

## Notes and Comments

**Planning History Group; IUS Data Centre to be Computerized; Winnipeg Rivers—Expanding Our Vision; Forestry Artifacts Donated; International Year of Shelter for the Homeless; Management and Use of Local Government Records; Successful City Beautification Program; Sister Cities International; Urban Agriculture; Innovative Sewage Treatment System; Landfill Gas Recovery Site; Conferences; Publications**

## Notes et commentaires

Volume 14, Number 3, February 1986

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1018087ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1018087ar>

[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 document

(1986). Notes and Comments: Planning History Group; IUS Data Centre to be Computerized; Winnipeg Rivers—Expanding Our Vision; Forestry Artifacts Donated; International Year of Shelter for the Homeless; Management and Use of Local Government Records; Successful City Beautification Program; Sister Cities International; Urban Agriculture; Innovative Sewage Treatment System; Landfill Gas Recovery Site; Conferences; Publications. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*, 14(3), 277–284. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1018087ar>

# Notes and Comments/Notes et commentaires

## Planning History Group

The Fifth Annual Luncheon of the Planning History Group will be held on Saturday, April 12, 1986, at Noon in the Cornell Room at the New York Penta Hotel. The luncheon is being held in conjunction with the meeting of the Organization of American Historians (OAH). Joel A. Tarr, Carnegie Mellon University, will present a paper entitled, "The City as a Pollution Generator." Raymond A. Mohl, Florida Atlantic 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) 934-5634; or Mark H. Rose, The Program in Science, Technology, and Society, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 49931, (906) 487-2115.

---

## IUS Data Centre to be Computerized

The Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg has received a grant of \$66,000 for an important Urban Bibliography Project. In the past several years, the Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) has collected a rare and valuable collection of over 5,000 government documents, reports, publications and unpublished papers covering a broad range of topics in the field of urban studies. IUS has now received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada under the Strategic Grants Program to catalogue and classify these holdings, and to produce an on-line machine readable bibliography which will be available to researchers and libraries across Canada.

Rarely have these documents been brought together in one collection. This project will enable researchers, policy makers and scholars to access a complex collection of documents. The University of Winnipeg Library also plans to convert to an on-line catalogue, making it possible for researchers across the country to access the University of Winnipeg's total holdings on urban studies.

The project will be completed by June 1986, and is being coordinated by Kamini Madansingh, IUS Data Centre Project Manager and Alan F.J. Artibise, Director, Institute of Urban Studies.

## Winnipeg Rivers — Expanding Our Vision

Over 200 registrants participated in the Winnipeg Rivers Conference, hosted by the Institute of Urban Studies, October 25-26, 1985 at the University of Winnipeg during National Universities Week. The conference included a series of presentations on river issues and achievements in Canada and the United States; displays of former and current proposals for riverbank development in Winnipeg; a narrated boat tour of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers; and an evening banquet with political leaders from the three levels of government.

Local speakers at the conference included: Elizabeth Balantyne, Chairperson, RiverBankers Inc.; Chuck Brook, Urban Design Coordinator, Department of Environmental Planning; Stephen Cohlmeier, architect, Cohlmeier Hanson Architect/Designer; Ian Dickson, General Manager, Manitoba ARC Authority; Donald Epstein, consultant, Epstein Associates, Inc.; Robert Graham, landscape architect, Hilderman Witty Crosby Hanna and Associates; H. Anthony Reynolds, Executive Director, Manitoba Region, Regional Industrial Expansion; Jennifer Shay, Department of Botany, University of Manitoba; Tom Shay, Department of Anthropology, University of Manitoba; Tim Sookocheff, Management Planning, Parks Canada; Councillor Harold Taylor, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Jurisdiction, Rivers and Streams Authority No. 1; and Len Vopnfjord, Chief Planner, Department of Environmental Planning.

In recent years several North American cities have come to realize the importance of their natural environments as an element in planning. In Canada, this phenomenon is perhaps most notable in such cities as Vancouver, Toronto and Saint John. In Toronto — which long neglected its harbourfront — the recently formed Harbourfront Corporation is engaged in a dramatic transformation of one of the city's major natural features. Closer to home, the Wascana Development in Regina and the Meewasin Valley Authority in Saskatoon provide evidence of these cities commitment to sympathetic treatment of the natural environment.

These and other similar developments have gained increasing attention in Winnipeg, and numerous individuals and groups have commented on Winnipeg's continued neglect of her historic rivers. For example, of the original thirty-six streams and coulees in Winnipeg, only nine exist today, and all wetland storage areas have been eliminated. Presently, the long standing concern over the CN East Yards property — which fronts the Red River — has recently become the object of substantial attention.

