

REPORT OF THE OTTAWA IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1918, CONTAINING  
ALSO A SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES  
FROM ITS INCEPTION - IN AUGUST 1899  
TO MARCH 31, 1918.

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In compliance with the provisions of the statute - 62-63  
Victoria, Chapter 10, being an Act respecting the City of Ottawa,  
the Ottawa Improvement Commission has the honour to report as follows:-

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1918 the Commission  
had at its disposal funds to the amount of \$117,325.52 derived from  
the following sources -

Balance from fiscal year 1916-17.....	2,913.21	
Government Grant.....	100,000.00	
Ottawa City for work done by Commission.....	8,751.41	9,642.35-
Railways & Canals Dept., work on Echo Drive.....	890.94	
Gross receipts from Rockcliffe Slides.....	3,275.95	4,769.96-
Miscellaneous receipts.....	1,484.01	
	<u>\$117,325.52</u>	
	2,913.21	
	<u>114,412.31</u>	

The expenditure during the same period amounte to - \$110,163.22

Detailed statements of this expenditure prepared by the  
superintendent of works, will be found attached to this Report.

Of this total expenditure the sum of \$31,665.45 was incurred towards  
the completion of new works undertaken in previous years and some  
special works, apart from ordinary maintenance, which were deemed  
necessary, leaving \$82,746.77 to meet the cost of ordinary main-  
tenance and the annual payment of \$21,455.00 on the redemption of  
the debenture debt and interest thereon.

The ordinary maintenance including salaries of office  
staff and office contingencies amounted to \$57,042.77 leaving a  
balance of \$27,162.30 to be carried forward to the fiscal year 1918-19.

The condition of the labour market during the year and the scarcity of men caused considerable curtailment in the work of maintenance, the superintendent being obliged to restrict the work within the narrowest limits. The return of more favourable conditions will of course be taken advantage of to maintain a proper standard of efficiency and repair and make up for any limitations that were unavoidable during the last two or three years.

Under the Act of Parliament governing the Ottawa Improvement Commission the Government grant of \$100,000. per annum will lapse with the payment of the quarterly instalment falling due on April 1st 1919, and as this grant is the only permanent source of revenue at the Commission's disposal, fresh legislation in this regard will be needed during the coming Session of Parliament if the Commission is to be in a position to continue the work assigned to it by statute.

In view of the probability of such legislation being introduced at an early day a brief history of the Commission and the work it has accomplished during the past years may not be out of place in the present report, and is inserted in the hope that the facts related may be of some help in determining the form and amount of any further grant that may be contemplated.

The Federal Statute, 62 - 63 Victoria, Chapter 10, which became law in August 1899, made provision for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners to consist of four members of whom three were to be appointed by the Governor in Council and one by the Corporation of the City of Ottawa; the Board to be known as the Ottawa Improvement Commission. The number of Commissioners was subsequently increased to eight.

Sir Henry M. Tate was appointed first chairman of the Board and held office until his death in 1917, when the present chairman - Sir Henry K. Egan - was appointed to fill the vacancy thus created.

The Government grant in the first instance was \$60,000.00 per annum, and this amount was paid for ten years at the expiration of which period

which period the grant was increased to \$100,000.00 per annum for a further period of ten years from July 1st 1909. On April 1st next the last instalment of this grant will become due making a total payment to the Commission to June 30th 1918. of \$1,600,000.00. In addition to the Statutory Grant the Government paid the Commission \$100,000.00 received from the Grand Trunk Railway for the site of the Chateau Laurier hotel on Majors Hill park.

The total revenue received by the Commission to March 31, 1918. may be summarized as follows:-

Statutory Grant.....	\$1,475,000.00	X.
Chateau Laurier, hotel site,.....	100,000.00	X.
City of Ottawa, for Bronson Park,.....	2,000.00	
Lord Strathcona, for fountain,.....	2,433.33	X.
Debentures sold under authority of Parliament,....	270,132.39	X.
Mundry receipts for work done for Ottawa City and federal departments, and material sold,.....	39,484.44	
	<u>\$1,889,050.16</u>	

Deducting from this amount the annual payments for redemption of the debentures and interest thereon (\$300,370.00) to March 31st 1918. leaves \$1,588,680.16, which amount represents the total expenditure incurred by the Commission for the property acquired by it and the improvements effected in Ottawa and the vicinity thereof.

