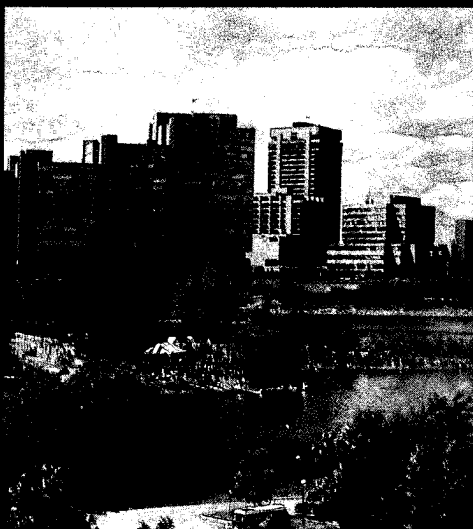




National Capital
Commission

Commission
de la Capitale nationale

EXPLORE HULL – OLD AND NEW



Canada

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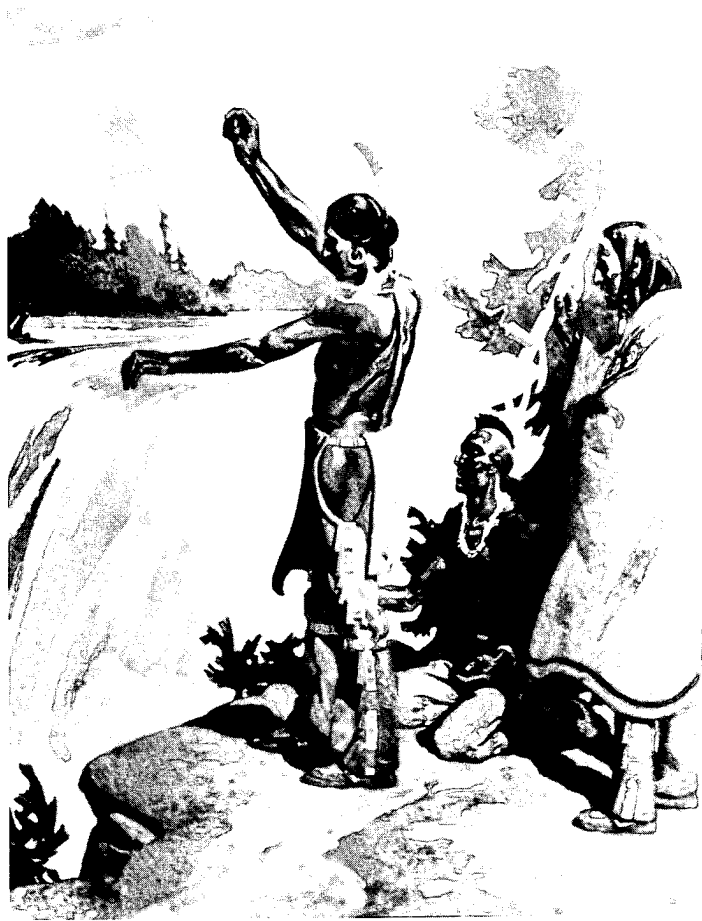
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*The "Petun" (tobacco) sacrifice
at the Chaudière Falls
PAC C6090*



