

# Personality Profile Of The Week

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A professional member of The Town Planning Institute of Canada, The American Institute of Planners, and The Association of Ontario Land Economists, Heribert (Harry) Petschar is the man responsible for the planning aspects of the government of Toronto Township.

A native of Austria, Harry obtained his basic professional training in architectural engineering in that country at the Federal Engineering College in the city of Graz.

In 1951 he came to Canada and obtained the post graduate diploma in Town and Regional Planning at the University of Toronto.

His 14-year career began with the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. He then worked with Edwin Kay, a landscape architect and town planner. Following that experience he worked with the Planning Board of the City of Toronto before coming to the township in 1961.

He began in this area as Senior Planner in charge of the projects division. Harry then took over the land use division for a short while before being named, in 1962, the Township of Toronto's first Assistant Planning Director. In 1964 Mr. Petschar was appointed to his present position, Planning Director and Secretary-Treasurer of the Township of Toronto Planning Board.

Mr. Petschar is married and with his wife Aldona and daughter Diana, is now working on plans to build a home in the North Dixie Community.

Apart from his official duties, Harry enjoys photography and hi-fi. When he can find time, which is seldom, he works on the preparation of a book which relates to theory in the planning field.

## MODEL COMMUNITY

Of the Township of Toronto, Mr. Petschar is quite definite. He states positively that the township has tremendous development potential and that with proper control should become a model community. "The township," he states, "is presently facing strong pressures to allow development that would perhaps be expedient and profitable from a short term viewpoint but would not be beneficial in the long run."

He feels, too, that it is im-



**Harry Petschar**

portant to attract industries and commercial enterprises and to provide residential accommodation for middle income families.

"Once development is intensive enough," states the Director of Planning, "many benefits will be derived by residents of the township. Those benefits will include public transportation, adequate and convenient shopping, recreation areas, and major open space facilities that the township can provide when its financial strength becomes greater.

Mr. Petschar sees a process of change sweeping the area and carrying it from a semi-rural to an urban character. He feels that this change has been largely accepted by residents of the township and that apartment and other forms of multi-family housing are now being more readily accepted in proper locations.

## LARGER AREA

Harry believes that the future will probably bring reg-

ional planning which will cover a larger area and include many other municipalities. This, he feels, will become necessary to cope with the many problems that are associated with dynamic growth in urban areas.

"Toronto Township," he says, "Will be the hub of the emerging urban region and plans are being formulated to provide this urban complex with a proper identity."

Of the locality Mr. Petschar

states, "I have always enjoyed working in the township and have found the population to have strong interests in community affairs. In general, people residing in this municipality have highly mature attitude towards planning, and that is a basic requisite in building a community where all inhabitants will enjoy the good life.