

A Brief History of Regina

*Over A Century of
Prairie Progress*



When We Were “Pile O’ Bones”

In the days when huge herds of buffalo roamed the northern plains, a place in what was to become Saskatchewan had gained fame among First Nations hunters. The place was ideally suited for construction of a buffalo “pound”—a large corral into which buffalo were herded to be killed. The site also had an abundance of water and level ground for drying the buffalo meat.

The Cree Indians, who traveled to this place to hunt, believed that buffalo would not leave the bones of other dead buffalo. As long as there were bones there, buffalo would be plentiful and the hunting good. Therefore, the Cree gathered buffalo bones into a huge pile, six feet high and 40 feet in diameter.

The site and the surrounding area became famous for these bones. The Cree Indians called it Oskana ka-asateki —“the bones that are piled together.” The first Metis settlement at the site was called “Pile O’ Bones,” though other names for the area, such as Bone Creek and Manybones, were also used. In 1857, the explorer Captain James Palliser incorrectly heard the Cree word for the region and named the creek “Wascana,” as it is still known.

Metis settlers in the area learned that buffalo bones could be used as fertilizer, so the huge accumulations of bones were gathered and shipped to eastern markets. It is said that in 1886, \$15,000 worth of buffalo bones were shipped from the future site of Regina.

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Regina and Saskatchewan were part of a huge land grant made in 1670 by King Charles II to the Hudson's Bay Company. "Rupert's Land," as the area was called, took in all of the area surrounding the rivers that drained into Hudson's Bay; which is nearly all of present-day Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and parts of Ontario and the Northwest Territories. In 1868, the Canadian government bought Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company. The government feared the United States would annex the sparsely-populated territories.

In May 1873, a Canadian act was passed which established a police force to preserve peace and prevent crime in the North West Territories. The North West Mounted Police established their first headquarters at Swan River (in Manitoba) in 1874.

Settlement Begins

In the late 1800s, free homesteads of 160 acres were available on the prairies. Pioneers settled in the Regina district to take advantage of the water and the fertile soil. But the lack of a railway in the region inhibited development.

The first pioneer in the Regina area, Edward Carss, settled at the junction of the Qu'Appelle River and Wascana Creek in September 1881. On June 10, 1882, the first party of six settlers set up camp near the site of the present Wascana Lake. A few days later, a second party of 11 homesteaders joined them. These 17 pioneers were Regina's founders.

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The Canadian Pacific Railway provided the impetus for the settlement of Regina. In 1882, the CPR decided on a southern route across the plains (and through present-day Regina) since the landscape allowed for easy construction and the CPR owned nearly half the land surrounding the proposed track. Since the proposed railway was too far away from the territorial capital, Battleford, Sir John A. MacDonald instructed the CPR to choose a new capital on behalf of the government. The CPR published a map indicating a station would be located at the point where the railway crossed Wascana Creek. As a result, this location was chosen as the new territorial capital before the first train arrived on August 23, 1882.

Lieutenant Governor Edgar Dewdney created dissatisfaction among settlers by selecting the same location as the headquarters for the North West Mounted Police and the Indian Department. Other established towns, such as Troy (Qu'Appelle) and Fort Qu'Appelle, had hoped to be the seat of government.

Naming the town... and making it the capital

Several names, including "Leopold," were proposed for the new town on the banks of Wascana Creek. The name finally adopted was suggested by Princess Louise, wife of the Governor General. She proposed the name "Regina" to honour her mother, Queen Victoria, who was reigning at the time.

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On March 27, 1883, the Governor General issued an order-in-council moving the territorial capital from Battleford to Regina. Again, there were many criticisms of this action. Many suggested Moose Jaw as a better site for the capital. A war of words was fought between the *Regina Leader*, which began publishing on March 1, 1883, and the *Winnipeg Free Press*. The *Free Press* wrote:

“Regina will never amount to anything more than a country village or town, for the simple reason that in neither its position, nor its surroundings, is there anything to give it the slightest commercial importance. Situated in the midst of a vast plain of inferior soil, with hardly a tree to be seen as far as the eye can range, and with about enough water in the miserable creek known as Pile of Bones to wash a sheep, it would scarcely make a respectable farm, to say nothing of being fixed upon as the site or the capital of a great province. The place has not a single natural advantage to commend it.”

