

# Canada Weekly

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## Last year's housing starts exceeded Government target

Last year, housing in Canada was notable in two ways, states Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in its 1975 annual report, recently published. Production, which had slowed in 1974 and early 1975, recovered and by year-end there were more than 230,000 housing starts, exceeding by a substantial margin the Government's minimum target of 210,000.

The other notable trend, says the Federal Government housing agency, was the shift in housing production

*The total number of households in 1975 is estimated at 6,710,000, representing an annual addition of some 200,000 during 1975. This is close to the estimated annual average for the period 1971-1976.*

away from more expensive housing towards the medium- and lower-price ranges. As an indicator of this trend, the number of starts financed under National Housing Act (NHA) programs increased by more than 40 per cent in 1975, compared with starts in 1974. This emphasis, which was reinforced by the new and modified federal-assistance programs and by limitations observed by lenders on high-ratio loans, has had a significant effect on the residential construction industry and has brought it closer to the most urgent housing needs of Canadians.

### Serviced land needs

During 1975 a continued effort was made by all levels of government to increase the supply of serviced land and to stabilize land prices. Some progress has been made, through federal-provincial conferences, in increasing awareness of the need to speed up approval processes and get serviced land onto the market more quickly. The most recent amendments to the NHA provide for a contribution of \$1,000 to municipalities for each unit of moderate cost medium-density (ten to 45 units an acre) housing completed. This incentive is intended to help stimulate desirable residential development.

Encouraging progress was made also in the implementation of the Rural and Native Housing Program and Residential Rehabilitation and Neighbourhood Improvement. These programs, which depend for their success on the direct involvement of client groups, are growing at a steadily accelerating pace.

### New assistance programs

During 1975, Parliament enacted two bills making important amendments to the National Housing Act. The first, given Royal Assent on March 26, broadened the Assisted Home-Ownership Program (AHOP) and the Assisted Rental Program by making interest-reducing federal grants available to qualified home buyers or rental-housing entrepreneurs who obtained their financing through private mortgage loans. Previously these grants were available only with direct mortgages from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. These changes helped to draw almost three-quarters of a billion dollars of private mortgage loan commitments into new modest housing.

In December, the NHA was amended again in support of the Federal Housing Action Program, under which the Government committed itself to a target of a million new housing starts by the end of 1979 — with a significantly greater part of them in the lower- and medium-price ranges. This target was established to meet the estimated minimum needs of Canadians over the next four years, taking into account family formation, vacancies and other factors. The target for 1976 was set at 235,000 housing starts. A million new starts would mean more than a million

*Price increases for residential construction slowed noticeably in 1975. The 11.8 percent increase in construction costs per square foot for single-detached houses financed under the National Housing Act was the lowest since 1972. Costs per square foot increased from \$22.84 in 1974 to \$25.53 in 1975 for Canada.*

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*Rental apartments, Quebec City, financed under the National Housing Act.*

jobs in the construction industry and associated businesses.

The amendments approved in December made further modifications in the Assisted Home-Ownership and Assisted Rental programs. Outright grants were continued and increased under AHOP for families who need them. For the first time, however, loans which are interest-free during the first five years were made available to anyone – with or without children – who wished to

*The CMHC October 1975 apartment-vacancy survey showed a combined vacancy rate of only 1.2 per cent for all metropolitan areas, compared to 2.5 per cent in June 1974 and 3.4 per cent in the year earlier.*

buy a moderately-priced home within the local AHOP price limits.

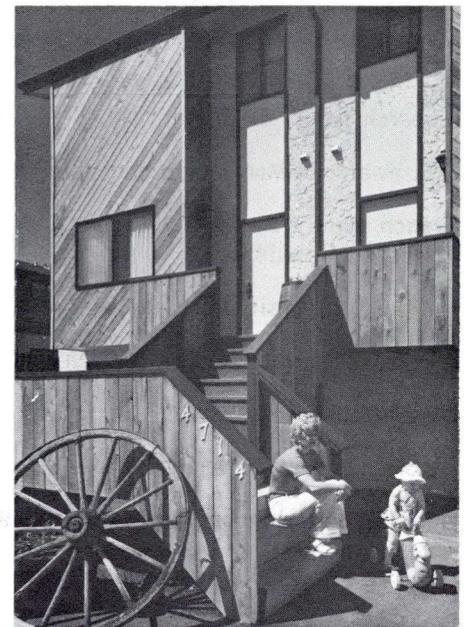
Following the creation of the Anti-Inflation Board, interest rates started to stabilize during the fourth quarter of 1975.

