



June 2, 1930 — a month before the grand opening.

miserable. Trees had to be removed, snow cleared. A steam shovel was used to dig the foundation for the garage. The site was a swamp and a great deal of water had to be drained away.

The grand opening of the Château was remembered as the social event of the year. Festivities included a cocktail party, gala dinner and dance for the 200 people attending. Admission was only possible for members or expected guests but journalists from across the country were invited to write about this exclusive resort that had caused so much interest.

The château's design

The hotel's design, by Montreal architect Harold Lawson, features 200 guest rooms (including 15 luxury suites) laid out in a broad "X" around a central three-storey core. This design gives greater privacy to individuals or groups in well-separated areas. Two short wings house the dining room and other public areas.

The most striking feature of the Log Château is the hexagonal fieldstone tower extending nearly 21 metres from the floor to the main cornice which supports the ends of the main roof truss. The tower contains a fireplace on each of its six faces. In each of the tower walls is a flat niche from which is suspended a wrought-iron lantern.

The ceiling of the lounge is remarkable for its open rafter construction and the galleries which run completely around the second- and third-storey levels. From the gallery, one can view painted panels of the coat-of-arms of Canada, the provinces and the two territories by heraldic artist Edwin Tappan Adney. Large murals

by A. Sheriff Scott in the public areas of the building represent scenes of the Papi-neau rebellion and other historical events. Light filters through the dormer windows and the stained glass panels around the roof of the rotunda.

In many places, the craftsman's touch is evident. On the oak staircase leading up



One of the six fireplaces in the hexagonal tower extending nearly 21 metres from floor to ceiling in the main entrance hall of the Château Montebello.

to the lounge log terminations have been carved, lintels chamfered and logs converted to spiral columns.

The Château Montebello is centrally steam-heated in all areas except the lounge which is warmed by its huge fireplace. The heating system has been replaced and modernized three times. In 1971 air-conditioning was installed in the dining room and the bedrooms; the latter have individual controls.

The log construction at the Château Montebello is solid, permanent and satisfying. With low maintenance, the Château will stand for the century to come. Every four to five years, a new coat of stain is applied to the exterior and to the lounge walls to give them a healthy lustre. The 500 000 hand-split cedar shakes on the roofs are now being replaced with colour-matched asphalt tiles, because the shakes themselves and the labour required to install them are too expensive.

An exclusive club and hotel

In its day as the Seignior Club, the Log Château boasted many celebrities as visitors and members — Princess Grace and Prince Rainier of Monaco, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, US President Harry Truman, Perry Como, Peter Ustinov, former Prime Ministers Mackenzie King and Lester Pearson, the Prince of Lichtenstein, the Massey brothers and the Eaton family to name a few. (The Seignior Club still exists with its members enjoying special rates and privileges at the Château.)

With such a history the selection of the Château Montebello, a hotel open to the public since 1971, as the site for the 1981 Economic Summit was no accident. The leaders of the western world came to confer and relax in this secure haven. Close to \$2 million was spent on renovations which included a facelift to the Château, repaving the highway through the town and painting buildings on the main street.

As a hotel, the Château Montebello also plays host to lower-profile events: conferences, weekend seminars, international theme festivals featuring culinary and cultural activities, the annual cross-country Canadian Ski Marathon and "just plain folk" on holiday.

Travellers seeking gourmet dining, a rustic country atmosphere and outdoor activities all year round can turn to tiny Montebello, Quebec and the world's largest Log Château for a unique experience.