

Green Strip Naming Proposal: Taylor Trail

In accordance with Town of Raymond Policy GP 2018-05, Facility Naming Policy, the Historic Resources Committee (HRC) would like to name a portion of the town's walking trail, known as the Green Strip. The following motion was made at the August 7, 2019 HRC meeting:

Motion 2019-08-07-04: Richard Kiddle **MOVED** to name the town's Green Strip as Taylor Trail.

Carried Unanimously.

Name Qualifications/Evaluation Criteria

The name Taylor Trail has been recommended in accordance with the following policy evaluation criteria: Commonly recognized historical individual.

John Taylor was influential in recruiting settlers to leave Utah to come to the area and establish Raymond. He was also involved efforts to establish irrigation and choose the location of the town and beet factory. From the town's *Historical Context/ Thematic Framework*:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints leader, Charles Ora Card, also known as "Canada's Brigham Young," travelled to Canada to search out available arable land to establish settlements after receiving counsel from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints President John Taylor, Brigham Young's successor.

On August 11, 1901, Apostle John W. Taylor, Jesse Knight, and other Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints leaders selected the location of the sugar factory and townsite.

From the *Historic Resources Inventory*:

John W. Taylor (1858-1916), former member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles was a significant figure in the founding, planning, and settling of Cardston and Raymond.

John Taylor was also in the group that lobbied the federal government, leading to the passage of the Northwest Irrigation Act in 1894. The Act consolidated water rights and ownership with the federal government and paved the way for the development of an irrigation canal through Raymond.

The Canadian North-West Irrigation Company Canal Right-of-Way, established in 1900, is invaluable as a discernible remnant of the first successful large-scale irrigation initiative in Alberta, and for its representation of prairie ingenuity and engineering. Southern Alberta, having an abundance of nutrient-rich soils, is additionally, characterized by its short grass prairie ecosystems and semi-arid climate. Along with its rain shadow environment, a deficiency of moisture impeded settlement to the region in the late 19th century due to difficulties in cultivating the land. While the Federal government at this time was eager for settlers to immigrate to this area, they were initially unaware of the need for irrigation. William Pearce, an engineer and surveyor with Canada's

Department of the Interior, recognizing that irrigation was a necessity in southern Alberta, began a campaign for legislative and commercial support in the early 1880s. Pearce, along with his partners in this endeavour, including Charles O. Card and John W. Taylor of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Elliott T. Galt of the Galt family syndicate, successfully lobbied the Federal government, culminating in the passing of Northwest Irrigation Act in 1894, which consolidated water rights and ownership with the Federal government.

Raymond's existence can be attributed to the perseverance of John W. Taylor and Charles A. Magrath in their attempts to establish a sugar beet refinery in southern Alberta to assist settlement along the CPR line.

Considering John Taylor's influence the Raymond's history, the HRC would like the Green Strip to bear his name. This prominent town landmark and well-used natural facility can serve as a reminder to Raymond residents of their roots and help preserve the history of the town.

