

**BORDELEAU
PARK**

**60 YEARS
AND
STILL GOING
STRONG**

PARKLAND RECLAIMED FROM THE RIVER

1830s

registered plan 1223 shows approximate shoreline of Rideau River with no land at the corner of Cathcart and Rose

1842

plan of Bytown shows the By Wash leaving King St and joining a small creek that entered the Rideau River near the Cathcart St edge of park

1930s

area between Cathcart St and Bruyere St along Rideau River reclaimed as part of Rose St and Cathcart St

PARK COMMEMORATES A LOWERTOWN RESIDENT

October 30, 1950 – At a special meeting of the Ottawa Playgrounds Committee, a recommendation was submitted and accepted regarding the creation of the N.A. Bordeleau Playground.

Napoleon Alexandre Bordeleau was born into an established Lowertown family in 1867 and lived much of his adult life on King Edward Avenue across from the King Edward Park. Before his death in March 1950, he was active in business, sports, and politics as the Ottawa Ward alderman.

PARK GETS ITS PRESENT LOCATION FROM CONVENT LAND

December 18 1950 – The City Council Minutes conveyed the following recommendations:

On the advice of the Playgrounds Committee, the Board recommends that the proposed Bordeleau Playground be relocated and established East of Notre Dame St. on land owned by the Sisters of the Good Shepherds Institution, the Sisters being willing to transfer a strip 66'x 270' to the city for this purpose without charge.

The Board recommends the adoption of the further recommendation of the Committee that City land, along the Rideau River, between St. Andrew and Pinard Sts., originally intended for this playground, be conveyed to the Sisters, including the closing up and conveying to them of the dead end of St. Andrew St., East of Notre Dame St.

PARK INCLUDES THE LAVAL RINK

September 25, 1953 – A special meeting of the Municipal Recreation Committee recommended the removal of the Laval Rink at Bruyere and Rose. The minutes noted that “The hockey facilities at Laval are not being used. Last year not a single team applied for use of Laval Rink except for a local group of a few boys.” The minutes went on to say that “Only skating activities will be carried on and a speed skating track will be operated on a trial basis for one year to replace the speed skating track at the R.A. Rink.”

PARK TO BE SACRIFICED IN LOWER TOWN EAST URBAN RENEWAL

June 1968 – A booklet titled “Information for Tenants and Owners” was published as part of Lower Town East Urban Renewal Project. It indicated that, in a program “to improve conditions in the area” and “make this neighbourhood a better place in which to live”, the City “must acquire and demolish properties and thus some people have to be moved.” One of the maps inserted in the booklet shows one ‘cloverleaf’ section of the King Edward Freeway cutting through the corner of Bordeleau Park at Bruyere and Rose Streets west of the present tennis courts.

PARK GETS A MAKEOVER

1980 – A new design includes the creation of landscaped berms, planting of trees, construction of a gazebo, and the addition of a three spray water feature on a gravel stream bed.