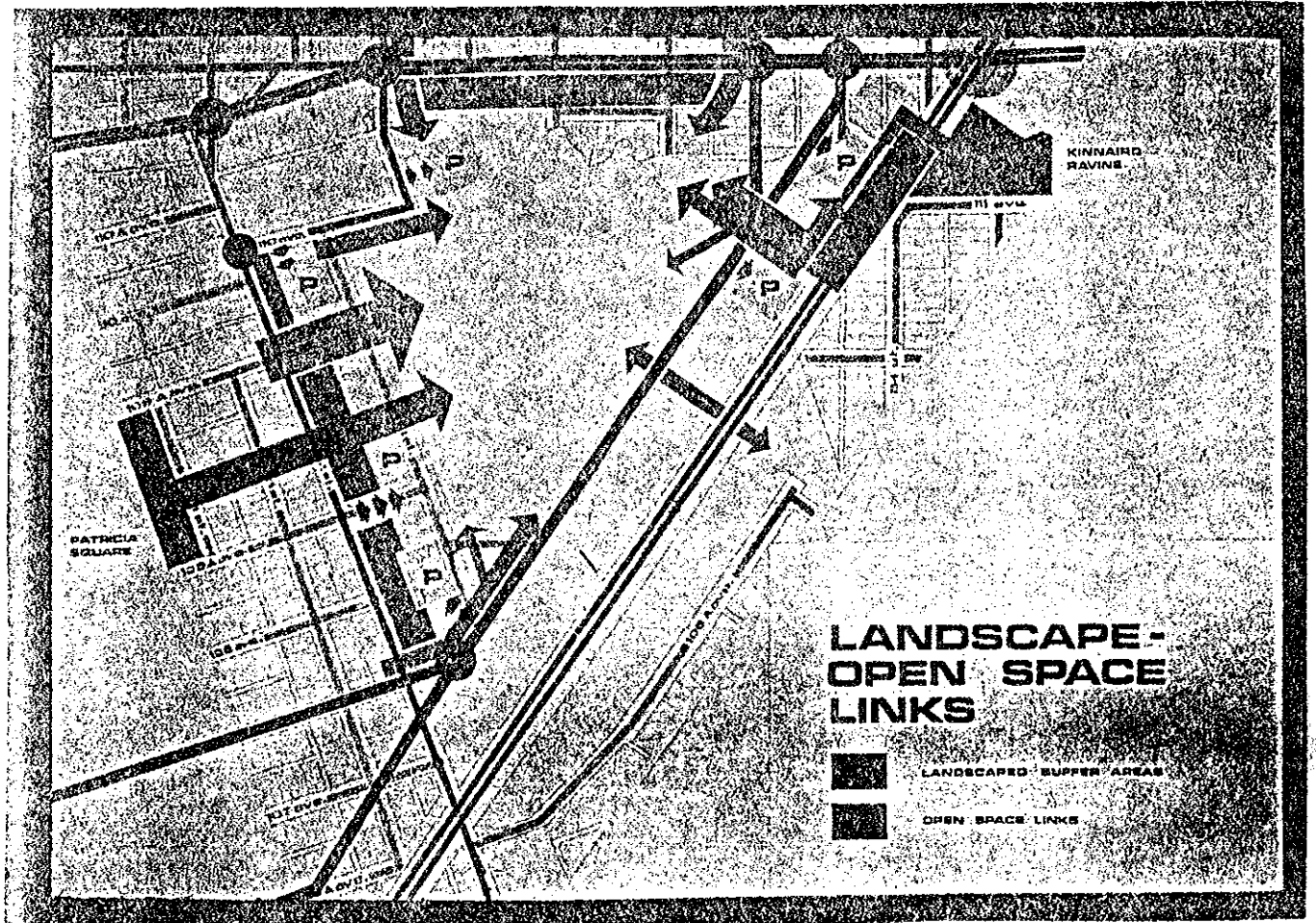
Traffic problems may occur to the maximum of six hours, including times before and after the Stadium event.

The residential area could become a big parking lot. Residential streets could be used as traffic routes.

This could cause:

1. Property deterioration and accidents.
2. Residential streets becoming a dangerous place to children.
3. Local residents being blocked on their way home and losing their parking place to strangers.

The traffic congestion and its effect on the community can be avoided if we insist on 100% use of public transit, extension of the public transit line to the west and the exclusion of parking facilities on site.



