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## Heritage Canada

[HOW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A CEILING WAS SAVED WHEN A BUILDING WAS LOST]



**T**HE HISTORIC PAST can extend a hundred years or a thousand.

In Ottawa, which was still called Bytown when it was picked as Canada's capital, the ultimately historic buildings were built in the middle of the 19th century.

Most—including the recently demolished Rideau Street Convent with its unique vaulted chapel—have been replaced by office buildings or parking lots. But, looked at in a certain way, the loss on Rideau Street was not an unmitigated setback for conservationists—there is good news as well as bad. "It was a classic example of losing the battle and winning the war," says R. A. J. Phillips, Executive Director of a new government-endowed organization called Heritage Canada. "After the Rideau Street disaster, local heritage groups grew tenfold in Ottawa."

Similar reactions have been noted across the country as Canadians have found the visible signs of the past disappearing, but Ottawa's alarm was singular and not without cause:

- The stone residence of Ottawa's first settler had been bulldozed to make room for the Trade and Commerce Building, a structure of limited architectural and historic appeal.

- The erstwhile home of Canada's Supreme Court, one of the four original buildings on Parliament Hill, had been torn down to permit a larger parking lot.

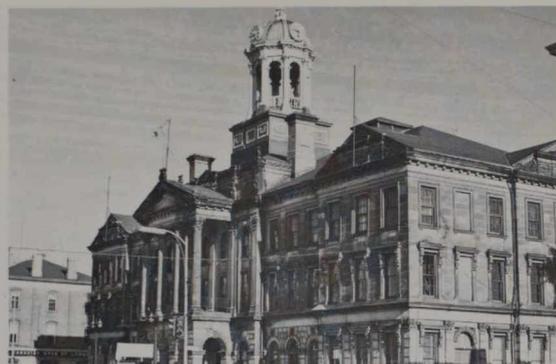
- The Parliament's West Block had been gutted.

- The Goulden Hotel, a building of charm and significance, had been demolished and succeeded first by a service station, then by a parking lot.

- The demolition of Ottawa's grand 19th century railroad station had been stopped only after citizen protest. (It has survived as a National Conference Center.)

The announcement that the Rideau Street Convent was likewise doomed touched off the climactic battle. The Convent, a complex of buildings occupying a full city block, was 120 years old. Matthew Revere had built the first part in the 1850's as the Revere House, a hotel with a resplendent lobby and grand salons. The Hotel became a girls' school in 1869 when the Sisters of Charity (The Grey Nuns) moved in. The first pupils were the daughters of cabinet ministers and Members of Parliament in the new Confederation. Buildings were added from time to time and the extraordinary chapel was built in 1888. One Father Bouillon designed it, and though he remains obscure, it was a work of genius. He used the new construction materials of his age, iron pillars and plaster, to capture the Gothic magnificence of Henry VII's chapel in Westminster Abbey, to which it showed a marked resemblance. The fan-vaulting ceiling gleamed in gold trefoil and turquoise blue and the big stained glass windows shone in amethyst, red, green, amber, blue and gold.

In the spring of 1971 the sisters asked that the property be rezoned as commercial (it was) and put it up for sale. It sold to a developer who had a high-rise office building in mind. But historic-minded citizens took immediate and loud exception. For a short time it appeared that they were to be almost effortlessly successful. The developers agreed to keep the old buildings and con-



vert them into a forty-shop area to be called the Mews. The chapel would remain a chapel and the rest of the two-story complex would be a splendid shopping mall, the shops connected by a wooden promenade. The *Ottawa Citizen*, with what turned out to be unwarranted optimism, said "modern commerce will meet historic Bytown, oom-pah music from a beer garden will mingle in the courtyard with violin music from an elegant restaurant, students and ordinary people will rub shoulders with professionals and cosmopolitans." Unfortunately the developer miscalculated the cost of renovation — he assumed it would be half a million dollars; he found it would be a million and a half.

