

OTTAWA — 1985

What can you expect when you return home? Will the Queensway finally be completed? Will the rapid transit system be readily accessible? And the downtown core — will it have changed dramatically? That, of course, depends upon the date of your return. To keep you informed in the interim...

CONSTRUCTION IS BOOMING IN OTTAWA

So read the headlines in an *Ottawa Citizen* article of January 15, 1985.

"Ottawa has had its share of development, but locally, it hasn't been this feverish in a decade."

"For 8 500 unionized construction workers, 1984 has been the best year since 1976," says Tom Maffatt, president of the Ottawa-Hull Building Trades Council.

In the downtown core (between Bronson and King Edward and north of Nepean Street) more than 20 construction projects, each worth more than \$10 million, are already underway. Included in these are three museums, the new provincial courthouse, a \$20 million facelift to the Chateau Laurier, eight apartment buildings and eleven office towers.

No doubt, the Ottawa skyline will be somewhat changed upon your return.

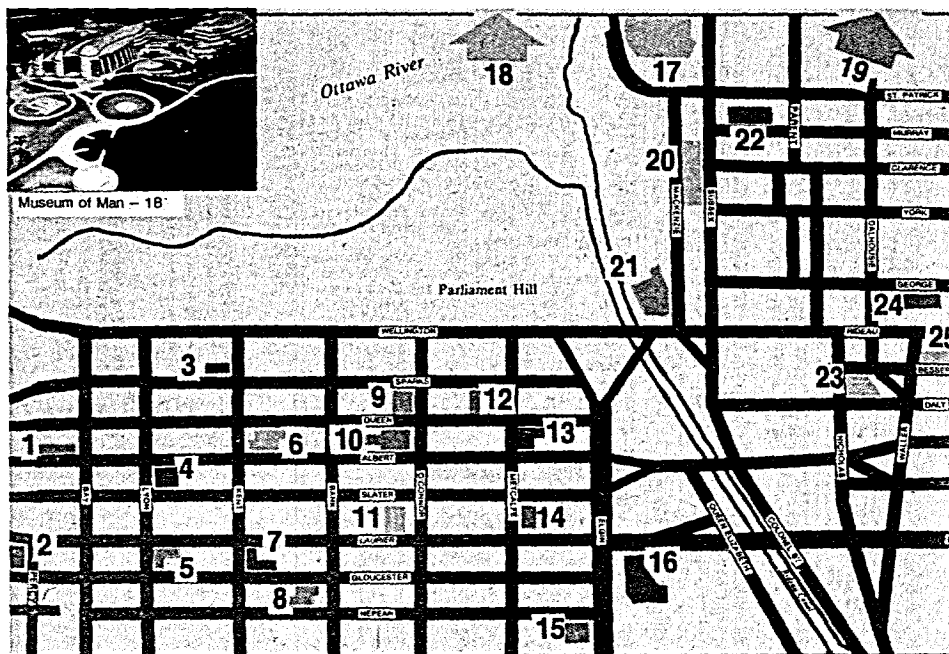
THE QUEENSWAY

The axis through the city, the fastest route from east to west, the thoroughfare upon which so many of us depend — is it our imaginations or does it always seem to be under construction?

The latest update has positive news for "east-enders" (those presently abroad, that is). Construction between St. Laurent Boulevard and Belfast Road is scheduled to begin ahead of schedule. The new rapid transit system is also passing through this area and requires an underpass just west of St. Laurent Shopping Centre. Rather than detour traffic on two different occasions, all the work will proceed at the same time — meaning it will begin in 1986 and end by 1987 and not 1990, as was originally planned.

1986-87, therefore, will not be a good year to return home. Two sections, St. Laurent-Belfast and Bronson-Main, will be under construction simultaneously.

Rather, should you have the choice, plan your return for the fall of 1988 — or better still, 1989. All disruptions, they tell us, should have ended by then.



CONSTRUCTION IN DOWNTOWN OTTAWA

Apartment Buildings — numbers 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23, 24.

Office Towers — 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

Provincial Court House — 16. It is slated for completion early in 1986.

National Gallery of Canada — 17. Construction is expected to be completed by 1987 for an opening in 1988.

The National Museum of Man — 18. An \$125 million project in Laurier Park, Hull on the Ottawa River, it is scheduled to open at about the same time as the National Gallery.

National Aviation Museum — 19. Located at the Rockcliffe Airport, the first phase, which will house a 110 airplane collection and a cafeteria, is to be completed in 1985. The second and third phases will follow.

The United States Embassy — 20. No plans have been submitted to date. They are awaiting U.S. Congressional approval.

Chateau Laurier — 21. The first phase of a \$20 million facelift which includes an \$8 million copper roof, a new portico extending almost to Wellington Street, a new front desk and a new reading room, is to be completed in 1986. The second and third phases, which include construction of a Winter Garden and a revitalized health club, will begin in 1986.

Assaly-Freedman Centre — 23. A \$75 million hotel-office-residential complex has been proposed for this site. The city has approved the concept but the final plans haven't as yet been submitted. It is expected to be completed by mid 1987.

Undecided at this time — 25.

A SOAPBOX ON SPARKS ST.

Thomas D'Arcy McGee was shot on what is now Sparks Street Mall. At that very spot, between O'Connor and Metcalfe, a Speaker's Corner, similar to the one in London's Hyde Park has just been built. "No amplification of the speakers' voices is allowed but there is a handrail for the fist-shakers and hand-slammers", says NCC spokesperson Pam Fitch. Although the idea had been tossed around before by the NCC, chairman Jean Pigott picked up on it and "loved it", says Fitch.

DID YOU KNOW?

— that Ottawa wasn't always an impressive city. In 1884, Sir Wilfrid Laurier remarked, "I would not wish to say anything disparaging of the capital, but it is hard to say anything good of it. Ottawa is not a handsome city and does not appear to be destined to become one either."

— that in 1958 the National Capital Commission was formed. Skating on the canal, bicycle paths, cross country trails, public beaches, Winterlude, the Festival of Spring, quickly followed.