

Urban History Review Revue d'histoire urbaine

URBAN HISTORY REVIEW
REVUE D'HISTOIRE URBAINE

Rowat, Donald C. *Recent Urban Politics in Ottawa-Carleton*.
Ottawa: Carleton University, 1985. Pp. 177. \$9.00

John H. Taylor

Volume 14, Number 2, October 1985

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1018000ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1018000ar>

[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

Taylor, J. H. (1985). Review of [Rowat, Donald C. *Recent Urban Politics in Ottawa-Carleton*. Ottawa: Carleton University, 1985. Pp. 177. \$9.00]. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*, 14(2), 214–215.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1018000ar>

All Rights Reserved © Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine, 1985

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/>

ics of contemporary policing, in an explanatory way with the demands and/or the contradictions of capitalist political economy. And the "social democracy" Sewell adopts is curiously dated and conventional, showing little awareness of, or interest in, the widespread critiques, for example, that women have been making of the forms of contemporary policing, and the impact these critiques have had here and in other countries. There is little interest, either, in the attempts socialists to the left of conventional "statist" social democracy have been making to take popular anxieties about crime seriously and to try to articulate programs for the effective policing of working class communities. Neither is there any discussion of the ways in which the Right has attempted in other countries, and in some respects in Canada as well, to make use of popular concerns over law and order for its own electoralist and other purposes. It may be indicative, indeed, of Sewell's characteristically liberal-progressive scepticism as to the seriousness of crime as a popular social harm that he should discuss the Canadian criminal statistics for the year of 1979 at a time when the 1983 statistics (with significantly higher levels of violent crime in evidence) were available.

This is a full and thoughtful introductory text on Canadian policing, written from a generally liberal-reformist inclination. There is no equivalent or competing other text. But it still has the political and theoretical limitations that tend to be characteristic of orthodox liberal writing in the social science field.

Ian Taylor
Department of Sociology
and Anthropology
Carleton University

Rowat, Donald C. *Recent Urban Politics in Ottawa-Carleton*. Ottawa: Carleton University, 1985. Pp. 177. \$9.00.

One of the more innovative publishing experiments in the last 13 years has been that of Donald C. Rowat, a professor of political science at Carleton University in Ottawa. In that time he has edited and published by photo-reproduction nine volumes of student essays, a number of them in two editions, and one in three.

At the core of the venture is an effort to give a wider distribution to good research papers of senior students, without engaging in the protracted process of revision for formal assessment and publication. The inevitable unevenness in quality and the spartan format is more than made up for by fast reproduction of valuable material for the research community.

This volume is a companion to *Urban Politics in Ottawa-Carleton: Research Essays* (1974; 2nd ed. 1983), and like it contains essays written by students in graduate seminars, most of them from Rowat's seminar on local government and politics in Canada.

All the essays in this new volume betray the graduate seminar liturgy of the review of current theory, case study and theory-testing, and policy implications or recommendations, and all betray the pressing claims of time on their authors. Students of the politics of local government are unlikely to find much that is new or illuminating on the theory side, though local policy makers in the Ottawa-Carleton area might well find some interesting ideas on policy matters. Nor is the theory-testing especially persuasive, whether due to partially-developed rhetorical skills, or the constraints undoubtedly attendant on developing elaborate case studies as part of a single university course.

What is enormously valuable is the heaps of raw material embedded in the descriptive parts of the essays. The essay by Geoffrey Baker, "Political and Administrative Policy Making: The Rideau Area Project," is, for example, likely to be the definitive study for some time of the tangled, ten-year evolution of Ottawa's newest and largest downtown shopping, hotel and convention centre. A second essay by Baker, "Ottawa's Public Participation Policy" is only somewhat less thorough, and will provide students of such policies in other cities a definitive outline of Ottawa's vanguard initiative in this area.

A parallel essay, "Citizen Participation Through Community Development Corporations," by George Brown, provides an additional dimension to that of Baker by looking at a specific opportunity for citizen participation.

One of the few examples available of a systematic examination of the role of the press in local politics is provided by D. Fraser Likely in "Who Controls the Issue Agenda? A Study of the Ottawa Board of Education and the Media." Though hampered by weak data, he confirms what most suspect: high on the media's agenda are the items of controversy. It may not be surprising, then, that to the public "education appears to be an area primarily in the midst of dispute" (p. 51).

