

# Urban History Review Revue d'histoire urbaine

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## Notes and Comments

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

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Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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DAVID BREEN teaches history at the University of British Columbia. He recently completed a volume on Calgary for Canada's Visual History, a joint project of the National Museum of Man and the National Film Board of Canada.

DAVID B. KNIGHT is a member of the Geography Department at Carleton University. He is the author of two recent books on the question of choosing a capital city for Canada. Both volumes are reviewed in this issue.

BILL MCKEE is an archivist at the City of Vancouver Archives. He recently completed his M.A. in History at the University of Victoria.

EDWARD C.H. PHELPS is Curator of the Regional Collection at the Library of the University of Western Ontario. He is a member of the National Archives Appraisal Board and has served on numerous committees concerned with London's heritage.

WILLIAM A.S. SARJEANT is a member of the Geology Department of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Through his interest in the preservation of the C.P.R. Station building he became involved with the Saskatoon Environmental Society and spearheaded its campaign for provincial heritage legislation. He was recently described by Heritage Canada as a "leading light on the preservation scene".

WARREN F. STECK is a graduate of McGill University and is currently a research officer at the Prairie Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council in Saskatoon. A long-time member of the Saskatoon Environmental Society, he acted as its representative on the Saskatoon Environment Advisory Council in 1973-1974.

JOHN H. TAYLOR is a member of the History Department at Carleton University and is a co-editor of the Urban History Review. His current research is concerned with the development of Ottawa.

JOHN WEAVER teaches history at McMaster University in Hamilton. His current research includes a history of Hamilton as part of the History of Canadian Cities Series, a project sponsored by the National Museum of Man.

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In addition to the contributors listed above who wrote articles for this issue, a number of other individuals submitted material for the "Notes and Comments" section. The editors of the Review wish to acknowledge their aid. They are: LOUIS CARDINAL, MARGARET CONRAD, JAMES FRASER, R. SCOTT JAMES, and GILBERT A. STELTER.

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#### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The cover photograph is of the intersection of Seymour and Robson in Vancouver and was taken by William J. Moore on May 30, 1928. Moore was a commercial photographer in Vancouver from 1912 to 1954. Starting in 1933 he provided the City Archives with an inexpensive but excellent photo service. The cover photograph is part of the J.S. Matthews photo collection of the City of Vancouver Archives.

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#### BACK ISSUES OF THE URBAN HISTORY REVIEW

Back issues of all numbers published to date are still available. They can be obtained by sending a cheque or money order to: Marketing Services Division, National Museums Canada, 360 Lisgar Street, Ottawa K1A 0M8. The issues published in 1972, 1973 and 1974 are available at \$2.00 for three numbers, or \$1.00 each. The 1975, 1976 and 1977 issues are available at \$3.00 for three numbers, or \$1.00 each. The sixteen issues published to date are listed below:

1972  
No. 1-72 (February, 1972)  
No. 2-72 (June, 1972)  
No. 3-73 (November, 1973)

1973  
No. 1-73 (May, 1973)  
No. 2-73 (October, 1973)  
No. 3-73 (February, 1974)

<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
No. 1-74 (June, 1974)	No. 1-75 (June, 1975)
No. 2-74 (October, 1974)	No. 2-75 (October, 1975)
No. 3-74 (February, 1975)	No. 3-75 (February, 1976)
<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
No. 1-76 (June, 1976)	No. 1-77 (June, 1977)
No. 2-76 (October, 1976)	
No. 3-76 (February, 1977)	

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#### URBAN HISTORY GROUP

#### CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The group met at the Canadian Historical Association annual meeting in Fredericton on June 3rd. The next meeting will be at Carleton University in November.

#### 1. Urban History Review.

Because the size of the Review has grown substantially beyond that originally expected, the group recommended that the subscription rate could be raised to \$5.00 annually if thought necessary by the National Museum of Man. This change will probably take place in 1978.

Members of the Urban History Group are reminded that they function as an editorial advisory board; the editors of the Review hope to receive material on regional activities, abstracts of recently completed theses, and suggestions for articles and book reviews.

#### 2. Canadian Urban History Conference, University of Guelph, May 1977.

The conference was a success in bringing people from a variety of disciplines together. Registration was considerably over 200.

There has been a good deal of interest in the availability of papers. Alan Artibise and I will be editing at least two volumes based on papers presented at the conference. Details regarding publication will appear in the next issue of the Review.

