

Notes and Comments

Liveable Winter Cities Association 1984 Student Competition; Annual Bibliography of Publications On Canadian Urban Development; Planning History Group; Publications

Notes et commentaires

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Notes and Comments/Notes et commentaires

Liveable Winter Cities Association 1984 Student Competition for “Making Cities More Liveable in Winter”

During the winter of 1984, under the leadership and initiative of Norman Pressman, School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo, the first National Student Competition in Planning and Design was organized. This was done with the assistance of John C. Royle (founder of the LWCA) and Xenia Zepic, principal urban design-planner with the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Department who composed the committee, together with Pressman.

The aim was to encourage ideas and alternatives at design and policy intervention levels for making urban environments more climate-responsive in the harsh winter season. Jury members were highly distinguished Canadians with international reputations, namely: Hans Blumenfeld, Eberhard Zeidler, Guy Gérin-Lajoie, Walter Kehm, Wojciech Wronski and the competition committee — Pressman, Zepic and Royle.

The Winning Entries

The *1st Prize* was awarded to four students of architecture at the University of Manitoba: Abe Chan, Heidi Hanson, Wilson Jung and Jackson Low. Their suggestions incorporated the following elements:

- Increasing development densities.
- Grouping of buildings for greater wind protection, for promotion of social interaction and for the clustering of activities.
- Introduction of colour components into the bleak winter scene—banners, brightly painted wall murals, integrated signage, etc. to create a feeling of warmth and excitement.
- Encouragement of winter festivities and their active promotion.
- Provision of temporary shelters during winter such as tent structures, covered parks, enclosed “hot-dog” or “hot-toddy” stands on strategic street corners, etc.
- Solar orientation of park benches, window openings, and siting of man-made structures in order to “trap the sunlight.”
- Integration of recreational facilities within the built-up fabric.
- Plantings to serve as “wind sponges” reducing wind-chill and snow drifting at critical locations.
- Greater protection from the elements for pedestrians in the urban core.

- Development incentives and investment (with public education programs) to encourage a more positive approach to the development and use of the built environment.

The *2nd Prize* went to six planning students at the University of Waterloo: Marlene Wansel-Swirski, Blair Allen, Jeff Brewitt, Margaret Chan, Rob Hardy and Malini Menon. Stressed in this submission were policy thrusts in the three areas of social, economic and physical development. A few examples:

- Transit assistance with respect to winter oriented activities.
- “Winter subsidies” to lower income groups for space heating, insulation upgrading, winter clothing purchases, etc.
- Winter health care and safety programs (e.g. winter driving techniques, education for proper clothing).
- Promotion of energy-efficient designs.
- Improved snow clearance programs.
- Promotion of winter’s positive aspects.

The *3rd Prize* went to two groups. One was a group of multi-disciplinary students from York University’s Environmental Studies Faculty: Nmandi Amrukin, Claude André, Lorne Leman, Dino Lombardi, Paulina Mikicich, and Robert Russel. Their entry entitled “Compact for the Cold” sought to reorganize the York Campus plan in a more rational manner developing climate-responsive principles and concepts which could be applied to a variety of urban situations throughout Canadian cities and neighbourhoods. Their emphasis was on reducing walking distances from transit stops and parking lots to points of major destinations while offering a choice of indoor and outdoor movement networks throughout. Additionally, suggestions were made to infill vacant spaces and to work toward more compact and dense building within the campus.

The second group, sharing *3rd Prize*, was made up of four Landscape Architecture students from the University of Guelph; Kerrie Curran, Paul Carabott, Robert Evans and Steven Wimmer. This entry tended toward a more conceptual-theoretical approach and proposed a typical climate-responsive “master plan” for a new neighbourhood or community. It developed a series of principles based both upon physical-climatic and social organizations while drawing heavily on a multi-disciplinary perspective at micro- and meso-levels of concern.

Four honourable mentions were also awarded. These dealt with more specific problem areas such as the “winterization” of downtown cores in medium sized Canadian towns; special problems encountered by the elderly in small towns,

remotely located; the development of both winter and summer recreation patterns through the modification of ravine and park systems; and, a highly detailed proposal for a variety of sheltering systems geared to pedestrians in city centres with emphasis upon retail streets. In all, policy recommendations, implementation techniques, costing arrangements and designs were tackled in a most professional and thorough fashion.