Guest speakers Gary Hack, Head of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Roy Mann, Waterfront planner and designer, RMA Texas; and Heather McKnight, Planning and Development Review Coordinator, Meewasin Valley Authority, detailed the water and riverfront developments in which they had been involved. Heather McKnight explained that until 1977, "Saskatoon had turned its back on its river . . . and allowed its beautiful river valley to become the neglected backyard of the community." But through community and provincial support, the Meewasin Valley Authority has helped to develop Saskatoon into the "Venice of the West."

The desire to restore Winnipeg's natural river environment and establish a long term plan for riverbank development was expressed by representatives of all three levels of government: the Honourable L.L. Desjardins, Minister of Urban Affairs; the Honourable Jake Epp, M.P., Minister of National Health and Welfare; and Mayor Bill Norrie, City of Winnipeg. It was clear from their speeches that each level of government is conscious of the need for giving sustained attention to Winnipeg's rivers. Proposed developments on the CN East Yards site and the possible creation of an innovative Winnipeg Rivers Authority provided ample evidence that exciting times are ahead.

Many of ideas of "what" Winnipeggers wanted for their rivers were heard at the conference: some wanted the rivers cleaned up and preserved; some wanted continuous park development; and some wanted a combination of private and public development/hard and soft development. There is obvious need for agreement on what Winnipeggers' "vision" is for their rivers. Heather McKnight, Meewasin Valley Authority commented on the ideas proposed for the planning, development and management of Winnipeg's Rivers, "I believe it is important that the 'what' and the 'how' be separated." She believed that before planning and management could be established, the "vision" or "goals" for the rivers should be established.

Indeed, the Winnipeg River Conference occurred at a most opportune time. The observations, concerns, and proposals presented provided ample evidence that, while river development is a complex and sensitive issue, there is wide-spread support for action.

At this time, the Institute is considering publishing in its regular publications series a number of the papers presented at the conference. For further information, contact the Institute of Urban Studies.

---

### Forestry Artifacts Donated

Although the Western Forest Industries Ltd. sawmill and shingle mill at Honeymoon Bay, British Columbia was

demolished in 1982, over 300 artifacts from the mills were shipped to the Modern History Division of the British Columbia Provincial Museum (c/o Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.). The collection includes a Sumner steam engine, a Heaps steam cylinder, mill and forestry tools, a Moore Ory kiln guage, jacket ladder links, saw guides, and numerous items of work clothing. Over 100 boxes of records were also sent to the B.C. Provincial Archives, along with 70 rolled multisheets of logging maps and plans, and 80 rolled multi-sheets of mill blueprints and drawings of structures. Additions are still being made to the collections.

SOURCE: *Society for Industrial Archaeology Newsletter*, 13 (Summer 1984).

---

### International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed 1987 as International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), and has designated the Commission on Human Settlements and its Secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as the institution to spearhead the activities of the international community in carrying out programs for the year.

The primary focus of the IYSH is to:

- 1) facilitate and augment the present efforts of the poor and disadvantaged to improve their shelter and neighbourhoods;
- 2) search for ways to secure affordable improvements for many rather than major improvements for few; and
- 3) establish and implement shelter and settlement strategies and programs.

It is now conservatively estimated that one quarter of the world's population — 1,000 million people — do not have adequate housing. Of these, approximately 100 million have no shelter whatsoever. In cities in the developing world, 50 per cent of the inhabitants, on average, live in slums and squatter settlements. In some cities, 75 to 80 per cent of the population living in such settlements is not uncommon.

It is estimated that by the year 2000, approximately one in two people will be living in cities in developing countries. In less than two decades the number of people living in cities will increase from 1,000 million to 2,000 million. In developing countries, the percentage of the population living in urban areas will rise from 29 per cent to 44 per cent.

The implications of these statistics in terms of land assembly, urban renewal and rehabilitation, new housing

construction and new infrastructure needs is obvious. Failing to deal with the shelter issue may also result in social breakdown, political upheaval, economic instability and civil violence.

The IYSH will not be just a specific year, but will encourage and develop programs and strategies to the year 2000.

For more information, contact:

Rudolph H. Knight  
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements  
2206 East Mall  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1W5

---

### Management and Use of Local Government Records

Assistance in the management and use of local government records is now being offered through the National Information Center for Local Government Records (NICLOG). The center is a joint venture by the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) and the Joint Committee on the Management, Preservation, and Use of Local Government Records. NICLOG is intended to act as an information clearinghouse. It directs inquiries to agencies which provide technical services and supplements the efforts of other agencies when needed.

