

Researching the Edmonton Story

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Executive Summary

The objectives of this study were:

- To provide the Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) with a framework of the Story of Edmonton from 1939 to the present and
- To increase knowledge of Edmonton's history, heritage and shared culture.

This report is intended to be used to inform efforts by the Council to enhance the interpretation of Edmonton's history with a focus on identifying the important stories to tell, that are not currently being told, and how to ensure they are incorporated into our understanding of the city.

An underlying premise for this study is that it is important for all Edmontonians to have access to and understand our history and heritage and the shared cultural heritage of people who have adopted Edmonton as their home. Whether people grow up in Edmonton and learn about local history in school or have moved here as adults and adopted Edmonton as their home, there's relatively little information available about local history, particularly recent history. Historical narratives are valuable in shaping the community and foster local identity but these narratives must be inclusive of both the positive and negative aspects of our history and be a history that resonates with immigrants, migrants and Edmonton's relatively large urban Aboriginal population, not just with the dominant society.

Although Alberta's population has been predominantly urban since the middle of the last century – and Edmonton's population has grown exponentially since the end of the war, historians studying Alberta history have continued to focus on the rural rather than the urban, on pre-WWII rather than more contemporary history. This is partially due to the challenges of studying and disseminating contemporary history: the need to try to remain as objective as possible when studying events that occurred within our own lifetime or events in which we participated, as is often the case particularly with community-based projects. People are uncomfortable with recent history because it can take years to realize the implications of decisions, movements and personalities. While possible to indicate what happened five years ago, it's impossible to fully understand the significance of events. There's a tendency to look at local history in isolation yet Edmonton's history is not restricted to the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton – or indeed of Canada.

Sources for the study of contemporary history also pose particular challenges: relevant material may be deposited in or processed by archives and museums, researchers may not be trained in recording oral histories, changing approaches to the Internet and news media further complicate sources.

Edmonton's history has been written (both literally written and told through other media than the printed word) by people with various backgrounds including professional and amateur historians, curators and archivists, community groups, journalists, and genealogists. Novelists, poets, playwrights, visual artists, musicians and filmmakers – while focusing on 'story' rather than 'history' – have contributed significantly to community memory, how Edmonton and its history are interpreted. Our public history is spotty: there is no overarching approach to Edmonton's history through a museum, there have been few efforts to memorialize events in local history, and Edmonton has few works of public art with specific commemorative or memorial aspects. Local museums, archives and heritage preservationists too focus on particular periods, technologies, sectors, events, and peoples.

Themes in Edmonton History Post-1939

It's very difficult to identify the most significant themes in recent Edmonton history without the benefit of some distance, both in time and personal biases but having said that there are a number of themes that are clearly important. At the risk of overlooking some themes, or of giving too much significance to others, below is a list of significant themes in Edmonton's contemporary history. These are not presented in any particular order.

- Edmonton and the North
- Leduc No. 1 as the Turning Point
- Family farms to Agribusiness to Local Food Movement
- Edmonton: City of Champions
- Edmonton as Distinct from Calgary Comparisons
- Edmonton: City of Newcomers
- Edmonton's Neighbourhoods
- Community Service and Social Justice
- Changing Dynamics Between Women and Men
- Secularization of Society
- Global Trends with Local Implications
- Edmonton and Canada's Sesquicentennial

Objectives

The objectives of this study were to provide the Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) with a framework of the Story of Edmonton from 1939 to the present and to increase knowledge of Edmonton's history, heritage and shared culture. This report is intended to be used to inform efforts by the Council to enhance the interpretation of Edmonton's history with a focus on identifying the important stories to tell, that are not currently being told, and how to ensure they are incorporated into our understanding of the city.

Methodology

This study was completed between November 2013 and February 2014. The consultant scanned secondary literature incorporating aspects contemporary history in Edmonton as well conducting as a systematic review of articles highlighting the major stories of the year in the *Edmonton Journal* and an extensive Internet search. The topic was discussed by a diverse group of local historians at a meeting in January and presented publicly the beginning of April. These findings were interpreted through the lens of current heritage interpretation in the city.

Understanding Edmonton's History and Heritage

It is very important for all Edmontonians to have access to and understand our history and heritage and the shared cultural heritage of people who have adopted Edmonton as their home. Those raised here build their understanding of their identity as Edmontonians first through school. However, there is very little information about Edmonton history on the school curriculum and the history taught in schools may differ from the history learned from family and community members or from public history programs.

There are numerous organizations working to improve the quality of history education in schools. The Heritage Fairs program operated by Canada's History Society since 2009 (and previously Historica) is one example and the Edmonton Regional Heritage Fair is being held at the Prince of Wales Armouries in April.¹ However, students are often stymied by the lack of resources for local subjects and choose the old standards in Canadian history. Other organizations include THEN/Hier, the History Education Network/Histoire et éducation en réseau a collaborative network across the diverse fields of history, history education and school history teaching in Canada that "brings together people from across Canada and internationally to inform, carry out, critique, and implement research into history education."² The organization Facing History

¹ <http://www.canadashistory.ca/Kids/Heritage/About>; <http://www.edmontonheritagefair.org/>.

² <http://thenhier.ca/>

and Ourselves “combats racism, anti-Semitism, and prejudice and nurtures democracy through education programs worldwide.” The Canadian branch has been active in Toronto since 1981 but less so throughout the country and not at all in Edmonton.³ The Aspen Foundation for Labour Education in Leduc “is dedicated to providing citizens with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that empower them to contribute fully to a healthy, just, and democratic workplace, community, and society through participation in labour and social justice initiatives.”⁴ The EHC should collaborate with educational organizations working to improve history education in schools to ensure that contemporary local history resources are available.

The majority of Edmontonians, people who have adopted Edmonton as their home but were not born here, gain our understanding of local history primarily through public history, artistic expressions, local media (e.g., “This Day in Journal History,”⁵), and the Internet with its unedited, uncurated, uneven content. People are becoming more discerning about information posted to the Internet but use of the Internet for historical research still poses challenges.

According to the 2001 census, 18% of Edmonton’s population of 812,201 identified as immigrants and 5.3% as Aboriginal people. Unfortunately migration figures are not available at the municipal level but data for the Edmonton CMA (census metropolitan area), shows that 63% of the CMA’s increase was from net-migration with 37% from natural increase.⁶ Alberta’s economic stability and the decline in Ontario’s economy have continued to attract people from other parts of the country.

Period of Immigration	No.	%
Before 1961	21,150	14.8
1961-1970	14,855	10.4
1971-1980	31,245	21.8
1981-1990	34,170	23.8
1991-1995	22,605	15.8
1996-2001	19,310	13.5
Total	143,335	100.0

¹<http://censusdocs.edmonton.ca/DD16/FEDERAL%202001/CITY/EDMONTON.pdf>

Edmonton’s historical narratives may be used to shape the community and foster local identity but the Edmonton story has to be an inclusive history that resonates with immigrants, migrants and Edmonton’s relatively large urban Aboriginal population. The discipline of history does not blindly celebrate the past but fosters critical thinking, based on rigorous, systematic study of

³ <http://www.facinghistory.org/offices/toronto>; correspondence with the Executive Director

⁴ <http://aspenfoundation.squarespace.com/>

⁵ The series began as reprints from the *Journal’s* files, then revised stories, and now is a series of new stories about events in the past; the *Journal* accepts suggestions from readers about which stories to feature <http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/history/index.html>

⁶ Edmonton Demographic Profile http://www.edmonton.ca/business_economy/documents/InfraPlan/Citywide.pdf

primary and secondary sources. History is often told by the victors and Alberta's single party politics has the potential to promote a single interpretation of the past that accords with conservative ideology – a view of the world that is sometimes out of step with Edmontonians. Much local history is progressive, choosing facts that support the interpretation that Edmonton is the City of Champions, growing larger, stronger, better and overlooking the negative aspects of our history, particularly ignoring marginalized peoples, the treatment of Aboriginal people (FNMI), visible minorities, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people (LGBT), and the poor. Our understanding of Edmonton's history should reflect a balance of political, social, cultural, scientific and economic history, in addition to the history of everyday life but it has been homogenized, ignoring the cultural heritage of everyone outside the dominant group and depriving the majority of the opportunity to understand the complexity of our city.

