# The Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood 

by Daniel Hiebert<br>1977

The Institute of Urban Studies



## THE University of WINNIPEG

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The Institute of Urban Studies is an independent research arm of the University of Winnipeg. Since 1969, the IUS has been both an academic and an applied research centre, committed to examining urban development issues in a broad, non-partisan manner. The Institute examines inner city, environmental, Aboriginal and community development issues. In addition to its ongoing involvement in research, IUS brings in visiting scholars, hosts workshops, seminars and conferences, and acts in partnership with other organizations in the community to effect positive change.

A great deal of our lives are spent in our particular neighborhoods. It'stands to reason, then, that our neighborhoods must, in some way, become places where we enjoy spending our time. In a study by william Michelson, he has found that peonle consiner their neighborhoon to be more important to them then their house, city, or block.' Suzanne Keller eoes a step further to say that planners must learn to inspire attachment, on the part of the residents, to their future meimborhoors. ${ }^{2}$ The poal of this project wes, for the writer, to learn somethine more about the complex nature of the neishborhood.

Whe neionborhood of Iord Selkirk is a declining neiphborhood in the northern area of winniper, It is bounded by fain street on the couth, wofregor street on the north, sutherland avenue on the west, and Mountain avenue on the east. (see Maps 1 and ?) The Lord Selkirk area could be -described, as Burgess describej his zone of working-man's homes, as an area of small residences lived in by low naid, blue collar workers and the area where first generation immerants are most likely to settle.

This paner attemnts to analyee some of the data compiled by an Institute of Urban sturies survey conducted in the sumper of lonk. The objoctives of this peper are: (I) to explore the

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MAP 2 THE STREET PATTERN OF THE
LORD SELKIRK AREA
differences between the populatios that rent and own property in lord Selkirk, (2) to describe some of the population cheracteristics in the Lord Selkirk area, (3) to attempt to ascertain the way: in wich the neighborhood is likely to change in the near future, and (4) to attempt to sssociate various population characteristics with general neighborhood satisfaction.

The study of the Lord Selkirk area origionally began in the spring of '197t. After selection or a neighborhood for study was completed, a preliminary quetionaire was written by Nary Axworthy. A five percent random systematic sample was then drawn from the Henderson's Directory by beginning at a random point and selecting every twentieth house from that point. A sample pretest wes then consucted in June loph. the pretest included fifteen householns, (from the five percent samnle) which were drawn systematically from the entire area. The questionnaire wes then sunjected to minor changes after a conference between the survey coorsinator and the interviewers.

The actual interviewing of the samplo was undertaken
durino Tuly by four interviowers, The combtor preperation of the date and the commter procraming, with an associated freQuency distrihution, was completed in August. The data was then filed as the survey cördinater left for gracuete school. No one has been hired by the Institute of Urban Studies to comnlete the analysis of the rate en they have eracionsty allowen me to we it for this project.

To study the Iord Selkirk area, the Institute of Urben sturios fosired a camplo of approzimately 150 surveys. Using tho Henderson's Directory, a five percent semple was drawn from
the Tord selkirk area yielding 234 households and businesses. The businesses were discerded leaving 214 households. Fifteen househol, $\boldsymbol{h}$ were used as a pretert semple which left log households remainine in the sample. The interviewers yielded a final result of 146 completed survey responses ( $73.3 \%$ of the original semple). One household refused to be interviewed (.7\%) while $14.9 \%$ were unable to be contacted. Where there were language barriers (the interviewer could not speak ukranian) a bilingual interviewer was sent.

One of the o hectives of this paper is to explore the difforences between tho tenant and the pronerty owner populations in ... Tord selkirk. When the interviews were conducter, they were divider into two cetegories (owners and tenents) and were acker, in some cesps, different questions, (questionaires are attached $x$ the end of the esray) of the 146 interviews 79 (53.3\%) were tenants while 67 (4.6.7\%) were property owners. To ascertain the differences between the two ponulations five variables (ouestions asked to both owners and tenants) were cross. tabuleter. The variehles used were:

1 whether or not the respondent espects to move within

## a year.

$?$ othnic origin of the household.
3 years lived at the present ardroce.
4. aro of the household head.

5 totial household income.