A Heritage Committee, the National Capital Commission and Mayor Pierre Benoit entered into long negotiations with the developer with the hope of finding a fiscal arrangement which would satisfy all. They failed, though not totally — the chapel was carefully dismantled and stored away. It will, it is hoped, rise again.

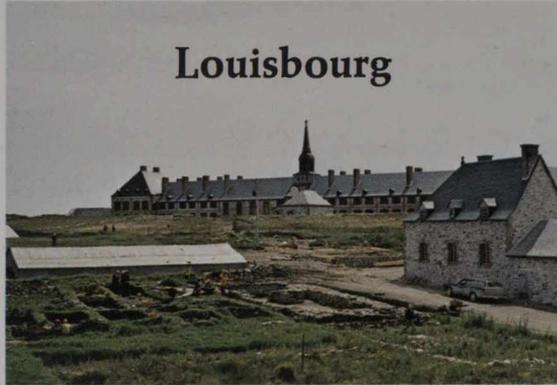
But, as Mr. Phillips suggested, the fight had some remarkable incidental results. When the Christian Brothers moved to have their old school (built in 1840) rezoned, the conservationists prevented it; the school, intact, will become a Federal office building.

The most significant result was no doubt the endowment of the national preservation organization, Heritage Canada. Other forces were also at work, but the public reaction in Ottawa played a major part. This spring the Canadian Parliament authorized a one-time-only \$12 million endowment and Mr. Phillips, the executive director,

opened what appears to be a permanent campaign. Mr. Phillips' family had purchased a number of historical log buildings in the Ottawa area and refurbished them authentically, and he and his wife were conspicuous leaders in the fight to save the Convent. He said Heritage Canada will not, probably, attempt to save buildings by simply buying them. Though it will solicit gifts to add to its endowment income, it does not seem likely that there will ever be enough money to buy up everything worth saving. Instead, the organization will try to persuade other agencies and individuals to buy historic buildings and "natural landscapes" and convert them to practical use which will preserve their characteristics.

It will seek to save buildings and sites of purely local significance as well as those of national value and will work closely with local heritage organizations. "Because of the Canadian spread of population a lot of groups are working in isolation. With no outside support they tend to re-invent the wheel. One of the purposes of Heritage Canada is to make one community of all people concerned with heritage conservation — to serve as a central reference and, frankly, a kind of lobby."

And though Mr. Phillips feels that one war has been won, he is aware that in the heritage business there will be a new skirmish every day. In one city of 400,000, which he prefers not to name, historic buildings are being demolished at the rate of one every two days. "There is no reason to believe," he said, "that the rate is much lower anywhere else."



## Louisbourg



**B**y 1713 the French had lost most of Acadia to the colonial British but they still held the most vital part—Louisbourg harbor on Cape Breton; with it they controlled the St. Lawrence, the approach to Quebec and the rest of New France.

Louis XV sent two of his ablest military engineers, Verville and Verrier, to build a fort. They planned one occupying seventy acres within two miles of massive walls—a citadel and a barracks surrounded by gun embrasures, casemates and a village of 1463 men and women. The barracks, 363 feet long, three stories high, with 100 rooms, would house 3000 troops. A dry moat, a drawbridge, a palisade and earthworks would protect the inner entrances. A thirty-foot wall bristling with cannon would face the sea.

It took twenty-five years and the equivalent of \$10 million to build. The result was fantastic to the eye, though on closer inspection there were serious flaws—the mortar had been mixed improperly with sea sand and the stones were badly dressed. The barracks were almost empty; the authorities in France saw their magnificent fort as sufficient unto itself.

In 1745 the British colonists decided to invade. Massachusetts mustered 3000 volunteers and Connecticut, New Hampshire and New York sent smaller contingents. Pennsylvania declined to send any. Ben Franklin wrote his Massachusetts brother that "fortified towns are hard nuts to crack; and your teeth have not been accustomed to it." In a sense Ben was wrong. The New Eng-

landers, backed by a British fleet, landed without the loss of a single life. The Fort was held by only 600 soldiers. After a couple of months the Fort gave up. Some 330 Frenchmen had died and only 131 New Englanders. The nut had proved easy to crack, but the visiting Yankees found the meat hard to digest. They settled down as an army of occupation and that winter 1200 of them died—of disease, the weather and drunkenness.

