New Vista Opens For Town Through Directed Effort

Idealism, Common-sense Must Wed To Kill Slums Of Future

By MICHAEL JACOT

is being turned into city.

country in the world. In the Fifties a million dwellings tion? Good design would have roads and services. Part of it even entire provinces had not were built in this country. Our cities grew 10 per cent (3) Even in the better plan- interlocking mesh of houses. However, no planner in Cana year. Sixty per cent of our population crowded into ned developments we continue factories, highways and facili- ada-unlike many in Europethose cities and their suburbs. Automobile registra-street with millions of feet of However they choose to de- He is an advisor only. tions doubled. Wage earners began to live 15, 25 or overhead wiring. And in the fine their job, virtually all plan- But having a planner in a 30 miles from work. Sometimes more.

Growth has slackened now but has by no means master plan for a larger area. and aesthetic appeal. abated. Cities and towns are still spreading out over (4) Alan Armstrong of Cen- But the planners feel that no longer be regarded as sepnew ground at a rate of nearly 100 square miles a year. poration reports that nearly all way.

Urban municipal councils spend half their time our towns show six main defects: congestion of space at the of the piece. In the immediate velop in their own way, which on matters dealing with physical growth. Nor is there centre; congestion of traffic post-war years we were too is not necessarily the best way any sign that the growth will cease. The Royal Com-traffic along unsuitable roads; to worry about the finer points In Ontario a valley was zoned mission on Canada's Economic Prospects predicted areas where industry and hous- of planning. This excuse is no as a park. A neighboring planin the 1957-1982 period some 3.7 million more houses would be built at a total cost of about \$40 billion. A housing; insufficient open space study recently completed by the Royal Architectural and inadequate schools.

Of planning. This excuse is no as a park. A neighboring planning board had approved a factory, and wanted roads to run through the valley for delivery and inadequate schools. Institute of Canada shows that Calgary, Edmonton, London, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa-Hull will each more than double their housing stock WhatlsGoodPlanning? Women's groups, many planning velopment banned all service officials feel Canadians gener-stations. But, of course, the by 1970, and the last three will triple it.

assessment and a sober look at land.

the future. Several studies such (2) Of the new houses we as that of the Royal Architec- build each year, many are so "may take a hundred years to be sold to second link may be sold to se tural Institute of Canada have unimaginative in design and are undo. Perhaps it may never be able to accomplish much as Co-ordinated planning could enabled architects, builders, so crammed into their commugovernment officials and comunities that they may well be the

time to shape the face and soul munity leaders to analyze Can-slums of tomorrow, no matter time to shape the face and soul tinue to look upon one another's ada's growth: They are often what efforts their owners make of our country if we will only problems with complete indif- lem in Ontario, the country is tinue to look upon one another's a partial solution to the prob-

They see a kind of patchwork The National Council of Wo- The phrase "good planning" Major General M. L. Bren- ists. If we could plan for a quilt with isolated examples of men told the RAIC committee, crops up repeatedly in these nan, national director of the whole country at a time we well-planned subdivisions and "Monotonous, boring, dull, rub-studies. What is it, and who Community Planning Associa-could achieve some success." individual buildings but, for the ber-stamp similarity are some are the "planners"? They are tion of Canada, adds: "A Cana- The counties have the necesmost part, a land scarred with of the terms used to describe often architects, builders or dian may be interested in his sary powers but they are rarely haphazard building and plan-developments where the same men trained in planning at neighbor's house. He may even used."

Here, in summary, are the is repeated over and over.

highlights of their findings:

This absence of interest and Canada although four university in the next street, let ped by laws dating back to the (1) Millions of acres of our good taste could result even-ties offer courses). cities, farms and woodland have tually in a district degenerating been spoiled in the last 10 years through lack of incentive to the "The professional planner c individual owner to improve his must know something of eco- Space To Be Luxury by indiscriminate building.

Each year in the last 10, thou- property."