This naner is also en attemnt to enolyso the remifications of nartinular demorraphic characteristics on general neinhor-
hood satisfaction. The independent dernographic variables are:
1 ethnic origin of the household.
2 occupation of the household head.
3 aye of the household head.
4 total household income.
5 education of the respondent.
The variables chosen that are dependent on the above variables are:

1 whether or not the respondent expects to move within a year.

2 whether or not the respondent would choose to remain in the Lord Selkirk neighborhood if he did decide to move. 3 whether or not the respondent has noticed any changes taking place in his neishborhood.

4 Iength of time that the household has been living at the present andress.

Two other variables were used to see if nemographic char. acteristics are ascociated. The two variables are:

1 rent per month or value of the house.
2 trpe of dwelling.

The assumptions that one must be prepared to accept to lent valisity to this paper are:

1 that a five percent random systematic samole can adequately reflect the true characteristics of the total
nopulation.
2 that the questionaires recorded valid jnformetion
3 that the respondents gave the true answers to the
ayetinge oched of thon,
 dapanant variables that heve been user. The limitations of the study end thereforo aleo the limitetione of this moner one:

1 the study area does not coincide with tho Genada cen.. cus treot anoss whish made a two semple test of similarity impoesiblo. The actuel moprocontotivonose of the semple must thon remain in nuestion. 2 the cumver wos undertered durins the cummer months when the economically bettermoff residonts could have been on Fnostion mine oond heve ckened the results slightly. 3 the duestionaine did not incorpenate ang guestions as to where the reponrents have socifl tios. Linton $S$. Freemen pointe this out as on important veriable influm encing reimborhoor satisfoction and the reporeme's dew cine to move. 3

Wr conceptorizetions used in choosing the variables thet
Womo enalroen for this opper wore es follows:
Age of household head wes chosen to atterpt to determine the
housoholi's position in the femily life-cycle. The erea
 in the contraction stare.

Thoome, cocyontion, and prucetion wero al chocen, followinc the pupmolo of rmace parecuik; to feir some insirht into the

BIinton $S$, Preoman and rorris H. Sumshine patterne of opeiAntinl Serreration (Sembridfe: Schenkman Publishing compeny, 1070), 11.

4rrese $N$ Peresuik Pinel Peoort of setisfartions in an Iro ren Neishborhood (winnipeg: University of wimines, 10n1!, 10.
contococonoric chmposttion of the resirentes in the Tord selvirk zroa.
mone of 3 molling, Dent ner month, and lalue of the house were 2] chosen to discover whether or not a melationchin eym ists betwen sooionoconnmio forel era the level of acoomadetion that the respondents have aquired.
Sthnic oriain was chocen as on indepentant variable to explore the wer in which the neighborhoot is now composed and also the way in which tho neichborhoor will chance in the near Ruture.
The ohove variables were also chosen to irentify existing associations botweon the demorranio chereoteristics.
Lenoth of residence, hovement within e year, thether the residents wontr star in the neirhborhood, end nercention of chance were the veriables chosen to attemnt to measure the resident's inherent satisfaction towaris their neighborhood. All of the verionlos moncure the degree of commitment to the Tord Selkirk area. It is asmumes that commitment to the area is jirectly asenciated with neighborhoo satisfaction. The variable per. ception of chare also mescuree incividual perceptual differences.

Before the actual computer analysis of the Tond Selkirk rato, severel expecter outcomes were roriver from the binjectives stator in this poper. These expecter outcomes can ne consiriered es the hyootheres that this paper is attemoting to prove. The hyontheses were:

1 that there are significant demograbhic differences between the tenant and the property owner nopulations. 2 that there exists significant relatinnships between
selected demopraphic characteristics.
3 that the population characteristics of the Iord Selkirk area are in a process of change.

4 that there exists a significant relationship between demographic chacacteristics and the neighborhood satisfaction in an area.

After the general hypotheses were formulated computer the program that was constructed by the Institute of Urban Studies had to be reprogrammed to allow for less classes in each variable. This would facilitate more valisity to be oiven to the chi squared tests of sipnificance that were-employed on the variables. In some cases the nata nid not, yet meet the chi squared test reuuire... ments. In this case, the data was eithor reclassifiet and rerun on the APT terminal or, when possible, the fisher's exact test, was used instead of the chi squered test.