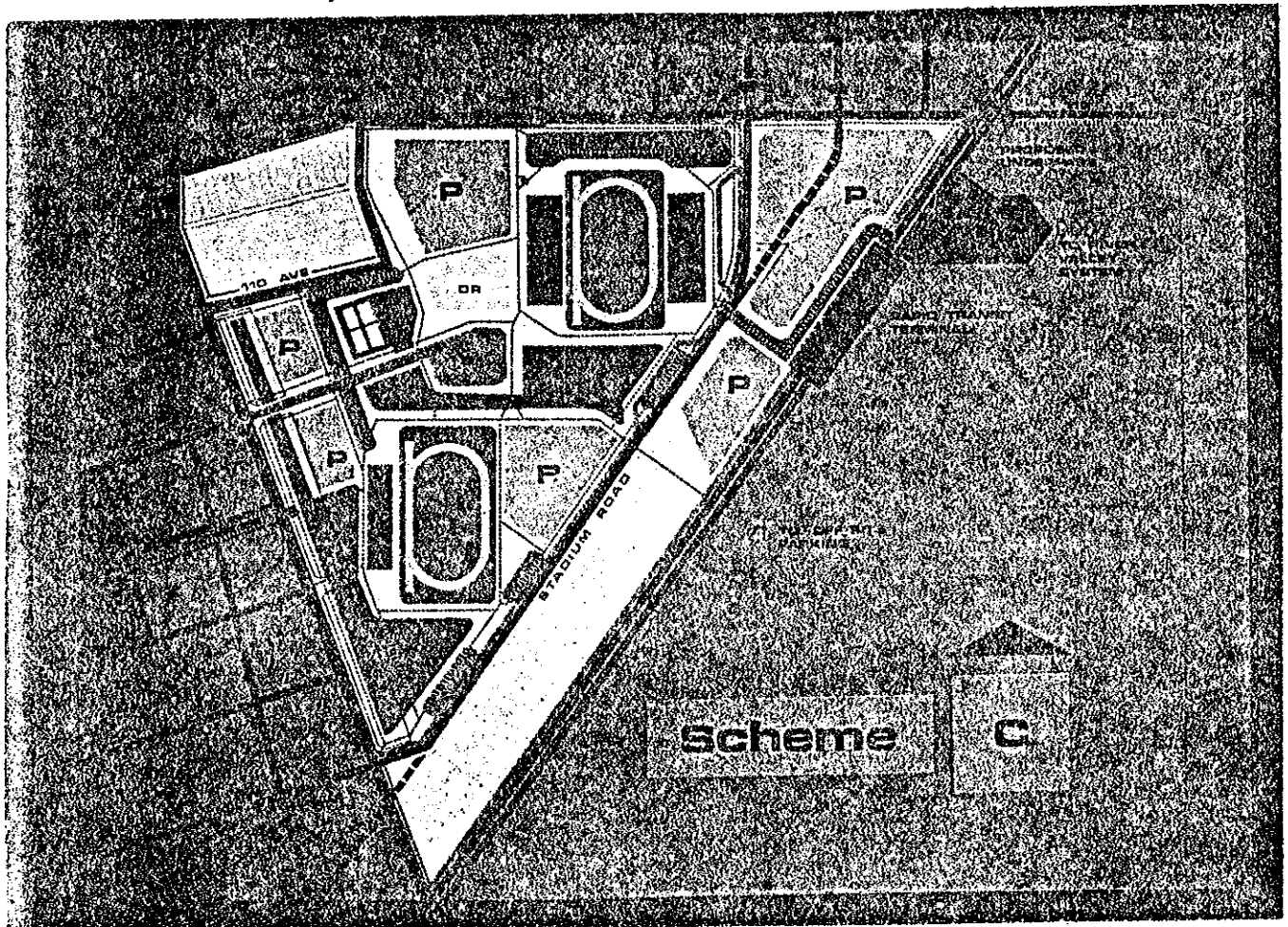
PRESENT FACILITIES ON PROPOSED STADIUM SITE

At present in Stadium Park there are six facilities which the community uses: Two lighted fastball fields, three standard fastball fields, one practice football field, one soccer field and four tennis courts which are used for skating during winter. After construction of the Stadium, only skating and tennis will stay on site. According to the Parks and Recreation Department the rest of the facilities will be relocated to the northwest Sport Centre near St. Albert.

The fact is that neighbourhoods around the Stadium are already deficient in parkland and have been on the City priority list for parkland developments. For example, Norwood has a parkland deficiency of 12.8 acres, McCauley has a 6.22 acre deficiency. (\*) Both will lose present recreational facilities on the stadium site. By keeping most of the projected parking sites as parks (parking on the site is designed for 4,100 cars), these deficiencies would not be worsened. This would require a 100% use of public transit by spectators to the stadium. Completion of the east-west rapid transit line would of course much reduce parking on the site. This would also eliminate the traffic problems and property deterioration discussed earlier. If this projection were accepted, the buffer zone design to eliminate noise between parking lots and neighbourhoods would also not be necessary and approximately forty houses would escape expropriation and the mature trees in that older inner city residential area would be saved.

(\*) Edmonton Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Master Plan, 1970. P.35.

MAP NO. 10.

