

RESTORATION PROJECT IN OLD MONTREAL



Condition of Stables before the restoration work started.



Youville Stables today. Old World architecture accommodates modern enterprises.

To say that Youville Stables is a restoration project in the heart of Old Montreal is accurate, but an understatement. More than historic buildings are being restored.

Brought back to life is a business and social environment such as existed on the site 200 years ago. Other offices, shops and fine restaurants are facilities that will restore the old Pointe-à-Callières district to its former prominence in the everyday life of the city. The largest single undertaking of urban development in Old Montreal, Youville Stables is a complex started in June of confederation year 1967 to lead off the revival of a living and functional community on this historic location.

Work has been keyed to the dramatic plans for civic restoration of the whole surrounding district from Place d'Youville to the waterfront, from McGill Street to Place Royale.

BUILDINGS ALREADY IN USE

Three buildings of the Youville Stables project are already completely restored and prominent Montreal business and commercial firms are occupying much of the available space. Old World architecture and charm serve today to house modern Canadian professional and commercial enterprises. The quiet green courtyard enclosed by ancient stone walls gives a new-old dimension to the bustle of life in the downtown area.

Secretaries in miniskirts and busy executives come to work through wrought-iron gates in an ancient stone archway of one of the buildings. They look out from *oeil-de-boeuf* windows to see ancient gables and pitched roof-lines of Montreal's historic past. Steel and concrete towers of Montreal's new-world skyscrapers frame the scene.

In one wing of the complex a quality restaurant will serve not only tenants and neighbors, but tourists

and other visitors to the district. The court with its footpaths and trees allows for dining out of doors in fine weather.

Boutiques and shops of various types will meet the demands of both regular occupants of Youville Stables as well as the passing throng.

One hundred thousand square feet in a fourth, large building, still to be restored to its original beauty and design, will be converted into a modern luxury inn. Here, on the southern flank of the project, looking out across Common Street, the waterfront and the broad St. Lawrence with its Expo isles and Habitat, the most up-to-date of living will be provided in the heart of the city for both tourists and visiting business executives.

EARLY HISTORY

History in abundance is to be found here. The entrance archway to Youville Stables bears the street address 296 Place d'Youville. Early maps show this as the south bank of the Rivière St-Pierre or Little River. Cartier and Champlain came exploring on this spot. Maisonneuve with his band of original settlers here set up a crude altar of thanks when he founded the city in 1642. He spoke later of the rivulet, the open meadows and the forest where Youville Stables stands today.

The city grew, first on the north shore, then on the south of the Little River. Pointe-à-Callières it became known, after the governor who built his substantial stone home there. Docks, shipyards, foundries, warehouses of the fur trade, inns and taverns rooted themselves on the scene as they do along the shores of any great harbor. François Charon and his Hospitalier Brothers built their General Hospital of grey stone in 1693; Marie-Marguerite du Frost de la Jemmerais, veuve d'Youville took over administration