The data wes first run to obtain an as iusted froouency output (see Table 1) which used the new classification system. In some cooos the deta hes been reclassified after this table wes constructer. It can inmediately be seen that the separate populations of tenants and owners are vey iffferent, The variables which Innked nertioularly oromisinc were subjected to the chi onvemed tost of sionificent difference voing the API computer tominal. (Table 2) Pesnlta of the tocts chow that the tenant ponulation has a much higher pronensity to move (31. k\% of the tenants anticinated moving within the noyt yofr es opposed to only 7.6 of the property owners). In the Iors coluirt area,

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Frequenky DIStribution


TABLE: 1
FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION


CROSETAEULATIONS BETWEEN OWNERS ANOTENANES


Values Refer to The probablumy (vane The CH) SQUARED TEST) OF A SUGMFIGNT DIFFERENCE BETwEEN THE OBSERVED AND THE EXPECTED VALUES
then, there is a transient rental population with a relatively stable property owner population.

It is interesting that there is no significant difference between the two populations in terms ofethnjcity. Wichelson has oroposed that ethnic groups tend to remain in the same spatial area regardless of their individual member's wealth. 5 He believes this cleavace is a result of the common style of life within the ethnic group. It is possible that this is the reason that no significant difference hes been shown in the cross-tabulation results. The ethnic groups may have chosen to remain in tort Selxirk, even the transient tenant population,

The property owners have lived at their present adoresses for a significantly lonqer period of time, again showing that the transiency level for the tenants is much higher. hother explenation for the owners living in the same house for a loneer periof of time could be thet once a resident hes bought a house, he has less alternatives to move avay because he perceives him. self as tied to that particular house. ${ }^{6}$

The proporty owners also tend to be older and they tend to have a significently higher income. This, of cource, would facm ilitate their bryine a duelling, unit instead of renting one in the first place, The owners beine older also lends credibility to the fact that they have lived is their houses for a longer nerion of time.

[^1]Prom the chi squered tests, we can see that there are very definde and simificant differences between the population that owns property and the population that rents property in the Iord Selkirk area. Assuming that the two populations are very difierent, the remaining cross tabulations between variables were done separately. The data for the property owners wes then subjected to the chi squared test of significant dif. ference in an attempt to prove the hypotheses that were genm erated above. (Table 3)

2 that there is a relationship between selected population characteristicc.
a) value of the hose and occupetion are related whereby the more expensive houses are owned by the people that work in the higher paying semi-skilled ocoupations. (Teble 5)
b) ethnic oricin and occupation are related. The East European and Eucopean people $\because \because$ nake up most of the product, febricating labor force in the area. (Table 6)
c) the peonle with the relatively higher educetion levels are ascooizted with the semi-skillen occunations the deonle with lower education levels are retired, probably rosulting from the lower orunation standards thet were available when the poopIe who ere retired now were in schonl. (Teble.7)

1) occupation and income are related. The retired and the unemploved people exp the least while the resirents who earn the most are in the corvice and the product fabricating ocoupations. (mebie 8)
e) income influences the resinent's trpe of fwelling in

TABLES
income
value
or
Hover


TABLE: 6
Ethane Orlain

that the hicher the total income, the easier it is to be able to affori a single family dwelling. wichelson has theorised that when people have the means to afford it, they will always choose the dwelline with more privacy. In Lord Selkirk most of the people that own houses, with over 5,000 dollars of income per year, own sincle family dwellincs (Table 9)

3 that the population of Jord selkink is changine through time. To tost this hypothesis the variable of movement within a year was used. A correlation was established between the total household income per year and the desire to move. People with the very lowest and the highest income want to move more than the people with an income between five and ten thoucand dollere per year. The Tord Selkirk neighborhood could become more of a blue collar, working-cless area as the high and the low income property owners are iiltered out. (Table lo)

4 that there is a relationchip botween ponulation characteris. tics and the neighborhood satisfaction.
a) ethnicity is related to the length of residence in the noighborhoon. The people of Britich ano East European origin heve lived in Lord Selkirk the longest, qhis again lends support to fichelson's theory thet ethnic groups will tens to remain torethor throush time? (Toble 11)

7 Willigm M, Wichelsom "An Embirinal Analycis of urban En.. virommentel proferonces " Joumel of the Americen Inctitute of Plengere on, oit., 356.
 cicel Anomenh nonicit. 6 .