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Each month a dozen square miles of rural land pied. How could they help it, Part of a planner's job is to nadians. Such a population

being ugly, unimaginatively view small communities not as should have four or five, says planned, the same plan used isolated units but as adjoining the RAIC report, but the situafor every exposure . . . and pieces of land, perhaps needing tion is much improved over 15 For 10 years Canada has been the fastest growing garish colors shouting for atten. joint water and sewage works, years ago when some cities and is to view cities as a smoothly one planner.

to raze the trees and deface each ties.

best planned developments, the ners bring to it a desire to blend community is not enough, unplanned area is generally too land, housing, schools and busi-less problems are tackled on a small and there is no effective ness areas for the utmost utility regional basis. In many cases, city, suburbs and country can tral Mortgage and Housing Cor- several obstacles stand in their arate, in planning terms. Yet

including the passage of heavy hard-pressed for housing space for the whole area.

tion. And, despite the com- trucks. Both projects died.

plaints of the aforementioned In B.C. a new residential de-But the time has come for into industrial and residential seement and a sober look at land dent of the Community Plan- planners equipped with all the

ning Association of Canada, detailed knowledge that re- There Is A Solution ference," says Fred Gardiner. tem, although archaic, still ex-

(or very nearly identical) house some foreign university.) There care about his own street. But The planners and their comalone the whole town." horse and buggy age. Ontario

nomics, sociology and engineerpher to refuse to become frus- density of dwellings in our com-

away on a shelf, and to await Burlington, Ont., town planner. tion. California has experi- Some planners have suggest- Canada." "It is not a rubber-stamp blue-mented with small private ed that prospective new sub-A Planner Speaks a closer unit of the home.

Norman Pearson is town plan- dislikes is the matter of what as is presently the custom. B.A. course in town planning School of Social Work, Univer-try," says Jacques Simard. How from the University of Durham, sity of Toronto, and vice-chair- should we go about it? Here, England. He has published 35 man of the Metropolitan Toron- from the RAIC and other studpapers on planning and was to Housing Authority, points out ies, and from the planners themawarded the President's prize that Canadians are spending an selves, are a few suggestions:

families, in what might be de- that cannot in all conscience be obliterated landscape; with the not afford to live elsewhere.

Cost, as it affects the indiviwrecking machine we have destroyed our links with the past. We have gone a long way in losing the distinctiveness of Canada; and our surroundings

Canada; and our surroundings

"We need more parks, larger —subdivisions should be planning.

"We need more parks, larger —need to need not only for present needs

the excellence of our people." ough, Ont., Reeve A. M. Camp. planners. bell. "It costs an extra \$275 a -provincial and federal gov-

Underground Wiring

to go on stringing wires over-

ated and they must be able to us, and the structure of the city ning today is the lack of supgain councils' ears.

(built in 1954) looked like slums versity to fit any area any- There is now a qualified planis an arm of local government.

Acknowledement To Imperial Oil

just as the thoughts of Richmond Hill's municipal leaders are turning to the redirection of town planning activities, to be emphasized through the aphighly informative and analytical article on the subject.

"What is needed most is a Turns To Planning

"Small lots horrify Canadians must be 66 feet wide with all down trees to widen streets? ing the Community Planning a more opportune time for their but, if professionally laid out, buildings set back another 25 Should we chop up parks for Branch of the Ontario Governthey can look better and be or 30 feet from that road line," multiple level crossings? What ment as Special Projects Plan-"Good planning reflects the lawns of some suburbs" says the RAIC report. "These are the values at stake? Be. ner, and becoming particularly lawns of some suburbs," says the RAIC lepolt. These are the values at state of some suburbs," says provisions sterilize 1,000 square tween now and 2,000 A.D., the responsible for the development feelings and the needs of the Mrs. Jennifer Joynes of the feet of land that some family equivalent of one city of 80,000 and building of Manitouwadge, people," adds Norman Pearson, Community Planning Associa-should be allowed to enjoy." must be built each year in Ontario's first planned new

ner at Burlington, Ontario. He graduated with the first honours B.A. course in town planning from the University of Durham. etty of Town of To

By ROSS SCRIMGER

Chairman, Richmond Hill Planning Board Those of us who are presently serving on the of the Town Planning Institute increasingly smaller proportion — every municipality should Harold Deeks, the newly appointed director of plan-(U.K.) in 1957 for work on of their incomes on shelter.

