



Winter Cities

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*Halifax Regional Municipality,
Nova Scotia*



Winter Cities

ASSOCIATION

c/o CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE, 1100 PATRICIA BOULEVARD,
PRINCE GEORGE, BC CANADA V2L 3V9

MISSION

The Winter Cities Association is dedicated to realizing the potential of all northern communities. Through publishing, networking, organizing conferences, facilitating research and other means, the Association seeks to make available northern solutions to northern problems and to promote awareness of opportunities associated with the winter season.

HISTORY

The Winter Cities Association was founded in 1983 by the late Jack Royle, a retired journalist and pioneer in the winter cities movement. The Association was incorporated in 1984. Professor Norman Pressman served as its first President.

The purpose of the Association is to bring together professional, private, commercial and municipal interests and researchers who are committed to enhancing the liveability and quality of life in communities where winter conditions present unique challenges and opportunities. The Association seeks to support, and may enter into affiliations with, other associations that support its goal.

The Association publishes a quarterly magazine, periodically sponsors other publications dealing with winter issues, and promotes a biennial "Winter Cities Forum and Trade Show" in partnership with a host city/corporation.

The head office of the Association is currently located in Prince George, British Columbia.

MEMBERSHIPS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership fees in the Association are by category:

INDIVIDUAL - \$60.00 Cdn. STUDENT/SENIOR (OVER 65) - \$30.00 Cdn.
CORPORATE/INSTITUTION - \$125.00 Cdn. CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES - based on population

All members receive the *Winter Cities Magazine* and municipalities receive 10 copies of each issue. Members are eligible for discounted registration fees at Winter City Forums, and may purchase books and other materials published or distributed by the Association.

Subscriptions for the magazine only are \$40.00 Cdn. for one year, \$75.00 Cdn. for two years and \$100.00 Cdn. for three years.

Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Cheques are payable to the Winter Cities Association,
c/o City of Prince George, 1100 Patricia Blvd., Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9

"A winter city is one in which the average maximum daytime temperature is equal to or less than 0 degrees Celsius for a period of at least two months or longer".

Pressman, Norman, 1988. "Images of the North: Cultural Interpretations of Winter", in *Winter Communities Series*, No. 5, Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg.



Winter Cities

Volume 22 • Number 3

2 • Featured Photographer

WAYNE JOHNSON

3 • Editor's Message

RENÉ C. AKRE

4 • Icicles

5 • WinterLights Celebrations

MARGARET HOWE

9 • A City's Sense of Snow

REN THOMAS

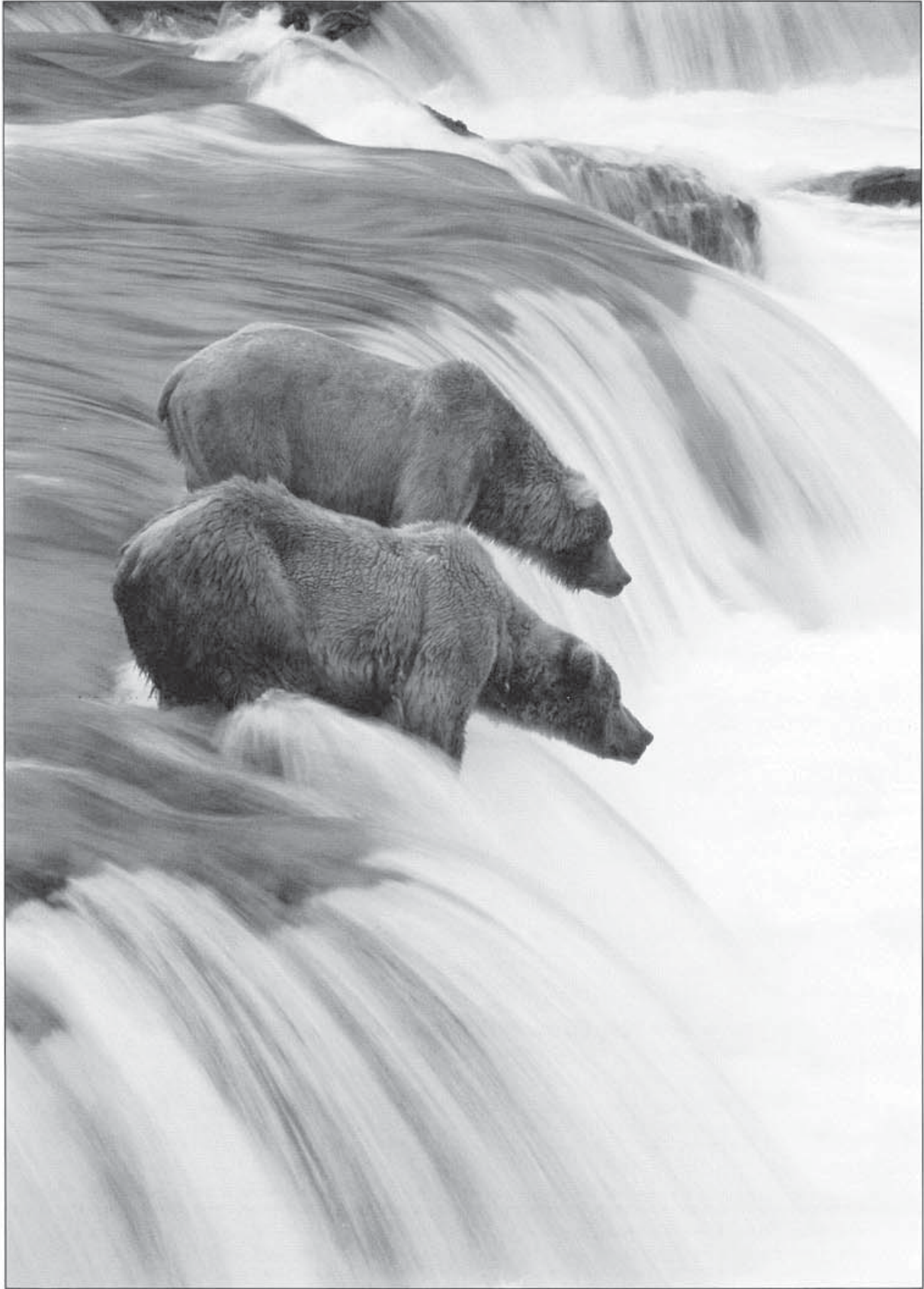
13 • Cool Plans for Cold Cities:

Winterizing Urban Planning in Burlington, Vermont and Anchorage, Alaska

BREA LEMKE

16 • 2004 Winter Cities Conference in Anchorage

On the Cover: Halifax, Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia received from the WinterLights Celebration program special recognition for the "Creation, Funding and the Execution of Special Events." The leadership demonstrated by the Halifax Regional Authority through the creation, funding and execution of special events has acted to unify the amalgamated community and its many organizations. The Holiday Parade of Lights and Christmas tree lighting ceremony replete with fireworks on the Grand Parade are two of many examples of festive events where the Halifax Regional Authority is either the primary event organizer or a cooperating partner.



"Fall Guys"

Featured Photographer

WAYNE JOHNSON

Wayne Johnson was born in San Antonio, Texas and moved to Alaska When he was 3 years old. His love for the outdoors always found him experiencing the woods around Anchorage and Talkeetna as often as possible. Hunting, Fishing, and hiking, but not yet Photography, helped to develop his love for the outdoors even further.

It was later in life, after college, a degree in Computer Science, and marriage, that he found yet another way to enjoy the beauty of Alaska - his Camera. Wayne began taking pictures of his children, beginning with Christopher, and then moved on to Nature's wonders. "The kids were great subjects, but they grew impatient with me." McKinley, Eagles, Northern Lights, and Bears became his subjects. "Now the kids are traveling companions that I take on many of my trips. I can't think of a better way to pass on to them a love for God's great outdoors." Wayne's images have found their way to Covers of Magazines, Calendars, Posters, and his Gallery images can be found in Galleries across Alaska.

All images are dedicated to Christopher who lost his battle with Leukemia on May 12, 1997.

<http://www.alaska.net/~akshots>

email: akshots@alaska.net

From the Editor

I would like to welcome you to this summer's edition of Winter Cities. We are pleased to feature three new contributors.

In our first article, Margaret Howe explains how the WinterLights Celebrations program promotes community involvement in the celebration of winter throughout Canada. We hope this article generates additional interest among Canadian communities to participate, and that it provides inspiration for communities in the U.S. that are looking for successful cultural programs to emulate.

Now, as landscaping is feverishly underway during our short summer season, it is important to stop and think about how well landscape designs will function and delight during the longer winter season. In "A City's Sense of Snow," Ren Thomas offers a poetic and thoughtful critique of the design of the Toronto Music Garden and how it is experienced in winter.

Finally, Brea Lemke, a graduate student in the urban planning program at the University of Wisconsin, writes about her research into how Burlington, Vermont and Anchorage, Alaska have incorporated northern design concepts into urban plans and regulations. Her work reminds us of the importance of connecting with university students to promote an interest in climatic responsive design. Often students are looking for research project ideas for term papers, professional projects or thesis subjects. If your firm or department has a specific project you would be interested in having a student pursue, the Marketing and Communications committee will try to assist you in finding an interested student. You may contact us at wintercities@aol.com.

René Akre

Chairwoman, Marketing and Communications

ICICLES

What's Up in the Winter Cities

Winter Cities

The submission deadline is September 1 for the November edition of Winter Cities.
Email submissions or questions to wintercities@aol.com.