Table:9


TABLE: 10

MOVE
wrutin Vesp

TABLE: 11


1NEOME

YES

No
$\left.\begin{array}{|c|c|c|}7 & 1 & 7 \\ \hline 6 & 3,3 & 18\end{array}\right]$

ETNNK

b) Income is significantly related to the desire to move. Both Johnston and Keller have theorized that a rise in income is associated with a desire to move. This is due to several rearsons. Keller points out that the economically better-off resindents are generally loss tied down to their immediate neighbors 9 They would probably ${ }^{\text {sine than nor of }}$ wide-spread peer group. Johnston says that a higher socio-economic level tends to make people's status consciousness also rise. ${ }^{10}$ This would cause the people with more money to become dissatisfied with the status level of their neighborhood and seek to move. In this crosstabulation, the people with the middle income level have the least propensity to move. (Table 10)
c) There exists a relationship between the type af dwelling and the desire to move. People who live in athanot or multiple duellings have a higher propensity to max than that who live in single family dialling. This hater propensity to made could be attributed to Mehelog's thesis that people wish to be separated from other as much as possible." (Table 12)
d) the bennie own ing the drivelling units that were in the mindle-nrice class were much more perceptive to neighborhood charge than either the people living in high or low cost housing. The poole who lived in the most expensive housing were the least perceptive to change. Where may be another factor, or many other Igetore, involved that influence the perception of the responrent. (mobile 13)
e) erhnioity is correlated with the desire to stay in the

[^2]Lord Selkirk noighnorhood. The one East European family that desired to move wisher to stay in the neighborhoon while all three of the families of British origin that wished to move, wanted to move out of the neirhborhook when they did move.

The promising variables for the tenant survey were then subjected to the chi squared tect or significance and sone very different results were obtained. The resultant relationships are apain stated immeriately after the hypotheses that they are being used to prove. (Table A)

2 that there is a relationship botween selected population characteristios.
a) Age of the household head and othnic origin are releted. Pesinente that ere of British or of Native Tndian origin tend to be youncer than the residents that are of East European oriEino (Table 14)
b) rent per month is associated with the occunation of the resident, The retired peonle pey the least rent, nrobobly because retired people neen much leas room to live. Peonle thet are workiner at service and semi-skilled oroupetions tond to pay rent that is in the midale ranges. A paradoxical situation is that unembloved people are ir the hirhert of rent categories. This mey be caused by the fact that the unomnloyed families were penomply the largest families in the neiphorhoor. (monle 15)
c) Fent per month is also associated with inoome, Sen-
erplly, $\rho$ income incresces, the propenoity to pey mome rent alon innearfe. Again a neredoyiosl riturtion exists in that the h: most rates are pais by the geonle with the lowost incore.

TENANTS CROSSTABS


VALUES REFER TO THE PROBABILITY (USING THE CHI SQUARED TEST) OF A SIGNIFICNT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
OBSERVED AND THE EXPECTED VALUES

Table: 15
occupation


Table: 16

Rent
INCOME

| LESSTHAN <br> 29 | 9 | 11 | 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $100-$ <br> 120 <br> 127 <br> 150 <br> ONE <br> 150 | 8 | 9 | 9 |

The situation is not easily explained. Possible explanations are i) that the poorest people have the lareest families and must, by necessity, bay more rent for a lerger house or,ii) the respondents did not understand the question. (Table 16)
d) ethnic origin is related to occupation, education, and income. In terms of employment most of the ast europeans are retired. Over $90 \%$ of the Native Tndian ponulation is unEmployed and the British and the remainine European populations are fairly evenly distributed with occupations. The Est European and the Netive Indians tend to have jess education than the Britich and other Ruropean people. The native population in the area hes the vory ? owest income (ook carn less then five


e) oncuration ant irones ano rolatoz whereby the uremploym ad and tho retired people esm the least Emount of money while the semi-skilled lobomors sre the cowion noonle tent to mon mone money wow yor. (nstie 20)

3 thet the rompation of tre Iore Seltirk area is chanto the throush time.
 wh of the Eres, Whe Euromean end the grot Gumonen peote are remoinire in the aree with romy fow of them exnocting to nowe. At the same timo, the peole of British ans Notive Injien deso sent seom to be leavine the area. In time the Lord solybik noighoomoon could teke on a much mome interretional nheracter