Canadian shopping centres. He

However, Dr. Rose adds, most grams for removal of housing families, in what might be de-"With bulldozers we have bliterated landscape; with the not afford to live elsewhere that cannot in all conscience be redeemed, and for creation of legal and engineering, that the work has become fraught with in recent years - someone who could consult with the other technical members of the town staff—someone who could meet the public from day LIBERAL CLASSIFIEDS-GetResults-TU. 4-1105 to day, and explain the scope and necessity of the in our cities, those junk-yards green areas, and we need to ned not only for present needs work being done, to those who are affected by it of real estate, do not justify take down the ugly overhead but should be flexible enough and above all, someone who could keep track of the wiring, but the crux of the prob- to accommodate the changing thousand and one details of all sorts that crop up

> lot to put wiring underground. ernments should identify areas possible to do an adequate job, that Mr. Deeks has seen fit to meeting as we do only one night give up his important work in all lots, but it is good planning value that are threatened by a week, and that for only two the Department of Planning in and we are insisting on it. We urbanization, and protect those to three hours. Even the extra the province, to take on the posfeel that we must do as much areas for future generations. meetings that have been sched-ition in Richmond Hill. When good planning as finances allow." -a Canadian Institute of Urban uled, have not been adequate he first met with the board, "You cannot operate a city Studies should be set up at- to allow sufficient attention to he advised us that it was the

without industrial and commer- tached to a metropolitan uni- be given to important details. challenge of the job that apones - which takes a lot of earth-moving, drainage and road development of the town. With erative work, meeting the many money which the taxpayer will technique, as well as horticul- the time at the disposal of the and serious problems that will bear only in reasonable propor- ture, arboriculture and princi- board, it has simply not been inevitably face Richmond Hill possible to do a proper job in in the coming years. We feel Just how much more it costs -every possible measure should this respect. With a full time that with the help of the counto incorporate good planning in- be taken to encourage diversity planning director, this can be cil and the people of the town - to a new community is debat- of size and nature among new changed, and must be changed, with the exercising of a little the long run. "If the municipal works of today should fail in use by 1970, much public money will be wasted." says the RAIC report.

As "The Liberal" so rightly patience, and with a determination to keep the needs of the last week, planning legislation town foremost in our minds that the planning work in Richfored"; rather it should come as an obvious and apparent analysis are not be "imposed" or "enfored"; rather it should come as an obvious and apparent analysis and money-saving function of the liberal" sweet to the various problem.

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subscribers might well choose to have such a system.

Planning would cope with "We must strive for a combecause of our misplaced values of the because of the because of our misplaced values of the because of the b such problems of service-vs.- promise between the acme of and our willingness to tolerate appearance. But first the com- perfection, which is rarely at--even to encourage-patterned munities must have planners, tainable, the examples of poor disorderliness. The most serious

Senior Provincial Planner Named

Richmond Hill, for the first time in its long history, sign Section of the Community has its own town planner. The position was discussed Planning Branch, he has been earlier in the year when the municipal budget was be-design of new townsites to meet ing prepared. An amount sufficient to take care of a the need for satisfactory urban qualified man was allowed for by town council after accommodation in conjunction discussion with the planning board, which has since with the development of natural occupied months in the search for a suitable appointee. A short time ago the board recommended to council which includes analysis of resithe engagement of F. Harold Deeks, head of the Plan-dential, commercial, industrial ning Design Section of the Community Planning educational, public services and Branch under the Ontario government. The appoint- transportation needs of all draft plans of subdivision (some 80 ment has since been confirmed and Mr. Deeks took to 100 a month) and the making over on November 1st. of appropriate recommendations.

