



Habitat

United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements
May 31 to June 11, 1976

Enthusiastic response as Barbara Ward tours Canada

Packed, standing-room-only audiences met Barbara Ward during her highly successful nine-city lecture tour of Canada.

The enthusiasm generated for the slight, effervescent and witty author exceeded the expectations of the sponsors of the 31-day tour (March 29 to April 28).

Press, radio and television coverage was extensive. Press conferences brought out heavy media representation which resulted in voluminous amounts of air time and printed space.

At Quebec City's Laval University, where she spoke in French, as she did in Montreal, Miss Ward received an honorary doctorate.

At a luncheon tendered in her honor by Governor-General Jules Léger at his official Ottawa residence, she presented Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau with a hard-cover copy of her latest book "The Home of Man," the theme book for Habitat.

She had also carried from England a second copy destined for Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson, but she gave it to the pilot of the plane which brought her over when he recognized her among the passengers and confessed to being an admirer. Mr. Danson got a later copy.

In Montreal, Miss Ward attended press screenings of the English and French versions of the National Film Board/Canadian Habitat Secretariat co-production of "A Sense of Place," a one-hour long global documentary on human settlements on which she was a consultant.

The documentary, shot on location in eight countries last summer, shows on film a theme similar to that in her book, "The Home of Man," namely the migration of people from rural to urban areas and the problems this entails.

Miss Ward herself went before the cameras for two straight days of shooting in Quebec City, and

built her commentary on key human settlements issues as they are manifested in that city.

The 16mm film of Quebec City is to be delivered in French and English versions by mid-May in time for the Habitat Conference and distribution within and outside Canada.

Quebec City was chosen not only because of its unique and dramatic position overlooking the St. Lawrence River but because the city is a microcosm of many of the major settlements issues current in the world today.

The organizations which sponsored Miss Ward's tour included the Canadian Habitat Secretariat; McClelland and Stewart Ltd., the Toronto publishers who brought out her book in Canada; the W. Clifford Clark Memorial Lectures and the Bonnycastle Memorial Lecture sponsored by the Institute of Public Administration and the University of British Columbia Alumni Association.



Barbara Ward (Lady Jackson) addressing the University of British Columbia Alumni Association dinner April 20 in Vancouver.

Canadian delegation meets

The 70-member Canadian Delegation to Habitat comprising both elected and non-elected officials met for the first time April 29-30 in the historic Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons.

Five Federal Ministers head up the delegation along with 10 provincial ministers, five federal MPs and nine Mayors. The balance consists of federal, territorial, provincial and municipal advisers and representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations (see article, page 9).

The Railway Committee Room, scene of numerous historical meetings, echoed to the voices

of Canadian Habitat Secretariat personnel as they briefed the delegates.

Particular attention was paid to such things as the agenda and structure of the Habitat Conference, Canada's responsibilities and preparations as host country, the role and functions of the Canadian delegation and administrative arrangements for it as well as information programs and media relations.

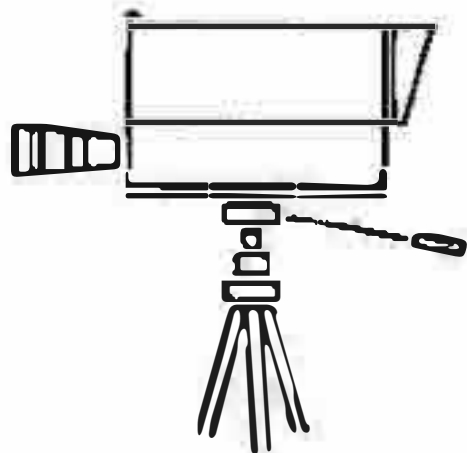
The Canadian position vis à vis three major United Nations policy papers to be the framework within which the Conference will operate were also detailed to the delegation, which included seven women.

This number and proportion of women on the delegation is higher than any previous Canadian delegation, with the single exception of that for the International Women's Year Conference held last summer in Mexico City.

Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson, co-chairman of the delegation who is expected to be elected President of the Habitat Conference on its first day, hosted a luncheon and a dinner for elected officials of the delegation, Jim MacNeill, Commissioner-General of Habitat, hosted a luncheon for non-elected members of the delegation.

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Habitat in your living room

CBC Coverage	opening ceremonies	live, May 31
	1/2-hour highlights of Conference daily	no time slotted
Specials	'The Good Life' 1-hr special on urban living, mainly shot in Mexico co-production, CBC Radio Canada/UN, producer Vincent Tovell	9:00 p.m. May 28 (English) June 6 (French)
	Man Alive, "A Space to Be", on Egyptian architect/engineer Hassan Fathy	10:00 p.m. May 31
	The Nature of Things, "A Question of Control", on consequences of urban housing policy, based in Toronto	10:00 p.m. June 7
	"A Sense of Place" 1-hr special on global settlements issues, particularly urbanization NFB/CHS co-production, producer Roman Bitman	9:00 p.m. June 9
Global TV	"Introduction to Habitat"	MAY 18 May 22
	"What on earth are we doing"	May 31 June 22

Editorial: The world — and the UN — needs a success at Habitat

Habitat will be the largest and promises to be the most exciting and significant United Nations event of this decade.

As we approach Habitat, one of the most important issues that we and other nations must face is what a successful outcome at Vancouver can mean for the future of the United Nations itself as well as the world community. The United Nations badly needs a success to counter the growing scepticism in Canada and other, especially western, countries about its effectiveness. This scepticism is not shared by the Government of Canada and in my view, it is quite wrong.

The one aspect of the UN that has recently become more criticized in the West than appreciated is its role as an outlet for political rhetoric — which we see year in

and year out in the political theatre of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Yet it is in this role that the UN serves one of its most essential purposes — to debate and analyze broad concepts, to search out and press constantly on the limits of compromise, and from time to time to resolve a potentially explosive crisis.

We may not like some of this rhetoric — and we certainly don't have to agree with all of it. But it does make us aware of how other nations view world conditions. Blaming the United Nations because it is the instrument by which these views are brought to our attention is not a rational response. The United Nations did not create the problems of the Third World or any of the other problems we will be trying to deal with at Habitat. The United Nations

HABITAT BULLETIN is produced by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat. It is intended to convey information on Canadian and U.N. preparations for Habitat, and to encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations and individual Canadians in these preparations.

EXTRA COPIES, singly or in reasonable quantities, are available free of charge from the address below.

ADDRESS all enquiries to Canadian Habitat Secretariat, 8th Floor, Lord Elgin Plaza, 88 Slater Street, Ottawa K1P 5H1

Ottawa, May, 1978
Bulletin No. 9

is only the forum in which we are forced to listen to them and to try to cope with them. I would like to think our civilization has developed beyond the point where we execute the bearer of bad news.

Rhetoric is only one aspect of the UN. The UN is also UNICEF (Christmas cards and all); it is UNESCO; it is the World Bank; and the Food and Agriculture Organization; and so on. The UN is also responsible for major world conferences like Habitat. Habitat is the sixth in a series of such conferences to be held in this decade on a significant global problem — beginning with environment in 1972, and then population, food, law of the sea, the status of women, energy, and a new international economic order.

It is too early to assess the final results of these conferences, but there is no doubt that they have helped to shape world thinking and action on the great issues of our time. They also reflect a milestone shift in the way governments and peoples everywhere view the world in which we live. A decade ago most governments would have been unprepared to discuss the need for co-operative solutions to these problems; some would have refused to recognize them as problems at all. Fortunately for the world, this is no longer the case. It is now accepted that these problems require international attention and action.

The conferences are an essential part of the process of change. It is fashionable to think of change as very rapid, but in terms of actually bringing about change — in the way we approach problems, in values, in social behaviour — the process is ponderous and slow.

At Stockholm, the United Nations Environment Program was established — and since 1972 it has monitored environmental conditions, it has maintained pressure on national governments, and it has organized international action, most recently the Barcelona Agreement in which all the nations around the Mediterranean agreed to start to clean up that sea, which has become the public sewer for southern Europe and North Africa.

The Habitat Conference must be turned into a similar springboard for action.

