

# Federal District Commission

OTTAWA, CANADA



FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

1943-1944

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FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION

OTTAWA CANADA

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

1943-1944

Hon. J. L. Ilsley, K. C., M.P.,  
Minister of Finance,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

We have the honour to present to you herewith the Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Federal District Commission for the fiscal year 1943-1944 in accordance with the provisions of the Federal District Commission Act.

Yours very truly,

Frederic E. Bronson  
CHAIRMAN

Haldane R. Cram  
SECRETARY

FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

Frederic E. Bronson, B.Sc., M.E.I.C.  
Chairman

R. Chevrier, M.D.

A. E. Provost (Died December 22, 1943)

J. W. Ste-Marie, K.C.

C. J. Booth

J. B. Spencer, B.S.A.

A. Johnston, C.M.G., L.L.D.

J. A. Ewart, B.A. Sc.

Cmdr. D. K. MacTavish, K.C., B.A.

J. E. Stanley Lewis, Mayor of Ottawa

STAFF

Haldane R. Cram, B.Sc., M.E.I.C.  
Secretary

Alex Stuart  
Superintendent

Alphonse Chevrier  
Assistant Secretary

Alan K. Hay, B.Sc., M.E.I.C.  
Consulting Engineer

OFFICES AND SHOPS

291 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Canada

Report for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 1944

The work of the Federal District Commission during 1943-1944 in connection with parks and parkways was largely restricted, as in the immediate preceeding war years, to maintenance of existing developments. The grounds of the Dominion Government Buildings in Ottawa were again maintained and certain services for these buildings such as removal of refuse, ashes and snow were continued. The snow fall of the winter kept the Commission's fleet of snow ploughs and a large force of men busy keeping the driveways, sidewalks, courtyards and parking areas open for use at all times and free from icy condition. Mosquito Control operations in the Ottawa district were again organized and supervised. The grounds of the Civic Hospital and the Bank of Canada were maintained at the expense of these institutions. Certain departments of the Dominion Government authorized the Commission to carry out, at their expense, improvements to the grounds of newly-constructed temporary war buildings in Ottawa, consisting of grading, seeding, sodding, and construction of roads, sidewalks, drains, lawn water service installation, etc.

Parks and Parkways of Federal District Commission

The parkway system of the Federal District Commission extends from Rockcliffe Park, east of Ottawa, to the Aylmer Road, west of Hull, Quebec, after passing through the federal capital and crossing the Ottawa River by the Champlain Bridges. Twenty-two miles of driveways have been built.

The following areas of parkland are owned or controlled by the Commission:

1. Owned in Ottawa, Hull, and in immediate vicinity of these two cities... (Undeveloped--200 acres)	546 acres
2. Leased from the Crown..... (Undeveloped--132 acres)	341 "
3. Leased from the City of Ottawa and maintained by the Commission.....	129 "
4. Grounds of Dominion Government Buildings maintained by the Commission.....	<u>200</u> "
Total.....	1,216 "
Total Undeveloped.....	<u>332</u> "
Total developed as Parks and Parkways..	<u>884</u> "

In addition to the above the Commission, in the years just prior to the commencement of the present war, purchased 15,800 acres of land in the lower Laurentians as the first stage in the formation of Gatineau Park, an area which it is proposed to preserve in its natural state of wooded hills, valleys, lakes and streams. The present southern boundary of the Park is at Old Chelsea, Quebec, about five air miles from the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. It extends north-westerly for 14 miles and is about 3 miles wide. The ultimate size of the Park may reach 25,000 acres.

#### Maintenance Operations

The maintenance of the parks and parkways during the war is being kept to a minimum. Many urgent maintenance jobs, though greatly needed, were further deferred. To help the City of Ottawa to make available essential water supplies for government war needs and other more important uses, the Commission, at its expense, pumped water from the Rideau Canal for lawn sprinkling and used very little city pumped water in parks remote from this temporary source of water supply. Lack of manpower and the difficulty of securing certain classes of building materials and parts for motor transport vehicles handicapped work to a great extent. In Gatineau Park a small force of four rangers, in addition to the park superintendent, carried out duties as police officers, fire guards, and game wardens.

The work of the Commission in maintaining the grounds, summer and winter, of government buildings and rendering refuse collecting service to these buildings has greatly increased during the war years. Prior to the war seventy properties in this category were given attention; now the number is one hundred and fifteen.

#### Work undertaken by the Federal District Commission for Dominion Government Departments

Departments of the Dominion Government from time to time ask the Commission to carry out improvements to the grounds of newly-constructed government buildings on the basis of full reimbursement for the cost entailed. The Commission has the trained personnel and the special equipment required and is, therefore, in the position to carry out this class of work more economically (actual cost only being charged) and satisfactorily than by private contractors.