WinterLights Celebrations Schedule of Events

Registrations will be limited to a maximum of 50 communities,
due to time constraints during the evaluation.

September 12, 2003: Registration deadline

October 15, 2003: Communities will be informed of their evaluation date

December 1-18, 2003: Evaluation of the participating communities

February 13 - 15, 2004 : 2003 WinterLights Celebrations Symposium & Awards
Ceremony, hosted by the City of Winnipeg, during the Festival du Voyageur.

The 11th Winter Cities Conference in Anchorage, Alaska

Conference Date: February 18 - 22, 2004.

Early Bird registration is prior to December 31, 2003.

Online registration will be available September 1, 2003

Finland's Snow Show: March 2003

Internationally recognized architects and artists will collaborate to design installations using snow and ice as their primary materials. These designs will be built into an outdoor exhibition of 30 structures in Kemi and Rovaniemi. The event will be open to the public in March, 2004. The Snow Show is curated by New York independent curator Lance Fung together with the director of the Kemi Art Museum Unto Käyhkö and the Director of the Rovaniemi Art Museum Hilikka Liikkanen.
<http://www.thesnowshow.net>

WinterLights Celebrations

by MARGARET HOWE



Brandon, Ontario

Canada in the Winter time. It doesn't get any cooler than this! To assist with showing how "cool" Canada is, a recently developed Winter cultural program WinterLights Celebrations is seeking registrations for the third edition of the program. Tailored after the successful Communities In Bloom summer program, WinterLights Celebrations promotes community involvement through the use of colorful lighting displays, festive events and winter-related activities.

In partnership with the Canadian Tourism Commission along with corporate sponsors, two of the main goals of the program are to promote Canada as a winter

tourism destination and to create an awareness of cultural and sporting events held during the winter months.

The WinterLights Celebrations program consists of communities being evaluated on the achievements of the whole community, in the decoration of public, private and commercial properties with lighting displays, along with festive and winter time activities. Participating communities are divided into population categories with an overall winner selected from each category.

The evaluation is undertaken in December by volunteer judges who take into consideration, amongst other criteria, design,

originality, impact, scope and community participation. Every participating community will be recognized for an outstanding program or feature.

The three components of the program are:

- Festive Celebrations, which encompasses the cultural, spiritual and goodwill programs during December.
- Winter Pleasures, focusing on winter sports, festivals, carnivals, youth and family activities, performing and visual arts. Emphasis is placed on events that include a heritage and cultural component, highlighting the cultural diversity

continued on page 8

of the community.

- Visual Presentation, evaluates the illumination and decoration of public buildings, open spaces, institutional, industrial, central business districts and a representation of residential properties.

"There are indeed many, many marvelous and meaningful winter community events taking place across Canada. All of them add to the unique quality of life found only in Canada - a winter wonderland of light and life." Ted Blowes, Judge

"The City of Portage la Prairie put an extraordinary level of thought and organization in the development of their Island of Lights program. As a community, they collectively wanted to find a way to support recreational facilities development and they targeted the light show as the vehicle that would generate the funds. The city acted as the bank, the community knew exactly where the funds would be used and this is a great example of municipal institutions working with the peo-



Cranbrook, British Columbia - Winner in the 10,001-20,000 population category

ple to both create a tourist attraction and build their community infrastructure." Heather Edwards, Judge

"WinterLights Celebrations is a wonderful vehicle in which to showcase another area of community involvement and the activities of dedicated and hardworking volunteers. It was tremendous to observe the sharing and caring programs, partake in the cultural and artistic activities and to enjoy the many creative lighting displays. WinterLights Celebrations

allows us to celebrate the beauty of our Canadian winter and gives us a focus to share the joy of the season with our neighbours and community." Margaret Howe, Chair and Judge

Over the past two years, eighty-one communities have showcased a cross section of winter related activities and events, and have shared their experiences at the WinterLights Celebrations Symposium and Awards Ceremony.

In February 2004, representatives of municipalities from across Canada, sponsors and volunteers will be attending a three-day event to exchange information and to celebrate their pride of community and country. Winnipeg is hosting the Symposium and Awards Ceremony during the city's Festival du Voyageur event. Plenary sessions covering tourism, future trends, lighting techniques, community events and a number of winter-related outdoor activities will be included in the program.



Mundare, Alberta

As the program evolves, new criteria are included in the evaluation process. Tourism Destinations and past winners are grouped into newly created categories and Provincial and Territorial Capitals compete in a separate Provincial Capitals category. Further information about the program and how to register can be obtained at www.winterlights.ca.

The WinterLights Celebrations organizers encourage all Canadians to participate in the WinterLights Celebrations program in an endeavour to foster civic pride, cultural and heritage awareness and the enhancement of quality of life through community involvement - Celebrating Light and Life!