Community memory on the other hand does celebrate the past drawing upon literature, the media, entertainment industries, cultural landscapes, official holidays and memory extracts from the past that recall certain events, actions or people from a particular perspective and without necessarily recalling the wider context. Community-building uses narratives that interweave stories, myths and legends with history.

The State of Contemporary Local History

Edmonton's history has been written (both literally written and told through other media than the printed word) by people with various backgrounds including professional and amateur historians, curators and archivists, community groups, journalists, and genealogists. Public historians, in contrast to academic historians, do not have complete freedom to choose the topics they study. The priorities of organizations, funders and governments impact the histories that are being preserved. It is important that while the Edmonton Heritage Council strives to highlight aspects of Edmonton history that have been ignored to date, it not impose its own biases. The history that is being studied and disseminated locally is the history that community members think is important enough to dedicate their time and energy to address. Novelists, poets, playwrights, visual artists, musicians and filmmakers – while focusing on 'story' rather than 'history' – have contributed significantly to community memory, how Edmonton and its history are interpreted.

Although the population of Alberta has been predominantly urban since the middle of the last century, historians studying Alberta history have continued to focus on the rural rather than the urban. And where they do address Edmonton's history they tend to address earlier aspects: Aboriginal activity in the region, the fur trade, early settlement and development up to World War II. Edmonton's centennial in 2004 and Alberta's in 2005, and a number of 100th

anniversaries of significant events occurring in the years before and after, have been catalysts for studies that take a longer view but they sometimes cover contemporary history superficially compared to the treatment of the early years. And occasionally the end of an era prompts research and recovery efforts.⁷

It is generally acknowledged that studying and disseminating contemporary history is challenging for several reasons. First, it's important to remember that when studying events that occurred within our own lifetime we all come to the subject with preconceived notions that must be acknowledged and challenged. If the person studying events or places was also a participant, as is often the case particularly with community-based projects, it could be considered an 'autohistory'⁸ and is even more difficult to be objective, and to analyse data to identify what's important in the larger context. Historians are taught to be objective but historical objectivity is a myth – particularly when addressing events and ideas that occurred in recent memory. Increasingly historians recognize that there is no singular truth and that historians are not simply observers and analysts, but that historical facts can be interpreted from multiple perspectives.

It takes years to realize the implications of decisions, events, movements and personalities; a generation (which used to mean 20 but now means 30 years) has been used as a guideline. While it's possible to indicate what happened five years ago, it's impossible to fully understand the significance of events. For example, with hindsight, the closure of the municipal airport in 2013, inevitable after the decision to end scheduled service in 1995, may be traced to the decision to open the international airport in 1960. Hence the expression "Hindsight is 20/20".

Sources for the study of contemporary history pose challenges. As noted, there are few secondary sources specifically about Edmonton's contemporary history and because of the escalation of globalization in the postwar period, it's essential to place Edmonton's history in a broader context requiring extensive thematic research in Canadian and international literature. There's a tendency to look at local history in isolation. Goyette notes in her introduction to *Edmonton in Our Own Words*, Edmonton's history is not restricted to the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.⁹ She refers to events in the surrounding area: Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Leduc, St. Albert, etc. With Edmonton's population increasingly originating all over the world, it's important to have a grasp of world events to understand what motivated immigrants and foreign workers to come to Edmonton.

⁷ Or a combination of the two; the *GWG: Piece by Piece* project was initiated as a centennial project but when closure of the plant was announced became a recovery effort.

⁸ I coined the phrase in reference to autobiography, which is recognized as being subjective.

⁹ Goyette, Linda and Carolyn Jakeway Roemmich, *Edmonton in Our Own Words*, Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2004.

Where national and international event *are* considered, there's a tendency to generalize about Edmonton's history in relation to the experience elsewhere without recognizing the sometimes subtle differences. Newspapers are invaluable in recording events and providing an impression of the times but have their limitations, biases and inaccuracies. The scan of newspapers from the period conducted for this study provided information about key events in Edmonton's history as well as insight into how Edmontonians felt about these events, particularly growing confidence in Edmonton's (and Alberta's) economy and place within Canada and the influence of world events, the spectre of Cold War, the American War on Terror, etc.

World events, events elsewhere in Canada and particularly throughout Alberta and Western Canada have an impact on life in the city. Political and economic realignments in the post-war world have changed the relationships between Edmontonians and people in other nations (e.g., post-colonial societies, political realignments in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe, migration, immigration and globalization). Scientific and technological advances, (e.g., commercial air travel, nuclear technology, space travel, information technology, television), that have occurred elsewhere have shaped how we live and what we think about. Eradication and/or control of old diseases such as polio and smallpox, the pervasiveness of malaria and AIDS in the developing world, and the introduction of new diseases such as SARS, H1N1, and West Nile have raised concerns locally. Movements such as feminism, the sexual revolution, the civil rights movement in the United States, and the peace movement have all had implications locally. The preoccupation with celebrity over substance in the United States has taken hold locally. Concerns about the increasing disparity between rich and poor globally with wealth concentrated in 1% of the population that culminated in the Occupy Movement in 2011; locally, although Edmontonians are known for quiet money compared to Calgary, there is great wealth locally – and poverty. The increasing debate about climate change, an international issue, plays out differently in Edmonton, Calgary, Northern Alberta, and in Canada.

In order to increase our knowledge and understanding of Edmonton as a place, we need to concentrate on primary sources. Often more contemporary records are either still active and have not yet been deposited in archives or if they have been deposited have not yet been processed making them difficult to access. Grey literature (e.g., unpublished or informally published monographs and reports of consultants or working groups) is often very important for contemporary topics but very difficult to access. There are usually few copies and they are on office not library shelves. People tend to keep material in their offices until a change in jobs or retirement causes them to consider a long-term repository, like an archives, or the recycling bin.

With contemporary history there's often a focus on oral history. While very useful in providing various perspectives on issues and events, and particularly voices of women, immigrants and Aboriginal people who continue to be largely overlooked in the official record, oral history is not unbiased and is often not helpful in understanding the basic facts of what happened, when, and who the key players were. The lack of transcripts, summaries, indexes and translation from one medium to another can make interviews difficult to access. It's also not always well done; some researchers put words in the mouths of informants or assume too much shared knowledge. One researcher does not necessarily ask the questions another researcher would like to have asked.

Increasingly research is conducted via the Internet – and for contemporary history necessarily so. Wikipedia is a convenient shortcut but not the final word. In terms of accessing primary material, what has or has not been digitized is often a result of vision and budget rather than any systematic approach, and some of it has not been well done technically so is either difficult to access or not reliable. Websites may include brief organizational histories but are written for communications purposes and are promotional in nature so must be verified. Blogs have taken the place of journals, and are immediately available rather than being published years later.

