By Ellen Schoeck
Maps and Design by Dennis Weber, Creative Services
From the University’s earliest days through the 1930s, students climbed to the roof of St. Stephen’s College and etched their names on the brick walls.

The Superintendent of Residences, Reg Lister, joined in the fun, and the brick on the cover image bears his name.
It is a special pleasure to introduce readers to this unique publication, which celebrates 100 years since the University of Alberta had a physical home – River Lot 5. What began, in 1907, as 258 acres of scrubby poplar bush, is now a multi-campus university.

In this book, you will have a front-row seat to watch the campus develop over the past century: first Athabasca Hall and St. Stephen’s College, followed by Assiniboia and Pembina Halls, the Ring Houses, and the magnificent Arts and Medical buildings. And on we go, until today, when the people of Alberta can say that their first university – the University of Alberta – has one of the finest campuses in North America.

Dennis Weber of Creative Services has recreated and computerized old campus maps that show this development in fascinating detail. The University of Alberta: A Century of Campus Maps has been published in large format so that Dennis’s maps are easy to read and to compare with one another.

But the University is much more than its physical campus. It is people, and the people who built this university come alive under the deft pen of author Ellen Schoeck, who spent 37 years on campus as a student and as Director of the University Secretariat.

One of my distinct pleasures as Chancellor, and before that as Board Chair, was listening to Ellen’s stories about the University’s history and development in her “Governance 101” seminar. These are subjects that might seem pedestrian to some, but I can tell you that it is not so: the lives lived on this campus are nothing short of amazing. The people who taught, studied and lived here over 100 years are full of get-up-and-go, western-style. They were, and still are, risk-takers and innovators. Not much could stop them – not World War I, not the Great Depression, not World War II. And they all have stories to tell. Ellen captured many of those stories in her first book, I Was There: A Century of Alumni Stories about the University of Alberta, 1906-2006, and there are still more alumni stories in A Century of Campus Maps.

I am an engineer who loves the arts, and so perhaps one of my favourite stories concerns the Arts Building. The story is not in this book – rather, it is a story Ellen told me, and now I will tell it to you.

In the 1970s, when the Arts Building was being renovated, engineers restoring the roof and its underlying wiring were mystified as to why copper was suddenly replaced by a cheaper material. Ellen gave me the answer. In the midst of constructing the Arts Building, there was a change in the provincial government, and the money earmarked for Arts simply ran out – just as the building was almost done. President Tory traveled to New York City to meet with the bankers, who agreed to float a loan. The building was thus completed, but with corners cut here and there, including, in all likelihood, the materials used for wiring. What’s the lesson? There is always a story to tell.

Open up this special publication, have fun examining the maps, and enjoy the stories about the province’s first university.

Eric P. Newell, OC, AOE, LL(Hon), PEng
Chancellor, University of Alberta
The remade, computerized campus maps in this book were intended to be part of I Was There: A Century of Alumni Stories about the University of Alberta, 1906-2006, but could not be included because of the publication schedule. This special book contains those maps and was prepared for Provost Carl Amrhein, who supported the project the with his research grant.

In this one-of-a-kind publication, you will find images of River Lot 5 (the University’s first home,) the original campus plan created in 1912 by the architectural firm of Nobbs and Hyde, and several previously unpublished aerial photographs. You will also see the original 258-acre campus “fill in” with buildings, starting with Athabasca and Assiniboia Halls, St. Stephen’s College, and the first Ring Houses. Campus Saint-Jean and Augustana Campus join the University of Alberta as the years unfold.

Since the publication of I Was There, many more alumni stories have surfaced, including stories from Bill Kent (BSc Engg ’31). Bill turned 100 years old this October, and he has shared dozens of campus stories with me. Deepest thanks. Production of many of the maps in this book was begun by Creative Services in 2003 under the auspices of Senator Claudette Tardif who was, at the time, Acting Vice-President (External Relations). These maps were culled from dozens that were researched during preparation of I Was There from 2001 – 2005. Special thanks to researcher Scott Davies, who delved into Archives searching for old maps. Dennis Weber of Creative Services painstakingly created new maps from old images. Ray Au, Director of Creative Services, oversaw the project. Michael Holly of Creative Services and Walter Stadnyzuk of Planning and Infrastructure provided aerial shots of the campus, several of which have never been published. Craig Moore, Manager of Real Estate and Development, helped with construction dates. The University of Alberta Archives provided photographs from their extensive collection – special thanks to Raymond Frogner, Kevan Warner and to Carrie Lunde, who assisted with images, editing, proofing and endnotes.

Several individuals shared images from their private collections, including Denny May, son of the famed bush pilot Wop May, who took the first aerial photo of the campus in 1919.

Publication of this book in 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of the provincial government’s April, 1907 announcement that the new university would be sited in Strathcona. A few years later, Strathcona merged with Edmonton, and Edmonton became the University’s home city.

The announcement about the University’s location caused an uproar in Calgary, which had seen Edmonton named as the new province’s capital two years before. Calgary assumed the University would be sited in their city. Calgary MLA R.B. Bennett introduced a bill to establish a second university in our sister city, and wealthy Calgarians donated land for a campus. But although the bill passed, the Calgary competitor was not given degree-granting powers by the legislature – a swift and fatal blow.

On September 23, 1908, the University of Alberta opened its doors in Strathcona (South Edmonton) at the school now known as Queen Alexandra, with Henry Marshall Tory as the founding president. Several months later, the University moved to more spacious rented quarters in today’s Old Scona. By 1911, we had a campus – just one building: Athabasca Hall. Today, the University of Alberta is a multi-campus institution with some 90 teaching and research buildings covering 50 city blocks.

Sit back and enjoy this special publication marking 100 years since the location of the University of Alberta was announced by the province’s first government.

Preface

Alexander Rutherford
In 1905, Alberta became a province. In 1906, Premier Rutherford personally shepherded the University Bill through the first sitting of the new legislative assembly. There were some Albertans who thought it was far too early in the young province’s development to establish a university, but Rutherford was convinced of the need for publicly-supported university education in the new province. The 1906 University Act specified that the University of Alberta would be non-denominational and open to women — revolutionary steps at the time.

Henry Marshall Tory
On April 6, 1907, Rutherford’s government announced that River Lot 5 in Strathcona would be the site of the new university. Rutherford’s next mission was to choose the founding President. Rutherford traveled to McGill University, his alma mater, and recruited the dynamic visionary, Henry Marshall Tory. Even though Tory was a Methodist minister, he shared Rutherford’s belief in publicly-supported education free from the control of any religious denomination. Tory’s first day of work was January 1, 1908. During his 20-year tenure, Tory put his personal imprint on the new provincial university. Tory also founded the McGill College of British Columbia (precursor to UBC), the World War I Khaki University, the Scientific and Industrial Research Council of Alberta (precursor to the Alberta Research Council), the Federal National Research Laboratories (precursor to the National Research Council) and, in retirement, Carleton College, now Carleton University.
In 1907, the year after the *University Act* was passed, Premier Rutherford negotiated the purchase of River Lot 5 as the site of the new university. River Lot 5 was owned by Mrs. Annie Simpson and her daughter Mrs. Stokes – both had recently inherited the property. They were asking $200,000, but were persuaded to sell the land for $150,000. Perhaps Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Stokes knew that a university would be sited on their land, and perhaps higher education was something they believed in. Provincial deputy treasurer M.J. MacLeod acted for the government in the transaction, and the U of A now had a home.