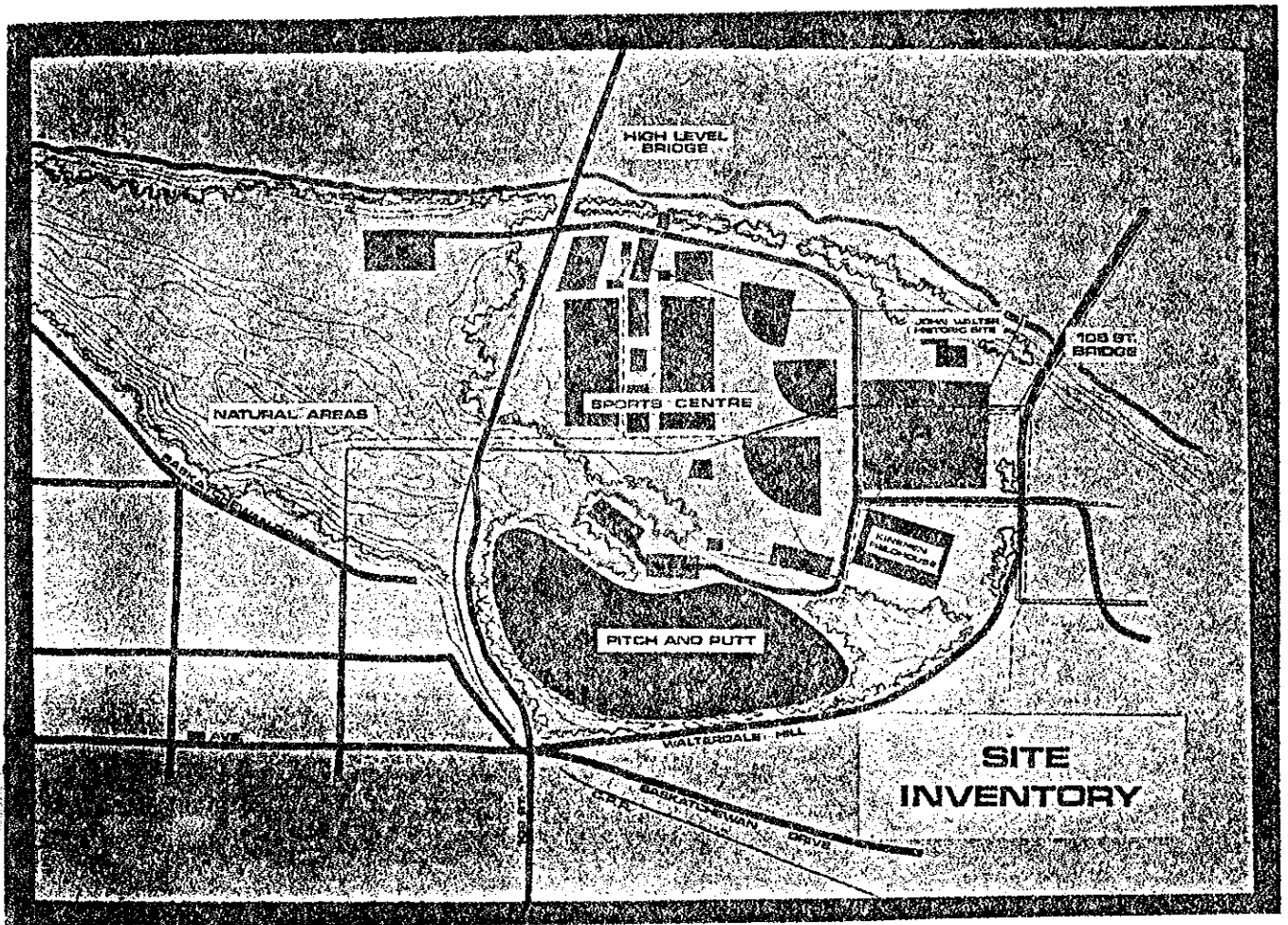


2. Effect of Swimming Pool in Proposed Location  
Environmental and Recreational Consequences

It has long been the policy of the City of Edmonton to preserve the natural beauty of the River Valley and to limit residential, industrial and commercial development in it. It is questionable whether the construction of large traffic attracting recreational facilities is not a violation of the ethical, if not legal intent of this policy. Such facilities have the potential of affecting the valley in the same way as residential, commercial and industrial developments which are prohibited in the river valley.

The City has been loathe to help Riverdale and other communities in the river valley improve as residential areas because they are considered to be subject to potential flooding. Why, then, build a major facility on the Kinsmen Field which is at the same height above the river?

Map No. 11



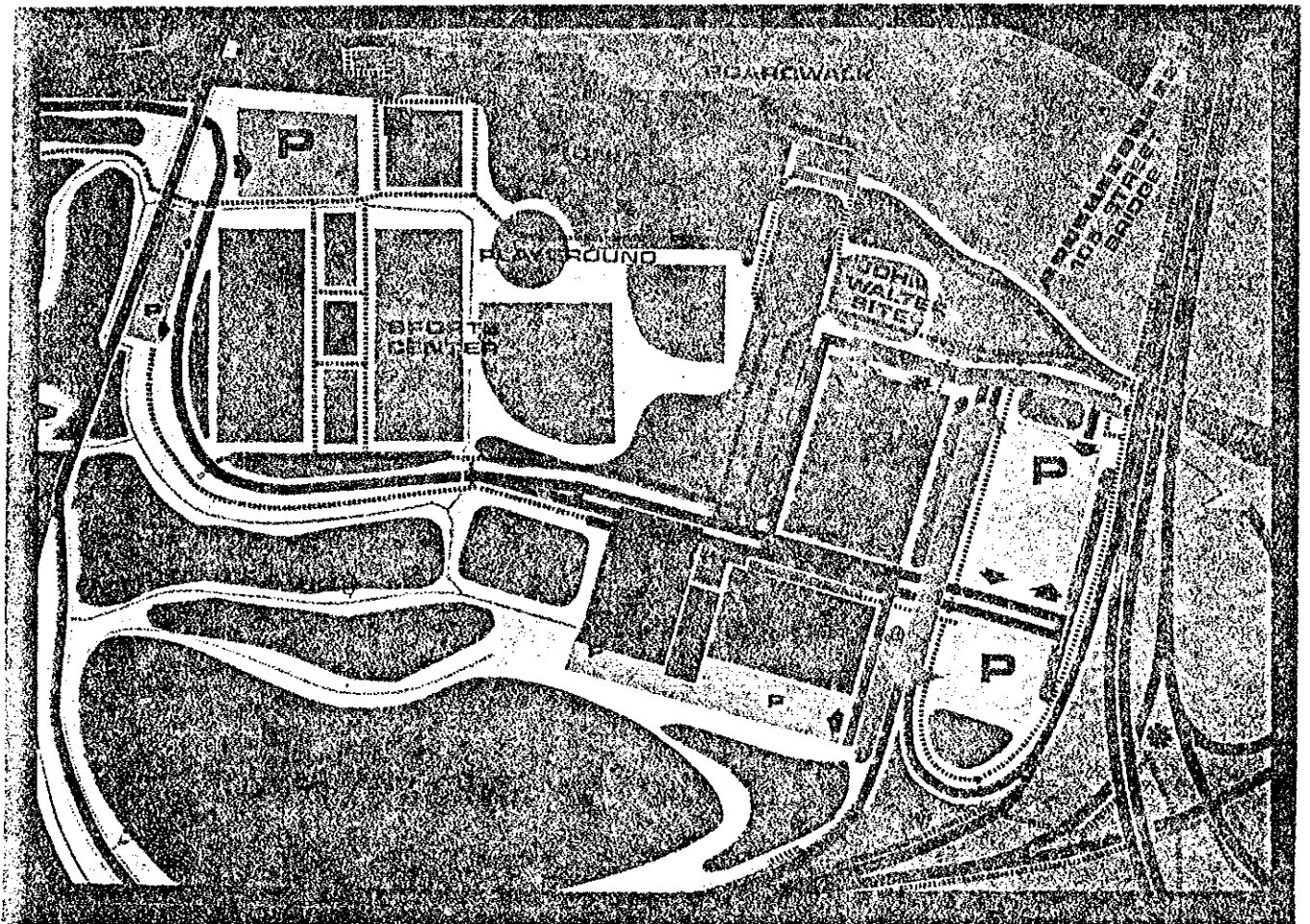
The Kinsmen Park presently has sport facilities which serve the City at large. The facilities include football and soccer fields, hockey rinks, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, fastball diamonds, pitch and putt golf course, picnic areas and playgrounds.