But editor of the *Regina Leader*, Nicholas Flood Davin, rushed to his town’s defense and emerged victorious when Regina remained as the new territorial capital.

The new territorial legislative and administration building was constructed on Dewdney Avenue. A second administration building was completed in 1890. This second humble brick structure remains, though it has served many purposes over the years. Furniture was moved from the Battleford capital, including a table that was used previously by Canada’s “Fathers of Confederation.” This table is now located in the Saskatchewan Legislative Library.

Regina Grows

For a town with “nothing to commend it,” Regina grew quickly in the years after its founding. It soon boasted a railway station two miles from Wascana Creek, a general store, and hardware, flour, grain, and lumber stores. During those days of rapid growth, wood sold at \$12 a load, creek water at \$0.50 a barrel, and bread at \$0.25 a loaf. Teamsters earned \$10 a day, or \$1.50 an hour.

In April 1883, less than a year after settlers first arrived, Regina grew to include 15 stores, two banks, four feed stores, two carriage shops, and four hotels. Regina was incorporated as a town on December 1, 1883.

The development of the prairies, including Regina, resulted from the tireless efforts of many elected and appointed government officials and others. Today, their legacy is remembered in Regina’s street and building names. For example, Dewdney Avenue is named after Lieutenant Governor Dewdney who ran the territory from August 1883 to July 1888. Later he served as federal Minister of the Interior and Superintendent of Indian Affairs. From 1892 to 1897, Dewdney was Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. He died in Victoria on August 8, 1916.

Home of the RCMP

In the late 1870s, the North West Mounted Police headquarters were located at Fort Walsh to deal with problems caused by whiskey traders and by the presence of Sitting Bull in Cypress Hills. Later strong policing became more important as settlers moved west with the railways. Ten years after the force was established, the headquarters were transferred to Regina with construction of the new North West Mounted Police barracks beginning in 1882.

Over the years, the North West Mounted Police evolved to become the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and are now the world's most recognized and respected police force. Although the RCMP headquarters moved to Ottawa in 1920, the RCMP Training Academy is still in Regina. Today, recruits from across Canada are taught modern police methods at this facility. The Academy is also home to the RCMP Centennial Museum, which draws thousands of visitors each year. There visitors learn the proud history of the force. Regina's oldest existing building, the RCMP Chapel, features attractive commemorative stained glass windows.

The RCMP continues to be a vital force in our community. In 1996, the Training Academy was renamed "Depot Division"—its historic designation. The Division now trains police personnel from other countries, such as Haiti. As well, a new forensic laboratory opened in 1996.

Civic Government Established

A citizens' committee, which included *Regina Leader* editor Nicholas Davin and lawyer W.C. Hamilton, ran the town until the first civic election took place on January 10, 1884. Mayor D.L. Scott, Q.C. and a four-member council held their first town meeting on January 21 in Dr. Cotton's Hall. Later meetings were held in the Methodist church.

Regina grew quickly during its early years. In 1883, a dam was built across Wascana Creek, just west of the present Albert Street Memorial Bridge. Traffic rode along the top of the dam to cross the creek. Shortly afterwards, the Regina Cemetery was founded.

Regina's post office had a very humble beginning. A crude packing box traveled from store to store and each storekeeper would remove mail for himself and his customers. There were so many complaints about the system that the CPR station agent was hired as the town's first postmaster. The post office, first located on South Railway Street, moved several times until a permanent post office was built on Scarth Street in January 1886.

In 1883, Regina boasted a population of around 1,000 and included 400 buildings. Many of these were wooden structures heated by coal or wood-burning fireplaces. Fire protection was needed. Eight hundred dollars was raised to buy fire equipment and City Council was asked

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for \$2,000 to supply a well, water tanks, and a fire pump. On March, 1883, the first Regina Fire Brigade was formed and the first hand-pump fire engine was purchased a year later. The Fire Department became fully motorized in 1929 when the last two fire horses, Buster and Joey, were sold.

Education

Regina's first teacher, Miss Laidlaw, opened a private school in 1883. The first public school, located in the Methodist Church, was taught by Mr. Schaffner. His salary of \$25 a month was paid by the Territorial Government. In 1884, the Territorial Government formed the Regina Protestant School District No. 4, with D. S. McCannell teaching classes in the Town Hall.

