

YOUNG, Alexander McGillvray



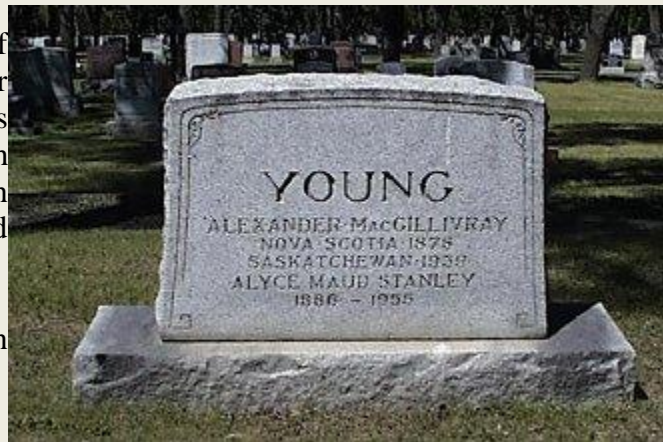
Alexander McGillvray Young was born in 1879 and came to Saskatoon in 1907, one year after graduating from McGill University in Montreal as a medical doctor.

He ran for Mayor in eight successive elections, and served an unprecedented (at that time) five terms. He also served as an Alderman. Unlike other early Mayors, he viewed the job as a full-time occupation, and fought to secure sufficient compensation and perquisites to reflect this commitment.

In the fall of 1913, when the great building boom was waning and money was getting tight, the owners of many of the large new office buildings along 3rd Avenue in downtown Saskatoon approached Council to request that their buildings be exempted from plumbing regulations so that they could rent the offices out as apartments. It was either that, they suggested, or they would be forced to close the buildings. Alderman Young strongly objected, stating, "*The idea of one bath and toilet in a block for half a dozen families is wrong.*" Despite his objections, the exemptions were granted, and the buildings were allowed to become residential.

As Mayor, he was noted for his handling of Saskatoon's difficult economy during the war years and the depression that followed, as well as for his occasional public battles with then Commissioner Yorath, one of which involved his stand that the Mayor should have use of the City car.

He died on July 9, 1939, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Block 83, Lot 92.



Information and photograph of Alexander Young, courtesy of the City of Saskatoon Archives