

## Urban History Review Revue d'histoire urbaine

URBAN HISTORY REVIEW  
REVUE D'HISTOIRE URBAINE

Stanford, G. H. *To Serve the Community: The Story of Toronto's Board of Trade*. Toronto: Published for the Board of Trade by University of Toronto Press, 1974. Pp. vi, 270. Illustrations. \$12.50

A. F. J. Artibise

Number 2-76, October 1976

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1019534ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019534ar>

[See table of contents](#)

### Publisher(s)

Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine

### ISSN

0703-0428 (print)

1918-5138 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

### Cite this review

Artibise, A. F. J. (1976). Review of [Stanford, G. H. *To Serve the Community: The Story of Toronto's Board of Trade*. Toronto: Published for the Board of Trade by University of Toronto Press, 1974. Pp. vi, 270. Illustrations. \$12.50]. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*, (2-76), 70–70.  
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1019534ar>

All Rights Reserved © Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine, 1976

This document is protected by copyright law. Use of the services of Érudit (including reproduction) is subject to its terms and conditions, which can be viewed online.

<https://apropos.erudit.org/en/users/policy-on-use/>

Érudit

This article is disseminated and preserved by Érudit.

Érudit is a non-profit inter-university consortium of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Its mission is to promote and disseminate research.

<https://www.erudit.org/en/>

Stanford, G. H. To Serve the Community: The Story of Toronto's Board of Trade. Toronto: Published for the Board of Trade by University of Toronto Press, 1974. Pp. vi, 270. Illustrations. \$12.50.

Covering the past 140 years, this history of the Toronto Board of Trade was written by a long time staff member of the Board. As an "official" history, it has obvious weaknesses in that it rarely takes a critical view of the activities of the Board. On the other hand, this book offers a much needed "inside" view of one of Toronto's most important organizations and for this reason alone is extremely valuable. Also, since the Board of Trade was intimately involved in numerous community activities, this history reveals and discusses many of the forces which shaped Toronto and are responsible for its present character.

Originally a convocation of businessmen who needed a meeting place to conduct trade, discuss matters of mutual concern, and protect their working environment, the Board of Trade gradually expanded its scope over the years. As the city of Toronto grew, so too did the Board. Within the formal structure of the organization, sections were formed responsible for a variety of commercial interests. Areas such as harbour development, transportation, immigration, urban planning, tourism, banking, charities, taxes, tariffs, municipal administration, and more, were all affected by the opinions and actions of the Board. For although the Board was essentially an organization of Toronto businessmen, its members never restricted themselves to purely business concerns. Throughout its history, the Board always kept the viewpoint and interests of the private sector in the forefront of community development.

To Serve the Community contains an interesting collection of photographs, most of which come from the records of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].