Margaret Howe is past Chair of the Brantford Parks & Recreation Waterfront Advisory Board and has been a Director of the board since 1992. In her capacity on the board, she has worked extensively to establish relationships with a variety of volunteer groups. She also serves on several community organizations.

Margaret has served as a judge for the Communities in Bloom national program since 1996.

In 2001 she was elected as Chair of the newly launched WinterLights Celebrations program. Patterned after the successful Communities in Bloom summer program, WinterLights Celebrations is committed to fostering community spirit and to celebrating the beauty of winter.



St. Mary's First Nation, New Brunswick - Winner in the 1,001-3,000 population category



Terrebonne, Quebec



Winnipeg, Manitoba - Hosts of the 2003/04 WinterLights Awards & Symposium

A City's Sense of Snow

by REN THOMAS



The landscape is ephemeral, constantly changing in any number of ways. Depending on the geographical setting, we may experience the land during rainstorms, under drifts of snow or under the duress of a summer drought. Who has not rejoiced in the bright autumn colours of a forest, or the tiny crocuses peeping their heads out of the snow in the early spring? Marilyn Christensen writes,

And now the snow has begun, redeeming the town, purifying the mottled brown and tan landscape, softening power lines into lacy ropes, mounding itself on unlovely car carcasses, redesigning them into marvels of line and curve... Leafless tree limbs reach to the sky like angels in white raiment. I think to myself that seeing a great snow is a religious experience.¹

Plant material is often the key to witnessing the changing seasons. Yet as designers, we tend to design for the summer season, trying to lengthen it as much as possible. We often overlook winter appreciation, even though fall and winter may be a significant part of the city's year.

There is an incredible lack of information on designing for colder cities, and designing for seasonal use and appreciation. While a design student in landscape architecture, I encountered a few images in Japanese gardening manuals that featured gardens in all seasons. Often the same view would be repeated, showing the blossoming orange trees in the spring, red Japanese maple in the fall, and finely textured evergreens covered with snow in the winter. There were a few horticultural books that focussed on seasonal

planting and showed plants that kept interesting forms in the winter. But nothing about designing streetscapes, cities, or public spaces for the colder seasons of the year.

Toronto is one of those cities on the border to cold, escaping the snowy frigidity of Northern Ontario and moderated by Lake Ontario on the south. For the past ten years the winter in downtown Toronto has meant month after month of grey, overcast, wet days, with a little rain in the fall and more later, in the spring. Except for a record-breaking storm in 1999, snow has become more and more rare, and would usually cover the ground briefly in January and February. Indeed, the fall and spring seasons have themselves shortened so much in the past decade, that their usual spectacle of colours has lasted

only a week or two each. So it was somewhat of a relief to some this year when we received, early in the fall, dire predictions of a hard winter ahead. Those of us who are skiers, skaters, and fireplace-lovers in the Greater Toronto Area could rejoice: there would definitely be an early frost this year.

And so the fall came upon us, an autumn from a decade ago, glorious and long, over a month of flame-red maples, glowing *Euonymus alata* and golden yellow locust trees. The cold, crisp air hurried everyone on their way about the city, bustling about with red cheeks and noses. I don't know if I was the only one to notice the quickness of a person's step last fall, or the way people often stopped to talk to a homeless person shivering by the side of the road. But it seemed that the cold had drawn people together, if only to join in that universal Canadian pastime, complaining.

The first early snow fell, and then more and more until the city was christened with the beautiful cottony stuff. The sound of cars driving on the streets of downtown became quieter, the streetcars slid along silently, and footsteps showed clearly in the snow where a person had stepped without noise a few seconds ahead of me. While I was thrilled with this early bounty, I could only smile at the frustration of both drivers and pedestrians along my way to work or to meet a friend after work. After enduring countless humid



summers in Toronto in agony while everyone raved about the beautiful weather, it was somewhat of a comfort to be blissfully content in all the whiteness around me.

Somewhere amidst my daily activities it dawned on me that Toronto really was not used to this sort of weather. Or rather, that the city and its inhabitants had actually acclimatised to the warmer weather of the past decade or more, resenting the harshness of winter. More than that, it had actually become more difficult for anyone to appreciate the beauty of this truly Canadian experience. While cities like Ottawa and Montreal abound in winter carnivals, skating, skiing holidays, and twenty-four hour coffee shops, Toronto sullenly refuses to accept that it has a winter. There are small tokens like the skating rinks at Nathan Phillips Square and the Harbourfront, and the annual First Night celebrations throughout the city. But the everyday celebration of winter has fallen by the wayside in Toronto.

