

Ottawa Real Estate Co.

MOOSE JAW

MOOSE JAW TIMES-HERALD

Dear Sir:

We are preparing information and historical data on all commercial, industrial and retail firms in the Moose Jaw and district area. It is our wish that all information is as complete and accurate as possible, and I would ask your co-operation in filling in the brief questionnaire below. If you feel other information should be included, use the reverse side of this form.

Please fill in and return to: Commercial History Editor,
Times-Herald, Moose Jaw, Sask.

Full name of Firm..... OTTAWA REAL ESTATE COMPANY.....
Type of Business..... Professional Real Estate Consultants.....
Date established (Day, Month and Year).. April 1910.....
Present Address..... 26 High St. W..... Phone 692-3829
Previous Location(s)..... Same location from 1910 to present.....
How Long at Previous Location(s) (had a South Hill Branch 4th & Iroquois (1910-12)
(Give month and year beginning & ending)
Name of Founder and/or 1st. President... The Late Frank McRitchie.....
How Long Owner or Manager... 1910 to 1950.....
Name(s) of Subsequent Owners and/or Managers.....
(Give Length of Tenure)
.. Hubert H. McRitchie, shareholder from 1938 to 1950, - owner & manager since 1950.
.. Robert H. McRitchie F.R.I., operating partner since 1950.....
.. John W. Colling, was partner from 1910 to 1938.....
.. Miss Mary McRitchie was a shareholder from 1912 to 1950.....
Present Owner and/or Manager... Hubert H. McRitchie.....
Date Assumed Position... shareholder 1938 to 1950 - owner & manager since 1950.
If Partnership, give names... Operating partner - Robert H. McRitchie, F.R.I.,
.. since 1950.....
Approximate No. of Permanent Employees... 3.....

over:

We consider the founding of the present firm dates from April 1910. However, at that time Ottawa Real Estate & Brokerage Co. Ltd., took over the former Ottawa Land Company that used to operate a Canada Colonization and Hudson's Bay Land Agency at Main & River Street. There were originally seven partners all of whom were either from Ottawa or the general area. Jim Beatty, Bob Snowdy, Capt. Stokes, Walter Cross, The Argue Brothers & John Colling. At present we have only very few records of the Company prior to the time it was taken over by Frank McRitchie & John Colling in 1910. Miss Mary McRitchie joined the firm in 1912 and retired in 1950. Mr. John Colling sold his interest in the Company in 1938 to Hubert H. McRitchie. In 1938 the shareholders consisted of Frank McRitchie, Hubert H. McRitchie, Miss Mary McRitchie and Mrs. Alice Fern McRitchie. In 1950 Mr. Frank McRitchie passed away and Hubert H. McRitchie bought out the rest of the shares of the Company. In 1950 the premises were rebuilt on the same location and Robert H. McRitchie joined the firm.

Prior to the time the late Frank McRitchie founded the present Co., he had served as the accountant for the law firm of Grayson & Armstrong in Moose Jaw. As a matter of fact, he had worked in a number of branches of the Merchants Bank in Ontario before coming to Moose Jaw. The first winter he spent in Moose Jaw, he lived in a tent all winter, his campsite being the present location of the Bank of Nova Scotia, which was at that time pretty well on the outskirts of town. He was always very fond of animals and had a number of drivers and race horses. His love of animals became more apparent in the late twenties when he conceived the idea of having a Wild Animal Park here, which he promoted as a hobby with the help of many of the animal and bird lovers of this area. The present generation still own farms that are not only grainland investments, but also kept as sanctuaries for native birds and animals, such as deer, beaver, ducks, pheasants, blue herons, songbirds etc. and no hunting is allowed - partly in memory for the true conservation spirit he had.

In more recent years, the company in addition to the general practise of Real Estate and Insurance, has specialized in land assembly work, such as preparing the land assembly for the expansion of the British American Oil Refinery, The Moose Jaw Co-op Shopping Centre, the land for the Trans-Canada Expressway into the heart of the City, the land assembly for No. 2 Highway from Manitoba St. through the City to the South, and as further promotion, the 64 unit apartment known as Athabasca Tower Ltd. being the first in the city to introduce a complete security door system, underground parking, fully pressurized corridors and all electric power included in the rental. Our local professional Real Estate Consultant services are used by the the City of Moose Jaw, The Provincial Government, Estate Tax Branch and various private Companies and individuals. In keeping astride with the times, a few years ago our Company pioneered the use of two-way radio equipment in our offices and cars, for this kind of business in the Moose Jaw area, and still find it to be a must, to maintain the emergency and service calls, from the hundreds of rental units we have under management.

The Moose Jaw Real Estate Board was formed largely through the efforts of Robert H. McRitchie, F.R.T., who served as its Charter President, before serving as President of the Saskatchewan Association of Real Estate Boards and Regional Vice President of the National Association, called the Canadian Association of Real Estate Boards.