

ONE HUNDRED YEARS, measured against the backdrop of history, is a very short time, but long enough to have seen an unbelievable change in this once vast virgin land of Canada, to have seen its distances and isolations diminished, to have seen its primitive life evolve to sophistication, to have seen great cities established and grow, straining their boundaries, their centres rising skyward in concrete and steel, their people active and prosperous. In the forefront of progress in the past quarter-century, Canada has made tremendous strides in every area—industrial, social and cultural—and, taking advantage of the miracles of modern man's devising, moves forward still with increasing speed. It is difficult now to think that one hundred years ago only a handful of buildings lined a remote western bay where now stands the centre of the great metropolis of Vancouver; that a wooden fort overlooking the *North Saskatchewan River* marked the site of the now burgeoning city of Edmonton, oil centre of the mid-West; that Montreal, with its then 200-year history and its population of 100,000, was Canada's largest city, destined to become one of the major commercial and industrial cities of the world, harbouring close to 2,500,000 people living very much at 20th century tempo; that other small settlements and uninhabited sites would come to take their places in the chain of booming cities and industrial towns across this great land.

Photos by:

George Hunter, Toronto (colour)
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