At Habitat, the nations of the world will be debating a whole range of recommendations for national and international action to respond to these trends and their consequences. What kind of settle-

ment strategies are needed? What new kinds of planning? How can poor nations enable their people to provide the essentials of life for themselves in decent neighborhoods within liveable communities? How can rich nations like Canada and the world community be most effective in their support? How can effective government be provided for megacities that are exploding at their seams? And how do we stop prime agricultural land from going under urbanization?

In recommending action on these issues, Habitat cannot avoid considering the two great obscenities in the world today. One is the growing gap between the consumption of the rich nations and the poor nations. The Third World rightly draws attention to this unacceptable disparity. This is not, of course, directed at Western nations alone; much of the Communist world is also included in nations whose advantages bring them within the definition of rich — those nations in which about 30 per cent of the world population today consume about 70 per cent of the world's wealth.

This is an obscenity we will not be able to avoid at Habitat. There will be a demand — a just demand — for more and more effective measures to distribute more equitably the world's wealth. But there is another obscenity — one we hear less about, but one that is equally important, and beyond the capacity of the rich nations to cure. This is the enormous gap inside many Third World countries between the poverty of the mass of people and the immense wealth and privilege of the few who control nearly all of the wealth, own most of the land, and exercise effective power.

The implications of the problems I have mentioned are awesome and they are not going to be contained in one or another geographic area. We are one world. However difficult and unsettling and even painful, we have got to assist the world community to confront these problems now. If we wait, we and our children here in Canada will almost certainly be overwhelmed by them.

J.W. MacNeill
Commissioner-General
Canadian Habitat Secretariat

Neighborhood walks: a new sense of community

About 50 residents of Vancouver's old Mount Pleasant community took a half-day walk around their neighborhood on April 10 and were surprised at what they saw.

For the first time many of them saw the inside of a modern open-area school, the inside of a local Sikh Temple, the inside of a small 96-year-old mansion built completely of wood, and a view of Mount Pleasant from the top of City Hall.

But they also saw, for the first time, many empty building lots, dilapidated vacant stores, junked cars in front yards, garbage-strewn lanes, and hazardous alleys — the scenes of frequent crime and accidents.

"It was really an eye-opening experience for all of us," Alf Worthington, publisher of a weekly community paper, said after the tour, the first of two experimental "neighborhood walks" initiated by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat (CHS) in Vancouver.

The purpose of the walks is to increase residents' awareness of the resources available in their own communities, explained Pat Carney, CHS Assistant Director-General of Information.

Specifically, she said, the walks are intended to orient Canadians to the themes of Habitat and to fulfill three basic objectives:

- to develop an awareness among Canadians that the problems of human settlements deal with how and where people live;
- to encourage Canadians to make greater use of existing community resources rather than adding to them; and
- to encourage Canadians to ask all levels of government only for those programs and facilities which people cannot provide for themselves.

Jim MacNeill, Commissioner General of CHS, has indicated he will seek to encourage similar walk

programs in other cities, towns and villages in Canada and abroad. Some cities, for example, may choose World Environment Day, June 5, as a fitting date to organize such walks or tours.

Results from the second Vancouver neighborhood walk on April 26 in the more sedate upper-income Point Grey section were equally positive and encouraging.

Participants in the Mount Pleasant walk were generally satisfied that, indeed, the walk had opened new vistas of their own community.

"I think it added tremendous impetus to community thinking," said Worthington.

Mount Pleasant is a community of about 20,000 low- and middle-income residents of a rich ethnic mix. A high percentage are of Chinese, East Indian and East European origin. The community is in a state of transition, with apartment blocks replacing single-family homes in many streets. About 80 per cent of the housing is rental. The crime rate is high.

Last December, Vancouver city council designated a large section of Mount Pleasant for a \$1.3 million federal Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP), along with a complementary Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

Thus, the April 10 neighborhood walk offered a good opportunity to generate tangible community participation in these renewal programs.

The organizers invited a carefully selected cross-section of residents to the walk: Chinese and Sikhs, housewives and merchants, students and teachers, policemen, firemen, clergy, senior citizens and young people. They were led by local Alderman Harry Rankin and former alderman Harold Wilson, a long-time resident of the area.

Because of the rather long route the participants actually covered only the first two-and-a-half miles on foot before boarding a bus for

the remainder of their circuit.

During the stopover at the Akal Singh Sikh Temple the group was led into the incense-scented, red-carpeted room where a reading of the Sikh holy book, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, was in progress. The visitors were served tea with Smosa, a pastry filled with vegetables and meat.

The tour also included a visit to a community centre where a group of immigrant women taking an English language course had set up a display of ethnic costumes and folkloric items.

The tour ended with a luncheon in a Canadian Legion branch. But the experiment continued with a two-hour post-walk session at which the participants split into small groups to exchange their impressions. So, what started as a walk at 9 a.m. ended with a bus session around 4 p.m.

The group came to some obvious conclusions: Mount Pleasant could use more curbed and guttered streets, fewer junk cars, more single family houses, less traffic noise, more parks, supervised playgrounds and open spaces and less blight generally.

But more importantly, it could use a stronger sense of community, a good dose of old-fashioned neighborliness combined with a common drive to improve the neighborhood, the participants agreed.

"If this isn't a real community yet, there are at least a lot of people trying to make it one," said city police Sgt. Gerry Laughy, one of the walkers, who is responsible for policing Mount Pleasant.

During an earlier stopover at the local shopping centre he had shown the group another side of Mount Pleasant: a police display of weaponry seized from local juveniles in recent months, including a hatchet, an elaborate metal slingshot and five pistols.

Worthington said he is still processing a detailed question-

naire he gave to all walk participants to get a more precise assessment of the whole experiment — and to give city planners something to chew on.

The walk was co-sponsored by CHS and the Vancouver city planning department.

Another walker was 77-year-old Dr. Hugh Keenleyside, CHS Associate Commissioner-General, who in his early years once lived in Fairview, a city section adjoining Mount Pleasant. His assessment of the tour:

"I certainly enjoyed the exercise and the company. But for the local residents it was surely more than just a sightseeing tour. I think many of them discovered something new along the way — if only their common bond in sharing Mount Pleasant's attractions and problems.

"I am sure most of them gained a new awareness of what their community has to offer and what it lacks. This is really all we at Habitat and our friends at City Hall tried to achieve — and I think we have succeeded."



Vancouver Police Sgt. Gerry Laughy (centre) and residents of city's Mount Pleasant section had to drop shoes and don kachchies to visit local Sikh Temple during April 10 Neighborhood Walk sponsored by Canadian Habitat Secretariat.



Vancouver Alderman Harry Rankin (centre), leader of one group on the first CHS Neighborhood Walk, discusses here potential uses of vacant tract of land in high-density section of Mount Pleasant, where new apartment blocks have sprung up in recent years. Participants represented a cross-section of the community.

Tah-ran-to — comment les autochtones jettent des ponts



La chronique que voici sert de forum où viennent s'exprimer les gens qui ont des idées stimulantes sur les établissements humains. Notre collaborateur, cette fois-ci, est M. Roger Obonsawin, directeur exécutif du Centre autochtone canadien de Toronto et vice-président de l'Association nationale des centres d'amitié.

L'exode des autochtones qui quittent les réserves et les villages a pris énormément d'ampleur au cours des dix dernières années. Il en a résulté un bouleversement considérable dans la plupart des villes importantes du Canada. Pourtant, la société canadienne avait l'habitude de considérer "les problèmes indiens" comme des problèmes propres aux réserves; elle s'en remettait au gouvernement fédéral, par l'intermédiaire de son ministère des Affaires indiennes, pour la dispensation des services nécessaires.

Mais au cours des dernières années, on a vu apparaître des groupes autochtones urbains. Ces groupes ont manifesté leur présence; les villes du pays ne peuvent plus refuser de faire face aux problèmes avec lesquels les autochtones sont aux prises.

Le mouvement des centres d'amitié est l'un de ces groupes autochtones urbains. Ces centres sont destinés à aider les autochtones à s'intégrer au milieu urbain. Il en existe à l'heure actuelle 61 dans autant de villes canadiennes.