1

HULL: A BRIEF HISTORY

INDIANS, EXPLORERS AND SETTLERS



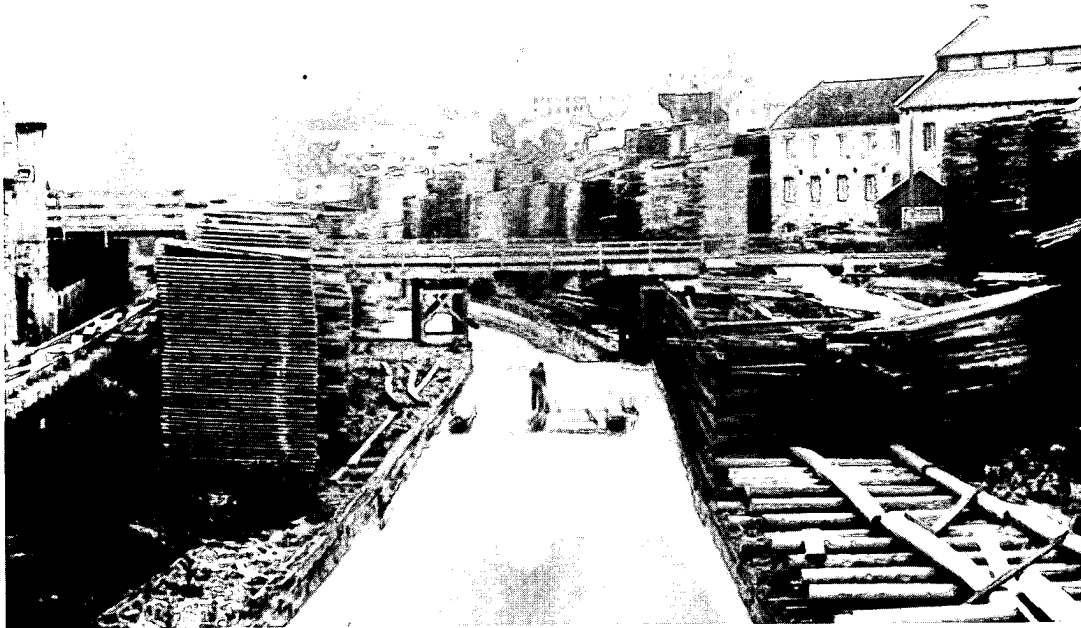
Before the arrival of the first European explorers in the early seventeenth century, Algonkin Indians inhabited the area surrounding what is now Hull. In their travels up and down the Ottawa River, the Indians paused at the awesome Chaudière Falls to perform a ritual sacrifice called rites of passage. A collection of tobacco was taken and with much singing and dancing they called on the gods to grant safe passage and protection from enemy ambush. The tobacco was then hurled into the churning waters as an offering, called the "Petun" sacrifice, to the great spirit in the falls.

Samuel de Champlain journeyed up the Ottawa River past the Chaudière Falls in 1613 on his search for a route to the Western Sea. He is said to have compared the Rideau Falls to a curtain, "rideau" in French. Champlain learned that the Indians called the Chaudière Falls, "Asticou" or boiling pot, which in French, is "Chaudière." Champlain was soon followed by explorers, missionaries and fur traders, who used the Ottawa River as the main route westward and to the interior of the continent.

By mid-seventeenth century, the fur trade had started up the Ottawa River. Voyageurs transported furs down the river to the markets at Montreal and Québec City. They ran all but the worst stretches of river, bypassing the Chaudière Falls and Rapids by means of several portages on the north shore, used by the explorers and Indians before them. With the arrival of colonists in the nineteenth century, the fur trade became less important in the area, though the Ottawa River remained the major transportation route for those bringing furs from the interior.

The first settlement in the area dates back to 1800, when Philemon Wright arrived from Massachusetts with his small group consisting mainly of family and friends. They made their new home on the north shore of the Ottawa River, just below the Chaudière Falls.

The little colony prospered, becoming known as Wright's Town. It remained a farming community until about 1806 when Wright floated a raft of timber down the Ottawa and St.



*Timber slide at the Chaudière
c.1878-1882
PAC 12560*

Lawrence Rivers to the Port of Québec where he sold it for shipment to Britain. This marked the beginning of what would become the vast Ottawa Valley timber trade. The timber was squared and then assembled in units of about 20, called cribs. As many as 70 to 80 cribs were fastened together into a raft. At large rapids, and falls, the cribs were untied and passed one by one through slides. The last raft of squared timber passed through the Chaudière slide in 1908.



The community grew steadily and by the middle of the nineteenth century, sawmills and mill yards occupied all available spots around the Falls. Ezra Butler Eddy arrived from the United States in the 1850s and established a match and then a pail factory. He built a large sawmill at the Chaudière Falls and later, a paper mill. Soon pulp and paper became the main industry in the area.

In addition to the timber industry, axes and cement were made in Hull. Blasdell broad axes were standard equipment for the lumbermen and the Wrights had made cement since 1830. Cement and tools are still produced in Hull today.

In 1875 Wright's Town was incorporated as a city and took the name of Hull. Despite its English-speaking origins, in 1870 Hull's population was 50 percent French-speaking, and by 1920, almost 90 percent.