The new site for the U of A was bordered to the west by River Lot 3 (today's Windsor Park). There, Johnnie McPhaden was running a farm, with his mother and sister Hester taking care of the house. To the east, on River Lot 7, Métis Laurent Garneau, known for his fiddling and storytelling, would soon move from his log cabin into a mansion.5

What did River Lot 5 look like? Tory saw it as a forest with a few cleared acres. This blank slate was just right for Tory, who was a builder at heart. William Hardy Alexander – “Doc Alik” – was more descriptive:

“Probably no eye save that of Dr. Rutherford’s had ever discerned the latent possibilities of River Lot number 5, … a stretch of land covered by youngish poplar and scrubby willows, rather far removed from the houses and public structures of Strathcona. Nothing on it suggested human life or work except a few sinuous trails and a much decayed log barn, and these spoke rather of an effort abandoned than of an enterprise begun. But the wild roses made it beautiful in June.”4

English Professor R.K. Gordon, who was hired in 1913, wrote this classic description of the young campus:

“We were a small, light-hearted company, hardly more than a score of us; and all of us were young. We lived in a clearing in the poplar bush on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River. On the sloping sides of the great valley and on the flats below the coyotes barked and howled at night, but on the top of the bank we taught Mathematics and Physics, Greek and History, English Literature and Biology. Along with some four hundred students and two red brick buildings, we were the University of Alberta, and we felt sure that the future belonged to us, and not to the coyotes.”5

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The Simpson Farm
In 1907, Premier Rutherford negotiated the purchase of River Lot 5 (the Simpson Farm) as the site of the new University.

William Hardy Alexander, founding Chair of the department of Classics, was the first of four professors recruited by Tory for the fall 1908 term. Tory was determined to hire the best professors he could find, and he searched the world. The first four professors held degrees from Berkeley, Columbia University in New York, McGill, and Harvard. Dr. Alexander, whose PhD was from Berkeley, was a mentor, teacher, and friend to many students, and they dubbed him “Doc Alik.” Alumnus Hugh Morrison (BA ’30) has described Dr. Alexander as a teacher: “outstanding!” One of the University’s teaching awards is named in Dr. Alexander’s honour.
1912 Block Plan Maps

To the left is an image of the original map titled “University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta Block Plan Showing Proposed allocation of Grounds to Various Purposes” and was dated Feb 26th 1912. The map emphasized finished buildings, those under construction, and planned buildings.

The remade version, below, is coloured like contemporary versions of the North Campus map so that comparisons of features is easy to make. Some of the historical sources are not as clear as the sample below. Dennis Weber, mapmaker.

Creative Services CS-0869 Campus History Map 1912

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Tory had a clear vision. Arts and Sciences should be at the core of the University; all the professions should be part of the University; the University should have the best professors and not be restricted to hiring locally; student accommodation should be “reasonably priced;” and the campus should have a unifying architecture developed according to a plan.7 There was an interesting problem with that last element: Tory was building a university, but he couldn’t read architectural plans. There was another problem. The design Tory wanted for the first teaching building – the Arts Building – was awful. His professors told him so, and so did the new Board of Governors, established in 1910. And so Tory hired the architectural firm of Nobbs and Hyde to create a plan for the University. On their recommendation, Tory also hired Cecil Burgess as professor of architecture and resident architect. Burgess oversaw all design and construction on the campus from 1911 until World War II. Perhaps also as important, on long walks with President Tory, Burgess patiently explained architectural plans to his boss.8

While the U of A was still operating out of rented quarters in today’s Old Scona, Percy Nobbs was planning the campus. “In the spring of 1909,” he has written, “Dr. H. M. Tory, President of the University, adopted the principle of continuous expansion of large units as the basis for his scheme of buildings. A general block plan sufficient to determine the positions of the first residences, without prejudice to other development, was then drawn out, and two residences, Assiniboia Hall and Athabasca Hall, were at once erected by the Department of Public Works.”9

Percy Nobbs envisioned the river front as the entrance to the University, and he wanted the buildings grouped around a central yard with the “buildings crowning the bluff, which will be seen from the other side of the river, forming as imposing a composition as possible….”10

The block plan was never fully followed because of the Great Depression and World War II. The last building designed by Percy Nobbs, in concert with Cecil Burgess, was the magnificent Medical Building, today’s Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre. It opened in 1921.

The first crest for the U of A (to the left) was designed in 1908 by Arts student Jimmie Adams, an engineer. In 1908, it appeared on the first convocation program and on the first Calendar. We were in a rush to have a crest for both publications, and so this first crest was never approved by the Board of Governors. The image to the right is the first crest approved by the Board, three years after Jimmie Adams designed the first “real” crest.11

Early University Crests
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CS 6869 first crest and CS 6869 UofA crest/1911
1912-1913 Calendar Map
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This was one of the first maps of the University – a fold-out map printed on heavy, crinkly tissue-paper. The map shows the site for 15 major buildings that were only a dream back then, including a library, a medical building, a chapel, and a convocation hall. But in reality, only Athabasca, Assiniboia, four faculty houses and St. Stephen’s College had actually been constructed by 1912 – and St. Stephen’s was not a university building. Publishing the plan in the Calendar, however, was akin to having a home page of the Web, and it was an important move to establish the University’s reputation in the western world. This map announced to one and all that the U of A intended to grow rapidly.
We were a tiny campus in 1912 with only two main buildings: Athabasca and Assiniboia. But there were big plans for the main campus, as the map on the opposing page shows. Our growth was paralleled by that of Junioriat Saint-Jean and Camrose Lutheran College, whose histories stretch back to 1908 and 1910. Today, as Campus Saint-Jean and Augustana Campus, they are integral parts of the University of Alberta, harkening back to Tory’s vision of the University as an all-embracing, public institution.

Ring House One
When the University opened its doors in 1908, there was little decent housing in Strathcona. Public transportation was in its infancy, with the first streetcar operating on Jasper Avenue in 1908. Tory sidestepped these problems by having houses built on the perimeter of campus for himself and his senior professors. These houses formed a “ring” or “horseshoe,” and the 1912-13 map shows the first four Ring Houses. Within a few years there would be six more, and in 1930 a home was added for Reg Lister and his family. The original four Ring Houses have survived and are located near the Faculty Club off Saskatchewan Drive.11

Athabasca Hall, 1911
The Arts Building was supposed to have been the first building constructed on campus, but disagreements about its design delayed construction for several years. Athabasca Hall, a student residence, was to have been the second building. Instead, Athabasca (pictured here in the background) became our first building, and in addition to serving as a student residence, it housed classrooms, labs (including the Provincial laboratory), all administrative offices, an infirmary, a pressing room “for the ladies,” separate lounges for the men and women, and several rooms for the single professors. According to Reg Lister, the first Superintendent of Residences, every residence room was immediately snapped up, and students quickly laid claim to their rooms by naming them: Inferno, Olympus, Pandemonium, Elysium, and Angels’ Roost.14 In this image, the construction sheds for Arts are in the foreground together with the original foundation that was later blown up to make way for the building we know today.

Augustana Founder’s Hall
Today’s Augustana Campus began life in Camrose in 1910. As Camrose Lutheran College, it had a long history of affiliation with the University of Alberta, later achieving the status of “University College.” In 2004, it merged with the University of Alberta and in 2006, was renamed Augustana Campus.11

Junioriat Saint-Jean Seminary
Campus Saint-Jean began life in 1908 in Pincher Creek. As a “Junioriat,” it was a minor seminary for boys considering the ministry. In 1910, the Junioriat moved to its current location. In 1970, Collège Universitaire Saint-Jean began offering University of Alberta programs and became a Faculty in 1977. It was renamed Campus Saint-Jean in 2006.11
University of Alberta, Strathcona, 1920
The Nobbs-Darling plan of 1912 for the University of Alberta campus, including the modifications made in 1915 and the buildings constructed by 1920. (Percy E. Nobbs, “Construction at the University of Alberta, Edmonton,” Construction 14, no.1 (January 1921) figure 1.

“Riverside Drive” was to be the dramatic entrance to the University. One would turn off Riverside Drive (today’s Saskatchewan Drive) and immediately see the grand Convocation Hall. The view beyond to The Great Quadrangle was expansive, and no building blocked the eye.

The purpose of several of the planned buildings is not clear, and we have labeled them as “mysteries.”
Edmonton in 1919 had a population of about 60,000. The north and south sides of the river were linked by three bridges – the Low Level, High Level and Dawson. President Emeritus Robert Newton remembers that “There were plenty of great open spaces… and the many short-cut paths through poplar-covered blocks gave one the feeling of being in the country.”

