

Upper Canada Village, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River in Ontario, is a reconstructed village, alive only during the summer tourist season. Early Ontario history is brought back through extensive recreation of town life as it was during the period 1795 through 1860. Ontario alone has over a dozen pioneer villages.

One of the continent's most important "village museums" is Ste. Marie. Among the Hurons, at Midland. It authentically reconstructs Ontario's first European community where six saints lived from 1639 until their deaths a decade later. Elsewhere in the district is a Huron village compound where visitors are exposed to continuous demonstrations of Huron life as it was — including the sights, sounds and odours of 300 years ago. Nearby there is even a wildlife centre.

Old crafts revived

Parts of cities serve as a museum. Among them is the Place Royale section of Quebec City, surrounding the 17th century church of Notre-Dame-des-Victoires.

The most ambitious community reconstruction project of all is the Fortress of Louisbourg, 23 miles south of Sydney, Nova Scotia. Originally a French encampment in 1713, it occupied 70 acres surrounded by a two-mile wall at times 80 feet thick. Yet it was captured by a New England force in 1745; then returned to the French; then razed in 1760 by the British. The reconstruction employs many men and women who have learned again the old arts of weaving, metal work and stone cutting, among other things.

There are numerous conventional museums. Each province has its own, and the federal government has about a dozen in Ottawa. The National Museums of Man and Natural Sciences, housed in the Victoria Memorial Museum building, were re-opened last September following five years of repairs and modernisation. This major complex is an exciting place to visit. The National Museum of Man's eight new galleries are "theme" pavilions telling the story of man's evolution, of Canada before Cartier, the Plains Indians, Inuit, Iroquois. There is a Canadian history gallery and a folk culture section showing the multi-cultural aspect of Canada. A temporary exhibit hall features visiting national, international or provincial displays.

The other half of the building, The National Museum of Natural Sciences, has eight galleries, five of which opened in late September. Their themes are the earth; life through the ages (dinosaurs, fossils, etc.); mammals in Canada; birds in Canada, and the temporary exhibit hall. In 1975, the animal life, behaviour and plant life galleries will open. As in the Museum of Man, the emphasis is on Canada, but within a world context.

Two more Ottawa museums are being planned. One, the Numismatic Museum, won't open until around 1977; until then there is a small coin and medal exhibit at the Royal Canadian Mint.

The National Postal Museum which opened in September at post office headquarters in Confederation Heights is the first of its kind in Canada. Stamps from other lands are featured, as well as Canadian stamps — the most famous being the 12 Penny Black. Worth \$40,000, it

depicts Queen Victoria at age 19. The oldest letter on show was sent by one Sumarian to another in 4,000 B.C. A heavy item by today's mail standards, this is a clay tablet, covered by a clay "envelope." Hieroglyphics can be seen (if not read) on its exterior; a corner of the outer tablet has been chipped off to allow a peek at the letter inside.

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Past lifestyles recreated

Relics of Canada's past life are difficult to find unaided for the simple reason that, in a country so vast, they would naturally be widely scattered. So in Heritage Park, Alberta, an effort has been made to bring the mountain to Mahomet. Heritage Park, on a 60 acre site in south west Calgary, is set out to portray town life in the Canadian west from the fur-trading era of the last century up to the First World War.

Buildings have been brought from as far as eastern Manitoba and south-eastern British Columbia; south from the United States and north as far as the tree line. Others come from nearer home. The Prince House, a fine mansion of 1893, came from Calgary itself, as did the 1905 Hull Carriage House and the log shack built in 1878 by Calgary's first settler, Sam Livingston. The town's "general store" was originally a private home in Claresholm, Alberta and served as a railway workers' boarding house, a town hall and a police headquarters before its metamorphosis in Heritage Park.

Tourists dine at an elaborately decorated hotel — a recreation of a turn-of-the-century establishment once located at Wainwright. An 1896 opera house transplanted from Clanmore performs turn-of-the-century entertainment.

Other architectural transplants include a 1904 blacksmith's shop, now used to construct machinery parts, a 1905 carousel from Winnipeg, and St. Martin's Church, from the Pincher creek area. The reconstruction has been done with meticulous care for detail. Same applied to the reproduction of the original Rocky Mountain House Fort, built in 1819 for the Hudson's Bay Company and here faithfully reproduced — eight degrees "off square".

Old vehicles do much to bring the town alive. The 1905 Canmore Mines Locomotive No. 4, affectionately known as "old goat", has returned to service on the park's 4,400 feet of track. A replica paddle steamer S.S. Moyie takes passengers over the Glenmore Reservoir waters adjoining the town. Horse-drawn street cars, replicas dating back to the late nineteenth century, charge a dime a ride. There is even a weekly newspaper, *The Strathmore and Bow Valley Standard*, produced by college students on a flatbed press from Strathmore, Alberta.



Ceremonial songs and dances of the Ghe'tksan Indians are performed for visitors at the Ksan Indian village, Hazelton, British Columbia.

Canadian Government Office of Tourism