**Annual Bibliography of Publications On
Canadian Urban Development**

Each October issue of the *Urban History Review* contains a bibliographic listing of publications relating to Canada's urban past. The Bibliography Editor welcomes contributions from readers of the *Review*, especially of references to theses, reports and discussion papers, local history items, and articles and books on Canadian subjects which are published outside Canada.

Please send full bibliographic references for inclusion in the 1985 Bibliography no later than 31 May 1985, to:

Dr. Elizabeth Bloomfield
16 Caribou Crescent
Guelph, Ontario
N1E 1C9

Planning History Group

The Fourth Annual Luncheon of the Planning History Group will be held on Saturday, April 20, 1985, at Noon in the Loring Conference Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis. The luncheon is being held in conjunction with the meeting of the Organization of American Historians. Kathleen Neils Conzen, University of Chicago, will present a paper entitled "Urban Pageantry and the Invention of Ethnicity." Jon C. Teaford, Purdue University, will chair the session. Tickets will be available as part of the pre-registration package for the OAH meeting or at the OAH Registration. As the number of tickets is limited, purchase through pre-registration is encouraged. For additional information, contact: Blaine A. Brownell, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294, 205-934-5643; or Mark. H. Rose, The Program in Science, Technology, and Society, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 49931, 906-487-2115.

Publications

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REPORTS

Arch Honigman, Stuart Duncan, Bruce Lennox and Garrett Wasny, *Downtown and Regional Shopping Centre Retailing in Winnipeg*. Report No. 7. (Forthcoming).

A major report entitled "A Study of Downtown and Regional Shopping Centre Retailing in Winnipeg" was completed recently by a group of students working out of the Institute of Urban Studies. The study, which was undertaken between April and September, was sponsored by the Downtown Winnipeg Association and the Institute of Urban Studies. Funding was provided by the federal government through its Summer Canada Works Program. The study team, headed by Arch Honigman, included Stuart Duncan, Bruce Lennox and Garrett Wasny. This is the final report of the project.

The study team made a number of recommendations concerning the type and location of any future retailing and associated development in downtown Winnipeg:

- no further retail facilities should be constructed on North Portage in view of the present trends of retail movement towards the South Portage locale and the already "spread out" nature of downtown retailing.
- the establishment of an enclosed mall in the South Portage area, consisting of small specialty shops dealing in merchandise not found in shopping centres is recommended. The enclosed mall concept is a proven, successful retail mode which would be appropriate to the extreme climatic conditions common to Winnipeg.
- in order to overcome the downtown parking problem, civic officials should consider the feasibility of access after business hours to reserved monthly parking stalls and "increase" the amount of available parking spaces in the downtown area after five o'clock p.m. and on weekends and holidays. Downtown retailers must also take initiatives individually or collectively, by making arrangements with major garage parkades and surface parking lot operators.
- downtown merchant organizations such as the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Winnipeg Association should attempt to better establish and coordinate specific policy goals and actions with regards to central business district development.

RESEARCH AND WORKING PAPERS

Earl A. Levin, *City Planning as Utopian Ideology and City Government Function* (1984), 36 pp., \$6.00. Research and Working Paper No. 10.

There are about a dozen schools in Canada which teach "planning" in one form or another. They vary in important ways in what they teach, and what they mean by "planning."

This paper proposes a different view of city planning — a view which is based on a simple premise that city planning is essentially the same thing as city government, and the kind of city planning a community receives is largely a reflection of the civic government. This is a radically different point of view from most planning theory which is based on utopian ideology. The arguments presented in the paper imply necessary changes in the understanding and practice of city planning. Earl Levin was Head of City Planning at the University of Manitoba from 1981-1984.

Phil H. Wichern, *Evaluating Winnipeg's Unicity: Citizen Participation and Resident Advisory Groups, 1971-1984* (1984), 60 pp., \$11.00. Research and Working Paper No. 11.

Winnipeg's "Unicity" is recognized internationally as a metropolitan government reform which was designed to achieve political decentralization and increased citizen participation while centralizing area-wide administration, planning and policy-making. This study focuses on the participatory dimensions of Unicity, reviewing a variety of patterns and providing a comprehensive record of electoral and Resident Advisory Group participation from 1971 to the present.

It also reviews and critiques published evaluations of the subject matter. Local and intellectual contexts are reviewed in the first section. The record of citizen participation under Unicity is examined, as well as an analysis of past evaluations and various options of response to the record in the context of the current review of the *City of Winnipeg Act* and the future of citizen participation in Winnipeg civic affairs.