Bill Kent (BSc Engg ’31) began his engineering degree in 1925. Bill’s first job after graduation was helping to build the Lion’s Gate Bridge. He’s constructed dams, power plants and bridges in every province and territory of Canada.

“My campus” says Bill, “the campus of the 1920s, consisted of only eight main buildings: Athabasca, Assiniboia and Pembina, the Arts and Medical Buildings, the North and South Labs, and St. Joseph’s College. We also spent time in St. Stephen’s College – especially in the fire escapes during initiation – when we’d slide down the spiral-shaped innards in our pajamas, with buckets of water soaking us as we descended four storeys downwards.”

U of A students also spent considerable leisure time in St. Joseph’s College, with its “Little Tuck Shop,” gym, and library, where Students’ Council met. The Varsity Rink, a long-time project of the Students’ Union, was finished in 1927.

In 1929, Corbett Hall opened as the Provincial Normal School, offering teacher training courses under the auspices of the provincial government. It was the first building to “join” the U of A since the 1921 opening of the Medical Building. After the opening of the Normal School, no new buildings were constructed on campus until the end of World War II.

1921 Campus Aerial and 1928 St. Joe’s Aerial
The 1920s began as the troops returned home from World War I. Enrolment boomed, five new buildings appeared, research came to the fore, the curriculum was re-campaigned, new Faculties were organized, and everyone plonged into a vibrant social life. The image to the left shows the campus in 1921, with both the Arts Building (1915) and the Medical Building (1921) completed. In the image to the right, St. Joseph’s College and the Varsity Rink appear – both opened in 1927. The cluster of buildings in the lower right corner is the University Hospital. The Garneau community is clearly evident to the right.

1913–1929

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Prepared upon the plan of River Lot No. 5 as surveyed by Horace Seymour ALS in 1932. This rare map was discovered in Archives by researcher Scott Davies. The penciled-in changes were possibly the work of Cecil Burgess, University Architect and our only professor of Architecture.

Map to right shows some of the known positions of other buildings based on previous maps.
Although no major buildings were constructed on campus in the 1930s, there was considerable growth. In Banff, the Faculty of Extension was giving birth to the Banff Summer School, soon to be the U of A’s first off-site campus. The interior roads on campus were spruced up and the wooden sidewalks outside the Arts Building were replaced with concrete. The 379-acre farm which had been bought in 1920 was, in 1930, moved further south – the pungent odours from the animal barns did not sit well with the nearby hospital’s patients. 

Dating in the 1930s became a bit more restrictive because, in the late 1920s, locks had been installed on the girls’ rooms in Pembina. The Tuck Shop was a popular date destination, as was Varsity Rink. Bill Kent (BSc Engg ’31) remembers another favourite spot – Whitemud Creek: “We all went down to the river as a group,” he remembers, “but we came back as couples.”

The West Lab was constructed in the 1920s as a temporary Plant Pathology Lab. Lee Johnson (BSc Ag ’31, MSc ’33) remembers the West Lab fondly: “In my final summer (1933) I saved money for my ensuing doctorate studies by tenting in the woods north-east of the Gridiron. Actually, it was a wind. I borrowed the tent and the camp bed and made a show of setting up outdoor housekeeping. But I lived in fact in West Lab. Occasionally I went out to the camp to light a fire for providing fresh embers in the ring of stones, just in case of possible scrutiny by suspicious officials.” In 1958, L.P.V. Johnson founded the Genetics Society of Canada, and in 1968 his IR8 “Miracle Rice” increased the yield of rice in Southeast Asia from some 1,000 pounds an acre to over 9,000 pounds per acre.

CKUA was the first educational radio station in Canada. There are two stories about how CKUA came to be. The official story is that President Tory and Extension Director Albert Ottewell requested funds for the radio station “through the appropriate channels, with the Board and Senate giving their approval.” But in an early history of CKUA, it is said that “in the budget presented to the provincial government in 1927, there was a $7,000 request for a new lecturer. But instead of the lecturer, what arrived on campus were two 100-foot radio towers, south of Pembina Hall, apparently built by engineering students. Starting with the windmills, so the story goes, the students attached 25-foot iron poles and topped them with antennae.”

Bretton Hall was the first home of the Banff School of Fine Arts, today’s internationally-renowned Banff Centre. The Banff School started life in 1933 when Elizabeth Sterling Haynes and Ned Corbett (both from the Faculty of Extension) started a summer school for rural Albertans who wanted to learn stagecraft, play-writing, and acting. It was the middle of the Great Depression, and with a registration fee of $1, Ned and Elizabeth expected perhaps 25 students. When 130 showed up, Reg Lister dismantled the residence beds at the U of A and sent them down to Banff.

CKUA Towers
As this map illustrates, there was still a plan for the University’s growth, but in fact, the carefully-crafted 1912 Block Plan for the campus was scrapped after World War II as veterans flooded on to campus, necessitating rapid expansion of physical facilities. Most of those facilities were “temporary,” but some structures were in place for as long as two decades. The tiny observatory (south of the Rink, built in 1943) stood in a dark, isolated, weedy area until 1958, when lights from an expanding Windsor Park compromised its functioning. And let’s check in on sports for a moment: in 1945, the U of A football team trounced Saskatchewan — twice, with scores of 33-0 and 36-0. The tiniest building on campus? Without a doubt, it was the Scout Hut, used apparently by Boy Scouts, an organization President Robert Newton supported. The predecessor institution in Canada was the Lone Scouts, developed for rural Canada, where there weren’t enough boys to form a scout pack. Many U of A students who came from rural areas were Lone Scout members.

Some of the great names of 1945 included undergraduates Joe Shoctor (President of the Literary Society) and Eldon Foote (who won the 100-yard dash that year), and professors Karl Clarke, M.E. Lazerte, George Steer, Ralph Shaner, W.G. Hardy (after whom the Hardy trophy is named), Mabel Patrick and O.J. Walker. Bill Kent (BSc Engg ’31) still remembers his favourite professor after 75 years: I.F. Morrison. “There was a concept that eluded me in one class,” Bill recalls, “and I was going to see Dr. Morrison about it after class. Well, it turned out he came up to me after class, and asked if I needed some help. He must have been watching my face during the lecture. I have never forgotten Dr. Morrison’s excellent teaching, and his kindness.”

Creative Services UMR Campus History Map 1945
In 1940, with the fall of France, military training on campus became compulsory for male students, and women students trained as well. Muriel Shortreed (BSc HE ’45, BEd ’52) was one of the first U of A instructors to teach at the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute – an experiment to test the quality and delivery of university courses off-site. Muriel remembers that her freshman timetable at the U of A in 1942 included this: “Army 4:15 – 5:15 M, W, & T”. “Army” was compulsory.

Various branches of the armed services used the University High School (today’s Corbett Hall) and the residences (Athabasca, Assiniboia and Pembina) as training and boarding facilities. Naval trainees were housed in St. Joe’s. Barbed wire surrounded Athabasca Hall and the only cafeteria, located in Athabasca, was closed to students. A large Drill Hall was constructed where University Hall stands today, and a new university cafeteria had opened in 1942, nick-named “Hot Caf” by the students.

Returning veterans quickly changed the U of A campus, with student numbers doubling in 1945-46. President Emeritus Walter Johns told The Gateway that “Accommodations for veterans was a helluva problem. We brought in huts from Dawson Creek which were used during the war to build the Alaska Highway. We held classes until 9 or 10 every night. And there wasn’t any place to study. I taught for 15 to 18 hours a week. We worked to death, but all loved it. It was satisfying because these students wanted so much to learn.”

Automobiles were now “everyone’s means of transportation to the University” and the firm of Mather and Haldenby produced a modest long-range plan allowing for vehicular traffic on campus.

