

EDMONTON HISTORY



FUR TRADING TO GOLDSEEKING ERA

- 1700's** The name "Edmonton" was used to honour the home of HBC governor James Winter Lake who was from Edmonton, England
- 1795** Edmonton began as a fur trading post built by the North West Company (NWC). The same year the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) established a competing post nearby - a walled fort on the banks of the North Saskatchewan river
- 1830** The HBC had absorbed the NWC by 1823. Fort Edmonton was moved to its final location, near the present day Alberta Legislature Building
- 1840's** Methodist and Catholic missionaries brought their religious services to the natives and the HBC staff. Reverend Robert Rundle became the first missionary to reside in Edmonton. City landmarks, buildings, parks and roads are named after these early missionaries
- 1846** On December 29, Paul Kane, the artist, celebrated Christmas at Fort Edmonton. He left not only sketches and paintings of Fort Edmonton, but a vivid description of life in Edmonton during this period, ("Wanderings of an Artist"). Dinner menu included- Buffalo Tail Soup, Hardtack Biscuits, Beaver Tail, Roast Buffalo Hump, Buffalo Tongue, Roast Goose, Whitefish, Moose Nose, Mashed Turnips, Boiled Potatoes
- 1861** Father Albert Lacombe establishes St. Albert (north of Edmonton)
- 1870's** Throughout the 1870's, schools were built, businesses opened, agriculture became a profitable industry and settlers staked out their lots along the North Saskatchewan River
- 1874** The North West Mounted Police arrived in Edmonton
- 1880** Edmonton's first newspaper the 'Edmonton Bulletin' starts publication
- 1881** Edmonton's first public school opens
- 1885** The first telephone call was made to St. Albert on January 3, 1885 by Alex Taylor after he ordered the phones directly from the manufacturer in England
- 1886** The coldest day ever recorded in Edmonton was -49°C on January 19, 1886
- 1891** The C & E (Calgary and Edmonton) Railway reaches Strathcona, south of the North Saskatchewan River. French colonists arrived from Quebec. German and Ukrainian immigrants also began arriving
- 1892** Edmonton was incorporated as a town with a population of 700
- 1896** The Edmonton Golf & Country Club was founded
- 1897** Klondike Gold Rush- thousands of eager prospectors stopped in Edmonton for supplies on their way to the Yukon via the "All Canadian Route". The city absorbed many prospectors who made Edmonton their permanent home, boosting the local population six-fold
- 1899** South Edmonton incorporated as a town and renamed Strathcona

PRE-WAR BOOM ERA

- 1902** Low Level Bridge opens; Edmonton gets rail connection to Strathcona and beyond
- 1904** Edmonton is incorporated as a city with a population of 8,350
- 1905** Inauguration of the Province of Alberta
- 1905** The first transcontinental train reached Edmonton on November 24, 1905. VIA Rail's transcontinental now serves Edmonton 3 times a week
- 1906** Edmonton officially becomes Alberta's capital city
- 1906** Elk Island National Park, east of Edmonton, was established as Canada's first federal wildlife sanctuary for large mammals. More than 44 species of mammals and 230 kinds of birds inhabit the 195 sq km park
- 1908** University of Alberta opens with eight professors and 45 students
- 1912** Annie Jackson became the first female police officer in Canada. She served with the Edmonton Police Department until 1918
- 1913** The Alberta Legislature Building and the High Level Bridge open
- 1915** The Hotel Macdonald opens. This 4 star/4 diamond property is now operated by Fairmont Hotels & Resorts
- 1915** The original Fort Edmonton is dismantled
- 1916** Emily Murphy was appointed the first woman police magistrate in the British Empire
- 1916** Women were given the right to vote in municipal and provincial elections

WARS AND DEPRESSION ERA

- 1900's** Following the turn of the century, Edmonton endures a flood in the river valley, mobilization for the First World War, and an influenza epidemic
- 1926** Edmonton's Blatchford Field (now City Centre Airport) was the first public licensed airfield in Canada, setting a North American record on September 23, 1943 when 860 planes passed through Blatchford Field
- 1929** Emily Murphy (the first woman police magistrate in the British Empire) and 4 other women were victorious in having Canadian women declared "persons" under the law
- 1937** The hottest day in Edmonton was 37.2°C (98.9°F) on June 29
- 1942** During the Second World War, construction of the Alaska Highway was completed making Edmonton a major transportation and supply centre and solidifying Edmonton as "The Gateway to the North"
- 1943** Edmonton's population exceeds 100,000

