

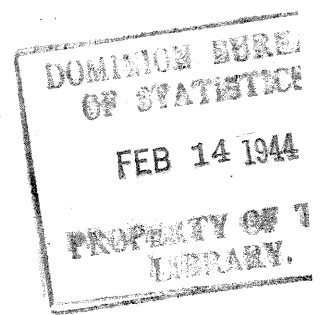
Federal District Commission

OTTAWA, CANADA



FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

1942-1943



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FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION
OTTAWA CANADA

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
1942--1943

2.
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-fourth Annual Report of
the Federal District Commission for the
fiscal year 1942-43 in accordance with the
provisions of the Federal District Commis-
sion 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
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 1942-43

The work of the Federal District Commission during 1942-1943 in connection with the parks and parkways was 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 extremely heavy 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.

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.....	200	"
Total.....	1,216	"
Total Undeveloped.....	332	"
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 Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. It extends northwesterly 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. The Commission further contributed in this connection by filling in a disused artificial lake in Major's Hill Park which was supplied with water from the city mains. A considerable saving in water was thus affected and at the same time a breeding place for mosquitoes was eliminated. At a later date, this site will be suitably improved in the form of a sunken garden. Lack of manpower and the difficulty of securing parts for motor transport vehicles handicapped work to a great extent.

In Gatineau Park a small force of five rangers carried out duties as police officers, fire guards, and game wardens.

Elgin Street Widening at Cartier Square

The Commission extended the widening of Elgin Street on its east side from Laurier Avenue West to Nepean Street, on Cartier Square, at the cost to the Commission of \$5,051.29. This improvement provides adequate entrance facilities to the newly-erected Naval Building on this Square and will save about \$5,000 which would have been wasted had temporary approaches been built to this building and later removed for the street widening operations. The Commission has recommended that the widening of Elgin Street be extended to Lisgar Street after the war in accordance with the Greber Plan. The Province of Ontario has kindly co-operated in the matter by granting the use for this purpose of the necessary land adjoining Elgin Street in front of the former Normal School.

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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 re-imbursement 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.

Department of Public Works

Aylmer Building--Slater Street

The courtyard of this building was filled, graded, rolled, and surface drainage provided for by the installation of a catch basin and drain at a cost of \$93.00.

Daly Building Annex

The improvements to the grounds of this building consisting of 100 cubic yards of filling, 550 square yards of grading and sodding, 100 square yards of hard surface walks and iron pipe fencing. The cost amounted to \$526.00.

Temporary War Building No. 1

At the west end of this building improvements to an existing fire exit were constructed consisting of an outside stair, protecting fence and metal gates at a cost of \$283.00.

Temporary War Building No. 4

The grounds of this new building were improved by earth and stone filling, grading, sodding and the construction of roadway pavements, concrete curbing, black top sidewalks and surface drainage catch basins at a cost of \$1,971.

Temporary War Building No. 5

For the improvements to the grounds of this building the following work was carried out: concrete curbing of 2,150 feet, concrete gutter slabs of 200 feet, asphalt surface of 2,100 square yards, crushed stone surface of 4,000 square yards, black top sidewalks of 310 square yards, sodding of 2,850 square yards, grading and seeding for 3,150 square yards, stone filling of 1,000 cubic yards, earth filling of 360 cubic yards, catch basins of 6 units, sewer connections, water services of 950 feet and repairs to under walk for a total cost of \$9,110.00.

Temporary War Building No. 6

The following details of construction were carried out as improvements to the grounds of this building: sodding for 2,070 square yards; earth filling, 200 cubic yards; concrete motor car bumper, 1,000 feet; concrete curbing, 490 feet; parking area, 1,200 square yards; concrete stairway from MacKenzie Avenue to parking area; and water service, 920 feet at a cost of \$3,207.00.

Temporary War Building No. 7

Works to improve the grounds of this building situated on Green Island adjoining Sussex Street consisting of grading and seeding, 3,000 square yards; top soil, 300 cubic yards; roadway, 850 square yards; hard surface sidewalks, 90 square yards; wooden fence; sodding, 300 square yards were carried out at a cost of \$1,208.00.

Snow Removal at Naval and R. C. A. Force Buildings

Snow was removed from all the roadways, sidewalks, courtyards, and steps of the new Naval and R. C. A. F. buildings on Cartier Square. Sanding of icy surfaces was also done as required. The total cost for the winter was \$1,400.00.

