

Stanford, G. H. *To Serve the Community: The Story of Toronto's Board of Trade*. Toronto: Published for the Board of Trade by University of Toronto Press, 1974. Pp. vi, 270. Illustrations. \$12.50

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Covering the past 140 years, this history of the Toronto Board of Trade was written by a long time staff member of the Board. As an "official" history, it has obvious weaknesses in that it rarely takes a critical view of the activities of the Board. On the other hand, this book offers a much needed "inside" view of one of Toronto's most important organizations and for this reason alone is extremely valuable. Also, since the Board of Trade was intimately involved in numerous community activities, this history reveals and discusses many of the forces which shaped Toronto and are responsible for its present character.

Originally a convocation of businessmen who needed a meeting place to conduct trade, discuss matters of mutual concern, and protect their working environment, the Board of Trade gradually expanded its scope over the years. As the city of Toronto grew, so too did the Board. Within the formal structure of the organization, sections were formed responsible for a variety of commercial interests. Areas such as harbour development, transportation, immigration, urban planning, tourism, banking, charities, taxes, tariffs, municipal administration, and more, were all affected by the opinions and actions of the Board. For although the Board was essentially an organization of Toronto businessmen, its members never restricted themselves to purely business concerns. Throughout its history, the Board always kept the viewpoint and interests of the private sector in the forefront of community development.

To Serve the Community contains an interesting collection of photographs, most of which come from the records of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].