Regina's first brick school, built on the corner of 11th Avenue and Hamilton Street, opened in February 1890. The school cost \$11,000 and was demolished in 1910. A year earlier, Regina's first high school, Central Collegiate, officially opened. The school, located between 15th Avenue and College Avenue, operated until 1985 and was demolished in 1994.

Regina's Catholic School Board was established in 1899. Its first school was in a building at 12th Avenue and Cornwall Street until a new school opened in the fall of 1900.

The Riel Rebellion

In 1885, the Riel Rebellion disrupted Regina's development. At the outbreak, a volunteer force of 75 Regina men, known as the "Blazers," was formed to defend the town. Regina, as the new capital, was drawn into the thick of things.

Louis Riel was brought to Regina at the end of the Rebellion and was tried for treason. He was found guilty and hanged here on November 16, 1885. Each summer local actors re-enact the "Trial of Louis Riel."

Following the Rebellion, Mayor Dan Mowat rallied local merchants to form the Regina Board of Trade in March 1886. The mayor believed local merchants could work together for economic prosperity and accomplish more than if each worked alone. The Board was renamed the Regina Chamber of Commerce in 1947.

Expansion: 1886 - 1905

Regina continued to grow over the next 20 years. In 1886, residents enjoyed the newly-formed Regina Brass Band, a visit by Sir John A. and Lady MacDonald, the first meeting of the Territorial Hospital board of directors, and a huge bonfire on Dominion Day to mark the arrival of the first train to travel all the way to Canada's west coast. The following year, residents participated in an enthusiastic celebration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee on May 24.

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Bell Telephone set up a battery-operated telephone system in 1887. In 1890, the Regina Light and Power Company was established, which later became a publicly-owned utility in 1904. Regina's first power plant was at Smith Street and Dewdney Avenue. In 1914, the City built a coal-fired generating plant on the shore of Wascana Lake, which operated until the 1970s. (The building was renovated and is now the Saskatchewan Science Centre, a hands-on exhibit that introduces science in an enjoyable and fun-filled way.)

Regina's first "hospital" started in 1889 and was run by a teacher, Mrs. M.E. Truesdell. A true hospital, staffed by the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), opened several years later at the corner of Hamilton Street and 13th Avenue. This building was replaced by a new hospital, Victoria Hospital, at Hamilton Street and 14th Avenue in 1901. In 1907, the City took over operation of Victoria Hospital and changed the name to Regina General Hospital (which moved to its present site in 1909). The Grey Nuns opened a small hospital on Angus Street and moved into the first part of Grey Nun's Hospital (now Pasqua Hospital) in 1911.

In 1892, Jim Williams, a former NWMP corporal, was hired as Regina's first constable. In 1903, City Council increased the size of the force to five men and built a cellblock. By 1914, Regina's police force had grown to 45.

Agriculture was at the forefront of Regina's growth. The first Territorial Exhibition was held here in 1895 and showcased 7,993 entries. Buildings were erected at the

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present Exhibition Park, with a contribution of \$25,000 from the Dominion Government and another \$10,000 from the Town of Regina.

Shortly after the turn of the century, Regina reached a population of 3,000. On June 19, 1903, Regina was incorporated as a city, with J.W. Smith as the first mayor. He had been chief executive officer for the Town of Regina. The Municipal Water Supply was established in 1904, with water supplied by wells surrounding the city.

Saskatchewan becomes a province...with Regina as its capital

On February 21, 1905, Sir Wilfred Laurier introduced a bill which would create the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. The matter was bitterly debated, but in September 1905, Saskatchewan became a province. A cairn in Victoria Park commemorates the event.

Saskatchewan's first Premier was Walter Scott. On May 23, 1906, he announced Regina would be the provincial capital.

The cornerstone for the ornate City Hall was laid on August 15, 1906. The building, which stood on the site of the Galleria Mall, was completed in 1908 and demolished in the 1960s.

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Victoria Square (now Victoria Park), located in the city's center, was originally a treeless sports field. In 1907, landscaping began and the fountain was erected in 1908. The fountain was later replaced with a cenotaph built in memory of those who gave their lives in World War I.

The old territorial capital on Dewdney Avenue continued to be the seat of government until work began on the new Legislative Building in August 1908. His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor General of Canada, laid the cornerstone on October 4, 1909. The 542 foot-long building, with a 188-foot dome, is still a dominant feature of Regina's skyline. It was officially opened by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, on October 12, 1912.

