

**EDEN VALLEY RESERVE**

**REPORT**

**PREPARED**

**BY**

**TOM TWOYOUNGMEN**

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The following is a brief report or history of the Eden Valley Reserve. The reserve is nestled in a valley in the foothills of the Rockies near the upper reaches of the Highwood River which flows by the reserve. This reserve is only a small portion of what used to be the traditional domain of the Stoneys, and with the founding members of this reserve and their ancestors always living in and around the southern parts of what is now the province of Alberta and beyond what is now the US border, it was only a matter of time for this reserve to come into being.

The reserve came into being after many years of subsistence living by the founding members of the reserve by working on seasonal jobs in nearby ranches in the Highwood area during the summer months and camping on ranchers properties during the winter.

The main domain of this group was mostly in the Porcupine Hills, Old Man River areas until the signing of Treaty No. 7 in 1877. With the signing of the treaty, the various tribes of Treaty 7 were delegated to reserves as other treaties in the past had achieved.

The Stoneys were allocated a reserve in what is now known as Morley. The members of the southern Stoneys were included in this reserve and had to move north. However, over the years, the reserve at Morley proved inadequate and a longing for their old hunting grounds and an influenza epidemic in Morley hastened the migration south for the members of this reserve. This migration south eventually resulted in the formation of the Eden Valley Reserve in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The means for the acquisitions came from a \$500,000 perpetual loan from the Federal Government for the purchase of reserve land. The principal did not have to be paid but a 3% annual payment on the actual loan and to be paid out of revenues from the Ghost Dam paid to the Stoneys by Trans Alta (Calgary Power) Ltd. Out of the \$500,000 loan, \$200,000 was allocated for the Eden Valley Reserve members who were then referred to as the "Pekisko Group" or the "James Dixon Band." The following is a brief account of the acquisition and history since.

#### 1918 Move South:

Bears paw Eden Valley band members left Morley for their old hunting grounds. There was an influenza epidemic during this time in Morley.

#### 1948-49 Purchase of land:

Eden Valley IR was bought in four separate purchases. The first two purchases were for the following reasons:

- To accommodate band members houses
- To provide a site for school and health services.

1953 Purchases:

These were made for the acquisition of grazing land which was, for the time being, thought to be sufficient. Consequently, plans were made to watch for local sales for further rangeland purchases on which the remainder of their allocated loan would be expended.

The four purchases were the following:

1. 1948 Eden Valley Ranch bought from Earl G. Garner (including land, cattle, buildings, equipment and leasehold), 985.9 acres for \$60,000 which included the purchase price plus administration costs.

2. 1949 Crown lands, bought from the province of Alberta (formerly leased by E.G. Garner), 1,914.3 acres for \$10,056.19 which included purchase price and administration costs.

3. 1953 Hughes Place bought from J.A. Hughes (including equipment and leasehold), 1,120.0 acres for \$60,191.25 including administration costs. *E.V. Farm*

4. 1953 SW 1/4, section 32, township 17, range 2, w5m bought from the province of Alberta (formerly leased by J.A. Hughes), 160.0 acres for \$1,929.00 including administration costs. *Hughes Ranch - E.V. Farm*

The total acres for the four parcels are 4,180.0 acres, and the total cost is (\$132,176.35) or \$132,168.35. *South of Longview*

1958 All four parcels were confirmed as Eden Valley IR. No. 216 for the Stoney bands by OCPC 1958-1168 on August 21, 1958.

Land Exchange:

1964 January 9 316.2 acres of Eden Valley Reserve (out of the part bought from Alberta in 1949) were surrendered in exchange for 320 acres out of provincial crown lands.

1964 March 5 By OCPC 1964-344, the surrender was accepted and subsequently, the 320 acres were added to the reserve by the following Orders-in-Council:

1964 August 5 Provincial Order-in-Council 1266/64  
1965 March 5 Federal Order-in-Council OCPC 1965-390

The land exchange involves two triangular one-half sections, namely in sections 3 and 11 in township 17, range 2, w5m.

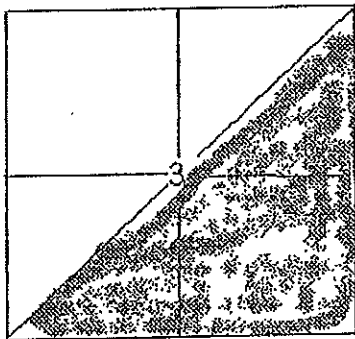
Land Surrendered:

The land surrendered is approximately one-half of section 3. A diagonal line bisects the section with the line running north-easterly from the southwest corner of section 3 to the north east corner of said section. The surrendered portion is the lower/southerly triangle (shaded) created by the diagonal line. This portion became part of what used to be the Cartwright Ranch and contains 316.20 acres. In more recent years, this land is part of the lease held by the Stoneys holding company.

