Return to historical elegance in Canadian cities

By DALE CALLINGHAM A burial plot for executed criminals... a farm that later became an area for the richan auction block for stolen goods....one of Canada's ear-

liest settlements. What can these places possibly have in common? Today, despite their diverse backgrounds, all are popular shopping districts and prime examples of how Canadian cities are preserving their

past. The idea of restoring city cores is not new, but in the last 10 years the trend has spread to almost every major Canadian centre.

All are lively commercial and shopping districts - not museum pieces. And the nice thing is that each has its individual personality, history, atmosphere and architectural significance.

In Halifax, Nova Scotla, for example, a city strongly linked to the sea, the waterfront district - now called Historic Properties - has been restored to original splendor with nautical theme intact.

Once dusty, seedy warehouses (dating to about 1800)

tori's finest boutiques, restourants, art galleries, craft shops and native art stores. And the castle-like Maritime Museum reigns over the square like a proud - and forgiving - matriarch.

Across the Strait of Georgla. Vancouver's Gastown district was named after "Gassy Jack" Deighton who, in 1867, established a hotel in the locale.

Typical of most renewed shopping areas, Gastown is where visitors find a concentration of unusual and handcrafted items - British Columbia jade, hand-blown glass, homemade clothing, finely-blended tobacco, native art, jewelry and unique local and imported goods.

Also among the cobblestoned streets and courtyards are hobby stores and wholesalers which make it ideal for gift-shopping, excellent restaurants, nightspots and art galleries, and historical landmarks.

In contrast to the rowdy stories behind Historic Properties and Bastion Square, Hess Village in Hamilton, Ontario has always been the epitome of dignity.



Halifax, Nova Scotia takes advantage of its colorful past by emphasizing the nautical - and naughty - history of its waterfront district. New a popular shopping area, Historic Properties was once the headquarters for pirates, and reminders of this era add to the fun of browsing in the boutiques.

Canadian Government Office of Tourism Photo)

are now bright, neat buildings containing approximately 40 shops, restaurants, puls and offices - all with salty names like King's Wharf, Clipper Cay, Pieces of Eight and The Barnacle.

Special attraction in summer is the Bluenose II, an exact replica of its racing predecessor which, in the early 1900s, was the fastest schooner in the world. Now, visitors board its namesake for cruises into the harbor.

Walking the cobblestoned alleys, absorbing the fresh salt air and enjoying the beauty of circling gulls, one would never suspect that there was a time when no self-respecting citizen would venture into the area.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, privateers used the district as their headquarters for slipping out into Atlantic waters, attacking ships and returning to anction the stolen goods to the highest bidder. The general atmosphere was evident in such names as Knock 'Em Down Street and Seven Steps to Hell brothel.

Victoria, British Columbia. also had a few skeletons in the closet which were hauled out and dusted off to embellish the history behind that city's revitalized shopping district. However, it's said they missed some and that shooper who explore the beautiful boutiques of Bastion Square might indeed be walking over the remains of a few executed criminals.

Through the gold rush, whaling and sealing eras of the 19th century, rancous miners and sailors, back-alley meetings, and saloons and dance halls were the order of the day, But, by the turn of the century, the London architecture of the square gradually began to take over, luring prominent lawyers, and the long climb to respectability began.

Today, picturesque gas lamps, flower baskets and multi-tiered walkways guide visitors through some of Vic-

Originally, a tarm belong-

ing to the Hess family, it

later became the site of

stately mansions built a-

round the turn of the century

by Hamilton's leading citi-

Starting in 1971, each house was gradually renovated, with great care taken to preserve original interior and exteriors whenever possible. Such authenticity is a major factor in all the overhauled shopping districts so that each comprises an architectural record of the era it

represents. The four blocks of Hess Village now boast more than 30 antique and art galleries, fashion and book stores, giftr and children's shops, and other specialty boutiques.

Probably the most famous of Canada's revitalized . downtown cores is Yorkville in Toronto, Ontario. For a long time Yorkville was a self-contained village and then, in 1883, became part of Toronto, t remained a sturdy working-class neighborhood until the mid-1950s when artists and craftsmen started infiltrating and coffeehouses sprang up. By the mid-60s, Yorkville was Canada's answer to Haight-Ashbury and Sunset Strip.



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Today, Yorkville is a charming collection of tidy boutiques and cales, and a delightful place to browse. There's a wide variety of stores, many in enclosed malls, but women's clothing shops seem to dominate and it's easy to see why Toronto

is a fashion capital.

Montreal, Quebec was one of the first communities to realize the value of preserving its original buildings. In. 1962 a municipal commission was set up to protect them and, in 1964, the province declared the entire 38 ha (95 acres) of Old Montreal an

historic site. As far back as 1642, and continuing over many decades, French settlers gradually built up a little city of stone, reproducing the narrow streets and architecture of medieval Europe in the wilds of North America.

