

Lorimer, James, and Ross, Evelyn, eds. *The Second City Book: Studies of Urban and Suburban Canada*. Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1977. Pp. 180. Maps. Illustrations. \$15.00 cloth, \$5.95 paper

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and Calgary, as both Cities continued to attract new population and investment. Rural degradation, apparently, accompanied this metropolitan growth, although the authors do not substantiate this conclusion.

This belief in local autonomy had left the provincial government "boxed in" (i.e., encapsulated), without any way to control urban growth. The cities themselves were also encapsulated between private developers on one hand, and the demands of citizens for a higher standard of services on the others. Urban development was sought for an increased tax base, and so cities played into the hands of developers. Urban growth brought more demands for city services, and increased financial strain - a vicious circle. A vacuum of provincial policy left the cities and smaller municipalities helpless.

My own research onto public policy in Alberta also supports the importance to Social Credit of the idea of "local autonomy." However, the idea was not as completely honoured as the authors imply in this book. Successive provincial programs were introduced by the Social Credit government of Alberta to influence or control local governments. The fields of education, welfare, public health, culture and recreation contain many examples, as well as "hard" services such as housing, urban renewal and road building. A more balanced, and broader analysis of urban affairs in Alberta would include these other aspects of urban life. The authors of Urban Affairs in Alberta have provided a source book for others who might begin the task.

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Lorimer, James, and Ross, Evelyn, eds. The Second City Book: Studies of Urban and Suburban Canada. Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1977. Pp. 180. Maps. Illustrations. \$15.00 cloth, \$5.95 paper.

This book is a sequel to The City Book published in 1976. Like its predecessor, The Second City Book offers analysis and case studies of

a number of major urban issues such as suburban development, planning, land profits and housing prices, demolition of important landmarks, and city politics. As with The City Book, the chapters in this volume are updated versions of articles which first appeared in City Magazine, an independent periodical which began publication in 1974.

The fourteen chapters in The Second City Book can be divided into two sections. The first contains several articles that analyze suburban development, housing and land, and planning. In a series of four articles Toronto Alderman John Sewell provides a comprehensive analysis of suburbia, its causes and consequences. Tracing the origins of suburbia to the great demand for housing that followed World War Two, Sewell carries the story through the development of Don Mills and on to a critique of why suburbia hasn't worked. He also provides a number of alternative ways that cities can grow that are more attractive economically, politically, and socially than suburbia. Complementing Sewell's analysis are two pieces by James Lorimer that deal with the incredible profits which large corporate developers are making in suburbs, the contribution of corporate profits on land to the high price of suburban housing, and the scale of the corporate earnings which are being generated in the process. The final analytical chapter is by Kent Gerecke, chairman of the city planning school of the University of Manitoba. Through an overview of Canadian city planning history, Gerecke indicates how the planning movement moved from a utopian and idealistic intellectual discipline to a profession which in most cases merely provides essential routine administration to consolidate the property industry's control of the development patterns of cities.

The second section of the book is taken up with case studies from a number of different cities and fields. There are two chapters on demolition as a property industry technique in which the Laurentian Hotel in Montreal and John Howard's 999 Queen Street in Toronto are discussed. There are four case studies of developers and city politics set in such cities as Hamilton, Mississauga, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, and Calgary. Finally, there is a chapter which offers a case history of policy-making at C.M.H.C.

The articles in this book were written against a background of a considerable degree of failure by urban reformers involved in the continuing battle over planning and power at city halls across Canada. The goal of the book is to provide a tougher analysis of city politics and urban development which, it is hoped, will lead "to strategies which will make it possible for reform politicians to organize politically and take control of city governments from property industry majorities that have it now" (p. 6).

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Gertler, L.O., and Crowley, R.W. Changing Canadian Cities: The Next Twenty-Five Years. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1976. Pp. 474.

This comprehensive volume represents an important milestone on the winding path of research sponsored by the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. It was early in 1970 when N.H. Lithwick's urban Canada volume appeared that portrayed the "state of the art" in reference to urban problems and prospects and established a baseline for the Ministry's research programme. The Gertler and Crowley book is a broader and more carefully executed successor that indicates what great strides have been taken in the 1970s in probing the urban scene and understanding the complexities of Canadian cities.

The book project was supported by a Ministry grant and the valuable input of Ministry personnel is acknowledged. A number of other researchers made significant contributions, especially those at the University of Waterloo where Leonard Gertler is a professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning. Ronald Crowley is the former Director-General of Policy and Research, Ministry of State for Urban Affairs and presently is Director-General, Central Analytical Services, Canada Department of Labour.