

## Current Research in Canadian Urban History

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CURRENT RESEARCH IN CANADIAN URBAN HISTORY

The growth of interest in Canada's urban past is evident by the number of publications and completed theses in several disciplines that have recently appeared. And yet, judging by the amount of research currently underway, we have seen only the tip of the iceberg. The following is a preliminary list of researchers and projects partly based on a questionnaire I sent out last July. It is certainly far from complete; I would estimate it includes no more than two-thirds of those working in the field. Publication here hopefully will remind those whose names do not appear to submit their research topics to me for inclusion in subsequent years.

The list includes 130 researchers, working on various places and themes and employing a variety of methodologies. Almost all are associated with a university; more than half (75) are working for a graduate degree, but many of these are also full-time faculty members. Several are employed by government branches such as the National Museum of Man. Unfortunately the list does not include writers of popular urban biographies for they seem to work in isolation from the academic community (eg. Paul O'Neill on St. John's). It must be mentioned that many of those whose names appear here do not regard themselves as "urban historians". However, their research relates explicitly or implicitly to the historical development of particular cities and towns or to the broader aspects of urbanization in the past. A fairly broad spectrum of disciplines in addition to history is included. Geographers are by far the most active among the social scientists while the interest among those in planning and architecture appears to be growing. On the other hand, relatively few sociologists or economists seem concerned with the historical dimension of urban studies. The involvement by geographers has been accompanied by a tendency by some whose training and research interest were not Canadian to make the Canadian city a part of, or the primary portion of their work (eg. James T. Lemon, Deryk Holdsworth, Fred Dahms). Among historians, several whose work is well known in other areas of Canadian history have recently become involved to varying degrees in urban history (eg. T.W. Acheson, William Kilbourn, Patricia Roy, and John Saywell).

Regionally, the study of urban history is heavily concentrated in Ontario (74 out of 130 listed) with the University of Toronto and its graduate program long a leader in this field. But there are signs of decentralization, most obviously in the West (26; 16 on prairies, 10 in B.C.), but also in the Atlantic provinces (19). Quebec's scholars have other priorities (only 10 are listed here but this is surely not complete), but the significant research project on 19th century Montreal society at the Université du Québec à Montréal led by Paul-André Linteau, Jean-Claude Robert, and Jean-Paul Bernard undoubtedly will provide the example and the stimulus to new interest in this region.

The local nature of urban history is reflected in the high degree of correlation between where you work and what place you work on. Only Ontario-based academics are studying places in regions other than where they live to any appreciable degree. Research topics which can be directly related to a specific region include 46 for Ontario, with 25 on the West (prairies 18; B.C. 7), 20 on the Atlantic provinces and 19 on Quebec. The study of particular cities corresponds to this regional pattern. Toronto is the most avidly examined place (26), followed by Montreal (13). At least 7 are working on Vancouver; 5 on Winnipeg; 4 on St. John's, Saint John and Quebec City; 3 on Halifax, Hamilton, Calgary and Kingston. The renaissance of research on St. John's, Saint John and Kingston, after being neglected for more than 100 years, is noteworthy. By comparison, Ottawa, Victoria and the Saskatchewan cities are being relatively ignored.

In terms of approach, the emphasis appears to have shifted away from economic topics and the traditional biography to what is generally described as "social" history (36). This includes everything from systematic analyses of social structure to descriptions of institutions and groups. Of the systematic projects, the Hamilton study directed by Michael Katz has led the way in finding new methods for understanding family and class in 19th century urban society. Several studies of particular ethnic groups in cities are underway and there is some indication of interest in the relationship between the urban setting and social institutions such as the church and the school. Those who deal with economic growth (15) are broadening their concerns beyond a previous emphasis on the role of the business elite, and those working on

government and politics (15) tend toward reform movements. A growing number of researchers are finally examining aspects of Canadian urban history which have become highly specialized sub-fields in British and U.S. urban history; these include the study of the social implications of spatial expansion (12), the history of planning (10) and housing or housing policy (5). There are still very few efforts being made to compare Canadian cities with those elsewhere; a notable exception is Norbert MacDonald's comparison of Vancouver and Seattle. Current work on over-all explanations or descriptions of Canadian urban development includes the analysis of metropolitanism by J.M.S. Careless. The urban biography, often in disrepute in the academic community (and for good reason) is making a comeback in a new format in the projected Urban Biography Series to be published by the National Museum of Man and edited by Alan Artibise. A biographical approach, in which the relationships between a variety of factors in a city's development are examined, could prove to be an important addition to Canadian urban history as has been demonstrated by Artibise's Winnipeg. Chronologically, the great bulk of research concentrates on the late 19th and 20th centuries, understandable in a country where a high degree of urbanization is a relatively recent phenomenon. The result, however, has been a lack of serious examination of the origins of cities during the 17th and 18th centuries in French Canada and the Atlantic provinces.

