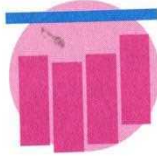


LIVABLE
WINTER CITY
ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION
POUR L'ANIMATION
DES VILLES EN HIVER

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Minneapolis, Minn.

June 1, 1985

LWCA'S NEW LOGO

For two months LWCA has sported a new red and blue logo (above) and some members have asked what it means. Manual Oliviera, designer for Synergon Inc., energy consultants, prepared the first sketch. This was worked over and approved by Toronto Chapter Advertising and Public Relations committee, chaired by Architect Seppo Kanerva. The final draft was accepted by National Executive. As for its meaning:

The four vertical red bars stand for the four basic substances in the Universe, earth, air, fire and water; also represent the four seasons. The large reddish disc in the background represents the sun, giver and sustainer of life. The horizontal blue bar conveys the idea of shelter -- the various adaptations that make human life possible in a constantly changing climate.

INDEX

Pages 2-5

Association News
Report on Scandinavia, Chapter Reports
Winter Cities '86 Forum
Shen-Yang Northern Intercity Conference
Letters
C.U.E. by Dr. Wm. C. Rogers
"Convertibility" by Climatologist
Stewart J. Cohen
New Etobicoke "Leisure Centre"
Children, Playgrounds and Winter
by Peter Shore

Pages 6-7
Pages 8-10
Pages 11-13
Pages 14-15

Pages 16-18
Pages 19-20

WHAT CAN SCANDINAVIA TEACH US ABOUT IMPROVING OUR WINTER CITIES?

. . . . THAT OUR SENIOR GOVERNMENTS AND
UNIVERSITIES MUST PLAY A LARGER ROLE --
SAY PRESIDENT NORMAN PRESSMAN AND VICE-
PRESIDENT XENIA ZEPIC AFTER EXTENSIVE
LECTURE TOURS COVERING FINLAND, SWEDEN,
NORWAY AND ICELAND



Zepic and Pressman

In lecture tours of Sweden and Finland in June 1984 and of Iceland, Norway and Finland in March and April this year, President Pressman and Vice-President Zepic visited universities, city planning departments, architects' project sites and government offices at all levels. They found all of these countries to be increasingly involved in a wide variety of efforts to counter the disadvantages imposed by a severe northern climate. Numerous energy conservation projects and "new towns" were examined and more than a dozen cities were visited.

President Pressman is presently guest-lecturing at École Polytechnique at Lausanne, Switzerland, and so Vice-President Zepic reviewed for NEWSLETTER the main impressions they brought home.

While mega-projects have their place, Scandinavians demonstrate that it is attention to the smaller details that can make life more pleasant in winter -- the small parks and gardens open to the sun and sheltered from the winds, the attention to such amenities as ski trails, well groomed and often well lit to permit evening skiing, the elimination of curbs at street corners to help the handicap, remove a trap that accumulates snow, ice and slush and (because the crosswalks are elevated) create an effective "speed bump" to slow down automobiles...and there were numerous similar ideas.

A second major finding was that senior governments and universities in Scandinavia are much more deeply involved in the efforts to improve winter living in contrast with Canada where most of the leadership is being provided by municipal governments, planners and architects. However, said Ms. Zepic, in the scale and amount of experimentation going forward in big cities and resource communities, Canada seems to have a clear lead over other northern countries. And in no other country is there an organization similar to the Livable Winter City Association.

Other noteworthy projects and developments:

Finland: University of Espoo, near Helsinki, has with government co-operation set aside a large tract of land to be used for a thorough study of energy-efficient housing. Some 12 major house-building contractors have been commissioned to build on this land newest and best ideas in low energy housing. Each builder is erecting some 25 units so that the whole project when complete will be the world's premiere showcase of energy efficient housing.

Downtown Helsinki is centred by a very large park that is the focus of the city's shopping and social activities summer and winter. Set in this park is a large glass domed restaurant that is a general favorite. In winter an immense blazing fireplace can be seen through the glass walls luring bypassers as a candle draws moths. Skiers and skaters are to be seen on the trails and rinks of the park daily in winter.

Sweden: Near Eslov a \$16.5 million development named Gardsakra is perhaps the first large glass-domed residential development. A residential street made up of stacked townhouses on one side, low apartments on the other is roofed with glass with temperatures never dropping below 5°C on the coldest day. The street is filled with tropical plants; occupants can use their backyard patios for ten or eleven months of the year. The architect, Peter Broberg, (author of the foreword in the new book "Reshaping Winter Cities", published by LWCA) plans a much larger sub-division built in the same manner. Stockholm heats downtown streets to clear the snow.

Norway: Skiing, downhill and cross country, is easily the most popular sport in Norway. Residents of Oslo need only travel beyond the city limits to find unexcelled mountain ski resorts and skiing facilities to suit every taste. Many of the trails and slopes are well lighted. Like Helsinki, Oslo has a major park in its core and this is a general recreation and meeting place for the citizens.

Iceland: Iceland's climate is not extremely cold, but it is damp, cloudy and windy. Heat from underground thermal sources is used to heat streets and sidewalks in Reykjavik. Because of the frequency of dull cloudy days and the winter darkness, the citizens have found it a good idea to paint their houses bright reds, blues, yellows and other vivid colors -- (advocated by Dr. William C. Rogers, NEWSLETTER U.S. Associate Editor, who points out most winter cities fail to realize how drab they look in winter.)

OTTAWA CHAPTER GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

In the final of a series of organizational meetings held in a boardroom of Ottawa city hall, April 22, Ottawa LWCA chapter elected officers and launched a series of activities.

Sheila Pepper, a founding LWCA member and treasurer of the charter group, was elected chairman; Susan Smith, vice-chairman; Rose Kung, secretary; and Mary-Jo Hollands-Hurst, treasurer.

Four major committees were formed: Mary-Jo Hollands-Hurst was chosen chairman of the Research and Resource Committee; Sheila Pepper agreed to fill in as pro-tem chairman of the Committee on Winter Recreation, Festivals and the Environment; Al Potvin was named to head up the Committee on Winter Facilities, Construction and Design; Chris Bradshaw to head up the Committee on Access and Mobility. Five to six persons were named to sit on each committee with others to be added as the committees get into full stride.