A total of \$7,599 million was invested in new self-contained housing during the year, compared to \$7,377 million in 1974, an increase of 3 per cent. In addition, an appreciable amount of new housing, in the form of hostels, was constructed during the year. Units containing a total of 5,885 new beds,

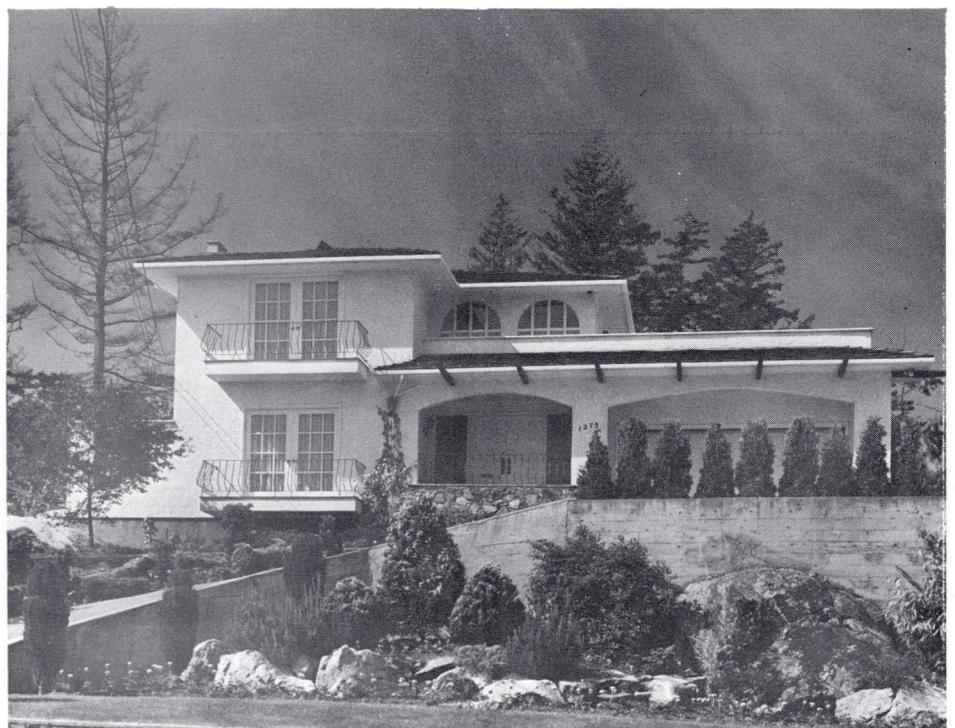
mainly for elderly persons and students, were financed under the NHA in 1975, compared to 6,602 beds in the preceding year.

(Photos courtesy of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.)

*At the beginning of 1975, the inventory of completed unoccupied houses and duplexes in metropolitan and major urban areas in Canada was still growing, indicating that builders were facing difficulties in selling their new houses at the prevailing prices.*



*Condominium town-houses, NHA-financed, in Regina, Saskatchewan.*



*Single family home – non-NHA – in Victoria, British Columbia.*

### **Patriation of Canada's Constitution**

*Prime Minister Trudeau, in a statement to the House of Commons on April 9, called for action to make the British North American Act, Canada's basic constitutional law, a statute of Canada, rather than of Britain. Without suggesting any time limit for bringing the BNA to Canada 109 years after its enactment in Britain, Mr. Trudeau said it would be well worth some effort "to conclude this piece of national business if we can".*