For more information contact the AASLH, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, TN 38024.

SOURCE: *New Jersey Historical Commission Newsletter*, 15 (November 1984).

---

### Successful City Beautification Program

Singapore is now one of the world's greenest cities, thanks to a 15 year old city beautification program. Its citizens can enjoy about 10,000 acres of parks, greenspace, and government nurseries; as well as tax write-offs for planting trees and shrubs on private property. There is one tree for every four residents on the densely populated island, and attempts are now being made to train climbing plants to grow on walls, lamp posts, and similar structures.

Projects and laws which encourage the planting of more greenery are accompanied by ordinances aimed at preserving that already in existence. Contractors are required to build aeration slabs along walkways and parking lots, leave unsealed areas around the bases of trees and shrubs, and plant four meter wide strips along all new roads. There are also stiff fines for the cutting of trees on vacant land without permission from the Parks and Recreation Department. Private citizens face regulation as well. Parking cars in open

greenspaces is strictly forbidden, and there is a rigorously enforced \$500 dollar fine for littering.

SOURCE: *Urban Innovation Abroad*, 9 (March 1985).

---

### Sister Cities International

The practice of adopting sister cities in other countries has long been recognized as a good way of creating friendships and developing a broader view of the world. Sister Cities International (SCI), a Washington, D.C. based association of U.S. communities and their sister cities abroad, are finding that some of the benefits of the relationship can be more material.

For instance, the relationship between Toledo, Ohio and Toledo, Spain facilitated the showing of some of El Greco's paintings in the U.S., an exhibit which added an estimated \$12.6 million in tourism related revenues to the coffers of the Ohio city. Also, Grahl International, a manufacturer of office furniture, was persuaded to locate a branch in Coldwater, Michigan because of the sister city ties between Coldwater and its home headquarters of Soltau, West Germany. It now provides about 140 jobs to Michigan residents.

Import and export markets are also being enhanced by sister city relationships. Cities like New Haven, Connecticut and Avignon, France; and Fremont, California and Fukaya, Japan are exchanging goods produced on their counterpart cities through special boutiques. Sapporo, Japan and Portland Oregon have set up an exhibit exchange for both commercial and cultural displays.

SOURCE: *Urban Innovation Abroad*, 9 (March 1985).

---

### Urban Agriculture

Cities are usually thought of as being dependent upon the countryside for food, but in fact many of them are capable of fulfilling a significant proportion of their food needs with urban gardens. Shanghai produces all of its own fresh vegetables, and 13% of Singapore's surface area provides 30% of the city's vegetables and fish, and 80% of its chickens. Experimental gardens in California have produced up to 65 grams of protein and 2,500 calories a day on only 127 square meters of land.

Over two dozen major third world cities have begun to encourage urban agriculture. Since most of the world's cities were built on fertile soil, and contain an unemployed work force to provide agricultural labour, cities have a great potential to reduce world hunger.

SOURCE: *The Urban Edge*, 9 (April 1984).

### **Innovative Sewage Treatment System**

Three New Jersey communities are the first in the United States to adopt a sewage treatment system which can reduce sludge to less than 10% of its original volume and pay for itself within three years. The astonishingly efficient biological waste treatment system was pioneered in Germany, and is designed to meet the needs of small communities.

A common reed (*Phragmites*) forms the basis of the system. Wastewater is permitted to flow through a series of growing beds containing the reeds, and the plants desiccate the sewage by absorbing the water through their roots. The waste material is also mineralized by microflora that live in the root structure of the reeds. The treated waste is a suitable growth-promoting soil additive.

SOURCE: *Urban Innovation Abroad*, 8 (December 1984).

---

### **Landfill Gas Recovery Site**

A project recently launched at an Oregon landfill site may turn Portland's garbage from a problem into a profit. The refuse dumped at the Rossman Landfill Site produces large amounts of methane gas. The gas was once considered a hazardous, smelly annoyance, but with the completion of a \$1.4 million dollar gas recovery project Portland is solving the problem by selling it to the Northwest Natural Gas Company.

The Rossman project is the first landfill gas recovery site in the state of Oregon, and the largest installation to make use of polymer membrane gas separation technology in the United States.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy press release.

---

## **Conferences**

### **Integrated Development Beyond the City**

The Rural and Small Town Research and Studies Programme, of the Department of Geography, Mount Allison University, is sponsoring a major national conference June 11-14, 1986 to assess the role of integrated rural planning and development in Canada. Recent trends clearly indicate that rural areas suffer from a diversity of development and underdevelopment problems. Responses by the public and private sectors are largely uncoordinated and occur within a poorly integrated institutional and decision-making structure.

