FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION OTTAWA, CANADA

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

1939-1940

Hon. J. L. Ilsley, K.C., M.P., Minister of Finance, Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

We have the honour to present to you herewith the Forty-first Annual Report of the Federal District Commission for the fiscal year 1939-1940 in accordance with the provisions of the Federal District Commission Act.

Yours very truly,

Frederic E. Bronson CHAIRMAN

Haldane R. Cram SECRETARY.

FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

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D. K. MacTavish, K.C., B.A.

J. E. Stanley Lewis, Mayor of Ottawa

STAFF

Haldane R. Cram, B.Sc. Secretary

Alex Stuart Superintendent

Alphonse Chevrier
Assistant Secretary

Alan K. Hay, A.M.E.I.C. Consulting Engineer

OFFICES AND SHOPS

291 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Canada.

Report for the Fiscal Year 1939-1940

The year of 1939-1940 was one of much activity for the Federal District Commission. In addition to the usual maintenance works on the parks and parkways under its control there were a good number of items of new construction. The grounds of the Dominion Government buildings in Ottawa were again maintained, and certain services in connection with these buildings, such as the removal of garbage, ashes, and snow, were continued. The winter's snow fall kept the commission's fleet of snow plows and a large force of men busy to keep the driveways open to traffic at all times and free from icy surfaces. Mosquito control operations in the Ottawa district were supervised, and the grounds of the Ottawa Civic Hospital and Bank of Canada maintained. Certain departments of the Dominion Government, at their expense, had the commission carry out various construction works. purchase of lands for Gatineau park was proceeded with, and a limited amount of trail cutting was carried out within this The landscaping of the National Memorial area and Confederation square in central Ottawa was also completed.

The total expenditure of the commission during 1939-40, including money received from all sources, is as follows:

Maintenance and Administration	\$ 225,833.25
New Construction, Improvements, etc.	70,366.68
Purchase of Properties	9,531.36
Dominion Government Grounds	91,986.02
Gatineau Park Land Purchases	81,590.25
Mosquito Control	8,500.27
Ottawa Civic Hospital Grounds	5,122.65
Bank of Canada Grounds	1,127.29
Elgin Street, City of Ottawa	1,450.00
Department of Public Works	44,151.97
Department of Agriculture	16,821.16
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	547.01
Department of National Defence	664.77
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 557,692.68

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING WORKS

The commission completed the work of improving Nicholas Street park, adjoining the entrance to Ottawa of the Canadian National Railways in the vicinity of Mann avenue, by replacing an unsightly board fence with one of stone posts and iron railings and by grading the slopes and planting them with shrubbery and trees. The completion of this work greatly improved the appearance of this area as viewed from trains entering and leaving Ottawa and from the driveway on the opposite side of the Rideau canal. The cost of these improvements amounted, this year, to \$ 1,399.65.

At Central park the existing artificial stone fence on the east side of Bank street was extended to include the exterior boundaries of the lot purchased on the southeast corner of Patterson avenue and Bank street and of the lot on Bank street adjoining the Shell Oil Company's service station. Grading, planting, and sodding were also carried out. The expenditure totalled \$ 690.33.

The development of Jacques Cartier park in the city of Hull at the confluence of the Ottawa river and Brewery creek was proceeded with. The base and curb of a quarter mile running track was laid as well as for a driveway through the twenty-four acres' area of the park. A large number of young trees and shrubs were set out along the Laurier avenue boundary of the park. Water services were installed, and a large portion of the area was sewn with grass seed. The commission also removed the upper half of the 150 feet high mill chimney that remained on the property following the demolition of the old Gilmour-Hughson lumber mills which formerly occupied this land. This was done so that the remaining structure might be used by the Hull Branch, Canadian Legion, in constructing a memorial to the men of the city of Hull who fell in the war of 1914-1918. The total cost for the year's development was \$ 11,361.59.

Extensive planting of young trees, including many evergreens, was done in Rockcliffe park to replace the older trees which are gradually dying. In this connection it was necessary to use considerable new top soil where the surface cover in certain areas had become quite thin. Attention was also given to the suppression of poison ivy in this park. The sum of \$ 9,059.97 was spent on these improvements.