Because of the challenges with sources for contemporary history, it's as important to consider what to save as much as it is what to study. Organizations like the Northern Alberta Women's Archives Association, that is no longer, were proactive in encouraging Albertan women to donate their papers to archives. Being an intermediary between Edmontonians and Edmonton museums and archives and in encouraging people to save photographs from their phones and important emails, and think about public repositories for their work is an important task. We are surrounded by digital media but haven't yet come to terms with what or how to preserve.

Most local history books focus on particular aspects of Edmonton history in isolation. Specific histories have been written about various themes of local history such as transportation, communications, utilities, neighbourhoods, churches, schools, and businesses. Kathryn Chase Merritt's *A History of the Edmonton City Market 1900-2000: Urban Values and Urban Culture* is an exception, one of few local histories that places its specific subject, the history of the market, in a broader context of the urban/rural tension that is such an important part of Edmonton's psyche.¹⁰ Linda Goyette and Carolyn Jakeway Roemmich's *Edmonton in Our Own Words*¹¹ is an atypical history for several reasons; the authors do not attempt to write a

¹⁰ Merritt, Kathryn Chase, *A History of the Edmonton City Market 1900-2000: Urban Values and Urban Culture*, University of Calgary Press, 2001.

¹¹ Goyette, Linda and Carolyn Jakeway Roemmich, *Edmonton in Our Own Words*, Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2004.

cohesive history but make a conscious decision to juxtapose first person accounts recorded at the time with those of contemporary Edmontonians in a form of scrapbook history.

Local museums, archives and heritage preservationists too focus on particular periods (pre-World War II), technologies (e.g., transportation and communications), sectors (e.g., health and education), events (e.g., northern development and war), and peoples (e.g., Ukrainians, Jews). There is no comprehensive museum approach to Edmonton's history, something the Edmonton Heritage Council is seeking to address through the city museum initiative.

Memorials include preservation of heritage sites, erection of monuments including names of people being commemorated, renamed streets, buildings or infrastructure, virtual memorials on the Internet and museums of history/memory; and activities (such as public apologies, reburials, walking tours, parades and temporary exhibitions) as well as artistic expressions. There have been few efforts to memorialize events in local history, the commemoration of the Traditional Aboriginal Burial Ground and Fort Edmonton Cemetery adjacent to the EPCOR site in Rosedale being a notable exception. The commemoration was not created through the public art process but through a very painful public consultation process but to the average Edmontonian fulfils the same function as public art. The memorialization process should be safe for all involved to ensure credibility and ownership; the conversation about the past may be more important than the final product. The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience has done some important work in this area.¹²

Temporary projects such as the *Walking with Our Sisters* travelling exhibition, a commemorative art Installation for the missing and murdered Indigenous women of Canada and the United States exhibited in Edmonton in the fall of 2013, can be very powerful.¹³ Edmonton has few works of public art with specific commemorative or memorial aspects, including *Ukrainian Famine Memorial* by Ludmilla Temertey "the first public monument to the Holodomor...to mark the 50th anniversary of the famine-genocide," *Memoryscape* by Marc Boutin which illustrates the role of the military around the world but takes "an atypical approach that eschews traditional war memorials," and *In Out* by Claude Boulevarde de Passillé, "a conceptual interpretation of the Beverly neighbourhood coal mining heritage and its cavernous underground."¹⁴

The practice of memorialization should stimulate civic engagement, critical thinking and discussion regarding representation of the past and similar challenges in contemporary society.

¹² <http://www.sitesofconscience.org/>

¹³ <http://walkingwithoursisters.ca/>

¹⁴ <http://edmontonpublicart.ca/#!/grid/>

There is potential for public art to play a much stronger role in commemoration than at present. For example, in the city with the largest urban Aboriginal population in the country, the current Truth and Reconciliation Commission could result in a work of public art commemorating the experiences of local Aboriginal people.

The city's Naming Committee approves names for municipal facilities, new neighbourhoods, parks and roads. The Current Planning Branch of the Sustainable Development Department, researches names, maintains an inventory of names to be used in the future, and receives requests from the public for names to be honoured. The Edmonton Historical Board nominates a person to be appointed to the Committee as its representative. The book *Naming Edmonton: From Aida to Zoie* provides an important record of the meaning of names of Edmonton's streets but there's little on-site interpretation that explains the significance of these names.¹⁵

The Edmonton Heritage Council could propose that the city revise the current *Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas* policy¹⁶ to ensure that where appropriate public art incorporate heritage interpretation and outdoor heritage interpretation be treated with the same scrutiny as public art and to include a policy on memorialization. The city could allocate a position on the Public Art Committee to either the Edmonton Heritage Council or the Edmonton Historical Board to address heritage aspects of public art.

There's a tendency to relate history to pride, particularly when activities are tied to anniversaries, and Edmonton's heritage community has paid little attention to the negative aspects of our history. Museums can reflect and shape negatively or positively, social interactions and people's self-identities, as well as their perception of other social groups. Sometimes, the past defines people rather than informs them.

As noted recently by the UN, we need to establish "a delicate balance between forgetting and remembering."¹⁷ Memorialization processes cannot function as empty rhetoric commemorating the dead, while losing sight of the reasons and the context for past tragedies and obscuring contemporary challenges. Memory, like history, is never immune from political influence and debate. Some memorialization is official and top-down while other memorials are driven from below by artists, political groups or communities determined to publicly recall the memory of victims overlooked or denied by government. Whether one conserves, transforms

¹⁵ Historic Sites Committee, Edmonton Historical Board, *Naming Edmonton: From Aida to Zoie*. Edmonton: City of Edmonton, 2004.

¹⁶ Approved in 1991; revised in 2007.

¹⁷ Shaheed, Farida. *Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development*. United Nations: Unpublished Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, January, 23, 2014.

or destroys contentious sites (e.g., a residential school) is a statement in itself so needs to be discussed, framed and interpreted.

Museums often have more flexibility than historic sites to address complex topics. Museums are considered to be authoritative sources, trusted by Canadians as demonstrated by the Canadians and their Pasts project.¹⁸ Museums must protect the freedom of curators to express their own opinions and to work with various community groups and individuals to incorporate multiple perspectives rather than a single interpretation that promotes a political agenda or defends community interests. Increasingly museums allow community members to participate in research and in the development of collections, exhibitions and programs. The interpretation of Aboriginal history by non-Aboriginal museums, and of culturally diverse communities by dominant Canadian cultures, is problematic leading to communities developing their own institutions to tell their own stories.

Themes in Edmonton History Post-1939

As noted above, it's very difficult to identify the most significant themes in recent Edmonton history without the benefit of some distance, both in time and personal biases but having said that there are a number of themes that are clearly important. At the risk of overlooking some themes, or of giving too much significance to others, below is a list of significant themes in Edmonton's contemporary history. These are not presented in any particular order.

Edmonton and the North

Edmonton has long self-identified as *the* Gateway to the North. Without doubt it has been an important gateway to northern Alberta and the territories. John Gilpen's book *Edmonton, Gateway to the North* omits the article.¹⁹ However, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Montreal are all significant southern 'gateway cities' to other parts of 'the North'. While Edmonton is important to the north particularly in terms of transportation and communications, military presence, health care, and increasingly as home to urban Aboriginal people its significance as a gateway city is changing in part due to the opening of the international airport and the closure of the municipal airport. Edmonton's relationship to other northern cities internationally (e.g., Alaska, Scandinavia) has been given little attention but there have been economic, cultural and military relationships. There is a Scandinavian Heritage Society, as well as societies for each of the Scandinavian nations, evidence of "the vitality of the Scandinavian culture in Alberta."²⁰ Another aspect of Edmonton and the north is how being an urban, northern city defines Edmonton as a place (for example, the seasonal rhythms of summer and winter life, various incarnations of winter festivals, the new Winter Strategy). Edmonton has a love-hate

¹⁸ Canadians and their Pasts <http://www.canadiansandtheirpasts.ca/index.html>

relationship with its northernism, sometimes ignore the reality with its use of California stucco and inability to deal with snow removal and potholes.