The city's natural growth and development was severely curtailed by several fires which ravaged it in 1875, 1880, 1888 and 1900. The latter was the worst, destroying more than two-thirds of the built up area. These disasters severely retarded the development of Hull.

Meanwhile, across the Ottawa River, Ottawa had been named the Capital of the Dominion of Canada and had undergone new developments, such as the construction of the Parliament Buildings and other government buildings.

PLANNING AND REDEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of the twentieth century, steps were taken to beautify Ottawa and plan for its future growth with the establishment of the Ottawa Improvement Commission. Hull was largely ignored until the Sir Henry Holt Commission was established in 1913. This Commission was given the mandate to draw up a plan for the future growth of the cities of Ottawa and Hull and their environs. It was the first scheme to consider Hull as a part of the Capital.

The Federal District Commission (FDC) replaced the Ottawa Improvement Commission

in 1927. Although the FDC was granted broader powers, federal involvement in Hull only resulted in the establishment of Gatineau Park.

The Second World War had brought temporary economic prosperity to Hull. Textile, garment and metal industries flourished. Post-war conditions, however, brought radical economic changes and by the 1950s the manufacturing sector had deteriorated. Some firms left the city while others just closed down. The role of industry was decreasing and more and more people were finding employment with federal government agencies on the Ottawa side of the river.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King had invited the eminent French urban planner, Jacques Gréber, to work with Canadian counterparts to develop a long-range plan for the development of the Capital. The FDC began to implement Gréber's plan and this work was continued by the National Capital Commission when it replaced the FDC in 1958. Although Gréber had envisaged a unified Capital extending across both sides of the Ottawa River, emphasis was placed on development in Ottawa. From 1950 to 1970 considerable progress was made in Ottawa but Hull was still largely disregarded.

Inclusion in the National Capital Region had brought few benefits to Hull and the two cities remained separated, geographically by the Ottawa River, and politically by the provincial boundary. With the majority of federal public servants working in Ottawa, that city was economically far healthier than its neighbour on the north shore.

In 1969, proper steps were taken to correct the disparities between the two cities and to integrate Hull into the Capital's core. At a constitutional conference, Prime Minister Trudeau and the 10 provincial ministers officially declared that "the cities of Ottawa and Hull and their surrounding areas shall be the Canadian Capital Area". As a result, a proposal to redevelop Hull's downtown area to create an integrated urban core and a unified administrative centre on both sides of the river was approved.

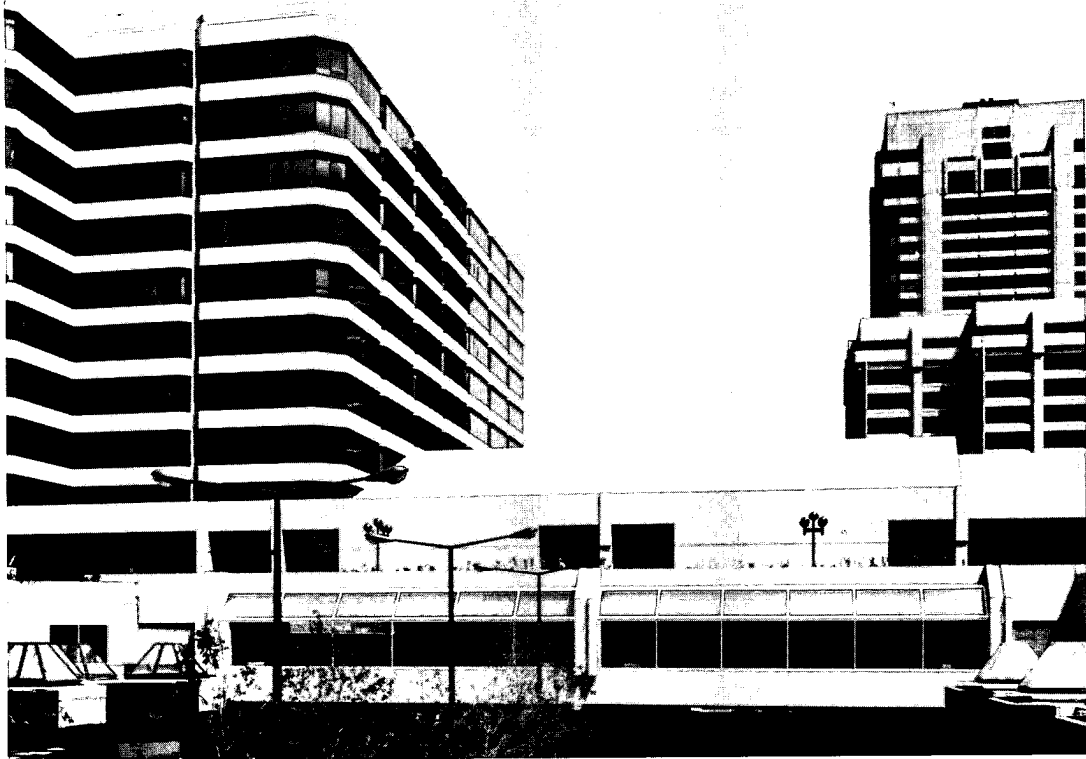
The National Capital Core Area Plan was formulated by the Commission between 1969 and 1971. The focus of the Plan was on further development of the heart of the Capital and the first step was to rebuild the urban centre of Hull. Studies were undertaken and plans prepared for a 15-year redevelopment program. In 1969, the National Capital Commission acquired six hectares of land in the centre of Hull for future federal government buildings. Development of the site was co-ordinated with work proposed by the Government of Québec on 1.4 hectares of land adjacent to the federal acquisition.

