

unsightly railway lines, of which there were 52 miles, and adjoining roundhouses and sheds were removed from the urban areas. The Commission has begun the large-scale program of relocating trackage and yards with the co-operation of the railway companies. The abandoned rights-of-way are destined to become planned roadways which will relieve traffic bottlenecks within the heart of the city; the Queensway, now under construction, runs on a former railway bed. This program is ahead of schedule and is now expected to be complete by 1965. It involves the removal of 32 miles of track, the elimination of 72 railway crossings and the consequent acquisition of 449 acres of high-value land for redevelopment.

The Master Plan also includes the establishment and development of the beautiful and impressive Gatineau Park, a 75,000-acre forest and lake area in the shape of a triangle stretching from its apex in the city of Hull northwestward for 35 miles into the Laurentian Hills. The National Capital Commission owns more than 62,000 acres of the projected area, and the acquisition of private holdings is continuing. The parkways through this area now measure about 20 miles and extensions are under construction. Camping and picnic sites are being improved by the installation of drinking fountains, barbecues and outdoor ovens, and well-designed restrooms, and by the addition of fishing and swimming facilities. At Lac Philippe and Lac Lapêche, two of the four big lakes in Gatineau Park, the Commission has developed or is planning large-scale public recreation facilities with easy road access.

In addition to these major development projects, the National Capital Commission, through its Historical Advisory Committee, plans to conserve historic buildings and sites as mementoes of the past. Such sites are carefully studied and their preservation and suitable marking is an important part of the over-all program.

Planning aid to municipalities in the National Capital Region is given in the form of grants in special circumstances and advice on establishing areas of subdivision control, preparation of basic plans and maps, master plans for communities and zoning legislation. This advice is available upon request and the Commission, having no planning powers, must seek to persuade rather than impose its proposals. Its planning staff has served a score of local municipalities in this capacity with varied success, and advice to many of them is continuing.

Estimated expenditures for the Commission projects in the year ending Mar. 31, 1962 total \$21,345,525, which includes \$2,557,470 for administration, operation and maintenance, \$3,971,285 for construction, \$11,100,000 for property acquisition and \$1,925,000 in grants and aid to municipalities.

### Section 3.—Wildlife Resources and Conservation\*

Wildlife in Canada is still considered to be an important and renewable natural resource. In the early days, wildlife was, and in large areas still is, the sustenance of the aborigines and trade in fur determined the course of exploration and settlement. During the period of the opening up of the country, many species of animals and birds became seriously depleted or completely extinct. The passenger pigeon, the great auk and the Labrador duck were extirpated, the buffalo vanished from the prairies, and wapiti, prong-horn antelope and musk-oxen were reduced to small fractions of their former numbers. The destruction was not limited to the animals and birds but in the areas of settlement their habitat was endangered by the cutting and burning of the forests, the diversion and pollution of streams and the changing of the face of the land.

\* A series of special articles relating to the wildlife resources of Canada has been carried in previous editions of the Year Book. See list of special articles in Chapter XXVI, Part II, under the heading of "Fauna and Flora".