It was agreed two other committees were needed, one on sponsorships and fund raising, one on advertising and public relations. In discussion it was noted that these two areas are also being tackled by the national executive and that some allocation of responsibility should be agreed on before such committees could function effectively. Chairman Pepper was authorized to discuss these points during planned visits to Toronto in early June.

Sheila Pepper was further authorized to communicate with Arni Fullerton, project leader in charge of preparations for Winter Cities '86 Forum to be held in Edmonton in February, co-hosted by LWCA, to ask what contributions

TORONTO CHAPTER WANTS VOLUNTEERS TO WORK ON MAJOR PROJECTS

Meeting three times in the last two months. Toronto Chapter heard reports on ambitious programs being planned by its six project committees.

Greg Ross, Chapter chairman, urged Toronto area LWCA members and NEWSLETTER readers to offer their services for the committee or committees on which they would like to work since added manpower is needed by most of the committees. Those prepared to volunteer are asked to phone any of the following committee chairmen: Advertising and Public Relations, Greg Ross, 863 1896; Sponsorships, Al Sutton, 964 9191; Winterfest, George Przybylowski, 585 6074; Membership, Vladimir Matus, 967 6457; Programs-Events-Educational, George Stockton, 925 4484 and Resource Committee, Seppo Kanerva, 364 6665.

In the latest meeting, May 23, Chairman Ross outlined work of the Advertising and Promotion Committee in preparation of a brochure that would serve both Toronto Chapter and the national organization. He showed a dummy of a 3 3/4" by 8 1/2" folder with a pocket designed to hold smaller folders or special project information sheets. The general folder would carry basic data about the Association. With inserts the whole package could be used as leave-behind material or mailing pieces.

Winterfest committee gave a detailed report on a large amount of work achieved in exploring the possibility Toronto might consider a winter festival. Programs-Event-Educational committee detailed well-advanced plans for a series of major seminars or presentations by leading experts to be held through the coming fall and winter.

George Stockton, committee chairman, stated the working theme for the series will be: "New Ideas for Living in Winter Cities". The goal is "to act as a clearing house for ideas, to raise consciousness and awareness of issues and concerns about planning and designing and to demonstrate that the cold months can be as enjoyable and livable as the warm months."

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Linda Mortsch, of Canadian Climate Centre, Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada, was named national executive-secretary of the Livable Winter City Association at a meeting of the National Executive. Ms. Mortsch replaces Byron Johnson who recently moved to Vancouver and who felt it would be difficult to continue to function effectively in the position from the West coast city.

Other action taken by the national executive was to approve a recommendation of the Toronto chapter that a special student membership rate of \$20 be set up, the amount to include the subscription for the NEWSLETTER. This action was taken because of the interest being taken in the organization by a growing number of architectural, planning and landscape architecture students and their eagerness to be involved in the projects being undertaken by the national organization and chapters.

HORNEPAYNE TOURING CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR SEPT. 28, 29

To familiarize professionals, government officials, municipal planners and others who may be interested with new concepts in community design in northern regions, a "touring conference" will be held at Hallmark Hornepayne Town Centre, Sept. 28 and 29 this year. A charter flight will carry those coming from Toronto area. Organizer is Hallmark Hotels Ltd., 45 Charles st. E. builder and designer of the Hornepayne facility. The conference will include tours and seminars. Rooms will be available in Hallmark Hornepayne Inn for payment of tax only. Special rates will apply for meals. Those wishing more information may contact Al Sutton, Vice-President Hallmark Hotels Ltd., 45 Charles st., E., Toronto, Ont., M4Y 1S2, Tel: (416) 964 9191.

WINTER CITIES '86 FORUM DETAILS NEARING COMPLETION

Winter Cities '86 Forum to be held Feb. 15 through 19, 1986, at Edmonton's new convention centre will have two main objectives, declares Arni Fullerton, Project Leader in charge of organizing the event. "To demonstrate a strengthened sense of community by offering a variety of winter-related events, festivities, exhibits and workshops....and to generate information, and raise general awareness of the concepts of winter city livability by providing an interdisciplinary conference on ideas, designs and techniques for improving the efficiency and quality of life in winter cities."

Main focus will be a symposium comprised of lectures, panels and plenary sessions on three themes: 1) Livable -- human, physical, psychological, and social needs; 2) Winter -- environment, climatology, socio-economic, impacts and opportunities of northern urban life; 3) Habitat -- technology, shelter, structural and managerial aspects of city life.

During the five day period of the event there will be additional activities and attractions of three types: Winter City Events, festivities, theatre, ice sculpture, an historic clothing exhibit and a winter fashion show; Community Demonstration Workshops, indoor gardening, energy conservation ideas, other lifestyle related techniques; Exhibitions, displays of sports equipment, architectural designs, community projects, and commercial products.

Sponsors, along with the City of Edmonton and the Livable Winter City Association, will include Province of Alberta, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Environment Canada, Canadian Housing Design Council, Science Council of Canada, Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation, Department of Regional Industrial Expansion, Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Airlines. Other associated organizations will be Winter Cities Conference Corporation, Edmonton; Partners for Livable Places, Washington; World Affairs Centre, Minneapolis; Northern Regions Centre Corporation and Foundation, Japan; and Mayor Takeshi Itagaki's "Winter Cities Mayors' Group", Sapporo, Japan.