In 1903 the commission received a free grant by deed of Clemow avenue from the Clemow estate, it apparently being the intention at that time to construct a cross-town driveway linking the Rideau Canal driveway with the Central Experimental Farm. The commission obligated itself to maintain this thoroughfare as a public boulevard. Constructed about

thirty-five years ago with a high crown and rather deep gutters, for horse drawn vehicles, it proved unsuitable for present day traffic. Accordingly it was decided to modernize the avenue. The sides were built up and new gutter slabs laid; nine additional drainage catch basins were installed with connections to the sewers; and the roadway was surfaced with $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. of trap rock black asphalt hot mix on a tarvia penetrated limestone base. The strips of land between the roadways and sidewalks were resodded. These improvements extended between Bank street and Bronson avenue, a distance of 2,931 feet. The resurfaced roadway was 32 feet wide. The total cost was \$ 16,900.60.

Alterations were carried out in the Administration building of the commission, at the corner of Bell street and Carling avenue, to provide better and enlarged office and board room accommodation. A fire proof vault was constructed to store the many valuable plans and records that have accumulated during the past forty years. A stone and brick wall, 180 feet long and 15 feet high, was erected on Carling avenue and LeBreton street enclosing the storage yard adjoining the workshops. At a later period this wall will form part of the machine and storage buildings. These improvements cost \$ 10,047.88.

The Champlain and Minto bridges were repainted in connection with their maintenance at a cost of \$ 4,879.40. This year additional driveways constructed many years ago were resurfaced, and in some instances curves were super-elevated to conform with modern practice. This work cost \$ 9,999.03. Improvements were also carried out to the grounds at the rear of the commission's greenhouses and nursery in Rockcliffe park. These consisted of pedestrian and bridal paths, grading planting, and seeding. The expenditure in this connection was \$ 1,497.05.

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED IN OTTAWA AND HULL, 1939-1940

As a desirable addition to Rockcliffe park the commission purchased the triangular shaped parcel of land at the junction of Princess avenue and Lisgar road from the A. F. May syndicate for the price of \$ 1,500.00.

In the city of Hull the following properties were purchased with a view to creating a new park at the confluence of the Gatineau and Ottawa rivers and Leamy creek.

- 1. Lot 8, ward 5, 52 acres, from the estate of Lois Wright Scott, for the sum of \$ 4,281.56, including legal fees, commission, and tax adjustment.
- 2. Part of lot 3, and lot 5, ward 5, 42 acres from the Corporation Les Missionnaires Oblates de Marie Immaculie for \$ 3,749.80 including legal fees and commission.

GATINEAU PARK

During the previous fiscal year 3,281 acres of land were purchased as the first step in the formation of Gatineau park situated in the lower Gatineau river valley, province of Quebec, in the vicinity of Meach, Harrington, and Philippe lakes approximately fifteen miles from Ottawa. When completed, the park will embrace from 20,000 to 25,000 acres of natural woodlands, hills, valleys, lakes and streams and will provide unexcelled opportunities in summer and winter for sport, hiking, camping, etc.

In the year 1939-40 additional land to the extent of 8,688 acres was accuired bringing the total purchase up to March 31, 1940, to 11,969 acres. In a considerable number of cases where it was impossible to reach an agreement on the purchase price, the lands were expropriated. Five of these proceeded to the Exchequer Court for adjudication under the Expropriation Act. Following judgments in these cases, settlement was reached in the Others without recourse to the court.

Summarized briefly, the expenditure for land purchases for the Gatineau park during 1939-40 is as follows:

8,688 acres of land cost	\$ 71,481.94
Legal costs	4,727.09
Legal surveys, etc	5,381.22
	\$ 81,590.25

As well as the above, the sum of \$10,644.96 was spent on the maintenance and improvement of the park. Several miles of hiking and ski-ing trails were built on the southern escarpment of the hills overlooking the Ottawa river valley. Lookouts were established commanding pleasing vistas in many directions including the spires of Ottawa. A patrol of three rangers was organized under the supervision of the park superintendent to prevent forest fires and to protect the wild life of the park. In addition improvements were made to park entrance roads, and snow plowing of the roads was also carried out during the winter.

WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMISSION FOR DOMINION GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Every year various departments of the Dominion Government and certain other organizations have the commission do work for them of a construction nature. In these cases the organizations concerned advance the estimated cost of the work prior to commencement, and when the work is completed, any unexpended funds are refunded.

Department of Public Works

Confederation square and National Memorial areas and Elgin street—The landscaping of the National Memorial area and the widened Elgin street was carried out by the commission in accordance with the plans of Mr. Jacques Greber, landscape architect, consultant to the Dominion Government. The total expenditure was \$ 23,910.59 of which \$ 22,460.59 came from appropriations available to the Department of Public Works and \$ 1,450.00 was a contribution from the city of Ottawa towards the tree planting and sodding on Elgin street. The following is a brief summary of the plant materials used in the work:

A total of 38 deciduous trees were planted, and 14 coniferous. The conifers were 10 to 15 ft. high; while 30 of the deciduous trees were 35 to 45 ft. high; 4 were 30 to 35 ft. high, and 4 were 20 to 25 ft. high. As well 300 ft. of deciduous and 500 ft. of coniferous hedge were planted. Included in the planting were 1,100 roses and other shrubs and 210 low conifers. A total of 7,500 bulbs, 3,500 annuals, and 18 oz. of seed was planted in the flower section. In the grading operations necessary for this landscaping 6,500 cu. yd. of subsoil and 3,100 cu. yd. of topsoil were used. And 16,000 sq. yd. of sod were used to complete the work.

Roadway under the plaza---In this connection 1,300 sq. yd. of roadway was reconstructed and 70 lineal ft. of stone curbing provided. Repairs were also made to two gutter grates and drains, and one stone step was added at the bottom of the stairs leading to the park above. The total cost was \$ 1,112.61.

Connaught building sidewalks——Three cement concrete sidewalk approaches to the Connaught building on Mackenzie avenue comprising in area 5,100 sq. ft. were reconstructed at a cost of \$ 1,059.89.

Armouries, Hull---The improving of the grounds about the new armouries in Hull was completed. This consisted of constructing 2,600 sq. yd. of road surface, 1,700 lin. ft. of stone curbing, 670 sq. ft. of sidewalk, and installing 1,000 ft. of water service piping, 16 catch basins. As well, 9,400 sq. yd. of lawn were filled with topsoil and seeded, and some shrubbery planted. The total cost was \$ 9,908.83.

Parliament Hill—Additional improvements to the grounds, roadways, and walks consisting of the following were carried out: 4,750 sq. yd. of black bituminous surface walks, 500 lin. ft. of concrete curbing, 600 lin. ft. of concrete gutter slabs and 1,000 sq. yd. of grading and resodding, all for a total cost of \$4,491.60.

Special improvements for King's visit——Considerable attention was given to the appearance of the section of the driveway forming the routes used by Their Majesties the King and Queen while visiting Ottawa. Unsightly backgrounds were masked by evergreen planting; fences were erected to facilitate control of crowds; decorations were set up; revision of driveway location at Nepean Point carried out; policing of routes by commission employees arranged, etc. The total expenditure in these connections was \$ 4,981.46.

Grading west of Justice building--- A small amount of grading and levelling of the land west of the Justice building was carried out at a cost of \$ 136.99.

Department of Agriculture

The commission relocated and constructed a new section of the roadway in the Central Experimental Farm leading to Carling avenue. The work included the reconstruction of sidewalks and curbs, sodding, installation of a drainage system with catch basins, grading, planting, and the removal of some trees, at a cost of \$ 16,821.16.

Department of National Defence

Winter maintenance of the roadways adjoining the Ordnance Supply building at Cartier square, consisting of plowing snow from roads and sidewalks, sweeping and sanding the steps, etc., was carried out at a cost of \$ 664.77.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

To permit winter travel to the barracks at Rockcliffe, the commission plowed the section of the driveway from Acacia avenue to the barracks at a cost of \$ 547.01.