*The Prime Minister tabled in the House letters he had sent to the provincial premiers which, he said, set out the essentials of discussions that had been going on for the past year to find a way out of "a constitutional impasse that has frustrated governments of all political persuasions, both federal and provincial, for nearly 50 years". The impasse was, he said, "the problem of bringing to an end our unique and unenviable distinction as a country of having to go to the Parliament of another country if we want to amend some fundamental parts of our Constitution".*

*Passages from Mr. Trudeau's statement follow:*

\* \* \* \*

In April 1975, I had a meeting with the premiers of the provinces to discuss the pricing of oil and gas and related issues. I used the occasion to test whether there might be hope of getting the kind of limited agreement... on an amendment formula on the basis of which we could bring complete control of our Constitution into Canadian hands. The premiers agreed that it would be worth trying and I asked the secretary to the Cabinet for federal-provincial relations to visit each of them to explore the possibility further. The letters I am tabling report the results of those discussions.

I think there has been some misunderstanding about the way the Government, or I personally, approach this matter. Clearly "patriation" or the achievement of a means of amending our Constitution are not "urgent" in the sense that the control of inflation or decisions with regard to energy prices are urgent. Nor are they "priorities" in the same sense as many other priorities the Government has established for the determination of new policies or pro-

grams. But there are "priorities" of a less tangible kind that are important when human societies are buffeted by the uncertainties and the attacks on confidence that we find in the world of today. Affirmations of national will and indications of collective determination to renew and strengthen faith in structures and in values that unite people are symbolic, but they are important.

Such a symbolic affirmation occurred, I think, when the Parliament of Canada adopted our national flag. Does anyone doubt it has strengthened our sense of being "Canadian" or of being united for important purposes? A similar symbolic affirmation could occur if we were seen to attest our faith in our form of government by ending a defect that has flawed it for decades. This is not, perhaps, the kind of thing that should claim a large part of the time of Parliament when other things might press. But I, as Prime Minister, make no apology for saying that it is the kind of thing that we should try to do. We should not be seen constantly to be failing as a people in a matter that relates to the central structure of our national fabric. In short, it is well worth some attention from this Parliament to conclude this long outstanding piece of national business.

### **Provincial OK desirable not essential**

It is for these reasons that I have raised the possibility that Parliament might seek to have "patriation" accomplished without provincial consent if that consent seems impossible to achieve. Clearly it would be a last resort and clearly it should not be on a basis that could affect the distribution of powers or the position of the provinces. It must not provide any means by which Parliament could act unilaterally in future in any area where it cannot do so today since that would erode the essence of our federal system. In my letters I explore three ways Parliament might move for "patriation" without such consequences. I raise these not to recommend them, but rather to explore how we might bring to an end the apparently perpetual impasse. Neither the Federal Government nor Parliament should accept the proposition that they can do nothing whatever about a matter of such importance to us as a country.

\* \* \* \*

### **Subsidy for pipeline extension**

The Sarnia-Montreal extension of Interprovincial Pipeline Limited's system will carry western Canadian crude oil to refiners in the Montreal area next month.

Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie announced recently that the Federal Government would subsidize the cost of moving the oil from Toronto to Montreal through the pipeline extension, to be finished soon. The subsidy, which is expected to cost \$20-25 million in 1976, will make western crude available in Montreal at Toronto prices. It will remain in effect until the National Energy Board renders its decision on tariffs for the whole pipeline system.

Up to 40 million barrels of crude will be delivered to Montreal by the end of 1976, when the target of 250,000 barrels a day is reached. In a full year's operation, the pipeline will provide more than half of the Montreal refineries' current crude oil requirements.

"This is the biggest change in oil supply in Canada since the national oil policy of the early 1960s," Mr. Gillespie said.

"The pipeline will give Montreal refineries a secure supply of crude oil into the 1980s. It is a key element in our national energy self-reliance strategy.

"The pipeline is also a substantial money saver," Mr. Gillespie pointed out. "In 1976 alone, it could mean a net saving to the Canadian taxpayer of as much as \$90 million in oil-import compensation payments and \$260 million on our over-all oil-import bill.

