

**Boyce, Gerald E. *Belleville: Birth of the City*. Belleville: Richard Ellis Printing for the Quinte Kiwanis Club, 1977. Pp. 56. Illustrations**

C. M. Johnston

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Appendix A is a handy listing of the Northern Canneries. The Goad Company produced two editions of similar plans for the Fraser River Canneries, the only extant copies of which are in the British Library, with photocopies and 35 mm. colour transparencies in the University of British Columbia Library's Special Collections Division. In Appendix B some of the atlases held are described as being microfilm copies, but the locations of originals are not stated.

The colour illustrations of a sheet and legend of the 1878 Ottawa plan give a good idea of the use of colours and symbols on the plans, but it is unfortunate that the colour reproduction is not better. Perhaps the sheet chosen has faded, or the Goad colours are too subdued. The illustration in the Catalogue of Sanborn Atlases is much clearer. A table of the illustrations would have been helpful.

There are inevitably a few misprints, such as "Kasio" for "Kaslo" on page 126, and a few questionable points, such as the use of the word "drawings" (a rather archaic usage?) on page ix, and the date 1960 on page vi, but the catalogue itself is excellent. Any bibliography is a time-consuming task, and one involving maps, often awkward and fragile to handle, can be monumental. Robert Hayward and his colleagues in the National Map Collection are to be congratulated for persisting with this catalogue, and making the finished product so clear and concise.

This catalogue should be indispensable to anyone working on urban studies. It is to be hoped that the National Map Collection and/ or the Association of Canadian Map Libraries will take the next step and produce a union list of insurance plans. With the dispersal of stock by the Insurers' Advisory Organization in 1975, many more libraries acquired fire insurance plans of their province or region. Local collections are convenient for users if the existence of the collections and their contents are known. Fire Insurance Plans in the National Map Collection should make the compilation of a union list relatively simple.

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Boyce, Gerald E. Belleville: Birth of the City. Belleville: Richard Ellis Printing for the Quinte Kiwanis Club, 1977. Pp. 56. Illustrations.

Thanks to the momentum established in 1967, centennial histories are still enjoying a comfortable ride throughout Ontario and the rest of the country. One of the latest contributions comes from Gerald E. Boyce who has reconstructed the celebrations that attended Belleville's début as a city a century ago. To students of the regional history of eastern

Ontario Boyce is no stranger; his Historic Hastings, published a few years ago, did much to bring alive the main themes of that county's history. Now he has done it again for Belleville's coming-of-age festivities in July, 1878. The resulting booklet is an attractively arranged combination of descriptive text and vintage photographs of a late Victorian municipality.

One welcome feature is the picture presented of the varied social institutions, civic organizations, and business establishments that flourished in early post-Confederation Belleville and suitably greeted its achievements of city status. Another--though more perhaps could have been made of this exercise--is the way in which such larger issues as economic nationalism, commercial depression, American-Canadian relations, Imperial sentiment, and the persistent struggle between Temperance and Booze are placed under a local microscope and related to the activities, attitudes, and prejudices of one Ontario urban community in 1878.

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Reynolds, A. "Siding 16": An Early History of Wetaskiwin to 1930.  
Wetaskiwin: Wetaskiwin Alberta - R.C.M.P. Centennial Committee,  
1975. Pp. ix, 304. Maps, illustrations. \$10.40.

In recent years a growing volume of literature has been produced concerning urban affairs in Alberta by academics and various government agencies. This literature has been augmented since 1967 by the publication of a number of local histories. These publications have contributed to the study of urban development through their accounts of specific institutions such as schools and churches in various urban settings. Contributions to urban history have also been made by local histories which have focused on specific regions in which urban growth is noted but not outlined in detail. Other histories, using a regional approach, have focused on one urban centre and its adjacent district. "Siding 16": An Early History of Wetaskiwin to 1930, published in 1975 by the Wetaskiwin Alberta-R.C.M.P. Centennial Committee belongs in this latter category.

This book, like the majority of local histories published, was the outgrowth of a community effort to pay tribute to "the people and events which made Wetaskiwin survive, grow, and establish itself on a firm and unyielding foundation." It was intended to be a comprehensive history of human settlement in Wetaskiwin and area from the prehistoric period through to the end of the 1920s. The text was prepared by A. Bert Reynolds based on the family histories which had been collected by Mrs. Daisy Lucas. Additional sources of information used in its preparation included the Wetaskiwin Times and a number of standard secondary works on Alberta and Western Canada such as J.G. MacGregor's History of Alberta