This list represents a first attempt to determine the scope and nature of research on Canada's urban past. It will probably be revised and enlarged annually. Information on the extent to which Canadian urban history is being taught at the university and college level hopefully will be available in this Review next year, based on the response to a questionnaire included in the last issue of the Review. I suspect that teaching lags considerably behind research, at least as far as formal course designations are concerned, but perhaps the great expansion of research indicates that the urban dimension is becoming part of the general approach to teaching and understanding Canada's past.

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ABBOTT JR Hist Dept Algoma Coll: education and dynamics of urb dev; the case of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

ACHESON TW Hist Dept UNB: hist of Saint John 1814-1860.

- ALCORN RS and IGARTUA JE Hist Dept UWO: impact of urbanization on non-urban places in Central Canada 1871-1911.
- ANDERSON JD (prof JK Masson) Pol Sci Dept U of Alta: influence of municipal reform movements in western Canadian cities (PhD Alta).
- ARMSTRONG C Hist Dept York U: hist of electrical utilities in Canada's cities 1880-1930 (with HV Nelles).
- ARMSTRONG FH Hist Dept UWO: 1. dev of Toronto to 1850 (bk in prospect Urb Biog Series) 2. some leading urb business figures in Toronto, London, Windsor, Hamilton, Montreal (for DCB) 3. dev of London.
- ARTIBISE AFJ Hist Div National Museum of Man, Ottawa: 1. hist of Winnipeg 1874-1974 (bk in prospect, Urb Biog Series) 2. Western Canadian urb dev 1880's-1960's (Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon).
- BAKER J (prof GA Stelter): the rise of a secondary metropolitan center; Kitchener-Waterloo (MA Guelph).
- BAKER M (prof JK Hiller): the govt of St. John's, 1888-1902 (MA Memorial).
- BATOR PA (prof AC Gluek): housing reform in Toronto 1907-1920 (PhD Toronto).
- BECK J: Catholic-relief in Toronto during depression (PhD McMaster).
- BELLAN RC Econ Dept U of Manitoba: evol of Canada's urb econ.
- BETKE C (prof LG Thomas) Asst Historian RCMP Ottawa: urb social dev in Edmonton 1898-1929 (PhD Alta).
- BINDON KM (prof D Swainson): Kingston, Ont., social hist 1785-1830 (PhD Queen's).
- BLANEY J (prof GA Stelter): Thomas Adams and town planning in Canada (PhD Guelph).
- BLOOMFIELD GT Geog Dept Guelph: 1. urb transport in NZ cities 1870-1950 2. evol of local govt areas NZ 1840- 3. the country town in 19th c Ont.
- BRADBURY B (prof G Cook): Vancouver suburbs in early depression years (MA Simon Fraser).
- BREBNER LB (prof GA Stelter): from town core to periphery; St. James Ward, Toronto, 1860's (MA Guelph).
- BROCK DJ (prof D Farrell): origin, growth and dev of London Ont to 1846 (PhD Guelph).
- BROUILLARD P (profs A Dubuc, P-A Linteau, J-P Bernard): Le port de Montréal 1850-1896 (MA Québec à Montréal).
- BURNS RJ (prof FH Armstrong): dev of elite in Toronto in 19th c (PhD UWO).