Le Centre autochtone canadien de Toronto a ouvert ses portes en 1973. Depuis lors, il a consacré toutes ses énergies et toutes ses ressources à la solution, au jour le jour, de problèmes immédiats et concrets. Il y a environ cinq ans, les dirigeants du Centre, excédés d'avoir à régler jour après jour les mêmes problèmes, presque sans ressources, ont décidé de mettre sur pied un comité d'action des autochtones. Ce comité, composé entièrement d'autochtones de Toronto, s'est mis à identifier les

problèmes et à établir des priorités, au sein de la collectivité autochtone, en vue de l'action à entreprendre.

Cette action collective a eu des résultats tangibles. Certains programmes sont de nature préventive, par exemple Wigwamen Inc. programme de logement à l'intention des autochtones qui dispose à l'heure actuelle d'une centaine d'habitations dans le Toronto métropolitain. Parmi les autres programmes, on relève Ahbenoojeyug, qui s'adresse aux enfants autochtones après l'école, et Pedahbun Lodge, centre de 17 lits pour la réhabilitation des narcomanes et des alcooliques.

C'est durant l'étude des problèmes et des priorités que le projet Tah-ran-to a pris naissance. Ce mot, d'origine huronne, désigne le pont des indiens, là où les tribus se ressemblent.

En décembre 1975, le Centre autochtone canadien de Toronto, de concert avec Wigwamen Inc., a fait l'acquisition du Bibie Collage de l'Ontario, à l'intersection des rues Bloor et Spadina. Les plans de réaménagement prévalent trois bâtiments:

1. Le nouveau siège social du Centre autochtone canadien de Toronto, du programme à l'intention des enfants autochtones et de deux autres organisations.

2. Un foyer pour autochtones âgés comportant 100 logements et relié au premier bâtiment par un passage souterrain. On est en train de négocier le financement de l'édifice par le truchement de la SCHL Wigwamen Inc. sera chargé de la gestion du foyer.

3. Une bibliothèque autochtone et un centre de documentation qui seront l'une des succursales de la Bibliothèque publique de Toronto. La bibliothèque sera dirigée conjointement par le conseil de la Bibliothèque publique de Toronto et par un comité consultatif autochtone.

Les difficultés n'ont pas manqué. Par suite des coupures dans les

dépenses gouvernementales, il a fallu remettre à plus tard l'aménagement d'une garderie qui devait faire partie du nouvel ensemble. Vu les lenteurs administratives, les changements fréquents dans les politiques gouvernementales rendent la planification à long terme très difficile.

Les membres du conseil de Wigwamen Inc. et du Centre autochtone canadien sont presque tous autochtones. Ils n'ont pas lancé un projet de cette ampleur à la légère. Ils avaient d'abord étudié beaucoup d'autres projets. Ils se sont préoccupés avant tout du coût. Après trois ans de recherches, voyant que les prix des immeubles ne cessaient de monter, ils ont jugé qu'ils ne devaient pas attendre plus longtemps.

Tah-ran-to sera un lieu avec lequel les autochtones pourront s'identifier, un lieu où ils pourront se revivifier afin de surmonter le découragement qu'entraîne souvent la vie dans la grande ville. Les autochtones âgés pourront s'y loger, tout près du centre d'activités de leur communauté. La bibliothèque favorisera une meilleure compréhension entre autochtones et non-autochtones et aidera ainsi à renverser les vieux préjugés et à dissiper les stéréotypes qui ont toujours cours.

Le principal problème auquel nous nous sommes heurtés fut la nécessité de traiter avec plusieurs agences gouvernementales et privées. Les lenteurs administratives compromettaient à tout moment le succès de l'entreprise. Les autochtones ont l'habitude de se tourner vers le ministère des Affaires indiennes lorsqu'ils veulent lancer un projet. Dans le cas qui nous occupe, les organisateurs avaient souvent l'impression que le projet relevait de tous les bureaux sauf ceux des Affaires indiennes.

Tah-ran-to est l'un des projets les plus ambitieux jamais montés par les autochtones du Canada. Seule la coopération la plus étroite pouvait en assurer la réussite. Il est tout à la louange de groupes autochtones comme Wigwamen, le Centre autochtone canadien, Ahbenoojeyug, Pedahbun Lodge d'avoir uni leurs efforts plutôt que de s'en tenir à leurs affaires respectives. Lorsqu'on hissera l'enseigne de Tah-ran-to, chacun pourra admirer le résultat.

La série de conférences connue sous le nom de "Distinguished Lecture Series", sous les auspices conjoints de l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique et du Secrétariat canadien d'Habitat, se poursuit en mai avec deux conférences sur les thèmes d'Habitat. Le 10 mai, M. K.C. Sivaramakrishnan, principal directeur de la Commission de développement de la région métropolitaine de Calcutta, devait traiter des "problèmes d'établissements humains en Inde". Le 20 mai, M. John Platt, directeur associé de l'Institut de recherche sur la santé mentale de l'Université de l'Oregon, parlera de "l'environnement et l'urbanisation en fonction de la Conférence de l'ONU". Les deux conférences ont lieu à 20 h. au Instructional Resources Centre du campus de Point Grey.

"Just Like You and Me" (tout à fait comme vous et moi), voilà le thème de l'exposition de photographies qui se tient actuellement au Musée du Centenaire de Vancouver, sur le thème des gens qui habitent la partie est du centre de Vancouver et les modes et conditions de vie qui sont les leurs. L'exposition est présentée par Avant-première Habitat et se complète d'une projection de diapositives qu'on peut voir au Centre de renseignements d'Habitat. Ces deux événements dureront jusqu'au 17 mai, alors que s'ouvrira une exposition de photos sur les ghettos noirs des États-Unis. En juin, il y aura une autre exposition sur la ville minière de Leaf Rapids située dans le nord du Manitoba, dont il est question dans les présentations audiovisuelles du Canada à la Conférence.

Les organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) publieront pendant toute la durée d'Habitat un journal du matin, *Jericho*, dont le premier numéro paraîtra le 31 mai. *Jericho* s'intéressera à la fois à la Conférence officielle des Nations-Unies et au Forum d'Habitat. Son équipe de rédaction comprendra 15 personnes, pour la plupart des Européens et des gens du Tiers-Monde. Le rédacteur en chef sera John Rowley, qui avait été chargé d'une publication semblable lors de la Conférence de Bucarest sur la population. Contrairement à ce qui avait d'abord été dit, le journal sera publié sous les auspices des ONG, et non pas des Nations Unies.



L'ancienne Bibie School de l'Ontario, à Toronto, abrite maintenant "Tah-ran-to", projet communautaire des autochtones.

The medium is the message . . . Vancouver billboards reflect Habitat themes

Vancouver's urban landscape will be relieved of its dreary billboard signs for the duration of the Habitat Conference.

Instead of visually assaulting visitors with advertisements for cars, pantyhose, insurance companies, pizza parlors, men's underwear and the like, city billboards will graphically reflect the Conference themes.

Nine different posters, all striking an optimistic note, will be displayed on about 300 billboards which the city administration has leased with contributions from city businesses from May 15 to June 15.

Here's what visitors and delegates will see:

— Instead of a dozen women's legs in pantyhose there will be four simplistic happy faces — as drawn by a three-year-old North Vancouver tot, Tara Spier.

— Instead of bulging men's torsos in garish bikini briefs there will be a blown-up Habitat logo with a collage of pensive faces in a crowd, surrounded by mass housing. It was designed by 28-year-old Jim Moodie, an urban planner.

He and Tara Spier were among nine winners in a highly successful city-sponsored billboard contest conceived by well-known Vancouver architect Geoffrey Massey.

More than 700 entries from throughout B.C. were received and judged in February.

"We were knee-deep in them," said Sam Fogel, chairman of the seven-member judging committee.



Vancouver urban planner Jim Moodie with his first-prize design in city-sponsored billboard contest. It is a blow-up of the Conference logo.

"They came from every part of the province in every conceivable package. Some of them were wrapped as if they were golf balls."

There were three contest categories: students in Grades 9 through 12, college and university students, and all other B.C. residents.

Originally the judges picked two winners in each category — for a total of six designs — but later added three special winners from the

runners-up designs, among them little Tara's line drawing of "mommies and daddies," as she called it.

The first-place winners in each category won a trip for two to any city on CP Air's international routes, plus \$300 cash; second-place prize was a trip to any city on the airline's North American network, and 300 runners-up won a copy of the new "Vancouver Book" by Chuck Davis.



