



terrain and swamps. The dam at Jones Falls was 200 feet high, the highest in North America and the fourth highest in the world.

It cost a million pounds and more than 4,000 men died in the process, most from malaria brought to Canada by soldiers returning from India.

It opened with a small vessel renamed the *Rideau* sailing with Colonel By on board, from Kingston to "the wharf at the head of the flight of locks at By-Town." By-Town would eventually become Ottawa.

The Colonel's enemies in England charged that he had overspent. He was cleared by a board of inquiry but, weakened by malaria, died, disappointed, in 1836.

The canal has been in continuous operation ever since. It was almost closed in 1932 when the maintenance costs were greater than the revenue but it survived. In 1967, when the Department of Transport electrified three locks, some 500 canal-lovers formed the Rideau Action Association and persuaded the government that it should be preserved. It was transferred to Parks Canada and has been kept just as it was.

In the winter in Ottawa, five miles of the Canal, from Parliament Hill to Dow's Lake, are groomed to make what the *Guinness Book of World Records* calls the longest skating rink in the world.

Last June a man dressed as Colonel By took a fifteen-day tour of the Canal, and during the course of the year more than 400 anniversary celebrations took place along its banks.

The Halifax Citadel

The British government decided in 1828 to build a permanent fortress in Halifax.

The site seemed obvious—looming over the harbour was a tree-covered hill, dominating everything in sight, which had held temporary fortifications several times before.

The decision was not a sound one. The hill was a drumlin—a glacial rubbish heap. Viewed from behind it was only an egg-shaped hillock rising some sixty feet from a swamp with a narrow crest.

However, the greatest difficulty facing the engineers was the ruins of a variety of previous efforts at fortification—a log fort, an octagonal blockhouse, a keep of sods and logs and a masonry magazine built hastily during the War of 1812.

The new plan was part of a large, complex one which also included fortresses at Montreal, Kingston and Niagara and the building of the Rideau Canal. The intention was to build the Citadel of Halifax in six years at a cost of £116,000. It took twenty-eight and cost £242,122. Its guns would never be fired at an enemy.

When the Army transferred ownership to the Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources in 1951, it was a tumbled-down anachronism in the centre of modern Halifax. Restoration began immediately. It is now a national historic site, run by Parks Canada, and it houses the Maritime Museum of Canada.