

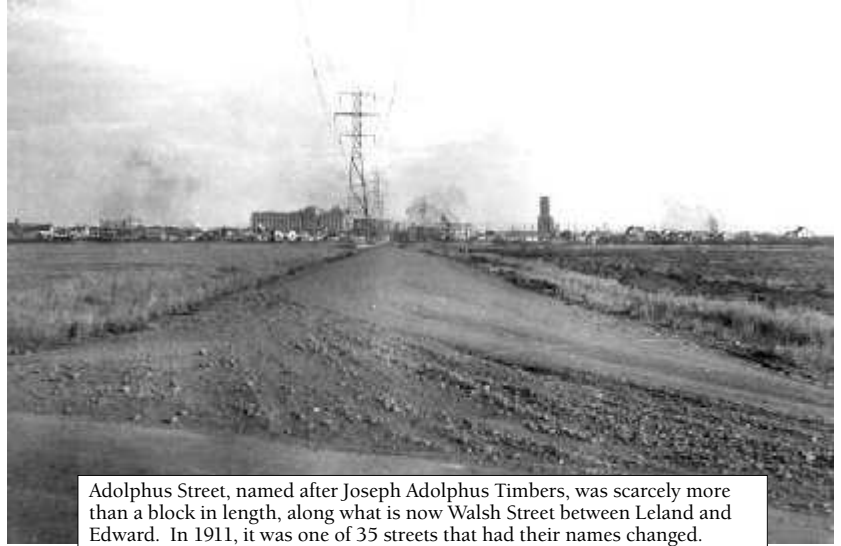
Whatever happened to Adolphus Street?

By Art Gunnell

The answer is easy: it became Walsh Street. "At the regular City of Fort William Council meeting, held in September, 1911, the City Fathers passed a by-law which changed the names of thirty-five thoroughfares in that city. Subject to approval before Judge O'Leary who will hear appeals, if any, the following name changes will be affected." So stated an article in the Times-Journal of the day. No reasons were given for the changes in the report, although it seems that there must have been some compelling evidence provided for such an extensive list.

One might think that sales of lots had been slow on Adolphus Street; perhaps the name lacked pizzazz. But why change Laurier to Minto Street? Anyway, here is the list that sent some of the town's early history to oblivion:

Lecompte Ave. to Nipigon (Nipigon) Ave., Parkdale Ave. to Crawford Ave., Barton Ave. to Home Ave., Ashland St. to Mountain Ave., King Edward St. to Center Ave., Bartlett St. to Center (Centre) Ave., Maud Ave. to Heath St., Chamberlain St. to Leland Ave., Howell St. to Gray St., Peel St. to Ford St., Arlington St. to Selkirk St., Bernard St. to Norah St., Catherine St. to Harold St., St. Patrick St. to John St., Drew St. to Syndicate Ave., Main St. to Syndicate Ave., Laird St. to Brodie St., Victoria St. to Alexandra St., Algoma St. to McLaughlin St., Hector Ave. to Fifth Ave., Laurier St. to Minto Ave., Borden Ave. to Toronto Ave., Lipton Ave. to Dease St., Maryland St. to Dease St., Earl St. to Moody St., Adolphus St. to Walsh St., Anne St. to King St., Riverview St. to Horace St., Superior Ave. to Loughton Ave., Victor St. to Brock St., Neebing Ave. (from May to Simpson St.) to Southern Ave., Neebing Township to Neebing Ave., Argyle St. to Cameron St., Stewart St. to Victoria Ave., and Harriott St. to George St.



Adolphus Street, named after Joseph Adolphus Timbers, was scarcely more than a block in length, along what is now Walsh Street between Leland and Edward. In 1911, it was one of 35 streets that had their names changed.

At about the same year, a number of Port Arthur streets also underwent changes. York St. became Farrand St., Store St. became Water St., etc., etc.

And did these name changes alter the history of our city in any worthwhile manner? (Except that maybe lot sales improved on Walsh St?). If Simpson St. undergoes a name change, as some suggest, will it improve the fortunes of those who own property along that historic thoroughfare? Just don't change the name to Adolphus St.!

If anyone is really interested in the history of street names on Thunder Bay, we highly recommend a book by Diane Grant. Copies are available at the Thunder Bay Museum and the Brodie Reference Library.