As I walked along the city streets I was frequently exposed to the unfriendliness of the pedes-

trian environment in the winter. Sidewalks are often the last to be plowed in winter, and the pedestrian must cross small mountains of snow at each road crossing. This must lengthen the journey time by about thirty per cent. Snowplows leave ridges of snow along each street,

making it difficult to board a bus or streetcar. The only poor consolation the pedestrian has is that the drivers are having just as difficult a time navigating the slippery roads, keeping an eye out for the multitude of children and dogs who have spent months just waiting for the snow to arrive. They are the only ones who are allowed to love winter. (Two small boys who live across the street from my parents have a great time helping their dad shovel the snow. They even go out with their small shovels when it hasn't snowed for a few days, just playing and talking.)

But for us adults, it seems ridiculous that anyone would enjoy a walk on a cold day. I've been chastised for walking a few blocks to meet a friend, or doing a ten-minute walk to the variety store to pick up some milk. "Why on earth would you walk?" I might be asked. Or, "Wouldn't you like a lift?" Certainly the city is inhospitable to the walker during this season. Any pathway or sidewalk that does not run beside a street is not plowed in winter, which means that most Toronto parks and open spaces are to be used "at your own risk". Most of

these areas don't even have maintenance budgets large enough to cover summer mowing and trimming, let alone winter snow clearing and salting. It is still a mystery to me how we have never quite recovered from the recession of a decade ago; the one that in Canada, ended only in 1999. Maintenance for parks and gardens was often an "extra", eliminated due to its high cost. It is not surprising, then, that so many of them are poorly designed for winter use and appreciation.

This weekend I decided to visit the Toronto Music Garden, located at the waterfront, between Bathurst Street and Spadina Avenue. Since the garden has been open for a couple of years now, well documented and traversed, I decided this was the right time to visit. So many spaces in Toronto had declined in recent years due to lack of budgets, and so few of them were admirable in winter. I wanted to see what winter has done to this unique Toronto space, particularly since it was originally designed for the city of Boston, by Julie Messervy and Associates with the cellist Yo Yo Ma. The garden's site was changed because Ma needed it completed within a short time frame as part of a six-part television series where the cellist worked with visual artists to interpret Bach's six suites for unaccompanied cello.ⁱⁱ

I arrived via the popular Exhibition streetcar, getting off at

Bathurst. This positioned me at the "beginning" of the garden, the western-most section called the *Allemande*. The garden is made up of six parts, reaching west to east in a narrow site overlooking the harbour: *Allemande*, *Prelude*, *Courante*, *Sarabande*, *Gigue*, and *Menuett*. Based on the motif of a



German dance, the design the *Allemande* features is a swirling pathway framed by birches and low seating stones. The colours were exquisite, even in the midst of a harsh winter. The snow lay in soft mounds on the ground, sheltering creeping juniper and providing contrast to the creamy birch bark. An abundance of stones completed the feeling of being in the Canadian north. Perhaps Germany has a similar feeling, of birch and spruce and thin soils with rock outcroppings. But for me this was Canada. The snow-covered paths revealed that many people had been in the garden since the last snow, a mere day and a half ago. During my short half-hour walk through the garden I saw at least a dozen people, plus a half-dozen children, walk through the various spaces as well. A good number, for the city

that constantly complains of the cold.

Prelude, the next section of the garden, was a flowing, curved pathway bordered closely by tall grasses that moved and swayed in the wind. I thought of the criticism of this garden, particularly some that stated that the garden was well-designed but ill-sited. But where else in Toronto could the designers make so much use of the wind than right at the Harbourfront? The *Prelude* is supposed to allude to a dry riverbed, with boulders placed among the curved paths up to a high point that offers a view of the harbour. But

to me the real sense of flowing was the bowing and bending of the tall grasses in the wind. They seemed to be urging the walker onward, gently pushing us towards the *Courante*.

My camera kept snapping during the rise from the *Prelude* to the *Courante*. I just could not get over the sheer beauty of the pale yellow grasses, velvety green junipers and Queen Anne's Lace daintily stretching upwards. The spiralling paths that lead up to the high point of the *Courante* are very effectively designed, narrow and tightly curved, so that the grasses seem to envelop you and you have a real sense of something exciting to come. Masses of pale yellow stalks and soft seed-heads softened the view. At the high point, the metal Maypole, designed by Anne Roberts of Feir Mills Enterprises, marks the best

viewing point in the garden. It was here that I noticed the exquisite detailing of the plant materials, tiered upwards from low grasses, to mid-height Queen Anne's Lace to the soaring Miscanthus, whose plumes swayed and moved in the slightest breeze. This has got to be one of the most beautiful places in Toronto on a windy day. As I moved down the spiral path towards the harbour, I looked back up to the Maypole and again was overwhelmed by the beauty of the grasses and their meticulously crafted placement. The reds, browns and pale yellows were simply breathtaking against the whiteness of the snow and the whole mass of them were moving in the wind. While the Miscanthus plumes were trailing and flowing at the slightest breeze, the sedum and Rudbeckia heads moved with short, unyielding spurts in the strongest winds. The entire assemblage of planting lived and breathed to create an overall composition, a visual stimulus that brought to mind the various instrumental voices of an orchestra.

