

park, due to decreased revenue, increased costs of labor and materials, and the national necessity for rigid economy created by World War I. This measure served to worsen the situation already created by the proposed Exhibition Grounds. Even when peace conditions resumed in the 1920's and the development of the Exhibition Grounds became less definite, progress in Kildonan Park continued at a slow pace. By the 1920's, the parks' system in Winnipeg was much larger than during the pre-war years, with the result that many more properties and interests were vying for a portion of the park's budget. As new properties were acquired, there followed a period of intensive efforts and financial assistance to their development. Kildonan Park, whose future was still insecure, received little attention. Towards the end of the decade, the question concerning a suitable location for the Exhibition Grounds was again revived. While the decision was never definitely made, the support for the park's preservation was much stronger than in the earlier years. By 1929, the park's future was quite secure. However, this left no time for development to resume before the onset of the Great Depression when all progress throughout the Parks' system reached a point of stagnation. It should be mentioned that during this decade, the natural beauty and potential of Kildonan Park for picnics and recreation was fully realized and appreciated by Winnipeg's populace. Following immediately upon the Depression, the second World War created the resumption of conditions similar to those of the First World War.

While Kildonan Park possessed two natural features which enhanced its beauty, the Lord Selkirk Creek and the adjacent Red River, their frequent flooding converted them from assets into liabilities. Throughout the park's history much time and money that could have furthered development was devoted to reconstruction after the occurrence of devastating floods. The worst occasion of flooding was the spring of 1950, just when the parks' budget was reviving after some three decades of difficulties.

Although the 1950 Flood created adverse conditions in Kildonan Park, it also marked a turning point in its history. Had the flood waters not so completely destroyed the bandstand, it is quite possible that an outdoor bandshell, at that time contemplated for one of the major parks, would have been placed into Assiniboine Park. The decision in 1950 to locate the outdoor theatre, "Rainbow Stage", in Kildonan Park ushered in the "Years of Revival". In 1961, when Kildonan Park, along with other parks and properties came under the jurisdiction of the newly formed Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg, a decade of such intensive redevelopment occurred that by 1971 virtually every building and facility in Kildonan Park had been replaced and many innovations implemented.