The Regina Orchestral Society, the forerunner of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, held its first concert in 1908. It is now the oldest continuous symphony orchestra in Canada.

In 1909, the CPR crossings at Albert Street and Broad Street were converted to underpasses or "subways." The R.H. Williams Co. built a four-storey department store at the corner of 11th Avenue and Hamilton Street, which was sold to Simpson's in 1946. Shoppers continued to visit the department store until it was torn down in the 1980s to make way for the Canada Trust Building.

In 1909, the first public library opened in City Hall. Three years later, Andrew Carnegie funded a new library on Lorne Street, across from Victoria Park. The current Central Library, at Lorne Street and 12th Avenue, incorporates columns from the original library.

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In 1910, Regina planned a municipal transit system. The first municipal railway tracks were laid early in 1911 and the inaugural run of the first streetcar took place on July 28. Over 7,000 people rode the 14.5 miles of railway the first day. The municipal railway operated until a million-dollar fire destroyed the barns and most of the streetcars in January 1949. Electric trolleys and gas-powered buses replaced the railcars soon after the fire. In September 1950, the last streetcar made its final run. The last electrically-powered trolley operated in 1966.

The Regina Tornado

On June 30, 1912 a tornado roared through the young city, killing 28 and destroying over 400 buildings. Over 2,500 people were homeless and total damage was over \$5 million. The YMCA, YWCA, Knox Presbyterian Church, Metropolitan Methodist Church, Baptist Church, Carnegie Library, and Telephone Exchange were destroyed. A grain elevator disappeared and a church cupola was blown over three blocks. Although a stable with 50 horses was shifted onto the railway tracks, the horses were uninjured. The City borrowed 250 tents from the Mounted Police to house victims. The disaster was reported internationally and contributions for relief and construction poured in from all over the world. It took more than two years to repair the damage.

The 10-storey McCallum Hill Building, Regina's first "skyscraper," was begun in 1912. It was located on the corner of Scarth Street and 12th Avenue and was imploded in the 1970s to make way for the "twin towers" now on the south end of F. W. Hill Mall.

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Regina's first full-time medical health officer, Dr. Malcolm Bow, began his duties in 1912. A typhoid epidemic occurred shortly after he started his new job. To halt the epidemic, Bow set up a system to collect sewage in closed pails that were later dumped and sterilized.

The Regina Normal School was built on College Avenue in 1914. It now houses the University of Regina's Seniors Education Centre, the Conservatory of Music and Dance, as well as extension courses.

The outbreak of World War I had a strong effect on the growing town. Thousands of Regina men and women volunteered to serve. Those left behind were asked to conserve supplies and increase productivity. Buildings such as St. Chad's Hostel were used as military hospitals. By the end of the war, nearly 600 Regina men had been killed and over 2,000 wounded.

A Spanish influenza epidemic near the end of the war killed 330 people in Regina. Because of the "flu," public meetings were banned and a \$50 fine for spitting, sneezing or coughing in public was imposed.

After World War I

Regina entered the "air age" immediately following the war. A returning flyer, R.J. Groome became Canada's first commercial pilot in 1920. Canada's first aerodrome opened here the same year. Eight years later, a permanent airport was established.

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Saskatchewan's first radio station, CKCK, began broadcasting from Regina in July 1922. It carried the first broadcast of a church service in the Commonwealth in February 1923 and the world's first hockey broadcast the following month.

Fire Hall Number One on 11th Avenue was built in 1920. Though no longer a fire station, it is maintained as a "heritage building" and is a distinctive feature of the neighbourhood.

The Regina Town Planning Association was formed in 1922. In 1924, a Planning Board was created and work was begun on a zoning bylaw, which was adopted in 1927.

Sports played an important part in post-war Regina. The Regina Roughriders Football Club won nine western Canadian titles, beginning in 1912. The Regina Pats Hockey Team, founded in 1918, became the World Junior Amateur Champions in 1925.

The arts and education flourished too. Darke Hall for Music and Art was built in 1929 with money donated by F.N. Darke, who opened a butcher shop in 1892 and became a wealthy retailer. The Trianon Dance Palace was built in 1929 and was a popular nightspot for many years. Campion College, founded in 1918, moved into a new three-story building south of the Legislature. Luther College opened west of the city in 1926. Regina College, which had opened in 1911, was expanded.