A brief summary of the expenditure shows -

Property purchased.....	\$ 69,211.46
Initial expenditure on property purchased, leased or donated,.....	949,482.27
Subsequent maintenance,.....	434,343.32
Machinery and rolling stock,.....	31,426.61
Interest on overdrafts and temporary loans,.....	3,176.50
Salaries of superintending staff,.....	73,837.70
Annual payments on redemption of debentures, 14 at \$21,455.00.....	300,370.00
	<u>\$1,881,887.86</u>
Balance in bank, March 31st 1918,.....	7,162.30
	<u>\$1,889,050.16</u>

Apart from the property purchased by the Commission, land of considerable value has been donated by the City of Ottawa and some well disposed citizens for the purpose of parks, drivesays and boulevards.

The parks and drivesays now under the control of the Commission include not only the property purchased and donated but also large tracts held under lease either from the Dominion Government or the City Corporation.

These parks, some seven or eight in number, and comprising a total area of 277 acres, have been reclaimed from the primitive and often unsightly condition in which the Commission found them, to their present state of usefulness and enjoyment, adding considerably to the attractiveness of the Capital City and the pleasure not only of its citizens but of visitors from other parts of Canada or elsewhere.

The drivesays constructed and maintained by the Commission extend from Rockliffe to the Experimental Farm making a total mileage including a few deviations from the main roadway of some fifteen or sixteen miles.

Shortly after the Commission was called into existence, Mr. Todd, a landscape architect from Montreal, was employed to map out a system of parks and drivesays within the limited area over which the Commission was authorized to operate, and his report received in 1903 has been the basis of all improvements and developments so far carried out. There is still very considerable work to be done if it should be decided to carry out Mr. Todd's report in its entirety.

Within recent years a much more elaborate and comprehensive report than Mr. Todd's has been made by the Federal Plan Commission, a body appointed by the Federal Government to report on a general plan for the cities of Ottawa and Hull.

Needless to say that in any new developments or improvements which may occur to the Commission, none will be undertaken that will not be in entire harmony with this latter report and at the same time be within the means which may be placed at its disposal by the Federal Government.

Under

Under present legislation the Commission may not undertake any work until first approved by the Governor in Council.



THE GREAT IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION :-  
REPORT OF  
J. STUART SUPERINTENDENT  
FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING  
SIXTH MARCH 1918.

Ottawa November 14th. 1918.

To the Chairman  
and Members of The Ottawa  
Improvement Commission.

Gentlemen:-

I beg to submit for your consideration my report upon the work of the Ottawa Improvement Commission during the fiscal year terminating on the 31st March 1918, under the following headings, namely:-

1. Statement in detail of the expenditure upon New York.
2. Statement in detail of the cost of maintenance of the various Parks and Driveways, for the year.
3. Detailed statement of all other expenditures.
4. Statement in detail of the number, variety and location of Bedding Plants and Bulbs planted during the year.

All of which I beg respectfully to submit.

Your obedient servant

Superintendent O.I.C.



**STATEMENT "A"**

**Being a statement in detail**

**of the Expenditure on**

**REPAIR WORK**

**during the fiscal year**

**ending**

**31st March 1918.**

**including**

- 1. Completion of combined Pavilion and Comfort Station in Rockcliffe Park.**
- 2. Completion of Riverside Terrace in Rockcliffe Park.**
- 3. Completion widening Driveway in Rockcliffe Park.**
- 4. Expenditure on City Streets and other roads contiguous to the City including work on Pretoria Avenue bridge.**

During the year the scabined Revillon and Comfort Station in Rockcliffe Park was completed and opened to the public, the cost being expenditure for the year being \$3,622.03, detailed as follows:-

Plumbing Supplies	Jas. Robertson Co.		\$247.24
Installation Plumbing	McKinley & Northwood		744.29
Electric Supplies	Garrie & Godard		182.39
Tile & Tiling	A. K. Mills		1,350.40
Plastering	H. McNulty		110.10
Lumber	McAuliffe Davis	\$57.91	
	V. C. Edwards Co.	<u>70.25</u>	128.16
Cement	Barrett Bros.		266.75
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd.		35.00
Freight & Express	Can. Exp. Co.	.60	
	Ottawa Trans. Co.	<u>\$23.09</u>	23.69
Supplies	Empire Mfg Co.	2.05	
	Peolar People	<u>1.20</u>	3.25
Labour & Cartage			<u>570.78</u> \$3,622.03

During the year several roads in Rockcliffe Police Village, Echo Drive from Bank Street to Hartwell's Lecks and Rideau Hall Grounds were tarviated by the Commission and considerable work was done for the City of Ottawa on the Pretoria Avenue Bridge. The cost of these works were charged to City Streets and the amount paid to the Commission by the several parties interested. The expenditure, amounting to the sum of \$12,600.14, was as follows:-

