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Notes and Comments

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

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Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS, AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE, GEO ABSTRACTS and URBAN CANADA/CANADA URBAIN.

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CONTRIBUTORS

The articles by JON FEAR, SHEILA LLOYD, and CHRIS WARFE were originally prepared as research papers for a course in Canadian social history at Carleton University and revised for publication. The introduction was prepared by JOHN H. TAYLOR, a member of the Department of History at Carleton University and an associate editor of the Urban History Review. Professor Taylor is currently writing a history of Ottawa for the History of Canadian Cities Series.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Ottawa fire of April 1900, looking east across Lebreton Flats toward Parliament Hill. Photographer: Royce. Photo reproduced courtesy of the Ontario Archives.

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COPIES OF THE U.H.R./R.H.U.

Back issues of most numbers published to date are still available. Out of print copies are indicated with an asterisk. Copies of available issues may be obtained by sending a cheque or money order, payable to the Receiver-General for Canada (Special Account), to: Mail Order, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8.

The issues published in 1973 and 1974 are available at $2.00 for three numbers or $1.00 each. The 1975, 1976, and 1977 issues are available at $3.00 for three numbers or $1.00 each. The 1978 and 1979 issues are available at $5.00 for three numbers, or $2.00 each. Forthcoming issues can be purchased on a subscription basis at the rate of $5.00 per year.

The issues published to date are listed below. Please note that in 1979 the Urban History Review adopted a new numbering system.

Original Numbering System

1972

No. 1-72 (February 1972)
No. 2-72 (June 1972)*
No. 3-72 (November 1972)*

1973

No. 1-73 (May 1973)
No. 2-73 (October 1973)
No. 3-73 (February 1974)

1974

No. 1-74 (June 1974)
No. 2-74 (October 1974)
No. 3-74 (February 1975)

1975

No. 1-75 (June 1975)*
No. 2-75 (October 1975)
No. 3-75 (February 1976)

1976

No. 1-76 (June 1976)
No. 2-76 (October 1976)
No. 3-76 (February 1977)

1977

No. 1-77 (June 1977)
No. 2-77 (October 1977)
No. 3-77 (February 1978)

1978

No. 1-78 (June 1978)
No. 2-78 (October 1978)
No. 3-78 (February 1979)

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New Numbering System

Vol. VIII, No. 1 (June 1979)

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An index covering the years 1972-1977 is also available free of charge. When ordering, please indicate Index for the Urban History Review, 1972-1977 (Ottawa: National Museum of Man Mercury Series, History Division Paper No. 24, 1978).

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Exemplaires de la Revue d'histoire urbaine

Il reste encore des anciens numéros de la plupart des livraisons. L'astérisque indique un numéro épuisé. Pour obtenir un ancien numéro, il faut envoyer un chèque ou mandat, fait à l'ordre du Receveur général du Canada (Compte spécial), à cette adresse: Commandes postales, Musées nationaux du Canada, OTTAWA (Ontario) K1A 0M8.

Les numéros de 1973 et 1974 coûtent $2 pour trois, ou $1 chacun. Ceux de 1975, 1976 et 1977 se vendent $1 chacun. Ceux de 1978 et 1979 coûtent $5 pour trois, ou $2 chacun. Les numéros à venir seront offerts au prix de l'abonnement: $5 par année.

Voici plus bas la liste des numéros parus jusqu'ici, jusqu'à la fin de 1978 (février 1979). Notez l'adoption, en 1979, d'une nouvelle numérotation selon laquelle Vol. VIII, n° 1 désigne la première livraison de la huitième année de parution.

Ancienne numérotation

1972

N° 1-72 (février 1972)
N° 2-72 (juin 1972)*
N° 3-72 (novembre 1972)*

1973

N° 1-73 (mai 1973)
N° 2-73 (octobre 1973)
N° 3-73 (février 1974)

1974

N° 1-74 (juin 1974)
N° 2-74 (octobre 1974)
N° 3-74 (février 1975)

1975

N° 1-75 (juin 1975)*
N° 2-75 (octobre 1975)
N° 3-75 (février 1976)

1976

N° 1-76 (juin 1976)
N° 2-76 (octobre 1976)
N° 3-76 (février 1977)

1977

N° 1-77 (juin 1977)
N° 2-77 (octobre 1977)
N° 3-77 (février 1978)

1978

N° 1-78 (juin 1978)
N° 2-78 (octobre 1978)
N° 3-78 (février 1979)

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Nouvelle numérotation

Vol. VIII, n° 1 (juin 1979)

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Il y a aussi un index gratuit des années 1972 à 1977. Pour commander, veuillez indiquer: Index de la Revue d'histoire urbaine (1972-1977) (OTTAWA - Musée national de l'Homme - collection Mercure, Division de l'histoire, dossier n° 24, 1978).

