



Governor General's residence, Ottawa.



Noon Day Gun, Nepean Point, Ottawa.

Historic Ottawa

The brawling shantymen and rivermen don't visit here anymore, but the past lives on along Ottawa's Sussex Drive. In the 1800s, it was a bustling thoroughfare, packed with colorful markets and small hotels.

During the early part of this century, many houses and stores and several hotels were demolished by commercial contractors. Now, Sussex is a street of official residences, embassies, boutiques, museums and art galleries, many of them located in preserved historic buildings. In 1961, the federal government of Canada, prompted by citizens, concerned about the gradual disappearance of the national capital's history, expropriated property on both sides of the street and began the job of restoring and preserving. Most buildings dated back to 1867 and earlier.

The old British Hotel after 1827, served as an army barracks, and as the one-time home of the Geological Survey of Canada. Further down the street is the War Museum, which documents Canada's military history and features a simulated World War I trench. Next door is the Royal Canadian Mint, where you can see coins being made.

Ernscliffe, the home of Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, is now the home of the British High Commissioner. Other imposing structures include: Rideau Hall, the Governor-General's residence; the Embassy of France; and

the Residence of the Prime Minister of Canada, built in 1867 by lumber merchant Joseph Merrill Currier, and purchased in 1949 by the federal government. The John Fraser School House stands nearby. John Fraser was one of the workmen who built Rideau Hall. Having been a teacher back in England, he erected the schoolhouse in 1837 to instruct the children of the workmen.

The Academie De-La-Salle, built between 1842 and 1852 has been renovated to house Canada's Ministry of Urban Affairs. The Basilique Notre-Dame D'Ottawa, built in 1816, is the oldest existing church in Ottawa.

The original fronts of other Sussex Drive buildings which have been preserved or restored conceal the modern interiors of boutiques, restaurants, art galleries and antique stores. At the Boutique au goût artistique high-quality crafts created by Ottawa artists are sold. La Hacienda carries South American handicrafts, including rugs and pottery from Peru and sweaters from Chile. At Devere Antiques, you'll find French tapestries, fine furniture, oils, silver and jewelry.

Sussex Drive is also the site of a number of art galleries. Dominion Corinth Galleries Ltd. has a large collection of fine Canadian and European paintings. At Gallery Graphics you'll find a good selection of contemporary, original Canadian prints. Just down the road is the Wells Gallery. Sculpture, paintings, graphics and fine crafts can be bought here. At Major's Hill Park, just off Sussex Drive, is a statue of Lt. Colonel John By, who built the

Rideau Canal and founded Bytown, now Ottawa. From this point, you can look across the canal to the Bytown Museum. The building was also built by Lt. Colonel By and houses documents related to the canal's construction.

The Noon Day Gun is located nearby. Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, authorized the firing of a gun to regulate mail delivery and the ritual is still observed daily at noon. For further information on Ottawa and Ontario as a travel destination contact the Canadian Government Office of Tourism, 150 Kent Street, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0H6. □

TRAVEL CANADA ON FILM

Colour films on all the provinces and territories of Canada may be borrowed, free, from any National Film Board office from Victoria to St. John's. Subjects range from special events and attractions to cities, angling, boating, winter activities and many others.

In Ontario and Québec, NFB offices are located in Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa, Kitchener, London, North Bay, Thunder Bay, Montréal, Québec, Chicoutimi, Rimouski, Sherbrooke and Trois Rivières. Films are in 16 mm format and vary in length from 10 to 29 minutes.