

# a history in residence

While the housing shortage continues to be a problem in Edmonton and the University scrambles to try to meet the needs of its ever-growing population, it's not the first time this issue has arisen. Since the University's earliest days, finding housing for students, profs, and even the premier has been a tricky endeavour. Here's a look back at how student housing has evolved since the first University opened its doors in 1908.

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## solid foundations

### 1910: Rutherford House is constructed

This notable campus home is built for Alexander Rutherford, then the premier of Alberta. Later, it will be handed to the Delta Upsilon fraternity. Today, it remains as a historical site.

### 1910: Ten "Ring Houses" are built

With a dearth of both housing and public transportation in the Strathcona area, ten houses are constructed on the south bank of the river, forming an eponymous ring. These would serve as housing for the first professors.

### 1911: Athabasca Hall opens

The first building on campus opens with the completion of Athabasca Hall. The hall serves as an all-purpose building, with living quarters, the library, classrooms, and the President's office all jammed in together. Assiniboia Hall opens the next year, and everything but the residents are moved over from Athabasca. Pembina opens in 1914. When it becomes the exclusive home to female students; in 1919, Athabasca becomes a male-only residence.

### 1929: Fraternities and sororities approved on campus

The decision is finally made to allow secret societies on campus, overturning a previous ban.

The first groups given the privilege of being allowed on campus are three women's groups and two men's: Phi Gamma, Alpha Upsilon, Sigma Iota, the Atheneans, and the Rocky Mountain Goats.

Other groups would exist on campus as student groups that acted like fraternities, but wouldn't be given the designation until later. Today, the Greek system provides an extensive housing network for both male and female students.



## growth formula



### 1962: Lister Hall Opens

Lister Hall is built with the Kelsey and Henday towers. Henday is designated the male-only tower, while Kelsey is strictly reserved for females. The third tower (MacKenzie) opens six years later, in 1968. Until the early 1980s, tenants of Lister are only allowed to intermingle with the opposite sex in the main cafeteria.

### 1961: Expansion into Garneau begins

Faced with the need to expand campus, the University begins obtaining parts of the Garneau community and demolishing old buildings to make way for new ones. The residents of Garneau are less than fond of this plan, and begin a campaign to try to stop University expansion.

Using a combination of protests, historical designation, and political lobbying, the residents of Garneau slow University development and ultimately bring it to a halt.

### 1967: Michener Park opens

Created to provide one section with 299 two-bedroom apartments and another section with 300 two- and three-bedroom apartments, the residence provides family and communal housing to students for decades to come. The park was named after the late Rt Hon Roland Michener, Governor-General from 1967–1974.

### 1968: SU gives birth to HUB

The Students' Union announces extravagant plans for its own Students' Housing Union Building, or HUB. The proposed structure is envisioned with the ability to house approximately 1000 students in three different units designed to provide varying degrees of privacy and cost. One such option calls for 400 300-square-foot bachelor suites that would each include a bedroom, a kitchen, and a bathroom for only \$90 per month. It's also speculated that these one-man apartments could theoretically hold two people, provided they're willing to live in cramped conditions.

To add to the complexity of the project, the Students' Union plans for the building to be connected to both Rutherford Libraries, the Arts building, Fine Arts, Law, Physics, Chemical Engineering, Cameron, and even Biological Sciences—allowing students living in HUB never to go outside ever again.

To ensure that this project will be fiscally sound, the Students' Union decides to add a few business ventures into the mix. They offer areas for services like groceries, dry cleaning, and recreational activities, and build a walkway for specialty shops, food outlets, and lounge areas. Another business venture is a large parkade to be constructed right beside the mall to provide tenants with parking space for only \$8 per month.

When it opens in 1972, HUB is the pride of the SU. For a time, it is the only residence in Canada controlled by students and also one of the longest mall boardwalks in the world—but the fiscal headaches would plague the SU for years.



a hub of activity