TABLE:17
ETHuR


TABLE:18
Equar

Eneations

| $\operatorname{Mnn}$ <br> 966 <br> 909 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $9+3$ | 12 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 11 | 12 | 4 | 2 |  |

TAble: 19
EThalg
inoome

| $1855 \operatorname{thn} 4$ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5000 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 6010000 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 1 |
| $10-18000$ | 11 | 3 | 1 | 0 |

TABLE:20
occupmad


TABLE: 21
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\text { TABLE: } 22
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4 that there is a relationship between population characteristics and neighborhood satisfaction.
a) the propenaity of the residents to move is significantly related to the leneth of residence in the area. Roth Johnston and Keller have theorized that people tend to have less of a cesire to move as they live in one place for a longer perion of time. ${ }^{12}$ Keller perceives this difference as due to the fact that newer resjdents of a neighborinod tend to be more critical of their neighborhood ${ }^{13}$ (Table 22)
b) lenoth of time living at the present adrress and ethnicity of the resporient are related. The British and the Native Initan people have lived in Lord Solkirk for a shorter period of time while the Zast Europeans, as we have seen before, tend to have remoined in the area longer. (Table 23)
c) length of residence is also related to the level of income per yaar. The people with the least amount of income have lived in the axea for the shortest amount of time. Gesidents that heve income in the middle ranges have remained in the area the Jonest. (Table 24)

While the relationshins shown have imortanoe, there is also some relevence shown in the reletionchips that do not exist.

12 R.T, Johnston on.oit., 304.
iz Suzanne Keller on.cit, Ilu.
TABLE:23

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For example, from Rossi's work in family life cyole, many researchers would eeree thet residenticl mobility would be hizhest among young families and that the rate of mobility would decline with increasing age ${ }^{14}$

It is reasonably establishen that residential mobility is high amoung young families and declines with increased ase of the hoveehold head...thus, viewed in terms of miaretion retes, residential mobility appears to be associated with the expansion stage of the family life-cyrle. 15 In this anolvais, the variables of mobility and family Iife-cycle were not significantly correlated, Wichelson has sug. gested that the stage in the family life-cycle is by no means the only variable affecting mobility

The choices people would make are not a simple function of their age or status (nor, in adintion, of ethnic nosition ner so), but of more subtle influences-their valbes and etyles or lise. ke

In the case of Tord Selkink, there are many variables at work affecting mobility other then fanily life-cycle.

In conclusion, it can be seen that there is evidence to support the four hyootheses that were to be tested in this paper. The terant mopulotion hes certein sisnificent differences compared to the property owner nopulation. In both the populations many of Tho demoreohic cherecteristios were related. It can also be

14 H. Iamrence Ross "Reasons For Moves To and from a Central City Arez" Corial Frncea vol 40 (1961), 261.
 Coresp pettoms end Decision to Move" Hmoriner sonintaringlzeview volume. 26 (yer, lonl), 804.
 vironmental Proferences" 2p.cit., 350.
seen thet the seifhborhood of Iord Selkirk will undereo come refinite chances in the future. It seems that more working class immagrants are moving into the area and that the original poonle of British origin are moving away. Lastly, there is a Sefinite, and significant relationship between the population characteristics in Lord Selkirk and the neighoorhood satisfaction.







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[^0]:    IWilliam v. Vicholson "an Empirical Analyois of Urben Fnvimonmental Preferences" Tournal of the American Thstitue of glenners, Vol. $32(1966), 358$.

    2 Suzane Feller, The Uron Neimbohnod A Sociolncical Demenective (New Yort; Pandon Hovce, lok8), Io8.

[^1]:    5Wiliam Me Michelson Fon ond His Znvironment A Sono Inoice1 Anproach (Reading Mass. : Addison-Wesley Puba, Ca, 1970), p. 65. GSuzane Keller onerits: 115.

[^2]:    9 Supene Keller, on, cit, Ilo.
    $100 . \mathrm{T}$ Johnston Urban Recirentiol pettemas (New York: proper publishers, (07l), 41.

    II William K. Michelson "An Empirical Enelycis of Urban Environmental prefernees" onocit." 35k.