Leduc No. 1 as the Turning Point

The discovery of oil at Leduc was the turning point in Edmonton's history – and was recognized as such at the time: "1947 will go into the records as one of the greatest years in Edmonton district history, for the oil discovery at the Leduc-Calmar sector of the Edmonton oilfield."²¹ Pre-WWII optimism about the potential for future growth gave way to the reality in the postwar period, but it was a post-Leduc No. 1 period, not just a postwar period. With Leduc No. 1 Alberta shifted from being a 'have not' to a 'have' province, from having a predominantly agricultural economy to having a more diversified economy. Edmonton entered its first oil boom, its first real period of prosperity since the 1911 real estate boom. The city embraced all things modern and tore down buildings from the 1910s and 1920s with abandon. Edmonton and Calgary have played very different role in oil and gas, with Edmonton supplying and servicing the industry and Calgary increasingly hosting head offices. Edmonton is in part a bedroom community to Fort McMurray, with the work culture in Fort McMurray to work long consecutive days with short breaks. The increase in Alberta's wealth has fed Western alienation and the realignment of Alberta's relationship to Canada, the US and the world. In recent years there has been some pushback due to international protests about environmental damage and climate change, as well as concerns about Aboriginal health and the ability to maintain traditional hunting and fishing practices. Edmonton's relationship to the oil industry is a theme that requires serious attention from someone capable of addressing all sides of the history.

Family farms to Agribusiness to Local Food Movement

Edmontonians' relationship to the land has changed significantly since the war. The province has shifted from being predominantly rural to predominantly urban. Unlike the agricultural immigrants who initially settled the area, recent immigrants are coming from cities and settling in the city. The city has absorbed much surrounding farmland. Family farms gave way to agribusiness and many young urbanites lack of awareness of where their food comes from. Edmonton had a significant meatpacking and food processing heritage, with dairy farms and market gardens surrounding the city. City markets that and home gardening that previously had negative connotations related to ethnicity, class, cleanliness and identity have been rediscovered within the local food movement.

¹⁹ Gilpen, John F. *Edmonton, Gateway to the North: An Illustrated History*. California: Windsor Publications, 1984.

²⁰ <http://www.shse.ca/>

²¹ *Edmonton Journal*, December 31, 1947.

Edmonton: City of Champions

It's sometimes difficult to separate boosterism, perception and reality in terms of understanding the city. It's important to deconstruct the moniker 'City of Champions'. Edmonton's has self-identified as a City of Champions since Laurence Decore came up with the moniker because of citizen response to the tornado. It should be compared to how others see the city and reality. The success of Edmonton Eskimos and Oilers in particular in the mid-80s led people to think it referred to sports; the 2006 run for the Stanley Cup revived that civic pride, but recent failures of both teams have meant that the moniker is an embarrassment. It has been applied to volunteerism, philanthropy, civic leaders, recycling... The number of local athletes turned politicians has resulted in cheerleading. Bill Smith was a particularly enthusiastic mayor (1995-2004), calling Edmonton "the greatest city in the greatest province in the greatest country in the world." In more recent years, the city has overused the phrase 'world class', a true sign of an inferiority complex. Edmonton has used other monikers, for example: 'Canada's Greenest City' in reference to recycling but the City's perception of itself should again be considered within its reputation nationally and internationally for dependence on private vehicles over public transit and connection to Fort McMurray, etc. Another example would be 'Festival City' and although Edmonton does boast a lot of festivals, it's far from alone in considering itself a Festival City. Another example would be the failed – and short-lived slogan, 'Host City for the New Millennium'. City of Champions remains in part because Edmontonians have not given up on another run.

Edmonton as Distinct from Calgary Comparisons

Edmonton and Calgary are both modern, postwar cities but they have evolved very differently. In some ways they are similar to other mid-sized cities in North America and in other ways different – and different from each other. They have grown at a similar rate into cities with very different characters. According to 2012 municipal census data, Edmonton is the sixth largest Canadian city with a population of 817,498, Calgary fifth with a population of 1,120,225; however, when the region is taken into consideration, as in the 2012 Statistics Canada census metropolitan area (CMA) the populations are closer, with Edmonton at 1,230,100 and Calgary 1,309,200, underlining one of the key differences between the two cities, Edmonton is surrounded by several small cities that have maintained their independence within the capital region.²² Edmonton is the provincial capital, and its character is shaped by the government, the University of Alberta, the city's role in supply and servicing oil and gas industries, compared to Calgary's more corporate presence, its position as home to hundreds of head offices. As a result, the cities attract different migrants and immigrants and their differences become more pronounced over time. Calgary is apparently the only major city in Canada without a civil liberties organization.

²² <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/demo05a-eng.htm>

Edmonton: City of Newcomers

In the immediate postwar period there was an influx of immigrants from Europe including war brides and those displaced by the war. When communist governments took power in Eastern European countries in the 1950s and 1960s more immigrants came to Canada. Since 1967 changes in Canadian immigration policy combined with international events and Alberta's economic strength have attracted immigrants from throughout the world. Canada adopted a merit-based point system and introduced three categories of immigrants: Family, Refugee and Independent. Immigrants who were professionals could come over by themselves and immigrants who had arrived earlier could sponsor their family members so that they could also immigrate. The 1976 Immigration Act further refined these regulations and category definitions making it easier for immigrants from the Caribbean, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East to come to Canada. Migrants from other parts of Canada have also made the city home and in turn shaped the city. The reasons people have come to Edmonton, what their expectations were and whether or not they have been realized should be more fully explored. The fact that many people have come here to earn money and/or an education, sending money home and intending to return has impacted the commitment some have made to the city and its future.

Edmonton's Neighbourhoods

Edmonton was the first Canadian city to adopt Community Leagues and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2021) is unique in the country. Through Community Leagues members have a strong role in planning and in recreation in their neighbourhoods; some Leagues have history committees. Edmonton accommodated the rapid increase in population in the postwar period by annexing surrounding towns (e.g., Jasper Place 1950, Beverly 1961) and agricultural land and identifying new suburban neighbourhoods, creating urban sprawl and supporting a deeply held car culture. Older neighbourhoods have struggled to maintain their schools and built heritage while newer neighbourhoods lobby to get facilities and amenities. In particular the fights to save Old Strathcona in the 1970s and the river valley communities of Riverdale, Cloverdale and Rosedale in the 1970s and early 1980s preserved the human scale of the city. A number of books have been written focusing on specific older communities in the city: Glenora, Highlands, Riverdale, Old Strathcona, Beverly, etc. but many neighbourhoods would benefit from a fresh look – or in the case of newer developments a first look. The city's approach to urban planning within city limits and its occasional forays into development in Mill Woods and now the municipal airport lands are now being considered. The city's relationship to small cities in the capital region has sometimes been contentious with recurring discussion of annexation or some form of equalization. The debate about building on increasingly valuable agricultural land has heated up in recent years along with the debate around the use of private vehicles versus public transportation.