Labour & Cartage		\$7,946.15
Tarvia	Paterson Manfg Co.	2,567.96
Sand	R. J. Couch	514.60
Coal	Jes. Dolan	169.35
Freight	Can. Pac. Ry. Co.	\$90.50
	G. T. Ry. Co.	<u>2.00</u>
Cement	Barrett Bros.	253.25
Cable &c	Northern Elec. Co.	106.90
	Ottawa Elec. Co.	<u>322.66</u>
Lumber	McAuliffe, Davis Co.	429.56
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd.	400.43
Coke	Ottawa Gas Co.	344.09
Supplies	Gordian Law	<u>42.25</u>
		<u>40.00</u> \$12,600.14

During the year Riverside Terrace in Rockcliffe Park was completed when the road was treated with tarvia X and a stone fence with artificial stone coping was constructed at all dangerous points along the route. The details of the expenditure, amounting to \$9,041.58 are as follows:-

Labour & Cartage		\$5,821.51	
Tarvia X	The Peterson Mfg Co.	1,783.45	
Sand	R. J. Couch	142.80	
Coal	J. Dolan	134.19	
Cement	Barrett Bros.	651.15	
Lumber	McAuliffe, Davis Co.	187.33	
Freight	Can. Pac. Ry. Co.	64.00	
Supplies	McDougal's Ltd.	\$120.75	
	Ott. Firep. Sup. Co.	88.90	
	McFarlane & Douglas	5.22	
	McKinley & Northwood	12.50	
	Ottawa Electric Co.	32.67	
		<u>257.15</u>	\$9,041.58

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In accordance with an agreement with the Keefer Estate the work of widening the roadway in Rockcliffe Park from the terminus of the extension to Coltrin Road to Acacia Avenue and along Acacia Avenue to the top of the hill was completed with a treatment of Tarvia B and the walk along the southern boundary was completed. The cost of this work was \$4,896.04, the details of which follow:-

Labour & Cartage		\$3,798.32	
Tarvia B	The Peterson Mfg Co.	243.43	
Sand	R. J. Couch	103.50	
Coal	J. Dolan	75.76	
Freight	Can. Pac. Ry. Co.	23.78	
Cement	Barrett Bros	591.25	
Lumber	McAuliffe Davis Co.	45.00	
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd	<u>10.00</u>	\$ 4,896.04

**S T A T E M E N T "B"**

**Being a statement in detail  
of the Expenditure on**

**MAINTENANCE**

**of the  
various Parks and Driveways  
and the Greenhouse  
during the fiscal year  
ending**

**The ordinary maintenance for the year ending  
31st. March 1916.**

The ordinary maintenance consists of the keeping of roadways, walks, paths &c. clear of mud and refuse; cutting and watering grass on boulevards; clearing for and trimming trees and shrubs as well as replacing dead trees and shrubs in Spring and Autumn, together with the cost of materials, tools and machinery.

Extraordinary Maintenance consists of the cost of renewal of roadways, walks, curbs, gutters, water services and repairs to bridges, cribwork, iron fences &c.

**RIDEAU CANAL DRIVEWAY:- Appropriation \$14,950.00**

Labour & Cartage			\$12,424.65
Tarvia "B"	The Paterson Manf'g Co.		717.05
Sand	H.J.Couch		644.00
Coal	J.Dolan		40.00
Freight	Can. Pac. Ry. Co.		102.00
Stone	Rideau Canal Supply Co.		444.85
Cement	Barrett Bros.		185.25
Iron Pipe	Ottawa Fireproof Supply Co.		54.50
Lumber	McAuliffe Davis Co.Ltd.		15.80
Electric Supplies	Carrioch & Godard		3.00
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd.		62.80
Police Clothing	The S Macs	24.70	
	The Slater Shoe Co.	<u>6.80</u>	41.50
Lighting	The Ottawa Electric Co.		2.00
Rent	J.F.Lyon (Dept Rys & Canals)		<u>1.00</u>
			\$14,768.40
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**BY STATE OF'S CHECK PARK:- Appropriation \$ 3,484.00**

Labour & Cartage			\$ 3,199.59
Tarvia "A"	The Paterson Manf'g Co.		71.47
Sand	H.J.Couch		9.20
Coal	J.Dolan		1.98
Freight	The Can. Pac. Ry. Co.		5.60
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd.		18.50
Rent	Dept of Interior		<u>1.00</u>
			\$ 3,308.34

**CEMET & HOWLAND AVENUES:- Appropriation \$ 1,500.00**

Labour & Cartage			676.47
Tarvia	The Paterson Manf'g Co.		600.63
Coal	J. Dolan		10.00
Freight	The Can. Pac. Ry. Co.		61.60
Cement	Barrett Bros.		132.40
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd.		<u>20.00</u>
			\$ 1,702.30