The central thesis of this study is that citizen participation in Unicity has been unfairly evaluated, by applying reform ideas and standards of participation elsewhere, without properly taking into account the local political cultures and patterns of past participation.

Alan F.J. Artibise, *A Matter of Political Responsibility: Real Property Assessment in Winnipeg* (1984), 40 pp., \$8.00. Research and Working Paper No. 12.

Real property assessment reform has been the subject of considerable discussion and controversy in Winnipeg during the past decade. Several commissions have been appointed to study the implications of and the problems associated with a reassessment of real property in Manitoba, yet many citizens have a sense that little positive action has been taken to alleviate problems and to implement reform.

This paper examines the inequities inherent in the current assessment system, discusses the impact the "current disorder" in the property assessment system is having on both individuals and development patterns in Winnipeg, and sets out a plan of action to deal with the current mess. The report also assigns clear responsibilities for assessment problems as they relate to both the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

Laurie Lithgow, *Public Housing Regeneration* (1984), 18 pp., \$4.00. Occasional Paper No. 6.

Since 1949, Canada's public housing programs have resulted in the provision of well over 200,000 housing units for Canadians who have required assistance in obtaining affordable shelter. This housing was provided and is still maintained under various federal/provincial cost sharing agreements. Provision for the modernization and improvement of this housing was included in the agreements.

When this housing was new, improvements and modernization needs were modest and easily accommodated within annual operating budgets. As this housing ages, however, there is increasing evidence that some aspects of this housing can no longer meet current tenant needs and major improvements are necessary.

Such improvements are not only costly, but are complex as they often involve the temporary dislocation of the tenant group and/or undertaking major construction on occupied housing sites.

This paper was presented to the Canadian Association of Housing Renewal Officials in Saint John, New Brunswick in June 1984, and it highlights some of the federal concerns with respect to the costs/benefit of improving the public housing stock and how they were addressed in one public housing project in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Regent Court project was one of the first federal/provincial initiatives to comprehensively address the impact of the aging process on Canada's public housing stock.

Deborah Lyon and Lynda H. Newman, *Winnipeg 2000: Exploring Strategic Development Options* (1984), 20 pp., \$4.00. Occasional Paper No. 7.

This paper is a summary of the Winnipeg 2000 Conference organized by the Institute of Urban Studies and the Institute for Social and Economic Research on September 25, 1984. The conference was designed to analyze the prospects for economic and demographic change in Winnipeg to the year 2000 and to assess strategic options for development within the city's economic, political and social context. It contains a review of the discussion and ideas of the planners, housing officials, educators, civil servants, business persons, politicians and community organizers who attended the conference. A complete list of speakers and registrants is also included.

Marianne Wade, David Linton and Vijay Sharma, *Off Campus: Developing Co-operative Housing for Students* (1984), 35 pp., \$5.00. Occasional Paper No. 8.

Inadequate student housing is currently perceived as a problem in Canada. High rental costs, rising utility and transportation prices as well as a decline in vacancies have forced many students to either share accommodations, settle in unsuitable premises or to continue living with their parents while attending university. A number of Canadian students have overcome their need for low cost and suitable housing by organizing and utilizing the available resources to develop and implement a co-operative.

This report is based upon the study, "Off Campus: A Report on the Feasibility of Developing Co-operative Housing for Students Near the University of Winnipeg," which was completed through a Summer Canada Works program at the Institute of Urban Studies. The purpose of the study was to investigate housing conditions and needs among full-time students; to explore possibilities for creating additional accommodation through the development of co-operative housing; and to investigate the financial, administrative, locational and practical considerations of establishing co-operative housing near the University of Winnipeg.

The Occasional Paper presents a portion of the research findings. The report briefly reviews the history of co-operative housing in Canada and describes five student housing co-operatives operating in Canada. It provides information on funding and programs available to individuals considering establishing a co-operative from the federal government and within the province of Manitoba. It also provides a detailed check list of steps involved in establishing a co-operative in Manitoba.

Robert Fenton, *Land Reclamation: A Strategy for Inner City Stabilization*. Occasional Paper No. 9. (Forthcoming).

Analysts agree that Winnipeg will continue to experience low growth to the year 2000. This paper looks at one possible development strategy which is consistent with this low growth scenario.