The federal and provincial governments also collaborated on improving the highway network on the Québec side of the river. This included building two new highways and the Portage Bridge, financed by the NCC, which was a key link in the new core concept. Along with the above-ground developments, a new underground infrastructure was necessary to service the increasing population on the Québec side of the river. Cost-sharing agreements between all levels of government have resulted in improved sewage and water facilities.

As a result of expropriations undertaken by the federal and provincial governments for the construction of new buildings and streets on Hull Island, some 3,400 persons living in 924 dwellings were relocated. Of the buildings demolished, 70 percent were residential and 30 percent commercial.

By 1981, there were about 19,000 federal government employees working in Hull representing about 18 percent of the total federal employment in the NCR.

This redevelopment and considerable work on the new infrastructure to serve Hull, Aylmer and Gatineau, has given the north shore a new face and the National Capital a new flavour. Hull and surrounding area now have a viable central economic base and can take their rightful place as an integral component of the National Capital.



*View of Place d'Accueil and
Place du Centre with Place du
Portage I and II to the rear right
NCC photo*

2

HULL'S NEW CORE

PLACE DU PORTAGE

The largest of Hull's new complexes is Place du Portage. All four phases are occupied by federal ministries and agencies and the lower two floors are public levels with shops and restaurants.

Place du Portage I, completed in 1973, was the first of the new buildings. This 24-storey tower at the eastern end of the old central business district houses Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada, as well as some Supply and Services, Health and Welfare, and Public Works staff.

Place du Portage II, the 13-storey companion structure to Phase I is home to Labour Canada and some Consumer and Corporate Affairs staff.

Place du Portage III, occupied by Supply and Services Canada, consists of six office towers straddling Maisonneuve Boulevard. All are linked by a tri-level walkway above the street.

Place du Portage IV, housing Employment and Immigration Canada, has an unusual terraced design based on solar studies and energy conservation techniques. Its two levels of commercial and public space face Promenade du Portage and Laurier Street.



PLACE DU CENTRE

This private sector development opened in 1978. It houses a large shopping centre, a convention centre and two office towers occupied by provincial and federal departments and agencies.

The Place du Centre shopping centre, also known as Les Halles, houses 76 stores and boutiques on two levels. Above the centre is the Palais des congrès, a convention centre managed by the City of Hull.

The Jos Montferrand Building is an 11-storey structure housing provincial departments

and agencies, including the Palais de Justice, a provincial court house, on the lower four floors.

The federal building in Place du Centre is a nine-storey office tower occupied by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion.

The NCC contributed to the landscaping of public outdoor areas and to the construction of pedestrian walkways linking the public levels of Place du Centre with those of Place du Portage, Place d'Accueil and Maison du Citoyen.