OIL BOOMS, OILERS AND THE CITY OF CHAMPIONS

- 1947** Leduc #1 oil discovery well strikes oil turning Edmonton into the Oil Capital of Canada virtually overnight

- 1948** The first refinery (Imperial Oil) was established
- 1954** Edmonton Eskimos win first Grey Cup football championship
- 1955** Sherwood Park was established
- 1960** Edmonton International Airport begins operations
- 1960** The Queen Elizabeth Planetarium opened-first municipal planetarium in Canada
- 1965** The Citadel Theatre opens as Edmonton's first professional live theatre
- 1966** The city's first skyscraper was built-the 27 storey CN Tower
- 1967** The Provincial Museum of Alberta opened-Alberta's centennial project to commemorate Canada's 100th birthday
- 1973** Northlands Coliseum (now Rexall Place) opened and was touted as the best ice surface in the NHL
- 1978** Light Rail Transit (LRT) service commenced. Edmonton was the first city with a population of under 1 million to build a subway
- 1978** Edmonton hosts the 11th Commonwealth Games, attracting athletes from 46 countries and leaving a legacy of sports facilities including Kinsmen Sports and Aquatic Centre and Commonwealth Stadium
- 1979** Edmonton Oilers join the National Hockey League
- 1980** The Great Divide Waterfall on the High Level Bridge was created to commemorate Alberta's 75th anniversary. This man-made waterfall is 7.3 metres (24 feet) higher than Niagara Falls
- 1980** Edmonton's population exceeds 500,000
- 1981** The first phase of West Edmonton Mall opens
- 1983** Completion of Phase II of West Edmonton Mall
- 1983** Edmonton is host city for the 12th World University Games (Universiade)
- 1983** Opening of the Edmonton Convention Centre (later renamed Shaw Conference Centre)
- 1984** Completion of Northlands Agricom
- 1984** Edmonton Oilers win the first of five NHL Stanley Cup Championships
- 1984** Pope John Paul II visited Edmonton and celebrated mass at a temporary altar in a farmer's field in Namao which was attended by over 150, 000 people. The Peace Dove from over the altar is now located adjacent to the Muttart Conservatory
- 1985** Phase III of West Edmonton Mall opens, making it the largest shopping centre in the world
- 1990** Edmonton's population tops the 600,000 mark
- 1990** Edmonton Oilers win fifth Stanley Cup
- 1993** Edmonton's new City Hall opens

- 1994** Edmonton is designated the 1994 Forestry Capital of Canada
- 1995** Edmonton's Bicentennial Celebration-200 Years of Building Together
- 1995** The Edmonton Trappers of the Pacific Coast League (Triple 'A' Baseball) played their 1995 season in the new 10,000 seat baseball stadium, Telus Field, built on the site of John Ducey Park
- 1996** Edmonton Trappers win their first PCL Championship
- 1996** Edmonton is host city for the World Figure Skating Championships
- 1997** Opening of the Francis Winspear Centre for Music
- 1997** Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture opened at the Provincial Museum of Alberta
- 1998** New VIA Rail station opened at 12360-121 Street, located just north of the city centre

EDMONTON TODAY...AND TOMORROW

- 2001** Edmonton is host city for the 8th IAAF World Championships in Athletics
- 2001** Edmonton hosts the ITU Triathlon World Championships
- 2002** Fort Edmonton Park opens a reproduction of the 1922 Selkirk Hotel
- 2003** Edmonton hosts the Heritage Classic, first National Hockey League outdoor game
- 2004** The city of Edmonton celebrates its 100th Birthday
- 2005** The Province of Alberta celebrates its 100th Birthday
- 2005** Edmonton is host city for the World Masters Games and the IAAF Half Marathon World Championship
- 2005** On May 24, 2005 during her visit to Alberta, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II designated The Provincial Museum of Alberta as the Royal Alberta Museum. In addition, the 260 km stretch (Highway 2) from Edmonton to Calgary is designated as the Queen Elizabeth II Highway
- 2005** Over 200,000 fans packed Finning International Speedway for the inaugural West Edmonton Mall Grand Prix of Edmonton, held July 15-17
- 2006** Fort Edmonton Park unveils 1920's midway and exhibition
- 2006** International Children's Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary
- 2006** Edmonton's major summer exhibition Klondike Days is revamped and renamed as Capital EX
- 2006** Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary
- 2006** Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary
- 2006** Elk Island National Park celebrates its 100th anniversary with centennial celebrations