



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

At the turn of the 20th century, the cities of Edmonton and Strathcona were engaged in an intense rivalry to attract growth. Their competition and nationwide land boom led both cities on a path of rapid subdivision and expansion. The portion of Bonnie Doon that lies west of 91st Street was annexed by Strathcona in 1907 and was later absorbed by Edmonton through the amalgamation of the two cities in 1912. In 1913, Edmonton expanded once more, and included eastern Bonnie Doon within its borders.

At the time of amalgamation and expansion, Bonnie Doon was removed from the development concentrated around 82nd Avenue (Whyte Ave) and 103rd Street. However, the extension of the streetcar line made development in the area more attractive. Early residents of Bonnie Doon took advantage of the river valley views by constructing their residences in the northwest corner of the neighbourhood next to the Mill Creek Ravine and overlooking the North Saskatchewan River. During the inter-war years, Edmonton grew rather slowly, and by 1950 less than half the present structures in Bonnie Doon had been constructed. After WWII and the discovery of oil at Leduc, Edmonton again underwent tremendous growth, and the majority of remaining land in Bonnie Doon was developed.

The neighbourhood is the site of one of Edmonton's first large format shopping centres, the Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre, which is still an important commercial space within the neighbourhood today.

Bonnie Doon takes its name from the Scottish for "pleasant, rolling countryside," and was named in 1912 in honour of Canadian-born Premier Alexander Cameron Rutherford of Scottish descent who owned a portion of the land east of Mill Creek.