Two years later the British returned the Fort to the French at the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. Ten years after that, France and England were once more at war and once more Louisbourg fell. This time the British blew it up with gunpowder and carted off the stones to build public buildings in Halifax.

For some 200 years the ruins remained undisturbed among the sands and bogs of the isolated shore. In 1928 it was made a National Historic Site and in 1940 it moved up a grade to a National Historic Park. In 1960 a Royal Commission recommended that it be restored and in 1961 the rebuilding began. This time it will cost \$20 million.

Today most of the major work is done—the citadel, the barracks with the governor's wing, the King's Bastion, the towering walls. With blue slate roofs and high brick chimneys, the magnificent failure gleams in the setting sun like an apparition from the past—a walled French town clustered around the high buildings of officialdom, two centuries and three thousand miles from home.

## Mr. Richler makes a tough distinction



*Canada Today/D'Aujourd'hui* recently published excerpts from a paper on Canadian culture by Robert Fulford, editor of the magazine, *Saturday Night*. Mr. Fulford addressed himself to the difficulties Canadian artists have in being recognized in the United States as artists, and, particularly, as Canadian artists.

Mordecai Richler, a Canadian novelist who is recognized at home and abroad, has a somewhat different view. *Canada Today* does not necessarily espouse either his or Mr. Fulford's opinions. The excerpts which follow are from a paper by Mr. Richler delivered at Carleton University last spring to a large audience, which included the faculty.

"... Isn't it time the nationalists stopped declaring all things Canadian-made or owned intrinsically good, even inviolate, and started to go in for tougher distinctions, say — for openers — putting excellence . . . before country of origin?

"... I have warned students again and again that if twenty years ago Canadian writers suffered from neglect, what we must guard against now is over-praise. The largest insult. The dirty double-standard. One test for Canadian writers, another, more exacting litmus applied to foreigners. Good Canadian writers, I told them, (have) no need of a nationalist's dog license and the rest are simply not worth sheltering. But, more recently, venturing into balmy, sun-drenched California, deep in the Berkeley hills, I discovered, to my dismay, that I could speak in two voices. I found that, once having explained our nationalist conundrums to American students, some of them baffled, others bored, I was making a plea for our writers, asking that Americans, subject to their own brand of parochialism, no longer dismiss anything written north of the border out of hand. Look here, the nationalists are not alone in their anger against the arrogance and condescension of some Americans toward all things Canadian. Going back to my student days, the U.S. has always been something we both loved and resented. Loved, because the novels we consumed with appetite as well as the pop culture that shaped us, were largely American-made. Resented, because to visit New York, brimming with goodwill, and to proffer a Canadian ten dollar bill was to be told, 'What's that, kid, Monopoly money?' And to introduce the subject of Canadian politics to socially concerned American friends, fascinated by all things African, was to witness their eyes glaze over with boredom.

"... Problems, problems.

"An American or British writer can lecture abroad and take it for granted that any literate

audience will readily grasp what he is about if he mentions Wall Street or the City, Broadway or the West End, Harvard or Oxford, a home run, a sticky wicket, Babe Ruth, Elizabeth I, and more, much more. But I had to assume that I'd lose most of my audiences if I mentioned St. James Street, Westmount, Carleton University, Howie Morenz or John A. MacDonald, without explaining my references at tedious length.

