

## More people join car pools

A growing proportion of the work force appears to be heeding government exhortations to save energy by walking to work or arranging a car pool.

A four-year survey released by Statistics Canada, May 8, shows that between 1973 and 1977 the percentage of workers who walked to their jobs increased to 10.5 from 6.6 per cent.

The proportion who reported traveling as passengers in others' cars increased to 14.3 from 13.1 per cent.

Use of public transit, however, showed a decline. In 1977, 14.4 per cent of workers said they took the bus, streetcar or subway compared to 16 per cent four years earlier.

The unrivalled choice among commuters for the four-year period was travel by car. Seventy per cent of the work force used cars to get to their jobs. Half drove alone each day.

Statistics on car size compiled for 1976 and 1977 showed that there appeared to be a trend to smaller gas-saving cars. The first year, 27 per cent of owners classified their cars as full-sized. The next year, the percentage dropped to 23 per cent. The proportion of sub-compacts increased to 20 per cent from 18 per cent in the same one-year period.

Figures on car sizes differed considerably among the provinces. In Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, 16 per cent of car-owners had full-sized models, while 27 per cent of Manitobans did. In Saskatchewan, 25 per cent drove large cars and in Ontario, Quebec and Alberta, 24 per cent owned big vehicles.

Women between 15 and 19 years were identified as the group most likely to use public transit. Only 16 per cent of males in the same age bracket used public transportation.

The study also showed decreasing use of public transit as the commuter's level of education increased. Among high school graduates, 18 per cent used public transit and 72 per cent travelled to work by car. Among university graduates, public transit users dropped to 13 per cent and car users increased to 76 per cent.

Montreal reported the highest use of public transportation by about one in three workers. Second was Toronto at 29 per cent. Ottawa reported 27 per cent and Winnipeg 25 per cent.

## Calgary tests home computers

A new computer-telephone network will be installed in 120 Calgary homes this autumn offering residents a home-security and information-retrieval system.

The communications package has computerized medical and police assistance monitors, automatic fire and burglar monitors, remote utility reading devices, energy consumption monitors, and cold detectors.

Officials say similar systems have been set up in Texas, Florida and other parts of the United States, but this is the first time such a comprehensive system has been tried in Canada.

Each of the 120 test homes will be connected to an emergency computer control centre through the telephone network and an in-house push-button panel.

When a message is relayed to the centre, the computer will analyse the information automatically and dispatch the proper assistance — ambulance, fire crews or police.

The system is activated when the home-owner pushes the button for the appropriate emergency service.

The computer will tell authorities the type of home, the address and other vital information, such as the number of residents and any special medical histories. A similar system will provide burglary protection.

Other circuits will monitor temperatures and warn residents when cold weather might freeze pipes or cause other damage.

Each home will have a two-way information retrieval system that will operate through the family television.

A retrieval system would eventually allow the viewer to call up stock-market reports, weather reports, news stories and other written material stored in a data bank.

A decision on future use of the system will be made at the end of the six-month trial period.

Similar systems in the U.S. cost the user as little as \$8 a month.

## New book chronicles Nova Scotia's immigration story

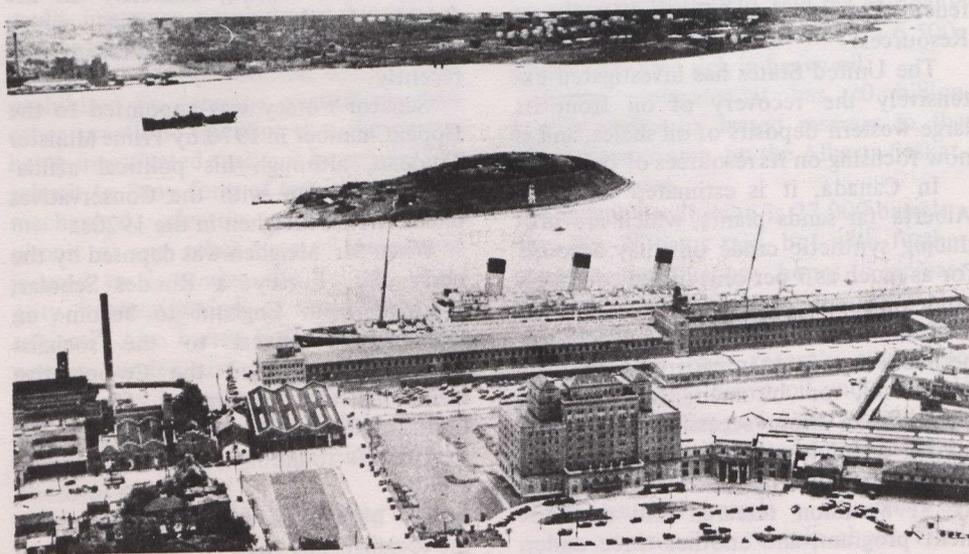
Immigrants have flocked to Canada over the past 50 years. For many of them Halifax was the first glimpse of their new land, and a group of buildings in the old south end of that city known as Pier 21, the immigration dock, was where they first set foot on Canadian soil.

The story of that group of buildings, *The Pier 21 Story, Halifax 1924-1971*, has been put into book form by the

Public Affairs Division for Employment and Immigration Canada.

Dedicated to the volunteers and officials who greeted the newcomers at Pier 21, the fully illustrated book documents the stream of new Canadians arriving there. More than 1.5 million immigrants entered Canada at that Halifax pier during the years it was in operation.

(From *Panorama, May 1979.*)



SS Majestic, the largest liner to call at Pier 21, prior to docking of SS Queen Mary.