Mosquito Control

Mosquito control operations were carried out on a some-what larger scale during 1939-40 by the commission due, in part, to the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen. A total of \$8,500.27 was spent on the work which took in the district within a six-mile radius of Ottawa. Towards the cost of the work the commission gave a grant of \$3,200.00; the city of Ottawa, \$2,000.00; the village of Rockcliffe Park, \$1,000.00; and the county of Carleton, \$100.00. Additional revenue was also forthcoming from rental of the mosquito truck in the off season. The actual work is carried out by the commission with valuable technical advice being given by the Division of Entomology, Science Service, Department of Agriculture.

Ottawa Civic Hospital Grounds

As usual, the grounds about the Civic Hospital on Carling avenue were maintained by the commission with funds received from the W. G. Black endowment fund. The total expenditure during the year was \$ 5,122.65.

Bank of Canada Grounds

The grounds about the Bank of Canada on Wellington and Sparks streets were maintained by the commission from funds supplied by the bank. In summer this maintenance consists of looking after the lawns and shrubbery, and in winter the keeping of the grounds and yard plowed free of snow. The total expenditure on this maintenance was \$ 1,127.29.

GREENHOUSES AND NURSERY

During the year a total of 193,248 plants was sent out from the greenhouses at Rockcliffe and planted in the various parks and grounds under the commission's control. Of these 93,248 were annuals, 5,000 perennials, 80,000 plants, and 15,000 miscellaneous.

In the fall of 1939, 84,990 bulb plants were put in the ground for spring bloom. These consisted of 76,090 tulips, 5,600 narcissus, 1,300 scilla, 1,000 crocus, and 1,000 hyacinths.

Of the tulips 10,000 were planted in beds on Parliament Hill, 8,500 in Rideau Hall grounds, 5,790 at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, and 51,800 in the various parks and driveways of the commission. Also at the Civic Hospital were planted 1,000 crocus, 800 scilla, and 1,000 hyacinths. Also 5,600 narcissus were planted; 600 at the Civic Hospital, 2,000 at Rideau Hall, and 3,000 in the commission's parks and driveways.

From the nursery at Rockcliffe 17,297 stock plants were taken and planted in the grounds under the commission's control. Of these 11,644 were conifers, the majority of which were planted at Pine Hill, Rockcliffe. The remainder consisted of 542 deciduous trees, 4,211 ornamental shrubs and vines, and 900 perennials.

POLICING OF COMMISSION PROPERTY

"A" Division, Ottawa, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is responsible for the policing of the parks and parkways of the Federal District Commission, and enforcing Bylaw No. 26 which regulates traffic on the driveways.

Under this bylaw the police report the following offences during 1939-40:

Convictions Dismissals	105 Nil
Warnings	160
Total	265

In addition a total of 43 accidents was investigated by the police. None of these involved loss of life. There were also 21 investigations regarding damage to commission property.

Investigations were also conducted on damage to shrubs and plants, etc., and disturbances by children in the various parks. Three stolen cars were recovered, and a number of miscellaneous articles were found, most of which were claimed by the rightful owners.

An investigation into a complaint regarding cutting trees on property recently purchased by the commission in the city of Hull resulted in the conviction of six persons under section 373 of the Criminal Code. Each of the six was given one year suspended sentence and had to put up a \$ 100 personal bond.

FINANCIAL

S T A T E M E N T S

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1939-1940

Revenue

Balance from 1938-39 statutory grant. Statutory Grant, 1939-40 Bank interest Miscellaneous revenue from vote No. 64 Outstanding cheques from previous year Carried over from vote No. 70, 1938-39 From vote No. 65 Miscellaneous receipts, Gatineau park. Vote No. 501	\$ 27,448.90 200,000.00 45.97 26,382.77 170,400.00 21.00 24,623.04 75,000.00 75.83 26,000.00	
Total re	venue	\$ 549,997.51
Expenditure		
Maintenance and administration Improvements and new construction	\$ 229;033.25 70,366.68	

Total expenditure..... \$ 482,507.56

9,531.36 91,986.02

81,590.25

67,489.95 Gross balance.....