MAISON DU CITOYEN

Built by the City of Hull, the eight storeys of Maison du Citoyen house a combination of the region's and city's administrative services, such as the Outaouais Development Corporation and the Outaouais Regional Community. It also provides multi-purpose space for social and cultural activities, including Galerie Montcalm, an art gallery for regional artists. It replaces Hull's old city hall, destroyed by fire in 1970.

LES TERRASSES DE LA CHAUDIÈRE

Located at the western end of Hull's old downtown core, Les Terrasses de la Chaudière consists of a hotel and three towers of federal government offices, home of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Environment Departments. The 13-storey hotel is called Plaza de la Chaudière. The buildings are connected by a network of public and commercial spaces at the lower level and also by an underground service network.

EDDY SQUARE

The City of Hull developed Eddy Square in 1978 partly as a city park and partly as a public transportation terminal. The project also included the reconstruction of the Laurier/Eddy intersection to align Laurier Street with Taché Boulevard.

PLACE D'ACCUEIL	This provides an unloading point for the public transportation systems to two levels; pedestrians and vehicles are separated. It links the two sides of Maisonneuve Blvd. and at the same time completes the indoor and outdoor links between the various public areas in the buildings of the Place du Portage complex and Place du Centre.
PLACE AUBRY	Located between Place du Portage III and IV, Place Aubry is designed as an extension of Place d'Accueil as a public area. It also links Place d'Accueil with Promenade du Portage, the main commercial artery in downtown Hull. It is named after Dr. S. Edmond Aubry, mayor of Hull from 1894 to 1895. The square fronts on Aubry Street.
PROMENADE DU PORTAGE	This street has had many names. It was originally called Queen's Highway, then Main Street. After Hull became predominantly French Canadian, it was called rue Principale. In September 1978, it was renamed Promenade du Portage in honour of the early explorers and voyageurs who portaged nearby.
PERSPECTIVE 24 - A BIRD'S EYE VIEW	Located on the 24th floor of Place du Portage Phase I, Perspective 24 is an observation room offering a spectacular view of the Ottawa and Hull skylines, the Ottawa River and surrounding area. Admission is free and it is open Monday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



*The Capital's French Quarter – a
charming people place
NCC photo*

3

OLD HULL



Despite the influx of English-speaking civil servants, and the effect of modern architecture, a special effort has been made to maintain the French-speaking character of Hull and its French Canadian heritage. Many streets and alleys are reminiscent of old Quebec City and City Hall is giving enthusiastic support to restaurateurs, merchants and property owners who are working to create the Capital's French Quarter. During the summer, sections of Aubry Street and Kent Street between Promenade du Portage and Laval Street are closed and benches, tables and flowers are installed to encourage passers-by to linger, browse through boutiques and sip a glass of wine at one of the sidewalk cafés.

Many vestiges of Hull's heritage still remain to be enjoyed by visitors. Here are a few of them:

EDDY PARK

In Eddy Park, near the corner of Taché Boulevard and St-Rédempteur Street, a stone plinth with a bronze plaque bears the likeness of Philemon Wright. It was unveiled in 1950 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Hull. The monument stands in what used to be the Town Square, where Wright called meetings of his settlers.

BREWERY CREEK

Brewery Creek, named after a brewery which once stood on its banks, is a channel of the Ottawa River that begins above the Chaudière and surrounds the main part of old Hull, making it an island. Indians are said to have used it sometimes as a route to bypass the falls. Downtown Hull lies in the southern portion of Hull Island. Plans are being formulated to develop this waterway along the lines of the Rideau Canal, so that by the end of the 80s it too will have recreational paths, market places and other attractions for citizens and visitors alike.

*Hull's historic waterworks building – now a small theatre
NCC photo*



THÉÂTRE DE L'ÎLE

Located at 1 Wellington Street, this stone building dating from 1886 was originally the Hull waterworks. With support from the NCC, it has been converted into a small theatre seating over 100 people. It is owned and operated by the City of Hull.

SITE OF PHILEMON WRIGHT'S HOUSE

Just west of Brewery Creek a lovely twin-peaked stone house sits in spacious grounds. It is the site of Philemon Wright's original home. When Wright died in 1839, his son, Tiberius, inherited the house and lived there until his death in 1841. It then passed to Wright's granddaughter, Nancy Louisa, who married John Scott, first mayor of Bytown (1847). The original building burned in 1849 and the present house on the site is said to date from 1852.

