

a number of extension programs, both regional and national, and an evening astronomy program in which participants view the stars through Canada's largest refracting telescope. In addition, the museum issues several publications (pamphlets and monthly sky charts, for example) and takes part in agricultural fairs. The museum has a specialized library of about 20,000 books, journals and reference works.

Visitors interested in aviation may tour the National Aviation Museum's collection at Rockcliffe airport. It contains 113 aircraft, along with a collection of historic engines and other artifacts, illustrating the evolution of the flying machine in peacetime and in war, and the place the airplane played in Canada's development. In the main exhibit hall of the new building, visitors can experience the "Walkway of Time" where the eras of aviation from the turn of the century to the present are examined. The following eras are also represented: "Pioneer", "World War I", "Between the Wars", "World War II" and "Post World War II".

The museum's library collection includes 4,000 books, 4,000 bound serial volumes, and a number of aircraft, and avionics manuals.

The Agricultural Museum was created in October 1983 as the result of a joint effort by Agriculture Canada and the National Museum of Science and Technology. It is, to some extent, an extension of the agricultural technology division of the National Museum of Science and Technology. It is located at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, on the upper floor of the dairy barn which contains the Agriculture Canada showcase herd. The museum is in an ideal location, surrounded by fields, and with magnificent flower gardens and an arboretum nearby.

15.4.2 The National Gallery of Canada

The National Gallery of Canada, associated with the founding of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1880, was incorporated by an act of Parliament in 1913. Its function was to encourage public interest in the arts and to promote the interests of art throughout the country.

The new National Gallery opened in Ottawa, May 1988, featuring a multitude of galleries, including Canadian Galleries; European and American Galleries; Inuit Art; Asian Art; Contemporary Art; Prints, Drawings and Photographs; and the Rideau Convent Chapel, a 100-year-old chapel, rebuilt within the National Gallery.

The gallery's collections, ranging in time from the 12th century to the present, have developed

along national and international lines. Its holdings include the largest and most comprehensive collection of Canadian art in existence. Of the more than 40,000 works of art in the collections, 75% are Canadian. Many old masters are included in the gallery's European collection. Some Chardins, a Rembrandt and a Rubens were acquired from the famous Liechtenstein collection. The Massey Foundation presented its collection of English painting to the gallery in the late 1940s and the Vincent Massey bequest of 100 works by Canadian artists was received in 1968. Other gifts and bequests include the Bronfman gift of drawings (1973), the Henry Birks collection of Canadian silver (1979), the Max Tanenbaum collection of Indian and Tibetan art (1979) and the Phyllis Lambert gift of Walker Evans photographs, bringing the National Gallery's collection of photographs to approximately 16,000 works.

Visitors may view special exhibitions and permanent installations, attend lectures, gallery talks, films, guided tours and special performances and enjoy the gallery's publications. The gallery participates in the preparation of major international exhibitions such as "Degas", which was shown at the Grand Palais in Paris, the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. It also prepares major exhibitions of Canadian art in collaboration with the Department of External Affairs and brings exhibitions from abroad to Canada.

The Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, with approximately 150,000 photographs in its collection, was moved to the National Gallery from the National Film Board in 1984-85. It undertakes a broad range of activities targeted at a large national audience and an increasing international one. The activities include travelling exhibitions, loans, publications, educational programs, special exhibitions and national services. In future, the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography will be housed in the refitted rail and streetcar tunnel structure which runs along the west side of the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa. The new building is expected to open in late 1990.

15.4.3 National programs

With the disbanding of the National Museum Corporation, the National Programs, including the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI), the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), the Museum Assistance Programs and the International Program, were transferred to the Department of Communications. The Mobile Exhibits Program was terminated.