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MERCURY SERIES PUBLICATIONS/PUBLICATIONS DE LA COLLECTION MERCURE

The Mercury Series of the National Museum of Man, National Museums of Canada, is designed for the rapid publication of material pertaining to the work of the History Division (and of other divisions within the museum: Archaeological Survey of Canada, Canadian Ethnology Service, Canadian Centre for Folk Culture Studies, Canadian War Museum). Volumes published since mid-1976 are available free of charge upon request from the appropriate division. Earlier volumes can be ordered, on receipt of a cheque made payable to the Receiver General for Canada (Special Account), from Mail Order, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8.

La Collection Mercure, publiée par le Musée national de l'Homme, Musées nationaux du Canada, a pour but de diffuser rapidement le résultat des travaux de la Division d'histoire (et des autres divisions du musée, telles que la Commission archéologique du Canada, le Service canadien d'ethnologie, le Centre canadien d'études sur la culture traditionnelle, le Musée canadien de la guerre). On peut se procurer gratuitement à la Division d'histoire, les dossiers publiés depuis 1976. Quant aux dossiers publiés avant 1976, on peut les obtenir en passant une commande, accompagnée d'un chèque libellé au nom du Receveur général du Canada (Compte spécial) au Service des commandes postales, Musées nationaux du Canada, Ottawa (Ontario), K1A 0M8.

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REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE URBAN HISTORY GROUP OF THE CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 3 NOVEMBER 1978

The meeting began with a tour of the Stelco plant at Hamilton, arranged by host and chairman of the Committee, John Weaver (History, McMaster), and ended with a video-taped history of Hamilton, prepared at the History Department, McMaster. A lengthy business session was held between tour and tape. Items of discussion included the following:

Promotional efforts for the Urban History Review were approved, including preparation of a promotional piece and the canvassing of lapsed subscribers. These were felt necessary during the transition period to CHA assumption of much of the subscribing process.

Alan Artibise advised that agreement has been reached to establish a less confusing numbering system for the Review.

Measures were taken to obtain translators for preparation of abstracts in the second language for articles appearing in the Review. In future, authors of major articles will be required to submit an abstract for their article for translation.

The committee agreed that theme issues will remain a feature of the Review. A future issue on "heritage" in the city is to be investigated by J.M.S. Careless, John Weaver and John Taylor. Suggestions and participation from readers is encouraged.

Alan Artibise stressed the need for notes and comments and pointed out the responsibilities of the committee members in providing them. He also urged members to be more aggressive in providing (or getting others to provide) reviews. Thesis abstracts will remain a feature.

Committee members agreed to consider possibilities for papers for the 1980 CHA meeting in Montreal. Proposals can be forwarded to Chairman of CHA Program, John Weaver (History, McMaster) or Chairman of the urban group, Jim Lemon (Geography, U. of Toronto).

Chairman is to take under advisement the possibility of staging an international urban conference in 1981 or 1982, or alternatively another Canadian conference like that held in Guelph in 1977.

Jim Lemon (Geography, U. of Toronto) was elected chairman by acclamation.

Scott James (City Archives, Toronto) informed committee of initiatives to undertake a comprehensive survey of archives in Ontario. Committee asked to be kept informed of progress.

John H. Taylor
History, Carleton
Chairman

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PARKS CANADA REPORTS

Historians should be aware that the research reports of the historians, architectural historians and archaeologists who work for Parks Canada are available to the public in three separate formats. Two of these, Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History/Lieux historiques canadiens: cahiers d'archéologie et d'histoire and History and Archaeology/Histoire et Archéologie, are publications containing one or more reports. These are sold by the Department of Supply and Services and by some bookstores. They are also on deposit in the National Library and in the Public Archives Library.