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The Canadian Pacific Railway opened the Hotel Saskatchewan, across from Victoria Park, in 1927. The Balfour Apartments, on Victoria Avenue, were built in 1929 at a cost of \$475,000.

Prohibition had an influence on the city and bootlegging was a “major enterprise” from 1917 to 1925. The Ku Klux Klan organized in Regina in 1926, but it was never large or influential.

At the turn of the century, Regina grew as a center for the distribution of farm equipment and supplies. But grain prices dropped after the First World War. In 1923, farmers began organizing a voluntary grain-producers co-operative or “pool.” By June 1924, 45,000 farmers had Pool contracts. Farmers gained some control over the commodity they produced and the economy improved. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool now has assets all across the West, including a huge grain terminal in Vancouver. Its headquarters at Victoria and Albert is one of Regina’s finest old buildings. Originally built in 1914 as the Sherwood store, the building’s façade features beautiful sculptures and reliefs.

Desperate times...

The General Motors Assembly Plant (8th Avenue at Winnipeg Street) began production of Chevrolets and Pontiacs in 1928. It was to have employed over 800 workers. But the collapse of the stock market in October 1929 and following world-wide economic depression forced the plant to close.

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Following the crash, Saskatchewan experienced a decade of very poor weather and worse crops. Wheat prices dropped by 75 percent. Crop failures, drought, and grasshopper infestations drove farmers deep into despair. Regina suffered through these years. A survey in 1930 showed that 3,756 men were without jobs.

A number of government projects were started to give workers jobs. Over 2,100 men, using hand shovels and dump wagons, drained and dredged Wascana Lake. They also created two artificial islands, including the Willow Island picnicking site. Construction of the Albert Memorial Bridge—also called “Bryant’s Folly,” after the provincial Minister of Public Works—began in 1930. The bridge’s lotus flowers and papyrus reflect the fascination with Egypt after the discovery of King Tut’s tomb in 1923. The bridge was restored in the late 1980s at a cost of \$1.4 million.

During the 1930s, many citizens were forced to resort to direct relief, or the “dole.” A grocery allowance of \$16/month was available to a family of four. As well, a relief camp for single unemployed men was set up at the exhibition grounds and 400 men registered almost immediately.

The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) held its first annual convention in Regina in 1933. Delegates of this political party, formed a year earlier in Calgary, wrote their famous “Regina Manifesto,” a declaration of the party’s political ideals at this convention. The CCF was the forerunner of today’s New Democratic Party.

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In 1933, Regina hosted the World Grain Exhibition and Conference. The Grain Show Building, constructed for the exhibition, was filled with paintings and murals. Almost 200,000 people attended the show.

Unemployment caused by the Depression and drought caused tempers to flare. In 1935, a group of unemployed in British Columbia decided to travel—or “trek”—to Ottawa by train and demand additional help from the federal government. The group swelled to 1,800 as it reached Regina. Ottawa issued arrest warrants for seven of the trek leaders and the police attempted to make the arrests here. Violence erupted at Market Square, on the site of Regina’s present police station. The trekkers grabbed bottles, stones, pickets and other weapons. After it was all over, a local policeman was killed by a blow to the head; seven policemen and 39 Mounties were injured. Forty trekkers and local people were hospitalized. Fighting halted the trek, which is commonly referred to as the “Regina Riot.”

Conditions improved in the late 1930s. Farmers were again becoming prosperous and the local manufacturing industry was regaining strength. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth even visited Regina in 1939. But the Second World War dampened Regina’s hopes for full recovery.

Another war...

Everyone in the city felt the effect of World War II. Rationing was instituted, with gasoline and tires being especially scarce commodities. Prices and salaries were frozen and Regina industries were converted to the war effort. The General Motors Assembly Plant, which had closed during the Depression, reopened to manufacture ammunition. A simulated "capture" of the city by mock enemy troops was held in 1942, and tear gas poured into the streets.

Regina men and women again rushed into uniform at the start of the war. The largest number enlisted in the army. The Regina Rifle Regiment members were called "the Johns." They distinguished themselves during the D-Day invasion of Normandy and continued heroic fighting in Europe until the end of the war.

The Royal Canadian Air Force established three air training schools in the city: at Regina College, Regina Normal School, and the airport.