Certain facilities will have to be relocated due to associated parking lots, road access. Picnic areas will be moved close to the water, baseball diamonds will be relocated (one diamond might be lost due to the relocation). The effect of the relocation of the inside service road will mean more park at the edge of the river.

About half of the Park consists of steep slopes which would be subject to erosion if altered by clearing. There is a pitch and putt course, a toboggan run and picnic facilities in this area. In addition, the area is used for hiking, cross-country skiing and jogging. These activities could be hindered by the proposed development.

In summary, the cost of potential environmental damage and the value of any lost recreational land must be included in the overall cost of the proposal.

Map No. 12



## Parking and Traffic:

According to the Parks and Recreation study of the various sites for the pool, the disadvantage of locating the pool in Kinsmen Park, was the problem with the access via the 105th Street Bridge. The study calls for minimal alteration and possible temporary traffic lanes or police control. The report says that the use of the facility during the Games could be accommodated by the existing road system.

City Council, however, considered allocating \$1 million for better access to the park. Since the selection of the site, the question of the 105th Street Bridge and McKinnon Ravine became issues in Council meetings. Whether these road improvements are designed as a result of the pool being in the river valley is difficult to prove, but the reality of the situation is that these matters are related to each other and any extra load of traffic through the river valley without a rapid transit system will eventually mean a freeway system in the river valley. This issue is still a matter of public debate and should be settled before any further burdening of the river valley with additional traffic attracting projects.

The Edmonton Journal has expressed the same concerns in their Editorial of Saturday, January 19, 1974:

# Games pool

At its last meeting, city council postponed decision on a recommendation to locate the Commonwealth Games pool in Kinsmen Park. At its next meeting, council should reject the proposal, which would be a major blunder in Games planning.

The most obvious reason is the location in the river valley near the 105th Street Bridge—that is, right in the middle of the city's major traffic problems. It is stated that the additional traffic problem can be solved, as perhaps it can — but at a cost of wasting how much money and sacrificing how much park land in the process?

A more important objection is the philosophy which the recommendation implies. According to parks superintendent A. H. Savage, in his report on the matter: “. . . it was decided that one of the major considerations should be that the pool be established at a central location: this to facilitate its use in the post-Games period for competitive training and competitions. It is our desire that after the Games this pool be of a nature that city competitive swim clubs can be allocated time to develop and perfect their expertise, while relieving neighborhood pools for . . . general use.”