"Look at it this way. If, instead of F. Scott Fitzgerald, a writer out of Ottawa had written a story called, "A Diamond as Big as the Ritz," he would have had to title it, "A Diamond as Big as the Chateau Laurier, the Most Exclusive Hotel in Ottawa, Capital of Canada." But within the frustration lies our greatest strength. Our largest advantage. Canadian symbols are not yet hackneyed. The mythology is still to be fabricated. Unfortunately, instead of exalting in this rare situation, the inherent freshness of our native material, too many Canadian writers have taken it as a cause for petulance, self-pity and even meanness of spirit. They are, they feel, not accorded instant recognition abroad merely because they are Canadian.

"It is, if I understand one nationalist argument correctly, because we are colonials, far removed from the centre of imperial power and taste-making, that is to say, New York, that our work is largely ignored. But Doris Lessing is also a colonial and so is V.S. Naipaul. Camus emerged from Algeria, Borges from Argentina and even James Joyce came out of a colony, if you like.

"Years ago I once wrote that to be a Jew and a Canadian was to emerge from the ghetto twice, for self-conscious Canadians, like some touchy Jews, tended to contemplate the world through a wrong-ended telescope, and that observation, unlike some others I prefer not to recall, seems to me even more valid now. . . . Many nationalist Ca-

*Continued on page eight*

Few subjects have more immediate importance to Canadian/U.S. relations than oil and natural gas. To put it briefly, the U.S. is running out of old resources and Canada is opening up new ones. The subject is technical as well as political and therefore confusing to many. Dr. A. Seastone, Professor of Economics at the University of Calgary, discussed his own thesis and its technical underpinning in a paper delivered last spring at the biennial meeting of the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States. Some experts consider his thesis (as expressed in the first sentence quoted below) optimistic. While space has limited our excerpts to highlights of Dr. Seastone's paper, those wishing the complete paper may write to ACSUS, Center of Canadian Studies, The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, 1740 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

## All you ever wanted to know about Canadian oil and gas

[BUT WERE TOO SHY TO ASK]

"My thesis is a simple one . . . discoveries and developments in the oil and gas fields of Canada have so rearranged the energy resources of the North American continent that the United States can look to Canada as a continuing, major, stable source of energy supply . . . (and) as a condition of this increased energy interrelationship, American buyers . . . will have to contemplate massive changes in the conditions of supply. . . .

"(First) I wish to summarize current oil and gas supply and demand conditions. . . .

"*Canadian Demand.* Canadians in 1972 used about 750,000 barrels per day of Canadian crude oil. . . . The Energy Resources Conservation Board of Alberta estimates that . . . the domestic demand (will) be 1,275,000 to 1,350,000 barrels per day by 1985.

"*Canadian Supply.* Estimates of proved (Canadian) reserves . . . not including the Mackenzie Delta nor the Arctic Islands — range from 8.3 billion barrels to about 10.2 billion. . . . The ERCBA considers it likely that total recoverable reserves . . . in Alberta will ultimately reach about 20 billion barrels. . . . The Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists suggest that ultimately recoverable reserves . . . in 30 sedimentary regions . . . may reach 86 billion barrels.

"*U.S. Demand.* American demand . . . in 1972 increased more than 6 per cent. . . . The U.S. Department of the Interior estimates that by 1975

the American demand . . . will reach 6.34 billion barrels per year . . . by 1985, 9.1 billion barrels per year; and by 2000 about 13 billion barrels per year.

"*U.S. Supply.* Contrasted to (this) 250-280 billion barrel rest-of-the-century (U.S.) demand is the U.S. oil supply. At the end of 1972 proved reserves of conventional crude oil in the U.S. totalled less than 37 billion barrels, including an estimated 10 billion barrels on the North Slope of Alaska. . . .

"*Canadian Natural Gas.* In 1972, Canadian domestic use of natural gas was about 3.5 billion cubic feet per day or nearly 1.3 trillion cubic feet for the year. The NEB . . . estimated annual domestic demand . . . to reach about 2.8 trillion by 1990. Estimated proven reserves . . . at the end of 1972 were about 55 trillion cubic feet, not including the Mackenzie Delta and Arctic Island discoveries. The ERCBA estimates that ultimately recoverable reserves of natural gas in Alberta will approximate 100 trillion cubic feet. The study by McCrossan and Porter . . . suggests that ultimately recoverable natural gas reserves in Canada approximate 577 trillion cubic feet.