A ship named after the city, HMCS Regina, was launched in 1941 and served in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The corvette was sunk during a naval rescue in 1944. As well, a training ship known as the HMCS Queen trained nearly 4,000 at the Wascana Winter Club during the war.

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In September 1994, the Canadian Navy commissioned another ship with the name HMCS Regina. It now operates in the Pacific Ocean and acts as an ambassador for our city. Murals in the ship passageways depict Regina, both past and present. In 1996, the City granted the company and officers of HMCS Regina “freedom of the city.” The honour was presented to the ship’s officers in a special ceremony in front of City Hall. This ancient honour originated in the Middle Ages when trusted forces from outside the jurisdiction were granted the right to march through the community with their flags unfurled. The officers and company of HMCS Queen received “freedom of the city” in the 1970s.

Post war growth...

In 1945, Government House was converted into a veteran’s home.

Prosperity returned following the war. Record-breaking crops in 1951 and 1953 bolstered the economy. The population grew as the birth rate increased and more people moved from rural areas into the city. In 1950, an oil pipeline linked Regina with Alberta’s oil fields and Eastern Canada’s refineries and markets.

In 1955, Saskatchewan celebrated its Golden Jubilee. To mark the occasion, the first Canadian-born Governor General, Vincent Massey, opened the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, now the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. The cornerstone also was laid for the new Motherwell Building on Victoria Avenue, named after Saskatchewan’s first minister of agriculture.

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The first phase of the Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery was completed in 1953. It is named after Norman Mackenzie, a local art collector and member of the board of directors of Regina College. Mackenzie left a large art collection and funds to the college when he died in 1934. The Gallery is now located on Albert Street in the Tommy Douglas Building. Bronze cow sculptures by Joe Fafard “relax” on the lawn.

Television came to Regina in 1954. CKCK television, western Canada’s first privately owned station, began broadcasting in July and was quickly followed by CBC in September.

A new post office on South Railway Street (now Saskatchewan Drive) opened in 1956. The same year a geriatric centre was built. In 1967, this facility became part of Wascana Hospital, which expanded and renamed the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre in 1988. The International Pipe and Steel Company, known by its acronym IPSCO, opened a mill north of the city in 1956.

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited the city in 1959. Regina was booming and construction reached \$35 million that year.

The Regina Plains Historical Museum was founded in 1960. It is now housed on the second floor on the east side of F.W. Hill Mall. The displays give visitors a view of life on the Canadian plains during the early growth of this city.

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Regina grew quickly in the 1960s; over 4,500 residents arrived each year and new areas were annexed to accommodate the growing population. The City began developing the fully-serviced Ross Industrial Park in northeast Regina to promote and facilitate commercial and industrial development. Churches, schools, shopping centres and other facilities were built to take care of the needs of a growing city.

A new Court House was opened in 1961, followed a year later by the new Central Library.

The Wascana Centre Authority was formed in 1962. The Authority is an autonomous body with representation from the province, the City of Regina, and the University of Regina. It oversees operation of Wascana Park, one of North America's largest urban parks.

Regina celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1963. As part of the observance, the cornerstone for the University of Saskatchewan's new Regina Campus was laid. The new Campus became autonomous in 1974 and was renamed the University of Regina.

In 1963, Kalium Corporation began construction of a solution potash mine about 30 miles west of the city and opened an office here. In solution mining, heated water is pumped down a well to dissolve deposits deep underground. The water is then brought to the surface and the potash is recovered.

Changing face of Regina's downtown

Expansion in the 1960s was accompanied by the demolition of several downtown landmarks and the building of new ones. The old Court House and the 1908 City Hall were among the casualties. In 1963, the City of Regina moved City Hall into the old Post Office Building at Scarth Street and 11th Avenue to make way for the Midtown Centre (now called Galleria Mall).

The Saskatchewan Power Corporation, a Crown-owned utility, built its award-winning curved headquarters on Victoria Avenue in 1963. The City sold its electrical generation and distributing facilities and equipment to the provincial power utility during this time.

New construction reached a record pace in 1965 when Regina's first enclosed shopping mall—Northgate Mall—was completed. Work on a new auditorium and convention centre, the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts, began in 1966 and was completed in 1970.

The Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum opened in 1966 in Regina. Many local athletes have been honored. Regina's Ernie Richardson's curling rink made history by winning four world and four Canadian titles in 1959, '60, '62, and '63. The Saskatchewan Roughriders won the Grey Cup for the first time in 1966 and later in 1989.