ST. JAMES CEMETERY

Further west on Taché Boulevard lies this historic cemetery where two pioneers, one of Ottawa and one of Hull, rest side by side. Philemon Wright, the founder of Hull, and Nicholas Sparks, an Irishman who came to the area in 1816 to work for the Wrights. Sparks married the widow of Philemon Wright's son and in about 1826 moved his family to the south shore of the Ottawa River where he became a major landowner in what is now central Ottawa. He is commemorated by Sparks Street — the downtown pedestrian mall.

MILESTONE

A milestone flanked by two plaques stands at the beginning of the Gatineau Parkway off Taché Boulevard. Inscribed "1M 1820", it was erected in 1820 to mark the point one mile from Philemon Wright's house on the old Britannia Road, now the Aylmer Road.

ALEXANDRA BRIDGE

Also called the Interprovincial Bridge, this 569 metre cantilever bridge is 15 metres above the Ottawa River. When it opened in 1901, it was considered the greatest in Canada. It was built by the Pontiac and Pacific Junction Railway for combined railway, electric tram, highway and pedestrian use. It ceased to carry trains in 1967 when the tracks were removed as part of the Gréber Plan.

Today, a section of the bridge is used by pedestrians and cyclists only and forms a part of the Capital's system of recreational pathways. The bridge affords fine views of both cities as well as the Ottawa River and Chaudière Falls.



*Hôtel-de-Ville Park – where a
summer reflecting pool
becomes a winter skating rink
NCC photo*

4

HULL PARKS

BRÉBEUF PARK



This peaceful park on the Ottawa River lies at the end of Bégin Street off Taché Boulevard. A statue of the martyred St-Jean de Brébeuf dominates the park. Brébeuf was born in 1593 and came to New France as a Jesuit missionary to the Hurons, passing by the Chaudière portages on his way. He was killed by the Iroquois near Georgian Bay in 1640.

At the east end of the park stands the Paddle Monument, a memorial to the voyageurs. A plaque 200 yards downriver marks the remains of one of the original portages used by the voyageurs for 200 years after Champlain's historic passage in 1613. In the steepest parts of the path, visitors can still see the crude stone steps placed there by these early travellers.

HÔTEL-DE-VILLE PARK

Located between Place du Portage I and II and Maison du Citoyen, this is the site of the old city hall which was destroyed by fire in 1970. The property is now used by the federal government as an underground garage. The roof of the garage, at ground level, has been turned into a park with fountains and a reflecting pool which becomes a skating rink in winter

LAURIER PARK

An important stage in the redevelopment of the Hull core involved the relocation of part of the E.B. Eddy Company from its site opposite Parliament Hill. In 1972, the NCC bought 17.6 hectares of this property and cleared it of its log piles and obsolete sulphite plant. The area is now Laurier Park, a large open green space with several interesting sculptures including the remains of the sulphite mill tower, and a fine view of the Ottawa skyline. It is the site selected for the new Museum of Man.

*"In Grandmother's Day" – one of the attractions in Jacques Cartier Park
NCC photo*



JACQUES CARTIER PARK

On the other side of the Alexandra Bridge from Laurier Park, lies Jacques Cartier Park. It offers fine views across to the Rideau Falls and the Ottawa skyline and will soon provide a marina for pleasure boaters.