Three-year-old Tara Spier of North Vancouver also won a prize with her fetching drawing of "mommies and daddies." Contest drew more than 700 entries from throughout British Columbia.

The city has leased the billboards from an advertising firm, but in turn has sold each board space for \$230 to local companies whose names will appear on the Habitat posters as sponsors.

The Canadian Settlements Sampler: ideas for more liveable communities

THE CANADIAN SETTLEMENTS SAMPLER:

Innovative programs that make communities more liveable. (\$2.95 paper)

Community Planning Press, 425 Gloucester Street, Ottawa K1R 5E9.

Residents of Matheson Island, Manitoba are providing employment opportunities for themselves, contributing to the economic health of the Island and improving the housing in the community. In a successful co-operative venture the local Community Council purchased a sawmill and established a logging and lumber operation, using the salaries of the mayor and councillors (paid by the province). The Islanders embarked on a housing re-development program with the output of their mill, trading excess production for other need-

ad building materials. Construction was carried out during summer months and the workers were paid a small allowance. Home owners repaid the Council at rates they could afford. As a result, Matheson Island now has new homes, a community hall and a centre which provides space for municipal offices and health care services.

This is just one of more than 200 projects described in *The Canadian Settlements Sampler*, a book produced under the auspices of the Canadian National Committee for Habitat to suggest imaginative and potentially valuable solutions to issues facing Canadian communities from coast to coast.

The Sampler is organized into three main sections: *Planning Ahead*, *Bettering the Built World* and *Social Interchange*. Innovations in land use, transportation, environment protection and public participation as well as housing, utilizing public spaces, health care delivery, and creation of employment and learning opportunities are described. The individual articles provide wide-ranging and practical suggestions for improving the quality of the living environment. Sources of further information, including groups and organizations concerned with the projects, are identified in each article.

The Canadian Settlements Sampler will be of interest and value to people looking for im-

aginative responses to the questions facing their settlements and seeking ways to improve their own living environments.

Published in French as *Répertoire du mieux-vivre au Canada — Programmes et innovations destinés à améliorer nos établissements humains*. (paper \$7.95)

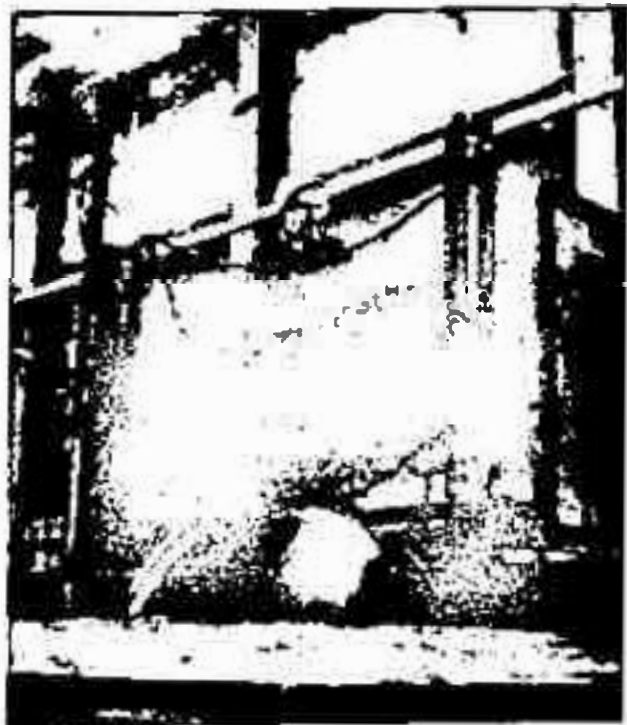
Who, what and when at Habitat Forum



Camouflage crew at Habitat Forum is hard at work, sewing huge wall hangings, room dividers, acoustic barriers, banners and aerial sculptures from discarded nylon schuss (a fabric used in sporting goods) to dress up old RCAF hangers.



Young workers put down floor on covered walkway leading into large Forum complex. Logs are driftwood picked up at local beaches covering roof consists of discarded corrugated sheeting — but the rafters are new.



Sawyer Claude Biggs cuts a log to building specifications on old portable sawmill provided to Forum by B.C. Department of Corrections and installed in one of the spartan hangers.

Habitat Forum will open on Thursday, May 27, at 3:00 p.m. The program for the Forum is deliberately being left very flexible. The scheduled events described below are conceived as a framework within which spontaneous meetings, workshops, discussions, lectures, film showings and demonstrations can develop.

The first few days will introduce participants to the issues that the U.N. Conference will be addressing. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will also use these first few days to work on joint statements that the Forum will present to the U.N. Conference outlining what the Forum sees as the most pressing areas of concern. For those new to U.N. conferences, their formal and procedures will be explained.

The two working weeks — Monday, May 31 to Friday, June 4 and Monday, June 7 to Friday, June 11 — will be the 10 main days for substantive discussions at the Forum. For nine of these days, the plenary session at the Forum will discuss the nine central themes. The final Friday, June 11, has been left open. The first and middle weekends will have programs of more popular appeal, designed for the casual visitor and for local citizens. The nine themes are:

- The Man-Made and the Natural Environment
- Social Justice and the Question of Differing Values and Cultures
- Sharing and Managing the World's Resources
- National Settlement Policies
- People's Participation in Planning and Implementation
- Land Use and Ownership
- Community Action for a Better Habitat
- Rural Development
- Appropriate Technology

Three to five speakers have been invited to speak on each of these subjects. The plenary session can then evolve into a dialogue/panel discussion or break up into groups to discuss various aspects of the plenary subject.

A number of workshops will run concurrently with the plenary each day. The program has been arranged so that the subject areas of the workshops and the plenaries do not overlap too much. These workshops are being coordinated by non-governmental organizations with wide experience

in a particular field. As in the plenary sessions, there will be plenty of opportunities for any participant in the Forum to contribute to the discussions.

Basic audio-visual facilities are available to any participant for use during workshops, lectures and discussions. Also, an audio-visual program each evening will provide background to the main subject areas to be discussed the next day.

There will also be extensive demonstrations and exhibits both inside and outside. One large hall will house more than 40 exhibits from different national and international groups, including a major Exposition on Appropriate Technology that will relate to the plenary on this subject.

The outdoor exhibit area will be concentrated on a cluster of buildings that demonstrate low cost shelter techniques — particularly those appropriate to the needs and resources of the developing countries. More than twelve innovative techniques will be demonstrated. New concepts in support services for the housing will link the different buildings. These will include intensive cropping, organic gardening, utilization of solar and wind power for heat and electricity, sewerless sewage disposal, solar water distillation and solar cooling.

An extensive library and book display at Habitat Forum will con-

tain settlements and the main subject areas the U.N. Conference and Habitat Forum will be discussing. NGOs and participants are invited to bring two copies of any literature they feel has relevance to Human Settlements for placing in this library and book display. U.N. documents relating to the Conference will also be available. The library will be open to all participants at the Forum to use for research or for ordering any of the material on display. Copying will be available at cost.

The Forum site at Jericho Beach has five converted seaplane hangers that serve as the main buildings within which Forum activities will take place. These facilities include:

- 1) Main plenary hall, seating 1,500. This building also contains two 150-200 seat rooms; a number of smaller rooms; a press centre and the central program scheduling office.
- 2) Workshop/film theatre, seating 800; workshop room, seating 400. Both the above buildings are wired for simultaneous translation (English/French/Spanish).
- 3) Workshop building, including one large (1000 plus) meeting room, several smaller rooms, plus documentation centre, where Conference documents may be copied for a small charge.
- 4) Social Centre — food, lounge area, bar, shops, etc.
- 5) Exhibit Hall, with two film theatres and some small meeting rooms.

Speakers and participants at Habitat Forum will include Lady Jackson (Barbara Ward), Ivan Illich (author of "Deschooling Society")

and "Tools for Conviviality"), Buckminster Fuller, Margaret Mead, Maurice Strong (President, PetroCanada and former Executive Director of UNEP), Professor Junji (Japanese Environmentalist), Jack Munday (prominent in environment field and in labour movement in Australia), Dr Laquan (Associate Director of International Development Research Centre), Charles Correa (city planner and architect from Bombay, India), Professor Barry Commoner, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Taghi Farver (Iranian environmentalist), John F.C. Turner (co-editor of "Freedom to Build" and leading self-help exponent), Marc Nerfin, Dr. Adolf Ciborowski (distinguished Polish architect and educator), Paulo Soler, Dr. Jorge Hardoy (Director, Centre of Urban and Regional Studies, Buenos Aires), Professor Shlomo Angel (Asian Institute of Technology) and Donna Haldane (World Bank — with wide experience in site and service squatter settlement schemes).

