



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

Development in Ritchie began with the arrival of the Calgary and Edmonton Railroad line in 1891 and the completion, in 1902, of the Edmonton, Yukon and Pacific Rail line that followed Mill Creek Ravine across the Low Level Bridge to Edmonton. Ritchie became part of Edmonton when the City of Strathcona amalgamated with Edmonton in 1912. By that time, most of Ritchie had been subdivided using a grid street pattern.

Early development radiated out from a commercial area on Whyte (82nd) Avenue, now called Old Strathcona. Subsequent commercial development extended along Whyte Avenue where, from 1908 to 1949, a streetcar line joined Ritchie with downtown Edmonton (via 99th Street). While most structures were built prior to 1950 both development and redevelopment, especially in commercial areas, has continued to the present time.

Because of its history and location, Ritchie is an area of mixed land use. It is approximately two-thirds residential, with a sizeable number of commercial and industrial properties. Single-detached homes account for just under half of all residential units in the neighbourhood and a mixture of semi-detached dwelling, row housing and low to medium rise apartments make up the remainder of the units. In addition to the Mill Creek ravine, Ritchie features a series of parks that run along the central spine of the neighbourhood in conjunction with school sites.

Ritchie was named for Robert Ritchie, former Mayor of the Town of Strathcona and original owner of the Ritchie Mill which still stands, as an historic site, at 102 Street and Saskatchewan Drive.