

Ages, drawings and specimens of early Canadian plants and animals show how some species adapted to change, whereas others died. The most impressive of these specimens are the dinosaurs of Western Canada's cretaceous period. The Birds in Canada exhibit features life-like dioramas showing the kinds of birds typical of nine of the major biological regions of Canada. Mammals in Canada presents dioramas of present-day Canadian mammals also in authentic settings.

The museum's newest exhibit hall, Animal Life, completed in October 1976, shows animal evolution through a 500 million-year period to the present. In addition, a visitor may be guided through the story of man's effort to understand the origin and diversity of animal life, to decipher its cryptic genetic codes, and to unravel the evolutionary process which relates all animals of the world to each other. A special exhibits hall displays temporary and travelling exhibits from the museum and other sources.

Public lectures, film presentations and special interpretative programs prepared by the interpretation and extension division are popular with school classes and the general public. In addition, the division prepares publications, provides educational materials for loans to schools and conducts a program of travelling exhibits.

The National Museum of Man

7.7.3

Through its seven divisions — archeological survey, ethnology service, centre for folk culture studies, the war museum, history, education and cultural affairs, and national programs — the National Museum of Man conducts research in Canadian studies, collects and preserves artifacts of material culture and extends the museum's programs across Canada through exhibits and educational loans.

The Canadian centre for folk cultural studies is both a research institute and a repository for collections of oral folklore and artifacts reflecting Canada's many folk cultures. The war museum houses an extensive collection of artifacts representative of Canada's military past ranging from military art and medals to tanks and bayonets from all wars involving Canadian participants. The archeological survey has undertaken more than 370 research and salvage projects in Canadian prehistory in the past 14 years, including 12 in 1976, which have dramatically altered the knowledge of Canada's past. The ethnology service collects and analyzes information pertinent to the traditional cultures of Canadian Indians, Inuit and Métis both through staff and contract ethnographic research and through artifact acquisition, research and conservation. This information is disseminated through scientific and popular publications, exhibits, lectures and loans. Research in Canadian history is conducted by the history division which has acquired for preservation over 40,000 items of period furnishings and Canadiana. The education and cultural affairs division designs and produces resources for communities across Canada in the form of educational publications, museum kits and films and provides a wide range of programs based on the museum's galleries. The national programs division co-ordinates an extension service of travelling exhibits and museum kits primarily related to Canadian archeology, ethnology, folk culture and history. Catalogues and monographs are part of the museum's diverse program of national and international travelling exhibitions, films and television programs.

The National Museum of Science and Technology

7.7.4

The newest of the four national museums, the National Museum of Science and Technology, opened in November 1967. This museum challenges visitors to climb, push, pull or just view its definitive collections. Thousands of others annually visit the aeronautical collection at Rockcliffe Airport.

The exhibit pavilions contain examples from the history of ground transportation such as sleighs, streetcars, steam locomotives and antique cars, to aviation and space, beginning with Canada's first powered heavier-than-air flight. Trains have figured prominently both as acquisitions and in programs. Steam train excursions, operated in collaboration with the National Capital Commission, are popular summer events. There are also experiments and skill-trying tests in the physics hall and exhibits on the history of agriculture, marine transport, meteorology, time pieces and astronomy.