Department of Public Works

Temporary War Building No. 8

The improvements to the grounds of this building consisted of a gravel-calcium chloride road of 2,000 square yards, crushed stone-cinder road of 1,640 square yards, 3,000 square yards of sodding, 3,500 square yards of seeding, black asphalt walk of 500 square yards, 1,500 feet of concrete curb, stone and earth fill, sewer and water services with a total cost of \$7,459.

Womens' Hostel, Sussex Street

The grounds of this new building were improved by the grading of 800 cubic yards of earth, construction of 180 square yards of asphalt roadway, seeding 4,800 square yards and sodding 2,200 square yards at a cost of \$2,525.

Parliament Hill Sidewalks

The sidewalk and curb from Bank Street to the driveway on the west side of the West Block were completely reconstructed with a black asphalt top and concrete curb; also a fifty foot length of new concrete sidewalk was constructed at the north side of the East Block, a total cost of \$900.

Snow Removal

Snow was removed from the roadways, steps, sidewalks, and courtyards of the Navy, Army and Air Force Buildings on Cartier Square for the cost of \$1,362.

Department of National Defence

Army Building--Cartier Square

The following work was carried out in connection with the development of the grounds adjoining this new building: Paved roadways 4,200 square yards, gravel calcium-chloride roadways 2,000 square yards, black asphalt top walks 380 square yards, concrete curb 2,700 feet, sodding 3,880 square yards, grading and seeding 4,100 square yards, earth fill 1,200 cubic yards, stone fill 500 cubic yards and six catch basins for drainage at a total cost of \$14,245.

### Navy and R. C. A. Force Buildings--Cartier Square

A parking area of about 1,150 square yards in area was constructed of cinders bound with fine gravel at a cost of \$919 for the Navy Building and the concrete sidewalk in front of the R. C. A. Force Building on Lisgar Street was widened at a cost of \$150 or a total cost for both jobs of \$1,069.

### R. C. A. Force Womens' Barracks--Argyle Avenue

Improvements as listed were carried out on the grounds of this building: asphalt surface roadways 600 square yards, sodding 2,100 square yards, seeding 800 square yards, black top asphalt sidewalk 150 square yards, concrete curb 550 feet, top soil 250 cubic yards and stone fill 140 cubic yards at a cost of \$2,303.

### Snow Removal

Snow was removed from the roadways, sidewalks and courtyards of the following department buildings: Ordnance, Cartier Square; Central Ordnance Depot, Catherine Street; Ordnance Carpenter Shop, Middle Street; Supreme Court Building entrances for vehicles; Morris Building, Sparks Street and R. C. E. Buildings, Chamberlain Avenue at a cost of \$560.

### Wartime Housing Limited

#### Hull Projects

The Wartime Housing Limited in 1941 constructed 150 small wooden houses in Wrightville, Hull, Quebec, for rental at low cost to workers engaged in war industries in this district.

The Commission was asked to improve the grounds of these new buildings. Part of this work was undertaken in the previous year. The work carried out during this year consisted of grading, seeding, construction of sidewalks and roadways, planting of trees and shrubs, construction of sewers, catch basins and ditches at a total cost of \$16,543.

#### Ottawa No. 1 & 2 Projects

Twenty houses, each similar to the above, were constructed by the same organization adjacent to the Montreal and Metcalfe Roads about six miles in each case from Ottawa. The grounds of these buildings were graded and seeded, after some top soil had been added, at a cost of \$521.

## National Research Council

### Montreal Road

1,500 square yards of roadway consisting of broken stone base 9 inches to 12 inches thick with a cinder gravel top of 2 inches were constructed; 100 cubic yards of rock were excavated and 1,000 square yards of grading carried out. The cost amounted to \$1,870.

### Sussex Street

Snow was removed from a path around the Council's Building, Sussex Street, for the use of armed guards for patrol purposes, at a cost of \$241.

## Bank of Canada

### Wellington and Sparks Streets

The grounds of the bank, including walks and court-yards, on Wellington and Sparks Streets, were maintained both in summer and winter at a cost of \$508.

### King Edward Avenue

Improvements to the grounds of this building were carried out as follows: sodding 1,040 square yards; seeding 4,250 square yards; 500 cubic yards of top soil; grading and paving of 1,800 square yards for a parking lot and installing of water sprinkling services for a total expenditure of \$4,190.

The maintenance of these grounds during the summer seasons of 1943 cost \$552.

## Gatineau Park Snow Ploughing

The Chelsea Highway, the principal route to Gatineau Park from Ottawa and Hull, was kept clear of snow from the Hull city limits to Old Chelsea. Sections of the Meach Lake and Kingsmere Roads were also ploughed to furnish easy access to park entrances. A total of fifteen miles of roadway was maintained in this manner during the winter season at a cost of \$155.15. The Commission was fully reimbursed for this expenditure by the Municipality of West Hull and Other organizations desirous of this service.