As I moved inwards to the *Sarabande*, I noticed the deep brown plumes of Astilbe, mottled red and green holly, and the vibrant rust-coloured sedums among the snow. Walking into the "poet's corner", I noticed that the small pool in the feature stone had frozen. Except for the reflecting pool/skating rink at Nathan

Phillips Square, it was the only time I have ever seen a water element in a park that was allowed to keep its water in the winter. I thought of how lovely it would be to see more ice as a sculptural element in an open space. Many northern cities, Copenhagen and St. Petersburg for example, have used water and ice in public squares for decades. A recent design by Land Design North in Fairbanks, Alaska, incorporated platforms for ice sculptures in its scheme to improve the courthouse and central business district. In Toronto, I have seen ice formed on the taut wires of the water wall in Yorkville park, creating glassy



threads that are lit at night. Too many designers and municipalities fear the use of water because of its winter implications. What a shame that we have largely sacrificed winter beauty for decreased maintenance budgets and public safety concerns.

The *Gigue* is represented as wide, grassy steps up to the *Menuett*. In the winter they are even more visible as symmetrical, formal terraces, graceful in their simplicity. Again, I was surprised by the number of footprints

etched in the snow here, marking the passage of a few dozen people in the past day and a half. The arched metal trellis of the *Menuett* appears as a crowning element to the *Gigue*, its delicate, curving, dark grey form displayed to advantage against the whiteness of the snow and the sky on this cloudy day.

The *Menuett* is a comfortable size, suitable for lingering even in the winter. The view it affords is not as pleasant as the view from the Maypole, but it is framed so beautifully but the curving tendrils of metal, and the seating wall around its boundary are so inviting, that one is tempted to sit and think a while. It is also the last refuge before heading back onto the busy Toronto streets. For these reasons it is worthwhile to stop and reflect for a moment.

I considered that in terms of seasonal interest, this was probably the most successful space in the downtown core. The rich variety of the plant material, the curving grace of the iron trellises, benches and signage, the small scale of the paths and internal spaces, and the accessibility of the garden all made for an enjoyable winter experience. Just as this thought was forming in my brain, I encountered the exit staircase, framed by an elegant metal railing. The greater part of the stairway had been blocked off by a moveable metal barrier, to which was affixed a yellow plastic "Caution" strip and a red and

white road sign bearing the legend "Careful: Snow and Ice. Use at your own risk" and the icon of a man falling. Making my way around the barrier, I spotted a second one at the bottom of the stairs. Thankfully, they had left just enough room for one person to squeeze through, right underneath the cheerful sign that stated "Toronto Music Garden".

The sense of irony had never been stronger. I had just visited one of the most successful designs in the city, one that was highly celebrated and quite well designed for winter use and interest. While I was in the park I saw families, including elderly people and children, enjoying the curved paths, lush vegetation and interpretive signage. Yet someone, in some beaurocracy, had felt the necessity of placing the barriers and signage in front of the staircase to exit the park, discouraging its use (or rather, disclaiming responsibility for any falls). Assuming that we had made our way through the entire park without the benefit of plowed or salted paths (for it is meant to be traversed from the west to the east, as I had done), it seemed unnecessary to post the warnings at the very last leg of the journey. But in their wisdom, perhaps the beaurocrats realised that most people visiting the park approach it from the east, making the exit stairs into an entrance feature. The message was clear: enjoy a winter walk, but don't sue us if you slip on the ice.

The Toronto Music Garden is successful in its clear, simple design, its uniquely pedestrian-

scaled spaces, and its ingenious use of plant material. The plants in this garden not only have seasonal interest, they also spark the imagination towards music by their constant motion in the wind and by the sounds they make rustling against one another. Their placement in the garden suggests a tempo and rhythm that is different in each of the six pieces, from the swirling excitement of the *Allemande* to the spiralling crescendo of the *Courante*. The attention to detail in the overall design, from the railings and trellis to the benches and signage, make this garden a unique space in Toronto.

I encourage everyone to experience their own cities in winter. They have a beauty and charm that may surprise you, with everyday objects covered with a thick, soft white blanket. If you enjoy a walk without the throngs of people, then winter may be just the time for you to enjoy your favourite streets and spaces in the city. The author Marilyn Christensen writes,

With the snow, a spirit of camaraderie, of quiet heroism has fallen over the community. Relationships chilled by business and apathy are warmed, and for a time the world seems better for the snow. Then cars and feet will turn to slush what is now pristine; the wind will howl and send horrid drifts against my door: drivers will curse the dirty ice piled in the middle of the street. Until the next snow, the lovely white blanket will lie in muddy rages. That is precisely why I love great snows: Their

beauty is as ephemeral as that of snowflakes melting on the tongue. ⁱⁱⁱ

Those of us with an appreciation of seasonal change look forward to many new designs that break the boundaries of public safety concerns to showcase winter beauty.