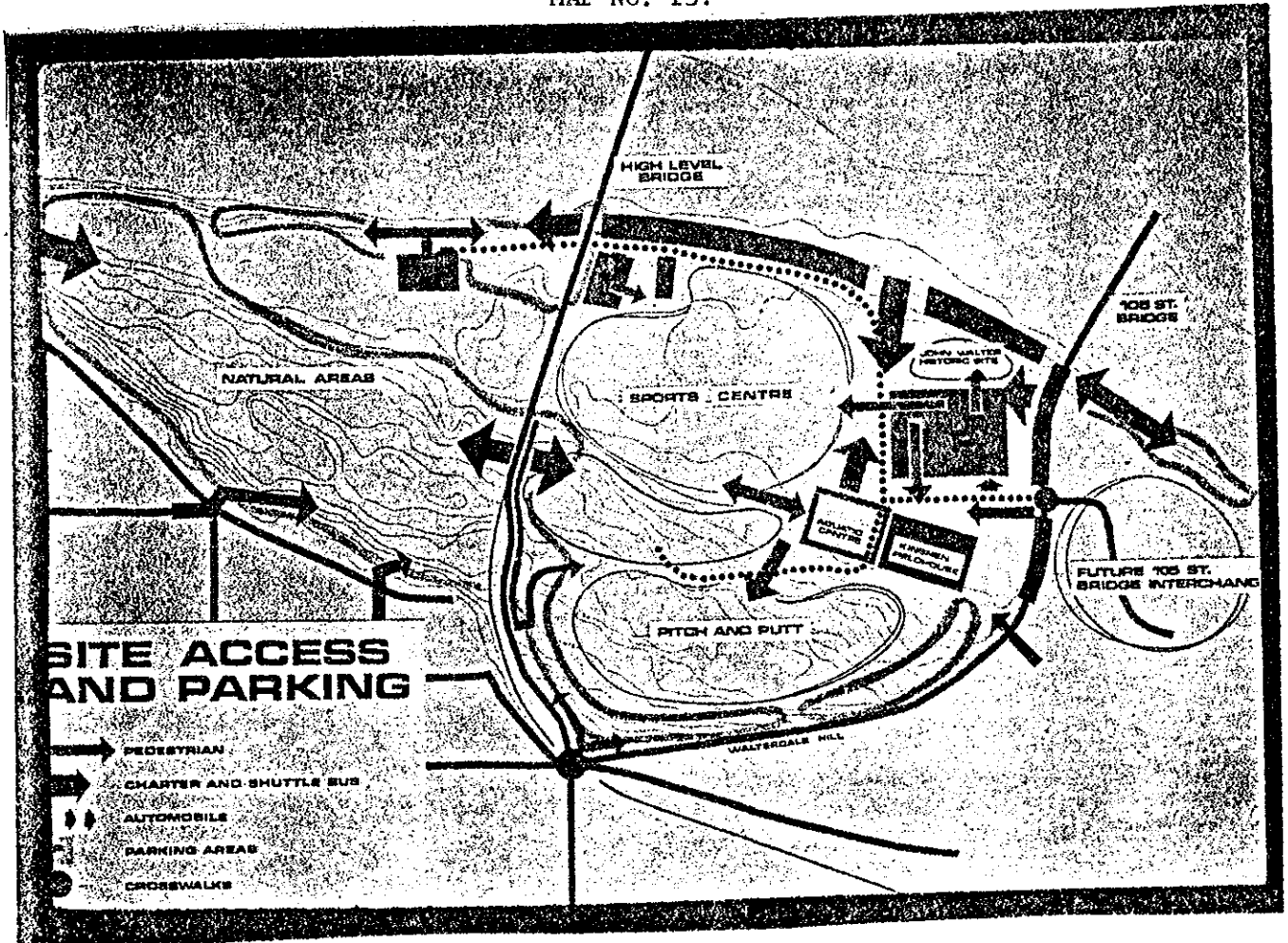
Certainly competitive training and competition is one legiti-

mate function for a major city pool after the Games but by no stretch of the imagination can it be considered a major justification for locating what will be the city's most elaborate facility—especially on a site which would tend to exaggerate its exclusivity. Indeed, this tends to confirm the fears of some Games critics who suggest that Games money may be used to build private clubs for the athletic elite, rather than providing the promised community benefits.

And, of course, the superior alternative is too obvious to be ignored. Combining the pool facility with the proposed stadium in the Clarke Stadium area would not only make for a better Games centre but would afterwards provide some badly-needed recreation facilities in the northeast area, which is glaringly deficient in such facilities. By taking the land for the stadium without providing such extra facilities in return, the city would be merely plundering what little potential for recreational development this part of the city has left.

And if that should happen, residents of the area might well wonder about the wisdom of having two of their three Ward Three aldermen—Bill McLean and Ron Hayter—sitting on the board of the Games Foundation.





### 3. POSSIBLE ROADWAY IMPLICATIONS OF THE GAMES

The site plans for the Games give little indication of possible roadway alterations that may be contemplated by the City of Edmonton Engineering Department as accommodation to peak traffic volumes that could be generated by the Games. Provision is made for on site parking at the Stadium and at the Pool complex in the River Valley. These involve estimates of \$2,000,000 for parking spaces alone.

A sound argument can be made for the completion of the Jasper Place Rapid Transit line in time for the Games, complete with a firm policy of no on-site parking except for busways, officials, and operational service vehicles. The present Stadium proposal and site plan, predicated on the Northeast Rapid Transit Line locates a station on the CNR mainline across the road from the Stadium. An alternative concept offering greater convenience is a spur loop bringing the rapid transit trains directly into the base of the Stadium itself.

Three different 3 car trains could load 1,800 passengers every 30 seconds in this weather enclosed station. One train route would go northeast to Clareview, one south to downtown McCauley Plaza and one due west to 156 Street in Jasper Place, bus terminal.

The net effect could be to reach a 70-30 split in transit to auto usage. Park and ride facilities at Jasper Place, the Exhibition Station, and elsewhere would make arrival and departure from the Stadium site a pleasant affair instead of the conventional North American traffic nightmare.

If the City Transportation and Engineering Planning Departments opt for roadway and automobile solutions, it seems quite probable that such an answer will involve a demand for accelerated implementation of the arterial roadway adjustments proposed in the Basic Network Plan of October 1973. This is a \$330 million dollar proposal, some \$69 million worth of which could be argued as being "necessary" for the Games.

Should the Network Plan proposals be brought forward on these grounds, then the roadway implications of the Games are important in terms of the health of many inner city older neighbourhoods. The further intrusion of widened arterials into these areas will mean the loss of a great deal of Edmonton's few comfortable tree-lined and canopied street areas.

The real cost to Edmontonians of this ten-day festival (unless it is properly planned and scaled) could then be a city which in many parts is left for generations as unlivable.