## Ottawa Civic Hospital

### Grounds Maintenance

The grounds of the Ottawa Civic Hospital, of about 15 acres in extent, are maintained by the Commission at cost. The sum of \$4,338.83 was expended during the year on this work, all of which was repaid to the Commission by the hospital.

### Hospital Annex

The following improvements were carried out to the grounds of this new building:

12,000 square yards of sodding; 600 square yards of cinder walks; grading and seeding 2,000 square yards; and planting of trees and shrubs for a total cost of \$1,227.

### Hospital Park

A start was made in the development of the vacant city-owned land bounded by Hutcheson, Reid, Ruskin and MacFarlane Avenues as a park for the use of convalescent patients of the hospital annex. 20,000 square yards were graded and filled by power shovel and bulldozer at a cost of \$1,447.

### Mosquito Control

Mosquito control work was carried out as in the past years over an area of approximately 100 square miles centering on the cities of Ottawa and Hull. The usual early spring campaign of oiling low-lying swampy areas in the district was carried out but was hampered considerably by difficulty in securing men suitable for the work. This type of work has in the past been carried out by younger able-bodied men who have the necessary stamina to work continuously under difficult conditions, usually in rubber boots and carrying the not inconsiderable weight of the portable oil-sprayers. Naturally it is not possible to secure men in the lower age groups in wartime.

During the months of May and June, 1943, there were long spells of intermittent rainfall which resulted in a considerable number of mosquitoes hatching out and causing annoyance throughout the area. The long period of adverse weather conditions, together with the difficulty in securing suitable labour for spraying operations, resulted in a temporary infestation which was somewhat worse than usual. By the latter part of June the situation was again normal and little difficulty was experienced during the remaining part of the summer.

As in the previous year a very considerable amount of draining and under-brushing was carried out in the area between McKay Lake and the Rockcliffe Airport. Some trails were cut in the swamp south of Dow's Lake.

\$6,444.35 was expended on this work of which \$3,200 was contributed by the Federal District Commission, \$2,000 by the City of Ottawa, \$1,000 by the Village of Rockcliffe Park and \$100 by the County of Carleton. Additional revenue resulted from the renting of a truck belonging to the Mosquito Control authority in off seasons.

Planting

In the fall of 1943, tulip bulbs totalling 38,000 were placed in various parks and in beds on the grounds of Parliament Hill, Rideau Hall and Ottawa Civic Hospital. 20,000 of these bulbs comprised a gift from Seymour-Cobley, Limited, a firm of bulb growers in England, who made this donation as a token of appreciation of the English people for Canada's war effort. In the two preceeding years similar gifts totalling 63,000 tulip bulbs were received from this company. 8,500 cannas were also placed in the parks.

The following trees, shrubs, etc., were set out on the parkway system:

Deciduous trees.....	315
Deciduous shrubs.....	4,200
Coniferious trees.....	470
Vines.....	25
Polyantha and Floribunda roses...	600

12,500 plants and annuals were placed in special beds in Rideau Hall and Ottawa Civic Hospital grounds, while beds of the parkway system were seeded to annuals which produced about 150,000 blooms of many varieties.

Policing of the Commission Property

"A" Division, Ottawa, Royal Canadian Mounted Police is responsible for the policing of parks and parkways of the Federal District Commission, enforcing By-Law No. 26 which regulates traffic on driveways.

Under this By-Law the Police reported the following offences during this year 1943 - 1944:

Convictions.....	146
Dismissals.....	<u>1</u>
Warnings.....	<u>186</u>
Total.....	333

In addition, numerous complaints were attended to; sixteen car accidents on the Federal District Commission drive-ways were investigated and particulars taken. None of them resulted in the death of any person or were considered serious.

Three automobiles and ten bicycles were recovered on Government property and effective preventive work was carried out by the Squad in the protection of flowers, shrubs, etc., from children and mischievous young people.

Assistance was given to the Ontario Provincial Police and Ottawa City Police.

Motorcycle Escorts, sixteen in all, were supplied by the R. C. M. Police for military parades and distinguished visitors, etc. The main escorts supplied to notables during the year by the Motorcycle Squad were to President Roosevelt, Dr. Benes and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek.

Two deaths were reported. In one instance the body of a woman, a suicide, was found in Dow's Lake; in the other, a man collapsed and died of natural causes underneath the Bank Street Bridge.

The total amount of fines and costs imposed for infractions of the Federal District Commission By-Laws and Ontario Traffic Act amounted to \$2,079.00.

The total amount recovered in connection with damage to Government Property amounted to \$717.60.

