



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

Homesteader is one of three neighbourhoods within the Hermitage plan area. In 1875 Canon William Newton, an Anglican minister for whom Canon Ridge is named, arrived in the Edmonton settlement and built his first church, a home and a hospital in an area he called the Hermitage. The hermitage was located about ten kilometers from Fort Edmonton on the south side of a ravine overlooking the north Saskatchewan River Valley to the east. Reverend Newton's home remained there for more than 25 years.

For many years after settlement the Hermitage remained an agricultural area. During that time, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway line formalized the area's southern boundary along the railroad right-of-way. In 1960 the area's two cattle farms were sold to a land development firm, and one year later the hermitage was annexed to the City of Edmonton.

Land development was held up during the 1960s while government officials and developers addressed concerns about residential development too near the industrial plants in the vicinity. By 1970 these concerns were resolved and Homesteader was included within the Hermitage Outline Plan area. Homesteader was the first of the three Hermitage neighbourhoods to begin residential development. The Homesteader neighbourhood was subdivided in 1974 and building commenced within a year. By the end of the decade, most of the neighbourhood had been developed.

Homesteader is bisected by Hermitage Road, the neighbourhood's main collector road, running east from 50 Street. At the centre of the neighbourhood is a multi-purpose education and recreation site. A number of pathways promote bicycle and pedestrian travel within the neighbourhood and join Homesteader to the other two Hermitage neighbourhoods to the east. Homesteader residents have access to the river valley park system via Kennedale Ravine. The residents of Homesteader are served by the businesses located on 50th Street and in the centrally located Hermitage Shopping Centre and Hermitage Plaza.

Homesteader was named in honour of the men and women who were the pioneers of settlement and agriculture in the Edmonton area.