



# Street Stories

## Matheson Avenue

GPS: [49.2005811,-122.4182474](#)

William (Bill) Matheson was well-loved and respected in Mission for his years of community service and his concern for others. It was said that “when anyone is in trouble and needs help, along comes Billy. He takes hold, and somehow the burden is not heavy.”

Matheson was born in Prince Edward Island. He moved to the Stave Falls area of Mission in 1910. Matheson spent a year overseas as a Royal Canadian Engineer during the First World War. In 1923 he married Elsie Williams of Vancouver. The Mathesons had one child, Colin, who eventually



*Reeve William Matheson (on right) was presented a tree farm certificate by the BC Branch of the Forestry Association in 1956 for the work done by the municipality on reforestation and conservation of its 2,700 acres of forest.*

*Mission Community Archives / Fraser Valley Record fonds*

moved to the Yukon to work for Canadian Pacific Airlines.

Matheson worked for the Western Canada Power Company and for BC Electric when it took over. He played a large role in the expansion of power services in the Mission area, including the construction of the original Stave Falls generating plant. When Matheson retired after 44 years at the power companies, 150 people attended his retirement party.

Matheson is probably best remembered in Mission for his role as a reeve and councillor. Except for one year, he was a member of the Mission municipal council continuously from 1930 until 1956 when he died of a heart attack.

One of his proudest achievements during his career on council was the creation of the Pleasant View home for senior citizens. The home was sponsored jointly by the city and municipality. Matheson thought that his co-operation would benefit both the citizens and the area under development.

Another key achievement of his was Mission’s Municipal Forest Management Project. While Reeve of Mission, Matheson’s vision and courage to act laid the foundation for establishment of the tree farm in 1958—the first of its kind in Canada.

Despite his active role in public life, Matheson was a quiet person who preferred to give others the spotlight. According to one of Matheson’s friends, “He’s the kind of man who makes the world fit to live in. His fellow man is his primary concern.”

Matheson Avenue is off Wilson Street, near Hayward Lake. The area is lushly forested and mountainous, and at the end of it is Eighteen Pastures Golf Course.

Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society. If you have any information on the Matheson family, please call us at 604-820-2621.

*by David Buss and Val Billesberger*