The two wings of the Medical Building (today’s Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre) were extended, with the construction dates inscribed on the back of the building. Renovations across campus created additional classrooms, and some Faculties, including the School of Dentistry, “expanded so as to make sure that no veteran desiring to qualify as a dentist need be turned away. Just where the extra equipment is to be placed is a problem.”

In 1946, a residence for nurses was opened. The nurses had previously boarded in several buildings on campus, including St. Joseph’s College and St. Stephen’s College. Historian Scott Davies writes that “Living in St. Stephen’s College presented some interesting problems to the student nurse. Squeaky floors, noisy pipes, cockroaches, and the odd bat made it a tough place to live… and sometimes the girls would sit in full bathtubs just to keep warm.”

In this 1942 aerial, get your bearings by locating Athabasca Hall. To the south is Pembina, and then the West Lab (where today’s SUB stands) – the West Lab looks like a small house. Continuing south is the large Drill Hall, with the Varsity Rink just to the west. To the east of the Drill Hall is St. Joseph’s College, little changed today, and then the turreted St. Stephen’s College in the lower right of the image. The Medical Building dominates to the north, followed, further northwards, by the Power Plant. The Arts Building then stands on prime ground, with the North and South Labs jutting out behind. There is a cluster of residences to the far north – the nearest group of homes are the ten Ring Houses, and the other homes form the beginnings of Windsor Park.

Planning and Infrastructure

Nurses’ Residence

In 1946, a residence for nurses was opened. The nurses had previously boarded in several buildings on campus, including St. Joseph’s College and St. Stephen’s College. Historian Scott Davies writes that “Living in St. Stephen’s College presented some interesting problems to the student nurse. Squeaky floors, noisy pipes, cockroaches, and the odd bat made it a tough place to live… and sometimes the girls would sit in full bathtubs just to keep warm.”

17
Map of University of Alberta Grounds, 1948

In 1948, students were planning the first Students’ Union Building and looking forward to the opening of Rutherford Library – which shows here as constructed, even though it would not open until 1951. The University High School was also serving as the Education Building (later renamed Corbett Hall).

Just below St. Stephen’s College is 88th Ave, which is marked as “To Highway and Streetcars.” At the top of 112 Street (the right-hand border of the map), there was an observation point overlooking the North Saskatchewan River, which does not show on this map. At the bottom of 112 Street, where it joins University Avenue, maps were marked with this: “To Animal Science Farm.”

The best story about a building? Michael Bevan (BSc. Ag ’45) and later provincial horticulturalist for Manitoba, tells it: “There was a circular concrete building on campus, near the West Lab, that was once a gas storage unit. In it were large glass jars containing various fruit and flower specimens collected by the agriculture Dean, Dr. Howes. The specimens were preserved in pure ethanol – 95% proof. Alcohol was rationed during the war and so the entrance to the old gas chamber was under lock and key, and was guarded by Dr. Shoemaker and his assistant Miss Lockerbie (MSc. Hort), who had offices by the door. Now what piqued my curiosity about the gas lab was that an unusually high number of Aggies were taking horticulture, which was taught in this building. I finally found out why. ‘Wally,’ the ‘keeper’ of the greenhouse, was siphoning off the ethanol for Friday afternoon parties. He carefully replaced the ethanol with an equivalent amount of water – it’s amazing the specimens lasted as long as they did! I never did hear what happened to the old glass storage jars when the ‘Hort Lab’ was leveled to make way for the first Students’ Union Building.”35
“Garneau’s Tree” is marked in section D8 on the 2007 North Campus map and is located near the Humanities Centre. Its plaque reads as follows: “This tree, planted about 1874, marks the homesite of Laurent Garneau (1840-1921) after whom this part of the city is named.” A second plaque on Saskatchewan Drive notes that Garneau was “a farmer, community organizer, and musician, who acquired the property (River Lot 7) in 1874. His original home was on the lane at the rear of 11008 – 90 Avenue. A maple tree planted by him still grows there.” Alphonse Hugh Morrison (BA ’30) once lived in the Garneau mansion: “Those tall evergreens in the Humanities’ parking lot,” says Hugh, “were planted by my father, Judge Frederic Morrison. They used to be in the back yard of our home, which was once the home of Laurent Garneau.”

Garneau historian Frances Cruden has described Laurent Garneau’s early life: his birth in Michigan to (as family tradition holds) a French-Canadian father and an Ojibway mother; his trading misadventures in Missouri; his rescue by Métis buffalo hunters; his part in the Red River Insurrection; his homesteading in Strathcona in 1874. River Lot 7, “Laurence” Garneau’s home, soon became known as “The Garneau.”

Two of the first people to purchase lots in The Garneau were the first Premier, Alexander Cameron Rutherford, and the first President, Henry Marshall Tory. Rutherford purchased a half hectare near today Humanities Centre and built a mansion – later saved from the wrecker’s ball in part through the efforts of Lila Fahlman. President Tory purchased a large number of lots, presumably on behalf of the University. These lots included, according to historian Lewis G. Thomas, “almost the whole of the south side of 90th Avenue between 11 and 112 Streets.”

In 1948, Hugh Knowles was hired as Grounds Superintendent and lecturer in Horticulture. Donna Blazer (BSc Ag ’79) studied ornamental horticulture under Knowles and interviewed him in 2001. She relates how Hugh Knowles “began stocking the developing campus with trees, shrubs, and ground cover…. Plants arrived from other universities and government test programs across the country.” Knowles also experimented with turf grass, and “profits from his ‘Banff’ bluegrass still provide annual scholarships to University of Alberta students 30 years later.” But Knowles’ most unique find was a rare white walnut tree (a butternut), growing far north of its normal range. It is the first-ever butternut on campus and stands today just outside the Faculty Club. “We found it growing in Garneau in the backyard of the old Tuck Shop,” remembers Knowles. “We convinced the people who lived there to give it to us.”

“Garneau’s Tree” is located in the middle of a campus parking lot, and it has a wonderful history. With thanks to Professor J.B. McQuitty (former associate vice-president facilities), here is the text of a letter to him from Dr. Lila Fahlman (a long-time Muslim chaplain on campus). The letter is dated August 4, 1987:

“My late husband and I have lived in the Garneau district for 37 years. Our first home was at 11137-91 Avenue. This area was expropriated by the University. On our former property stands a Maple tree planted by my late husband Al. This is one of over 5,000 trees which he planted over the years in the yards of our three homes in Garneau and on our country estate west of Edmonton.

“My husband loved trees. I would therefore ask to provide payment for a suitable plaque in his memory, as a contribution of the Fahlman family to the University area. This plaque will be maintained by the Fahlman family estate.

“As a family whose roots are in Garneau where our three children and I attended University, we feel trees have always been a vital part of living in Garneau.”
Rutherford Library, opened in 1951, and the first SUB, opened in 1950, now take their place on the campus map.

But perhaps the most interesting building to track over the decades is the Medical Building (the “Med”), today’s Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre. Opened in 1921, it was a classically-designed gem in its time. The Med’s two “wings,” extending back towards the Arts Building, were half the length they are today; the wings were extended in 1947 and 1948 to accommodate the post-war crush. In 1961, a seven-storey north wing was built, and the building now has the footprint of an enclosed “L.”
1950s

In this 1951 aerial, St. Stephen’s College anchors the southeast corner of campus with the Tuck Shop directly across the street, nestled among Garneau homes. In the far west corner of this image is the first SUB, and Rutherford Library stands to the north of St. Stephen’s.