Less well-known is the third source of Parks Canada reports, the Manuscript Report Series/Travail inédit (MRS). This collection of printed, unedited reports contained 259 volumes by the end of 1978. The subjects of the reports reflect the full range of Parks Canada's historic site activities, which are as diverse as the following titles suggest:

The Development of Edmonton and its Buildings to 1914.

Fouilles archéologiques d'un bloc domestique aux Forges du Saint-Maurice en 1974 (25G51).

A History of the Structure and Use of Province House, Prince Edward Island 1837-1977.

Grubstake to Grocery Store: The Klondike Emporium, 1897-1907.

Content is based on excavation reports and on primary and secondary material obtained from private individuals and from a wide variety of private and public institutions in Canada, the United States, Britain and France. The scope of the project determines both the size of the report, which can vary from essay to thesis length, and the depth of analysis required.

MRS is not a publication and therefore it is not available from Parks Canada or the Department of Supply and Services. Copies are deposited for the use of the public with the National Library and the Public Archives of Canada. The latter repository places copies in its own Public Records Division and in the Public Archives Library and distributes one copy of each volume to each of the provincial and territorial archives. Any restriction on the use of this material is imposed by the repository in question. MRS is covered by Canadian copyright laws and Parks Canada asks that the normal scholarly practice of acknowledgement be observed.

Researchers can become familiar with the MRS title listing by consulting the Public Archives inventory for Record Group 84. This material should be of tremendous value for those studying Canadian urban history.

Marsha Hay Snyder
Researcher
Parks Canada, Ottawa

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RECORDS ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

During 1978, all of the records of commissions of inquiry struck under the Public Inquiries Act of British Columbia formerly in the care of the Legislative Library were transferred to the Provincial Archives of British Columbia. Included in the transfer were the records of the Commission on Municipal Government of 1912 (GR 519, 15 cm.) and the Commission on Property Assessment and Taxation set up in 1975 (GR 362, 5 m.).

The 1912 Commission held sittings over August-November in sixteen British Columbia cities, where municipal officials and others gave testimony and submitted briefs (exhibits), and in several cities in Eastern Canada and the United States. The records of the Commission consist of 1,359 pages of transcripts evidence and selected exhibits, originals of 52 exhibits, and correspondence files.

Though the investigation touched on a host of municipal concerns, the records reveal that the commissioners paid special attention to the commission form of government by soliciting opinion inside and outside the Province and by studying American examples.

The records of the 1975 Commission include minutes of meetings of the commission, 206 exhibits, 23 volumes of transcripts of evidence, correspondence, memoranda, reports and working papers. PABC's finding aid and lists compiled by the Commission provide access to these voluminous records on a selective basis. For instance, it is possible to isolate exhibits related to a particular regional district or the testimony given by a specific individual or organization.

Terry Eastwood
Archivist
Provincial Archives of B.C.

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STUDY OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING SYSTEM IN ALBERTA

A study to review thoroughly the activities of the Regional Planning Commissions and the effectiveness of the regional planning system in Alberta is being undertaken by the Inter-Agency Planning Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs. The project, which will take about eighteen months to complete, is being done under the aegis of The Alberta Planning Board, in collaboration with the Regional Planning Commissions.

Initially, research efforts will be focused on documenting the evolution of regional planning in Alberta and reviewing the operational

characteristics of the commissions. In the first phase of the study program, the following aspects will be reviewed: the definition of region; the socio-economic trends and patterns of regionalization in Alberta; the relationship of regional planning to the provincial policy system; and the mandate, management practices and organizational resources of the Commissions. An opportunity is also provided for reviewing the applicability of regional planning policies and institutional arrangements in other Canadian provinces and other countries to the Alberta situation. These findings will then be analysed in later phases of the project, and used to develop proposals on how Alberta's regional planning system may be improved to take account of emerging needs.

Preliminary investigation by the Inter-Agency Planning Branch reveals that comprehensive reviews of regional planning and administration in Canada are scarce. As well, university and government-sponsored research in this area is not readily available. The Inter-Agency Planning Branch, therefore, welcomes contributions and suggestions from government officials and researchers involved in this area. For further information please contact Graham Murchie, Director, Inter-Agency Planning Branch, Alberta Municipal Affairs, 8th Floor Jarvis Building, 9925 - 107th Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2H9. Phone: (403) 427-2106.