"In a full year's operation, the displacement of overseas oil by western Canadian crude could mean a net saving of more than \$600 million in Canada's oil-import costs."

### **Entitlement formula**

Montreal refiners will be initially entitled to take western crude based on their share of total imports of foreign crude oil in 1975. Under this sharing formula Shell would get roughly 24 per cent of available western crude, Imperial 18 per cent, Petrofina 14 per cent, Texaco 13 per cent, Gulf 12 per cent, BP 10 per cent, Sun 4 per cent, Murphy 4 per cent and Cooperative Fédérée about 1 per cent.

### Canada joins international coal research group

Canada will take part in the work of a coal-research service being established under the International Energy Agency's research and development program.

The 18-member IEA, which was established in autumn 1974, includes most of the western industrialized countries. Its basic aim is to contribute to the development of a stable world energy order. Canada, which participated in the negotiations leading to the formation of the agency, continues to be active in its programs.

The coal-research service will be involved in three fields — economic assessment, technical information and coal-mining technology. Headquarters will be in London, England, and will be managed by NCB(IEA) Services Ltd, a company established for the purpose by Britain's National Coal Board, which was chosen as the "lead" agency for this co-operative endeavour.

In Canada's expanded federal research and development effort on energy, announced on February 23 by Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Alastair Gillespie, coal was given a high priority, after energy-conservation and supply of liquid fuels.

### U.S. award for Manitoba broadcasts

Manitoba's Department of Education's School Broadcasts division has won an Ohio State award for a radio program on the former RCMP patrol schooner *St. Roch*, the province's Education Minister Ben Hanuschak recently announced.

Mr. Hanuschak said the program was given an award in the category "Social Sciences: Children and Youth" at the fortieth annual Ohio State University competition March 2 in Columbus, Ohio. U.S. Glen Harrison, supervisor of school broadcasts, received the award on behalf of the department.

The Ohio State awards are the oldest program competitions in broadcasting. They recognize meritorious achievement in educational, information and public affairs programming. Six panels of judges audition more than 800 entries annually, representing the programming of both commercial and non-

commercial broadcasters and production agencies in the United States, Canada and other countries.

Factors considered include significance of subject, preparation and organization of content, effectiveness of presentation, authenticity and suitability for intended audience. Only one award is given in each category.

The citation on the program issued by the judges was: "A factual dramatic portrayal of the wooden motor schooner *St. Roch*, built in North Vancouver, B.C. in 1928 for the Arctic patrol service of the RCMP, which became famous as the first vessel to navigate successfully the Northwest Passage from Pacific to Atlantic (1940-42). This program presents the powerful fascination of the Canadian North in an authentic, well-documented manner through one adventure of the *St. Roch* in the opening and exploration of this area."

The Winnipeg program depicts preparations for the successful west-east voyage, the voyage itself and the return trip. It was broadcast on CBC school broadcast programming last May.

### French coins from the deep for Fortress of Louisbourg

The Finance Minister of Nova Scotia, Peter Nicholson, recently presented federal Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Judd Buchanan with two eighteenth century French gold coins to be displayed at the Fortress of Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island, N.S.

The coins were recovered from the French supply ship *Chameau*, which sank in 1725.

Mr. Buchanan said the coins would be a fine addition to the display at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park.

"They will help Parks Canada tell the story of New France to the many thousands who visit Louisbourg each year," he said.

The 600-ton *Chameau*, bound for Quebec City, carrying a crew of 100 men and 216 passengers, as well as a cargo of gold, silver, textiles, clothing, animals and gunpowder, sank in a storm on August 27, 1725, 12 miles northeast of Louisbourg. All lives were lost. The coins at that time, would have bought two cords of wood or a musket or 350 pounds of fish.

### National university policy sought

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) wants to consult with federal and provincial governments to determine a national policy for universities.

The Association is asking the Federal Government for a two-year extension of the Fiscal Arrangements Act, which provides for a 50-50 sharing of operating expenses between the federal and provincial governments for post-secondary education until a national policy can be established.

The current act expires in March 1977.

