

## Moving Experiences

Public transportation in Canada is clean, comfortable and pretty fast.

It is also popular. Last year, while transit systems in Chicago, Boston and New York lost 6 to 10 per cent of their riders, Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton and Calgary gained between 6 and 12 per cent.

Toronto and Montreal have modern subways, buses and commuter rails; Calgary and Edmonton have fast, fuel-efficient electric light rail systems; and Vancouver has buses on both land and sea.

Some Canadians ride double decker trains, some can Dial-A-Bus from home, and many of them can still spend jolly hours on a trolley.

In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we take a look at urban life on the fast track.

## Sic Transit

Modest, horse-drawn omnibuses came to Toronto in 1849. W. Williams, a Toronto cabinetmaker, built four, six-passenger carriages, hitched up his horses and carried passengers between the St. Lawrence Market and the Red Lion Hotel for six pennies.

Montreal had its first horse-drawn cars and six miles of track in 1861. Seven years later it had 400 horses, 62 cars, 41 sleighs and 21 omnibuses, and its system was carrying 2 million passengers a year.

Torontonians were also moving ahead. The Toronto Street Railway Co. began business with a thirty-year franchise, seventy horses and eleven cars. The speed limit for horses and cars was set

by law at six miles an hour. When the franchise ran out in 1891 the city took over. It paid the proprietor, Alexander Easton, \$1.5 million in cash and a \$600,000 mortgage and then sold the system the same year, for the same price, to William Mackenzie. Fares were set at 5 cents.

Electric cars followed the horses. By 1900 both Montreal and Toronto had trams and people were standing in line to get aboard—Montreal's system carried 43 million passengers that year.

Today cars still run on rails and electricity provides the basic power, but much else has changed. There are a lot more passengers. Last year Toronto carried almost 400 million. Mr. Williams would be surprised.



The newest advances in transit technology will be demonstrated at Expo '86, a world transportation exposition sponsored by the governments of Canada and British Columbia, to be held on Vancouver's waterfront from May 2 to October 13, 1986. The exposition, with the theme of "Man in Motion," will be part of the celebrations marking the centennials of the City of Vancouver and the arrival of the first transcontinental passenger train on the West Coast.