

Edmonton — host to the 1978 Commonwealth Games — August 3-12



Edmonton, capital of the province of Alberta, has a population of 555,000. Its metropolitan area covers 321 square kilometres.

Edmonton, host to the XI Commonwealth Games, was designated Alberta's capital in 1905.

Located in the northern part of the province of Alberta, 350 miles (563.50 km) from the United States border, Edmonton — because of its location on the Yellowhead Highway — has become the central point for the movement of traffic east and west as well as north.

Edmonton is a picturesque, cosmopolitan centre, built by the people of 36 different ethnic origins from 100 countries. It stretches along the meandering banks of the North Saskatchewan River with 35 miles (56.35 km) of river valley — 17.5 miles (28.18 km) on each side of the stream — reserved for recreational use. The wide-open-spaces feeling is experienced even in the centre of the city amid the modern high rise towers.

In 1976, metropolitan Edmonton boasted a total of 1,200 industrial plants, an increase of more than 100 per cent

from the 1967 total of 550 — a reflection that the economy of the province is shifting north.

Building permits for 1976 topped \$618 million and that year the city of Edmonton accounted for more than \$1.95 million in manufacturing shipments, a 29 per cent increase with retail trade running at more than \$1,700 million for the same period.

A new \$10 million air-operations centre has been slated for Edmonton's International Airport by the federal Ministry of Transport. This will expand the airport's area of control east to Greenland. And NORAD (North American Defence Command) has chosen Edmonton as the site of its new \$25-million regional operations centre.

Edmonton is also the research capital of Alberta. It is the headquarters of the Alberta Research Council and the University of Alberta, Canada's third largest campus, with 25,000 students.

Klondike days

Edmonton was first settled in 1795 as a trading post on the North Saskatchewan River, the major highway of the fur trader. In 1896, it became the starting point of the overland route to the Klondike gold fields of the Yukon.

For two weeks each July, Edmonton relives its Klondike Days with a full program of unusual events designed to bring to life the area's past. Researchers felt the city had a duty to publicize the original Klondike and provide a starting point for those interested in touring the history-steeped territory.

The result is that visitors and residents dress in Gay Nineties costumes, the downtown street corners feature dance lines and entertainment, bands play at main intersections during noon hour, stage coaches escorted by outriders rattle along main thoroughfares, while bathtub races are being run on the main street of the business section.