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Book Reviews/Comptes rendus

Rowat, Donald C., ed. *Urban Politics in Ottawa-Carleton: Research Essays*. Ottawa: Department of Political Science, Carleton University, 1983. 2nd edition. Pp. 230.

This collection of nine graduate student essays was completed for Professor Donald Rowat at Carleton University's Political Science Department. Five of the essays were completed in the early 1970s and were published in a previous edition. The current edition includes four new essays completed in the early 1980s. Both editions were published with the aim of extending the stock of primary material available on Ottawa-Carleton and on urban politics in Canada.

The five early essays are all concerned with "demand side" problems. Kipp explores the congruence of certain citizen and aldermanic attitudes towards governmental structures (although the title mislabels these attitudes as ones about regional re-organization). Norman discusses the issues articulated by aldermen in the 1972 election with emphasis on whether they represented positions, style or personality. Thomas examines voter turnout for the 6 municipal elections between 1960 and 1972, the thrust being to explain variations by ward. Lawson examines the growth of neighbourhood associations in Ottawa in the context of public participation more generally. Goldberg offers a replication for Ottawa of James Lorimer's work on the property industry.

The newly added four essays are more eclectic in scope. Richardson examines the extent of citizen participation on advisory councils to four municipalities in the Region and describes the attitudes of aldermen to the role of citizens in municipal government. Waugh looks at municipal experience with the 1972 and 1983 Provincial legislation on aldermanic conflict of interest; she also looks at municipal experience with their own codes of conduct for employees. LeSage gives a "blow-by-blow" account of the establishment of the Ottawa Office of Equal Opportunity for Women in the context of organizational change and adaptation. Finally Cox examines the conflicts involved in the adoption (over a nine year period) of an Official Plan by the Regional Municipality.

Like many edited collections, the contributions vary considerably in quality. The better contributions, such as those by Lawson and Richardson, articulate a theoretical problem and then investigate the problem in the Ottawa-Carleton area within the limits of time and energy expected of graduate students. The worse contributions, like those of Thomas or Cox, display an uncritical concern with methodologies for data analysis or with the logic and scope of their theoretical propositions. Academic readers will recognize these symptoms at paper marking time.

What is distressing about the collection, however, is the lack of innovation displayed by these student contributions. The theory contained in most of the essays is derivative, and apart from perhaps LeSage's contribution, there is little demonstration of theory extension or modification. There is also no awareness of alternative theoretical arguments, of "crucial hypothesis" testing, and of the role of multiple levels of theoretical reasoning. Perhaps more distressing for many readers, the essays tell us little about the urban politics of Ottawa. The focus is almost entirely on municipal government, with little recognition of the strategic and interactive role of central agencies and special districts on municipal governance. And there is limited attention paid to the historical, economic, and social issues that bind and fragment a rather unique city.

In sum, the collection makes only a marginal contribution to our knowledge of Canadian urban politics. We can and should ask for more.

Mark Sproule-Jones
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English, John and Kenneth McLaughlin. *Kitchener: An Illustrated History*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1983. Pp. xv, 259. Tables, maps, illustrations. \$11.95 paper; \$19.95 cloth.

Kitchener: An Illustrated History has been awaited with anticipation. In particular, a switch in publishers delayed the issuing of this work; it was well worth the wait. Professors English and McLaughlin and Wilfrid Laurier University Press are truly deserving of congratulations.

As one reads through *Kitchener*, what becomes most clear is that we are dealing here with what is in more than one sense a unique urban community. Certainly the most obvious particular characteristic is the large Germanic population of Waterloo County. Within the city this population is that which molds Kitchener's character. In many ways Kitchener was up until the First World War a German city in Canada.

Kitchener is also unique in other senses. In the nineteenth century it is free from the sectarian strife which marks other Ontario centres. Not only Catholic and Protestant but sects such as the Evangelicals and Swedenborgians live together in peace. The city is also free from serious class conflict perhaps because in the early period employer and employee lived side by side near the businesses.