



### **1970s – The Beginning**

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) comes from humble beginnings; a board room at a conference of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, now known as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). In 1972, a small group of city managers who were meeting alongside their elected officials, decided to form a professional organization of city administrators from across the country.

### **1970s – The Beginning**

The 1970s were at the heart of Trudeaumania, Watergate, and the completion of the CN Tower. And, in 1972, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators was born. Amalgamation was a hot topic in municipal government in the 1970s, with cities like Thunder Bay (1970), Winnipeg (1972) and Fredericton (1973). This decade also saw the final implementation of a two-tier local government structure in Ontario of “upper-tier” and “lower-tier” municipalities, dividing service delivery between regional governments and municipalities.

CAMA started small, with representatives from some of the larger municipalities decided that the administrators needed their own meetings, separate from the elected officials. In 1972, Cyril McC. Henderson was the first president of the new organization. The first official CAMA conference took place in 1973 in Charlottetown, PEI, with Dennis D. Young at the helm as president.

And while there are not a lot of records from the beginning, we would like to introduce you to the presidents of the association in those early days.

- 1974 Stanley Price, Niagara Falls, ON
- 1975 William H. L. Godsolve, Saskatoon, SK
- 1976 D. Graham Emslie, Toronto, ON
- 1977 Jacques Perreault, Quebec, QC
- 1978 Melvin J. Shelley, Burnaby, BC
- 1979 John C. Robison, Fredericton, NB



Photo: M. Jacques Perreault, CAMA President 1977, ICMA President 1976 (Credit, [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com))

The first seven conferences travelled across the country, taking place in major centres and smaller cities alike.



*HENDERSON, CYRIL*

*Nov 28-73* **New regional manager a visitor for 22 years** *Peel County, Burlington, Ont.*

The present city manager of Halifax will become the Region of Peel's first chief administrative officer.

Cyril M. Henderson, 55, takes over the regional manager's job Jan. 1, 1974 when regional government becomes effective.

Henderson says he is intrigued "by the dynamism in the area."

He is familiar with Peel County because his in-laws own property in Caledon Hills.

"I have come to the area at least once a year for the past 22 years," says Henderson. "It's an area I love very much."

He says Halifax is undergoing similar controversies over growth as Mississauga.

"I was aware that in Mississauga the rapid growth direction is being questioned," says Henderson.

"That's true in Halifax also, but with another base — historic preservation. They are trying to keep the quaint old buildings in a quaint city."

He has been involved in regional planning in the Halifax area.

"We have had tri-level conferences. Things have gone well there because of the strong federal presence in the Halifax area," he says. "Federal support is available to an extent and the municipalities get to give inputs. It's good for discussion, but not necessarily for decision-making."

Henderson has been city manager of Halifax since June 1970.

He was born in Los Angeles of a Swiss mother and British father and had dual American-British citizenship. He was raised in England and is now a Canadian citizen.

Henderson is an honours graduate in civil engineering and earned his masters degree in city planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is also a fellow of the graduate school of public administration at Harvard University. His Harvard studies were in public policy, administration and economics.

He has worked with the state planning commission in Tennessee and as city planner for Modesto, California.

"The reason I didn't stay in the States is because flag-waving became pronounced," he says. "If I was going to be waving any flag, it would have been the Union Jack."

"But I was in Canada when we got our flag and although I still have some sympathies for the Union Jack, the Canadian flag is mine now."

Before assuming his duties in Halifax, Henderson served as municipal manager for the District of North Vancouver from 1959 to 1970.

During that period, he served as the first chairman of the Regional Administrative Advisory Committee to the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

During Henderson's tenure in Halifax he became interested in devising programs to remove people from the welfare rolls.

Henderson is married and has six children, four of whom still live with him: three sons ages 9, 11 and 12, and a daughter, 15.

He also has a daughter, 22, and a son, 20, both of whom attend Dalhousie University.

"My son is on the student senate and quite interested in politics," says Henderson. "I'm not that interested in politics myself, but I'm in the sort of profession where one shouldn't meddle in politics."

Henderson says he and his family will probably live in the Caledon area.

Peel Region chairman Lou Parsons praised the selection of Henderson: "It is my belief that the citizens of the Region of Peel are indeed fortunate to have attracted such a learned and distinguished public servant to be the first chief administrative officer of our new region."