A concurrent international event will be a meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. Theme of these sessions will also be "Livability of Human Settlements in Winte Climates"

Additional details are given in the brochure enclosed with this issue of NEWSLETTER. Contacts: Arni Fullerton, Project Leader, Winter Cities Conference Corporation and Pamela Freeman, Co-Leader. Address: Winter Cities, City Hall, Edmonton, Alta., T5J 2R7, Tel: (403) 428 3576

Major Exhibition and Conference Now Planned for 1988

The 1986 Forum will set the stage for an even broader and more ambitious International Forum to be held in Edmonton in 1988, endorsed last week by Edmonton City Council. This event will be a combination of five world-scale features all on the theme of northern living and technology. It will be timed concurrently with the Winter Olympics in Calgary and between the two events a very large number of international visitors should be drawn to Alberta at that time. Title for the Forum will be "EDMONTON '88 WINTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL FORUM". There will be five components: the first large International Trade Show on winter products, science and technology; the Third Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors, following on similar conferences at Sapporo, Japan and Shenyang, China; a major symposium on science, technology, building and the livable winter city; an International Design Competition focussing on parts of downtown Edmonton; and a Winter Celebration, including various cultural and educational activities and festive events with the theme: "Winter People, Winterland". For information, contact Arni Fullerton and Pam Freeman as above.

ORGANIZER OF SHEN-YANG SECOND NORTHERN INTERCITY CONFERENCE

OUTLINES DETAILS OF FOUR-DAY PROGRAM

TEN CITIES FROM SIX COUNTRIES ARE PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING TO BE HELD SEPT. 19 TO 22 IN CHINA'S MOST NORTHERLY BIG CITY. URBAN FORM, ENERGY, LANDSCAPING AND UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES WILL BE MAIN THEMES. SIMULTANEOUS TOURS OF THREE REGIONS OF CHINA WILL FOLLOW.

By Yoshihiro Kakuta

Chief, Long-Term Planning and Research Section,
Planning and Coordination Bureau, Sapporo, Japan,
Organizing Chairman, Northern Intercity Conference,

The Northern Cities of the world are fated to suffer from adverse weather conditions with snow and cold and long winters. In spite of this they are busily developing attractive cities with separate identities, creating individual lifestyles fitting their natural features, despite the extremely changable natural conditions.

Still, for Northern Cities like ours, there are numerous matters, in addition to those experienced by more southern cities, that await solutions, due to the climatic constraints imposed by the cold and snowy conditions.

In Sapporo, we considered that learning through the experience of other Northern Cities with related problems would provide an opportunity to become more knowledgable. To achieve this, the City of Sapporo invited mayors from cities in Northern Regions throughout the world to the First Northern Intercity Conference in February, 1982 (see article page 12).

The conference was attended by representatives from 8 cities, led by Edmonton, Canada, and participants from the United States, China, West Germany, and Finland. At the conference there was heated discussion of basic problems of town planning in Northern Regions, traffic, living environment, and the promotion of sports and recreation, with numerous positive results.

For Sapporo, especially, the creation of winter cityscapes with evergreen trees, energy savings with sodium lamps, development of new kinds of winter sports and recreation, have been taken up and promoted by the city as a result of the ideas expressed at the conference. Next year in February at the "Winter Cities '86 International Forum" in Edmonton, the Mayor of Sapporo, Hon. Takeshi Itagaki, will report on part of these activities.

The conference further provided an opportunity for active exchanges in sport, culture, and economic matters among the participating cities.

Fortunately, the participants in the First Northern Intercity Conference could agree on continuing conference activities, and this year, for four days from Sept. 19 to 22, the Second Conference will be held at Shen-Yang, China.

MAYOR ITAGAKI'S "SAPPORO INITIATIVE"

In reporting on the First Northern Intercity Conference held in 1982, Mayor Itagaki declared: "We had long wished to host an international conference where northern cities with similar climates and natural features would get together to acquire knowledge of their shared urban problems." Eight cities representing five countries attended. One of the most important results was a special bond between Sapporo and Edmonton -- a bond that will be strengthened when Mayor Itagaki delivers a keynote address to "Winter Cities '86 International Forum."



Mayor Itagaki

Kakuta Article cot'd:

For the Shen-Yang conference four themes have been decided: 1, Town planning in Northern Cities; 2, Energy problems in Northern Cities; 3, Greening of Northern Cities; 4, Development of water sources in Northern Cities. At present, ten cities from six countries are scheduled to attend: Canada (Edmonton); The United States (Anchorage, Chicago, Portland); West Germany (Munich); Italy (Turin); Japan (Sapporo) and China (Shen-Yang, Harbin, Chang-chun).

Shen-Yang is the fourth largest city in China with 2,200 years of history and traditions. It is presently progressing rapidly and is representative of an expanding Northern City. It is expected that the results of the conference here will surpass those of the Sapporo Conference.

With the extreme natural conditions of northern lands giving the freshness that only such an area can provide, and holding on to the precious fortune thus provided, the goal is to distill the wisdom from many sources, to actively strive towards an ideal metropolitan development; this and only this is the way ahead to the future.

* * * *

Included with Kakuta's report was a copy of the program for the Shen-Yang Conference. It will be a round table conference with each participating city choosing one or two topics from an announced list: urbanism and the design and planning of northern cities; utilization and exploitation of energy including conservation measures; afforestation and landscaping including indoor plantings; also exploitation, protection and comprehensive utilization of water resources, a major problem for many northern cities. Simultaneous translation will be in Chinese, English, Japanese and German. Post conference tours will be organized by Shen-Yang Foreign Affairs Office. Information may be obtained by writing: Yoshihiro Kakuta, Organizing Chairman, Northern Intercity Conference, City Hall, North 1, West 2, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan 060.

LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS

SEVERAL LETTERS ARE RECEIVED EACH WEEK BY THE LIVABLE WINTER CITY ASSOCIATION AND BY NEWSLETTER. IN THE NEXT TWO PAGES WE PRESENT A FEW OF THOSE RECENTLY RECEIVED TO INDICATE TO READERS THE TYPE AND BREADTH OF INTEREST BEING STIRRED BY LWCA AS THE ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO GROW AND EXPAND AT AN ACCELERATING RATE.

Edmonton Engineer Points To Problems of Seniors

Sir: I very much enjoy reading NEWSLETTER and am looking forward to the "Winter Cities '86 International Forum" to be held in the Edmonton Convention Centre.

From reading recent issues of NEWSLETTER, it appears most of the articles are written by people under the age of 50 and, of course, they deal with how winter cities can be made more enjoyable for those who are quite mobile. I, myself, am in that group and find no real problem living in a northern city such as Edmonton. However, my parents who are in their 80's have a different opinion.