For general information on Canada as a travel destination, contact the Canadian Government Office of Tourism, Ottawa, Canada, K1A

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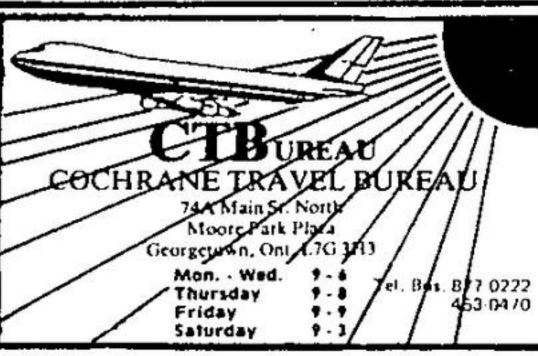
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MOVE RIGHT IN This lovely brick bungalow is on a 148 foot lot in Erin and backs onto farmland. Authentic barn boards in receroom. Asking only \$49,900.00 You'll love it! Call Sandra Nairn.

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is what you have with this four bedroom bungalow, just ten minutes north of Georgetown. The three and one-third acre lot has yourng hardwood bush between you and the road. Seclusion plus privacy and comfortable country living. Call Ariene Shortli-Wannop for a personal viewing.

Highway 7 frontage. Recreational land in the Niagra Escarpement, Good for summer camp or ethnic group. Contact Ariene Shortill Wannon for more information.

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Tom Cooper F.R.1.

Artene Shortill-Wannop

John Caton

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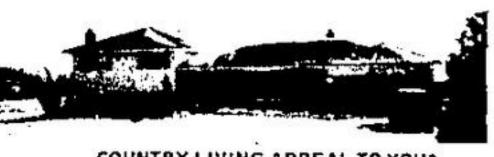


A LOT OF HEAVEN

In this executive home on a ravine lot in town. Four large bedrooms. Living room, family room and recreation room, ALL include fireplaces for your relaxing enjoyment. Walkouts to back yard and many more exciting extrast. Call now for a personal viewing of the property and ask for Ariene Shortill-Wannop.



DETACHED - \$42,900.00. This 2 storey home with 3 bedrooms, large eat in kitchen, family room, double drive is only 5 minutes to "GO" Train. Call Sandra Hurley for more information.



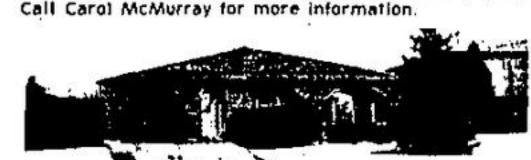
COUNTRY LIVING APPEAL TO YOU? You can do it in this four bedroom sidesplit northwest of Georgetown. The half acre lot backs onto open farmland which is great for the outdoor living. House is immaculate; also includes family room with fireplace, walk-out from kitchen and dining room onto cedar deck which overlooks pand and open fields. Don't be cooped up any longer. Come to the country. Call John Caton for more details. Asking \$87,000.00.



\$74,900.00 Nothing to do but move into this Georgetown gem. It's spacious and immaculate, teatures like main floor family room and mud room, finished rec room, kitchen walk out and central air. Make it a must to see. Call Sandra Nairn for a



WHERE CAN YOU FIND Ground floor family room with fireplace, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, cedar deck off dining room and pool size lot....for \$74,900,00?



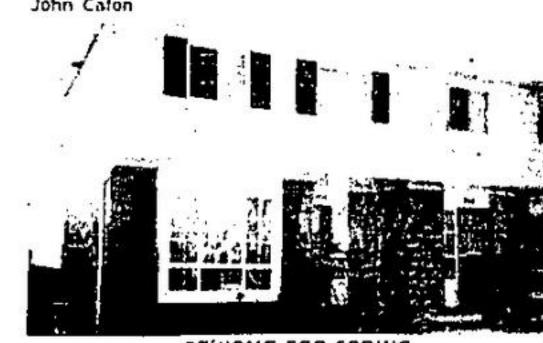
THE HOME YOU HAVE EARNED \$76,900.00. The unique brick arches at the front of this three bedroom backsplit make a very distinctive entrance. There is also a professionally finished recreation room and central air conditioning, Call Eleanor Langdon.



MORTGAGE AT 1012 PER CENT This lovely brick bungalow is sure to please with its new kitchen cupboards and counter, bright cheery dining area, separate living room with picture window, huge rec room with wet bar, extra bathroom and even a 4th bedroom and kitchenette off the rec room. Asking \$57,900.00. Call Sandra Nairn.

43 ACRES - 5 MINUTES TO GO TRAIN \$125,000.00.

This property has everything that anyone could possibily ask for. Twenty five acres of pasture land, remaining acre in bush, with view of 180 degrees for some 30 miles. There is two artesian wells bubbling out of thee ground, both making possible pond sites and great drinking water. All this on the Niagra Escarpment and only 5 minutes to Georgetown Phone John Caton



BE'HOME FOR SPRING Come and see this immaculate 3 bedroom semi which could be your home by spring. \$57,900. Call Eleanor Langdon.

LOOKING TO BUILD? The ideal in fown building lot really does exist! This property features 97 feet of frontage and is 135 feet deep with curb already installed. Within a five minute walk from downtown and a beautiful view, what more could you ask for? Rob Allison has the information to answer your question about your new home location.

Stephen P. Saxe Limited, Realtor



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