According to Robert Fenton, the key element of a development strategy for Winnipeg over the next fifteen years is the stabilization of the inner city. Inner city stabilization has been a major component of the municipal planning process in Winnipeg for many years. Unfortunately, the efforts advanced in this cause have to date been unsuccessful, according to Fenton.

The inner city stabilization strategy proposed here recognizes that technological change has created an excess supply of downtown land in the inner city. The strategy involves the reclamation of obsolete industrial and commercial land in the downtown in order to create modern residential subdivisions which would border on a more compact downtown. The strategy recognizes that the supply of obsolete land exceeds the short run demand for residential subdivisions in the inner city and proposes that land banking initiatives be undertaken in concert with the reclamation activities.

Greg Mason, *Economic Trends for Winnipeg to 2000*. Occasional Paper No. 10. (Forthcoming).

In this paper, Greg Mason discusses the economic trends for Winnipeg to the year 2000. According to Mason, there is a scarcity of usable data upon which economic scenarios may be painted. Municipal governments typically have few policy instruments with which to explicitly encourage growth scenarios and consequently have not exploited the data they have collected. Few series collected by official governmental agencies such as Statistics Canada directly describe the course of an urban economy. This brief paper outlines what can be gleaned from these official sources and concentrates upon employment and structural features, and some demographic trends.

Derek Hum, *Winnipeg's Challenge: Adjustment to Post-Staple-Led Growth*. Occasional Paper No. 11. (Forthcoming).

This essay examines some of the implications of urban development and adjustment based upon resource expansion, or what is commonly called "the staple framework." Of particular concern are the issues facing a mature urban centre such as Winnipeg whose resource-staple has ceased to be the prime cause for rapid growth. Winnipeg is an interesting example as it struggles with its legacy of staple-led growth. The lessons to be learned from this historical experience, and Winnipeg's rise to the challenge of adjustment to post-staple-led growth should not be neglected by other western urban centres.

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RESEARCH PAPER SERIES

Judith Kjellberg, *Shelter Allowances, Rents and Social Housing: Contributions to the Debate* (October 1984), 63 pp., \$4.00. Paper No. 155.

The introduction of a national shelter allowance program as a means of ameliorating housing supply and affordability problems, has been a subject of continuing debate in Canada. The papers contained in this volume were originally presented at a conference organized by the Centre in March, 1984 as a contribution to this debate. Part I contains papers on shelter allowances, rent controls and affordability, by David Hulchanski, John Miron, Richard Arnott, and John Bossons. The papers in Part II, on shelter allowances and social housing, are by Marion Steele, Richard Peddie and Peter Tomlinson.

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CANADIAN PLANNING ISSUES SERIES

T.A. Hutton and H.C. Davis, *The Role of Office Location in Regional Town Centre Planning and Metropolitan Multinucleation* (1984), 37 pp., \$1.50. Paper No. 7.

C. Weaver and P. Richards, *Planning Canada's Role in the New Global Economy* (1984), 33 pp., \$3.50. Paper No. 8.

P-P. Proulx, *Trade Liberalization and Industrial Adjustment Policy for Canada* (1984), 23 pp., \$2.50. Paper No. 9.

J. David Hulchanski, *St. Lawrence and False Creek: A Review of the Planning and Development of Two Inner City Neighbourhoods* (1984), 235 pp., \$9.50. Paper No. 10.

STUDIES IN NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

R. Roberts, *Resource Town Planning: A Strategy for Policy Development* (1984), 27 pp., \$3.00. Paper No. 1.



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2. HOTEL DE VILLE.
3. EGLISE CATHOLIQUE.
4. PRESBYTERE.
5. ECOLE DES FRERES.
6. COUVENT DE LA CONGREGATION.
7. BUREAU DES TERRES DE LA COURONNE.

VUE A VOL D'OISEAU DE
MONTMAGNY, P. Q.
 1881.

8. FROMAGERIE.
9. JOS. FISET, MARCHAND GENERAL.
10. BUREAU DE POSTE.
11. HOTEL DE MONTMAGNY.
12. N. NORMAND & FRERE, MECANICIENS.
13. A. BELANGER, FONDERIE.
14. PHARMACIE MONTMAGNY, A. E. MICHON.

Vue à vol d'oiseau de Montmagny, P.Q., 1881.
 SOURCE: Archives nationales du Québec.

Bird's-eye view of Montmagny, P.Q., 1881.
 SOURCE: Archives nationales du Québec.