In 1952, students from Calgary were still being met at the train by the Gold Key Society; President Peter Lougheed’s Students’ Union inaugurated Varsity Guest Weekend; and Reg Lister lamented the poor table manners of the students who “could throw slices of bread to one another much quicker than they could be passed.”41 In the basement of the Tuck Shop there were “marathon bridge games…the kind of games which sometimes made academic and financial failures.”42 And at the beginning of this decade, two prized buildings opened: Rutherford Library and the first Students’ Union Building (today’s University Hall.) In 1954, Louis DeMonte, “architect and planning advisor to the University of California (Berkeley),” authored a physical plan for the U of A, but enrolment increased so quickly that, for some 15 years, there was really no “set planning guideline” and “buildings were sited on an ad hoc basis.”43

Rutherford Library Dedication Plaque
This plaque hangs on the main floor of Rutherford Library (opened in 1951) and commemorates the 1906 passage of the University Act by Alexander Cameron Rutherford’s government. Rutherford had an excellent collection of Western Canadian history books and as Premier, and later as Chancellor of the University, he welcomed students into his personal library to study.40

RUTHERFORD LIBRARY
Since its opening in 1915, the Arts Building had housed the Library. President Emeritus Walter Johns has described the physical campus of the late 1940s as “pitiful.” The Library, he said, “consisted of a small room.” That one room could seat 80 people. Enrolment in those years ranged from 3,000 to 5,000.44

By 1945, plans for the first free-standing library were rolling along, but the official opening almost never happened. Two days before the opening ceremony, the carved cornerstone disappeared. Former Chief Librarian Bruce Peel tells the story:

“When the one-man campus security force failed to locate the missing stone, the President called upon the Faculty of Engineering to manufacture a facsimile out of wooden slabs covered with fast-drying cement. A telephone tip an hour before the ceremony led to the recovery of the cornerstone in the alley behind the Tuck Shop. Years later, a solid citizen of Calgary gleefully narrated to [me] the inside story of the cornerstone caper.”45

THE FIRST SUB
By 1940, students had saved $25,000 for their own building.46 In 1947, SU President Bill Pybus “went after the Students’ Union Building with an enthusiasm and pertinacity which the government evidently appreciated…. The provincial government granted an interest-free loan, representing about half the total cost [of SUB], repayable over…twenty years.”47 This was the second building financed by the students. The first was Varsity Rink.

VI KING
Class historian Vi King summed up the year for the 1952 Evergreen and Gold: “Our Varsity career has witnessed changes of great import — changes in building construction, changes in curriculum and social events, changes in faculty and administration. But the greatest change of all is in us. … We are no longer the men and women of tomorrow. We are the men and women of today.”48
This is a fascinating map when compared with its “twins” from the 1950s and 1970s because it exhibits both the old U of A and the new.

Note that the Armed Services Building would soon be “Art 1;” there are no car parks; the campus has extended past its traditional 112 Street boundary, to the east, into Garneau; the Extension Centre has now been named “Corbett Hall;” there are only two Lister Hall towers; and this is the last map where you will see the popular Hot Caf. The beloved Tuck Shop does not show on this map because it was privately-owned and was situated in the Garneau neighbourhood, on what was then the edge of campus. Also note the location of the Commerce Building: this building was actually the old infirmary. The “Staff Apartments” shown between the Education and Home Economics Buildings were known fondly as “Rabbit Row” and were modest homes for new faculty.

On this 1965-66 map to the right, the West Lab is still evident. But within a year, it would be torn down to make way for the second SUB – today’s SUB. Myra Davies, BA ’69, looks back on the “new” SUB:

“In September 1966, the new SUB opened. It had the best of everything. The main floor was a transit hall with an information desk and the gas flame fireplace. The Art Gallery and the music listening room were below the theatre, and the meditation rooms and offices for campus Chaplains were at the other end. The second floor had the Theatre and a theatre lobby called ‘The Blue Room.’ Then there was a big cafeteria, and the Dimmock ballroom along with the Students’ Union executive offices, the Gateway and the radio station. The tower housed a ceramics studio, hotel rooms and Room At The Top. The basement contained a bowling alley, curling rinks, a Bank of Montreal, and the lower level of the bookstore. The building was furnished with designer furniture from Europe. Bertie Richards, the architect, was especially happy with the Art Gallery and the new Students’ Union permanent art collection. One percent of building cost had been spent for works of art. I immediately began developing a program for the Gallery – for instance, getting National Gallery accreditation to host their traveling shows. Bertie came by often to see how the Gallery program was coming. I made the Gallery into a centre for new art forms – not just stuff on the wall, though we had that – but action art, new media, and cross-disciplinary projects. Margaret Atwood read poetry there many times, but our specialty was the ‘happenings’ – big multi-disciplinary and participatory art events – for which we took over the theatre and other parts of the building. A show of photos from the cultural revolution in China led to an occupation of the Gallery by Maoists. We faked a power cut and evacuated the building to get them out of there.”49
In the 1960s, the baby boomers arrived and enrolment soared from about 9,000 to some 25,000. There were no more Saturday classes, “campus males were admitted to Dr. Vant’s sex lectures,” and “U.S. policy in Vietnam was criticized at the U of A’s first teach-in.”50 Reg Lister – mentor, friend and respected disciplinarian to generations of young men – retired. Shortly afterwards, he passed away.

The Faculty of Arts and Science split into two separate Faculties. The Calgary branch campus became a separate university in 1966, and the Lethbridge Junior College also became autonomous. Hot Caf made way for CAB; Tory opened; and Library Science became a School. Further afield, the Berlin Wall went up; Rachel Carson’s clarion call about the environment (Silent Spring) was published; and the Pill was available – but not on the U of A campus. In 1964, the sod was turned for the Faculty Club.

Philanthropist and Commerce faculty member Francis Winspear made the defining donation to kick-start the Faculty Club, and he also made sure there was a liquor license on a campus where alcohol was banned. “I felt it was important for morale for professors to have a club which they could call their own – where philosophy could dine and drink with mathematics, and medicine with economics.”51

In 1967 Dr. Walter Worth was the first to hold the position of vice-president (planning and development). A planning office was established and Toronto architects A.J. Diamond and Barton Myers authored two long-range plans for the U of A. The plans included an “enclosed pedestrian walkway system” and restricted the use of cars on campus. 52

Did the U of A’s prairie values disappear in the turbulent 1960s? Here is what the founding president of Athabasca University, Dr. Tim Byrne, had to say:

“When Walter Johns became its President in 1959, the University of Alberta was a directly recognizable reflection of the institution founded some fifty years before. “That earlier university had a mission: to serve as a ‘sanctuary of truth’ on a prairie frontier. That the principal role of the faculty was to teach and that the University stood in loco parentis to its students were unquestioned operational precepts.

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“Is our mission, still, to be a sanctuary of truth on the prairie frontier? If the answer is yes, what does that mean, what values are at the core of it all, and how does our prairie beginning define us to this day? These questions urge us to link the past with the future.53

❖

The Campus in 1960

The campus filled in rapidly in the 1960s. Chemistry West and the Bhattia Physics Laboratory, both built in 1960, are prominent in this image, with the roof of V-wing in front of Assiniboia. Behind Assiniboia is the Physiotherapy Laboratory and the old Centre for Sub-atomic Research. Reg Lister’s Ring House #11 is to the west, in the trees. The Lister Residences, Cameron Library, and a high-rise Education Building were just a few of the buildings constructed in the 1960s.

Planning and Infrastructure

Changing norms

Social norms changed rapidly in the 1960s. There were still several queens crowned at various dances, but other women were defining themselves in a completely different way. The sign in the hands of the dark-haired student below reads: Women are beautiful, radical women are more beautiful, liberated women are the most beautiful of all.

The System

Did the university system strip individuality? Could students get a degree and still stand up to “the establishment” on social and environmental issues? These were fundamental questions for many students, especially those involved in issues relating to social justice and the emerging environmental movement.
The Campus in 1975

By the 1970s, the U of A campus had taken on a modern look. The first two parkades were constructed – Stadium in 1969 and Windsor in 1971. Six of the original Ring Houses were demolished to make way for Windsor, leaving only a handful of historic buildings on campus.

Students got to know the physical campus intimately and immediately, through a two-day, labourious registration process. Sibéal McCourt Bincoletto (BA ’77, MA ’06) looks back to 1974: “There was no telephone registration and no registration on the Web,” she remembers. “First came Part I, where you went to pick up your registration package. It was called “In Person” registration. I think we picked up our packages at the ice arena. The Butterdome was just being built and when it was completed, that’s where you stood in an excruciatingly long line to get your package. “Then you made up your own timetable by circling in the Calendar the courses you wanted to take, and you picked your days and times…..

