

The National Capital Plan, as conceived by the eminent French town planner Jacques Gréber, was dedicated to those who gave their lives for Canada during the Second World War and has since constituted the Commission's planning guide for the Capital of Canada. In accordance with the first proposal of the Master Plan, the principle of "open space" is being applied, a policy beneficial to both residents and visitors. Part of this policy involves the restoration to their natural beauty of the shores of the waterways in and around Ottawa, a program evident in the work of the Commission at Rideau Falls Park opposite the City Hall and in the development of Vincent Massey Park in the heart of the city; the latter is a 75-acre park and playground extension to 50-acre Hog's Back Park at the foot of Hog's Back Falls. On the Quebec side of the Ottawa River the Commission maintains two parks—the historically interesting Brébeuf Park and Jacques Cartier Park, both on the shores of the river. Driveways and parkways in and around the Capital are also part of the open-space treatment. There are at present 40 miles of wide landscaped roadways in Ottawa and Hull, and 30 miles of right-of-way have been acquired for future expansion. The Commission cares for the landscaping of twelve municipal parks in Ottawa-Hull, of which Strathcona Park in Sandy Hill district and Rockcliffe Park are the most extensive and attractive. The acquisition of land along both shores of the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers and the exceptionally wide rights-of-way for parkways have given to Ottawa about 7,000 acres of open space.

One of the five recommendations of the Master Plan is that new government buildings should be dispersed from the heart of the city. This program of decentralization has been under way for some time and excellent examples of planned sites for government structures now exist at Confederation Heights, at Tunney's Pasture and at the Printing Bureau site in Hull. Other areas, such as the large tract of already serviced land at Pinecrest, are awaiting development. The advantages of decentralization are many—planned government building areas away from centre-town offer at least partial solution to the ever-present problem of traffic congestion and, from the humanitarian point of view, workers occupy buildings erected on large landscaped grounds with plenty of parking space and are close to main traffic arteries and shopping centres, and often to good housing developments. The grounds of more than 140 government buildings in the National Capital Region are cared for by the Commission, which also gives assistance to municipal projects that enhance the attractiveness of the area, such as the provision of land and landscaping for the 12-mile Queensway being built under a four-way partnership between the Federal Government, the National Capital Commission, the Province of Ontario and the City of Ottawa.

A main proposal of the Master Plan calls for the establishment of a greenbelt around the National Capital, one of the main objectives of which is to restrain the tentacular growth of the city so that family dwelling projects will be built on lands that can be supplied, at reasonable cost, with water and sewer services. There is also the aesthetic consideration that this belt of green open space and planned building sites will provide the beautified Capital with suitable approaches. The present semicircular greenbelt on the Ontario side occupies 41,000 acres of land and surrounds, to a depth of about two and one-half miles, the urban zone at an average distance of nine miles from the Peace Tower. The Commission encourages agricultural activity within this area and at the same time reserves within its boundaries certain tracts of land to be occupied by government buildings, public institutions and some types of industrial development such as research and experimentation establishments requiring considerable space to operate. By the end of March 1962, the Commission will have spent approximately \$23,000,000 to purchase for the Crown about 27,000 of the planned 41,000 acres. The entire project should be completed by 1963.

A primary task of the Commission is to carry out the railway relocation program strongly advocated in the Master Plan. At the very beginning of his study of Ottawa and Hull, Jacques Gréber discovered that little could be done for the National Capital unless