My parents and many people over 60 who used to live on the prairies now live on the coast in such areas as White Rock, B.C. Many have moved to the coast because of the tough prairie winter. When my parents came to visit us as Christmas, they were almost housebound, particularly my mother who has arthritic problems. It was almost impossible for them to walk along our city streets and sidewalks due to snowdrifting and ice. Snow and ice created a worse problem for them than the cold temperatures.

With our aging population, increasing numbers face such difficulties. I feel the problem of urban transportation in winter must be addressed before we can come close to having a "Livable Winter City". Living most of my life in northern Alberta and Northwest Territories, I have noticed few elderly people walking or driving around. My 15-year-old son likes camping in mid-winter in a snow house or tent. My 85-year-old father would endanger his health if he tried the same thing. In discussing winter city adaptations are we focussing too much on the relatively young, healthy and mobile?

Keep up the good work.

Donald E. Holte, P. Eng.,
Nova Engineering Ltd., Edmonton

A Request From Honolulu

Sir: This may seem unusual given the climate here. I am a student at University of Hawaii School of Architecture and I wish to have some information about your association. I am actually a resident of Anchorage, Alaska. Please send NEWSLETTERS, publications, research results, everything. Are Alaskans close enough to Canada to be eligible for membership. (Ed. Note: Yes, indeed. We already have British, Swedish, Icelandic and other Europeans as members and several members from the lower 48 states.)
Bryce Klug, Honolulu

Thunder Bay Planner

Please send me relevant information re Livable Winter City Association.
P. Wong, M.C.I.P.,
Senior Planner, Thunder Bay, Ont.

Ready for Climate-Designed Development

I have recently purchased a 20,000 square-foot building for commercial development in the town of Forest. The property lends itself to future development similar to Hornepayne. Please advise what assistance your association can provide.

Richard Dinyer, Forest, Ont.

Request From Norway

The City of Oslo is in need of some good advice on how to handle our cold season, particularly on how to turn it into an asset....Do you have some activities or just some plain knowledge that we could be part of?

Peter Butenschon, Project Director,
Inst. for Urb. Dev., Oslo, Norway

Living Plants in Atriums Not Being Treated Properly

As growers, we are concerned that architects, landscape architects, and designers are not dealing with the problems surrounding living plants in interior spaces.....We offer our horticultural experiences to LWCA so the growth of plants may be duly considered in the design of atriums. (Ed. Note: an article by the author of this letter will appear in June 1 issue.)

Gordon I. Heaps,
Smith and Gordon Horticulturists,
Edmonton

Inuit Group Wants Information

Could you supply details on the Winter Cities '86 International Forum to be held next February in Edmonton?

Doug Smith, Housing Manager,
Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corp.,
Ottawa

Architectural Technologist Sees Need for LWCA

LWCA sounds great and is much needed in our cities and towns in northern climates. I am an architectural technologist working in Kitchener-Waterloo area. Would be grateful for information on your membership and activities.

Tim Schaner, St. Jacob's, Ont.

Denmark Firm Offers Light Panels

As one of Europe's leading producers of light panels, we feel our products can help to give people better winter living. But as yet our products are unknown in North America.

Bjarne Nielsen, Everlite, A/S
DK 3320 Skaevinge, Denmark

Lethbridge Downtown Redevelopment

Lethbridge has just moved the C.P. marshalling yards from city centre to a new location. This gives opportunity for redevelopment of the Central Business District. The International Forum in Edmonton next February could be of particular interest to us...

Dennis S. O'Connell, Manager,
Econ. Dev. Dept., Lethbridge

5 to 6 Months of Winter

Since Prince George generally has winter conditions approaching 5 to 6 months of the year, any material you can provide would be most useful.

Gerry Fleming, Asst. Planner,
Prince George, B.C.

..... MORE LETTERS

Finnish Request

Scanorama magazine (an airlines publication) recently introduced your organization, formed to improve the human environment in northern cities around the world. Please send further information about LWCA and the coming international conference at Edmonton.

Kaarina Sinerkari, Staff Writer,
Helsingin Sanomat (newspaper)
Helsinki, Finland

Interested in "Uniquely Northern" Exhibition

We are particularly interested in your proposed exhibition of uniquely northern technologies and community design (Ed. Note - to accompany "Winter Cities '86 International Forum".)

R.G.Hines, M.C.I.P., Urban Planner,
Community Planning and Dev. Div., NWT
Yellowknife, NWT

"Reshaping Winter Cities" Circulated in Japan

"Reshaping Winter Cities" provides valuable suggestions for the development of cities in Northern Regions and I have provided copies (translated) for all departments (of the City of Sapporo) concerned as well as Hokkaido University...I wish you success in your activities and offer my best regards for further development of LWCA.

Yoshihiro Kakuta, Sapporo, Japan

Ed. Note: See article by Sapporo Chief Planner Kakuta on pages 5-6.

Hochelaga Research Institute Launches Northern Library

I have worked for some 30 years in polar research libraries, all of which define the circumpolar northern regions in relation to (extreme northern) latitudes. I can now see that from the LWCA point of view, and from many other points of view, it makes sense to define northern regions as those where winter is the dominating season. Although my own personal interests have always been with the native peoples of Northern Canada, my broad plan for Hochelaga's library and data base is to be omnivorously comprehensive. We shall build the library first in the direction that contracts will take us. I have opened negotiations with the Education Department of the Government of the Northwest Territories to suggest that they contract with Hochelaga to supply the library for the newly-constituted Arctic College. I have suggested to Parks Canada that they contract with Hochelaga to control for them the literature related to national parks, tourism, recreation and related subjects in northern regions. Much of what we create could no doubt ultimately be of value to LWCA which will need to have a data base to back up its resource and research activities.....