The conference will examine the topic of integrated planning from a number of perspectives. These include:

1. Rural Planning Models and Methodologies
2. Housing Issues and Rural Development
3. Resource Development and Integrated Planning
4. Integrated Approaches to Economic Development
5. Institutional and Decision-Making Structures
6. What Role Universities in Integrated Planning?
7. Costs and Benefits of Integrated Rural Planning

The conference will be of interest to a wide variety of professionals from the public, university and private sectors involved with rural development issues.

Although a Canadian focus is adopted, speakers from the United States and elsewhere will be invited to comment on the theme.

Mount Allison University, located in the small town of Sackville, New Brunswick, offers a special opportunity to encourage interaction among all conference participants. A social programme will complement the conference proceedings. As well, a full day field trip will be arranged to examine results of the Comprehensive Development Plan for Prince Edward Island.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Larry McCann, Head  
Department of Geography  
Mount Allison University  
Sackville, New Brunswick  
E0A 3C0

\* \* \*

### **Urban Universities Conference**

The Universities of Winnipeg and SUNY-Buffalo are co-sponsoring a major international conference on the roles and responsibilities of urban universities. The conference will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, September 17-19, 1986. The conference sponsors are working in cooperation with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Urban Affairs Division of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

The target audiences for the conference are senior administrators in urban universities (Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Deans). The conference will consist of three plenary sessions (featuring speakers from the government, corporate and community sectors) and six workshops. The conference will be designed to focus on the following themes:

**The Challenge of Faculty Responsibilities**

- approaches/methods for motivating and rewarding faculty for community and public service activities.
- case studies of differentiating faculty duties among teaching, research and community service.

**Meeting the Learning Needs of Urban Residents**

- identifying constituencies for urban universities.
- learning for living, or learning to make a living? Are we — should we be — serving the job market?
- student services/needs in urban universities.
- how should we — can we — service the needs of prospective students.
- inter-institutional relationships: other universities; other educational institutions (public and private); voluntary organizations, industry and business.
- the challenge to urban universities of corporation based educational programs.
- curricular/instructional adaptations (including technological innovations) in urban areas.

**Economic/Social/Cultural Roles of Urban Universities**

- the urban university as corporate citizen.
- the relationships between the private sector and the urban university in providing economic/social/cultural services. Should we compete?
- the urban university as community activist.
- the role of urban universities in data collection/management/diffusion.
- the role of the university in urban planning and development.

This will be the second such conference on urban universities. The first was very successfully held at the University of South Florida in March 1985. Proceedings for that conference are now available. Please contact the conference secretaries to order copies.

For further information, contact:

Alan F.J. Artibise  
Director  
Institute of Urban Studies  
University of Winnipeg  
515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3B 2E9 CANADA  
Tel: (204) 786-9211

or

Nevin C. Brown  
Assistant Director  
Urban Affairs  
National Association of State  
Universities and Land Grant Colleges  
One Dupont Circle, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20026-1121 U.S.A.  
Tel: (202) 293-7120

---

**Publications**

**Institute of Urban Studies  
University of Winnipeg  
515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada R3B 2E9**

*WINTER COMMUNITIES SERIES*

Norman Pressman and Xenia Zepic, *Planning in Cold Climates: A Critical Overview of Canadian Settlement Patterns and Policies* (forthcoming 1986). Winter Communities Series No. 1.

In the spring of 1986, the Institute of Urban Studies is launching a new publication series, the Winter Communities Series. In this first paper, Norman Pressman and Xenia Zepic, two "livable winter city" experts explore development policies, strategies, concepts and trends that are intended to ameliorate the Canadian urban environments, providing a particular emphasis on problems arising during the lengthy and harsh winter season. The effect of climate on urban form and development policies is examined, as well as human activity patterns through a perspective of applied climatology. A critique of existing policies and developments reveals some of the errors which have been made in the past in Canadian towns and cities, from both social and physical viewpoints.

This paper addresses a subject area which is unique in scope and has still to be treated comprehensively and systematically. It initiates a new thrust in the "winter communities" policy research area undertaken by the Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg. In addition to answering theoretical questions regarding the effect of climate on human well-being, it shall contribute to the formulation of social and physical planning guidelines and conceptual approaches dealing with urban policy intervention. In its broad overview, it highlights the critical issues of cold-climate urban environments and will serve as a useful resource for public authorities, architects, planners, policy analysts, local interest groups and concerned individuals

interested in making "winter cities" more livable. The underlying premise is that northern community citizens must accept and respect climatic factors if communities in northern settings are to survive and if responsive decisions can be developed to suit a variety of human settlement sizes, functions and locations.