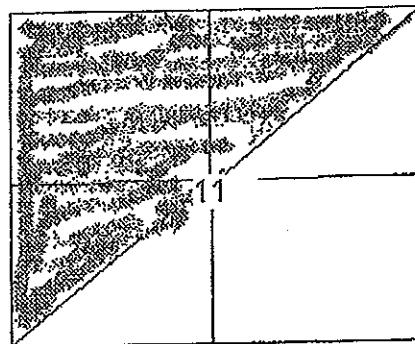
Land Received:

The land acquired in exchange is one-half of section 11. A diagonal line running north-east from the south west corner of section 11 to the northeast corner bisects the said section. The upper/northerly triangular half is now part of the Eden Valley Reserve and contains 320 acres. In more recent years the other (lower) half has become part of the lease the Stoneys' holding company has.

Below are the illustrations of the lands involved in the exchange. The lands are not adjacent to each other but for this report purposes, the two sections are placed beside each other.



The shaded area is the land surrendered by the Stoneys.



The shaded area is the land acquired by the Stoneys.

It seems the land exchange resulted from a misunderstanding on the part of the Stoneys when the Eden Valley Ranch was first acquired.

When the Stoneys first moved in, it is possible they weren't told the exact perimeters of the land acquired. Some had built their houses on land that was part of the Cartwright Ranch which is adjacent to the reserve. But since the ranch owner, the elder Jim Cartwright, and the Stoneys knew each other on a

friendly term, there was a mutual consent on a land exchange and the process of a formal land exchange was begun and successfully completed in 1964.

The families/clans that built their houses on non-reserve land before the exchange were the Riders, Daniels, Rollinmuds and the Lefthands.

Since the acquisition of the Eden Valley reserve was not a treaty land entitlement, mineral rights were not acquired. Therefore in the land exchange mineral rights were still held by the province.

| DATE | PURCHASE   | APPROVED BY   | ACREAGE                | FINAL COST<br>(PURCHASE PRICE<br>+ ADMIN. COSTS)    |
|------|--|---|------------------------|---|
| 1948 | Eden Valley Ranch,<br>bought from Earl G.<br>Garner (including<br>land, cattle,<br>buildings, equip-<br>ment and leasehold)                                  | OCPC 4647 of 15 Oct.<br>1948 (land);<br>OCPC 5165 of 10 Nov.<br>1948 (chattels),<br>amended by OCPC 3086<br>of 23 June 1950 to<br>exclude telephone<br>company interests<br>and leasehold<br>bought from prov-<br>ince in 1949.<br>(Documents 3, 4) | .985.9 ac.             | \$ 60,000.00  |
| 1949 | Crown lands, bought<br>from Province of<br>Alberta at \$5/acre<br>(formerly leased by<br>E.G. Garner).   | Treasury Board<br>Minute 51/2020 of<br>27 April 1949  | 1,914.3 ac.            | 10,056.10<br><i>52,10?</i>                          |
| 1953 | Hughes Place bought<br>from J.A. Hughes<br>(including equip-<br>ment and leasehold)  | BCR, 1 June 1953;<br>Treasury Board<br>Minute 453794 of<br>7 July 1953.<br>(Documents 9, 10)  | 1,120.0 ac.            | 60,191.25   |
| 1953 | SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of <sup>?</sup> <sub>17</sub> 32-7-2, W5M,<br>bought from Province<br>of Alberta at \$12<br>per acre (formerly<br>leased by J.A.<br>Hughes) | (same as above)   | 160.0 ac.              | 1,929.00  |
| 1958 | All four parcels<br>confirmed as<br>Eden Valley I.R.<br>No. 216 for the<br>Stoney Bands.   | OCPC 1958-1168<br>of 21 August<br>1958<br>(Document 11)   | 4,180.2 ac.<br>(total) | \$132,168.35<br>(total)<br><i>&amp; 132,176.35?</i> |

The reserve does not include mineral rights, since the province is not legally permitted to dispose of minerals when selling surface title, except where land is granted to fulfil treaty entitlement.