



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

Overlanders 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 in 1961.

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 Overlanders was included within the Hermitage Outline Plan area. The neighbourhood was subdivided in 1977 and building commenced within a year.

Almost all of the neighbourhood's single-detached houses and one third of the row houses were built by the end of the 1970s. Apartment housing and the majority of row housing structures were constructed during the 1980s. Links to other Hermitage neighbourhoods are provided by collector roads and a system of bicycle and pedestrian pathways. A multi purpose educational and recreational site is located at the centre of the neighbourhood and there is access to the river valley on the neighbourhood's north side.

The neighbourhood was named Overlanders to commemorate a group of miners who travelled by Red River cart from Fort Gary to the Cariboo gold fields. A number of the miners abandoned this trek and settled in Edmonton in 1862. Victoria Trail, on the east boundary of Overlanders, was named after a pair of trails that ran parallel to the North Saskatchewan River from the earliest days of the Edmonton settlement. After 1864, the trail followed the river northeast to the Methodist mission at Victoria.