



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

Glenora is one of Edmonton’s older residential areas, and is part of an area originally staked out by Malcolm Groat in 1869 as part of a 900 acre land claim immediately west of the Hudson’s Bay Reserve. This land claim extended from today’s 121st Street west to 142nd Street, and south from 111th Avenue to the North Saskatchewan River. In 1906, the land was sold to Montreal realtor James Carruthers, who planned the area as an exclusive estate development. To regulate its exclusivity, Carruthers placed a caveat on the land, which required that no house built in Glenora could cost less than \$3,500. In 1906, when Edmonton was selected to be the capital city of Alberta, many professionals chose to live in the area as they developed their careers and built their families in the new city. During the land boom of 1912, Glenora and the surrounding residential area grew significantly.

Many of the original homes constructed in this time period remain in Glenora, while other homes have been rebuilt over past decades. This provides an interesting architectural snapshot of Edmonton residential forms over the past century. The neighbourhood is currently home to the Royal Alberta Museum, and Government House. Government House was constructed in 1909 by the Alberta Government as the official residence of the lieutenant-governor and overlooks the River Valley.

Some commercial services are available along Stony Plain Road, as well as on 124th street to the west and 142nd Street to the east. The neighbourhood has several schools, parks, and open spaces, including access to the river valley and ravine system. Alexander Circle Park, located at the centre of a circular residential pattern, is an example of the “garden suburb” design concept that emerged in the early 20th century.

The origin of the name Glenora is uncertain. The neighbourhood may have been named after Glenora, a village in Eastern Ontario. The neighbourhood may also have been named after the Glenora Mill on the Lachine Canal, which was owed by a Company in which Carruthers had an interest. Another theory is that Glenora originated from the Scottish word “glen”, meaning valley, and the French “or”, meaning gold, because Glenora contains three ravines which lead to the North Saskatchewan River, where it is still possible to pan for gold.