There are also enough rooms — many equipped with audio-visual equipment — to accommodate any meeting/workshop/lecture that is generated by discussions at the Forum. Individuals or groups can simply contact a room scheduling service and book a room. If the room is booked one or two days in advance, the daily newspaper will carry details of this meeting. The basic program of plenaries, workshops and keynote lecturers is as follows. Lecturers whose names or subjects have still to be confirmed are not included.

Forum agenda

Thursday, May 27

3:00 Opening Session

Friday, May 28 & Saturday, May 29

Introduction of U.N. Conference documents to Forum participants. Various working groups will work on NGO Statements to be presented to the U.N. Conference. Explanation of how U.N. Conference will work, and of arrangements to bring U.N. and Forum delegates together.

Saturday, May 29

Panel: NGO Cooperative Structures

Workshop: Prison Environment and Mental Health

Sunday, May 30

Interfaith service

Statement by the Vancouver Symposium (a group of 25 human settlement specialists/world citizens/renewed scholars convened by Barbara Ward to meet for two days before Habitat begins to prepare a declaration to Habitat, Habitat Forum and the world press on the key issues which both conferences should address.)

Monday, May 31

Plenary: The Man-Made and the Natural Environment

Lunch Lecture: Mother Teresa on "Working for the Most Disadvantaged"

Workshops:

Metropolitan Growth Management
Improving the Quality of Life for the Handicapped in the World's Settlements

Tuesday, June 1

Plenary: Social Justice and the Question of Differing Values and Cultures

Workshops:

Self-Help and Low Cost Housing
Rural-Urban Migration

Government/NGO Cooperation for Improvement of Human Settlements

Wednesday, June 2

Plenary: Sharing and Managing the World's Resources (The New International Economic Order)

Lunch Lecture: Maurice Strong on "Human Needs and Natural Limits"

Workshops:

Population and Human Settlements
Post-Disaster Housing

Thursday, June 3

Plenary: National Settlement Policies

Workshops:

Women and Human Settlements
Cooperative Housing

Nature and Habitat

Friday, June 4

Plenary: People's Participation in Planning and Implementation

Lunch Lecture: Jorge Hardoy on "Housing for the Poorest"

Workshops:

Energy
Children's Rights and Needs (continues June 7)

Art and Human Settlements

Saturday, June 5

Plenary: Visions of the Future — various world thinkers present their ideas and concepts.

Workshops: Nuclear Power/Armaments
Meeting Community Spiritual Needs

Sunday, June 6

Plenary: World Environment Day (Theme: Water)

Monday, June 7

Plenary: Land Use and Ownership

Workshops:

Hardcore Poverty

Recreation and Human Settlements

Tuesday, June 8

Plenary: Community Action for a Better Habitat

Workshops:

Natural Resources Management

Land Policies for Planned Human Settlements

Health and Human Settlements

Wednesday, June 9

Plenary: Rural Development

Workshops:

The Practice of Participation

Financing Human Settlements

Thursday, June 10

Plenary: Appropriate Technology

Workshops:

Physical Planning

Role of Tall Buildings in Human Settlements

Friday, June 11

Final Day.



Vancouver recycling artist Evelyn Roth (centre, in light overalls) and fellow recyclists with one of their creations made from 6,000 yards of discarded nylon schuss to camouflage old hangars.



Forum workers here are erecting a covered boardwalk in front of the hangar in which all Forum plenary sessions will be held. By the time the Forum opens May 27, the facade of the building will be covered by bright camouflage.

Recipe for a pavilion . . . children, paper and lots of glue

Take about 2,000 British Columbia youngsters, 6,000 old newspapers, 785 gallons of glue, shred and mix thoroughly and let them paste to their hearts' content.

That's the formula for the papier-maché Habitat Pavillon now being erected on Vancouver's Courthouse Plaza.

For more than three months about 2,000 children in 72 Vancouver-area schools have been immersed fabricating the 112 modular roof sections that will make up the paper tent.

Not only that, but the children also are creating huge paper collages and multi-media montages that will decorate the underside of the roof structure designed by Vancouver architect Arthur Erickson as an experiment in the

use of waste products to build cheaper shelter.

A Grade 6 and 7 class in nearby Burnaby's Buckingham elementary school, for example, produced 12-foot-diameter circular mosaic in which each jigsaw-shaped segment depicts an

"People in creamy sauce," the caption on one segment conceived by 13-year-old Anderson, "to show people in like in a can of sardines," he ex-

For the youngsters involved, project is not only another class exercise in art, but rather — more importantly — a significant of their social studies

The Habitat themes fit perfectly with the Grade 6 studies unit, "cultural realms of world," explained school teacher Marge Pike

She said it provides an opportunity to introduce the children to the problems of developing countries, which one of the main concerns of Habitat

The decorative montages being produced in the schools pasting the papier-maché roof sections, the children are taken in staggered schedule to warehouse in nearby B.C. There they apply shredded old newspaper and glue to molds provided by the contractor for the project.

Each modular section weighs only about 150 pounds. The units can be easily stacked and transported and the glue acts as a sealer against the elements. After the kids are finished with their work, only a spray coating of fire retardant is required before final assembly.

The Pavilion will be the Habitat visitors' information centre for the



Buckingham School children hard at work pasting old newspaper to a modular frame for Habitat Pavilion. This papier maché project involves about 2,000 children in 72 schools.

duration of the Conference. Erickson's original proposal called for about 180 modular units, covering virtually the entire plaza, to serve also as the delegates' reception centre.

However, because of cost factors the plan was scaled down, and delegates now will be received at the Habitat Registration Centre at 652 Burrard Street.

The public information section of the Pavilion should be erected by May 23. After the conference, the components have been requested by numerous school and community groups throughout Metropolitan Vancouver for permanent use.

While it is not known how long the components will last in the damp West Coast out-of-doors, the material should have a substantially longer life expectancy in the hot, dry climates of some develop-

ing countries — notably in Africa and Latin America.

If indeed this material should find application in such countries this could open up an entirely new export market for old newspaper.

Thus, the Pavilion will be the most spectacular, visible symbol of Habitat and one which stands for finding new solutions to the world-wide problem of inadequate shelter.



"STOP!" says this design of 11-year-old Buckingham Elementary School pupil that fits into huge jigsaw mural with themes from urban landscape, produced under direction of Burnaby teacher Marge Pike for Habitat Pavilion.

Vancouver homes opened to visitors

President Luis Echeverria of Mexico will lead his country's 30-member delegation to Habitat, accompanied by about 20 aides and 80 Mexican media representatives. He was the first head of state to arrange for accommodation for the Vancouver Conference.

As this edition of the Bulletin goes to press, 72 other nations already had confirmed their participation. Only Nauru and Africa have declined the official invitation so far.

Also accepting by press time were ten UN agencies, two national liberation movements and seven

inter-governmental organizations: the Commission of the nine-member European Community, the African Development Bank, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In addition, 89 non-governmental organizations have so far confirmed their participation in Habitat Forum.

Some nations and non-governmental organizations will send only one delegate while others will be sending 50 and more. Despite the uncertainty about the final figure for participants Habitat's accommodation organizers are confident that every visitor to the city will have a place to stay.

About 6,000 hotel beds in the city's core have been block-booked for the official delegations and other participants in the UN Conference. Another 2,500 beds at the University of British Columbia student residences have been set aside for delegations and visitors to Habitat Forum.

In addition, thousands of Vancouverites have offered accommodation in their homes, or camping space in their backyards, at a standard \$4 per person per night. A special Housing Referral Centre has been set up at 3396 West Broadway, about a mile from the Forum site, and will be in operation until June 16. All visitors who have no advance-booked accommodation should contact this centre upon arrival in Vancouver. The telephone number is 732-1191.

The referral centre is jointly sponsored by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat, the City of Vancouver and the Association in Canada Serving Organizations for Human Settlements (ACSOS).