#### 3. Urban History Sessions at the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meetings.

A. University of Western Ontario, London, June 1978.

One session has been accepted by the Canadian Historical Association program committee. It is "Social Organization in Canadian Resource Towns" and includes papers by Doug Baldwin (Guelph) on Cobalt and Gail Brandt (York) on the French-Canadians of Sudbury. A second session on the subject of "Archives and Urban History" is being organized by R. Scott James of the City of Toronto Archives.

B. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, June 1979.

Suggestions have been made to have sessions on Saskatoon and/or prairie cities. Persons interested in these or other topics should contact John Taylor, Department of History, Carleton University, Ottawa.

4. Committee Membership.

In order to extend our contacts beyond a narrow disciplinary boundary and to maintain regional coverage, several new members have joined the committee. The revised list for 1977-1978 is :

John Taylor (Chairman)	Carleton
A. F. J. Artibise	Victoria
J. M. S. Careless	Toronto
John Gilpin	Alberta Government
John Hiller	Memorial
Scott James	Toronto City Archives
Michael Katz	York
James Lemon	Toronto
Paul-Andre Linteau	Québec à Montréal
Larry McCann	Mount Allison
D. A. Muise	National Museum of Man
Gilbert Stelter	Guelph
John Weaver	McMaster
Brian Young	McGill

5. New Chairman.

Effective June 1977, the Chairman of the Urban History Group is Professor John Taylor of Carleton University. Any correspondence regarding the group should be directed to him.

Gilbert A. Stelter  
Chairman,  
Urban History Group.

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## THE HISTORY OF CANADIAN CITIES SERIES

The first volume in the History of Canadian Cities series was published in October. It is Alan F.J. Artibise, Winnipeg: An Illustrated History. Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 1977. Pp. 224. Index. 100 photographs plus maps and illustrations. \$8.95 paper. \$12.95 cloth.

This volume is the first to be published in the series (formerly called the Urban Biography Series) and it will be followed by other volumes which will appear in the near future. These include histories of Calgary, Whitehorse, Toronto (2 volumes), Montreal (2 volumes), Halifax, Vancouver, Saint John, Kitchener, Fredericton, and Hamilton.

The series format features a large number of photographs and a standardized presentation of cartographic materials and statistical appendices which will make these volumes an invaluable basic reference for comparative urban studies.

The History of Canadian Cities series is a project of the National Museum of Man and the volumes are published by James Lorimer and Company in Association with the museum. The series is under the general editorship of Alan F.J. Artibise and D.A. Muise.

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### REAL ESTATE MAPS OF SEVERAL CANADIAN CITIES

Last fall, two groups of real estate maps, or plats, of large cities in Canada were acquired by the National Map Collection of the Public Archives of Canada. These maps were produced by Nirenstein's National Realty Map Company of Springfield, Massachusetts. The first group, dated 1929, includes Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. The other group consists of the "Canadian Atlas", published by the company in 1955. It contains maps of Hamilton, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, Saint John, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria.

The maps show the central business districts of the cities; the 1955 ones include a few suburban shopping centres. The scale of the maps varies from 40 to 110 feet to the inch. Each building is identified and the following information is given: the address, the dimensions, the construction material of the entire building or its façade, the number of floors, the owner's name, the name of the occupant of the ground floor and the city's assessment of the land and its building valuation. In addition, the 1955 maps show the retail-trade density of the streets as a percentage, and the bus lines. Some of the information is coded. For example, L-363, B-48, 3S indicates a three-storey building with a stone front, valued at \$48,000, with a property value of \$363,000.

In the 1955 atlas, there is supplementary textual and pictorial data.

For each city there are statistics on the population, banks, newspapers, colleges and universities, chain stores, business districts, main industries, main shopping days and transportation. A short history of the city is also included. This detailed outline of the city is completed by the inclusion of numerous photographs.

The maps were specifically intended for real estate agents, who could then provide appraisers, investors, retailers, brokers, etc. with an idea of the economic and physical nature of the business district in order to estimate investment risks. For example, knowing what types of stores were in an area would enable one to predict what type of clientele a new business would attract at the outset. One could also determine the number of similar businesses and the benefit or risk involved in starting up a new one. Similarly, the indication of the retail-trade density as a percentage could guide an investor to the most favourable sectors. Today, these maps are no longer used for this purpose. However, they are excellent documentation for the study of commerce in our cities at two precise points in time and of the changes that occurred in the intervening period. They are also an indication of the many applications of cartography.