- CARELESS JMS Hist Dept U of T: 1. rise of the Canadian City 1815-1914  
2. metropolitanism and regionalism in Canada 1760-1940.
- CLARKE IH (prof JE Rea): Winnipeg Street Railway Co 1892-1953 (PhD Manitoba).
- COOMBS D (prof JT Saywell): changing soc structure of Toronto 1860-1914 (PhD York).
- COPP T Hist Dept Wilfrid Laurier U: working class in Montreal 1929-1951.
- CRANE MP and MANNION JJ Geog Dept Memorial U: reproduction of historic photographs of Nfld 1875-1945.
- CROSS DS (prof J Monet): growth and development of Montreal 1861-1892 (PhD Ottawa).
- CROWLEY T Hist Dept Guelph U: econ and admin hist of Louisbourg 1713-1758.
- CUTHBERT-BRANDT G (prof R Cook): soc and demographic study of French Canadians of Sudbury 1883-1913 (PhD York).
- DAHMS FA Geog Dept U of Guelph: 1. evol of central places in Southern Ont 1851- 2. dev of refined quantitative measure of commercial importance of Central Places in the past.
- DEN OTTER AA Hist Dept Memorial U: entrepreneurial impact upon community dev in western Canada.
- DOUCET M (prof JT Lemon): land conversion in 19th C Hamilton (PhD Toronto).
- ESPESET H (prof J Hamelin): le mouvement ouvrier dans la ville de Québec 1840-1880 (D es L Laval).
- FARRELL D Hist Dept Guelph U: Detroit during the British regime.
- FIERHELLER J: Hamilton social hist in late 19th C (PhD McMaster).
- FINGARD J Hist Dept Dalhousie U: impact of merchant seamen on 19th C Canadian ports.
- FIRTH D (prof S Trofimenkoff): urb Fr Canada and the epidemic; evol of Montreal's response to a crisis 1885-1918 (MA Ottawa).
- FORAN ML Calgary Board of Ed: 1. hist of Calgary 1875-1974 (bk in prospect, Urb Biog Series) 2. land useage and patterns of development, Calgary.
- FOSTER K (prof B Koester): early hist of Moose Jaw (MA Sask Regina).
- FRASER BJ (prof W. Brehaut): ed and neighborhood; ed work of Social Settlements in Toronto 1902-1918 (MA Toronto).
- GANTON IK (prof JT Lemon): dev process in mid-19th C Toronto (PhD Toronto).

GAUVIN M (prof J Levitt): board of control and commission of administration in Montreal 1910-1921 (PhD Ottawa).

GERTLER LO Urban and Regional Planning School U of Waterloo: 1. Canadian urb dev, national settlement pattern, pop dist, regional settlement form; problems, policy choices 2. concept of regional city in Canada.

GILPIN J (prof LH Thomas): Strathcona, Alta., 1899-1912 (MA Alta).

GOUCY-ROY C (profs P-A Linteau, A Dubuc, J-C Robert): Le quartier Sainte-Marie à Montréal 1850-1900 (MA Québec à Montréal).

GRAESSER MW Pol Sci Dept Memorial U: 1. attitudes towards regional govt in St. John's 2. attitudes toward local govt in rural Nfld.

GRAFF HJ Hist and Ed Dept Texas U at Dallas: 1. literacy and social structure in 19th C city 2. hist of family and education.

HAGARTY L (prof A Rose): the family at home: a comparison of time budgets of families in high-rise apts and single-family houses in metro Toronto (DSW Toronto).

GUNTON T School of Comm & Regional Planning UBC: hist of planning in Canada--aspects of social change.

HARKER H (prof LO Gertler) Urb and Regional Planning School U of Waterloo: regional settlement policy, Canadian Resource Frontier; the Yukon case (PhD Waterloo).

HARVEY LA (prof L. Upton): Ottawa's Irish 1825-1870 (PhD British Columbia).

HEINTZMAN R (prof R Cook): Montreal press and problem of economic growth, 1896-1911 (PhD York).

HISELER L (prof AM Evans): wartime housing policy; case study of Halifax (PhD Guelph).

HOLDSWORTH DW (prof W Hardwick) Geog Dept UBC: cultural taste and residential urban landscape; the contributions of realtors and builders to industrial vernacular architecture (PhD UBC).

HOMEL G (prof DP Morton): career of Jimmy Simpson, Toronto politician and socialist 1890-1937 (PhD Toronto).

HUZEL BW (prof I MacPherson): public transit in Winnipeg 1880-1914 (MA Manitoba).

JARVIS E (prof FH Armstrong): emerging metropolis; social and admin study of Toronto in 1860's (PhD UWO).

JOHNSON L Hist Dept Waterloo U: hist of Guelph (bk in prospect for 150th anniversary).