Richmond Hill's new planner There, living in a bunkhouse official plans as they affect subadmits that the challenge of along with the men doing the divisions and has been respon-Richmond Hill, which has grown actual building, he designed the sible for displays and exhibits. from a population of 6,677 in community for a population of 1956 to 16,191 in 1961, intrigues 6,300. The designing finished. Mr. Deeks is a member of the him. He stresses that while the he was loaned to the district by Seminars on Civic Design Comtown's extraordinary growth the provincial government, be- mittee which held its first semcalls for something more than coming Project Planner and be-inar at Stratford recently - s usual in the way of planning, ing, in effect, town manager, seminar attended by Planning yet the opportunity to introduce district administrator and liais- Board member Cecil Williams, beauty into the planning is on officer until the municipal whose comments were published greater than usual. The town's staff took over in 1956. location on its hilltop, he de-clares gives great scope for of

clares, gives great scope for efficiency plus imagination in chell Lake, Moosonee, Elliot charting its future growth.

Lake, Cardiff, Red Lake and also a member of the Ontario Temagami. In addition, he was Department of Highways Geom-The new planner brings a a member of a team which con- etric Design Standards Commitwealth of experience to his new ducted regional area studies in tee. Imperial Oil Review, Im- job. He holds the degree of the St. Lawrence Valley.

Master of Architecture (Com- Acted For Minister munity Planning) from the Uni- In 1957 he was given special his hobbies include painting, versity of Manitoba and has assignments on which he re-both in water-colour and oils. completed courses in Public ported directly to the Minister His library contains over a thou-Administration, Traffic Engin- of Planning and Development, sand books, mostly technical, he eering, Community Planning These included conducting spec- admits. He has designed and Law and Practise and Adminis- ial investigations into matters built all the family furniture. tration at the University of Tor- such as the Federal-Provincial In addition, he is a model rulonto. Incidentally, he is one of Housing Projects of Regents road enthusiast and is a memapproximately five or six in On- Park South in Toronto, and De- ber of the Royal Astronomical tario who holds his particular ing chairman of the Space Com- Society of Canada. degree in architecture. mittee for office reorganization Challenge - Repeat Challenge

His earlier architectural ex- composed of the Deputy Minis- The last question in the interperience was obtained in Winni-ter and Branch Directors. He view which covered the career peg, Regina, Sault Ste. Marie later supervised the redeploy- of Richmond Hill's new planner and Toronto. In the latter city ment of staff and the construc- was a fairly obvious one. Why he was associated with the lead-tion program. ing firm of John B. Parkin As- In 1958 he was named to the mond Hill? Because, he said, sociates. Much of his earlier Civil Defence Administrative few towns in Ontario offered the architectural work was on class- Committee, advisory to the same opportunity and the same ical buildings - one of them Minister, and as chairman he challenge. The Hill's rapid

trated when his nobly-conceived munities, without sacrificing "It is commonly laid down philosophy. Should we plan for the future are filed comfort and beauty."

"What is needed most is a Turns To Planning importance, was perhaps that an access road allowance the most is a filed comfort and beauty."

"What is needed most is a Turns To Planning importance, was perhaps over Richmond Hill's planning, the biggest thing of the whole

town for a mining community

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In 1958 he was named to the incomes and happiness were of

