

Metric sized COFI EXTERIOR plywood panels, 1200 by 2400mm, were used for sheathing at Burnaby's Forest Meadows housing project. Comprising 134 units, this British Columbia project was Canada's first metric housing development.

Forest Meadows — Canada's First Metric Housing Project

The 134-units comprising the Forest Meadows housing project at Harold Winch Park in Burnaby, B.C. are the first in Canada to be designed and built using the metric system. One of the three metric housing demonstration projects sponsored by the B.C. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the development was designed by Vancouver architects Bain Burroughs Hanson Raimet, and constructed by the Housing Corporation of British Columbia.

The townhouses were constructed to pure metric mod-

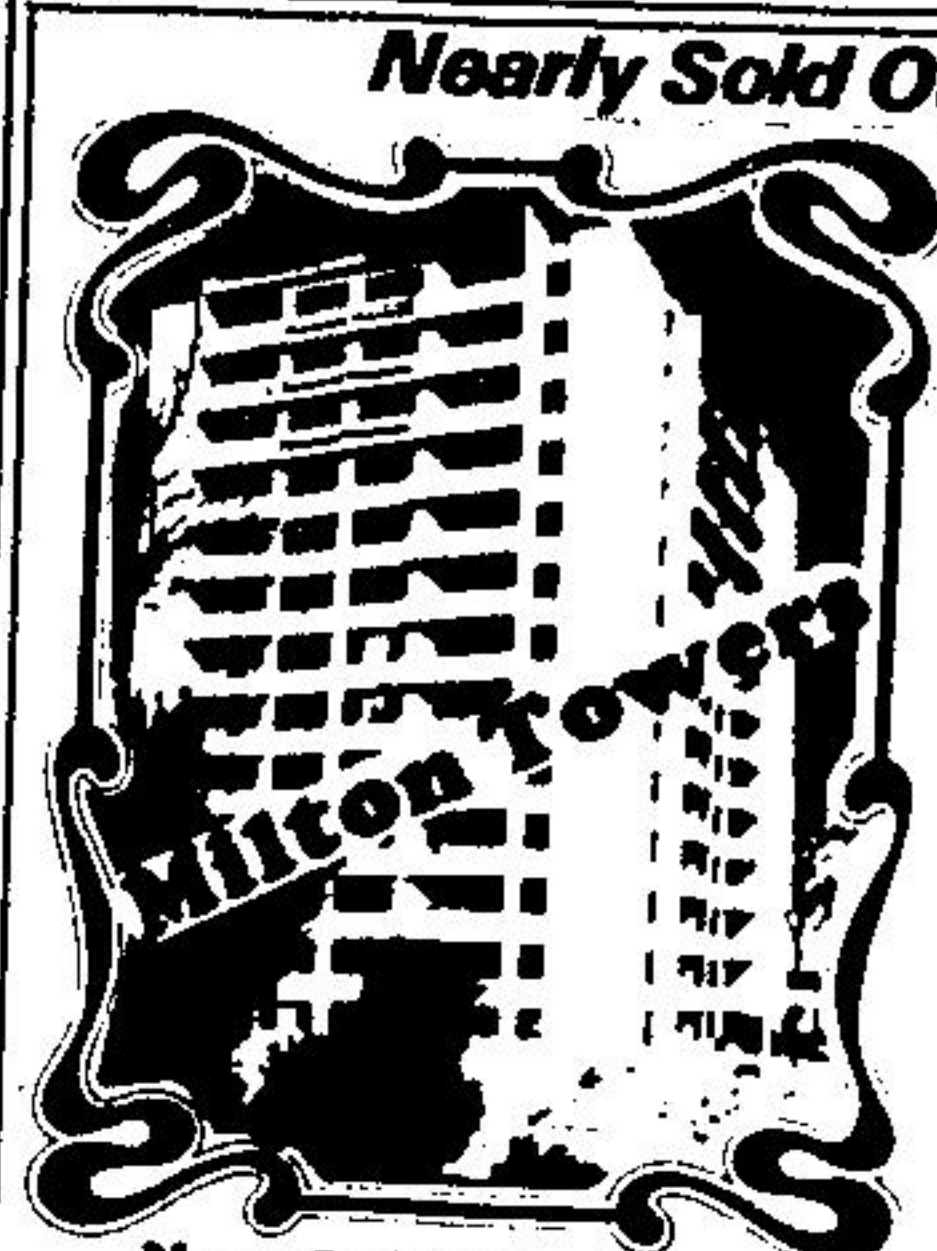
ules and dimensions, using metric sized materials as part of the Ministry's program to assist the province's construction industry in the metric changeover. An information centre, which functioned as a metric classroom, was established on the site to assist the tradesmen working on the project and to inform the general public. It contained display, printed, and audio visual material related to the use of metrics in construction.