Alan Cooke,
Hochelaga Research Inst.,
1200 Atwater av., Montreal, H3Z 1X4

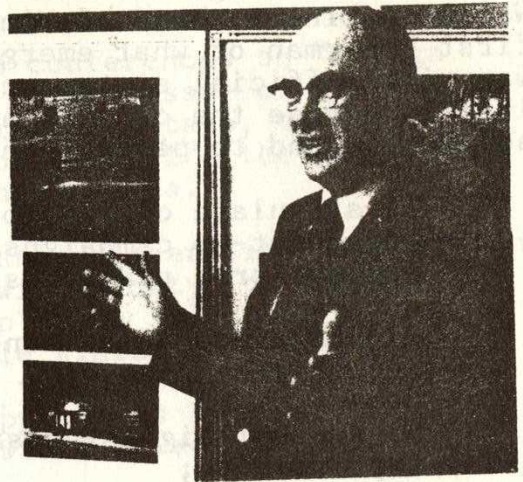
SEND A LETTER TO NEWSLETTER

AS ABOVE LETTERS INDICATE, NEWSLETTER CAN HELP YOU TO NETWORK. LWCA IS FORMING CHAPTERS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT MEANWHILE YOU CAN USE NEWSLETTER TO INCREASE YOUR INVOLVEMENT. SIX HUNDRED OR MORE READERS, MOST IN CANADA BUT SOME SPRINKLED OVER SEVEN OTHER NORTHERN NATIONS, WILL SEE YOUR MESSAGE. TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK. LET'S HAVE YOUR COMMENTS AND IDEAS. WRITE A NETWORKING LETTER TO NEWSLETTER.

C.U.E.

COMMITTEE ON URBAN ENVIRONMENT HAS HELPED
MINNEAPOLIS -- PERHAPS OTHER WINTER CITIES
COULD BENEFIT BY TRYING THE IDEA

BY WILLIAM C. ROGERS
Dr. Rogers is Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota and Consultant to the Minnesota International Centre. He is a member and former chairman of CUE, also a founder of the "Winter City" movement. As of this issue he becomes "U.S. Correspondent" of NEWSLETTER (see masthead page 1).



Dr. William C. Rogers

CUE is the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment (CUE), originally named the Beautification Committee. It was formed in 1968 by the Mayor and City Council to improve the city's environmental quality and contribute to its livability.

The Committee is made up of 27 members who are appointed by the Mayor and City Council. An early brochure says that "CUE is made up of people like you -- citizens who care about their environment. Among its members are housewives, business executives, architects, designers, teachers, city officials, and artists. Although their backgrounds are diverse, they all have a stake in the urban problem."

1967 was a year of great political ferment in U.S. Protest against the Viet Nam war ran high and there were strong environmental concerns being expressed. Lady Bird Johnson, wife of the President, was fighting a battle to beautify highways by removing billboards and in Minneapolis, students were taking time off from protesting the war by protesting the proliferation of ugly fast food structures. (One activist went so far as to drive his automobile into franchised hamburg outlet near University of Minnesota.)

The Mayor of Minneapolis in those stirring times was Arthur Naftalin, a political scientist/professor at University of Minnesota, who combined scholarship with active politics. He was a long-time confidant of Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale and was one of the most popular mayors the city had had. Alert to these environmental trends, he suggested to me that I help sponsor a conference on urban beautification. We held it at the Minneapolis Art Institute.

Members of the audience, totalling several hundred, were horrified by a presentation by Louis Crutcher of Portland, Oregon, who had moved around the city with his camera for several days before the conference and showed slides of litter in the streets, ugly signs, unplanned neighborhoods, deteriorating buildings and other aesthetic disasters that we had become so used to we had stopped taking notice of them. Garrett Eckbo of the University of California then spoke on, "How To Make a City More Livable," and lit more than a spark.

Long thought by its inhabitants and others to be one of America's more beautiful cities, an outraged Minneapolis formed a citizens' committee to take action against what was now viewed as a blot on the urban landscape. Walter Robinson, head of Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, became the first chairman of what emerged as a semi-official city agency C.U.E. It was given official status and a charter by the City Council in February 1968 to advise the council and the mayor on general problems of urban aesthetics and to perform the following responsibilities:

- 1) stimulate citizen participation in anti-litter clean-up, fix-up and paint-up campaigns; to give annual community design awards, sponsor tree plantings and encourage better civic design;
- 2) stimulate investment in and use of fine art objects in public and private places;
- 3) support highest design standards in all public and private improvements;
- 4) stimulate and marshall citizen support for the preservation of historic landmarks and places of unique interest within the city;
- 5) sponsor meetings, institutes, forums and other educational activities designed to create clearer public understanding of the aims and programs of C.U.E.
- 6) make studies and conduct explorations which will provide a basis for research related to C.U.E.'s programs and policies.

The full CUE committee meets monthly in the City Hall and is staffed by the City Planning Department. CUE established a number of sub-committees which also meet regularly. They are: the Shade Tree Committee, the Urban Design Committee, the Neighborhood Environment Committee/Clean-Sweep Task Force and the Committee on Education and Research. The Shade Tree Committee has worked arduously over the years to maximize the beauty of the "urban forest" and was active in helping replant the boulevards after many of the elms had died from Dutch Elm disease. Under this imaginative program, different types of trees were planted on different blocks so that some streets have flowering crab trees, others have ash and others may have ginkos. This diversity helps prevent another disease from denuding the city as can happen when all shade trees are of one variety.

The Urban Design Committee has real powers over the location and exterior appearance of fast food outlets and gas stations. Working through the City Planning Commission, it is able to create, bit by bit, a code of urban design standards. It also advises on signs in the city.

The Neighborhood Environment Committee pays close attention to the affairs of many neighborhoods of Minneapolis which are highly organized and develop strong loyalties. It also engages in the annual task of removing litter after the last of the messy snow and ice piles finally melt away in April. Herculean efforts are then made to clean the city through city departments as well as volunteer efforts. For some years this committee sponsored a "litter luncheon" which caused some snickering because of what sounded like its peculiar menu.

The Green and Growing Task Force is interested in maximum plantings of flowers, shrubs, gardens including using the boulevards (the strips between sidewalks and streets) for colorful garden displays. It also works with garden clubs.