By the end of the 1960s and early 1970s, the downtown had changed with the completion of the Midtown Centre (now Galleria Mall), Avord Tower, Bank of Commerce Building, Toronto Dominion Bank, and the Regina Inn.

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The Canadian Western Agribition (CWA) held its first show in the fall of 1971. It began as a cattle show with 2,500 head exhibited. It is now the second largest livestock show in North America, attracting over 150,000 of visitors from around the world each year.

In education, both the separate and public school systems amalgamated their elementary and collegiate (high school) boards. The Wascana Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences (WIAAS) opened to train students in various technical skills. WIAAS later became a part of the province-wide training system, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST).

The Simpson Sears catalogue shopping warehouse expanded in 1972. Also that year, the Grey Nuns Hospital was sold to the province and renamed Pasqua Hospital. The South Saskatchewan Base Hospital, later known as the Plains Hospital, opened in the city's southeast in 1973. The Plains Hospital closed 25 years later and re-opened as the SIAST Parkway Campus.

During 1973, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited Regina to celebrate the centennial of the RCMP. The Queen opened the Centennial Museum on the grounds of the RCMP Training Academy.

Also in 1973, Regina hosted the Silver Broom World Curling Championship.

The new City Hall

The new City Hall on Victoria Avenue opened in 1976. The distinctive 16-storey building sits on an attractive, treed site and is “crowned” by a ring of lights at the top of the building. Most civic departments have offices there. As well, City Council meets in Council Chamber, Henry Baker Hall, every other Monday night.

In May 1976, the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College was created at the University of Regina. The College, which started with less than a dozen students, now enrolls over 1,600 students in both degree and certificate programs in a variety of faculties and disciplines.

The Agridome, on the Exhibition Grounds, opened in 1977. It is the home of the Regina Pats Hockey Team and hosts many special events, from rodeos and skating shows to the Royal Red Arabian Horse Show, which started in 1987.

1978 marked the 75th anniversary of Regina’s incorporation as a City. During their royal visit that year, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip unveiled a bronze plaque in front of City Hall naming the area Queen Elizabeth II Court. The Western Canada Farm Progress Show also began in 1978 and has grown to feature more than 700 exhibitors.

In 1979, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, a Crown corporation, moved into the Clarence M. Fines Building at Lorne Street and 11th Avenue.

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Regina celebrated the centennial of its founding in 1982, and Princess Anne visited the city. The following year Regina again hosted the Silver Broom World Curling Championship.

Regina's water supply is primarily drawn from Buffalo Pound Lake, 45 kilometers west of the city. As well, the lake and water treatment facility on its shore supplies drinking and industrial water to Moose Jaw, several smaller communities, and to industrial plants in the Regina and Moose Jaw areas. In 1985, a \$15 million carbon filtration system was added to the treatment plant to address taste and odor problems. Further expansion of the facility took place in 1989. The water supply system is now one of the most advanced in the world, capable of supplying high-quality water to consumers well into the next century.

More than 37 kilometres of pipeline has been twinned from the treatment plant to Regina to ensure increased capacity and security of water supply for Regina residents. The remaining 19 kilometres of twinning is scheduled for completion in the year 2003.

In 1980, Government House opened after restoration to its "turn-of-the-century" elegance. The office of the Lieutenant Governor returned there in 1984. Visitors to the House enjoy a barrier-free walk through Saskatchewan's past.

The Queen Mother visited in 1985, as did the Archbishop of Canterbury. The 9-1-1 emergency telephone number, giving "one call" access to all emergency services, was instituted the same year.

Twinning with the City of Jinan, China

On August 10, 1987, Regina twinned with Jinan to develop exchanges and cooperation involving economy, trade, science, and technology, culture, education and city administration. Jinan is home for five million people and is located 350 kilometres south of China's capital, Beijing.

In 1989, the Co-op Upgrader began operation at the Co-op Oil Refinery. The Upgrader takes the heavy, sulphurous oil produced in Saskatchewan and converts it to a lighter, more useful grade of oil.

The Saskatchewan Science Centre opened in 1989 in the converted electrical generation plant on the shore of Wascana Lake and is one of Saskatchewan's most popular tourist attractions. The hands-on facility makes learning about science a fun-filled adventure. The five-story tall Kramer IMAX Theatre was added in 1991. In the spring of 1999, the Centre opened the SaskTel 3D Laser Theatre, which is one of only ten 3D theatres in the world.