Community Service and Social Justice

Edmonton is very proud of voluntarism in the community, of being a city with heart. Edmonton was the first city in Canada to establish a Food Bank – is that a good thing in that Edmonton has heart or a bad thing in that it was necessary in the first place? Edmonton has been proactive in trying to address homelessness, a particularly challenge here due to the boom/bust economy, deinstitutionalization of patients living with mental illnesses, and harsh climate. A number of significant human rights issues have been challenged in Edmonton, not just because the provincial government is based in Edmonton but also because of the individuals willing to challenge the status quo and the organizations that support them: fair employment practices; equal pay for equal work was introduced in Edmonton in 1959; the Vriend Case regarding sexual orientation in 1998. Has Edmonton's response to issues such as HIV/AIDS differed from that of other centres?

Changing Dynamics Between Women and Men

There's much work to be done on gender issues in Edmonton. Although it is possible to generalize about the way women are treated provincially or nationally, there are differences at the local level. Some of the issues include: WWII women's work and freedoms; the impact of boom/bust economic cycles on men and women; postwar baby boom; women raising children with absentee fathers working in the oil fields and military; domestic workers (from Caribbean in 1950s and the Philippines since the 1990s); daycare; equal pay for equal work; wife beating/domestic violence; women's shelters (institutionalizing women); class issues related to women's movement; different expectations of immigrants – of immigrant men towards Canadian wives and of Canadian men towards immigrant wives; and women in positions of political power.

Secularization of Society

In the immediate postwar period Alberta was a predominantly white Christian society, with the evangelical premier Ernest Manning in power from 1943 to 1968 (and Aberhart before him). The number of religions practiced locally has increased with the increase in the number and variety of countries from which immigrants originate, but the largest increase has been in the number of people who do not practice any religion. This has impacted daily life in many ways, the controversy over whether or not people could play sports debated in the 1950s, or shop on Sundays, for example. In 1982 the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was introduced ensuring freedom of conscience and religion, regardless of existing federal or provincial laws. The following year the Supreme Court ruled that the Lord's Day Act violated Canadians' freedom of religion. In 1984, Alberta granted municipalities the right to determine whether or not retail stores could open on Sundays and by the end of the year some stores in Edmonton opened on Sundays, but the controversy over Sunday openings continued for a number of years, with people arguing that essential stores (e.g., drug stores and grocery stores) and

tourism attractions (e.g., West Edmonton Mall) should be allowed to open but others should not have to. The privatization of liquor stores and legalization of gambling which have both had negative social consequences locally would not have been possible 50 years ago. Debate continues around saying the Lord's Prayer in schools and Christmas celebrations in classrooms. While these issues extend far beyond Edmonton's borders, they have changed cultural life in the city and should not be ignored.

Global Trends with Local Implications

There are a lot of trends that should be considered – but can't be tied to specific dates. For example:

- Post-industrialization; outsourcing jobs
- The shift from unionized to non-unionized labour, e.g., construction industry; unionized labour shift from private sector to public sector
- Increasing costs of higher education; increasing anti-intellectualism in Alberta (not as strong in Edmonton as Calgary or rural Alberta, Ralph Klein's strongholds)
- Changes in health care
- Child/teen culture
- Celebrity worship

Edmonton and Canada's Sesquicentennial

The other issue that should be considered is whether there are any themes that can relate to the federal government's priorities for the sesquicentennial celebrations in 2017; those priorities have not yet been clearly outlined but might be expected to include interprovincial relations (with Edmonton as the provincial capital) and Edmontonians who have contributed to Canada's perceived independence and maturity. Mayor Harry Ainley saw Western alienation in relation to nationhood when he noted in 1946, the desire "That our domestic problems as between provincial and federal governments may be settled and that our country shall move forward into true nationhood,"²³ The current priority list is very narrow, focusing on military and sports history but it will hopefully be revised following current consultations across the country.²⁴ Edmonton should not be left out of the party, but it may be up to Edmontonians to tell the federal government how best to be included.

²³ *Edmonton Journal*, December 31, 1946.

²⁴ A preliminary list has been posted at <http://www.pch.gc.ca/eng/1377520084882/1377529482468#a50>

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
1939	John Wesley Fry Mayor since 1937 to 1945		King George VI and Queen Elisabeth visit Edmonton staging base for Allied operations British Commonwealth Air Training Plan at the Municipal Airport		Edmonton Schoolboys Band trips to Banff		Indian Association of Alberta organized Migration from surrounding areas into city for war-related work
1940		University of Alberta School of Architecture closed	Royal Canadian Air Force took over the Edmonton Arena			Edmonton Grads disbanded with a record of 502 wins and 20 losses between 1915 and 1940	
1941					Edmonton public library established first travelling library in North America, a book-filled streetcar		Population: 93,924
1942			January beginning of Internment of Japanese in Canada Beginning of construction of Alaska Highway				

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
			and Canol pipeline supplied through Edmonton				
1943	Death of William Aberhart; Ernest Manning became premier (1943-1968)		Battle of Ortona, significant losses for Edmontonians				
1944			D-Day				
1945	Harry Ainley mayor From 1945-1959 even city councillor part of the Citizen's Committee, a coalition of business and financial leaders Ernest Manning premier, Social Credit		V-E Day and V-J Day end of WWII 666 Edmonton men killed during war Creation of the Atomic bomb United Nations founded Beginning of the Cold War				War brides come to town
1946	Harry Ainlay elected mayor				Edmonton's first mosque, built in 1938 moved near the Royal Alexandra Hospital		Population: 114,976
1947		Postwar housing shortages due to migration from rural areas to city	Independence of India and Pakistan; First Indo-Pakistani War 1947-48	Leduc #1 discovery of oil at Leduc "creation story of the new city"			Population: 118,541 Migration from other parts of

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
		Beginning of suburban development to 1965		Goyette, p. 318			Canada for oil boom
1948		housing boom	UN established Israeli independence and state of Israel; beginning of Israeli-Palestinian conflict Assassination of Mohandas Gandhi Beginning of apartheid in South Africa Division of North and South Korea	Atlantic No. 3 well blows out near Leduc; Imperial Oil's Redwater No. 1 well; first oil refinery opens in Clover Bar		Edmonton Flyers win Allan Cup	
1949	Sidney Parsons mayor		Creation of NATO Partition of Germany Establishment of People's Republic of China	Postwar baby boom, shortage of classroom spaces and teachers	Edmonton's first drive-in theatre, The Starlite opened		
1950		Jasper Place incorporated as a village	Uneasy peace, Canadian presence in Europe 25 June beginning of the Korean War	Agriculture major industry in Alberta, more than 50% of overall production First interprovincial pipeline from		Edmonton Mercury's win World Ice Hockey Championships	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
				Edmonton to Superior, Wisconsin completed			
1951	William Hawreliak mayor	Parkallen first planned neighbourhood Utilities expansion due to growth Edmonton abandoned the streetcar	Increase in petty crime – number of case in police court increased from 6,247 in 1948 to 14,000 in 1951		January - Edmonton Bulletin ceased production	Edmonton Oil Kings in Western Canada Junior Hockey League (to 1956)	
1952		Clover Bar Bridge completed Mayor compared challenges of infrastructure growth to those of the pioneers	Egyptian independence Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II First scheduled flight by commercial jet End of Korean War		Paramount theatre opened	Edmonton Mercury's win Olympic Gold	Population: 169,196
1953	Only 11.2% of the population voted in the civic election	30,000 kw addition to the powerplant	National polio epidemic, 16 Edmontonians died 27 July end of the Korean War	Shift from rural to urban economy; Completion of TransMountain Pipe Line to Burnaby, BC Pembina oilfield discovered west of Edmonton Alberta rather than Ontario acknowledged as	Rock and roll enters mainstream culture	First ascent of Mount Everest	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
				richest province Canadian Chemical Co., later Celanese Canada established			
1954		MacLab Construction established 1947-1954 4% of homes built in Canada were in Edmonton, although population only 1.3% of country's	Edmonton's 50 th anniversary Edmonton had reputation as "Aerial Crossroads of the World" according to Hawrelak	Since 1948 Alberta greater economic growth than any other province Opening of new GWG plant near stadium, largest in world Salk vaccine for polio	CFRN television established	Jackie Parker played for Edmonton from 1954-1962; 90 yard turnover touchdown led Eskimos to first of three Grey Cups Matt Baldwin ring won Dominion Curling Championships	
1955		Residential development in Sherwood Park Groat Bridge completed Westmount Centre the city's first shopping centre opened	Alberta 50 th anniversary – Golden Jubilee	Alberta on its way to a diversified economy: oil, natural gas, pipeline, forestry, related manufacturing Increase of 50% in telephone service over 5 years		Edmonton Flyers won Western Hockey League championship Eskimos won Grey Cup	
1956		McNally Commission report recommended amalgamation of	Weakening of Western (UK, France & US) and Communist power	Beginning of Phase II of postwar expansion – marketing and		Edmonton Oil Kings in Central Alberta Hockey League (to 1966)	Refugees from Eastern Europe coming to Edmonton