“With your registration package in hand, you went from building to building, to all the departments where you wanted to take courses. And each time there was a long line. You would wait and wait and when you got to the front, there was one person compiling the class list. Sometimes you’d get all the way to the front of the line only to find out that the course was full…”54

54 Calendar 1974-75

Creative Services U of A Campus History Map 1975
“U of A Planners Go Wild!” – so said the alternative student newspaper, the Poundmaker, after the Board approved a $24 million capital budget in 1973.55 CAB, Chemistry East, Fine Arts, Education North, Mechanical Engineering, Medical Sciences, Law, Humanities Centre, Rutherford North, and the Headquarters Building for the Devonian Botanic Garden were constructed in this decade. The Power Plant opened as the GSA social centre, Rutherford House (narrowly saved from the wrecking ball) opened as an historic site. The University razed 12 houses in Garneau – a controversial move. Students fought the closure of Pembina Hall.56 Chancellor Jean Forest and Dr. Don Fenna led the charge to save Assiniboia Hall.57 As for Athabasca Hall, our first building, it stood “empty except for the Post Office and a ‘tin shop’…,”58 but was renovated and re-opened in 1977 with Premier Peter Lougheed as a special guest.59 During the opening ceremony, Premier Lougheed unveiled the 1911 hand-stiched St. George’s banner, the long-time symbol of the students’ power to govern themselves. The banner has since ‘gone missing.’ In 1973, the reconstructed Athabasca Hall was awarded a Heritage Canada Award of Honour.❖

1971 aerial
CAB, the Law Centre and the east wing of the Physical Education complex were among several major buildings constructed in 1971. HUB Mall would appear in 1972 and Rutherford North in 1973.

HUB
One of the most innovative buildings on campus had a rocky financial beginning. Financed by the Students’ Union and opened in 1972 as the Housing Union Building, the Board of Governors bought the building from the SU in 1976 for $1. HUB is “six stories tall and some 290 meters long (almost three football fields) with one of the largest acrylic vault domes in the world.”60 HUB was constructed over a road, and for its first few years, cars could travel right underneath the building.

Tuck Shop
The demolition of the Tuck Shop still tugs at the heartstrings of many alumni. Privately-owned from 1917 until December 1968, it was the “corner store” for the entire University. Open 362 days of the year, it was a ‘home away from home’ for thousands of students who, in the early days, rang up their own purchases at the cash register. Homemade cinnamon buns were Tuck’s signature offering and coffee was served in thick china cups by wait staff who knew your name. The last owner was the Honourable Edgar Gerhart (BSc Pharm ’48, LLB ’60), later Attorney General of Alberta. As a pharmacy student, Mr. Gerhart was a regular customer at the Tuck, and his family took over ownership in 1947. “I was in second year Pharmacy at the time,” Mr. Gerhart remembers, “and there was an old dance hall downstairs, hardwood floors and Spanish pillars in front.” The Gerharts remodelled, adding booths with table-side juke boxes. Their aim was personalized service. As Mr. Gerhart put it, “We did what we could to give each customer what he wanted even if it wasn’t the most profitable practice.” The Tuck Shop was “taken over by University Food Services” in 1968 and torn down in 1970.61 The North Lab, six of the ten Ring Houses, and the Crang/Allin house in Garneau all made way for new buildings or parkades.62

1970s
As the U of A turned 75 and hosted the World University Games, the North Garneau housing plan was halved in response to protest, and Assiniboia Hall was saved from the wrecker’s ball. The Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre is completed and houses the U of A Hospital and Stollery Children’s Hospital.
The 1980s belonged to President Myer Horowitz, who was in office from 1979–89. His two predecessors, Max Wyman and Harry Gunning, had each served only one five-year term. In Dr. Horowitz’s years, the student head count went from about 21,700 to 29,600, and yet only a handful of major buildings were constructed to accommodate the increased numbers of students. Budget cuts in the 1980s were devastating, and had in fact been felt as early as 1973, when the Library declared a moratorium on book ordering – the first since the Great Depression.63 The Library had also ended hand searches of briefcases and backpacks – the first electronic exit system was installed in 1981. The old card catalogue was also on its way out, supplanted by a COM microfiche reader.64

The renovated Assiniboia opened in 1980, and the “North Garneau housing plan was halved in response to community concern.”65 We celebrated our 75th anniversary, Prince Charles and Lady Diana visited, the World University Games was a huge success, a “student street dance in Garneau turned into a riot,”66 and the U of A participated in the production of the first two editions of the Canadian Encyclopaedia.

On the construction front, there were protests about citing the Business Building in the middle of the Arts Quad. The construction location was moved, and the Business Building opened in 1984. ❖

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The Campus in 1984
Compared to 15 major buildings that had been constructed in the 1970s, the campus in the 1980s saw relatively few construction cranes. Although a few smaller structures went up, the major buildings of this decade were Business, Agriculture/Forestry, the Walter MacKenzie Centre (Phase I), Materials Management, the Heritage Medical Research Centre, and the Universiade Pavilion. Long-awaited renovations to the Earth Sciences Building were also completed, and renovations were in the works for Arts and HUB.

Planning and Infrastructure

Butterdome
Although its official name is the Universiade Pavilion, everyone calls it the Butterdome. Board Chair Emeritus John Schlosser, at his retirement party in the Butterdome, regaled the audience with his version of how the building’s vibrant yellow colour was chosen. He recalled viewing tiny swatches of colour samples in his role as a member of the Board Building Committee, and thought a particular yellow sample was striking. Later on, when the first huge, coloured panel was actually set in place, this was his reaction: “Uhh oh, I should have let my wife – a Home Ec grad – pick the colour.”67 The Gateway also had fun with the colour of the building. In the 1989 joke issue, under the headline “Dairy Board Declares Butterdome Historic,” it was reported that “the Canadian Dairy Council had declared the Universiade Pavilion a national historic site. Following the dedication ceremony, a wine and bread reception showed off the building’s new Butter Museum. ‘The ceiling is a little high,’ a butter spokesperson was quoted. ‘I understand athletes once used this area, but obviously this is a more appropriate function for such a magnificent building.’”68
"The early 1990s was a time of great change for computing, and I watched considerable evolution in how the University of Alberta treated computers, and the people who worked with them. We saw a lot of changes – from the time-sharing MTS [Michigan Time Sharing] system on AJ 510 terminals – to what we now take for granted in Windows boxes and server-oriented computer systems. The AJ 510 computers were horrible one-piece monitor-and-keyboard units with these monochromatic green screens – no mouse or hard drive," Alby explains. And that wasn’t all. “They operated on a ‘time-credit’ system. If you ran out of ‘time-credits’ on the weekend when you were working on an assignment, you couldn’t log off, because you wouldn’t be able to log on again until you saw the System Administrator on Monday!”

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The 1990s was an era of upheaval and change. President Paul Davenport took the reins in 1989 with a mandate to cut 21% from the budget. No easy task, especially for the first outside president in some 40 years. Student numbers increased, the government grant resulted in deep internal cuts, and there were a couple dozen mergers of departments and faculties to save on overhead costs. General Faculties Council, the academic governing body, recommended to the Board that the Faculty of Dentistry be abolished, but the Board tabled the motion. Dentistry, which had begun life many years earlier as part of the Faculty of Medicine, squared the circle, once again becoming part of the medical faculty.

The Extension Centre, the Timms Centre for the Arts, and the Poultry Research Centre were constructed in the 1990s. BARD became home to Archives and part of the Library. The Athabasca Annex, our first gym, with its hand-hewn oak floors, was torn down.