This gross balance of \$ 67,489.95 consisted of \$ 4,044.50 of vote No. 64 and \$ 17,968.64 of vote No. 501 which were returned to the Receiver General. The rest of the balance consisting of \$ 18,108.62 of vote No. 65 and \$ 27,368.19 of the statutory grant account was carried over into 1940-1941.

Summary of Gross Balance

Purchase of properties.....

Dominion Government grounds.....

Gatineau park.....

Vote No. 64	\$ 4,044.50
Vote No. 501	17,968.64
Vote No. 65	18,108.62
Statutory Grant	27,368.19
	\$ 67,489.95

COMPARISON OF ESTIMATES APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WITH ACTUAL EXPENDITURE IN 1939-1940

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General	Estimate.	Expenditure
Contingencies	\$ 7,068.00 16,600.00 18,280.00	\$ 6,862.06 16,537.26 18,280.00
Maintenance		
Parks, drives, bridges, buildings, etc. Gatineau park maintenance Nursery Greenhouses	149,200.90 10,748.00 8,700.00 16,200.00	148,764.32 10,644.96 8,654.83 16,089.82
Sundries		
Mosauito control grant	3,200.00 4,600.00	3,200.00 4,531.18
Dominion Government Grounds		
Rideau Hall grounds maintenance Completion of fence about grounds Alterations to roadways, etc National Research grounds maintenance Other government grounds maintenance Contingencies and supplies Repairs to machinery	19,000.00 1,500.00 6,200.00 5,500.00 56,700.00 5,000.00	18,725.95 1,359.97 6,120.50 4,964.65 53,991.18 4,869.93 1,953.84
Improvements		•
Nicholas Street park	1,400.00 700.00 11,362.00 9,060.00 16,901.00 10,049.00 4,880.00 10,000.00 1,500.00	1,399.65 690.33 11,361.59 9,059.97 16,900.60 10,047.88 4,879.40 9,999.03 1,497.05
Properties		
Triangle in Rockcliffe park	1,500.00 25,000.00 26,000.00 150,000.00	1,500.00 8,031.36 81,590.25
Miscellaneous	*	
Estimated deficit of statutory grant	17,000.00	3 3 3 9
	\$ 615,848.90	\$ 482,507.56

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE DIFFERENT PARKS AND DRIVEWAYS OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION

Bronson Park .		•	• •		\$	569.34
Central Park .		•	• •	. , .	6	,713.74
Confederation Pa	rk		• •	• • •	8	,774.37
Dow's Lake Park.	• • •	•	• •	q d • ·	8	,158.98
Dundonald Park .		•	• •	• • •		630.19
Eastview Park		•	• •	• • •	2	,307.15
Echo Drive		•	• •	• • •	11	,697.97
Experimental Far	cm Dri	vewa	у.	• • •	15	,307.58
Fontaine Park, F	Hull	•	• •	• • •		936.16
Gatineau Park	• • •	•	• •		10	,644.96
Island Park Driv	veway	•	• •		17	,248.81
Jacques Cartier	Park,	Hul	1.		2	,058.66
King Edward Aver	nue an	ıd Pa	rk	• • •	8	,494.78
Macdonald Garden	ns.	•		• • •	2	,456.31
Nepean Point and	l Lady	Gre	y Dri	lve.	9	,454.30
Nicholas Street	Park			• • •	2	,158.24
Rideau Canal Dri	iveway	•			26	,041.82
Rockcliffe Park	• • •	•	• •	• • •	20	,338.11
Strathcona Park		•	• •	• • •	4	,552.02
Val Tetreau Parl	k, Hul	.1	• •	• • •		865.79
Total for Pa	ark Ma	inte	enance	9	\$ 159	,409.28