JOY J (prof DG Alexander): growth and dev of trades and manuf in St. John's 1870-1914 (MA Memorial).

- KALMAN H Dept Fine Arts UBC: architectural hist of Vancouver.
- KATZ M Hist Dept York U: family and class in mid-19th C Hamilton (to be published by Harvard and McClelland and Stewart early in 1976).
- KEALY GS Hist Dept Dalhousie U: 1. Toronto working class 1865-1892  
2. poverty in Toronto 1860-1914.
- KILBOURN W Hist Dept York U and Exec Alderman City of Toronto: anthology of writing on Toronto (to be pub by Macmillan of Can, 1975).
- KLASSEN HC Hist Dept U of Calgary: social hist of Calgary 1875-1914.
- KOROSCIL PM Geog Dept Simon Fraser U: 1. hist dev of Whitehorse Yukon Terr., 1900-1971 (bk in prospect, Urb Biog Series) 2. the Dunsmuir and the urban dev of Vancouver Island 3. the politicians and wage earner; GG McGeer and the city of Vancouver 1934-35.
- LAFRANCE M (Parcs Canada) & RUDEL T (Musée national de l'Homme): elements de l'urbanisation de la ville de Québec 1790-1840.
- LAMONDE Y Centré d'Etudes Canadiennes-Françaises McGill U: Associations et la Culture Urbaine 1840-1867.
- LEMON JT Geog Dept U of Toronto: 1. comparative urb dev--local govt, planning, citizen's groups in Can, US, UK, 1880 to present 2. urbanization in early SE Pennsylvania.
- LEVINE GJ (prof BG Osborne): residential mobility in Kingston in 1860-61; an experiment in record linkage (MA Queen's).
- LINTEAU, P-A, ROBERT J-C, & BERNARD J-P Hist Dept Québec à Montréal U: la societe Montrealaise au 19e siecle.
- LOEBEL P (prof B-Z Shapiro): the municipal planning process; implications for social welfare (DSW Toronto).
- MACLEOD D (prof JMS Careless): social perceptions and social change in industrializing 19th C urban center in Ontario (PhD Toronto).
- MACDONALD N Hist Dept UBC: comparative hist study of Seattle and Vancouver.
- MARTEL E (profs P-A Linteau, J-P Bernard, A Dubuc): Les industries a Montréal en 1871 (MA Quebec a Montreal).
- MCCALLA D, JONES E Hist Dept Trent U: hist of Toronto, 19th C; continuity and change in municipal politics.
- MCCANN L Geog Dept Mount Allison U: urb growth & economic dev in Maritime Provs in 19th C.
- MCDUGALL H (prof JMS Careless): public health in Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton, Ottawa 1883-1914 (PhD Toronto).



- MCGAHAN B (prof W MacNutt): the winter port of Saint John NB (PhD UNB).
- MCKEE WC (prof PE Roy): parks in early Vancouver (MA Victoria).
- MILLS DB (prof JJ Mannion): the evol of trad house forms in Trinity Bay Nfld (MA Memorial U).
- MOORE P (prof JW Simmons): evol of land use restrictions in Toronto (PhD Toronto).
- NADER GA Geog Dept Trent U: applicability of British new town concepts to planning of Can metro regions.
- NORRIS DA (prof RL Gentilcore) Geog Dept McMaster U: growth and decline of small market centres in Southern Ontario (PhD McMaster) 2. 19th C Ont. vernacular houses.
- NORTON GR (prof L Chiaramonte): municipal politics in St. John's (MA Memorial U).
- O'GALLAGHER M (prof J Monet): hist of Irish in Quebec City 1830-1860 (MA Ottawa).
- PICKERSGILL A (prof H Whalen): regional govt in Nfld (MA Memorial U).
- PUCCI A (prof JD Wilson): the Italian community in Fort William's east end in early 20th C (MA Lakehead).
- RADFORD JP Geog Dept York U: soc geog of late 19th C Toronto.
- REILLY N (prof D Sutherland): urban-industrial growth under the National Policy in Cumberland County, NS (PhD Dalhousie).
- RICHTIK JM Geog Dept U of Winnipeg: growth and dev of Winnipeg to 1886.
- RIENDEAU R (prof JMS Careless): crisis in municipal finance; Toronto in the 1930's (PhD Toronto).
- ROBB SA (prof GA Rawlyk) Hist Dept U PEI: violence and the Halifax mob to 1815 (PhD Queen's).
- ROBERT J-C (prof D Richet) Hist Dept U Québec à Montréal: Montréal 1821-1871; aspects de l'urbanisation (PhD Ecole Pratique de Hautes Etudes).
- ROBERTS DJ (prof SF Wise): a city and the census--a quant study of pop of Saint John NB (MA Carleton).
- ROSE A Fac Social Work U of Toronto: Canadian housing policies 1935-75.
- ROY PE Hist Dept U Victoria: biog of Vancouver (for Urb Biog Series).
- RUDIN RE (prof J Saywell): Montreal and the urb dev of Quebec (PhD York).

