

Notes and Comments

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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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, and GEO ABSTRACTS.

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CONTRIBUTORS

ANNICK GERMAIN est sociologue et urbaniste. Elle prépare une thèse de doctorat en sociologie sur la genèse de l'urbanisme à Montréal au début du XXe siècle. Elle est chargée d'enseignement à l'Institut d'urbanisme de l'université de Montréal ou elle donne des cours de sociologie urbaine et d'histoire de l'urbanisation.

JOHN E. TUNBRIDGE is a member of the Department of Geography at Carleton University in Ottawa.

WILLIAM C. MCKEE is an archivist at the City of Vancouver Archives.

JEAN-PIERRE THOUÉZ a obtenu un doctorat 3e cycle en géographie à Grenoble, France après avoir complété sa formation en commerce et sciences politiques. Il a été professeur à l'université de Sherbrooke de 1970 à 1977 et est actuellement au département de géographie de l'université de Montréal. Il rédige un ouvrage sur la géographie sociale de Sherbrooke.

DONALD DAVIS is an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Ottawa.

J. M. S. CARELESS is professor of history, University of Toronto. Through his work on the concept of metropolitanism, he has been a major force in the development of the study of urban history in Canada.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

"Industrial zone of the Lachine Canal viewed from the top of a chimney, 1896." Photo reproduced courtesy of the Notman Photographic Archives, McCord Museum, Montreal.

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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 to: Mail Order, National Museums of Canada, 300 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa 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 issues are available at \$5.00 for three numbers, or \$2.00 each.

The issues published to date are listed below:

<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
No. 1-72 (February 1972)*	No. 1-73 (May 1973)
No. 2-72 (June 1972)*	No. 2-73 (October 1973)
No. 3-72 (November 1972)*	No. 3-73 (February 1974)
<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
No. 1-74 (June 1974)	No. 1-75 (June 1975)*
No. 2-74 (October 1974)	No. 2-75 (October 1975)
No. 3-74 (February 1975)	No. 3-75 (February 1976)
<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
No. 1-76 (June 1976)	No. 1-77 (June 1977)
No. 2-76 (October 1976)	No. 2-77 (October 1977)
No. 3-76 (February 1977)	No. 3-77 (February 1978)
<u>1978</u>	
No. 1-78 (June 1978)	
No. 2-78 (October 1978)	

An index covering the years 1972-1977 is also available at no charge. When ordering, please indicate Urban History Review Index, 1972-1977.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Two new papers have been published recently by the University of Toronto. They are:

J. David Hulchanski. Canadian Town Planning and Housing, 1930-1940: A Historical Bibliography. Bibliographic Series No. 10. Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, July 1978. 35 pp. \$1.50.

John Dakin. Historical Instrument For Considering Toronto Planning. Papers on Planning and Design No. 16. Toronto: Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Toronto, August 1978. 65 pp. \$3.00.

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CITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

The Archives has recently re-organized its government records into record groups and its non-government records into special collections. Individual inventories are being prepared. This project will be completed in the coming year. Although the inventories for some collections will at first be of a general nature, the work of providing more detailed finding aids for every collection will be on-going.

Detailed inventories now exist for the annexed municipalities of Yorkville, Brockton, Parkdale, East Toronto, North Toronto, West Toronto, Forest Hill and Swansea. City department, standing committee, and special committee inventories are in various stages of completion. All non-government records, including the papers of elected officials, constitute the special collections section of the Archives. These now number sixty-four of which thirty-eight are the papers of elected officials.

One Special Collection of increasing interest to researchers is "Municipal election campaign literature." Consisting of brochures, flyers, posters and other ephemera, this material has been systematically collected since 1972 for the City of Toronto but also includes some earlier examples.

The Archives has recently acquired a major collection of glass lantern slides. The 5,000 slides are the work of William James, a well known Toronto photographer, whose collection of photographs is already housed with the City Archives.

In the field of urban documentation of a different sort, the City's collection of fine art, administered by the Archives, is continuing to grow steadily. 116 new acquisitions have been registered so far in 1978. In order to house and exhibit this visual record of the City's development, and to bring other archival materials into the public eye, Toronto's first City Hall (1841) has been renovated as an exhibition gallery and will be opened to the public early in 1979.