The total cost of these jobs for the Department of Public Works was \$17,758.61.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

To permit uninterrupted winter travel to the barracks of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, east of Rockcliffe Park, the Commission kept the driveway section from Acacia Avenue to the barracks free of snow at a cost of \$449.00.

Bank of Canada

The grounds, walks, and courtyards of the Bank of Canada on Sparks and Wellington Streets were maintained both in summer and winter at a cost of \$597.00.

Naval War Building

Improvements to the grounds of the new Naval Building, Cartier Square, including grading, sodding, construction of paved roads, signs, concrete curbing, and catch basins, were carried out, the cost of which was \$9,642.00.

Royal Canadian Air Force Building

Details of the improvements to the grounds of this building situated on Lisgar Street adjoining Cartier Square are as follows: 2,290 square yards of asphalt roadways, 1,135 cubic yards of earth and stone filling, 1,500 feet of concrete curbing, 4,600 square yards of sodding, two catch basins, 2,025 square yards of concrete sidewalk, one concrete culvert, and one large tree removed. The total cost was \$7,206.00.

Wartime Housing Limited

The Wartime Housing Limited in 1941 constructed 150 small wooden houses in Wrightville, 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. The work, for the first unit of fifty houses, consisting of sub-grading, adding top soil, seeding, fencing, constructing hard top walks and entrances, was carried out in 1942 at a cost of \$4,270.00.

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. Short distances 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 \$510.00. The Commission was fully reimbursed for this expenditure by the Municipality of West Hull and other organizations desirous of this service.

National Research Council

Metcalf Road

The grounds of the Field Station adjacent to the Metcalf Road were graded and sodded and a surface dressing of fertilizer added. The area treated in this way was 18,000 square feet and the cost was \$723.00.

Montreal Road

The following additional work was carried out in improving the grounds of new buildings of the council at this location: grading and seeding, 12,550 square yards, hard surface roads, 1,060 square yards, and water service installations, 1,210 feet at a total cost of \$2,205.00.

Ottawa Civic Hospital

The grounds of the Ottawa Civic Hospital, of about 15 acres, are maintained by the Commission at cost. The sum of \$5,729.00 was expended during the year on this work, all of which was repaid to the Commission by the Hospital.

Mosquito Control

Mosquito Control work was carried out as in past years over an area of approximately 100 square miles centered on Ottawa. During the spring and early summer of 1942, a combination of favorable conditions made the work relatively easy. The winter's snow melted rapidly, spring floods were not abnormal and there were extensive periods of dry weather in April and May. Also it was still possible to obtain men for spraying operations and the usual campaign of oiling was carried out in all the low-lying areas in the district. The net results were quite good and there was very little complaint from the general public as regards outbreaks of mosquitoes.

Because of the above conditions the expenditure on oiling operations was not as great as usual so that more money was available for construction work such as drainage and underbrushing. More of this kind of work was carried out than for some years in the past. It includes the underbrushing of some 60 acres in the Rockcliffe Annex area just north of the R. C. M. Police Barracks and the eastern part of Rockcliffe Park, and the completion of a very badly needed ditch which drains the greater part of Beechwood Cemetery property bordering Hemlock Road. Results of several seasons' work in this area are already proving their worth in that considerably less oil is needed each year to properly cover this part of the district.

\$6,717.41 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 from the County of Carleton. Additional revenue resulted from the renting of a truck belong to the Mosquito Control authority in off seasons.

Planting

The Commission produced in hot frames at Rockcliffe greenhouses 92,000 annuals and perennial flowering plants which were distributed to the various parks and other grounds under its control. 55,500 tulip bulbs were set out in the fall of 1942; of these, 36,000 comprised a gift from Seymour Copley Ltd., England, a firm of bulb growers, who made this

Planting (cont'd)

donation as a token of gratitude of the English people for Canada's war effort. In the previous year, a similar gift of 27,000 tulip bulbs was received from this firm. 9,000 canna bulbs were also placed in the parks.

The Commission's nursery supplied the following stock to the parkway system:

Flowering shrubs.....	7,100
Conifers.....	1,305
Deciduous trees.....	91
Vines.....	305

In the fall of 1942 the Commission secured from the Province of Ontario 18,000 seedling deciduous trees which were planted on the steep northerly slope of the Parliament Hill grounds on the bank of the Ottawa River. Special soil pockets were prepared on the rocky escarpment for this purpose.

Policing of Commission Property

'A' Division, Ottawa, of the 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 the driveways.