The Research and Education Committee has sponsored conferences on "Design Review", (Ed. Note: a subject to be covered in a future issue of NEWSLETTER) on "Mosquitoes" which are a serious problem for Minneapolitans, on "Villages in the City", and is now working on a conference on "Infill", the problem of unsightly open spaces, particularly in the downtown area.

Of special interest to NEWSLETTER readers and Livable Winter City Association members is the fact that the very first "livable winter city" conferences held in North America were an offshoot of CUE. In March 1978 under CUE auspices an International Conference on the Livable Winter City was held at a Minneapolis conference center. The following year a conference titled, "The Liveable Winter City -- How Do We Make It Happen" was held at the same center with speakers including Jack Royle NEWSLETTER editor.

A recent agenda of the full CUE Committee contained the following items: Mayor Donald Fraser spoke about the problems with the Hubert Humphrey Metrodome; the question of sail boats in city parks; and a major proposal for re-development of a downtown block by Oxford Developments. Other items included a report on Arbor Day, a possible conference on development of the Mississippi River frontage, the issue of landscaping a large new downtown building and positions CUE should take on shoreline developments around the many lakes within city limits.

CUE has a very limited number of definite powers. It is for this reason it has promoted the development of a Design Review Committee with real teeth. However, the Mayor and City Council do listen to CUE and the press sometimes champions issues CUE has brought to public attention. On the whole, builders, landscapers, developers and others would just as soon build attractive buildings as ugly ones.

CUE, with its wealth of citizen talent, including some of the leading architects in the city, can often point the way towards compromises in design problems that are acceptable to all concerned. Voluntary solutions are preferred where possible. And yet, CUE often hears about major downtown buildings and large neighborhood developments only after all the key decisions have been made. Its members thus feel considerable frustration. Still, at the end of the year when it holds its Awards Banquet, bringing all present and former CUE members together as well as others who share the interest in a more attractive city, there is a feeling of accomplishment. The awards given for attractive additions to the urban environment are well received and well publicized.

CUE may not be unique in U.S. where generally two or more individuals with a common interest will usually form an association. But so far CUE has not found any other groups close enough to it in character to permit formation of a broad association of city environmental organizations. A few cities have design review boards, but very few, if any, have official citizen-oriented groups such as CUE. Such an organization makes even more sense for winter cities where a more intensive effort is required to keep them beautiful and attractive in all their seasons.

Perhaps other North American cities would benefit by taking a cue from Minneapolis' "CUE".

CONVERTIBLE STREETS AND COMMUNITIES ARE NEEDED TO

"KEEP YOUNG URBAN FAMILIES IN THIS LAND OF WINTER"

Climatologist Believes Much New Thinking Must Be Done To Develop Urban Forms That Will Maximize the Pleasant, Minimize the Unpleasant, Features of Our Climate

by Stewart J. Cohen,
Canadian Climate Centre

"We've got to move out of here. These winters are just too long and too cold."

As the 1984-85 winter drew to a close in Toronto, I heard these comments on two consecutive days from two people with very different backgrounds. One was from a Mediterranean country, and was more accustomed to a warm dry climate. The other was a native Torontonion who has never lived anywhere else. Both of them are under 35.

How do you keep the new generation of young urban families in this land of winter when subtropical locales beckon only a few hours away by air? How can a city be designed with winter in mind while, at the same time, satisfying the desires of a new generation who are contemplating home ownership for the first time? How can winter be shut out without turning our streets into empty concrete ribbons, containing cars but not pedestrians?

After recently being exposed to Jack Royle and his slides for an hour in early April, I was asked to put my opinions on paper for this NEWSLETTER. As a climatologist, I recognize the importance of climate in everyday life, including life in urban areas. Considerable research has been undertaken by climatologists into urban air quality, the "urban heat island", and other aspects of the outdoor environment that the modern North American society has inadvertantly modified through the construction of cities, the combustion of fossil fuels and the maintenance of transportation routes in winter. Some of us have studied the effects of climate on human health, developing indices such as "humidex" (heat and humidity) and "wind chill" (cold and wind). A new "climate stress index" has recently been developed by Dave Phillips and Ron Crowe of the Atmospheric Environment Service which quantifies the effects of the whole climate, including cloud cover and day length. (Ed. Note -- a development we hope to describe for our readers in an upcoming issue.)

In all of this work, however, we recognize that there are important non-climatic variables that influence stress levels and health, including income, degree of isolation and confinement, and a variety of social and cultural factors. Climate stress indices are often criticized because of the non-climate factors that are not included in a quantitative way.

At this point, we can see that the climatologist and the architect/planner face a similar dilemma -- combining climate and non-climate variables into one whole picture, whether it be for the development of stress indices, or central business districts. Is it possible to consider all of these variables together, in a meaningful way?

In the past, architects were criticized for designing structures as though they were to be built in a meteorological vacuum, for the sake of cost reductions and labour efficiency. Although several architects, notably Olgyay, Givoni and Aronin, have written books on designing with climate, there was little evidence that their ideas had been adhered to. Now, fortunately, this is beginning to change, with the coming of atriums, solar power, indoor plazas combining multi-unit dwellings and commercial enterprises, and community centres that offer indoor and outdoor recreation all year. In fact, many of these developments have been so successful that there's talk of the "domed city", whole communities sheltered by huge transparent domes. This concept, I feel, won't happen for a very long time, if at all. In the meantime our streets will have to fend for themselves in unclement weather.

And that is what this little discussion is really all about -- restoring a once-healthy relationship between people and their streets, making our downtown avenues and boulevards inviting to pedestrians day and night, summer and winter. Outdoor pedestrian malls have potential, but they're not designed for winter. Indoor malls are fine for shopping, but they take people away from the street, and are ugly and foreboding to outdoor pedestrians because their exterior walls are usually plain concrete with few or no windows.

During the winter, most urban dwellers spend less than 30 minutes a day outdoors. We're sheltered by cars and subways, office buildings, shopping plazas, and houses. Our downtown streets are often inhospitable because of wind channelling between the office towers. It's pretty difficult for a small business to succeed on a city street in winter, if Mr. and Mrs. Ordinary Citizen don't use the streets. The consequences of having semi-deserted streets include low occupancy rates and an increased risk of vandalism, assaults, and other crimes.