James A. Fraser
City of Toronto Archives

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MUNICIPAL RECORDS IN ONTARIO

We regret our inability to obtain a complete history of many of the townships. But we have availed ourselves of such records as were placed before us at the office of the township Clerks. Much older records of this township than we have access to, probably exist or have been allowed to perish, and it is a misfortune that documents relating to the first years are not carefully preserved for the use of coming generations, who will place a higher estimate upon such materials of history, than is attached to them by some of the present day.

Wm. Canniff 1878
York County Atlas

Urban studies specialists can well understand Dr. Canniff's century-old lament. His prophesy, however, remains to be fulfilled. The systematic preservation of municipal records in the Province of Ontario is still a hope of the future. To be sure, since Dr. Canniff's comments, advances have been made. Some municipalities have established institutional archives, others have made arrangements with such existing archival agencies as the Provincial Archives and university archives, but these are far too few in number. Of the more than 900 municipal structures that have existed (more than 800 are extant today), less than 200 have ever secured archival storage.

Most of the responsibility for this state of affairs falls directly upon the shoulders of the municipalities themselves and, more specifically, upon the municipalities' chief administrative officer whose statutory responsibilities include the keeping of the corporation's records. Provisions of the Ontario Municipal Act prohibit the unauthorized destruction of these records (Section 249). Public access to most of these records is provided for in Section 216 of the same Act.

Do then all these records exist as a real or potential source for research? Unfortunately not. For many reasons including lack of administrative skills, shortage of space, even ignorance, municipal clerks across the province are accustomed to disposing of records at their own discretion without the required authority.

The implications for the future availability of local records are serious and should concern archivists and researchers alike. The weapon which comes most readily to hand is education. Much can be achieved by making sure that municipal officials are aware of the importance of the records in their care and the consequent need to preserve them.

As a municipal archivist who has seen first hand the importance of well-kept records to the whole of society, not only to academic research, this concerns me deeply. Government records, especially those of a municipality, are crucial in that "... government is the one institution that ... touches the lives of every single individual within its jurisdiction. It not only affects the lives of all citizens but inherent in that contact between government and citizens is a complex interdependence of rights and obligations, of mutual responsibility and accountability.... Such records must be maintained, managed, preserved and when appropriate disposed of according to principles that recognize their unique status." (S. Silsby, State Archivist of Maine)

The first step in this educational process must be identification. That is, interested persons, whether administrators, archivists, or urban studies specialists, must know what local records exist, where they are, and in whose custody. To this end, the Toronto Area Archivists Group (TAAG) has begun a programme of co-ordinating a systematic survey of local records in the Province of Ontario, which will include not only all existing municipal records, but also the records of local educational, religious and private organizations.

For the purposes of the survey, the province has been divided into 15 regions, and regional survey teams are being recruited to conduct the survey. Upon completion of the survey in each region, TAAG plans to publish the findings in 15 volumes under the title Ontario's Heritage: A Guide to Archival Resources.

A quick glance at a page from Volume One of the Guide (Peterborough Region: Peterborough, Haliburton and Victoria Counties) and the value of the volume as a research tool is immediately evident. Section I of the Guide includes entries for all existing municipal structures in the region and a Locator Index provides researchers with up-to-date information should they wish to contact the municipality directly. To supplement the volume, important local records held by agencies outside the specific region are listed in an Appendix.

At present surveys are in progress in four other regions of the province and the findings will be published during the coming year. The survey team in the region of Peel is now at work and is expected to finish by January 1979. Other regions (including Kingston and Toronto) are now recruiting survey teams and are planning to conduct their surveys in the spring and summer of 1979.

In its decision to proceed with a serious evaluation of the available historical records in the Province of Ontario, TAAG has taken Canniff's challenge to heart. The general benefits of such a programme will be such that those in other disciplines should be pleased to offer more than encouragement in seeing the project through to its conclusion.

One way in which anyone can make a positive contribution is to associate oneself with the Ontario Guide project. As General Editor, I will be systematically approaching, through Regional Project Directors, every municipal office (and other repository) in the province and would greatly benefit from any assistance and goodwill generated by people in each locality with a sympathy for the project's goals.

