

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.

An important 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. There are many other factors that help make the Ottawa greenbelt an ideal planning measure: it allows some control over the demographic increase of the Capital; it is an incentive for better urban land use; and it favours the development of satellite communities in the National Capital Region.

The Commission has begun the large-scale program advocated in the Master Plan of removing railway trackage and yards from the urban area with the co-operation of the railway companies. The abandoned rights-of-way are destined to become 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, which is expected to be completed by 1965, 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 re-development.

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 22 miles of parkway now traversing this area are to be extended deeper into the wilderness. 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.

Estimated expenditures for the Commission projects in the year ended Mar. 31, 1963 total \$27,477,470, which includes \$3,325,970 for administration, operation and maintenance, \$11,151,500 for capital projects and assistance to municipalities, and \$13,000,000 for property acquisition.