The following is a list of the realty maps acquired by the Collection. You will note in reading the list that the 1929 maps were to be part of a publication presenting North America's major cities in alphabetical order; in several cases, there are maps of American cities on the reverse of the sheets of Canadian cities. For example, Toledo, Ohio and Trenton, N.J. appear on the reverse of the Toronto sheets. The 1955 atlas contains only Canadian cities.

A) 1929 maps:

- Montreal, Quebec, 1 sheet, both sides, 1:1,200
- Omaha, Nebraska, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:1,200
- Ottawa, Ontario, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:1,200
- Toledo, Ohio, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:1,200
- Toronto, Ontario, 2 sheets, 1 side each, 1:1,200
- Trenton, New Jersey, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:1,200.

B) 1955 maps:

- Hamilton, Ontario, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:900  
The Centra Mall, 1/2 sheet
- London, Ontario, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:900
- Montreal, Quebec, 2 sheets, 1 side each, 1:900  
Dorval Gardens Shopping Centre, 1/2 sheet

- Ottawa, Ontario, 2 sheets, 1 side each, 1:900  
Westgate Shopping Centre, 1/2 sheet
- Quebec City, Quebec, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:720
- Saint John, New Brunswick, 1 sheet, 1:480
- Toronto, Ontario, 2 sheets, 1 side each, 1:1,320
- Vancouver, British Columbia, 2 sheets, 1 side each, 1:1,200  
Outlying business districts, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:720
- Victoria, British Columbia, 1 sheet, 1 side, 1:720

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#### CARTES IMMOBILIÈRES DE QUELQUES GRANDES VILLES CANADIENNES

La Collection nationale de cartes et plans des Archives publiques du Canada a acquis l'automne dernier deux groupes de cartes immobilières des grandes villes canadiennes. Ces cartes furent produites par la Nirenstein's National Realty Map Co. de Springfield, Massachusetts. Le premier groupe, des cartes de 1929, montre Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto et Vancouver. L'autre groupe constitue le "Canadian Atlas" publié par la compagnie en 1955. Hamilton, London, Montréal, Ottawa, Québec, Saint Jean (N.-B.), Toronto, Vancouver et Victoria y sont représentés.

Les cartes ne montrent que le coeur commercial des villes et, en 1955, quelques centres commerciaux de banlieue. L'échelle des cartes varie de quarante à cent-dix pieds au pouce. Chaque bâtiment est identifié et pour chacun on indique l'adresse, les dimensions, le matériau de construction de tout le bâtiment ou de la façade, le nombre d'étages, le nombre d'étages, le nom du propriétaire, le nom de l'occupant du rez-de-chaussée, l'évaluation municipale du terrain et de l'édifice. A ces renseignements les plans de 1955 ajoutent le pourcentage de densité commerciale des rues les lignes d'autobus. Une partie de l'information est codée. Ainsi L-363, B-48, 3S indique un bâtiment de trois étages ayant une façade de pierre dont la valeur est de \$48,000 et celle du terrain de \$363,000.

Si les cartes de 1929 venaient seules, l'atlas de 1955 renfermait une foule de renseignements supplémentaires. Pour chaque ville on donnait des statistiques sur sa population, ses banques, journaux, collèges et universités, magasins à succursales, centres commerciaux, principales industries, principaux jours d'achalandage, transports. On incluait aussi un historique de la ville. Finalement de nombreuses photographies achevaient de donner un aperçu détaillé de la ville.



Le but spécifique de ces cartes était de servir les agents immobiliers et, par leur intermédiaire, de permettre aux évaluateurs, investisseurs, détaillants, prêteurs, etc. d'avoir l'image économique et physique de la zone commerciale et d'évaluer les risques d'investissement. Par exemple de savoir quels types de magasins étaient dans le voisinage laissait juger du genre de clientèle qu'un nouveau commerce pourrait capter au départ. On pouvait voir aussi le nombre de commerces semblables, du profit ou du danger d'en ouvrir d'autres. De même l'indication du pourcentage de densité commerciale pouvait amener l'investisseur à s'orienter vers les secteurs les plus favorables. Aujourd'hui ces cartes ne servent plus ce propos. Elles demeurent toutefois une excellente documentation pour l'étude commerciale de nos villes à deux moments précis et des changements survenus dans l'intervalle. Elles restent aussi le témoignage des multiples applications de la cartographie.