EXPENDITURES 1900-1940

		<u>1939-1940</u>	Total
Bronson Avenue Bridge (one third share)	Cons.	\$	\$. 17,07%.38
Bronson Park	Cons. Main.	569.34	4,003.88 20,365.89
Central Park	Cons. Main.	690.33 6,713.74	82,302.12 187,911.38
Clemow and Monkland Avenues	Cons. Main.	16,900.60	60,202.45 44,837.72
Champlain Bridge	Cons. Main.	3, 903.52	749,980.36 3,903.52
Confederation Park	Cons. Main.	8,774.37	1,663,940.68 69,659.68
Dow's Lake Playground	Cons.		14,140.30
Dundonald Park	Cons. Main.	630.19	3,420.74 25,311.51
Eastview Park	. Cons. Main.	2,307.15	58,742.95 24,186.99
Echa Drive	Cons. Main.	11,697.97	180,693.58 101,026.70
Experimental Farm Driveway.	Cons. Main.	15,307.58	159,684.81 34,625.52
Fontaine Park, Hull	Cons. Main.	936.16	68,159.72 15,641.93
Gatineau Park	Cons. Main.	81,590.25 10,644.96	131,967.21 10,644.96
Green and Maple Islands	Cons. Main.		22,866.64 4,977.70
Greenhouse and Nursery	Cons. Main.	24,744.65	67,253.19 279,038.50
Hull City Hall Park	Cons.		5,307.03
Island Park Driveway	Cons. Main.	17,248.81	295,279.92 241,113.29
Carried Forward		\$ 202,659.62	\$ 4,648,339.25

EXPENDITURES 1900-1940

	1939-1940	Total
Brought Forward	d \$ 202,659.62	\$ 4,648,339.25
Jacques Cartier Park, Hull. Cons		81,619.56 5,338.27
King Edward Avenue and Park Cons	4	166,832.84 171,303.75
Linden Terrace Cons	•	6,162.35
Macdonald Gardens Cons	a 1 m / a a	23,904.48 82,009.20
Major's Hill Park Cons		4,216.00
Minto Bridges Cons	6 M F A A	45,450.13 33,592.29
Nepean Point and L.G. Drive Cons	~	180,313.21 136,855.38
Nicholas Street Park Cons	2 2 2 4 0 1	13,067.28 14,400.45
Rideau Canal Driveway Cons	- 1 000 40	654,629.63 800,632.74
Rockcliffe Park Cons		493,502.81 442,731.41
Stanley Avenue Con	S •	2,454.74
Strathcona Park Con		60,662.57 121,991.89
Val Tetreau Park, Hull Con		5,990.08 13,632.45
Philemon Wright Park, Hull. Con	s. <u>8,031.36</u>	8,031.36
	\$ 331,063.16	\$ 8,217,664.12
Rideau Hall Grounds Con		169;376.64 129;522.11
Research Council Grounds Con		2,987.60 33,675.35
Dominion Government Grounds Mai	n. <u>60,814.95</u>	337,602.44
	\$ 423,049.18	\$ 8,890,828.26
	-	

EXPENDITURES 1900-1940

<u>General</u>	1939-1940	Total
Staff	\$ 18,280.00	\$ 321,607.79
Interest on Bank Overdrafts		11,878.86
Machinery, Rolling Stock, and Contingencies	26,599.32	57 2,814.35
Syenite Quarry		3,5 14.75
Offices, Shops, Garage, and Storage Sheds	10,047.88	119,047.86
Dow's Lake Boathouse		29, 834.78
Redemption of Debentures, Interest.	dantitum dantumun etilika yekirika inganan anganan kananan	72,906.16
	\$ 54,927.20	\$ 1,131,604.55
Other Disbursements		
Sundry Work by Commission, Refunded	\$ 4,531.18	\$ 321,260.60
Redemption of Debentures, Principal	Between the control of the transfer and the control of the control	<u>270,373.34</u>
	\$ 4,531.18	\$ 591,634.44
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SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES 1900-1940

Construction and Maintenance	\$ 8,890,828.26
General	1,131,604.55
Other Disbursements	591,634.44
	\$ 10,614,067.25