Under this by-law the police reported the following offences during the year 1942-43:

Convictions.....	83
Warnings.....	280
Pending.....	<u>1</u>

364

In addition, numerous complaints were attended to, car accidents on Federal District Commission property investigated and particulars taken. Assistance was given to the Ontario Provincial Police and Ottawa City Police, stolen cars and bicycles recovered, together with numerous extra duties, such as escorting notables, militia troops and convoys.

Total amount of fines imposed for infractions of the Federal District Commission By-Laws and Ontario Traffic Act amounted to \$864.

The main excorts supplied to notables during the year (by motorcycles) were:

Policing of Commission Property (cont'd)

Her Royal Highness Queen Wilhelmina of the
Netherlands

His Royal Highness King George of Greece

His Royal Highness King Peter of Yugoslavia

Funeral of the late United States Minister
to Canada.

The Commission recovered the amount of \$1,012.32
for damage to its property through vandalism and other
causes.

Financial Statements

FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION

RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS for the FISCAL YEAR
ended MARCH 31, 1943

Receipts

Cash in Bank, April 1, 1942 - Statutory Grant \$ 67,228.63

Statutory Grant

Dominion Government,

Statutory Grant

\$200,000.00

Interest on Bank Balance

302.03

Miscellaneous Receipts

8,554.70

\$208,856.73

Government Grounds

Dominion Government, Vote 62 133,500.00

133,500.00

Miscellaneous Accountable Advances

Public Works Department 17,851.00

R. C. M. P. Snow Ploughing 600.00

Bank of Canada 509.53

Naval Building, Cartier Square 10,500.00

Air Force Building 8,250.00

Wartime Housing Limited 4,270.49

Gatineau Snow Ploughing 513.02

National Research Council,

Metcalfe Road

723.23

National Research Council,

Montreal Road

2,205.48

Civic Hospital No. 1

5,534.76

Civic Hospital No. 2

228.00

Mosquito Control

4,442.46

55,627.99

397,984.72

\$465,213.35

Disbursements

Statutory Grant

Staff Salaries	\$ 18,430.00	
Greenhouse operations	6,348.10	
Maintenance of Parks, etc., including King Edward Park	131,095.20	
Machinery, Repairs, etc.	5,536.20	
Nursery operations	4,258.27	
Contingencies	7,898.39	
Mosquito Control	3,200.00	
Dow's Lake Boathouse	1,311.96	
Cartier Square	5,051.29	
Acquisition of Property	<u>4,455.00</u>	\$187,584.41

Government Grounds

Rideau Hall Grounds	17,216.53	
National Research Council, Sussex Street	5,227.32	
National Research Council, Montreal Road	3,952.19	
Maintenance--Government Grds.	76,138.35	
Machinery, Repairs, etc.	313.51	
Contingencies	6,687.99	
Gatineau Park	<u>16,788.98</u>	126,354.87

Miscellaneous Accountable Advances

Public Works Department	17,758.61	
R.C.M.P. Snow Ploughing	498.45	
Bank of Canada	597.20	
Naval Building, Cartier Square	9,642.36	
Air Force Building	7,206.16	
Wartime Housing Limited	4,270.49	
Gatineau Snow Ploughing	510.40	
National Research Council, Metcalf Road	723.23	
National Research Council, Montreal Road	2,205.48	
Civic Hospital No. 1	5,534.78	
Civic Hospital No. 2	192.00	
Mosquito Control	<u>3,517.41</u>	<u>52,656.57</u> 366,595.85

Cash in Bank, March 31, 1943

Statutory Grant	88,500.95	
Government Grounds--to be re- funded to Receiver General	7,145.13	
Miscellaneous Accountable Advances	<u>2,971.42</u>	<u>98,617.50</u>
		<u>\$465,213.35</u>

Statement of Expenditure for maintenance of the
Parkway System, 1942--43

Island Park Drive.....	\$ 21,469.40
Experimental Farm Drive.....	11,470.87
Confederation Park.....	2,599.64
Dow's Lake Park.....	4,498.45
Rideau Canal Driveway.....	26,932.68
Echo Drive.....	9,370.00
Central Park.....	6,143.36
Parc Jacques Cartier.....	1,596.47
Bronson Park.....	659.49
Dundonald Park.....	589.98
Parc Val Tetreau.....	686.42
Parc Fontaine.....	922.50
Rockcliffe Park.....	11,614.08
Lady Grey Drive.....	9,874.05
MacDonald Gardens.....	2,472.02
Nicholas Park.....	1,846.21
Strathcona Park.....	3,834.08
King Edward Park.....	9,555.25
Kingsview Park.....	<u>2,234.99</u>
	<u>\$128,369.94</u>