

continue to grace the Ottawa skyline. During this period several studies were made and plans recommended for the improvement of the National Capital but these were deferred because of the War and for other reasons. Fire destroyed the Parliament Building in 1916, leaving standing only the octagonal library now forming part of the magnificent building of modern Gothic architecture which replaced it but was ten years in the building. The city beautification program was continued by the Ottawa Improvement Commission on a slightly increased budget until 1927; in that year the Commission was reconstituted as the Federal District Commission and the program then proceeded at a more accelerated rate. The second Commission was succeeded in 1959 by the National Capital Commission.

The City of Ottawa today, with its population of close to 300,000, is well on its way to becoming a national capital of enduring beauty and grace. It is a self-governing municipality, administered by an elected City Council, but there are underlying differences which set it apart from all other major Canadian centres. Historically, it has always been the meeting place for the two founding peoples. It is the national Seat of Government and throughout the years the federal authorities have recognized the need of creating in and around the National Capital an area of pride, not only for the residents of the city and its environs but for all Canadians.

Much of the work of the National Capital Commission hinges on the implementation of a long-range Master Plan, developed by the late Jacques Gréber, a famed French town-planner. The Gréber Plan tabled in the House of Commons in 1951, although not officially recognized by the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, is the basis of much that has been accomplished. In fact, ten years after its publication it was reported that all its major proposals were in process of realization.

Success of the Plan, now and in the future, is dependent on co-operation between the Federal Government, the governments of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the Cities of Ottawa, Hull and Eastview and about sixty-five other autonomous municipalities in the National Capital Region. The Plan itself was conceived as a memorial to all Canadians who gave their lives in the defence of Canada during the Second World War and was projected over a fifty-year period. It called first for the establishment of a National Capital Region encompassing some 900 sq. miles but later, in 1959, this was doubled to 1,800 sq. miles—about half in Ontario and half in Quebec. In accordance with its proposals, large "open spaces" are being provided in the Ottawa-Hull area, part of which involves the restoration of the shores of the waterways. Major restorations have taken place at Rideau Falls opposite the Ottawa City Hall, at Jacques Cartier Park in Hull, and at Vincent Massey Park which is a 75-acre urban park in the heart of Ottawa, linked with the 50-acre Hog's Back Park surrounding the limestone chasm of Prince of Wales Falls on the Rideau River. Forty miles of riverfront land are under the control of the Commission and countless delightful areas are accessible to the public. There are some 50 miles of wide, landscaped driveways throughout Ottawa which will be extended by another 30 miles in coming years. In addition the Commission maintains 13 city-owned parks in Ottawa, including Rockcliffe and Strathcona Parks. At present Ottawa has 4,000 acres of open space.

The relocation of government buildings to suitable scattered sites has been under way for several years. The first development took place at Tunney's Pasture located on the Ottawa River in the west-central area of Ottawa. The Pasture now contains 18 buildings of various sizes. Confederation Heights, in the south-central area adjoining Hog's Back Park, now contains six attractive and functional buildings that house Government Departments, and the large Government Printing Bureau was established in Hull. In all, the grounds of more than 140 government buildings are cared for by the Commission.

Two key proposals in the Master Plan with long-range effects on Ottawa's future are the creation of the Greenbelt and the removal of railway trackage from the central sections. The Greenbelt, designed to control urban sprawl and to provide sites for governmental, industrial and research development, is a unique planning measure in North America. Within its 41,500 acres the Commission encourages agriculture, reforestation and public recreation areas.