70-member delegation widely representative

The Canadian delegation to Habitat is as large as any Canada has ever sent to a United Nations conference, and for good.

The proposals and recommendations which will be considered at the Habitat Conference are relevant to the interests of all Canadians and to the federal, provincial and municipal governments which serve them.

An extensive series of consultations have been held with representatives of the non-governmental community and with the Canadian public at meetings and seminars across the country, to guide and inform Canadian preparations for the Conference among governments.

Canada, as both the host and initiator of the Habitat Conference, has also taken a leading role in the international preparatory meetings held over the past two years. At the Conference, both the Canadian public and other delegates will expect Canada to continue to exercise leadership.

Moreover, the Canadian delegation to Habitat will be expected to maintain close and continuous contacts with the policy makers and experts in the more than 130 national delegations which will attend the Conference.

For all of these reasons, it was considered essential that the Canadian delegation to Habitat be of a size, composition and competence which would ensure an effective representation of Canadian interests and objectives, and contribute to a successful Conference.

The Canadian delegation to Habitat is not only large but is a distinctively representative one as well. Its 70 members come from all parts of Canada and include Ministers and senior officials from all three levels of government as well as representatives of the non-governmental community, the native peoples, the two founding cultures, and large and small Canadian cities.

The Canadian delegation's principal functions during the Conference will include the following: to promote and explain Canada's position; to maintain continuous contact with delegates from other countries in order to understand better their concerns and positions; to develop a Canadian response to new proposals made by other

countries at the Conference; to negotiate differences with and among other delegates on the recommendations for national and international action; and to ensure as the Conference host that all arrangements for accommodations, facilities and services are efficiently carried through.

The first meeting of the Canadian delegation was held in Ottawa on April 29-30. Delegates were briefed on the preparations and their responsibilities at Vancouver, and discussions and a review were held on proposed Canadian positions on the major agenda topics.

The accredited Representatives on the delegation are:

Co-Chairmen

The Hon. Allan MacEachen
Secretary of State for External Affairs

The Hon. Barney Danson
Minister of State for Urban Affairs
First Vice-Chairman

The Hon. Ronald Basford
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

Second Vice-Chairman

The Hon. Victor Goldbloom
Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Environment

Other Representatives

The Hon. Jean Marchand
Minister of the Environment

The Hon. Hugh Curtis
British Columbia Minister of Municipal Affairs

James W. MacNeill
Canadian Commissioner-General for Habitat

Alternate Representatives

The Hon. Jeanne Sauvé
Minister of Communications

Monique Bégin, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs

Jean-Robert Gauthier, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs

The Hon. George Kerr
Ontario Minister of the Environment

The Hon. Fernand Dubé
New Brunswick Minister of Tourism and Environment

The Hon. Howard Pawley
Manitoba Minister of Municipal Affairs and Attorney General

The Hon. George Proud
Prince Edward Island Minister Responsible for Housing

The Hon. Gordon MacMurchy
Saskatchewan Minister of Municipal Affairs

The Hon. Neil Byers
Saskatchewan Minister of Environment

The Hon. William J. Yurko
Alberta Minister of Housing and Public Works

The Hon. Brian A. Peckford
Newfoundland Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Hon. Sidney L. Buckwold
Senator and Chairman, Canadian National Committee for Habitat

Mayor Jane Bigelow
London

André Bissonnette
Assistant Under-Secretary, Department of External Affairs

William Teron
President, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Acting Secretary, Ministry of State for Urban Affairs

Dr. H. Keenleyside
Associate Commissioner-General for Habitat

J.E.G. Hardy
Director General, Bureau of United Nations Affairs, Department of External Affairs

Geoffrey Grenville-Wood
Chairman, Canadian NGO Participation Group, and Executive Director, United Nations Association of Canada

The following eight Mayors have agreed to serve in an advisory capacity on the delegation:

Mayor Gilles Lamontagne of Quebec City

Président de l'Union des Municipalités du Québec

Mayor Jean-Marie Moreau of Vevey, Switzerland

Président de l'Union des Conseils de Comté du Québec

Mayor Gary Wheeler
City of Moncton, N.B.

Mayor Don Munro
City of Glace Bay, N.S.

Deputy Mayor Bernie Wolfe
City of Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mayor Muri Evers
City of New Westminster, B.C.

Mayor Roy McGregor
City of Red Deer, Alberta

Mayor Herb Taylor
City of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

Parliamentary observers will be:

Art Lee, M.P. for
Liberal Party

John Gilbert, M.P. for
New Democratic Party

Bill Clarke, M.P. for
Progressive Conservative Party

In addition to the chairman of the Canadian National Committee and the Canadian NGO Participation Group, the following representatives from the non-governmental community will join the delegation in an advisory capacity:

Alex Dedam of Amherst, N.S. and Ottawa

National Indian Brotherhood

Gloria George of Telkwa, B.C.
Native Council of Canada

Julien Major of Ottawa
Executive Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress

Keith Morley of Willowdale, Ontario
President, Costain Estates Limited

Charles Munro of Embro, Ontario
President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Laurette Strassbourg of Hull, Quebec

Regroupement des comités des Citoyens de Hull

The remaining members of the delegation are advisers from the federal and provincial governments. The Secretary-General of the delegation will be Robert Munro, International Affairs Coordinator for the Canadian Habitat Secretariat.

Meeting of experts prior to Conference

A Symposium of world settlements experts, organized by the International Institute for Environment and Development, the National Audubon Society and the Population Institute, will be held May 28 and 29, immediately before the opening of Habitat.

Participants will discuss major issues confronting the Conference and, if a consensus emerges from their deliberations, will issue — as did a similar group of experts prior to the World Food Conference in Rome — a declaration of principles and priorities. It is hoped that such a declaration will be useful both to official delegations and to the NGO community.

Co-chairmen of the Symposium will be Mr. Maurice Strong, President of PetroCanada and former Executive Director of United Nations Environment Program, and Ambassador Soedjatmoko of Indonesia. Barbara Ward, President of the International Institute for Environment and Development, will act as rapporteur.

Among the participants will be such world renowned figures as R. Buckminster Fuller, architect and innovator; and Margaret Mead, anthropologist and President, American Association for the Advancement of Science. Other personalities will include Henrik Beer of Sweden, Secretary-General of the

League of Red Cross Societies, and Bombay City planner Charles Correa.

Dom Helder Camera, the controversial archbishop of Recife, Brazil and Satyajit Ray, India's famous film maker, have also been invited to participate.

Five of the participants will take part in a distinguished lecturers series in cooperation with the Habitat Forum.

These include Mrs. Ward, Miss Mead, Mr. Ray, Mr. Strong and Jorge Hardoy, Director of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, of Buenos Aires.

During the middle weekend of the Habitat Conference, the members of the Vancouver symposium will reconvene to draft a second declaration to be released on Monday, June 7. As with the first declaration and the lecture series, it is expected that this second declaration will make an important contribution to the Conference.

Provinces developing post-Habitat activities

The provinces are gearing up for the Study Tours, the Habitat Conference and post-Habitat events including information programs to maintain the momentum of Habitat activities.

Quebec, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are evolving plans to set up post-Habitat workshops and information programs to inform their respective citizens on the results of the Vancouver Conference.

The host province of British Columbia is heavily engaged in preparations for the holding of the Conference itself. Provincial aid is far reaching.

It ranges from a one-year lease of the Jericho Beach site for Habitat Forum at a nominal rental to helping fund Vancouver's "Habitat Festival," a series of cultural activities scheduled for the Conference period.

The West Coast province is also providing funding for a number of other activities such as the organization and hosting of receptions for international delegates and exhibits such as an innovative waste disposal system.

The Quebec Habitat Secretariat recently put out a report summarizing the views of 15 Quebec organizations on problems and issues relative to human settlements. The Secretariat is now seeking ways to use the same 15 organizations to inform the public on the results of the Habitat Conference.

The Ontario Secretariat for Habitat has been assembling a directory of examples of human settlement solutions. So far, it has received 175 submissions which it is now editing for printing in May and distribution to contributors, libraries, schools, community groups and service clubs across Ontario.

The B.C. Government has helped fund the organization and preparation of a provincial conference on Habitat held May 6-8 in Vancouver.

