

A typical Canadian house

Data based on new dwellings financed under the NHA in 1972 indicate that the typical Canadian house is a three-bedroom bungalow of frame construction with 1,049 square feet of liveable floor-area. The average cost of the bungalow is \$22,168, including \$4,333 for the freehold land the purchaser buys with the house. The average resident of such a house would be about 32 years old, married, with two children, and earning \$11,918. There is, of course, a very wide variation in these figures from city to city throughout the country.

Buying a home is becoming an increasingly expensive undertaking. Accordingly, the Federal Government is placing greater emphasis on schemes designed to facilitate home-ownership for families in the lower third of the income range. One such plan, the Assisted Home-Ownership Program, makes use of cost-reducing techniques such as variable interest-rates, extended-loan terms and, in several regions, provincial home-owner grants, rebates and interest-rate subsidies to bring home-ownership within the financial scope of families earning a maximum of \$6,000.

Such a house has a thermostatically-controlled central-heating system with electrically-powered fans blowing heated air through wall-ducts that are vented to each room. The fuel is usually oil or natural gas. Electric heat is gaining in popularity in many areas.

Hot and cold water are piped to the kitchen, laundry-room and bathroom; the source of water would be a community water-supply — usually a municipally-operated purification and pumping plant. The bathroom is equipped with a flush-toilet, a bath and a shower. A growing number of homes have two bathrooms.

Because the house is protected by a blanket of insulating material inside the walls, the occupants are shielded from the extremes of winter and summer temperatures and the heating cost is relatively low.

A modern 100-amp electrical service meets the needs of the numerous electrical appliances in the house. An automatic washing-machine, a clothes-dryer, an electric stove, a refrigerator, a freezer, a television set, a vacuum-cleaner, a floor-polisher, an electric dishwasher — most, if not all, of these appliances would be found in a typical Canadian home.

Multiple dwellings

In recent years, with the accelerating trend toward urbanization, buildings that make more intensive use of expensive land have become