Ren Thomas trained as a landscape architect and now works as an urban research consultant in Ottawa, a great winter city. "A City's Sense of Snow" was first published in "Critiques of Built Works" 2001, an annual writing competition for landscape architecture students published by the Louisiana State University Dept. of Landscape Architecture. Ren can be emailed at ren.thomas@utoronto.ca.

All photos of the Toronto Music Garden by Ren Thomas

i. Marilyn Christensen, "Great Snows." *Country Living* 19:2 (February 1996), 48.

ii. William J. Thompson. "To Walk Through Bach." *Landscape Architecture* 90:12 (December 2000), 54.

iii. Christensen, "Great Snows," 48.

Cool Plans for Cold Cities

Winterizing Urban Planning in Burlington, Vermont and Anchorage, Alaska

by BREA LEMKE

The intent of this article is to introduce the reader to urban plans and regulations that incorporate winter city concepts. Burlington, Vermont, and Anchorage, Alaska serve as exemplary cases of northern city planning. This discussion of their activities provides a general guide for the development of other northern cities' plans, policies, and regulations.

Winter city concepts bridge the gap between the fields of architecture, landscape design, applied engineering and urban planning, and foster collaboration within those fields. Sharing ideas and techniques from each discipline is an important component of planning in northern communities. To reduce the negative effects and perceptions of winter, interdisciplinary participation and cooperation must occur.

Urban plans establish goals that tie together a community's values and strategies for future development and redevelopment. Upon the identification of these goals, a multidisciplinary approach should be used to create concrete objectives and strategies to achieve the community's goals. Policy guidelines ensure that decisions and actions are consistent with the community's vision, goals and objectives.

It is a responsibility of urban planners to identify winter city concepts and promote their incorporation into public policy, implementation, and public education. There are a handful of North American cities that have incorporated planning for northern winter conditions into their municipal policies. The following sections of this paper analyze the policies set forth by Burlington, Vermont, and Anchorage, Alaska, which require the implementation of a variety of winter city concepts through comprehensive plans and zoning regulations.

Burlington, Vermont

Burlington, Vermont, is the state's most populous city, with 38,889 people, as identified in the 2000 U.S. Census. It is a winter city in every way. The average snowfall is 76 inches and the average January temperature is 17 degrees Fahrenheit. Burlington provides an exemplary design review process, which recommends winter city concepts and provides simplified design guidelines that serve to educate its community.

Policy Implementation

Burlington is a forerunner in the United States for implementing winter city components into local policies. Different aspects of making Burlington a more livable

city in winter have been incorporated into the Municipal Development Plan, Burlington's Zoning Ordinance, and Design Guidelines.

1) Burlington's 2001

Municipal Development Plan

Burlington's 2001 Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is a plan for land use and development within the city. The plan's primary goal is to "prepare the city for growth, provide a reliable basis for public and private investment, and guide the city through the early twenty-first century." (MDP, Introduction, p. 1). The Plan was adopted by the Burlington City Council on June 4, 2001. It is both visionary and strategic in nature. First, the MDP defines the goals and objectives to guide land use policy and decision-making. Second, the Plan clarifies the policies, programs, specific actions and organization leadership that are needed to achieve the goals.

The MDP identifies Burlington as a Winter City and articulates the need to plan the urban environment with the winter season in mind. Winter city principles are first introduced in the Plan as a goal of city policies, which are designed to guide the built environment. They are also specifically included in

Burlington's vision statement for its built environment.

To implement winter livability concepts, the MDP's Built Environment Action Plan designates the Department of Planning and Zoning as the lead authority to implement winter city principles and directs the department to "modify the Zoning Ordinance's Design Review Criteria to ensure building development takes into account Burlington's northern climate." (MDP, Built Environment, p. III-11).

II) Zoning Ordinance

Burlington's Zoning Ordinance was adopted on December 13, 1993 and became effective on April 11, 1994. This ordinance includes winter city concepts. Specifically, in Article six, where design review regulations are detailed, two provisions for northern climate considerations are included. The first provision states:

Provide for nature's events. Attention shall... be accorded to design features which address the effects of rain, snow and ice at building entrances and to provisions for snow and ice removal from circulation areas (Burlington Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.1.10).

The second provision regulates the physical structure of buildings and their design to maintain the allowance of direct sunlight in civic areas and parks. This is an important feature in winter climates, as pedestrians are induced into areas of direct sunlight, minimizing the brutalities of winter weather.