A second essay by Likely, "For Ward or Not in the City of Gloucester," details contemporary agonies of a fast-growing bedroom suburb in evolving an acceptable system of representation, one that will accommodate old neighbourhoods and new, local and regional representation, and a considerable minority of Franco-Ontarians.

The final essay in the volume, Julie Hauser, "Provincial Support for Urban Transit," again provides a fine descriptive study of local-provincial relations and the origins and

implications of yet another conditional grant in the shaping of local policy, in this case public transportation policy.

This volume is distributed by the Carleton University Bookstore, Carleton University, Ottawa, K1S 5B6.

John H. Taylor
Department of History
Carleton University

Alberta Culture. *The Historical Evolution of the Department of Municipal Affairs*. Edmonton: Alberta Culture, 1984. Pp. 97. Indexed. Free from Provincial Archives of Alberta, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, T5N 0M6.

The Historical Evolution of the Department of Municipal Affairs is one of two publications in Alberta Culture's Departmental History Series. The other volume in this series, published in 1983, deals with the history of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The intent of this series is not to provide an official history that covers a number of topics and their roles in the development of Alberta, but rather to give a detailed outline of the administrative history of each department. This series has been undertaken in order to fulfill Alberta Culture's mandate as exercised by the Provincial Archives of Alberta to collect, preserve and make available the public records relating to Alberta's history. It is also organized around the archival concept of provenance. This involves the organization of documents in series according to the agency that created them rather than by theme or topic. Such an approach allows documents to be used on an ongoing basis to study a variety of topics. A knowledge of the administrative history of a department can therefore serve as a valuable guide both to the archivist who is organizing the records, and to the historian who needs to utilize the documents. This volume is therefore a sophisticated type of archival finding aid that gives the researcher a head start on understanding and utilizing the records of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

The department's history is described in four major sections. Part Two, which follows introductory comments on the purpose of the series, identifies the Department's current functional components and views them in relation to several time periods. Part Three contains the bulk of the historical information. It begins with a review of the legislative events for the period from 1887, when the Territorial Government passed the Statute Labor Districts Ordinance, to 1912 when the Province of Alberta passed the Department of Municipal Affairs Act. This background information is followed by subsections describing the department's functional development from 1912 to 1983. Part Four provides an analysis of the Department's administrative organization. Each division and the branches within them are listed, and their functions

are outlined in historical perspective. Part Five supplements the historical data with a chronology of major historical developments and a list of ministers and deputy ministers.

In overall terms this book represents a very well organized compendium of administrative history which achieves its goal of introducing historians to the world of provenance.

John Gilpin
Historic Sites Service
Alberta Culture

Baker, Marilyn. *The Winnipeg School of Art: The Early Years*. Winnipeg: The University of Manitoba Press, 1984. Pp. 135. 10 colour plates; 109 black and white plates. Cloth \$35.00, Paperback \$16.50.

This publication is a sequel to an exhibition aimed at exploring the mode of education at the Winnipeg School of Art from 1913 until 1934. Gallery 1.1.1., which held the exhibition, the anonymous donor, who supplied funding, and Marilyn Baker are all to be commended for a thoroughly researched publication in the history of Canadian art education, a field little explored. The book is well illustrated with art work by both teachers and students, and with numerous interesting photographs, which enhance its documentary and human interest value.¹

The founders of the Winnipeg School hoped that such an institution would "civilize and refine the West." That the study of art would refine the public and improve its taste, impoverished by the ugliness of early industrial products, is an idea dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. It led to the establishment of the British Design Schools where the curriculum mixed traditional art training with industrial design. The Winnipeg School of Art was modelled after these British Schools. So were the Art Schools in Ontario.

The Winnipeg School of Art was established in 1913 by local businessmen of the Winnipeg Industrial Bureau, using both municipal and private funds. Although the Manitoba Government was approached several times, the Winnipeg School did not receive provincial aid until 1920, and then only intermittently. In contrast, the Ontario School of Art in Toronto was founded by artists, with provincial support.

This original funding/founder difference led to variations in the operations of the two schools. Because of the provincial involvement, the Ontario Art Schools were closely tied to the education system and teacher training received top priority. In contrast, the Winnipeg School was a business proposition. It would "lend eminence to the city and advertise its progressiveness beyond its borders," attracting visitors and thus increasing trade. As a bonus, well-trained commer-