In 2003, Dr. Duke Pier, former Chair of Music and a past faculty member on the Board of Governors, recited the litany of budget cuts that occurred from the 1970s to the 1990s: “There were big budget cuts in ’78 as well as in the mid-’80s,” he said, “and again in ’94, when the university began a three-year effort to reduce its budget by 21%. This spring [2003] the Faculty of Arts said operating budgets [for departments] would drop 50%….” It was not an easy time, and fundamental questions arose about who ran the University: the President? The Board?

After a series of clashes between Board Chair Stanley Milner and President Davenport, Dr. Davenport left in June 1994 to be president of the University of Western Ontario, where he is serving his third term. Mr. Milner returned to head his successful oil company and was succeeded by John Ferguson. Vice-President John McDonald was acting President for six months. Dr. Rod Fraser became president on January 1, 1995.

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The LRT bridge under construction
Getting to campus has never been easy. In the earliest days, Premier Rutherford took pity on students he encountered when he was on his way to the Legislature, picking them up in his shiny red Packard – often in bitter weather – and driving them to the new campus.

Many students often made the trek to class by foot and on skis across the frozen North Saskatchewan, or rode the perilously high streetcar across the High Level Bridge. In the 1940s, they took gasoline rationing in stride and walked everywhere. In 1955, the new Groat Bridge eased the problems somewhat for those who had cars. But it was the arrival of the LRT that made a big difference in the 1990s.

In 1991, Corbett Hall was renovated as the home for the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. Dean Martha Piper wanted only the best for her Faculty. “We’ve got the best students,” she said in 1991, “we’re going to have the best building, and we want to furnish it with the best equipment possible. We want it to be the best – simply the best.”

Corbett Hall has a resident ghost – Emily. “Oh yes, Emily,” Associate Dean Paul Hagler told me in 2005. “She’s often seen in the auditorium.” Emily walks across the stage with her arms outstretched and with a peaceful smile on her face. Sometimes people hear her fall. What is her story? Who is she? No one knows.
In 2004, the North Campus map was completely redesigned to show more types of information needed by our campus visitors. This same year saw the introduction of new South Campus, Augustana Campus, and Campus Saint-Jean maps as well. Parking symbols have long been a staple on our maps, but the 2004 redesign has allowed a more systematic approach to adding more information. Each year a few new categories of items have been added – and now show how vibrant and diverse our campuses have become. Our libraries, galleries, historic buildings, landmarks, historic trees, athletic facilities, theatres, greenspaces, and newer water features can be scanned, and this page reflects the state-of-affairs, more or less, for the start of the 2007–2008 academic year. Significant parts of North Campus have new construction underway as the University of Alberta marks its next hundred years.

Dennis Weber, mapmaker.
The campus in 1919 and 2007
To image above is the first aerial taken of the University (1919) by famed bush pilot Wop May. The most current aerial, to the right, was photographed in July 2007, two years after Dr. Indira Samarasekera assumed the presidency.

The first Dean of Medicine, Allan Rankin, has recalled the early campus: “When I first arrived in Edmonton during the summer of 1914 and found myself alone in the east wing of Assiniboia Hall, I was not altogether happy at first and had no perception of the interesting and successful future in store for the University. . . . there were only two buildings on the campus and these were more or less surrounded by bush. . . and fields of turnips.”

Dr. Rankin would be astonished at today’s U of A.

Where he saw only Athabasca and Assiniboia Halls on the campus, there are now over 90 major teaching and research structures. If Dean Rankin stood in the quad, he would see the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences coming to life. He might walk over to President Tory’s home (today’s Ring House 1) – passing the Electrical and Computer Engineering Research Facility, the Markin/Natural Resources Engineering Facility and the Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex – and if Tory could magically come to life in his old house, Dr. Rankin might hear the president jokingly say that the weight of all those new engineering buildings has actually tilted the campus.

Rankin would be amazed to see the turnip fields of 1914 transformed into Schäffer Hall, and if he walked over to the South Lab, which was just being constructed the year of his 1914 arrival, he would learn of the plans for the Killam Centre for Advanced Studies.

Rankin would never have known Campus Saint-Jean, Augustana Campus, the south campus, the Devonian Botanic Garden, the Kinsella ranch, or Enterprise Square.

The research being done in the National Institute for Nanotechnology would fascinate Dr. Rankin, a bacteriologist. He would be totally absorbed by the Timms Centre for the Arts because in Rankin’s day, almost everyone on campus participated in live theatre productions, no matter what their Faculty. Within three months of Rankin’s arrival on campus, he was called to the battlefields of Europe. He had one hour to pack. Just as he was leaving, Tory manoeuvred to have the new Strathcona Hospital built on university land.

When Rankin returned in 1919, the magnificent Arts Building had opened, and Tory had secured funds from the Rockefeller Foundation for a teaching building for the medical faculty (today’s Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre). Those three buildings were major achievements for a young university. But if Rankin could return once again to campus as the U of A turns 100, he would marvel at today’s construction feats: the soon-to-be Edmonton Clinic, the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences (CCIS), the Health Research Innovation Facility and the Mazankowski Heart Institute.

When Allan Rankin retired after 31 years as one of our longest-serving Deans, he called the University of Alberta the “land of open doors.” May it always remain so. ❖
Selected Campus Buildings:
Key Dates

1911–1939
- First sod-turning for the Arts Building (September 1909)
- First U of A building, Athabasca Hall (1911)
- St. Stephen’s College opens for classes in September (1911)
- Basement of Assiniboia excavated by 100 men using shovels (1911)
- Rutherford’s home on Saskatchewan Drive, includes a garage for his Packard (1911)
- Dr. Tory’s campus residence completed (Ring House 1) (1911); ten houses follow
- Assiniboia Hall partially occupied (1912)
- Athabasca dining hall and gym (1913)
- Second sod-turning for the Arts Building (1913)
- First power plant and smokestack, located behind Athabasca Hall (1913)
- Agriculture’s first barn built near current Faculty Club, housing five cows and four horses (1913)
- Excavation started for Pembina Hall (1913)
- Pembina Hall opens (1914)
- Strathcona Hospital is built by the city on a site donated by the University (1914)
- South Lab built in 1914, with an extension added in 1919; North Lab follows in 1919
- Arts Building (1915)
- A “handsomely turfed” athletic field with a quarter-mile cinder track is built (1915)
- The first Tuck Shop (1917)
- Power Plant (1919); its size was doubled in 1945
- Medical Building (today’s Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre) (1921)
- St. Joseph’s Catholic College opens as an affiliate of the University (1927)
- West Lab (Plant Pathology Lab) (1928)
- University Hospital taken over by the province, with representation from the University on the board (1929)
- Today’s Corbett Hall opens as the provincial Normal School, offering teacher training courses (1929)

1940–1959
- A “Gas Plant” is constructed near the Arts Building for the wartime study of fuels and gases (1941)
- The University Cafeteria, known as ‘Hot Caf,’ opens on the site of today’s Central Academic Building (1942)
- First Observatory (1943)
- A west wing known as the Mewburn Pavilion is added to the university hospital to provide medical care for World War II veterans (1945)
- Nurses Residence (1946)
- Ten-year campus building boom begins (1947)
- RCAF Drill Hall moved to make way for the first Students’ Union Building, today’s University Hall (1948)
- Two extensions to the wings of the Medical Building, today’s Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre (1947-48)
- The first building (a “chalet”) on the Banff Campus (1949)
- First Students’ Union Building opens, with a faculty lounge on the third floor (1950)
- Provincial Laboratory (1950)
- Rutherford Library (1951)
- McEachern Cancer Research Laboratory (1952)
- “New” St. Stephen’s College is dedicated (1953)
- Engineering Building (today’s Civil/Electrical) (1953)
- Biological Sciences Building, today’s Earth Sciences Building, housed agriculture and science departments (1954); an addition opens in 1958
- Jubilee Auditorium (1957)
- Administration Building (1957)
- Chemistry/Physics Complex construction begins (1958)
- Physical Education Complex (1958) (Jubilee gift from the provincial government)
- A decision is made to open a two-building campus in Calgary by 1960 (1958)