**LOVELL STREET PARK:-**

Appropriation \$ 500.00

Labour & Cartage		\$ 347.76
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd	<u>17.00</u>
		\$ 364.76

**BRONSON PARK:-**

Appropriation \$ 500.00

Labour & Cartage		\$ 370.76
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd. \$15.00 Maxinley & North. <u>10.83</u>	<u>25.83</u>
		\$ 396.59

**ST. THOMAS PARK:-**

Appropriation \$2,500.00

Labour & Cartage		\$2,390.95
Bulbs	Graham Bros	74.70
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd	<u>32.75</u>
		\$2,498.40

**MCDONALD GARDENS:-**

Appropriation \$2,000.00

Labour & Cartage		\$1,924.89
Lamp Globes	Northern Electric Co.	61.63
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd.	<u>45.00</u>
		\$2,031.52

**KING EDWARD AVE. & PARK:-**

Appropriation \$2,500.00

Waste Bridges		\$2,417.42
Labour & Cartage		
Tarria "B"	The Paterson Manf'g Co.	465.65
Sand	R. J. Cough	158.00
Coal	J. Dolan	15.00
Freight	Can. Pac. Ry. Co.	54.36
Electric Supplies	Garricott & Godard 4.50 Her. Elec. Co. 176.93 Gordon Law <u>145.50</u>	<u>326.93</u>
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd.	38.45
Lumber	McLuliffe, Davis Co. Ltd.	27.48
Lighting	Ottawa Hydre Electric	<u>100.00</u>
		\$3,585.27

LEPINE POINT PARK & LADY GRAY ROAD:-Appropriation \$2,500.00

Labour & Cartage		\$2,292.69
Tarvia "B"	The Paterson Manf'g Co.	264.98
Sand	R. J. Couch	82.80
Coal	J. Dolan	15.00
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd	61.00
Electric Supplies	Garricock & Godard	3.78
Lighting	The Ottawa Electric Co.	<u>864.50</u>
		\$3,574.69

RICKLIFF PARK:- Appropriation \$4,800.00

Labour & Cartage		\$4,294.48
Tarvia	Paterson Manf'g Co.	172.09
Sand	R. J. Couch	82.80
Coal	J. Dolan	20.00
Freight	Can. Pac. Ry. Co.	36.00
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd	58.00
Lawn Mowers	Graham Bros.	<u>18.00</u>
		\$4,678.85

NATIONAL PARK:- Appropriation \$4,000.00

Labour & Cartage		\$3,862.89
Tarvia	Paterson Manf'g Co.	102.71
Freight	Can. Pac. Ry. Co.	40.50
Hardware	McDougal's Ltd.	<u>9.81</u>
		\$4,015.91

GREENHOUSE:- Appropriation \$4,000.00

Labour & Cartage		\$3,561.18
Seeds & Shrubs	Dupuy, Ferguson \$7.15 E. McDonald & Sons 8.08 C. Craig 18.07 Stone & Wellington <u>59.62</u>	89.85
Coal & Sand	J. Dolan 3244.50 H. J. Couch <u>6.90</u>	251.40
Lumber & Hardware	MacCliffe, Davis 49.78 McDougal's Ltd <u>65.00</u>	114.38
Lighting	The Ottawa Electric Co.	<u>5.76</u>
		\$4,022.17

**S T A T E M E N T "C"**

**Being a statement in detail of  
the Expenditure on  
Machinery, Rolling Stock, Road Machinery,  
Contingencies, Printing & Office Expenses,  
Debitures & Office Staff  
during the fiscal year  
ending  
Eist. March 1918.  
(Being all expenditure not properly chargeable  
to any particular work.)**



Contingencies, Printing, Advertising, Office Expenses, Machinery, Rolling Stock & Road Machinery:-