### CONCLUSION

In 1972 when Edmonton bid for the British Commonwealth Games, the estimated cost of all facilities was \$9,750,000 with, it was suggested, no cost to be incurred by the City. The capital and operational costs were expected to be raised by Provincial and Federal grants, donations and lotteries. Today, two years later, the total cost of facilities has mushroomed to \$44.6 million with an anticipated city contribution of \$11.6 million. Originally only a stadium, an olympic pool and a velodrome were required. Today the budget calls for extra facilities such as a shooting range (\$660,000), Lawn Bowling (\$200,000) and a coliseum (\$12,466,000). In spite of the high costs involved and the time span between 1972 and today, no professional cost studies have been done, and there is no guarantee that the cost figures will not escalate even further. In Denver City, 80% of the residents voted "NO" to the Winter Olympics since original estimates of \$9 million skyrocketed to \$108 million in approximately two years. Will this be the situation in Edmonton?

Upon close examination of the cost figure of \$44.6 million, it appears that many costs are not even mentioned, e.g. land contribution by the city to the Exhibition Board of \$3.7 million, cost of roadways and traffic improvement, and after Games modifications of the stadium. All these costs, are costs to the city and as such should be included in the cost budget. After the Games, all facilities will be owned by the city, and the city will be responsible to cover any operational deficit. The experience of Squaw Valley, a host city to the Olympics, was that the citizens could not keep up with the high operational costs of the buildings and they were left to deteriorate. In Vancouver, after the 1954 Empire Games, the Velodrome went virtually unused.

The cost of the facilities of \$44.6 million is expected to be partially covered by Federal-Provincial grants. Yet, to date there is no guarantee that the Federal government will provide this contribution. If the Federal grant does not materialize, who will pick up the extra cost involved? The plebiscite wording does not confine the total city contribution to \$11.6 million, it simply specifies that this amount would be borrowed on debenture. There is no guarantee that the \$11.6 million is the only

contribution that the city will provide. According to the agreement between the Foundation and the City, the city is responsible for any losses and has to guarantee the loans.

The facilities proposed for the Games are a stadium, a coliseum, an olympic pool, a velodrome, a shooting range and lawn-bowling greens. The stadium after the Games, is to be converted to the football stadium with the Edmonton Eskimos as its main tenant. (There is no cost estimate for the price of that conversion which will have to be paid by the city.) The coliseum was designed independently of the Games and is already under construction. Why is it being introduced as part of the Games facilities?

The shooting range and lawn-bowling greens are going to be built by taxpayers money but are to be operated after the Games as private clubs. If these facilities are needed, why should they be operated on a private club basis rather than as a public facility.

The philosophy of the Games calls for Games conducted in a spirit of joy and friendliness for the benefit of commonwealth friendship and community sports. It is not in the interest of the Commonwealth Countries to establish a tradition of high cost and expensive facilities, yet it seems that this will be the legacy Edmonton will be passing on to future host cities.

Building less costly facilities, as originally projected, and making full use of existing facilities, are still possible. The short term and long run values of a less costly approach to the Games are clear.

In the event that the present Games budget proposal is to be acted upon, methods of financing other than those proposed should be implemented so that those segments of the community who will benefit most will be required to pay a proportionally higher share of the cost.

APPENDIX I

APPROVED

As to Form (SIGNED) City Solicitor

As to Contents (SIGNED) Head of Department

As to Principle (SIGNED) City Commissioners

BYLAW NO. 4210

A Bylaw to create a debt in the sum of \$11,600,000.00 pursuant to The Municipal Government Act, for the purpose hereinafter specified and to authorize the issue of Debentures for the said sum.

WHEREAS the City of Edmonton has been selected as the site for the 1978 Commonwealth Games and

WHEREAS it is necessary to construct the facilities listed below in order to hold the said Games:

Stadium	\$22,835,000.00
Pool	4,500,000.00
Velodrome	660,000.00
Shooting Range	630,000.00
Lawn Bowling	200,000.00
Land	1,800,000.00
Upgrade Facilities	<u>1,520,000.00</u>
	<u>\$ 32,145,000.00</u>

WHEREAS contributions from other sources towards the costs of the said facilities are estimated to be in the amount of \$20,545,000.00 and

WHEREAS the City seeks authority pursuant to Section 311 of the Municipal Government Act to create a debt, not payable within the current year, on the credit and security of the City at large, by the issue and sale of Debentures in the sum of \$11,600,000.00 to meet a portion of the cost of the said facilities, repayable in the manner hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS the said indebtedness is to be repaid over a period of Twenty-five (25) years; and

WHEREAS the expected life of the projects is in excess of Twenty-five (25) years; and

WHEREAS the amount of the equalized assessment in the City as last determined and fixed by the Assessment Equalization Board is \$1,299,136,420.00; and

WHEREAS the total amount of existing Debenture Debt of the City is the sum of \$362,400,730.44 at December 31, 1972 and no part of the principal or interest thereof is in arrears.

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the City of Edmonton, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. For the purpose aforesaid, a debt in the sum of \$11,600,000.00 is hereby created and the Mayor and Treasurer of the City of Edmonton are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to borrow for the said purposes, in the name of, on behalf of and on the credit of the City of Edmonton, a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of \$11,600,000.00 and to issue one or more Debentures of the City for the sum or sums so borrowed and to carry out or to enter into a contract or contracts for the carrying out of the said works.

2. (1) The Debentures to be issued under this Bylaw shall be for the said sum of \$11,600,000.00 shall be dated the First day of December or such day as may be appropriate having regard to the date of the borrowing of the money, and shall be payable in Twenty-five (25) annual instalments of principal on the First day of December in each of the years 1974 to 1998 inclusive, the respective amounts of principal maturing in each of such years to be such that together with interest payable the total amount payable in each of such years shall be as nearly as possible equal.

(2) The Debentures maturing in each of such years shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding Ten per centum (10%) per annum payable annually on the First day of December in each year during the currency of the Debentures. The Debentures may have coupons attached thereto for the payment of interest and the Debentures may be in denominations of \$1,000.00 or any multiple thereof.

