

New housing demand decline

Demand for new housing will reach a peak in 1981 and decline sharply during the rest of the decade, according to the latest forecasts from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

A computerized demographic system, developed by the federal Crown agency, shows peak demand of 237,300 units of new housing two years from now and a severe drop to 165,700 units in 1989. The system also indicates a continuing preference for home ownership and a sharp trend away from apartment living.

The forecasts reflect the final phase of the postwar baby boom, CMHC economist Anh Trinh said. Canadians born soon after the Second World War generally began renting apartments in the 1960s

and moved on to homes of their own in the 1970s.

The offspring of the postwar babies — part of a “mini-boom” that began about five years ago — are not expected to hit the housing market until late in the century.

Builders could feel the pinch as the demand for new housing tapers off in the 1980s, said Mr. Trinh. At the same time, he said, there should be increased opportunities in rehabilitating older homes. CMHC projects that two of every three homes will be 21-years-old or older by the year 2000. Older housing represented about 54 per cent of the 1977 total.

Estimates of the demand for housing are based on a number of factors, including demographic and marital trends. The proportion of young persons in the population is expected to decline during

the next two decades and the proportion of senior citizens will increase slightly. But the age group with the largest gains will be the one between 35 and 64.

More marriages

CMHC also projects a significant increase in marriages and a smaller percentage of single persons by the turn of the century. The proportion of divorced and widowed will also increase, but only slightly.

These trends may explain to some degree why owning a home, as opposed to renting, will continue to be popular. Families with heads of household more than 35-years-old, for example, show a marked preference for home ownership.

CMHC estimates that the demand for apartments will reach a peak next year with a requirement of 74,266 units and will fall to 24,712 new units in 1989.

News briefs

Canada was represented by Senator G.I. Smith at the independence celebrations of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on October 27. Canadian books and films were presented on behalf of the Canadian Government to Milton Cato, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Senator Smith also represented Canada at the official handing-over of the new Arnos Vale Airport terminal building, which was constructed with Canadian Government assistance.

The sales efforts of Northern Telecom Ltd. in the United States received a major boost with the announcement that the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. had recommended Northern Telecom Limited's DMS-10 digital switching system to the operating companies of the Bell system. Officials of Montreal-based Northern Telecom and industry analysts agreed that the recommendation had strengthened Northern's position in the U.S. telecommunications market.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

The Nova Scotia government has announced a \$1.3-billion energy development program aimed at reducing the province's reliance on imported oil by 1988. Involved is more than a doubling of existing coal production, a 50 percent increase in electrical generating capacity, the testing of a new low-pollution system of coal burning in power stations and a mini-tidal energy scheme, investigation of renewable alternative energy sources and strong emphasis on energy conservation.

The Quebec cabinet has approved a \$10-million increase in its 1980-81 day-care budget to \$32.5 million, provincial Social Affairs Minister Denis Lazure said. Mr. Lazure also told a National Assembly committee hearing on a proposed new day-care bill that funds available for new centres would almost double from an average of \$7,500 to \$14,600.

Yvan Courmoyer has retired after 15 seasons as a member of Montreal Canadiens of the National Hockey League. Mr. Courmoyer, 35, the 5-foot 7-inch 178-pound right winger and team captain, will continue to work with the team as a scout. He appeared in 968 regular-season games, scored 428 goals and added 435 assists for 863 points. During the playoffs he appeared in 64 games, scored 63 goals and assisted on 63 others. A member of ten Stanley Cup championship teams, Mr. Courmoyer was named to the second NHL All-Star team four times and won the Conn Smythe Trophy as most valuable player in the playoffs in 1973.

A series of energy-conservation seminars and workshops will be presented this winter by the Canadian Manufacturer's Association, in co-operation with Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, and Saskatchewan Mineral Resources. The series, aimed at industry, will emphasize cost savings achievable through energy management and ways to establish energy management programs.

Neuchatel Junior College in Switzerland has been educating Canadians since 1956. The college's status is unusual in international affairs: it is a separate foundation of the City of Neuchatel subsidized by the Swiss city, yet the diplomas come from the Ministry of Education in Toronto (Level 5) and British Columbia (Grade 12). A Canadian Scholarship Foundation, classed as a registered charity, was established there in July.

There's an over-population problem among Ottawa's royal swans. Ottawa Controller Ralph Sutherland insists that the dozen royal swans the Queen presented to the city in 1967 have become a big problem. Ottawa has given away 49 of the birds during the past year but still has 28. Mr. Sutherland said when the city acquired the birds it cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to build winter quarters for them. “That place is getting pretty crowded,” he said. “What if we have a bad year and end up with 40 swans? No one wants to eat them,” he said. But destroying some of their eggs is an “attractive alternative”.