Married to a London, Eng-

land, girl, Mr. Deeks says that

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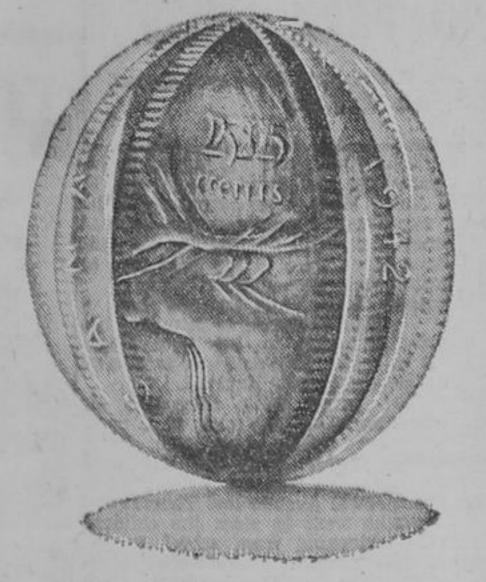
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In its monthly magazine, perial Oil Limited has published one of the best articles on town planning which we have ever read. We believe the subject to be of such interest that we are republishing parts of it herewith, with the hope that such republication will be of public service and will play a part in making Richmond Hill, "The Rose Centre of Canada", a town physically worthy of its name and its beautiful loca-

tion on the hilltop. We acknowledge with gratitude the permission given by Imperial Oil to reprint excerpts from its article.-Editor.

sands of acres of first-class agricultural land has been turned of Ottawa added. "These places
cultural land has been turned of Ottawa added. "These places
cultural land has been turned of Ottawa added. "These places
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the "supermayor" of the chance to correct errors
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caused through that growth was
investigating all aspects of civil great—the chance to correct errors
caused through that growth was
caused throu the "supermayor". "He must bigger driveways and broader brick or concrete construction businessman, is president of the of his career he worked on many ducted a series of detailed en- And, said Mr. Deeks, the opknow what his region should have; enough of a realist to have a realist to h

alone has 350 different zoning

laws, many of them a century

old. Even recent laws are cum-

bersome. One municipality de-

courtyards, which are artistic-ally interesting, safer for chil-before building begins, and the dren to play in, and decidedly new homes, factories, shops and Coupled with public likes and scheme, instead of vice versa

lem is financial," says Scarbor. population as predicted by the over the years.

cial assessment to provide the versity to serve as a clearing One of the very important de-pealed to him, and the board tax base so that you can build house for information and study tails that has been overlooked believes that a job taken on and extend your city," says Fred in this field.

Gardiner. "Certainly we have —a professional school or with the citizens, and explaining We have no doubt as to Mr. to pay attention not only to the schools of landscape design to them, and working out joint- Deeks' ability and qualifications planning of our new areas but should be set up in Canada, en-ly with them, the necessary leg- for the position, and look forto the redevelopment of the old compassing such subjects as islation to insure an orderly ward to many years of co-op-

head. New developments in Whether or not any or all of and engineering firm. He has trenching and cable manufac- these steps are taken, com- won nine Massey medals in arture now raise doubts as to munity planning must, in the chitecture and is an honours how much greater is the cost end, have public support. And graduate of the University of per year of service of under- each program will have to tem- Manitoba. He was president of ground systems. . . The pub-lic is entitled to be informed "If you have a couple of hun-Arts, and a permanent member VICTORIAN ORDER OF what these extra costs would be, dred square miles you can plan of the Royal Architectural Inif any. Underground systems a model community," says To- stitute of Canada's recent surcertainly enhance the value of ronto's Fred Gardiner. "But the vey of residential environment. the property they serve. The practical difficulty with which He says

> which already exists." port from Canadians."

In urban Canada we were in a sense doomed by public decrees Public Support Needed John Parkin is co-founder of ple.

their efforts must be co-ordin-planning which we have before impediment to Canadian plan-

planning, in consultation with be met; an answer that should be apparent to all, when all the SCARBORO TOWNSHIP — Until recently, adds the report, it was clear that "neater systems of underground outdoor wiring, of the kind used in most of the civilized world, were much more expensive to install.

In when Canada we were a site value only.

In when Canada we were a site value only.

It is too much to be hoped that foll agreement can be reached on all points at all stances are known.

It is too much to be hoped that foll agreement can be reached on all points at all stances are known.

It is too much to be hoped that foll agreement can be reached on all points at all stances are known.

It is too much to be hoped that foll agreement can be reached on all points at all stances; nevertheless this should be the object.

A Plannor Canada we were a site value only.

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