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EXPLORING OUR HERITAGE: THE OTTAWA VALLEY EXPERIENCE

On the weekend of 21-22 October, 1978, in Arnprior, Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, in association with one of its agencies, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and a large number of local heritage organizations put on a very successful heritage conference entitled "Exploring our Heritage: The Ottawa Valley Experience." It is the first in a series of regional conferences to be held in various parts of the province over the next few years. The organizers of the conference attempted to blend the contributions of the amateur historian and the professional in an interesting and exciting way.

The goals of the conference were to highlight aspects of the local history of the region and to suggest ways of placing it in a wider historical context, to focus attention of the residents of the region on their heritage and some of the tangible remains related to it, to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between the professional and the amateur, and to serve as a meeting place where people associated with heritage groups throughout the region could meet with one another and discuss common interests and problems and also have an opportunity to discuss various issues with provincial government officials.

Although it is difficult to measure the success of a conference with such disparate goals, the response to this one exceeded even the sponsors' most optimistic expectations. Some six hundred people registered and several hundred others attended on a more casual basis.

Most of the papers were enthusiastically received and much interesting and potentially valuable historical material was unearthed. Papers, illustrated talks and audio-visual presentations dealt with various aspects of the region's heritage: local historians gave thumb-nail sketches of their communities, frequently illustrated with material only available locally; there were several presentations on the contributions of various ethnic groups to the cultural mix of the region; papers were presented on the social structure of a township, building materials and techniques, transportation modes and routes, and industries of the region.

Some seventy displays and demonstrations were available for viewing. They included numerous interesting and invaluable photographs and collections of artifacts ranging from whale bones discovered in the area to early twentieth century tools. There were demonstrations of spinning and weaving, quilt-making, pottery, and so forth. These displays and demonstrations appear to have aided significantly in attracting large numbers of people to the conference.

The organizers now face the extremely difficult task of putting together the conference proceedings. Much of the valuable material will be difficult to include in a written work.

At the present time, plans are being made to stage the next conference in northern Ontario early in 1980.

Phillip J. Baker
Heritage Conservation Officer
Province of Ontario

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ONTARIO HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS

A call for papers has been made for a joint meeting of the Eastern Historical Geography Association and the Ontario Historical Geographers at Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 18-20, 1979.

Two themes have been proposed for the meeting: Heritage Research, Planning and Preservation; and the Small Town in Canada and the United States.

Inquiries should be directed to Prof. Louis Gentilcore, Department of Geography, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. L8S 4K1.

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URBAN ECOLOGY and LANDSCAPE PLANNING

Urban Ecology is an international journal sponsored by the International Association for Ecology. It is concerned with ecological processes and interactions within urban areas and between human settlements and the surrounding natural systems which support them. Analysis of the total urban system as well as studies of its various components and the species which inhabit cities fall within the province of the journal. Of particular interest is an assessment of human health and well-being, broadly defined.

The audience for Urban Ecology consists of academic and governmental research scientists in the social and physical sciences, life scientists, engineers, landscape architects, urban and regional planners, and administrators charged with managing and improving the quality of urban life.

Landscape Planning is also an international journal devoted to the study of landscape ecology, reclamation and conservation, outdoor recreation, and land-use management. It emphasizes a multidisciplinary, ecological approach and attempts to draw attention to the interrelated character of problems posed by nature, man's use of land, and the resulting changes of landscape.

For further information on both journals, contact:

Elsevier North-Holland, Inc.
52 Vanderbilt Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10017

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Two lists of government publications have recently become available. They are:

- Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, List of CMHC Publications (Cat. No. NH15-3/1978).
- Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, List of MSUA Publications (Cat. No. SU 31-37/1978).

To order write to the appropriate address given below:

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MASS TRANSIT AND PRIVATE OWNERSHIP: A FURTHER COMMENT

The recent paper in the Urban History Review by Donald Davis entitled "Mass Transit and Private Ownership: An Alternative Perspective on the Case of Toronto," represents a significant addition to our understanding of the evolution of mass transit in Toronto.[1] By focusing essentially upon the years after the formation of the Toronto Transportation Commission (1921), Professor Davis has been able to provide considerable insight into a period not covered in my earlier paper.[2] His analysis of the implications of technological stagnation in the streetcar industry is particularly revealing. Quite rightly, he pounces upon a number of rather polemical statements regarding the persistence of streetcars and the vitality of public transit in Toronto that I made at the end of my paper. I am delighted to see that my comments have sparked additional research into this issue. There is room in urban historical writing for all sorts of carefully researched interpretations.