We must make our city streets appealing to pedestrians during all seasons. Let's see more sidewalk cafes and boutiques in transparent shelters that can be opened during the summer, and closed during inclement weather. Some examples can be found in the Crescent Street area of Montreal. This would provide an all-season "convertibility" and could reduce air conditioning costs during the summer, since greater ventilation would be available.

Now, what about housing? Can residential structures be included in these "convertible" developments? This first requires consideration of the nature of the housing market.

There already exists in Canada multi-unit residential developments that include direct access to indoor shopping, offices and recreational facilities, such as Montreal's Westmount Square, or the Housing Union Building at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. But multi-unit housing is not attractive to many young couples wanting to raise children. In certain areas, such as Toronto, the single family house is still in big demand, even if the only affordable ones are on narrow lots in new subdivisions. A truly successful all-season residential development will be one in which single-family housing can be included.

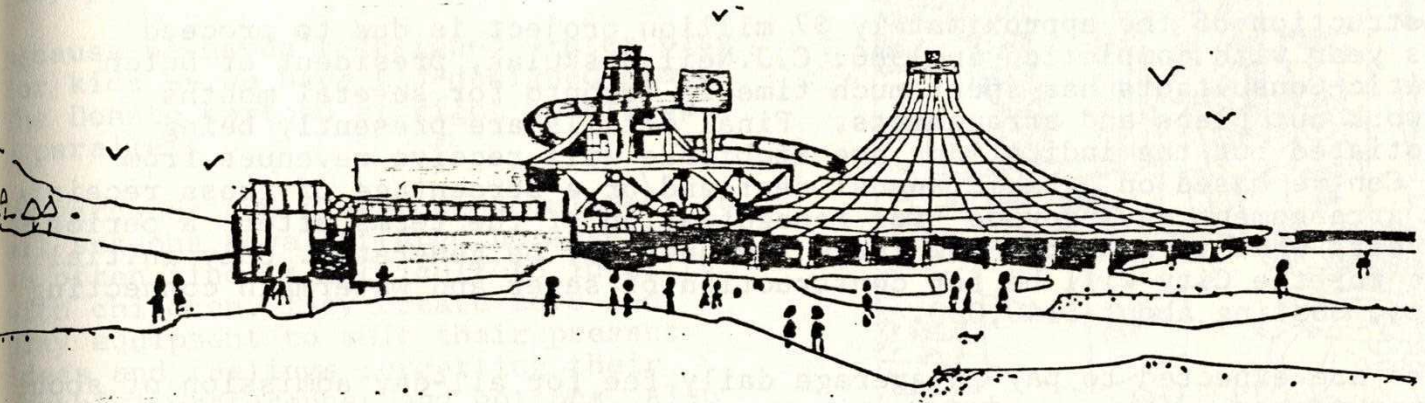
The Livable Winter City of the future will fall short of its ambitious goals without convertibility. I feel that this is the key to making our streets and communities more attractive to people of all ages during all seasons.

(Dr. Stewart Cohen is a Visiting Research Fellow at Canadian Climate Centre, Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada. He has attended McGill, University of Alberta, and U.S. universities and lectured at York University.)

ETOBICOKE CENTENNIAL PARK'S NEW

Leisure Centre

WILL SHOWCASE EUROPEAN IDEAS FOR HAVING FUN IN A FOUR-SEASON CLIMATE



The City of Etobicoke, Ont., part of Metro Toronto, has decided to break new ground in central Canada by providing a new type of climate-oriented recreation facility. "Leisure Centres", or "Leisure Parks", exist in Calgary, Edmonton and Halifax but are unknown to the millions of people in Ontario and Quebec. They are also virtually unknown in the United States.

Developed in Europe, after considerable research, "Leisure Centres" are glass- or plastic-domed tropical oases that allow northerners to have almost the best of all worlds -- lolling in the surf and tanning by the pool within minutes of skiing and skating. Inhabitants of Britain, Germany, Netherlands and other central and northern European countries are flocking to such centres that have sprouted like mushrooms over the past decade.

"Leisure Centres" offer still another example of the use of technology and structural adaptations to improve livability of northern communities and cities. Canadian shoppers are familiar with the comfort and convenience of covered shopping malls. And we are now being told how domed sports stadiums, like B.C. Place in Vancouver, Lindsay Park in Calgary and the convertible stadium mooted for Toronto, help to cancel out the disadvantages for spectator sports created by the changeable extremes of our climate. And there is increasing experimentation with glass-covered pedestrian walks, sun-loving sub-divisions and other winter improving ideas.

Etobicoke's Centennial Park is particularly appropriate for the new Centre. Source of much pride for the City, the Park is a heavily-used 500-acre recreation area located south of Pearson International Airport. It includes man-made skiing and tobogganing hills, a large skating and hockey arena, a world-class sports stadium that was used for the 1976 Olympiad for the Physically Disabled, and a large conservatory/greenhouse. There are jogging courses, cross-country ski trails and facilities for most popular sports; even hang gliding and "frisbee golf". Planned for construction in the near future are a man-made lake and an "executive" golf course.

But the new "Leisure Centre" will, according to a recent issue of The Toronto Star, by the "jewel" of this large and busy recreation and RE-creation complex. It will be privately built and operated by Dutch Aquatics Consultants Inc., North American arm of Sportbouw B.V., of Amsterdam, Netherlands, which claims to have had more experience in building this kind of facility than any other European company. Creative Aquatics of Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, headed by William J. Burke, will be involved in operating and managing the Centre once it has been constructed.

Construction of the approximately \$7 million project is due to proceed this year with completion in 1986. C.J. Neil Jaskulak, president of Dutch Aquatic Consultants has spent much time in Toronto for several months to work out plans and arrangements. Final details are presently being negotiated but the indications are Etobicoke will receive revenues from the Centre based on a basic annual rent and/or a percentage of gross receipts. The arrangement may provide for renegotiation of the terms after a period of years when it is known how large revenues may be generated. Only initial cost for the City will be for construction of sewer and watermain connecting lines, costing about \$140,000.