Construction went along very smoothly, according to site superintendent Gunther Seigmund. 'It didn't take

people very long to start re-thinking in metric measure,' he says. 'We completed the project right on schedule and encountered very few problems or delays. About 30% of the 100 tradesmen working on Forest Meadows were originally from Europe so they were already familiar with the metric system.'

As the province's first metric housing project, Forest Meadows was undertaken as an educational exercise as well as a commercial venture to provide medium priced

(Continued on page 5)



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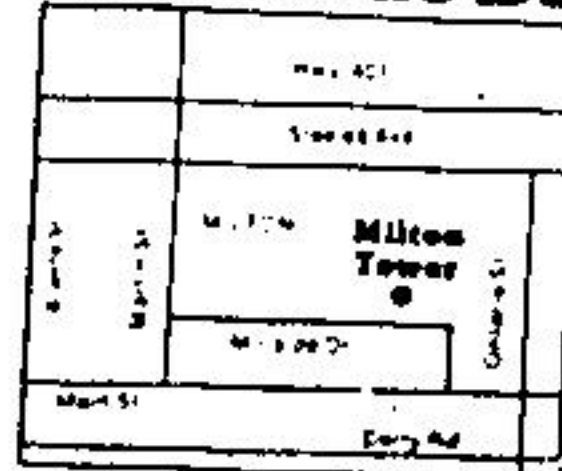
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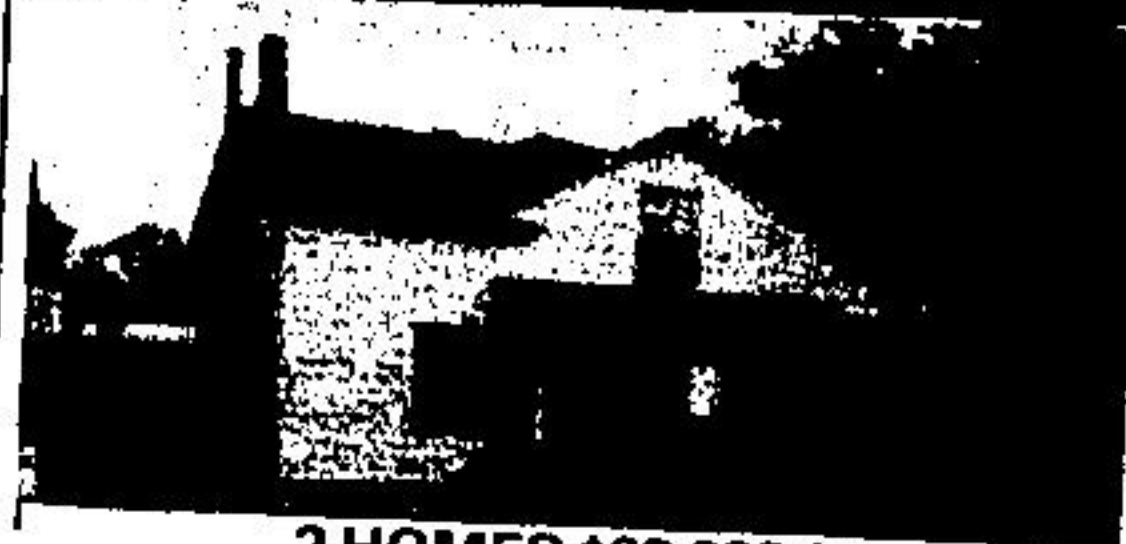
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