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
		communities around Edmonton	blocks Hungarian uprising crushed by Soviet troops Suez Crisis	distribution			
1957	John Diefenbaker became PM	Edmonton City Hall opened Water pool found in old mine at Grierson Hill identified as cause of landslides Construction of underpass on 97 th St. at CNR tracks	Launch of Spudnik I began Space Age Treaty of Rome which eventually led to European Union Oral contraceptives introduced	Decline in natural resources development and construction fields	Jubilee Auditorium opened The Migrants, wild geese, public art sculpture designed by Lionel Thomas, UBC, outside city hall		Population: 238,353
1958	Grant MacEwan elected Liberal leader	Overpass at 105 th St and CNR tracks	Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CDR) symbol, the peace sign first used Invention of optical disc and the cassette tape	Recession in most of Canada, less so in Alberta; influx of workers from other parts of the country; 2 nd largest capital works program in Edmonton history Number of people seeking social assistance doubled	Walterdale Theatre established Committee named to investigate establishing city museum; exhibition in old civic block	Borden Park opened	Population: 252,131
1959	Mayor Hawrelak charged with gross misconduct on land deal, resigned but		Queen and Prince Philip Royal Visit Cuban Revolution Independence of		Storybook Valley Zoo opened Shumka Dancers established by		Population: 260,733 (growth rate declined from

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
	denied allegations Frederick John Mitchell mayor/ Elmer Roper former CCF leader elected mayor to 1963		Cyprus and Singapore First documented AIDS cases Beginning of the Vietnam War		Chester Kuc		previous three years)
1960		Edmonton International airport opened; beginning of debate about future of municipal airport	Independence of 17 African nations	Agriculture dropped to less than 25% of Alberta's economy compared to 50% in 1950: mining, construction more than 25% each, manufacturing approaching 20%	Queen Elizabeth II Planetarium opened in Coronation Park		Population 269,300 (excluding Jasper Place) Aboriginal people with treaty status given right to vote federally
1961		Annexation of Beverly	13 August beginning of construction of the Berlin Wall	Tommy Douglas initiated work towards Medicare in Saskatchewan			
1962			Cuban Missile Crisis Second Vatican Council opened by Pope John XXIII	NAIT established Licensing of Salk vaccine, invented in 1952	Exhibition re-named Klondike Days Beginnings of the British Invasion		Population 294,967
1963	Lester B. Pearson PM William Hawrelak mayor (1963-1965),	Edmonton International Airport opened Amalgamation of Jasper Place with	Independence of Kenya Martin Luther King "I Have a Dream" Assassination of		Edmonton Opera established	Edmonton Oil Kings win first Memorial Cup	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
		City of Edmonton	JFK				
1964	City changed its electoral system; 12 councillors, elections every 2 years; following a heated election Hawrelak re-elected mayor but was removed from office due to conflict of interest	Jasper Place biggest annexation next to Strathcona in 1912					
1965	Vincent M. Dantzer chosen mayor (1965-1968)			Edmonton economy booming; record breaking number of building permits issued each year	Citadel Theatre opened in old Salvation Army citadel		
1966	Dantzer elected mayor	City's first skyscraper built: 26 storey CN Tower Chateau Lacombe opened	Beginning of Chinese Cultural Revolution			Edmonton OilKings in Western Canada Hockey League (to 1976)	Edmonton Canada's fastest growing city
1967	Canada's Centennial		Summer of Love, hippie movement De Gaulle: "Vive le Quebec libre"		Provincial Museum of Alberta opened Centennial library opened		Population 393,593 Changes in Canadian immigration laws opening up immigration from Asia

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
1968	Ivor Dent mayor Ernest Manning retired: Harry Strom premier (68-71) Social Credit Pierre Elliot Trudeau Prime Minister political fragmentation	Opening of Quesnel bridge Key role in northern development City annexation plan approved to increase from 86m2 to 292 m2	Assassination of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy Prague Spring The Troubles began in Northern Ireland	New provincial oil sands policy introduced, leads to Syncrude establishing 2 nd plant in Fort McMurray Strike in construction industry			
1969		Edmonton first Canadian city to join 911 NA Emergency Telephone plan Mill Woods land bank established, largest public land assembly in North America Transportation Plan introduced concept of rapid transit system	Muammar Gaddafi established Libyan Arab Republic following military coup End of Nigerian Civil War, reintegration of Republic of Biafra 3M deaths		Neil Armstrong first man on the moon – increasing consciousness of this world as an entity Woodstock festival City first in Canada to adopt 911 for emergencies		Canada introduced White Paper on Indian Affairs; Harold Cardinal and Alberta chiefs led national opposition, withdrawn in 1971
1970		Mill Woods concept plan approved Southgate opened: largest mall west of Toronto	Flooding in city 2 nd worst air disaster in Canadian history, 109 killed in Toronto	Wheat surplus, western farmers started diversifying crops	Royal Commission on the Status of Women Murder of students at Kent State U fueled peace		Population 425,000

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
		Destruction of old buildings in downtown to make room for skyscrapers	October Crisis, Quebec, murder of Pierre Laporte, kidnapping of James Cross Labour protests in Poland Containerization adopted globally reducing shipping costs End of war in Biafra Increasing concerns about pollution		movement		
1971	Peter Lougheed premier (71-85) Conservative; defeat of Social Credit after 36 years (49-25 seats) Cec Purves mayor (1971-1974 and 1977-1983)	James MacDonald Bridge opened New highest building: AGT Tower completed; Law Courts building opened New control tower and debate about future of Industrial Airport due to safety concerns Richfield, Mill Woods under construction		GMCC established Off-track betting not approved by feds Compulsory car insurance required	Greenpeace founded Age of majority in Alberta lowered from 21 to 18 Yippie demonstration in Borden park Cablevision came to Edmonton Daylight savings time introduced in Alberta		

