

FEATURES OF HISTORIC BONNIE DOON

- 1 Molstad House, built for land developer Edward Molstad and his wife Addie in 1912 on 5 lots, is a private residence designated as a historic site.
- 2 Connors Road ended at 95 Avenue; it was extended to the new Bonnie Doon shopping centre in 1965.
- 3 Princess Elizabeth's October 1951 royal visit included the new Imperial Oil Refinery in Clover Bar. She became Queen Elizabeth II four months later.
- 4 Twin City Coal Mine operated in Mill Creek Ravine from 1909 to 1921. Remnants of the mine are visible in the trees to the north of 93 Avenue, east of 98 Street.
- 5 Bonnie Doon Community Hall, built in 1953 was booked solid with cubs and scouts, playgroups, bingo, community dances, the popular variety shows and wedding receptions.
- 6 Huts formerly used at Dawson Creek during the war were moved to the former cow pasture at 88 Avenue to provide quick housing for returned veterans and their families. The huts were demolished in the 1960s.
- 7 Bailey Bridge (1954). Many locals turned out to watch Canadian army engineers assemble a bridge across Mill Creek in only four hours. It was strong enough to carry a bulldozer. Taken down right away.
- 8 Former site of Vogel meatpacking plant operated 1903-1911.
- 9 Wooden stairs on 88 Avenue, built in 1947.
- 10 McAllister's home faced 87 Avenue when it was built in 1920 for Dan and his English war bride Edna Barnett. In 1946 Dan renovated the house, turning it to face 88 Avenue, to match the new homes on the block. The old house is now gone; the new house features an alpine garden.
- 11 Percy's Felties, 8851 95 Street. Percy Sollitt's busy community business produced pennants and crests. Workshop in old house Sollitt family had lived in since around 1900. Business grew from a sideline in 1931 to a cottage industry with 8 local women employees in 1950.
- 12 George Donald, Metis HBC employee, and his wife, midwife Elizabeth Brass, and their children lived on Riverlot 21 (at today's 8833 95 Street) from the 1870s until 1905. In 1939 Percy Sollitt purchased, renovated and enlarged the Donald House. Demolished in 1970s in spite of its historical significance.

- 13 Bonnie Doon Streetcar (1912-1940). Its terminus at 88 Avenue and 91 Street created an active business hub. Hardware, grocery, butcher shop, TV repair, children's clothing store, candy, medical practice and dentistry were available for local residence in the 1950s. Some buildings remain today: Duggan's Boundary (pub), Bul-Go-Gi House, M & M Convenience Store, Bonnie Doon Dental Associates, among others.
- 14 Horse drawn carts delivered bread, milk and ice in Bonnie Doon up to 1961. In the 1950s roads were upgraded and major roads paved; sidewalks were constructed of wood until new concrete sidewalks and proper roads were laid in 1968.
- 15 Highland Park Greenhouses, bought by Charles Juchli in 1916. He married Augustine in 1920 and they operated the greenhouse together until Charles' death in 1939. Madame Juchli continued the business until the 1950s, when it was sold for housing development.
- 16 Rutherford School, opened in 1911, was built on Premier Rutherford's land.
- 17 College Saint-Jean moved here in 1911. It was a seminary until it expanded to teaching secondary and post-secondary students in 1943. In 1961 it accepted women as students. Today it is Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta.
- 18 Ecole St. Thomas d'Aquin built in 1949 and closed in 1990 making way for La Cite Francophone.
- 19 Diagonal bridge over Mill Creek ravine on Whyte Avenue was built in 1911. Today's bridge was built in 1961.
- 20 Fire Hall #10, built in 1914, for horse-drawn firewagons. When the boom didn't last, the hall was left empty. In 1926 it opened as the Salvation Army Eventide Home for Men. In 1982 YESS, now known as Youth Empowerment and Support Services, opened.
- 21 King Edward Park Garage and Service Station, owned by Bill Wright. Bill and his metal-working crew fabricated aircraft parts during WWII, developing important new alloys useful in the war effort.
- 22 Location of Southside Cleaners in the 1950s. In 1961, Safeway built a new store, which today is Value Village.
- 23 Bonnie Doon Mall Shopping Centre built in 1958 as a strip mall. Became Edmonton's second indoor shopping mall in 1967.

BONNIE DOON IN THE 1950s



Photographer: Chow Yet Ong.

BONNIE DOON
Community League
BonnieDoon.ca

Cover photo: Dick Ong coming home from school for lunch.
In the background is his family's River Heights store.

COMMUNITY MAP

The Bonnie Doon Community League respectfully acknowledges that the land of Bonnie Doon is located on Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional lands of the First Nations and the Metis people.



This project is supported by the Edmonton Heritage Council and the City of Edmonton

BONNIE DOON 1950s COMMUNITY MAP

Edmonton Ski Club's Jump, first built in 1913 by Norwegian immigrants. In 1915, John Haugon sets a Canadian ski-jumping record with over 5000 spectators standing on the hill to watch. Larger jumps eventually led to a huge wooden structure that loomed over and across Connors Road. The jump was dismantled in 1978.

Princess Elizabeth's motorcade route.

Greenhouses and market gardens, common in early Bonnie Doon, are closed by 1950, their lands used for housing developments to accommodate Edmonton's growing population.

This railway line moved goods for industries in Mill Creek Ravine, including Vogel Meat Packing Plant, which closed in 1911 and Twin City Coal Mine, which closed in 1924. The tracks were removed in 1954 and today the rail bed is a paved walking and bicycle path.

By 1950 Bonnie Doon is no longer surrounded by farms. Kirkwood's Dairy Farm, 1917 to 1949, becomes Bonnie Doon High School by 1958. Today the building is Vimy Ridge Academy and Edmonton School of Ballet.

1950 - the world has survived Depression and global war. Oil has been discovered at Leduc. Growth is fast, jobs are plentiful.

After dormancy through the 1920s recession, the Great Depression and war, Bonnie Doon awakens at the start of north-central Alberta's oil boom. Returned veterans' families fill the Dawson huts and the large number of bungalows built by Golden Construction and other companies. Bonnie Doon, held for years at about half occupancy, now fills in, with pretty much every town lot sporting a house. The Juchli market garden closes, as does the Silver Heights Peony Gardens (a replica is now on view at Fort Edmonton Park). Their land is converted to house-sites.








Bonnie Doon High School and St. Thomas are built to house the flood of new children. Rutherford School, 40 years old, is still in business and in 1951 has almost 700 pupils.

Many Bonnie Dooners work in the city's bakeries, dairies and workshops. In their spare time, they tend large gardens.

The streetcar line to Triangle intersection is removed in 1940. A bus now runs up and down 91st Street.

1950 - Radio is well established, and television is on its way.

But kids still have adventures in Mill Creek ravine.

-  Pub
-  Cafe
-  View Point
-  Restaurant
-  Stairs
-  Roads built after 1950
-  Retail development

