

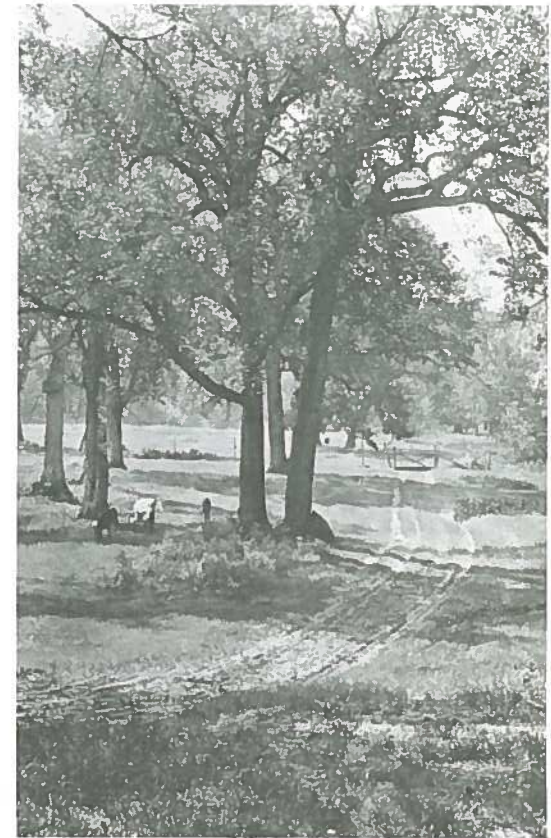
Boulevard.

Both North Kildonan and East Kildonan mounted intensive tree planting and pruning programs on the boulevards of the many new streets created in the suburban housing boom of the sixties and early seventies. The man behind both of these programs was landscape architect Gunter Schoch, who was first employed with the Winnipeg Parks Board after emigrating from Germany in 1955. During the sixties, Schoch's day job was with the Metro Parks and Protection Division but after hours he became the first chairman of the North Kildonan Parks Board in 1962. Over the next five years, more than 18 acres were set aside for parks purposes and 12 park and recreation sites were developed in North Kildonan based on Schoch's designs.

In 1964 the North Kildonan Parks Board initiated a unique experiment in public information about boulevard tree planting. A tree planting display was mounted on Irving Place just west of Henderson Highway. Thirty trees representing 17 species were planted on the boulevard in honour of arbor day. The intention was to create a permanent display of labelled trees suitable for planting in the Winnipeg area. The board had just enacted a by-law restricting the species of trees to be planted on the boulevards of the municipality. The tree display was a clever way

of informing citizens about the designated species and encouraging them to adhere to the by-law.<sup>11</sup> After Schoch drew up a Master Tree Plan, the North Kildonan Municipal Council adopted the Boulevard Tree by-law and Arboricultural Specifications which enacted the tree plan into law. Under the by-law the municipality was given sole responsibility for the planting, maintenance and removal of boulevard trees. Each developed street was assigned a particular tree species to be used for boulevard purposes. During the next five years over 3,000 boulevard trees were planted throughout the municipality and a well-organized tree maintenance program was carried out. Following amalgamation in 1972, Schoch continued as City Landscape Architect for the Winnipeg Parks and Recreation Department but was also named arborist for the new East Kildonan Community. In 1973, the East Kildonan Parks Department established its own nursery at Bunn's Creek Centennial Park into which 500 seedlings were planted for eventual use on boulevards, in parks and at recreation sites.<sup>12</sup> Up to 2,000 boulevard trees were planted annually with funding coming increasingly from the developers of new subdivisions.

The whole suburban area of East Kildonan and North Kildonan was not endowed with abundant recreational facilities. In par-



*Fraser's Grove, c. 1920. Originally part of William Fraser's riverlot farm, the Grove became a popular picnicking area early in the century. PAM.*

ticular, the southwest portion lacked playing fields, swimming pools and an arena. Area residents had to rely on rather cramped fields at community centres and schools. There was no lack of enthusiasm, however. Bronx Park Community Centre, which began life as the East Kildonan Community Club in