

PARADE OF HOMES

By Mack Parliament
Director of Publications
Canadian Real Estate Association

There is no doubt that the preservation of Canada's past as represented by vintage buildings is alive and well and gathering steam with each passing month as appreciation of our heritage grows.

Many such prizes have been turned into museums. Others have been restored, furniture of the period acquired and then opened to the public to vividly depict the life and times of our ancestors.

But like everything else moderation should be of paramount consideration. Museums and other restorations used as government-run attractions don't pay taxes like privately-owned buildings do. Therefore, while it is desirable to preserve good examples of the architecture of yesteryear, it is also desirable to make them pay their way. Other properties have to make up the difference which non-tax paying properties escape.

The answer is not to stop rescuing and restoring vintage buildings, but to assimilate them as viable, tax-paying showplaces catering to a variety of social, commercial, industrial and residential uses. There is no question that we should be proud of and cherish the prizes of the past, but not to the extent that so many are the responsibility of government that funds cannot be found to keep them in a proper state of repair and they are allowed to fall into decay like some of the architectural treasures of Italy.

If history repeats itself, there is every reason to believe that it would. A government bureaucracy charged with overseeing publicly owned historical buildings would grow as the number of buildings maintained by the public purse grew. Putting the cost of ownership, bureaucracy and preservation together to say nothing of property taxes lost, could add a new burden for already overtaxed Canadians, which they don't need much less want.

Is it not better then to have most of Canada's heritage buildings, which started out in private hands remain in private hands, although not necessarily the same ones, put to useful purposes and paying their way in property taxes?

The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) thinks so and supports the preservation of historical and architectural buildings. It also readily concedes there are many buildings of historical or architectural significance which should remain in the public domain. Some of these could be renovated and put to new uses, others could be renovated and restored to their former uses, adding a new flavor, elegance and reminder of Canada's colonial past to the area in which they are located.

The Canadian Real Estate Association is interested in learning about single buildings, groups of buildings, whole city blocks of buildings, or neighborhoods, which are candidates for a new lease on life. The Association is also interested in learning about such buildings, publicly or privately owned, which have been rescued from obscurity, or renovated, or

put to new uses, or for which future plans are being formulated, or which have been remodeled and put to new uses. Correspondence should be addressed to Alec Murray, Canadian Real Estate Association, 98 Duncan Mill Rd., Don Mills, Ont., M3B 1Z2.

With this and other information the Association plans to encourage a preservation program with the co-operation with the co-operation of local real estate boards which would result in lasting benefits to communities. There is no desire or intention on CREA's part in conflict with the work of other public spirited groups which also want to preserve Canada's heritage.

However, the expertise of real estate practitioners and their various specialties should be extremely valuable in any projects undertaken.

There are other aspects of recycling existing structures which should not be overlooked. Ones that we are being conditioned to switch from a consumption and throwaway society to a conservation and preservation society to protect our dwindling non-renewable resources.

Some of the nation's architectural masterpieces could never be duplicated at a cost which would make them economically viable. But they can be recycled and put to new uses at a fraction of their replacement cost. It must be remembered there are countless examples of modern architecture anyway, but historical examples are becoming fewer and fewer. This raises the question: Why tear down a structurally sound vintage building to replace it with another modern one if there are no other important benefits?

Many of these well built structures can become proving grounds for new methods of conserving energy, not only through imaginative interior but through proper insulation and correcting energy hungry features. Some may lend themselves to installation of renewable energy sources for a large portion of their needs.

At the very least retention of existing buildings will preserve familiar surroundings, prevent disruption of sections of towns or neighborhoods and provide employment during the recycling process. The recycling process is also an antidote for urban sprawl which in some areas has got out of hand. The infrastructure is already in place for existing buildings and this is another expense which can be avoided.

Some projects are too large for a single principal to undertake or the cost and length of time to bring the finished project on stream dictate a joint approach or partnership either among private entrepreneurs or as a government-private enterprise partnership.

One such project in Saint John, N.B., will take five years to complete and cost an estimated \$45 million. At the level of government, as well as private enterprise, an economic, social and physical regeneration of 30,000+ central acres, the anticipated result and is a textbook example of the advantages of taking the best of the past and combining it with the best of the present.

The project is not only opening up the waterfront for public access, revitalizing business along and around the central area, but will also create many opportunities for employment," comments Michael Landry, M.P. for St. John-Capobianco.

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184 \$40,000



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YOUR OWN 2½ ACRES

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186 \$54,900



CLEAN COUNTRY RANCHER

Ideal for commuting, close to 401. Big 5-acre lot and the brick home has 3 bedrooms, L shaped living-dining room with fireplace. The oversize 2 car garage is ideal for the man to have his own hobby-workshop. Listed at

187 \$79,900



ATTENTION HOME BUILDERS

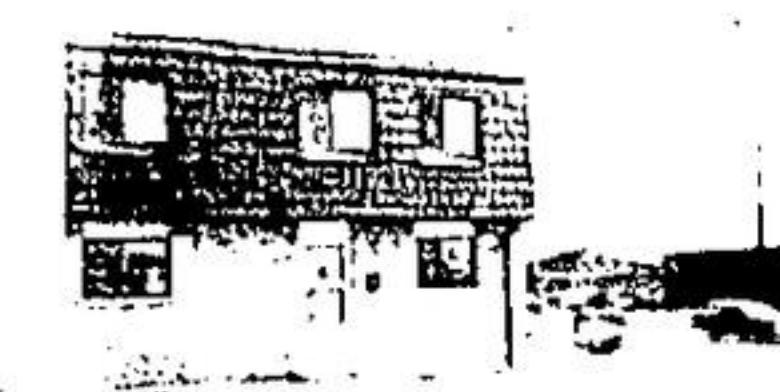
some land and lots now listed:

- a) 50 ft. building lot in town, separated and ready for builder's permit 188
- b) 1/2 acre hillside lot with beautiful view of Credit River and scenic valley, 3 miles from town 189
- c) 50 acres, some bush, some pasture, flowing creek across property listed at 190 \$53,900
- d) 114 acres working farm, excellent soil, older frame home, barn, sheds etc. located on Trafalgar road south of town. Please call for more details. 191

YOU CAN'T BEAT

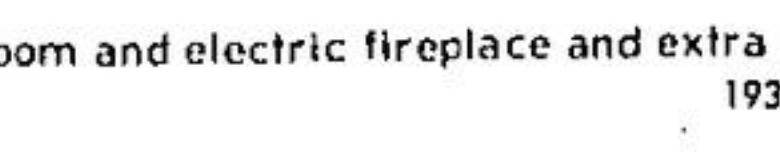
the value when you buy a low cost, looking like new townhouse. Fully broadloomed, 3 bedrooms, separate dining room. Here are 2 listings:

End unit, giving privacy and listed at \$43,500 192



Similar model but with finished rec room and electric fireplace and extra bathroom. Listed

\$43,900



OLD AND COMFORTABLE

This white beauty has a big country style kitchen, 3 bedrooms, TV room, pantry and bright comfortable living room. Great soil for your own vegetable plot, all for a low

194 \$47,900



BACKED BY GREEN HILLS

Brick bungalow with fireplace in living room, big kitchen and 3 broadloomed bedrooms. Located on a super 130 ft. deep lot with detached 1 1/2 car garage is now listed at

195 \$64,900



COMFORT AND SERENITY

27 Acres of rolling pastures and workable land crowned by this beautiful hillside home, custom built and featuring four bedrooms, Master bedroom suite, formal living room, spiral staircase, 2 fireplaces, inground pool. Everything in Gem condition.

196 \$139,000.00



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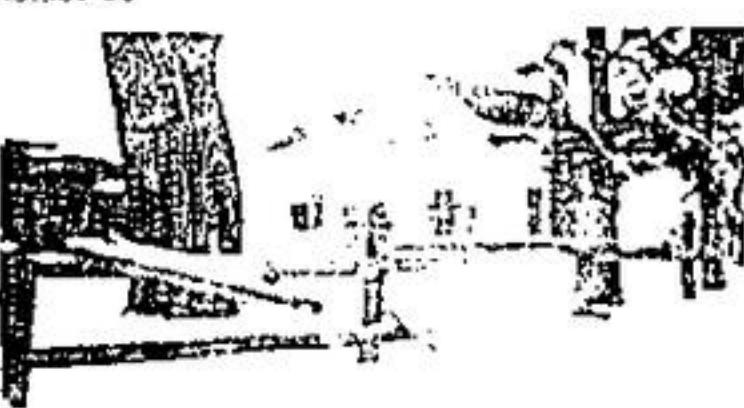
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\$2,000. DOWN
MOVE RIGHT IN

Splendidly clean and freshly decorated. Shag broadloom throughout. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, fridge and stove. This end unit townhome overlooks open land and is awaiting occupancy. Carries for about \$350.00 including maintenance. Asking \$40,500.00



97 acres with log house. Log house is old but in good condition and covered with aluminum. Full basement, the large eat in kitchen is an added addition and framed completely with aluminum. If not, a main floor laundry room and a 2 piece washroom. 4 piece bath upstairs with 4 bedrooms. Farm comes complete with large barn, barn and implement shed. Easy access to paved road all for \$29,900.

COSY & COMFORTABLE
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LOOKING FOR AN OLDER HOME
IN THE COUNTRY
I found one. It has 3 bedrooms, a nice country kitchen and a rec room, all on a super 105x211 lot and priced right. \$55,000.00 Interested, call Carl Sequin, 453-8454.

COTTAGE SOMEONE?

MUST SELL!!

This one is located just north of Orillia on Lake Couchiching, is fully furnished and can be yours in two weeks. Vendor will hold mortgage to help you enjoy it. Don't be disappointed, call me today. Rudy Cadieux 453-8454, 877-8724.

HAVE HORSES?

MUST HAVE A BIG HOME?

I am pretty sure this 10 acre one can suit your requirements and more. Pick up your phone now and find out all about it. Call Rudy Cadieux 877-8724, 453-8454.



VILLAGE SETTING

Fully renovated Century home near 401. Formal dining room, large country kitchen, separate entrance. Antique or boutique possibilities. Call Patty von Bleeding or Edith Nicol 453-8454.

VENDORS TRANSFERRED

OUT OF THE COUNTRY

MUST SELL!!

This executive 4 bedroom with main floor family room, fireplace and professionally finished basement can be yours before the next school term. Why not see it today. Call Rudy Cadieux, 877-8724, 453-8454.

MORE THAN THE PRICE IS RIGHT

In this roomy maintenance free 3 bedroom split-level. Master has semi ensuite 2 piece off family room, laundry room and door to fenced garden. For more information call

Fredie Burton 453-8454, 877-7151

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