#### OCCASIONAL PAPERS

The Honourable William McKnight, *Federal Housing Policies in the 1980s/La politique fédérale de l'habitation des années 1980* (1985), 13 pp., \$4.00. Occasional Paper No. 12.

This paper was originally presented at the Canadian Urban Studies Conference held at the University of Winnipeg, August 1985.

#### REPORTS

Dr. Zbigniew Jan Gryz, *Heritage Preservation Among Ethnocultural Communities in Manitoba* (1985), 78 pp., \$10.00. Report No. 12.

This report is a result of a study to determine the state of and interest in heritage preservation among ethnocultural groups in Manitoba. There were 86 ethnocultural organizations surveyed. The size, organization, heritage preservation activities, etc. of 48 ethnic groups are summarized in this report. Gryz also reviews the multicultural policy of the federal government since 1960, a policy that has strengthened the ethnocultural communities in Canada, and has recognized their role in the development of Canadian society.

Sue Corke, Michael Lazarowich, Gregory S. Romanick and Joan Simon, *Granny Flats: A Housing Option for the Elderly* (1986). Forthcoming. Report No. 13.

Granny flats were the subject of a workshop offered at the Canadian Urban Studies Conference, held at the University of Winnipeg, August 1985. Susan Corke, Research Officer with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, provided the provincial government's perspective on granny flats, while Gregory Romanick of the City of Waterloo's Planning Department discussed municipal mechanisms for the development of granny flats. Michael Lazarowich of the School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo has been assessing Ontario's granny flat demonstration project to determine user need and satisfaction, and shared his findings. Joan Simon of the Department of Consumer Studies, University of Guelph, presented the prototype granny flat unit which she designed. This report is a collection of the papers presented at the workshop.

Sylvia Goldblatt, Farley Cates and John Phillips, *Housing Canada's Seniors* (1986). Forthcoming. Report No. 14.

The number of persons over the age of sixty-five has been increasing sharply, both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the total Canadian population. While in 1971 only eight (8) per cent were over the age of sixty-five, by 1981, the percentage had increased to ten (10). This change represents an absolute increase of approximately 600,000 persons. According to projections made by Statistics Canada, by the turn of the century Canada will have approximately 4 million people over the age of sixty-five.

Population aging has been recognized as a significant social issue. It is attracting the attention of policy-makers and researchers who are concerned with the increasing needs and cost of services critical to an aging population. Housing is one of the many service areas to be addressed. Sylvia Goldblatt, Farley Cates, and John Phillips discussed housing and community planning options at the Canadian Urban Studies Conference, held at the University of Winnipeg in August 1985. Their papers are presented in this report.

Goldblatt reviewed government housing programs currently available to Canadians. Cates presented community development corporations as a delivery model for seniors' housing and Phillips proposed a community planning process which would ensure better distribution and delivery of service to seniors.

#### RESEARCH AND WORKING PAPERS

Mohammad Qadeer and Kathleen Chinnery, *Canadian Towns and Villages: An Economic Profile, 1981* (1986). Forthcoming. Research and Working Paper No. 14.

Since the early 1970s, North America and Western Europe have been swept by the counter-urbanization movement. Their populations are spreading out into the countryside, and city centres are thinning out. The non-metropolitan areas are growing faster than the metropolises and, within metropolitan regions, fringe areas are outpacing central districts in growth. The demographic fortunes of the countryside are on the upswing. Towns and villages have also experienced a demographic upsurge, though their aggregate growth rate is not as high as that of the rural countryside. This paper describes the economic structure of towns and villages in Canada, and describes some of the processes underlying the counter-urbanization movement.

#### URBAN RESOURCES SERIES

Mark Walsh, *The Windsor Municipal Archives: Heritage Development in Hard Times* (1986). Forthcoming. Urban Resources Series No. 1.

Windsor, Ontario has the distinction of being the area of Ontario longest settled by Europeans, but in spite of the area's long and distinguished history, Windsor is a relative newcomer in terms of archival development. The delay in

developing facilities to preserve approximately two hundred and forty years of documentary evidence resulted in many records leaving the area. Fortunately, municipal records dating from Windsor's incorporation as a village in 1854 remained in the custody of the City. This paper, originally

presented at the Canadian Urban Studies Conference in August 1985, describes the establishment of the Windsor Municipal Archives at the Windsor Public Library.

---





*Bird's-eye view of Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1882.*

*Vue à vol d'oiseau de Fredericton, Nouveau-Brunswick, 1882.*

SOURCE: Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, Fredericton.

SOURCE: Archives provinciales du Nouveau-Brunswick, Fredericton.