Voici la liste des cartes immobilières en collection. On remarquera en lisant la liste que les cartes de 1929 devaient faire partie d'une publication présentant en ordre alphabétique les grandes villes d'Amérique du nord car au verso des feuilles on trouve le plan de villes américaines. Ainsi, Toledo, Toronto et Trenton se suivent. L'atlas de 1955 ne présente que des villes canadiennes.

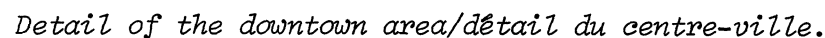
A) Levés de 1929.

- Montréal, Québec, 1 feuille, 2 côtés, 1:1 200
- Omaha, Nebraska, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:1 200
- Ottawa, Ontario, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:1 200
- Toledo, Ohio, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:1 200
- Toronto, Ontario, 2 feuilles, 1 côté ch., 1:1 200
- Trenton, New Jersey, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:1 200

B) Leves de 1955.

- Hamilton, Ontario, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:900  
Centre commercial The Centre 1/s feuille.
- London, Ontario, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:900
- Montréal, Québec, 2 feuilles, 1 côté ch., 1:900  
Centre commercial Dorval Gardens 1/2 feuille.
- Ottawa, Ontario, 2 feuilles, 1 côté ch., 1:900  
Centre commercial Westgate 1/s feuille.
- Québec, Québec, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:720
- Saint-Jean, Nouveau-Brunswick, 1 feuille, 1:480
- Toronto, Ontario, 2 feuilles, 1 côté ch., 1:1 320
- Vancouver, Colombie-Britannique, 2 feuilles, 1 côté ch., 1:1 200  
Centres commerciaux de baulieue, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:720
- Victoria, Colombie-Britannique, 1 feuille, 1 côté, 1:720

Louis Cardinal  
Collection nationale de cartes  
et plans.





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## TORONTO BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

In 1913, with the approval and co-operation of City Council, a Civic Survey Committee was organized in Toronto. This group entered into a contact with the New York Bureau of Municipal Research to survey five city departments. This was completed the following year. Convinced of the need of a similar organization in Toronto to follow up the survey and to make ongoing recommendations the Survey Committee members resolved to start a Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research. This was accomplished on March 1, 1914. Its Council comprised the same gentlemen as the Survey Committee, and meetings continued to be held at Toronto's National Club. The Bureau had as its primary aim the development of active citizenship as the best means of attaining permanent improvements in municipal government.

Horace L. Brittain, appointed Director and Secretary in 1914, was succeeded in 1947 by Eric Hardy. With only a limited staff, research into the city's government was begun and found immediate expression in The Bulletin and The White Paper. These publications appeared generally on a monthly basis and most were reprinted in whole or in part by newspapers of the day. They deal with a wide variety of topics: City budgets, municipal elections, departmental operations, highway safety, relief, housing, the City as employer, etc. These publications were superseded in 1948 by Civic Affairs. The initial format of a few mimeographed sheets soon developed into a substantial booklet which allowed a more in-depth analysis of the topics at hand. Special publications include City Budget Facts, a yearly study of the City's budget, published from 1915 to 1921. In 1918, an important report on slum conditions in the City appeared entitled What is "The Ward" Going to do with Toronto? Toronto At a Glance, a handbook with an unusually wide range of information about the City, appeared annually between 1929 and 1932. Other publications can be traced through the annual reports, etc. of the BMR. The BMR, having no official connection with the City, was free to make independent enquiries and recommendations as it pleased. The City was receptive to the work of the Bureau and a good deal of positive change was effected as a result. The records of the Bureau are a fine source of material relating to changes and improvements in civic administration in Toronto. Virtually every major issue arising in connection with city government over the years has been commented on by the BMR. In recent years their interest has widened to include Metropolitan Toronto.

Among the records of the BMR held by the City of Toronto Archives are the following:

Minutes: Bureau of Municipal Research Feb. 9, 1914 - March 20, 1956 (March 1927 - February 1928 missing; after April 5, 1949 minutes are of joint meetings of council of BMR and the Executive Committee of Citizens' Research Institute of Canada).

Advisory Committee appointed by Board of Control to study Civic Service Aug. 18 - October 17, 1944; (also contains study and final report).

Annual Reports: For year ending February 1915 to 1960.

Bulletins: Numbers 1 to 93 (March 16, 1914 - January 12, 1922);  
94 (September 18, 1936).

White Papers: Numbers 1 to 317 (April 12, 1915 - February 6, 1948).