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
1972	Trudeau re-elected PM with a minority government	Development plans for Clareview	Bloody Sunday, Northern Ireland Martial law declared in the Philippines by President Ferdinand Marcos		Ukrainian Canadian Archives & Museum of Alberta opened	Alberta Oilers founded in Western Hockey Association Munich massacre at Olympic Games	Population 441,530
1973	Increasing regionalism within Canada; discussion about separatism in Quebec led to growing awareness of federal/provincial relations Growth in Western alienation Ceasefire in Viet Nam		Augusto Pinochet overthrew Salvador Allende in Chilean coup, leading to Chileans immigrating to Edmonton	International energy crisis led to second oil boom – debates about how to manage prosperity Increasing inflation Railway strikes ended with back-to-work legislation Federal banking and freight rate concessions Dispute with federal government over control of Alberta oil	50 th anniversary of Edmonton Art Gallery Financial crisis threatened symphony	Oilers renamed Edmonton Oilers	Migration from other parts of Canada and immigration from other nations due to oil boom
1974	William Hawrelak elected mayor Federal election - increasing friction between provincial and federal governments Watergate	City Centre Place mall opened Transportation plan to build five freeways through city to downtown and six bridges across the river		International inflation, economic recession	Fort Edmonton Park established Walterdale Theatre moved to Strathcona Fire Hall #1	Edmonton Coliseum opened	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
	Scandal/ Nixon's resignation in US – new era of lack of trust in politicians	Old Strathcona Foundation established to prevent freeway from being built down Whyte Ave and preserve the area Fight to save river valley communities from becoming parkland					
1975	Terry Cavanaugh mayor		End of Vietnam War and Fall of Saigon Victory of Khmer Rouge in Cambodian Civil War, Killing Fields International Women's Year Concerns about increase in world population, international food shortages	Shift in world economic power to Middle East			
1976	American bicentennial celebrations pervaded	TD Tower added to City Centre mall Debate re freeways in city	Death of Mao Zedong and end of Cultural Revolution Trend to staggered	First outbreak of Ebola virus Spike in cost of coffee and sugar	Heritage Days Festival began at Hawrelak Park Muttart	Edmonton Oil Kings in Western Hockey League to 79	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
		Controversy over Mayfair Park being renamed Hawrelak Park Convention Centre	working hours to reduce traffic congestion	Canadian Airborne Regiment moved from Edmonton Energy/conservation debate	Conservatory opened Alberta Railway Museum opened		
1977	Cec Purves mayor	St. Albert became a city	Introduction of first mass produced personal computers		Catalyst Theatre established		Population: 471,474
1978		Oxford Tower and Sutton Place Hotel added to City Centre mall Light Rail Transit started		Invention of insulin Birth of first test tube baby	Edmonton Sun founded	Edmonton hosted Commonwealth Games Commonwealth Stadium opened Kinsmen Centre opened Edmonton Coliseum renamed Northlands Coliseum	
1979	Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister of England		Iran Revolution and Iran hostage crisis Soviet-Afghan War began Solidarity movement in Poland Salvadoran Civil War began	Smallpox eradicated		Oilers join NHL	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
			Overthrow of Khmer Rouge 1.7M killed				
1980	Ronald Regan elected President of the US	New Urbanism arose in North America in 1980s	Egyptian Islamic Jihad formed Independence of Rhodesia, became Zimbabwe	Ottawa introduced National Energy Program	Edmonton Folk Music Festival and Jazz City introduced Great Divide waterfall from High Level Bridge MacEwan opened jazz music program		
1981		West Edmonton Mall opened (world's largest to 2004)	Independence of Palau	Edmonton Food Bank established – the first in Canada			
1982		Annexation of surrounding area nearly doubled size of city; bid to annex St. Albert and Sherwood Park defeated	CIL Plant Explosion Hezbollah founded in Lebanon following civil war Falklands War		Edmonton Fringe Theatre Festival began (now largest in NA)		Population: 551,314
1983	Laurence Decore mayor	Hotel Macdonald closed New tallest building Manulife Place opened Edmonton Convention Centre	Invasion of Grenada by the US			Summer Universiade	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
		opened					
1984	Brian Mulroney PM		Beginning of famine in Ethiopia Beginning of miners' strike in UK Sino-British Joint Declaration to hand Hong Kong back to China by 1997		Edmonton Space Sciences Centre opened	Edmonton hosts first Grey Cup Oilers win first of five Stanley Cups in next seven years Trappers win first of four Pacific Coast League Championships Edmonton hosted Grey Cup for first time	
1985	Don Getty premier (1985-1992) Conservative Mikhail Gorbachev Premier of Soviet Union	Fort Saskatchewan became a city		Failure of Canadian Commercial Bank	International Street Performers Festival began Live Aid	Oilers win Stanley Cup	Section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act repealed returning rights of status women who married non-FN men following flight led by Edmontonian's Nellie Carlson and Kathleen Steinhauer
1986	Hosted international events to discuss common	Spruce Grove became a city	June: River rose to 11.5m, worst flood since 1915 3 people died on	Gainers Strike most divisive in Edmonton's labour history	International Film Festival began The Works Art & Design Festival	Oilers win Stanley Cup	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
	northern city		Mindbender ride at WEM Challenger and Chernobyl disasters	Collapse of world oil prices, job losses	launched		
1987	Laurence Decore coined the phrase 'City of Champions' due to response to tornado		July: Edmonton Tornado	Failure of Principal Trust Stock market crash	Telephone Historical Centre opened in Old Strathcona		Population: 576,249
1988	Terry Cavanaugh mayor		Perestroika begins Al-Qaeda founded by Osama Bin Laden PAN AM Flight 103 destroyed mid-flight over Lockerbie, Scotland		First Night Festival introduced	Wayne Gretzky trade	
1989	Jann Reimer mayor, first female in Edmonton's history		Collapse of Soviet Bloc in Europe End of Cold War Fall of Berlin Wall First Palestinian suicide attack Tiananmen Square Massacre in China Introduction of the World Wide Web Use of personal computers became		River City Shakespeare Festival began (since 2008 Freewill)	Kurt Browning won first or four men's world figure skating championship in next five years Randy Ferbey's Edmonton rink won first of four consecutive Men's World Curling Championships	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
			common				
1990			Gulf War began				
1991		Hotel Macdonald reopened	December 31 Soviet Union dissolved				
1992	Ralph Klein premier (1992-2006) Bill Clinton elected President of US	Current City Hall opened		EdTel privatized		Scotty "Bulldog" Olson won International Boxing Organization world championship	Population: 619,195
1993			European Union established World Trade Centre bombing, NYC	Woodward's bankrupt			
1994			End of Apartheid in South Africa	Telus city's privately owned telephone company privatized	Varscona Theatre opened	Telus Field replaced John Ducey Park	
1995	Bill Smith mayor	Municipal Airport closed to scheduled service	World Trade Organization introduced	CFB Edmonton became Edmonton Garrison			
1996						World Figure Skating Championships	
1997	Tony Blair elected Prime Minister of UK		Transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong from UK to China		Winspear Centre opened		Population: 626,500

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
1998			End of The Troubles in Northern Ireland	Vriend Case, dismissal for sexual orientation taken to Supreme Court			
1999		City Centre and Eaton's Centre joined by pedway	Demise of Eaton's	Euro introduced			Population: 648,284
2000							
2001			Sept 11 attack on World Trade Centre, NYC Oct US invaded Afghanistan to depose Taliban Bioterrorism – anthrax attacks		Introduction of anti-smoking bylaw for restaurants and public places Space & Science Centre renamed Odysseum	IAAF World Championships in Athletics Jamie Salé and David Pelletier won World Pairs Figure Skating Championship	Papaschase band sues government over loss of reserve
2002			Four soldiers from the Edmonton base killed on duty in Afghanistan	Significant changes to temporary foreign worker program			Population: 676,293
2003	Paul Martin PM with minority government Ralph Klein re-elected with 62/83 seats		Second Gulf War broke out Project KARE, an investigational unit created to examine the deaths of high-risk missing persons found in rural areas		Ice on Whyte festival introduced	Heritage Classic, first outdoor NHL game at Commonwealth Stadium	