Financial Statements

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
ended MARCH 31, 1944

Receipts

Balance, April 1, 1943

Statutory Grant	\$ 88,500.95	
Government Grounds	7,145.13	
Miscellaneous Accountable Advances	<u>2,971.42</u>	\$ 98,617.50

Statutory Grant

Dominion Government, Statutory Grant	\$200,000.00	
Interest on investments in bonds	568.75	
Interest on bank balance	321.46	
Rentals and royalties	3,648.77	
Boathouse dues	1,636.00	
Sundry sales and services	3,066.00	
Damages to Commission property recovered	515.94	
Refunds of previous years' expenditures	<u>1,627.25</u>	211,384.17

Government Grounds

Dominion Government, Vote 62	<u>133,500.00</u>	133,500.00
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Miscellaneous Accountable Advances

National Defence - Army	14,804.20	
National Defence - Navy	-	
National Defence - Air	2,302.47	
Public Works	12,228.80	
National Research Council	2,110.20	
Bank of Canada	6,033.32	
Civic Hospital	7,013.29	
Wartime Housing Limited	17,500.00	
Gatineau Snow Ploughing	415.00	
Mosquito Control	<u>8,920.00</u>	<u>71,327.28</u>
		<u>416,211.45</u>
		<u>\$514,828.95</u>

Disbursements

Statutory Grant			
Staff Salaries	\$ 18,561.41		
Nursery operations	4,017.35		
Machinery, gas. and repairs	9,049.61		
Contingencies, taxes, legal fees, electricity, fuel, etc.	10,985.87		
Contribution to mosquito control	3,200.00		
Dow's Lake Boathouse			
Ordinary maintenance	1,200.00		
Extraordinary maintenance	2,317.14		
Maintenance--parks, driveways, etc.	101,662.65		
Acquisition of property	1,150.00		
War Risk Insurance	900.00	\$153,044.03	
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Government Grounds			
Rideau Hall grounds	16,731.11		
National Research Council, Sussex Street	4,835.84		
National Research Council, Montreal Road	4,583.90		
Gatineau Park	16,548.18		
Maintenance--Government Grds.	80,244.47		
Machinery, gas. and repairs	876.96		
Contingencies and supplies	5,132.27		
	128,952.73		
Refund of balance of 1942-43 grant	7,145.13	136,097.86	
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Miscellaneous Accountable Advances			
National Defence - Army	14,804.20		
National Defence - Navy	1,068.21		
National Defence - Air	2,302.47		
Public Works	12,321.19		
National Research Council	2,110.20		
Bank of Canada	5,250.51		
Civic Hospital	7,049.29		
Wartime Housing Limited	17,064.45		
Gatineau Snow Ploughing	155.15		
Mosquito Control	6,444.35		
	68,570.02		
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Refunds of balances of 1942-43 advances			
National Defence - Navy	\$833.27		
R. C. M. P.	101.55	934.82	69,504.84
			\$358,646.73
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Balance, March 31, 1944			
Statutory Grant		146,841.09	
Government Grds. - to be refunded to Receiver General		4,547.27	
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Miscellaneous Accountable Advances			
Bank of Canada	695.14		
Wartime Housing Limited	435.55		
Mosquito Control	3,400.70		
Gatineau Snow Ploughing	262.47	4,793.86	156,182.22
			\$514,828.95
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Statement of Investments in Securities and  
Cash Balance as at March 31, 1944

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CASH

At Bank of Montreal, Ottawa

Savings Account		\$87,721.97	
General Account	\$13,998.50		
Plus: Outstanding Deposit	<u>31.10</u>		
	14,029.60		
Less: Outstanding Cheques	<u>16,569.35</u>	<u>2,539.75</u>	
			\$ 85,182.22

INVESTMENTS

1½% Dominion of Canada bonds due Nov. 1, 1946	65,000.00		
1½% Dominion of Canada bonds due May 1, 1947	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>71,000.00</u>	
			<u>\$156,182.22</u>

Statement of Expenditure for maintenance of the  
Parkway System 1943-44

Island Park Drive.....	\$ 16,714.45
Rideau Canal Driveway.....	18,700.61
Experimental Farm Drive.....	7,680.21
King Edward Avenue & park.....	4,007.66
Lady Grey Drive.....	5,899.04
Confederation Park.....	1,655.48
Rockcliffe Park.....	10,829.68
Macdonald Gardens.....	4,317.37
Echo Drive.....	7,410.10
Dow's Lake Park.....	5,728.89
Strathcona Park.....	3,650.30
Eastview Park.....	3,306.09
Lake Flora Park.....	914.40
Bronson Park.....	990.40
Parc Jacques Cartier.....	2,419.12
Val Tetreau Park.....	963.70
Somerset Street Park.....	934.55
Central Park.....	<u>5,540.60</u>
	<u>\$101,662.65</u>