(3) The Debentures to be issued under this Bylaw shall be for the said sum of \$11,600,000.00, shall be dated upon such date as may be appropriate having regard to the date of the said loan, shall bear interest at a rate of interest not exceeding Ten percent (10% per annum and the Debentures to be issued may be repaid in Twenty-five (25) consecutive equal instalments of combined principal and interest payable on the First day of December in each year or on such day of such other

month in each year as may be appropriate having regard to the date of the borrowing until the said sum of interest is fully paid.

4. (1) The Debenture or Debentures shall be in such form as may be approved by the Local Authorities Board of the Province of Alberta, shall be sealed with the Seal of the City and shall be signed by the Mayor or by some person authorized by bylaw to sign the same in his stead and by the City Treasurer or by some person authorized by bylaw to sign in his stead, whose signatures may be engraved or lithographed thereon.

(2) The coupons attached to the Debentures shall be signed by the Mayor or such person authorized to sign in his stead and by the City Treasurer or such person authorized to sign in his stead.

(3) Provided that:

(a) The signature of the Mayor or such person authorized to sign in his stead on such Debentures may be engraved or lithographed thereon;

(b) The signatures of the Mayor and Treasurer or such persons authorized to sign in their steads respectively on such coupons may be engraved or lithographed thereon;

(c) The signatures of the Treasurer or such person authorized to sign in his stead on the memorandum of registration of Debentures in the Debenture Register endorsed on the Debentures may be engraved or lithographed.

5. Principal and interest repaid by the City as hereinbefore provided shall be paid in Canadian funds at the Principal office of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce either in the City of Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta, or at the principal office in the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario.

6. There shall be levied and raised in each year of the currency of the Debentures hereby authorized the amount necessary to pay the principal and interest falling due in such year on such Debentures (after applying the revenue derived by way of special assessment, of any) by a rate sufficient therefore on all the rateable property in the City and collectible at the same time and in the same manner as other rates.

7. The said indebtedness is contracted on the credit and security of the City of Edmonton at large.

8. The net amount realized by the issue and sale of Debentures issued under this bylaw shall be applied only for the purpose for which the indebtedness was created, unless otherwise authorized by an Order of the Local Authorities Board.

9. This Bylaw shall not be given second or third reading and be finally passed until all requirements pursuant to Part 7 of the Municipal Government Act and the provisions of the Municipal Election Act have been complied with and a certificate to that effect has been filed by the City Clerk with the Local Authorities Board and until the authority of Local Authorities Board for such Debenture borrowing has been secured pursuant to the Local Authorities Board Act.

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REVISION, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1974.

"Shall City Council pass Bylaw No. 4210 authorizing the borrowing of the sum of \$11,600,000 by debenture for the object of purchasing that land and paying a portion of the cost of construction of those athletic and recreational facilities necessary for the hosting of the 1978 Commonwealth Games?"

The debt or liability of \$11,600,000 shall be repaid in 25 consecutive equal annual installments of combined principal and interest at an interest rate not exceeding 10 percent per annum, the maximum annual installment being the sum of \$1,277,950. The facilities required for the hosting of the 1978 Commonwealth Games consist of a stadium, swimming pool, velodrome, shooting range, lawn bowling facilities and certain upgrading of existing facilities but they may not all be located on City owned land. All facilities which are financed by the proposed City borrowing in whole or in part must be located on City owned land and shall become City property in total. It is anticipated that the difference in the cost of construction of the facilities and the City contribution shall be provided by the Federal and the Provincial Governments.



*This letter accompanied the Presentation Booklet which was "an invitation" to the British Commonwealth Games Federation and to its British Commonwealth Games Association.*

APPENDIX II

THE XI BRITISH COMMONWEALTH GAMES (CANADA 1978) FOUNDATION

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

3rd Floor, City Hall

Edmonton, Alberta

CANADA

August 18, 1972

Chairman  
Mayor Ivor G. Dent  
Edmonton  
  
National Co-Chairman  
Col. John W. Davies, O.C., C.D.  
President  
British Commonwealth Games  
Association of Canada  
3449 Vendome Avenue  
MONTREAL 260, Quebec  
  
Interim Executive Director  
H. L. Pawson  
Edmonton  
Telephone Area Code 403  
424-0211  
Extension 516

A COVERING LETTER OF PROGRESS AND AMENDMENT

To the Members and Delegates  
The British Commonwealth Games Federation

Sirs:

We are pleased to report, since publication of Canada's Booklet of Invitation last February, meaningful progress in regards to Edmonton's potential to host the XI British Commonwealth Games in 1978 in a manner to do honour to the Federation.

Our City Council pledged to our nation, to our British Commonwealth Games Association of Canada, and to the British Commonwealth Games Federation that Alberta's beautiful, young and lusty Capital City

guaranteed international class facilities in which to present the nine sports and two demonstrations Canada is recommending, plus a Games Village of superb amenities which is not a dream or a plan but which already exists and operates smoothly 365 days a year.

We made that pledge in full knowledge that we would require a new athletic stadium, a velodrome and an Olympic-standard swimming and diving pool. We were confident that facilities already in existence for Boxing, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Badminton, Shooting and Lawn Bowling, plus the demonstrations of Lacrosse and Amateur Canadian Football, would accommodate the 1978 Games fully, comfortably and graciously.

At the same time, in keeping with the highest ideals of these Games and in the interest of our own taxpaying Citizens and in the interest of those nations which might refrain from bidding for subsequent Games if capital costs were allowed to soar, we pledged to provide these facilities at the most modest costs to our community. The costs were to be less than \$10,000,000.