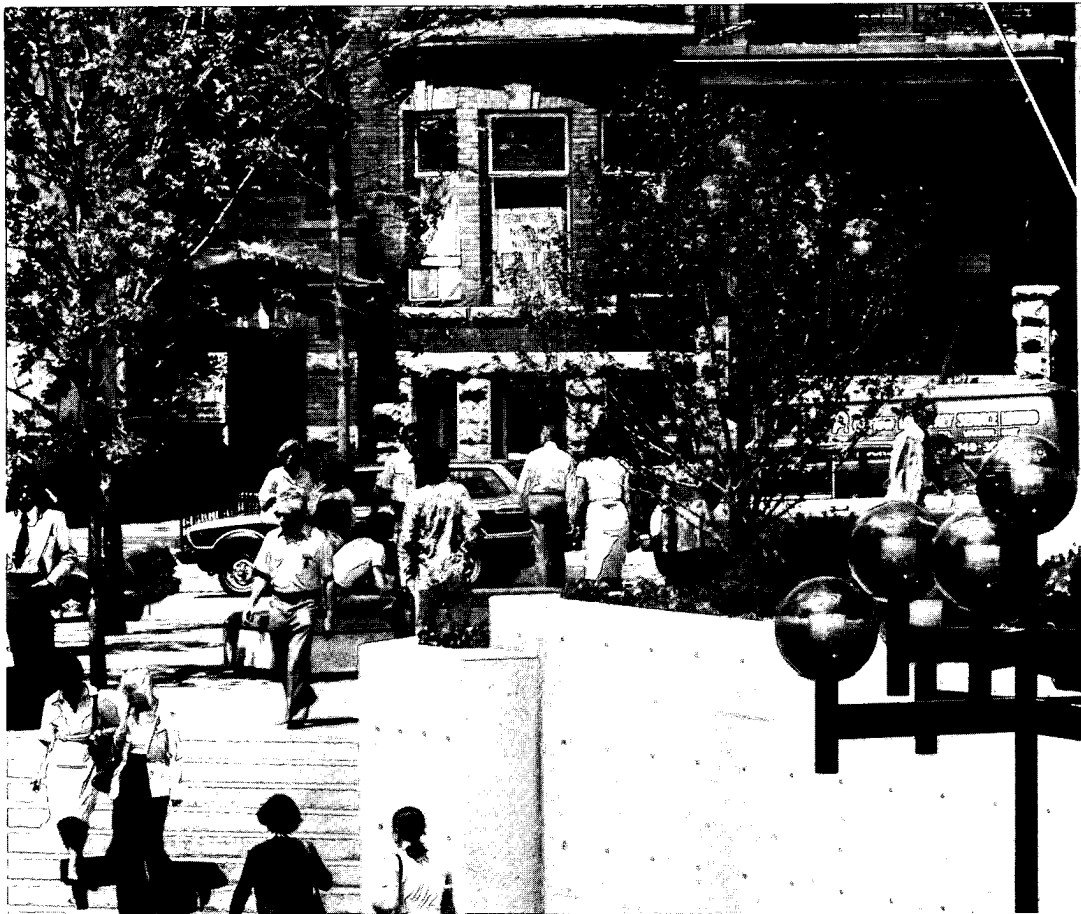
LEAMY LAKE PARK

This beautiful 133 hectare park on Leamy Lake and the Ottawa and Gatineau Rivers, offers both natural and forested areas and large open spaces for group activities. Facilities include a beach, canteen, washrooms, showers, picnic tables and fireplaces.

LAC DES FÉES PARK

On the edge of Hull, Lac des Fées forms the main point of entry to Gatineau Park, the Region's beautiful wilderness playground, and its extensive trail system.





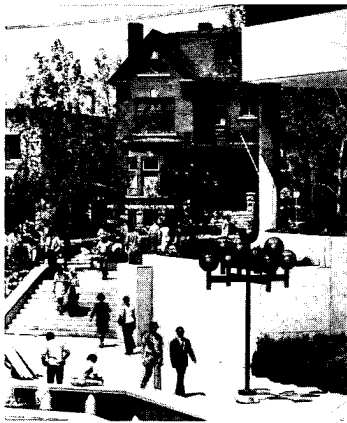
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VISITOR SERVICES

PARKING

Underground parking is available beneath Hotel-de-Ville Park and beneath the intersection of Laurier and Maisonneuve boulevards. There are also parking facilities for shoppers in Place du Centre.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES



*Hull's redeveloped core has pleasant areas for office workers, residents and visitors
NCC photo*

The NCC and the Outaouais Tourist Association operate an information centre during the summer in Place du Portage II, fronting on the reflecting pool of Hotel-de-Ville Park. For more information, contact:

The Outaouais Tourist Association
10 Leduc Street
Hull (Québec)
(819) 778-2222

National Capital Commission
161 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa (Ontario)
(613) 992-4231

NCC Visitors' Reception Centre
14 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa (Ontario)
(613) 992-5473