In 1992, Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn visited Regina and, in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, signed the proclamation giving the City its new flag and heraldic crest.

In 1993, Crown Life moved its corporate headquarters from Toronto to Regina. The Farm Credit Corporation also shifted its Ottawa headquarters to here, bringing several hundred employees with them.

A Brief History of Regina

Regina's downtown is part of a development district, Regina's Market Square. The area has seen many changes over the last decade. Scarth Street Mall (now called F.W. Hill Mall) was dedicated by Prince Edward in 1994. Many heritage buildings, such as the North Crown Building (1905) and the Old Post Office (City Hall Mall - 1909) line the pedestrian mall. As well, the twin McCallum Hill Towers at the south end have changed Regina's skyline. The Crown Life Building, one block south, is also new. A series of enclosed pedestrian walkways connect many downtown buildings, including downtown's largest development, the Cornwall Centre, which was completed in the early 1980s.

In 1996, Casino Regina opened in the newly-renovated Union Station. The railway station, built in 1912, had been unused for many years. The \$37-million casino draws thousands of visitors into Regina each month.

Leading the way in sports

Taylor Field, the municipal sports stadium, is home of the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League. The Roughriders won the Grey Cup CFL Championship Game in 1989, and were proud to host the Grey Cup six years later.

In 1992, Regina hosted the Canadian Masters Summer Sports Festival, and the Canadian National Precision Skating Championships.

A Brief History of Regina

During the 1990s, curling confirmed itself as one of Regina's favorite winter sports. The city hosted the Labatt Brier Men's Canadian Championships in 1992. The Sandra Schmirler rink of Regina won three world titles at the Women's World Curling Championships, and captured gold at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

In 1998, the University of Regina Rams captured the 1998 Canadian Bowl Junior Football Championships. The following season, the Rams changed leagues and now compete in the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) league.

Welcoming the 21st Century

Regina continues to grow and prosper. The skyline is constantly changing as new buildings are constructed. Telecommunications, manufacturing, data management, software development, and other technological industries are prospering. Agriculture and natural resources continue to play a strong part in the economy. Regina is a friendly city that retains much of the pioneer spirit that built the West. The city has a strong and vital future ahead of it. And it has an interesting history to look back on with pride.

A Brief History of Regina

Regina's Mayors

From the date of its incorporation as a Town in
December 1883:

1884-1885	D.L. Scott, Q.C.
1886-1887	Dan Mowat
1888	W. Cayley Hamilton, Q.C.
1889	J.W. Smith
1890	J.A. McCaul
1891-1892	R.H. Williams
1893	J.H.C. Willoughby, M.D.
1894	Robert Martin
1895	G.T. Marsh
1896-1897	W.F. Eddy
1898	F.N. Darke
1899	J.K. McInnis
1900-1901	W.T. Mollard
1902-1903	J.W. Smith

From the date of its incorporation as a City
June 19, 1903:

1903	J.W. Smith
1904-1905	H.W. Laird
1906	P.McAra, Jr.
1907-1908	J.W. Smith
1909-1910	R.H. Williams
1911-1912	P. McAra, Jr.
1913-1914	Robert Martin
1915	James Balfour, K.C.
1916-1917	W.D.Cowan, D.D.S.
1918-1919	Henry Black
1920-1922	James Grassick

A Brief History of Regina

1923-1924	S.C. Burton
1925-1926	W.E. Mason
1927-1930	J. McAra
1931	James Balfour
1932-1933	J. McAra
1934-1935	Cornelius Rink
1936-1939	A.C. Ellison
1940-1941	James Grassick
1942-1944	C.C. Williams
1945-1946	T.G. McNall
1947-1948	Hugh McGillivray
1949-1951	G.N. Menzies
1952-1953	Gordon B. Grant
1954-1956	L.H. Hammond
1957-1958	T.H. Cowburn
1959-1970	H.H.P. Baker
1971-1973	H.G.R. Walker
1974-1979	H.H.P. Baker
1980-1988	Larry Schneider
Oct 1988	Doreen E. Hamilton
1988 -2000	Douglas R. Archer
2000-	Pat Fiacco

To learn more about the City of Regina, visit our website
at:

www.regina.ca