Minimize shadow impacts. New structures and additions to existing structures shall be shaped to reduce

substantial impacts of shadows on public plazas and other publicly accessible spaces. In determining the impact of shadows, the following factors shall be taken into account: the amount of area shaded, the duration of shading, and the importance of sunlight to the utility of the type of open space being shadowed (Burlington Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.1.11).

III) Design Review Guides

In coordination with the zoning ordinance's design review regulations, the city has created design review guidelines to promote the city's zoning objectives to the public in easy-to-understand guides. The city has so far created thirteen documents that describe a variety of design review topics. Ten design topics include objectives for urban planning in northern climates: Parking, Windows, Lighting, Removing Barriers to Access, Replacement Siding; Utilities and Other Essentials, Landscaping, Signs, Brick and Slate Roofs.

Overview of Burlington's Winter Planning Activities

Burlington has been very thorough in identifying itself as a Winter City, educating the public and beginning to implement these concepts. Burlington's Municipal Development Plan includes a clear definition of its northern climate and conditions that must not be forgotten in physical design, land use planning, and in the development of public amenities for Burlington's year-round activities. The Municipal Development Plan outlines objectives and provides an action plan for the modification of the zoning

ordinance's design review criteria so that it takes winter conditions into account. Burlington's Zoning Ordinance complies with the Municipal Development Plan, in such that it includes a statement to provide design features that address snow and ice conditions. It also includes a statement to minimize shadow impacts through design. Burlington's design review guidelines are outstanding in the way they promote the zoning ordinance's objectives and educate the public.

Anchorage, Alaska

Anchorage is often described as a frontier city on account of its impressive natural features and its history of development. This history includes a frontier mentality that has often been skeptical of planning practices. Its physical development history has left a legacy of an urban form that has been substantially influenced by designs adopted from warmer climates, which are not well-suited in the north. In this context, winter city concepts face an uphill battle for implementation, although the severity of Anchorage's winter climate is a strong reason to support their adoption. Specifically, Anchorage's winter climate can be quantified by an average January temperature of 12 degrees Fahrenheit and an average annual snowfall of 80 inches.

Anchorage has taken steps to create municipal policies to make future development and redevelopment projects respond more suitably to the city's northern context. It is also on track to implement strategies that will keep climatic severities minimized

through unique urban designs. The Town Center projects described in the last edition of *Winter Cities* are examples of these strategies.

Policy Implementation

The goal of Anchorage's Planning Department is to make northern design second-nature in the planning and development process. Winter city strategies have been included in Anchorage's Comprehensive Plan, Anchorage 2020, and in its Zoning Ordinance in Section 21.

I) Anchorage 2020

Northern design components were integrated into Anchorage 2020, the comprehensive plan covering a geographically defined area of Anchorage referred to as the "Anchorage Bowl." This is the most intensely urbanized area of the Municipality of Anchorage. The Plan was adopted in February 2001. This was a significant step as it expressed the city's first northern city design initiative and addressed multiple facets of urban planning, including land use, transportation, public facilities, economic development and housing.

The concepts and visions articulated in Anchorage 2020 are to be strengthened by enhancing ordinances, modifying land use and zoning regulations, and creating area-specific plans and policies. The comprehensive planning process included extensive public participation, the formulation of goals and objectives and the development of a community-wide vision.

Anchorage 2020 is an excellent document that outlines many

components necessary to adapt the urban environment to winter conditions. Specifically, it identifies issues affecting future services and facilities of public infrastructure. Then, community values, visions, and goals are set forth for becoming a "true northern / winter city". It outlines design principles to guide planning and urban growth, and provides policies and strategies to serve as a basis for the implementation of the plan. Finally, implementation strategies are defined.

II) Zoning Ordinance - Section 21

Anchorage's Zoning Ordinance includes planning for winter cities in the ordinance's Conditional Use Standards (Section 21.50.027). Design standards for skywalks are featured, for which there are four major components: required submittals, design criteria, skywalks in the Phase 1 Skywalk District, and the authority to impose different standards.

Overview

Anchorage has a framework of winter city concepts established in Anchorage 2020. Anchorage now needs to continue the implementation of the strategies that they have outlined. Further, winter city concepts need to be expanded in the Zoning Ordinance and incorporated into the City Design Review Process.

Conclusion

Planning urban environments compatible to harsh winter conditions is imperative for northern cities and their citizens. It should be noted that with harsh winter conditions there are benefits of

northern locations. Cities must draw upon these benefits to create unique and enjoyable communities. Using interdisciplinary approaches, advances can be made in response to the severity of northern climates. Cities in the United States, such as Burlington, Vermont, and Anchorage, Alaska have begun to incorporate Winter Cities concepts into city policies and should be used as examples for urban planning in other northern communities.

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Articles are generally 1,000 - 1,500 words. Greyscale images are preferred in a tiff or eps format. High-resolution jpgs are fine. Scanned images should be set to 300 dpi (150 line screen) minimum.

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