- SAYWELL JT Hist and Envir Studies Dept York U: 1. housing study in 1920's 2. growth of Toronto.
- SAXTON P (prof CD Howell): local community self consciousness and the Am Rev in NS (MA St. Mary's).
- SCARLETT MJ Geog Dept Memorial U: spatial patterns of urb core land use in St. John's, 1920-1970.
- SEGUIN N (prof J Monet) Hist Dept U Québec à Chicoutimi: Notre-Dame d'Hebertville 1850-1914 (PhD Ottawa).
- SELWOOD HJ Geog Dept U of Winnipeg 1. growth and dev of Winnipeg in streetcar era 2. growth and dev of Perth, Western Australia to 1970.
- SEMPLE N (prof JMS Careless): impact of urbanization on Methodist Church in Central Canada 1855-1880 (PhD Toronto).
- SHEA DS (prof W Brehaut): education and the episcopate; Anglican episcopate in diocese of Toronto 1839-1972 (PhD Toronto).
- SIMMONS JW Geog Dept Toronto U: dev of Canadian urban system 1851 to present.
- SITWELL OFG Cultural Geog Dept U of Alberta: dev of urban spatial organization and architecture on Canadian prairies 1880-1914.
- SMITH PJ Geog Dept U of Alta: 1. impact of urban planning decisions on the physical evolution of Edmonton and Calgary since 1945 2. local govt influences on the physical evolution of Edinburgh since 1850.
- SNELL J Hist Dept Guelph U: American metropolitanism and its impact on British North America, 1864-71.
- SPENCER SF: dev of Toronto in 1880's (PhD UWO).
- SPEISMAN SA (prof GM Craig): the Jews of Toronto; a hist to 1935 (PhD Toronto).
- SPRAGGE S (prof G Tulchinsky): housing reform in Toronto (PhD Queen's).
- ST. AMANT M (prof WJ Eccles): Montreal merchant community 1663-1800 (PhD Toronto).
- STE-CROIX L (prof JMS Careless): Kingston Ont 1812-1867; study in econ decline and pol dev (PhD Toronto).
- STELTER GA Hist Dept U Guelph: 1. survey of Canadian urban dev 2. resource-based communities.
- STURINO F (prof HM Troper): post WWII south Italian immig to Toronto (PhD Toronto).
- SUTHERLAND DA Hist Dept Dalhousie U: 19th C Halifax and its aspirations for regional metropolitan status.

SYKES S (prof FH Armstrong): evol of the London business community 1826-1914 (MA UWO).

TARASKA E (prof D Bercuson): Calgary labor movement 1900-1920 (MA Calgary).

TAYLOR J Hist Dept Carleton U: 1. social welfare in western cities  
2. 19th C Ottawa.

TULCHINSKY GJ Hist Dept Queen's U: hist of Montreal 1830-1914.

TYLER RM (prof JK Roberts): community study of Leaf Rapids (MA Sask Regina).

VAN NUS W (prof C Berger) Hist Dept U Alta: dev of urb planning in Canada since 1900 (PhD Toronto).

VOISEY P: some aspects of frontier social hist in Western Canada 1880-1916 (MA Calgary).

WALLACE CM Hist Dept Laurentian U: hist of Saint John NB, 1860-1920.

WEAVER JC Hist Dept McMaster U: urb problems and reformers 1890-1920.

WHITESIDE J (profs D McCalla & E Jones): the Toronto stock exchange 1852-1900 (MA Trent U).

WIESMAN B School of Community and Regional Planning UBC: hist of urb planning in Canada since 1876--the institutional response.