"(Canadian exports of natural gas to the U.S. in 1972 reached about 2.7 billion feet per day for an annual total of nearly one trillion cubic feet.)

"*U.S. Natural Gas.* Demand for natural gas in the U.S. reached 22 trillion cubic feet in 1971. By 1975 the U.S. Department of the Interior esti-

*Known and potential reserves in Canada compared with U.S. need for oil and natural gas.*



Oil in billion barrels, Natural Gas in trillion cubic feet.

■ Known Reserves   ■ Potential Reserves   ■ Predicted U.S. Demand to 2000 A.D.

mates that demand will reach 24.5 trillion cubic feet . . . and 33 trillion cubic feet by 2000. American consumers . . . are estimated to require about 700 trillion cubic feet during the remainder of this century. At the end of 1972, proved reserves . . . in the U.S. totalled about 271.4 trillion cubic feet.

*"The Oil Sands of Northern Alberta.* . . . Three activities in oil and gas development in Canada . . . can change the rules of the game . . . they are the oil sands of northern Alberta, the gas and oil discoveries on the Mackenzie Delta, and, the gas and oil discoveries in the Arctic Islands. . . .

"Canadian deposits of oil sands appear to be concentrated in three formations in northern Alberta. The largest . . . is the 'Athabasca Tar Sands' . . . which contains about 88 per cent of total reserves. This deposit is about 160 miles long, with a maximum width of about 80 miles . . . it appears to be the only oil sands deposit in which open pit . . . recovery processes can be used. The other major deposits of oil sands are also in northern Alberta . . . the Grand Rapids Deposits and the Bluesky-Gething Deposits. The three . . . occupy a land area of about 12,000 square miles or about 5 per cent of the land area of the Province of Alberta. Within these 12,000 square miles, the ERCBA estimates . . . reserves of more than 600 billion barrels of which about 300 billion are recoverable by the existing technology. . . . If synthetic crude were produced at the rate of 2 million barrels per day—the likely rate of total crude oil production during 1973 in Canada—the 300 billion barrel deposits now technologically available would last for nearly 430 years . . . (however) access to the entire 300 billion barrels of oil requires a sophisticated 'in situ' recovery process . . .

*"Current Developments in Oil Sands.* The Geological Survey of Canada made the first geologic reconnaissance survey of the oil sands region in 1875 and drilled the first hole in the oil sands about the turn of the century. . . .

"By 1960 research was well enough advanced for several companies to apply to the Alberta Government for permission to construct and operate commercial plants to produce synthetic crude from the Athabasca Tar Sands Deposit. In 1964 the go-ahead signal was given Great Canadian Oil Sands to build a plant capable of producing 16,425,000 barrels of synthetic crude annually. . . . The other major oil company involved in (current) oil sands activity . . . is the Syncrude group . . . comprised of four major oil companies: Atlantic Richfield Canada, 30 per cent ownership; Cities Services Canada, 30 per cent ownership; Imperial Oil, 30 per cent ownership; and Gulf Oil Canada, 10 per cent ownership.

*"Mackenzie Valley Pipelines.* . . . Energy supply developments have occurred within the last few months and years on the Mackenzie Delta in the Northwest Territories of Canada. . . .

"Energy exploration in the Mackenzie Delta followed the Alberta discoveries. . . . Interest lagged . . . until about 1966 when . . . Imperial Oil set off the massive explorations. . . . Drilling activity . . . currently places greatest emphasis on discovery of natural gas, although major finds of crude oil have already been made. . . . Part of the current interest . . . is accounted for by the fact that industry executives feel the threshold requirements to justify a natural gas pipeline . . . is in the vicinity of 15 trillion cubic feet . . . on the basis of emerging contracts and recent discoveries . . . it is widely assumed . . . that the 15 trillion cubic feet threshold has probably already been met.