While I wholeheartedly welcome Professor Davis' contribution to the literature, I would like to take the opportunity to make a few comments about his paper. I have three reservations about the way in which statistics have been presented and used in the article. He (p. 63) challenges my contention that the citizens of Toronto, through the actions of the TTC, made a substantial financial commitment to public transit in the early 1920's, citing as support the example of transit expenditures in Detroit. Surely, however, these expenditures cannot be compared because of the different sizes of the two cities, a fact clearly illustrated in Table 2 of the Davis paper. The only fair way to compare such figures is on a per capita basis; and, on this scale, the Toronto figure is substantially higher.

Later in the paper Professor Davis attempts to illustrate an inverse relationship between standardized measures of automobile registration and mass transit ridership in 23 North American cities for the year 1929. He uses correlation analysis for this purpose, but at no time does he ever reveal the value of the computed correlation coefficient, preferring only to note that whatever it is, it is statistically significant at the 0.10 level (p. 79). This is certainly an odd approach. In actual fact the correlation coefficient for these data is a relatively weak -0.38. This value, combined with the "level of significance" suggests that considerable caution is required in the interpretation of the figures listed in Table 1 (p. 78). San Francisco,

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[1] Urban History Review, No. 3-78 (February 1979), pp. 60-98.

[2] Michael J. Doucet, "Mass Transit and the Failure of Private Ownership: The Case of Toronto in the Early Twentieth Century," Urban History Review, No. 3-77 (February 1978), pp. 3-33.

for example, displays auto ownership and transit ridership figures that exceed those for Toronto by a wide margin.

My final reservation about the use of statistics in this paper is, perhaps, the most serious of all. On page 83 he questions my assertion that the Toronto Railway Company made exorbitant profits, and he attempts to estimate the average annual rate of return realized by the owners of the company. Davis suggests that during the final decade of the franchise the company made average annual profits of $3 million. There is no dispute here; but what I do question is the value used in the denominator of the equation used to calculate the rate of return. Davis employs a figure of $30 million which he attributes to a 1912 valuation performed on the TRC and its subsidiaries. Yet rate of return refers to the ratio of annual profit to original investment, not to some final day valuation. The actual money invested in the TRC was considerably less than the 1912 estimate. As Armstrong and Nelles note, only $475,000 was paid for the TRC franchise in 1891.[3] Admittedly, this original investment was greatly augmented over the first few years of the franchise through such things as electrification and expansion; but, as I have carefully documented in my paper, most of this spending took place during the first half of the franchise period. By no stretch of the imagination is it possible to believe that the owners of the TRC had invested anything even approaching the 1912 valuation figure into their business. If they had, the overcrowding and poor service issues that I analyzed would never have materialized. In fact the 1912 valuation figure was strongly attacked in the press as being inflated in later years.[4] Based upon the initial level of investment, the owners of the TRC did very well indeed.

There are a few minor errors in the details provided by Professor Davis at some points in the text. For example, it was West Toronto and not North Toronto that first received bus service (p. 94). I do not, however, wish to dwell upon the negative aspects of this paper. As I said at the outset, Professor Davis makes a very positive contribution to our understanding of mass transit in Toronto. His paper in no way undermines the fundamental purpose of my own essay, which was to document the complex series of events leading up to the public take-over of mass transit in Toronto. My wilder speculations concerning the subsequent period have been rightfully challenged. Those interested in the question of the evolution of urban public transit will benefit from a careful examination of both papers.

Michael J. Doucet
Department of Geography
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute

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[3]Christopher Armstrong and H. V. Nelles, The Revenge of the Methodist Bicycle Company: Sunday Streetcars and Municipal Reform in Toronto, 1888-1897 (Toronto: Peter Martin, 1977), p. 48.

[4]See for example, "Ten Years of Surpluses and Where They've Gone. Millions Paid Out as Dividends on Watered Stocks or Put Into Plant Which City Must Buy." Toronto Star, July 5, 1919.