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
			surrounding city				
2004	Stephen Mandel elected mayor after 1 term on Council Federal sponsorship scandal Stephen Harper elected leader of new Conservative party Bush re-elected President of the US	Churchill Square redevelopment City Market moved to 104 St.	Beginning of Iraq War: War on Terrorism Tsunami in Thailand; Edmonton's 100 th anniversary \$35M fire at Lilydale plant	Mad Cow disease BSE boycott continued Provincial debt erased Banker Nick Lysyk sentenced to jail for de-frauding BOM of \$16.3M Klein plagiarism scandal at Athabasca U Closure of Levis plant (formerly GWG)	Juno Awards held in Edmonton Telephone Historical Centre moved to PWAHC	Lori-Ann Muenzer won gold in cycling at the Olympics in Athens With 460 parks, Edmonton had more green space than any other city in Canada	
2005	City, province and federal government signed new deal for public transportation Capital City cleanup program piloted	Cornerstones, city's affordable housing program approved Avenue revitalization initiated Redevelopment of historic HBC building on Jasper (Enterprise Square) Mandel said Edmonton would not tolerate any	100 th anniversary of Provincehood Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Aboriginal burial ground commemorated Queen and Prince Philip visit Hurricane Karina in New Orleans; earthquake in Pakistan and India,	Fastest growing economy in Canada: more than \$200B in mega projects announced in the region Labour shortages Lakeside Packers dispute in Brooks	Indira Samarasekara became president of University of Alberta Valley Zoo redevelopment plan approved Provincial Museum of Alberta renamed Royal Alberta Museum Odysseum renamed Telus	First Grand Prix races held Edmonton Rush Lacrosse team established Eskimos won the Grey Cup World Masters Games NHL strike	Beginning of boom: 1600 newcomers/month – migrants and immigrants

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
		more "crap" architecture	unprecedented global philanthropy March murder of 4 RCMP by James Roszko Increasing murder rate in Edmonton; concerns about Police Service		World of Science		
2006	Ed Stelmach premier (06-11) Conservative	Edmonton Urban Aboriginal Accord approved (FNMI) Next Generation Task Force established Immigration and Settlement Program established 15,000 new housing starts		Crude price reached \$68/barrel		Women's Rugby World Cup Edmonton Rush debut Oiler's Stanley Cup run, 3-1 loss to Carolina in the 7 th Eskiimos didn't make the Grey Cup playoffs for the first time in 34 years	Population primarily of European descent: English, Scottish, German, Irish, Ukrainian, Polish and French: 71.8% White; 22.9% 5.3% Aboriginal; shift in immigration from the Middle East, Africa, South & East Asia; of Aboriginal population Métis account

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
							for 3.0% followed by First Nations of 2.3%, and Inuit of 0.1%
2007	Mandel re-elected Mayor	New Corporate Strategic Plan: four pillars Environment, Social and Cultural, Economic Development & Governance	Commemoration of the Traditional Aboriginal Burial Ground and Fort Edmonton cemetery in Rossdale Fire in 149 unit condominium complex under construction Homelessness challenge – Edmonton's tent city	Beginning of the economic recession in the US Celanese Canada closed	Edmonton Cultural Capital of Canada	Ford World Men's Curling Championship	
2008	Barack Obama elected President of US Capital Region Board established by the province to improve collaboration with surrounding communities	New Great Neighbourhoods Plan approved Edmonton region population surpasses one million becoming the most northern city in NA with a population over	University of Alberta centenary ETS centenary	Global recession – Price of oil went from US\$100 a barrel in January to nearly \$150 in July and \$40 in December 37% of new jobs created in Canada were in Edmonton	City initiated Winter Light Festival Arts and Culture Plan Art of Living approved Heritage Plan approved Public Art Master Plan approved	IBAF World Junior AAA Baseball Championships Daryl Katz bought the Oilers in July New Hockey Night in Canada theme song written by Edmonton schoolteacher	From 2005-2008 more than 40,000 people moved to Edmonton

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
	Stelmach victory 72/83 Conservative MLAs; David Swann replaced Kevin Taft as Liberal leader Lynda Duncan became Alberta's 2 nd ever NDP MP, only non-Tory Alberta MP	one million		May Alberta Health replaced nine regional boards with one superboard; health care system scrutinized	Creative Age Festival introduced Lois Hole Library opened	Colin Oberst	
2009	Campaign to eliminate homelessness over 10 years	The Way We Grow new Development Plan approved The Quarters Plan approved Boyle Renaissance plan initiated End of trolley system Loss of significant heritage buildings: Central Pentecostal Tabernacle, Lessard House, Arlington Apartments Since 1999 36 new residential neighbourhoods		UofA opened downtown campus at Enterprise Square	First international ice carving competition as part of Ice on Whyte First Winter Light Festival (folded in 2012 due to lack of funding at the same time that the City introduced the Metropolis festival tagged "Edmonton's first winter festival") Chinese garden in Louise McKinney Park		Population: 782,439, largest percentage increase of a decade since the 1970s

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
		approved, 51,000 homes: Terwilligar Heights, Heritage Valley, The Meadows and The Grange fastest growth 104 th St warehouse district became popular					
2010	David Cameron elected Prime Minister of UK	Envision Edmonton attempted to have City Centre airport closure added to municipal election ballot	Earthquake in Haiti Dec 18 beginning of Arab Spring Largest oil spill in Gulf of Mexico	European sovereign-debt crisis triggered by dept in Greece and Ireland's bankruptcy Alberta Health Services Stephen Duckett cookie controversy Lois Hole Hospital for Women opened Increasing concerns about domestic violence	New Art Gallery of Alberta opened	Hockey arena debate	
2011	Heather Redford premier Conservative NDP official opposition in Canada for first	Increasing concerns about aging urban infrastructure New downtown plan approved	End of the Iraq War Egyptian revolution Fukushima, Japan earthquake, March 11 City's homicide	Occupy Movement highlighted economic disparity Edmonton Clinic opens at UofA End of home milk	Social Enterprise Fund established by Edmonton Community Foundation	Terwilligar Rec Centre opened, a private/public partnership and the first major rec centre for 25 years;	Population: 812,201; 2 nd largest Aboriginal population in Canada

	Politics	Urban Planning & Development	Events/Trends	Economy, Education & Health	Culture	Sports & Recreation	Demographics, Aboriginal & Immigration
	time	Epcor Tower completed Community Sustainability Task Force appointed in response to address sustainability of Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods and schools	rate spikes at 47 Long form Canadian census scrapped Fire in Slave Lake	delivery in the city Submarines removed from WEM (1985-2011) Controversy over No Zeros policy in schools, Ross Shep teacher Lynden Dorval Closure of Kim Chaung's repair shop, a reflection of disposable society		Multiplex Rec Centres became the norm in Ed, the Meadows and Clareview under development, 5 more in planning stages	
2012	Death of Peter Lougheed, reassessment of conservative values	Developed Winter City Strategy Continued concerns about Hwy 63 Ed-Ft.Mac.	Local food movement Meat recall at XL Foods plant in Brooks Shooting in Hub Mall robbery			End of Indy races in city	
2013	Don Iveson mayor	13% of population age 65+, proportion expected to grow to 20% by 2025 Poverty elimination strategic framework released Closure of City			Inaugural Skirtsafire Festival	Agreement in arena development	

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		Centre airport					