

Railroads – Location, Location, Location

Read about how railroads changed Saskatoon forever. Answer the questions below when you are done reading.

“The village of Saskatoon grew slowly. The first settlers were disappointed but they understood that lack of reliable transportation to the village was a major concern. If there was no way for people to get to the village, how could they expect it to prosper? It had been hoped that the river would provide access to the site by steamboat. However, the river was too shallow and the sand bars made boat travel difficult.

Community leaders realized that a railway would help Saskatoon prosper and in 1890 a rail-line was built from Regina through Saskatoon to Prince Albert. The rail-line was built west of the settlement because the east bank of the river was too steep. A railway station was built on the west side of the river (opposite the settlement). This caused a new settlement to be developed on the west side of the river, called West Saskatoon. The original settlement, called East Saskatoon, was renamed Nutana (first born). Nutana continue to grow slowly because it still lacked a railroad. The new settlement, now called Saskatoon, grew quickly because of the easy access provided by the rail-line.

A new community developed west of the rail-line, called Riversdale. In 1905, Riversdale became a village but it used all the services provide by Saskatoon since it did not have its own. In 1906, uniting Riversdale, Saskatoon and Nutana created the city of Saskatoon. James Clinkskill became the first mayor of Saskatoon.”

Source: Our Prairie Heritage (KIT) 971.2 OUR

- 1. Why did Saskatoon grow slower than expected?**
- 2. How did the placement of the rail-line and railway station change the way Saskatoon grew?**
- 3. What were the names of the three communities that were united to form the City of Saskatoon in 1906?**
- 4. Who was the first Mayor of Saskatoon?**