Victor L. Russell
City of Toronto Archives
General Editor
Ontario's Heritage

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A USUABLE URBAN PAST

A volume containing several of the papers presented at the May 1977 Guelph Urban History Conference will be published this spring by Macmillan of Canada in the "new" Carleton Library format. The volume is Alan F. J. Artibise and Gilbert A. Stelter, editors, A Usuable Urban Past: Planning and Politics in the Modern Canadian City (Toronto: Macmillan, 1979). The volume includes the following articles:

PREFACE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Past in the Present: Exploring the Relevance of Canada's Urban Past

I ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Introduction

1. James Simmons, "The Evolution of the Canadian Urban System"

II POLITICS AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Introduction

2. John Weaver, "Tidying Up the City: Civic Reform in Toronto, 1900-1915"
3. James Anderson, "The Municipal Government Reform Movement in Western Canada, 1880-1920"
4. Terry Copp, "Montreal's Municipal Government and the Crisis of the 1930's"

II POLITICS AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT (cont'd.)

5. Alan F. J. Artibise, "Continuity and Change: Elites and Prairie Urban Development, 1914-1950"
6. J. E. Rea, "Political Parties and Civic Power: Winnipeg, 1919-1975"

III PLANNING AND THE REALITIES OF DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

7. Thomas Gunton, "The Ideas and Policies of the Canadian Planning Profession, 1909-1931"
8. P. J. Smith, "The Principle of Utility and the Origins of Planning Legislation, 1912-1975"
9. Walter Van Nus, "Towards the City Efficient: The Theory and Practice of Zoning, 1919-1939"
10. Shirley Spragge, "A Confluence of Interests: Housing Reform in Toronto, 1900-1920"
11. Oiva Saarinen, "The Influence of Thomas Adams and the British New Towns Movement in the Planning of Canadian Resource Communities"
12. Max Foran, "Land Development Patterns in Calgary, 1884-1946"
13. Peter Moore, "Zoning and Planning: The Toronto Experience, 1904-1970"

IV A BRIEF GUIDE TO CANADIAN URBAN STUDIES

- (a) Reading and Research
- (b) A Selected Bibliography

V NOTES ON EDITORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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URBAN HISTORY GROUP

CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Urban History Group recently held a meeting at McMaster University. The minutes of the meeting will be published in a subsequent issue. The group did discuss forthcoming Canadian Historical Association

meetings and agreed on two sessions for the June 1979 meetings at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. They are:

- P.-A. Linteau (U.Q.A.M.) and G. A. Stelter (Guelph), "Comparative Urban Development: Lower and Upper Canada, 1800-1850."
- Donald F. Davis (Ottawa), E. J. Noble (Guelph), and John Taylor (Carleton), "Metropolitanism in a Minor Key: Sources and Limitations of Civic Ambition." The participants will discuss, respectively, Detroit, Orillia, and Ottawa.
- A business meeting of the Urban History Group is also scheduled and is open to all interested in urban history.

Readers are also reminded that suggestions for papers for the 1980 annual meeting of the C.H.A., to be held in Montreal, are now being accepted by Professor John Weaver, Programme Chairman (1980), History Department, McMaster University.

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THE DYNAMICS OF MODERN INDUSTRIAL CITIES:
A CONFERENCE

The University of Connecticut Department of History and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will hold an international conference on "The Dynamics of Modern Industrial Cities: Comparative Perspectives on Order and Disorder" during the final weekend of September, 1979 (September 28 and 29). Funding is anticipated from the Rockefeller Foundation and other sources. The conference will be divided into the following four sessions, all of which will explore the sources of order and disorder in the modern industrial city: 1) the role of family and neighborhood; 2) class tension and the mechanisms of social control; 3) the economy of cities; 4) the survival of industrial cities. Policy science implications will be considered. Approximately 40 American and foreign scholars, including 16 who will present papers or serve as commentators and/or panelists, along with several policy-makers, will be invited to this working meeting, the proceedings of which are planned for publication. Honoraria and/or reimbursement of partial or full expenses will be offered. Interested persons are invited to submit for consideration papers or paper summaries relevant to the above topics or nominations of appropriate participants by March 1, 1979 to the program chairperson, Bruce M. Stave, Department of History, The University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06268.

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