In a brief submitted to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, the AUCC points out that Canada is not ready for major changes in the current cost-sharing arrangement because at present there is no forum for examining and lasting implication of change.

### Regional differences

During a news conference, AUCC president, Dr. Michael Oliver, president of Ottawa's Carleton University, pointed out that the present system of financing universities "leads to regional differences because it allows the Federal Government little voice in how the money is used".

"There are indications that the Federal Government wants a greater voice and we (the AUCC) want to ensure that we have some influence in any changes that are made.

"We want recognition of a national dimension but we are not looking for any change in the distribution of power under the BNA Act," says the association president.

### Centres of excellence

The AUCC brief advocates "centres of excellence", rather than many universities offering the same programs. The brief notes that in many fields, a large number of institutions with small mediocre programs is a poor substitute for one or two institutes with first-rate programs.

The brief also calls for a national policy to make decisions about whether limits should be placed on foreign students or out-of-province enrolment if funds are too limited to meet student demand.

Ontario Minister of Industry and Tourism Claude Bennett (left) congratulates F.R. Crawley of Crawley Films at a reception in his honour.



Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism

**An Oscar for Canada**

When F.R. (Budge) Crawley, president of Crawley Films of Ottawa, dashed on stage at the 1976 Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, last month to receive an Oscar, it marked the first time Canada had won this prize for a theatrical feature film.

The winning documentary, *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*, tells the ex-

citating story of a Japanese expedition that climbed Mount Everest with the world champion skier Yuishiro Miura, who then skied down, almost losing his life in the process.

The film is now playing across the United States and Canada and arrangements are being made for its showing in other countries. It also had its first television showing, when the British Broadcasting Corporation presented it in the United Kingdom.

Crawley Films have made some 2,400 motion pictures since their founding in



Full speed ahead – Miura practises for the final take in Everest.

1939. While they have produced other theatrical features, most of their motion pictures are made for industry, governments, associations, institutes, television, etc. They have had contracts from more than 50 of Canada's largest corporations, and have worked in 30 countries. More than 200 of their films have been made for U.S. or overseas clients.

The Academy Award is, incidentally, the two-hundred-and-fifteenth national or international award won by a Crawley film. More than 50 awards have come from the United States and another 50 from Europe.

*The Man Who Skied Down Everest* is a film of a Japanese skier on a Nepalese mountain and it has won a United States award. So Crawley Films is certainly continuing to emphasize its specialty – international production.

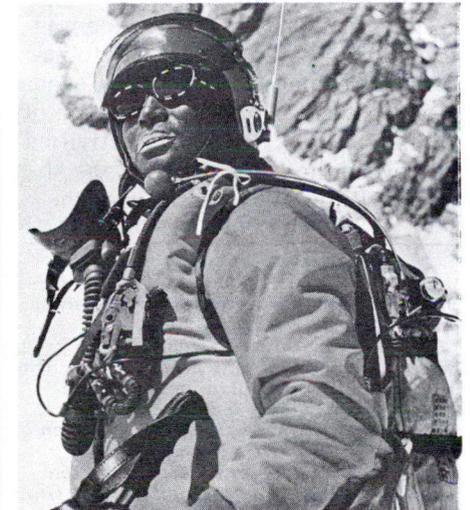


Yuichiro Miura and the technical crew discuss a camera angle.



Yuichiro Miura and Sir Edmund Hillary discuss Miura's historic feat in *The*

*Man Who Skied Down Everest*, Canada's Academy Award-winning documentary.



Yuichiro Miura prepares for his run in *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*.

### New satellite in 1978

A new domestic communications satellite to be placed in orbit in 1978 has been ordered by Telesat from RCA's Astro-Electronics Division (AED) under a \$19.1-million contract.

RCA's delivery of the new space vehicle will coincide with the planned replacement of *Anik I*, launched in 1972. RCA will also supply satellite ground-control equipment at Telesat's earth station in Allan Park, near Toronto.

The new satellite will be a dual band communications satellite with 12 radio frequency channels, similar to the ones used in the first three Telesat satellites, plus additional communications capabilities. These channels will provide continued experimental service for the Department of Communications, following the successful launch of the Communications Technology Satellite last January.

