From: Tanya Wilson
To: Cody Vangel
Subject: [External] Colonization rename
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:27:56 PM

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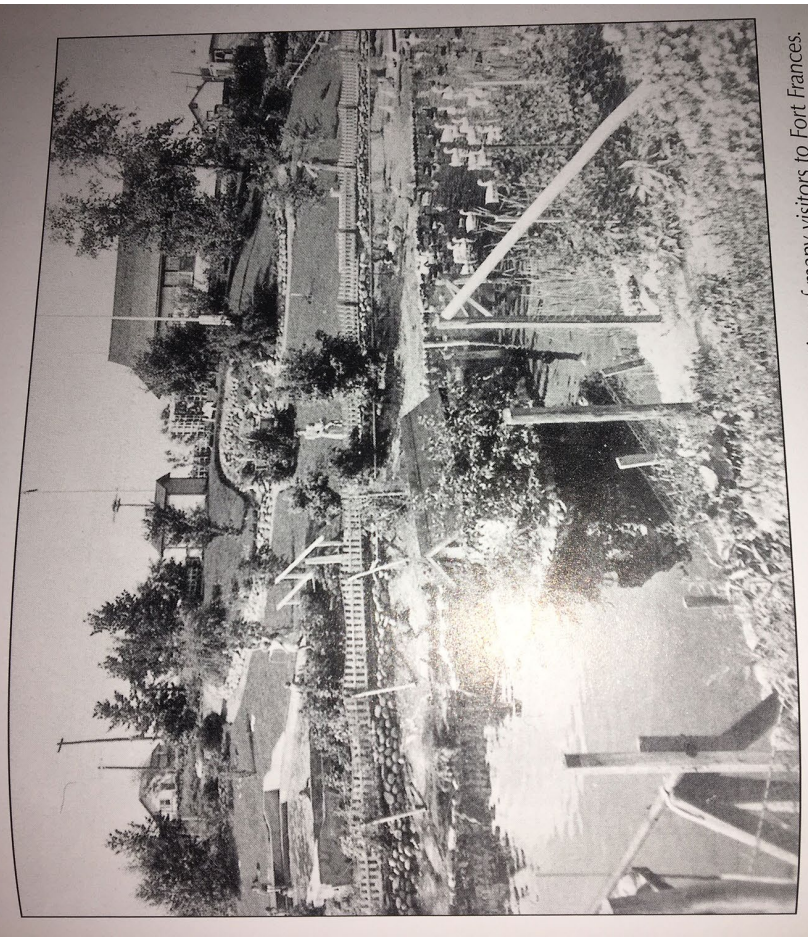
I would like to suggest the name "Lund Road" to replace Colonization Road West.
"Eric's Lund" was established back in the 1940's and was a park like area that attracted the locals as well as out of town visitors. The park was built behind his house and store at the bend on Colonization Road W (behind the dentist office area) He built the gardens and all the attractions himself in his spare time. The gardens housed ducks, swans, geese, pheasants and other animals. You can find more information on Eric's Lund in the book " Fort Frances, the story of a town and it's people"
Many people who grew up in Fort Frances at that time have fond memories of Eric's Lund and could still tell you stories of it today.
As the book states, "no memorial stands to the one man whose dreams and labor accomplished a wonderland in Fort Frances". What a great way to acknowledge this piece of the west ends history.

Tanya Wilson
1136 Colonization Road W
275 6597

Thank you

had no artificial ice plant. If the people of the town expected the Canadians to achieve their goal of bringing home the Allan Cup, there would need to be a new arena.



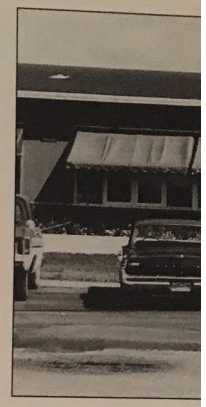
Eric's Lund was a beauty spot that attracted the attention of many visitors to Fort Frances.

Eric's Lund

This account is based on a tribute that Eric Ericson's daughter wrote about her father and the park-like gardens he established on his property in McIrvine.

Eric's Lund no longer exists. The house still stands and the property is subdivided. No memorial stands to the one man whose dreams and labour accomplished a wonderland in Fort Frances Ontario.

Eric Ericson was born in Sweden. When he immigrated to Canada in 1928 he was sent to Manitoba on a train ride that "he thought would never end". He soon moved to Fort Frances where he worked briefly for Shevlin-Clarke before he returned to Sweden and took an apprenticeship to become a butcher. Back in Fort Frances he and a friend, Einar Gustafson, peddled beef on the street until the town council got after them to establish a business with a roof, so to speak. So, Eric started a meat shop on Minnie Avenue, close to the old Finn Hall, where he was the subject of much derision. "Three people have already gone bankrupt there and here comes a dumb Swede thinking he can make a go of it".



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And he did. Then, one day in 1939, Eric announced ,"We're moving to the country." So, away we went to the township of McIrvine and we settled down on a corner lot on Colonization Road West (now the intersection of Colonization Road and Kerr Place). Here Eric built a house with a store in front. The property was rocky, wooded and ravine-like with Biddeson Creek running through the acreage. Eric re-established the meat and grocery business and whenever he could, he cleared stumps – at the end of a horse. He broke his leg twice doing this tough chore but he persevered. He also managed to line the creek banks with the rocks he had excavated and erected a small wooden dam creating a pond. He

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built a swimming pool for the neighbourhood children and made a skating rink across the road.

Eric made his own sausages in the "sausage factory" and processed wild game for the area hunters. These same hunters brought him baby birds, a fawn and owls to provide a home in the pond and surrounding area. This inspired Eric to pour over issues of the "Family Herald" and order swans, geese, ducks and pheasants, creating a sanctuary of national renown on our property.

By the 1940's Eric had a visitor's book and a wishing well. The ducks had special little houses and were our favourites. My sister and I named the white swans "Crystal" and "Snowflake". There were also swans swimming in the pond where a wee boat called "Erma" floated aimlessly on a short anchor.

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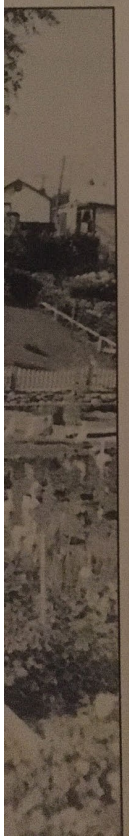

At 6 a. m. we were always awakened to a cacophony of quacks as Daddy walked down the steps to the creek to feed the flock. At 8 a.m. he was in the store, attired in white cap and apron, rotating the roast for the customer to show how neatly he had trimmed the fat.

Eric died in Thunder Bay's McKellar Hospital on August 13, 1964. The efforts of family members and organizations were of no avail in keeping his showplace and park intact and Eric's Lund was eventually sold.

- by Vi Hautala

Originally published in the "Swedish Press", January, 1996

(In the 1980's Herb and Jane Snow restored part of the property to its former glory. However, the burden of ongoing maintenance has proven to be too onerous to owners of the site and it no longer exists as a public attraction.)

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