Interest on Overdrafts in Bank		306.12
Stationery	Jas. Hopson	119.25
Printing	The Modern Press	51.00
Advertising	The Citizen	17.55
	The Journal	17.55
Insurance	K. Mahon & Son	124.00
	Devar & Bethune	10.00
Office Rent	Christie & Greene	200.00
Telephone Service	Bell Telephone Co.	125.45
Office Service	Ottawa Toilet Sup. Co.	19.75
	Ottawa Gas Co.	1.08
	Caretaker-E. Surtees	60.00
	Ice-G.E. Kingsbury	12.00
	Night's Directory Co.	5.00
Car Tickets	Ottawa Electric Ry. Co.	263.00
Taxi Service	M. Landreville	14.25
Auto License	A. Stuart	20.00
Taxes:-	Twp. Hull W.H. Stewart Cell.	3.04
Hose, Tires &c.	Dunlop Tires & Rubber Goods Co.	140.09
Lumber	McAuliffe Davis Co Ltd.	116.40
Express & Freight	Can. Pac Ry. Co.	66.16
	Can. Express Co.	.70
	F.E. O'Heara-rebate	.80
Supplies	Beech Motor Co.	258.93
	Fritchard & Andrews	4.00
	Bryson & Graham	10.05
	Patterson Manfg Co.	69.53
	A. Workman Co.	3.90
	McDougal's Ltd.	363.81
	Carrioch, Goddard Co.	45.51
	Graham Bros.	43.40
	Northern Electric Co	1023.65
	Ottawa Paint Works	50.15
	A. Bourque	15.00
	Everyman's Car Co.	2.55
	Gordon Law	213.06
Edmondson & Patch	38.88	
Allowance Ret. Soldier J. Tait		2,142.47
Customs Duty & Freight	C. Higerty	39.50
Professional Services	Dr. F.H. Gordon	125.72
	Dr. J.R. O'Brien	5.00
	Ottawa Gen. Hosp.	200.00
Power & Light	Ottawa Electric Co.	404.00
Boiler Inspection	J. Kay	103.05
	Maxwell's Ltd.	5.00
Lawn Mowers	Colanella Ltd.	110.20
	P.J. Powers	290.00
Repairs	Oestler & Crowe	400.30
	T. Hews	512.05
	C. Cameron	8.00
	Ottawa Welding Co.	44.50
		16.25
		2.75
		241.55
		5,382.83
		26,837.38

Brought Forward

\$26,857.28

Office Staff:-

Superintendent	A. Stuart	\$3,000.00	
Purchasing Agent & Timekeeper	W. E. O'Hara	1,700.00	
Clerk	A. Chevrier	1,400.00	
Messenger	E. Surtees	<u>600.00</u>	<u>6,700.00</u>
			\$33,557.28

1918

-: RECAPITULATION :-

WORKS:-

✓ Mervillien & Confort Station Rockcliffe	<del>25,622.03</del> +
✓ Riverside Terrace	<del>2,041.50</del> +
✓ Widening Rockcliffe Driveway	<del>4,996.04</del> +
✓ Sundry Works	<del>12,600.16</del> +

\$30,369.79  
12 8. 14

IMPROVEMENTS:-

✓ Rideau Canal Driveway	514,768.40 +
✓ Patterson's Creek Parks	3,307.34 +
✓ Glenow & Monkland Avenues	1,702.80 +
✓ Somerset Street Park	364.76 +
✓ Bronson Park	396.59 +
✓ Strathcona Park	2,498.40 +
✓ MacDonald Gardens	2,059.52 +
✓ King Edward Avenue & Park	3,553.27 +
✓ European Point Park & Lady Grey Road	3,574.59 +
✓ Rockcliffe Park	4,678.35 +
✓ National Park	4,015.91 +
✓ Greenhouse	<u>4,022.17</u> +

\$44,971.70

Incidental Expenses:-

✓ Contingencies, Machinery & Rolling Stock	<del>25,362.58</del> +
✓ Office Staff	<u>6,700.00</u>

\$12,082.38

57,034

Debentures:-

Debenture No. 14. \$21,455.00

T O T A L ----- \$108,868.87

**STATEMENT "D"**

**Being a statement in detail of  
the number and variety of  
Bedding Plants and Bulbs  
planted during the year  
ending  
31st. March 1918.**

**Statement of Bedding Plants**  
 grown at the Commission's Greenhouse and used  
 on the Driveways and Parks during  
 the year ending  
 31st. March 1918.

	Greenhouse perennials	Annuals	Total
Queen Canal Driveway & Well House Park.	11,390	9,500	20,890
Battersea's Creek Parks	11,215	4,425	15,640
Waltham Park	3,500	5,500	9,000
King Edward Avenue Park	275	125	400
Essex Street Park	1,175	1,125	2,300
Wentworth Park	100	50	150
Waltham Park	485	515	1,000
Waltham	1,400	600	2,000
Stock			2,000
	29,640	21,840	51,480

-: Statement of Bulb Planting :-

Owing to the increased price of bulbs and the difficulties and uncertainties of transportation the purchase was reduced to a few thousand during the autumn of 1917 and these together with the ones which had been matured and ripened from the previous year's bedding stock, amounting to about 25,000 in all were planted in The Battersea Creek Parks.