### Importance of wildlife in Canada

At the opening of National Wildlife Week, from April 4 to 10, Environment Minister Jean Marchand stated that "the millions of dollars spent annually by outdoor enthusiasts, bird watchers and hunters proved beyond a doubt that Canada's wildlife is of major economic importance and represents one of this country's most important natural resources". This year's theme, adopted by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, sponsor of this annual event, was the "Values of Wildlife".

The Canadian Wildlife Service was originally created exclusively to implement regulations under the Canada/U.S. Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds. Today, its activities go beyond the enforcement of the Migratory Birds Act to encompass the

study of problems inherent in several species, the protection of endangered species and joint efforts with the provinces and territories to solve certain wildlife management problems.

### National historic monument at Gaspé

A national historic monument commemorating the discovery of Canada by Jacques Cartier is to be erected overlooking Gaspé Bay in Quebec.

Also planned for the same site is the museum of the *Société historique de*

*Gaspé*, which will include a parking area and service facilities.

During autumn 1974, four sculptors were invited by Parks Canada to submit a model for a monument to commemorate Jacques Cartier's taking possession of Canada in the name of the King of France and to illustrate his first encounter with North American Indians.

A committee composed of public servants, experts and private citizens from Gaspé chose the work of Jean-Julien Bourgault, a sculptor from Saint-Jean Port-Joli.

### News briefs

- Some 759,000 workers were looking for jobs in March — slightly fewer than the 800,000 unemployed in January and February, reports Statistics Canada. After seasonal adjustment, the national unemployment rate eased to 6.9 per cent from 7 per cent in February.

- Temporary anti-inflation surtaxes on earners of high incomes and large corporations were announced in Manitoba's budget, brought down April 13. Surtax on individuals will be 20 per cent of provincial tax payable in excess of \$2,120. Three per cent of Manitoba's population will be affected. Additional tax on corporate profits will raise the province's corporate tax by two percentage points to 15 per cent.

- Premier Bennett of British Columbia said on April 10 he would ask other western premiers to oppose federal cuts in shared-cost health programs.
- Air Canada and CP Air have been allowed to raise their domestic fares an average of 8 per cent effective April 18. It is the fourth increase in just over two years for the two airlines, which have both shown deficits in two consecutive years.

- A new bill introduced by the New Brunswick government would give ownership to the province of all the oil and natural gas there and empowers New Brunswick to set royalties, issue exploration licences and enforce penalties for violations of the act.

- The Federal Government's peace and security legislation, including controversial gun-control measures, won approval in principle in the Commons, April 14 (see *Canada Weekly* dated March 10, 1976). The bill goes before

the Commons' Justice Committee for detailed study.

- The province of Manitoba and the Federal Government will share equally an \$8.5-million program to further develop Manitoba's mineral resources. Increased employment and expansion of the mineral industry are the goals of the four-year program.

- Some 3,000 journalists and over 4,000 commentators and technicians from media personnel, representing all five continents, are expected in Montreal during the XXI Olympiad.

- Bryce Mackasey has been appointed Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, replacing André Ouellet, who resigned last month. Mr. Mackasey will also continue in his position as Postmaster General.

- Defence Minister James Richardson has announced the formation of an Air Reserve Group as part of the Canadian Forces Air Command. Headquarters will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

- Prime Minister Trudeau is expected to visit Japan in the autumn as part of a series of visits to strengthen Canadian relations with other countries. Mr. Trudeau was last in Japan in 1970.

- Joe Watson, Mel Bridgman and Don Saleski, three members of the Philadelphia Flyers, were remanded to June 10 on charges laid in connection with a brawl during a National Hockey League game in Toronto, April 15.

- At April 21, in the best-of-seven NHL Stanley Cup quarter-finals, Philadelphia was leading Toronto 3-2, Boston was leading Los Angeles 3-2 and New York Islanders were leading Buffalo 3-2. Montreal won against Chicago 4-0 and was awaiting the semi-finals.

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