In Edmonton, the Alberta Preparatory Committee held a Spring Forum April 24-25 to integrate information generated at the 20 odd meetings that had been held throughout the province over the past few months. Alberta Housing Minister William Yurko gave the kick-off speech.

A core group of approximately 15 people from various Alberta departments and municipalities will attend Habitat for the two-week period. In addition, the Alberta government will assist with the expenses of five persons nominated by the NGOs to attend Habitat Forum for one week.

Following a one-month stay at a downtown site in Vancouver, a National Exhibit assembled with the participation of the 10 provincial and two territorial governments will be taken on a tour of the country with the provinces paying the operating costs and the Federal Government the transportation.

The National Exhibit will be shown at the Klondike Days in Edmonton, the Buffalo Days in Regina, before the Legislative Buildings in Winnipeg and at the Central Canada Exposition in Ottawa. Plans are under way to show it in the other provinces.

In Saskatchewan, Municipal Affairs Minister Gordon MacMurphy has assured funding for a post-Habitat NGO program to stimulate a greater involvement among Saskatchewan NGOs in human settlement issues and activities throughout the province. The follow-up program will culminate in a large provincial NGO settlements conference in November.

The main pre-Forum event in Saskatchewan was an NGO workshop May 7-8 at the Echo Valley Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle. The theme was human settlements and NGO involvement. Participants discussed the role NGOs have played in Saskatchewan human settlement development and history, their present relationship,

and how they could play a more effective role.

During the post-Habitat follow-up program, the Saskatchewan NGO delegation to the Forum will be asked to make a report to the Habitat Saskatchewan NGO steering committee. At the Saskatchewan settlements conference in November, the resolutions arising from Habitat and the Forum will be circulated for discussion on how they could be acted on in a Saskatchewan context.

A three-week art display sponsored by the University of Regina, the Dunlop Art Gallery and the Saskatchewan Habitat Program featuring sketches by artist Joa Skvaril entitled "planning the human settlement" is in its final planning stage.

The Habitat Manitoba program has given \$20,000 to set up a centre to indefinitely carry on the dissemination of information on human settlements issues.

Manitoba has allocated \$4,000 to the Community Planning Association of Canada to organize and plan two summer workshops to delve into the concerns of Northern and rural Manitobans. The money will also be used to help reimburse the CPAC for organizing five regional workshops and a symposium in Winnipeg last fall.

Manitoba has also published a newsletter every three to four weeks since February which has been distributed to a provincial mailing list of 2,000. This has resulted in numerous requests for information.



A national exhibit assembled with the participation of the 10 provincial and two territorial governments will be set up in downtown Vancouver before the start of the Habitat Conference. The exhibit, whose theme is "In Search of Community," will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, May 18 to June 19, on the Eaton Plaza, corner of Georgia and Granville Streets.

Milan conference produces Declaration of Principles for Habitat

Some 350 mayors and municipal officials from around the world have recommended that the United Nations set up an Urban Affairs section along the lines of UNESCO or UNCTAD, though not as structured as the two UN agencies.

The recommendation was contained in a Declaration of Principles worked out during the April 15-18 Conference of Mayors of the World's Largest Cities held in Milan.

The Declaration will be submitted to the Habitat Conference

by Mayor Aniasi of Milan. Many of the mayors at Milan will be among members of the national delegations attending Habitat.

The Declaration states that local authorities have the basic responsibility to guide the development of communities and that they need resources to achieve this task. It also states that mechanisms must be developed to involve people in the shaping of their communities.

Canada was represented at the Milan meeting by a nine-member delegation. They included Mayor Don Munro, of Glace Bay, N.S.; Mayor Gary Wheeler, of Moncton, N.B.; Mayor Gilles Lamontagne of Quebec City; Mayor Guy Dacarle of Lachine, Que.; Mayor Jane Bigelow of London, Ont.; Deputy Mayor Bernie Wolfe of Winnipeg; Mayor Muni Evers of New Westminster, B.C.; Reeve Harold Swieringer of Almonte, Ont.; and Guy Levesque,

Executive Director of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

The main issues at the conference were transport, finance, public involvement and managing the growth of cities.

Festival Habitat offers many choices

After the long hours of serious deliberations in Conference, there will be plenty of relaxing entertainment for the delegates and visitors to Habitat and Habitat Forum.

The City of Vancouver, in cooperation with the British Columbia provincial government and the Canadian Habitat Secretariat, has organized a five-week Festival Habitat — from May 21 to July 5.

There will be midnight theatre workshops in the Vancouver Art Gallery, Chinese dragon dances in the streets, lunch-hour concerts on Granville Square and Royal Centre and Pacific Centre Malls, serious music in the newly sound-proofed Christ Church Cathedral, feature films, craft displays and architectural exhibitions.

Festival administrator Ernie Fladell said the events will start a week before the Conference opening "to put this city in a good frame of mind" and to welcome delegates and visitors arriving early.

"We think Festival, in its own way, will play a significant part in showing how cities can be more habitable and enjoyable," Fladell explained.

"In putting it together, we coped with all the usual problems faced by a small human settlement in integrating cultural events into the community.

"We had no major theatre space to work with, but we still have been able to create a very exciting program of small theatre, music and street events. It will be an ongoing living demonstration of how a city works."

The wide spectrum of events should tickle every possible visitor's palate. Eleven Canadian theatre companies will stage productions of mostly new plays, among them Codco of St. John's, Newfoundland; Theatre Passe Muraille of Toronto; La Compagnie des Deux Chaises of Montreal; Persophone Theatre of Saskatoon; Citadel of Edmonton; plus several Vancouver companies.

Chiat Dan George, a well-known Canadian Indian actor, will be featured in a Vancouver Little Theatre production of Arthur Kopit's "Indians." More light-hearted fare in cabaret style is offered in "Vancouver Revued" at the Arts Club Theatre.

In Christ Church Cathedral the concert series will include performances by, among others, the Canadian Electronic Ensemble, the Purcell String Quartet, Toronto pianist Anton Kuerti, Vancouver singer-actress Ann Morliffe, Quebec singers Monique Layras and Pauline Julien, and concerts by four combined and well-known Vancouver choirs.

There will be a two-week film festival, showing documentary, experimental and feature films as well as a series of "visionary" films depicting future societies.

But most intriguing is a Vancouver Art Gallery program called Night Shift — a series of events staged between 2200 and 0200 hours, three different presentations every night from June 1 to 10.

There will be "Pop Music of the Renaissance," a satire on the B.C. forest industry, Russian folk dancing, a one-woman comedy called "Don't Tell Dad," a workshop on playwright Bertold Brecht and several experimental theatre productions with a Habitat theme.



Scene from the Komagata Maru incident, a documentary play about Canada's rejection of a ship full of East Indian immigrants in 1914, written by Sharon Pollock, to be staged during Festival Habitat.

Night Shift will end at 0100 hours June 11 with the Royal Canadian Aerial Theatre's presentation of "Habitat Balloon Event or We're All in This Together," involving "aerial sculptures and lots of audience participation."

Spreading the word in Vancouver

Most Vancouverites will be well-informed about the purposes and aims of Habitat by the time the first Conference delegates arrive in town at the end of May.

One reason: A team of 20 dedicated volunteer speakers, most of them housewives, probably will have addressed more than 150 community organizations on the Habitat themes by then.

Also, about 50,000 metropolitan school children are expected to have seen a one-hour talk and slide show, outlining the major issues confronting the Conference delegates.

More than 10,000 people likely will have visited the Habitat Information Centre in the city's historic Gastown section by the end of May.

Thousands more will have read newspaper stories about the complex local preparations, while others will have seen one or more of the hour-long, weekly Habitat Hometown programs on community cablevision and still others will have read one of the Habitat information brochures distributed through libraries, shopping centres, schools, churches, business organizations and airlines.

All this will be the result of a concerted, wide-ranging community relations program initiated early this year — after Vancouver city council had first voted in November to press Ottawa for a cancellation of the Conference, but later agreed to cooperate actively with Conference organizers.

The early scepticism by the local press, business community and general public — based primarily on the anti-Zionist vote in the UN General Assembly last fall — has now largely vanished as the wide scope of the Conference and its non-political nature have been generally accepted.

