

CITY OF LLOYDMINSTER (SASK. - ALTA.)

Lloydminster became one of the most unique spots in the Prairie Provinces Jan. 1, 1958 when it was granted city status, for not only did Lloydminster become a city of Saskatchewan but also a city of Alberta. Reason for the unusual event, the "Saskatchewan News" reports, is the fact that Lloydminster lies exactly on the 4th Meridian, the dividing line between Saskatchewan and Alberta. Not often does a town need a special complementary Order in Council from two legislatures in order to become a city -- but then again it is not often that many cities have a beginning like Lloydminster.

British colonists were the first to settle the area in 1903 and their leader, the Reverend G. F. Lloyd, established a "minster" or mother church and subsequently other churches in the surrounding district. When the town was later given a name, he was honoured by joining his name "Lloyd" to that of "Mother Church" to give the town its name of Lloydminster.

The hamlet of Lloydminster was located astride the 4th meridian in the North West Territories. Consequently, when the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were created with the fourth meridian as the eastern boundary of Alberta, the budding townsite was partly in Saskatchewan and partly in Alberta.

TWO COMMUNITIES

This condition created much municipal confusion. There were set up two separate councils, two fire brigades, in fact two of every administrative function which created a certain amount of good-natured rivalry. This situation persisted until 1930 when the town of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan and the village of Lloydminster, Alberta were amalgamated as the Town of Lloydminster by Orders in Council of both provinces. Harold Huxley became the first mayor of the combined community.

From 1946 onwards Lloydminster showed steady progress in population. The year 1946 showed the town with a population of slightly less than 2,000. By 1948, this had increased to 3,482 and 1952 showed a population of 4,500. Today the city boasts a population of 5,387, with every indication of continuing steady growth.

Oil and gas in abundance... flourishing industries... and a prosperous agricultural background make Lloydminster a pivot of business activity in the northwest corner of Saskatchewan.

The Lloydminster Agricultural Society, organized in 1907, is one of the most successful and progressive in the west and has been a big factor in building up Lloydminster's prestige as a great agricultural area in Western Canada.

AGRICULTURAL AREA

The chocolate loam land on which the farmers raise their crops is estimated to be worth \$25 per acre. The long term average grain yield is: wheat, 25 bushels to the acre; oats, 60 bushels and barley 40 bushels. There are an estimated 10,000 cattle in the district among which are several purebred herds. An estimated 10,000 pigs are raised each year; approximately 400 sheep and 2,000 dairy cattle are also in the community.

The citizens too have always exemplified those attributes that at the outset made the colony famous... tenacity, and a flair for turning liabilities into assets.

When a million dollar fire ravished their business section in 1929, they cleared away debris then set to work with a will to build again, bigger and better than before.

Although gas had been discovered in 1926 and some oil in the area during the same year, it was the discovery of oil in Sparky Number One well, four miles west of the town in 1943 that put Lloydminster on Canada's oil map.

Today Lloydminster is recognized as the geographical and refining centre of Canada's largest black oil field. The field extends from Kitscoty, 16 miles west to Maidstone, 30 miles east, and from a point eight miles north of Lloydminster to Marsden 30 miles south. Main production comes from a crescent-shaped area reaching from Blackfoot, eight miles west through Lloydminster and south 16 miles to Lone Rock.

HEAVY OIL PRODUCER

The discovery of oil in commercial quantities was a multi-million-dollar windfall for the city. Canada's "Black Oil Capital" produced in excess of three million barrels of oil in 1953. Oil in commercial quantities made possible the establishment of refineries to produce fuel oils, domestic furnace and Bunker C, asphalt, road oils and some diesel fuel and gasoline. The refinery built in 1938 by R. L. Shaw and associates and now operated by Excelsior Refineries has a capacity of 2,500 barrels a day, Husky Refineries has a capacity of 5,000 barrels a day.

Following the discovery and refining of crude oil, new industries came to Lloydminster -- asphalt companies, companies to manufacture caulking compounds and wood preservatives, machine shops, as well as concrete block and pipe and welding companies. In addition to these, Lloydminster has seven wholesale houses and claims the biggest co-operative store in Canada. Two elevators, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and Searle have a combined capacity of 70,000 bushels.