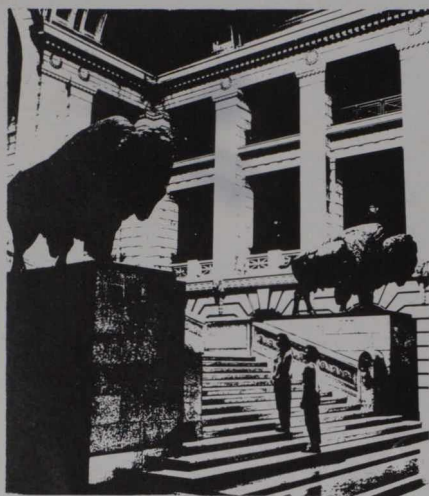


Cover photo shows two bronze buffalo, relics of an animal whose numbers once dominated the Canadian prairies, standing guard at the entrance stairs leading up to Manitoba Legislative Assembly chamber in Winnipeg. The buffalo, destroyed by the white man except for herds in some of Canada's national parks, is the symbol of modern Manitoba.



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Urban profile: **Winnipeg**

Grain city celebrates its centenary

By Alan Harvey



Photo: National Film Board, Ottawa

Britain's Princess Margaret and her husband the Earl of Snowdon joined, during May, in 100th birthday celebrations for Winnipeg, Canada's third largest city and "Gateway to the Golden West."

Incorporated as a city on Nov. 8, 1873, Winnipeg was officially born on Jan. 5, 1874 with the appointment of its first mayor and council.

Settlers came earlier in wooden boats and birch bark canoes to build the first settlement on flat land at the junction of the Red River and the Assiniboine in central Canada, some 60 miles north of the United States border.

Immigrants from Scotland, the Ukraine, Iceland joined with European Jews to lay the foundations for a city which has grown from a population of 1,000 in 1874 to its present total of 560,000 citizens.

Because of its central position, it has long been a hinge between Eastern and Western Canada, a key financial centre and major grain market for the transfer of Canada's noted hard wheat from the bread basket of the prairie provinces. It has been called a city built on wheat.

Originally founded by fur traders and

This is an aerial view of Winnipeg with the domed Manitoba Legislative Building in the centre foreground.

merchants, it remains a major commercial city, one of western Canada's biggest manufacturing centres and the capital of Manitoba.

The name Winnipeg comes from two Cree Indian words—"Win" meaning muddy and "Nippee" denoting water. Today the "muddy waters" are figuratively clearing to offer a bright future to a city which is winning acclaim for its facilities in the fields of art, music, drama, literature, ballet, medical science, engineering and architecture.

Once something of an ugly duckling among cities, known for its fearsomely chilly winters, Winnipeg is pioneering a system of local government unique in Canada, called "Unicity" and patterned after similar developments in Britain. This gives the city and its 12 municipalities a single urban legislature, the first of its kind to have the resources and the power to deal with urban problems while maintaining channels for citizen participation.

The Times, in a 1959 article, wrote that nobody could think of Winnipeg as a