

“It was just remarkable that one was able to take it all in and enjoy it to the extent that I did.”

in popularity giving people further options. The Twins relegated back to the Northern Sask. League.

“It kind of meant the end of local baseball – not just in Lloydminster but across North America,” said Mah.

While those days faded into years and decades, Mah also moved on. There was a career and a family and life as everyone finds out.

But always close by was a box with the label “Western Canadian Baseball League” on it. It followed Mah through a successful radio and media career. It was with him when he left Lloydminster in 1960 for Peace River and onto Fort St. John B.C., Red Deer and Calgary, in the late ‘60s onto Toronto for the next 35 years before retiring. It may have been unopened for awhile, but it was going to allow Mah to get back to his roots.

When he retired from the CBC in ‘95-96 his family planned on downsizing their possessions to make the move back out west when he came across that box he’d kept newspaper clippings and pictures since he was just a boy.

“I finally opened it up and started to go through and there were all those clippings from baseball games and a couple of autographed baseballs and old baseball hats – surprisingly I had lost my glove,” he joked. “And I had this autograph book, which I had the players sign and it really peaked my interest.”

The names brought back a whirlwind of memories for Mah, drawing him back to the days when people flocked to the ball park

by the thousands, when kids knew the names of all the players on their local team.

“I thought 40-plus years is it possible to contact any of these guys?” said Mah. He picked up the phone, picked one name randomly and went about getting in touch with Modie Risher, who is listed as a utility player who spent one season with the Meridians.

To preface, just finding someone isn’t as easy to do today with online search engines that can spit out millions of pages within a few seconds. Mah called the operator asking for Risher’s number in Charlestown, South Carolina. He was no longer at the address Mah had, but there was someone with the same last name a few doors down.

“It was Modie Risher,” said Mah with an excitement in his voice.

“He remembered me, he remembered

the town, remembered my dad, remembered the restaurant. He specifically remembered Joe McLean, who was a lawyer in town, and his family and they had taken Modie in and he remembered them amazingly.”

Risher suffered an eye injury as a kid but managed to carve out some great years in the sport, but was nearly blind by the time Mah spoke to him.

“He said, you’ve made my day, you’ve made my year kind of thing,” said Mah. “And I thought, this is amazing, if I can do that kind of thing and bring that kind of pleasure to someone just by talking to them about or chronicling the past, this is the kind of thing I want to do.”

Now with phonebooks online it has become a much more simple process to track down these names from the past and during the last 15 years, Mah has communicated with hundreds of players, getting their stories and using them to document the sport’s history on his website.

He basically started from scratch, digging through old newspapers, finding reports and box scores and people began sending in photographs and programs. When he put the website up it had about the equivalent of six pages, today there are thousands, touching every nook and cranny of American’s past time’s impact up north. Taking time out only to write a book, *Black Baseball Players in Canada: A Biographical Dictionary, 1881-1960*, with another historian, Barry Swanton.

“I’ve met some of the most wonderful people doing the research who have been so cooperative. These are their treasured mementos that they’ve had,” said Mah, who appreciates the level of trust of sending their prized

scrapbooks filled with their family’s history through the mail.

It’s hardly a finished work though. He is planning to update the site and give it a more modern feel, complete with working databases and there is that pesky 1909 project he has on the go, which admittedly he says

some think is a little nuts. “Talk about obscure,” he laughs. “You think this is crazy, this is obscure, no one’s going to read this but I have two letters from, it must be the great-grandchildren of people who played, and were very interested in their great-grandparents playing that year and they couldn’t find any statistics. “I think in the long run, it’s really worthwhile that people can look back.” And look back they can.

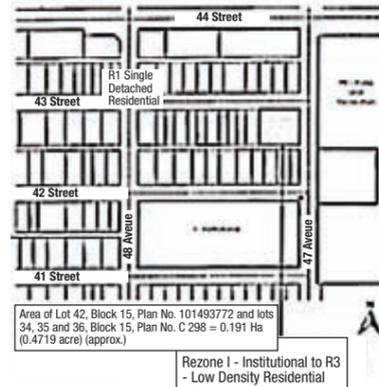


Lloydminster native Jay-Del Mah will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame this weekend.



LLOYDMINSTER
Canada's Border City

MAP 1



PUBLIC NOTICE is given that the Council of the City of Lloydminster, pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, intends to pass the following bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw No.12-2001, as hereinafter provided.

The Zoning map being Schedule “D” to Bylaw 12-2001 is to be amended to incorporate the following changes:

1. It is proposed to rezone the subject area as shown in the sketch map containing 0.191 ha (0.4719 acres) of Lot 42, Block 15, Plan 101493772 and Lots 33, 34, 35, 36, Block 15 Plan C298 (4709-43 Street, Larsen Grove), below from:

I – Institutional to R3 – Low Density Residential

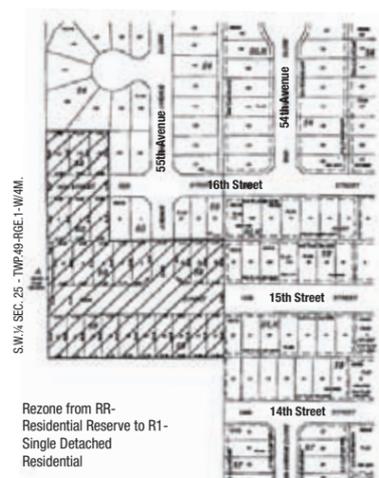
The purpose of this proposed amendment is to allow for the development of Low Density Residential.

2. It is proposed to rezone the subject area as shown in the sketch map containing 1.766 ha (4.36 Acres) in part of Block A, Plan 102-0744 in the S.W. ¼ Sec. 25, Twp. 49, Rge. 1, W4M, as shown on the sketch map below from:

RR – Residential Reserve to R1 – Single Detached Residential

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to allow the development of twenty four (24) Single Detached Residential lots.

MAP 2



The proposed Bylaws may be inspected by any interested person on any office day between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Any person or group of persons or person acting on his or her behalf who wishes to make presentation either verbally or in writing concerning these Bylaws may do so at a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, August 23rd, 2010, in the Council Chambers, 4420 – 50th Avenue (City Hall) at 8:00 p.m.

Tom Lysyk, City Clerk