We pledged full Citizen Involvement in all efforts pertaining to these Games, and the residents of our community caught that spirit and insisted on offering their own testimony to this. By their voluntary contributions to our Foundation, they have subscribed every penny necessary to finance our submissions. The City of Edmonton has been repaid all the monies it has advanced to make our quest possible.

But involvement has been much deeper in our community. The desire to host the 1978 Games has commenced a chain of positive thinking, planning and commitment, enhancing our Invitation while removing substantial capital requirements in our guarantee of facilities.

First, the Kinsmen Club of Edmonton offered to undertake as a contribution to our Community, the swimming pool project. This service club already has given our City North America's only municipally-owned Field House, the structure which guarantees no loss of training in 1978 regardless of weather. If Canada's invitation is accepted, the Kinsmen will provide the pool described in our booklet, to cost up to \$3,500,000, as a volunteer project.

Next, the Edmonton Exhibition Association, the non-profit company which operates our annual agricultural fair and summer festival, committed itself to the construction of a 16,000-seat modern hockey arena or Coliseum. The magnificent structure, which goes under construction next month regardless of whether our invitation is accepted, is required for other reasons but has been offered to the 1978 British Commonwealth Games' use in Edmonton at no capital costs to us. It will move into a setting of grandeur the four recommended indoor sports; Boxing, Wrestling, Weightlifting and Badminton, and almost exactly meets the specifications of the Multi-Purpose Centre described in our Booklet.

Two weeks ago the one professional sports team in Edmonton, for ours is a City devoted to the amateur sports ethic in all its forms, came forward with a proposal for a new athletic stadium, which will accommodate a 400-metre track and all other athletic facilities needed in that regard, including at least 35,000 seats. Our planning still revolves around a new stadium on the University of Alberta Campus, but if the professional Edmonton Eskimos proceed with their plans--and they will negotiate with our City, with our University and with other organizations in the matter--it will be a marvelous plus to our invitation. It would be roofless through 1978, although all seats would be covered, and in the post games period would be enclosed.

The enthusiasm generated by our efforts to gain the honour of hosting the 1978 Games has spread to all parts of our community, and particularly to our sports bodies. The oarsmen, for instance, have recently convinced us that we can even accommodate the water sports in 1978, although they are not in our recommendation. In this we will be guided by the wishes of the Federation. We recommended the sports we did on the basis of their popularity in a majority of Commonwealth Games, but we wish you to know we have the potential to alter our planning to include any sports the Federation might desire, still at a minimum cost to our taxpayers.

So that delegates may understand how so many facilities are being made available to us, or being offered to us at no great cost to our citizens, it should be understood that ours is a fast-developing economy. For 20 years, we have established Canadian construction and growth records for major urban communities, with new construction up to \$200,000,000 annually. In the matter of hotels, for instance, augmenting the 5,000

first class rooms we have today in 90 hotels in \$30,000,00 in hotel and motel construction, including building or planning of three new major hotels, which within two years will give us an additional 2,000 first class rooms. One new major downtown hotel is reserved for press, radio and television persons in 1978.

As a community group acting on behalf of Canada and the British Commonwealth Games Association of Canada, our experience since we began seeking the 1978 Games has increased our appreciation of and faith in the Commonwealth ideal. It has strengthened our belief that Canada has a contribution to make in the area of Commonwealth understanding and in the fields of selfless assistance to developing nations. We are more than ever convinced that amateur sports and these Games are integral to these processes, and our recent experiences have reinforced our belief in that section of the Federation's constitution which discourages the introduction into our amateur sports relationships of discrimination based on race, colour, creed or economic circumstances. Our differences in these matters are our strength as a family of nations, particularly in sports.

We ask consideration on one point. Canada, along with Bermuda, British Honduras and Guyana, comprise the Americas Block in these Games, a block of vast distances and spaces, similar to the spans and spaces which comprise our neighbouring block of the Caribbean, or the African, Asian and Oceanic Blocks. We feel that the full sense of the motives and objectives which originated these Games in Canada in 1930 will be met if these great intervening distances are taken into account and invitations are accepted more on the principle of blocks or areas rather than on national principles. For the spirit of these Games demands that they be presented in the farthest reaches of the Commonwealth when possible. Take the example of the Americas and Caribbean Blocks.

The Games were inaugurated in Canada, at Hamilton, Ontario in 1930, and next held in the Americas 24 years later in Vancouver, British Columbia, 2,500 miles westward in Canada. Next they were held 3,500 miles south-east, in Jamaica of the Caribbean Block in 1966. We are inviting their presentation in Edmonton in 1978, so that we can celebrate their Golden Jubilee two years early, but in the most logical year for their celebration in the inaugural Games nation. As most nations will appreciate, our need and the need of amateur sports in these vast outreaches of the Commonwealth are heightened by the distances and the few opportunities we do have to engage in top international competition at home. How great the contrast with the United Kingdom, where the distances separating the sites of London in 1934, Cardiff in 1958, Edinburgh in 1970 and the proposed 1978 English site, encompass a triangle which would neatly fit in between Alberta's two major cities; where the opportunities to engage in and watch first class interinternational sport are so frequent as to be commonplace.

Again, we beseech you to favour and accept Canada's invitation to present the XI British Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Alberta, on behalf of the Federation and our Canadian British Commonwealth Games Association. We will be your willing and faithful servants and will guarantee a presentation which will meet the intent of every Games objective more than fully.

Thank you.

(SIGNED) IVOR G. DENT  
MAYOR