



RUE ALEXANDRA ST.



PREMIER LOTISSEMENT | FIRST DEVELOPMENT

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Alexandra Street - First Town Subdivision

Hearst owes its geographical location and its founding subdivision¹ to the railway engineers. Indeed, the streets were laid out according to the limits of the railroad yard and, as early as 1915, they were given the names they still bear today. The main street, called Front, is the one that runs east to west along the railroad. Usually, streets named “Front” correspond to a harbour or a waterfront. In Hearst’s case, the train station that was built at that time would play the role of the port of arrival.

The parallel streets that run east to west through the square of the subdivision commemorate the British royal family of the time. This type of nomenclature was common practice at the time. For example, George Street is named after King George V

¹ Division of a property into lots for the purpose of building houses. Subdivision of a piece of land.

(1910-1936). Prince Street refers by name to royalty, while Alexandra Street salutes Alexandra of Denmark, Danish princess and wife of Edward VII, who was King of England (1901-1910). Kitchener Street is named after Lord Horacio Herbert Kitchener, a British soldier and minister. The cross streets, which run north to south, are numbered from First Street in the east, where the Riverside Cemetery is located, to Twelfth Street in the west, where the demonstration farm once stood.

Following the Second World War (1939-1945), Prince Street was extended to the western limits of the town, between Way and Kendall Townships, specifically to Fifteenth Street. In the 1960s, Alexandra and Edward Streets were extended to meet them at Fifteenth Street. In addition, a new street, Boulley, named after a mayor, was added to the parallel streets of the subdivision.

From 1915 to the 1970s, the town's boundaries were roughly defined by Front Street to the north, the Mattawishkwia River to the south and east, and Way Township to the west or, in the last decade, Fifteenth Street.

However, at the end of the 1920s, another subdivision, McManusville, now known as St. Pie X, was developed north of the railroad.

It is probably worth mentioning that, in addition to this first subdivision, other subdivisions were being added at the same time around Hearst. For example, at the end of the 1920s, a subdivision located north of the railroad was developed. It was first nicknamed MacManusville and later became St. Pie X. The same was true of the development of Louisbourg. Both areas were finally annexed to the Town of Hearst in 1976.

In 1972, the Ontario Housing Corporation's Ontario Housing Program allowed the construction of affordable homes along Fifteenth Street. This real estate project helped launch the development of new streets. These include Houle, Aubin, Boucher and McManus Streets. Since then, the neighbourhood has not aged. It is known as the "maisons neuves" sector.

By 1915, the Wyborn area, named after the first postmaster, was subdivided. Located west of Hearst, along the Central Algoma Railway, it was then called Hazel. In 1989, the annexation of this area completed the town's current geographical limits.

- *Laurent Vaillancourt*

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