1960–1989
- The campus comprises 133 acres with 12 major teaching buildings (1960)
- Varsity Rink torn down (1960)
- Bhattia Physics Lab (1960)
- Chemistry Centre West (1960)
- Van Vliet Centre West (1960)
- V-Wing (1960)
- President’s House (now Alumni House) (1961)
- Dentistry/Pharmacy wings “filled in” (1961)
- Students begin planning for a new SUB (1961)
- Industrial Design Studio (1962)
- Sod-turning for Faculty Club (1964)
- Cameron Library (1964)
- The Edmonton Normal School is renamed Corbett Hall in honour of Ned Corbett, long-time Extension director (1965)
- Tory Building (1966)
- The second SUB (today’s SUB) (1967)
- Education South (1967)
- Human Ecology (1967)
- Chemical/Materials Engineering (1967)
- Central Academic Building (1971)
- Biological Sciences (1969)
- Athabasca and Pembina Halls are condemned and then renovated (1970s)
- Van Vliet Centre East (1970)
- Law Centre (1971)
- HUB (1972)
- Humanities Centre (1972)
- Mechanical Engineering (1972)
- Medical Sciences (1972)
- Education North (1973)
- Rutherford Library North (1973)
- The Fine Arts Building opens near the site of the old Tuck Shop (1973)
- Chemistry East (1973)
- Former Premier Rutherford’s home is restored and opened to the public (1974)
- Board of Governors buys HUB from the SU for $1 (1976)
- The Power Plant opens as the GSA’s social centre (1978)
- Assiniboia Hall renovated (1980)
- Agriculture/Forestry (1980)
- North Garneau housing plan halved in response to community concerns (1981)
- The Tennis Centre, Universiade Pavilion (Butterdome) and new student housing in Garneau are a legacy of the World University Games (1983)
- Education carpark opens on land donated by St. Joseph’s College (1983)
- Materials Management (1983)
- Major renovations begin for both the Arts Building and HUB (1986)
- Heritage Medical Research Centre (1988)
- Arts Building renovated (1987)

1990–2007
- Corbett Hall renovated (1992)
- Book and Record Depository (BARD) opens on 50th Street (1993)
- Timms Centre for the Arts opens with support from a private donation (1994)
- Athabasca Annex, the first gym, torn down (1998)
- Telus Centre (2000)
- New residence opened and academic & cultural centre developed at CSJ (2001)
- Computing Science Centre, joined with Athabasca Hall, is opened; department of Computing Science briefly occupies both oldest and newest university buildings (2001)
- The $10.5 million, multi-purpose Foote Field is a legacy of the World Championships (2001)
- Swine Research and Technology Centre (SRTC) (2002)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering Research Facility (ECERF) and Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC) (2002)
- SUB renovations are completed, adding study and relaxation space for the 18,000 people who pass through SUB daily (2002)
- Saville Sports Centre (2004)
- Province of Alberta begins centennial renovations to Jubilee Auditorium (2004)
- International House, the first residence of its kind in Canada (2004)
- Mary Schäffer Hall (addition to Lister Center of 400+ bed spaces and conference facilities) (2004)
- National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT) 2006
- Katz Group - Rexall Centre for Pharmacy and Health Research (2007)
- Killam Center for Advanced Studies (will house the Graduate Students’ Association and the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research, formerly South Lab) (2007)

- Mazankowski Heart Institute
- Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences (CCIS)
- Edmonton Clinic

2. Rutherford’s negotiations to buy the Simpson Farm are described in Babcock, Alexander Cameron Rutherford, 35-36; and Johns, *History University of Alberta,* 6-7. Information on William Hardy Alexander may be found in Schoeck’s, I Was There, (chapter 2 and especially pages 52-53.) The quote from Hugh Morrison is from a 2002 interview with the author.

3. Information about the McPhaden farm is in Weir, “A Short History,” 9 and 12; and information about Garneau is in Ivany, *Historic Walks Edmonton,* 210.


7. Johns, *History University of Alberta,* 16, and Schoeck, I Was There, 63 and 114. The quote about residence accommodation is from Bill Kent (BSc Engg ’31), in discussion with John and Barbara Patterson, in discussion with the author, July 2007.

8. Bowen, “Interviews and Draft Stories,” 8-3; and Schoeck, I Was There, 47-48. Frank Darling, architect for the University of Toronto, was also part of the planning team.


14. Lister, My Forty-Five Years, chapters 2 and 3; and Schoeck, I Was There, 101-103 and 122-144.

15. The history of Campus Saint-Jean is recounted in Levassor-Vuquet, *Connaître L’histoire de Saint-Jean,* passim, and Schoeck, I Was There, 397-400.


22. Johns, *History University of Alberta,* 36; and Schoeck, I Was There, 63. The story about Tony’s initials being carved on the east wall was told by Trude McLaren (University of Alberta Archivist), in discussion with author, 2006.


24. Schoeck, I Was There, 148-149.


27. Johnson, *Strictly for Posterity,* 80 (gently edited) and 186-198. My thanks to Bill Kent for lending me this book.

28. Schoeck, I Was There, 727; and McCallum, CKUA: 40 Wondrous Years, not paginated.

29. Bill Kent, in discussion with the author, July 2007. Mr. Kent also provided information on the Lone Scouts. The 1945 *Evergreen and Gold* is the source on the “great names” and sports information.


34. Davies, *Beyond the Bricks,* 5.


37. Frances Cruden’s “Discovering the Roots to Garneau’s Past,” *UAA* 2315-5. Dr. Thomas’s 1981 study titled “The University of Alberta, East Campus Area, An Historic Study, 1981,” is part of the author’s private records collection. The quote about Tony’s land purchase is on page 5.


39. Dr. Fahman to Dr. McQuitty, August 4, 1987, from the author’s personal records collection.

40. Schoeck, I Was There, 29-30.

41. Lister, My Forty-Five Years, 70.


43. Rothrock, “Bricks and Bulldozers.”


45. Peel, *University of Alberta Library,* 11.


49. Schoeck, I Was There, 485-486.


52. Rothrock, “Bricks and Bulldozers.”

53. Byrne, Foreword to “Those Tumultuous Years,” not paginated.

54. Schoeck, I Was There, p 549-550


58. Letter from Don Fenna (Associate Vice-President Planning and Development) to members of the General Faculties Council Campus Development Committee, May 8, 1975, 1. From Schoeck’s personal records collection.


62. John and Barbara Patterson, in discussion with author, June 2007. My thanks to John and Barbara Patterson for information about the Cragg/Allin house and for an image.


64. Report of the University Librarian to the President. Edmonton: The University of Alberta, 1980-81, 18. From Schoeck’s personal records collection.

65. Schoeck, I Was There, 586.

66. Ibid., 568.

67. John Schlosser’s retirement reception at which author was present, 1990.


69. Schoeck, I Was There, 647-648.


72. Ibid., 10.


75. Schoeck, from the original (expanded) timelines prepared for I Was There and Report 150, Capital and Strategic Planning Services. Construction dates for 2007-08 provided by Real Estate and Development.
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UNPUBLISHED SOURCES


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Ellen Schoeck (BA Hons ’72, MA ’77, History) is author of the award-winning best-seller *I Was There: A Century of Alumni Stories about the University of Alberta, 1906-2006*. Ellen served as Director of the University Secretariat and Secretary to General Faculties Council for more than 20 years, was ‘ombudsman’ and first sexual harassment advisor, and senior advisor to three Presidents. Ellen founded two national organizations, and hundreds of people on campus took her popular Governance 101 seminar. In 2007, Ellen received The Alumni Award of Excellence. Today, Ellen is editor-in-chief of a trade magazine, a consultant, and a member of two boards.

Dennis Weber (BA Design ’95) has spent over half his life on the U of A campus. A member of the staff of Creative Services, Dennis is a graphic designer and mapmaker with a keen interest in the history of the physical campus. Dennis is the person who designs the campus maps we all navigate by.