Community relations coordinator Diana Lam said she had no problem finding the 20 volunteers for her speakers' bureau, which she set up virtually overnight in early March.

"These are really very dedicated people who will travel up to 30 miles in some cases to tell a community group all about Habitat," she said.

These speakers have been addressing about 20 meetings a week since the middle of March. They have also shown a brief film about Habitat, passed out the blue buttons bearing the Conference symbol and answered questions from the audience.

Speakers from Vancouver Historical Insights — a non-profit organization retained as school consultants by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat — have been visiting local elementary and high schools with two excellent slide shows that graphically outline the problems of human settlements around the world, but also focus on some creative solutions.

Insights spokesman Raymond McAllister reports strong demand for the presentation and estimates more than 50,000 children will have seen it by the end of May.



Speaker Basja Broches (right) answers questions about Habitat from class in Capitol Hill School, Burnaby, B.C., after showing them slides illustrating human settlements problems around the world. School program will be shown to 50,000 children by the time Habitat opens May 31.

The Inter-Faith Habitat Forum of metropolitan Vancouver also was established recently to bring together people from all faiths in spiritual preparation for the Conference.

Inter-faith Forum secretary Roberta Bellows said the group includes Jews, Moslems, Unitarians, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Bahais as well as many Christian denominations. The group has conducted four all-day workshops so far — two for adults, one for women and one for youth — attracting about 100 participants to each occasion.

More than 5,000 people have already visited the Habitat Information Centre since its opening on Feb. 29. This 1,100-square-foot space in historic Gastown was donated by a real estate company for a nominal rent of \$1 a month.

The centre's staff under director Doris Cropper has fielded countless questions from visiting school classes, local merchants, job seekers, university students, tourists and the just plain curious. The centre is also used for press conferences, talks, film and slide shows and other events in connection with the Preview Habitat program launched at the end of March.

The Preview series, continuing through early May, also includes lectures, exhibits and audience participation events at various locations in the city.

Many churches, community organizations, libraries and shopping centres have initiated their own Habitat events for May.

Hosting corps provides multilingual aid to visitors

No matter what their native tongue, delegates to Habitat should have no problem finding their way around bustling Vancouver.

Whether it's Arabic or Tibetan, Hakka or Urdu, Swahili or Punjabi, there will be an official Habitat host or hostess speaking the same language who can assist in solving any problems.

A corps of 200 multilingual hosts and hostesses will be standing by at 24 "information stations" around the city to assist all visitors during the two-week Conference.

Some will be stationed at the airport to help arriving delegates; others will work at the Conference document distribution areas, at the Project Presentation Centre, at the Habitat Pavilion in the Courthouse Plaza and in all the major hotels.

Dressed in pantone blue uniforms — the official Habitat color — the members of the hosting corps will be easily recognizable

from afar. In addition to providing information, they will distribute documents, daily programs and newsletters to delegates.

They will supervise delegate registration, distribute headsets for simultaneous translation, act as floor ushers and booking clerks for caucus and other meeting rooms and make advance bookings for delegates who want to see films and audio-visual presentations.

They will also be available, wherever possible, for informal interpreting at other locations than their normal stations.

The hosts and hostesses were carefully selected from more than 1,000 applicants reflecting Vancouver's rich cultural mix, some of them speaking three or four languages — and one speaking seven.

Most of the recruits are university or community college students who are thoroughly familiar with Canada's system of government,

laws and customs and are well informed about British Columbia and the host city.

Their training program starting May 17 will include study of Information Canada publications, tours of Conference sites, viewing of relevant films and a briefing by the Greater Vancouver Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In addition to the 200 hosts and hostesses, there will be 32 media assistants assigned to help the international media representatives who will cover the Conference. Many of these have relevant experience in journalism, broadcasting, television and audio-visual work.

Another 42 multilingual women and men will be hired to work at the Toronto and Montreal airports to assist foreign delegates through customs, show them to reception lounges and generally help expedite the flow of Habitat visitors at these international arrival points.



Host personnel of Habitat will be wearing crisp blue uniforms created by Vancouver designer Christopher Ryan. His design of the Habitat uniforms evolved from the angular construction of the pyramid which suggests the home of man in the Habitat symbol.

Complex equipment awaiting installation

To any ordinary mortal, the physical preparations for the Habitat Conference may look like a nightmare in logistics — a tangle of audio-visual gadgets, communications equipment and other paraphernalia that has to be installed in a matter of days.

It's an octopus of television cables, audio speakers, interpreters' booths, film projectors and more than 1,000 telephone lines enmeshing the Queen Elizabeth Theatre and Playhouse, the Hotel Vancouver, Holiday Inn, Vancouver City Centre and Hyatt Regency, plus the Habitat Operations Centre on West Georgia Street.

But most of this octopus cannot be unleashed until just a few days before May 31, the opening date for the Conference. Work on the Hotel Vancouver installations can proceed only on May 30 because the rooms are booked for other events until then. The highly complex Project Presentation Centre in the Hyatt Regency — where the delegates will view the more than

200 audio-visual presentations — will have to be built in four days.

But that's no nightmare for Craighton Douglas, Director-General of the Host Program, the man in charge of all Conference mechanical and technological preparations.

"No thank you," he said recently, "I am still sleeping soundly."

All work on the physical facilities is proceeding on schedule, he said, but conceded it will require precision timing to get every Conference prop in place in the few "lead" days before the Conference opening.

"We have a good team of pros. I just hope there won't be too many nasty surprises — such as last-minute requests from certain delegations," he added.

Actually, the Habitat Operations Centre facilities — including media centre, Conference Secretary-General's office, Canadian Host Secretariat, UN Office of Public Information, UN Conference Secretariat and delegation offices — were ready for occupancy on May 1.

But work in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre will not start until May 27. The theatre will house the Plenary sessions and have full facilities for 150 delegations of four members each, TV and radio studios, plus space for 2,000 reporters and observers. The proceedings will be translated simultaneously into the six Conference languages.

The adjoining 650-seat Playhouse will be open to the general public to view audio-visual presentations — here referred to by the program name, Habitat Worldview.

Two ballrooms in the Hotel Vancouver and one each in the other two hotels will have to be equipped as Conference committee rooms to United Nations standards.

Douglas said all the fittings are pre-fabricated and are now waiting in the wings — in warehouses around the city or in back rooms of the hotels.

In all, the Canadian Habitat Secretariat has rented more than one million square feet of hotel, of-

fice and theatre space to mount the Conference, plus more than 10,000 pieces of furniture, such as desks, typewriters, tables and chairs.

In addition, about half a million dollars worth of special custom-made equipment has been ordered — such as interpreters' booths, speakers' podiums, projection screens and similar props.

To top it off, Habitat will have its own telephone network — an electronic switchboard involving about 1,000 lines, said Claude Servant, Director of Infrastructure.

At present all these physical preparations involve only a 15-member Habitat staff and about 50 supervisors and liaison personnel from contractors. The actual installation work in the last week of May will be done by about 200 workers.

Douglas is confident everything will fit into its assigned place, but acknowledges "We are going to have a very, very hectic week. We just hope everybody has done his homework," he added.

Youth Dimension program winds down

When schools opened last fall, 150,000 teachers and other educators across Canada began to receive Information Kits on the Youth Dimension Project for Habitat. Inviting them and their students to contribute ideas for "Human Settlements education," Responses overwhelmingly indicated a strong concern among Canadians working with youngsters to help them meet the problems and challenges of the

future. Much work is being done to develop classroom projects, special programs and curriculum materials in this subject area, and at all school levels.

The number of responses to the Project was encouragingly high until disaster hit in the form of a 6-week nationwide postal strike, which obviously prevented and then discouraged many people from replying. Thus, although some 5000 letters and reply cards

have been received, the overall response rate has been low, forcing a wind-down of the program.

Between now and the Habitat Conference, the Youth Dimension Project will continue to operate: (1) making the work and interests of those responding widely known to the educational community and the general public through publications, exhibitions, and broadcasts; (2) providing a directory of resource people and facil-

ties arranged by area of interest, school level and subject areas.

After the Conference, this valuable network of people interested in the ideas of children and youth will be continued through the activities of ALL ABOUT US/NOUS AUTRES, a non-profit educational foundation which is the parent organization of Youth Dimension. They may be contacted at Box 1985, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6R6.