Users are expected to pay an average daily fee for all-day admission of about \$7 per person.

The water-theme area calls for some 17,000 square feet of wave-action pools, a 50-metre (164 ft.) enclosed water slide that starts outside of and above the plastic dome and circles down into the main pool, a traditional 25-metre water slide, a "daredevil pelican" slide, whirlpools, saunas, tanning areas, kiddie pools, bumper boats, heated "drying" walls, a licensed restaurant and snack bar and outdoor picnic areas with barbecue pits. All but a portion of the large slide, the picnic areas, the bumper boat pools and a smaller outdoor pool will be under the translucent dome.

Humidity and heat, under the dome, will be kept at comfortable levels by heat recovery systems which blend moist interior air with incoming fresh air. Pool water will be purified with a combination of activated oxygen and a minimum amount of chlorine, eliminating the objectionable odors and eye irritations caused by use of chlorine alone.

Special brilliant artificial lighting will make the facility as brightly lit by night as by day encouraging use in the evenings. In Europe it is a common practise for families to spend one or more evenings per week enjoying the wide range of attractions available in their neighborhood "Leisure Centre."

Playing in the waves and surf at the beach has throughout human history been a favorite pasttime. Etobicoke's "Leisure Centre" will include several pools designed for this type of activity. Says the preliminary report: "The success of outdoor North American wave pools, and indoor European leisure facilities demonstrates that the beach environment can successfully be re-created in a man-made pool." In European-style variable pattern wave systems, the waves operate at intervals of ten minutes in each half-hour period, permitting natural rest periods for swimmers and lifeguards.

"Fountains and waterfalls add to the atmosphere, but, more importantly, they are played in."

CHILDREN , PLAYGROUNDS AND WINTER

"The Freedom Of Children's Playforms" Is Well Demonstrated In A Setting Of Snow And Ice

By Peter Shore

(Toronto Design Consultant For Children's Playspaces And Learning Environments)

Because we haven't designed winter play for kids -- we have kid-designed play. The Donato cartoon at right points up a parallel.

Playgrounds and playground equipment in all seasons have suffered because adults so often find it difficult to identify with children. They create toys and play equipment to suit their present ideas and feelings forgetting their youthful preferences and notions, also forgetting that children come in many sizes, shapes and tastes and that each child constantly changes.

Summer playground equipment design has been changing and evolving in very recent years as designers have begun to allow children to have input into play equipment they developed. On the other hand, winter playground equipment remains virtually non-existent. This may be due to the fact designers have not fancied getting out into the cold and snow to work on, and then test out, new ideas in playground equipment. Or an even stronger reason could be that it's hard to beat just plain snow and ice as play materials.

The value of winter for children's play is in what is not provided. There are few rules imbedded in winter playforms. On a snowy hill, children have always been able to run up, slide down, go sideways, stop halfway down, compete with others, participate in groups, or attempt something singly. Because of these wide-open options, children play longer, are less prone to boredom and exhibit infinitely more creative playforms (and social playforms) on the slide provided free by winter rather than the slides designed for summer use.

Snow, itself, is classic stuff for play. It has no built-in design constraints for use; it can be jumped on, fallen into, slid upon, burrowed in, built into caves, forts and castles. It can be thrown, can become snowpeople or giant balls that crash down slopes growing larger with each roll. You can eat it. It provides tactile pleasure (it's cold when you're hot) and a substance for stuffing down necks and rubbing in faces, a ritual by which boys and girls express their awakening interest in each other.

Sand, the summer playground equivalent of snow, appears a poor play resource by comparison. Snow is used by all ages from toddlers to adults -- sand only by toddlers. All kids north of the semi-tropics have access to snow. Not all kids in the same climate belts have access to sand.



In the old days there was a feeling we needed to teach play to children. Few equipped playgrounds existed in North America before the turn of the century. In the grim and structured lives of the late industrial era, it was felt that play, like everything else, should be the vehicle for a message, teaching values and attitudes like discipline and fairness. Social games were common, taught by "play directors" or "play supervisors". Playground equipment, such as slides and swings, began to appear about 1910. Well equipped playgrounds, like those so common today, were not a general phenomenon until about 1930.



Continuing the emphasis on discipline and order, slides were at first made tall and narrow, so that only one child could come down at a time. To shinny up the face of the slide was strictly frowned on. The illustration at left shows today's more flexible attitude towards playground equipment. This slide is wide and flat so that children can roll or tumble on it, go sideways or use it in many ways. Climbing up is more fun than sliding down -- one slithers and skids back to the bottom to start over again. The child makes up the game rather than the slide designer or playground supervisor.

Similarly with swings, design prescribed individual use and a single to-and-fro axis, and more flexibility in their design is now being seen.

Canada has had important input into the development of playground equipment. Large colored plastic tubes, big enough for crawling through or sliding down were introduced in Toronto. "The Land of Mu" created at the C.N.E. with the help of an Opportunities for Youth grant in 1970 introduced many new ideas including areas of bouncy water beds wonderful for experiments in rolling, tumbling and jumping.

Imagination is the main ingredient in children's play and this needs to be matched by the imagination of playground planners and playground equipment designers. In this increasingly urban age with more crowding and more domination by the automobile we need more special attention to playgrounds, in both summer and winter. And winter play gives us valuable clues as to the importance of low-structured play concepts and opportunities in the healthy development of our children.

(Peter Shore was involved in "The Land of Mu" project mentioned above. Over a period of years he has taken numerous courses in psychology, child development and environmental studies. His firm, "Designs for Play" is based in Toronto.)

ONE-INDUSTRY TOWNS LOOK FOR ANSWERS

In Winnipeg, recently, representatives of one-industry towns from coast to coast met to look for answers to their most difficult problem -- how to maintain viability when the companies on which they depend shut down. It was claimed there are 800 such towns in Canada, most being resource communities. The group agreed to form an association and to meet again. Instigator of the meeting was Dennis Young of Lynn Lake, Man. Others attending: Dutchy Loman, Ear Falls, Ont., Sandy Ivany, Buchans, Nfld., Adrian DeGroot, Thompson, Man.