"I can only call your hurried attention . . . to the potential of the Arctic Islands . . . which will probably turn out to be an even larger source of energy supply . . . than the Mackenzie Delta or east coast offshore resources . . . Pan-Arctic has already found four major gas structures. . . .

*"The Vital Policy Issues.* What kinds of trade-offs will be required for the United States to gain significant access to Canada's energy fuels? The answer will be conditioned at least partially by the emerging Canadian concern that its energy resources have been exported according to terms . . . that do not reflect the real present value of those resources. . . . However, Canadians would undoubtedly object if (future) price change in energy resources were to be offset by import surcharges. . . . That is, if balance of payments problems force the United States to resort to increased import surcharges . . . Americans must think long and hard about the desirability of specifically exempting Canada from these protective devices. . . . Some favored-nation treatment of Canada may well be a second condition of increased American access to Canadian energy resources. . . . (and) If the United States is serious about (maintaining) a stable source of energy supply in North America, will it be willing to contribute . . . to the development of a fund for environmental service charges . . . (and) . . . to a transportation and transmission fund which allows increased Canadian ownership of production, exploration and transmission facilities?

"Finally . . . are Americans and American firms willing to allow greater Canadian participation in the ownership and control of Canadian subsidiaries of American enterprises? Will American debt capital be allowed to replace American equity capital in a significant area of investment activity? Will management decisions be made more often by Canadians in a context of Canadian concern?"

Continued from page five

nadians, I feel, also share with certain Jews a subscription to plot theories, the former spying the CIA under every bed, the latter, anti-Semites, and both groups enjoy a neurotic, a conveniently neurotic, misconception of the larger world outside. . . .

"In these overheated days, intellectuals in their late thirties or, like me, in their forties, are commonly cast by the young nationalist zealots as cultural colonials, lackeys, of the U.S. cultural establishment. The truth is we belong to the last generation, perhaps, who cannot honestly rise to all-embracing anti-Americanism . . . for we must recognize that the very best, as well as the worst, influences that shaped us were inevitably American. Or British. Or French. . . .

"Morley Callaghan has put it rather more graciously. I quote: 'Canada is a part of the North American cultural pattern. We in the north should have a different literature than, say, Southern writers. . . . We have our own idiosyncrasies here, you know, our own peculiar variation of the cultural pattern. . . . But it is still definitely American.' . . . What (this) is to say is that looked at objectively . . . it is possible to be a Canadian writer and not accept Leacock, albeit a funny fellow, as the rock on which any literary church can be founded. Or that Frederick Philip Grove, our great Canadian unreadable, is classic by anything less than the most picayune standards. Grove's problem, bluntly stated, is

that he couldn't write very well. . . . When, as is often the case, a Canadian novel is not published outside of Toronto, then the trouble is not the literary homosexual conspiracy in London, or the Jewish den of thieves who run New York; it is, put plainly, that the novel isn't good enough. There are far too many novels and collections of poetry, published in this country whose only virtue is that, like Bright's wine, they are conceived in Canada, but don't travel well . . . the truth is most British novels are not published in the United States as well and very few American novels, fewer than ever in fact, are also brought out in England. Most are adjudged too parochial to make the trans-Atlantic trip. . . . O Canada, Canada, there is hope. If we are indeed being plundered by a satyr so insensate, of such omnivorous appetite, we may yet sell them *Spring Thaw*, *Front Page Challenge*, the *Mounties' Musical Ride* and other cultural treasures. . . . We have already dumped Guy Lombardo on them, as well as Robert Goulet and, God forgive us, the California Golden Seals. . . ."

Mr. Richler has published many books, all entertaining, all amusing, all pungent. His most recent, *Notes on an Endangered Species* will be published by Knopf in 1974. Earlier works include *Son of a Smaller Hero*, *the Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* and *St. Urbain's Horseman*.

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