

Outlook on Lifestyle

LOOKING INTO THE LIBRARY



Atlas detail amazing

By W. LEWIS

Halton Hills Library

Over the last two decades, three "mega-projects" have dominated Canadian scholarly publishing. The Canadian Encyclopedia arrived last year, with a complete revision due in 1988. The dictionary of Canadian Biography has been underway since the early 1960s, releasing its ninth volume this spring. And now, finally, the first of the three volumes of the Historical Atlas of Canada has arrived. With its lavish use of colours and tremendous detail, this volume may well be the best atlas of its type in the world.

Explorers and political boundary changes make an obligatory appearance, but the vast majority of the 69 plates describe people—how they lived and how they made a living. For the first time, the maps showing the fur trade do so against backgrounds showing the ecological systems as well as Indian linguistic and tribal groups. There is plenty of information here to enrich any school project on Indians or New France. While in general terms, the scope of the atlas extends only to 1800, some exceptions were made. Coverage of the fur trade runs to 1821, while the Loyalist settlements in Upper Canada await the second volume.

The amazing detail in the various plates goes well beyond simple

maps. For example, "Canadian North Atlantic Trade" shows a tiny uncharacteristically plain, map of the nations bordering the North Atlantic. But this simple map is surrounded by graphs, pictures and other diagrams. These illustrate the various types of vessels in the trade, the relative size and composition of the cargos, the number of ship arrivals and departures over a period of years and the values of these imports at London and La Rochelle. In addition, five paragraphs of text help explain the visual information. To complete this presentation, the notes at the end of the volume include a glossary, the major primary and secondary sources, and acknowledge the two principal authors and six other scholars who contributed to the research.

This reviewer's only quibbles with the volume are relatively minor. Yes, I know everyone associates red with the English and blue with the French. But, there are maps here where it's hard to tell the French from the deep blue sea. Waiting another six years before both the second and third volumes have appeared will not be easy either. Nor despite the government subsidies (well spent, I might add), is this an inexpensive Christmas gift at \$95. On the other hand, it would certainly be welcome under my Christmas tree.

Junior Achievement trains for tomorrow

By Ann M. Smith

When most of us were kids, the list of popular extra-curricular activities we had to choose from was relatively straight-forward. There were Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, little league, piano lessons, swimming, etc.

Times have changed. Admit it. Children these days are far more sophisticated than we ever were. Take a look at, for example, Junior Achievement of Canada (JA). Even though this sounds like a product of the 1980's, the organization has actually been in existence in this country since 1955.

Its goal is simple: it strives to teach young people an interest in the world of business and to give them the equipment in order to "make it" once their foot is in the front door and it does this by providing youngsters with some very valuable hands-on business experience. Last year alone, JA reached more than 8,600 upwardly-mobile teenagers from more than 40 regions right across the country.

But don't let the name "junior" fool you—the organization is anything but. In fact, the 17-nation network has a highly-sophisticated recruitment program that includes provincial newsletters, fact sheets and a student manual that contains a 24-page business project that challenges teenagers, for example, on the intricacies of a "new economy".

One of the pamphlets in the JA brochure describes the organization this way: "Through JA you can become a business director and major

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Against the odds
PAT WOODE

Gertrude Wright died of a heart attack brought on by massive infection. Her family is pursuing legal action against the province for not making the necessary changes required to make her Ontario Housing Corp. apt. safer and more accessible. Ms. Wright had several falls and the last one resulted in a broken hip which led to the infection.

Recently an Ontario Coroners inquest concluded with a report outlining a number of recommendations. I will highlight a few of them:

1. Physicians should receive mandatory instructions in medical school in disabilities, not only illness. Disabled persons should participate in that instruction.
2. All architects should receive mandatory instruction in Barrier Free Design.
3. The Ministry of Health should provide an educational program for all persons providing home care for the disabled. Disabled persons should participate in this program.
4. Government funding to disabled advocacy groups and independent living centres operated by and for disabled persons should be increased. In addition these groups should be granted special funds to enable them to produce and deliver awareness programs.
5. The Assistive Devices Program should be extended immediately for

all ages and cover 100 per cent of the cost, as well as, repairs.

6. OHIP should issue a standardized coded card which would render the card holder eligible to receive government services and/or benefits for which disability is a criteria.

7. All Ministries should review their programs to insure that they are designed so that all persons including disabled persons are able to direct their own care and live independently. This right should be respected by the government, physicians, health care professionals and the general public.

8. The government should employ disabled persons in all departments and agencies which have any sphere of influence on the lives of disabled persons.

9. The government should require all private companies who receive government contracts with any sphere of influence on the lives of disabled persons to employ disabled persons.

10. Funding for a brokerage system, where a disabled person directs the broker to negotiate the services, should be provided immediately through the Secretariat For Disabled Persons.

11. OHC should insist that all local housing authorities consult with the Barrier Free Design Centre or an architect trained in barrier free design, to provide recommendations for modifications to make common areas of each apartment building barrier free accessible. In addition OHC should prepare in consultation with barrier free experts a check list of basic modifications to be implemented in units assigned to disabled tenants.

I will cover the remaining recommendations next week.

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