Civic Affairs: Numbered irregularly (September 29, 1948 - present).

News Briefs (later known as Comment): June 9, August 30, 1961;  
Numbers 102 to 166 (June, 1966 to March, 1977).

James Fraser  
City of Toronto Archives

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#### PUBLICATIONS LIST

#### INSTITUTE OF URBAN STUDIES

The Institute of Urban Studies of the University of Winnipeg has compiled a free publications list covering the years 1969 - 1977. It can be obtained by contacting:

Institute of Urban Studies  
University of Winnipeg  
515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.  
R3B 2E9

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#### THE FUNDING OF URBAN RESEARCH IN CANADA

Professor Leslie J. King of the School of Graduate Studies at McMaster University has recently completed a paper entitled "The Funding of Urban Research in Canada". This position paper was prepared for the Research Policy Committee of the Social Science Federation of Canada and is available, free of charge, from:

Social Science  
Federation of Canada  
151 Slater St.,  
Ottawa, Ontario.  
K1P 5H3

The paper presents the findings of a study of urban research funding in Canada up to and including 1973/74. The paper begins with an over-view of the levels of urban research funding in Canada and emphasizes the contrast between the levels of expenditure by Federal agencies and by the other more "independent" research councils notably the Canada Council, NRC and the Canadian Council on Urban and Regional Research (CCURR). The following two sections of the paper discuss in turn the levels and nature of commissioned government urban research and independent scholar-generated urban research in Canada over the past two to three years. In these sections, particular emphasis is placed upon the research proposal review procedures which are used, the different problems in urban research which are supported, the means whereby the research findings are disseminated and published and the trends, if any, which are discernable in urban research funding. Finally, there is a section in which the findings are summarized and some conclusions are drawn.

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#### CITIZENS' RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CANADA

The Citizens' Research Institute of Canada was established by letters patent under the Dominion Companies Act on February 12, 1919. Its Charter Members included persons connected with the Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research who saw the need for a similar organization with local branches on a national level which could conduct research into the three levels of government - municipal, provincial and federal - and their interactions.

From the outset, CRIC shared its office and staff with the BMR. The Director and Secretary was Horace L. Brittain who held the same position with the BMR. He was succeeded by Eric Hardy in 1947.

Advisory committees were organized in Toronto, Hamilton, London and Winnipeg by 1920 and, within four years, in Montreal, Calgary and Halifax. There were branches in ten cities by 1927, reaching a high of thirteen in 1941 and dropping to nine by 1950. Despite this widespread interest, the administration was concerned about being considered a "Toronto" organization and as early as the 1940's considered total amalgamation with the BMR. This came about in 1961.

The Canadian Tax Conference was set up as a department of the Institute in 1922 as a result of demands for a tax association. The first annual conference was held in April, 1923. Another department, the Canadian Civil Service Research Conference, was organized in 1924

and was to "interest itself exclusively in civil service and the reorganization of methods of purchasing control" (CRIC Annual Report, 1924, p. 6). Two other branches were Municipal Statistics and Survey. The first, commencing in 1919, was responsible for what became known as the "Red Book", an annual publication listing municipalities in Canada and giving their financial situation. Figures were supplied in regard to assessment, tax levies and collections, debt (including schools), utility operations, etc. The Survey Branch, by February, 1959, had conducted 140 administrative surveys of public and semi-public bodies across the country. These can be traced through the annual reports. Most were not published separately.

Records of CRIC held by Toronto City Archives include the following:

Minutes: National Board of Trustees, Executive Committee of the National Board of Trustees and Annual meetings. Feb. 12, 1919 - Oct. 15, 1957. (1941-45 and April 1953 - March 1955 missing; includes charter, reports of National Board of Trustees to members, reports of Director, financial statements).

Annual Reports: 1920-1933. Yearbook and Annual Report: 1934-1959.

Bulletins: Numbers 1 to 87 (May 27, 1919 - Sept. 30, 1946)  
 Hamilton: Numbers 1 to 4 (Dec. 1920 - Nov. 1921)  
 London: Numbers 1 and 2 (Feb. 21, 1921 and April 20, 1921)

Open Letters: Feb. 15, 1947 - Feb. 14, 1948

Effective Government: Jan. 29, 1949 - 1961

Canadian Taxation Conference Report: Numbers 3 to 225 (Nov. 4, 1922 - March 12, 1948).

James Fraser  
 City of Toronto Archives