

Memorial building described tribute to wisdom, courage

The Fathers of Confederation Building is Canada's first memorial to her founders. Its opening in 1964 in Prince Edward Island's Capital honors the wisdom and courage the men who met for the first time in Charlottetown a century ago and laid the foundations of union. It is dedicated to the history and traditions of Canada and to the future of Canada on the threshold of her second century.

The beginning of the project was almost inevitable. The centennial of the first Confederation Conference was approaching as was the centennial of Confederation itself only three years later, and a major tribute to the Fathers on such an occasion was obviously needed. Charlottetown, as the "cradle" of Confederation, was an appropriate location. It was there that momentous statesmanship fashioned an honorable destiny.



QUEEN WILL VISIT IN OCTOBER

The first step was to secure official national opinion on the merits of the project and on the possibilities of financial support. The prime minister and all premiers were called on first, and they expressed interest in the idea, without official commitments which, of course, they could not at that stage make.

Architectural and construction authorities were consulted on the best way to handle design and construction, for no similar proposal of national participation in building had ever been carried out. Many months of negotiations and planning were involved. The fact that 1964 was not far off spurred the effort despite the fact that problems were numerous and financial security was impossible until the project took shape.

COMPETITION HELD
Preliminary planning determined the nature and facilities of the building. Then an architectural competition was arranged open to all Canadian architects. The Canada Council made a grant to pay for the competition. Advertising, the publication of a book of general specifications, and the appointment of a jury of award followed. Eight months later, forty-seven models and sets of plans were received and judged, and the winning entry was that of the Montreal firm of Affleck, Desbarats, Dimakopoulos, Lebersold and a diamond-shaped pyramid. Queen's The Foundation directors were hosts at a major awards

dinner in Ottawa in January 1963 presented the prize and Prime Minister Diefenbaker gave a "address."

The art gallery and the museum have many features of interest. They have designed to provide the maximum display space in a setting which is itself an attraction. One looks up and down through several floors of space, through the corner windows at vistas of the surrounding landscape, and upwards at the splendid coffer ceilings. There is an archives in the lower floor of the museum and below the gallery is a 300-seat theatre-lecture hall.

To the south is the library again a building of imaginative design and impressive facilities. It incorporates a public library, a research library, a children's library and the legislative library of the province. Again the corner windows and the coffer ceilings are featured attractions. Below the library building is an entire floor of storage facilities for the complex.

In the library building, but not part of the library, is a reception room-board room suite which is for meetings and entertainment. Looking out on a sculpture court, this suite is one of great beauty and utility, and it will be available for official functions.

The centrepiece of the entire complex is the Memorial Hall, a 60-foot square structure in stepped stone with a glass roof of diamond-shaped pyramids. Quads carved in the wall, and a splendid floor welcomes the visitor. Through the roof one can see all the buildings of the complex, and through the glass doors stands the venerable Provincial Building. From the Hall one can enter all the other buildings.

This great Confederation Centre was paid for and constructed on behalf of all the people of Canada, and it will be dedicated to a national purpose. It is hoped that the thousands of Canadians who visit it every year will be proud of it, and will maintain an interest in it, and that generations to come will regard it as a fitting national tribute to the men who founded their country.

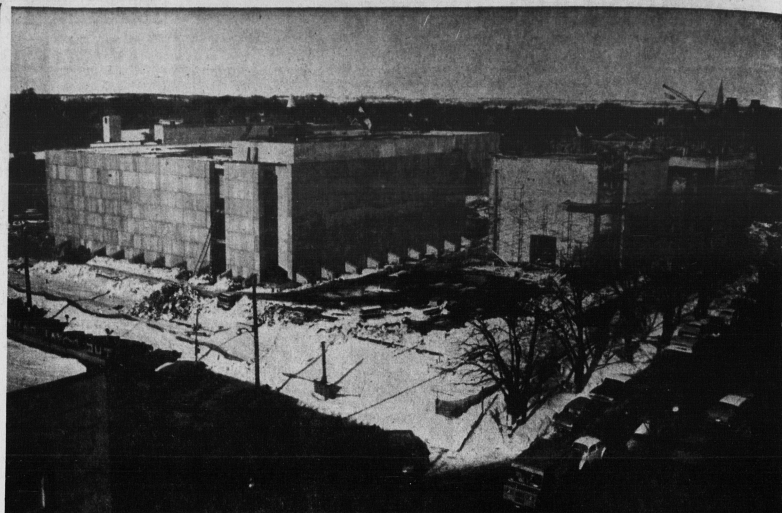
Several weeks of discussion followed between the officers of the foundation and the architects on the details of the plans, and, after the signing of a contract, a year was spent in the preparation of blueprints, the calling of nation-wide tenders, and the judging of the tenders. The winning contractor was Pigot Construction Company of Hamilton and Montreal.

Meanwhile funds had to be secured by the time the tenders were opened. Calls were made in Ottawa and all provincial capitals and accounts of progress were made to the conference of provincial premiers in 1961 and 1962. Definite commitments were finally made by all governments. Parliament voted 15 cents a head of the population of Canada, \$2,800,000, and each province contributed 15 cents a head of its own population, another \$2,800,000. Every Canadian has thus contributed 30 cents to the project. Prince Edward Island provided the site, a splendid one in the centre of Charlottetown next to the Provincial Building where the fathers first met.

FIRST SOD TURNED
The first sod was turned on February 2, 1963. After a ceremony in the historic Confederation Chamber at which Premier Jean Lesage of Quebec gave the address for the occasion, the ceremony was moved outdoors to the site where the sod was turned by Premier R.L. Stanfield of Nova Scotia, then chairman of the conference of provincial premiers. Construction commenced two weeks later.

The ceremony was held on Aug. 26 by Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson at a splendid ceremony in which all the armed services of Canada took part, and at which every province was represented.

Completion date for the building is May 1 and it is fitting that, two weeks later, the Dominion Drama Festival will play from every region of Canada commences the year's activities in the theatre. Several na-



'A BEAUTIFUL EXPRESSION OF THE EVENT IT COMMEMORATES' — SIR BASIL SPENCE

tional collections in the gallery and museum, and a book fair in the library by all Canada's publishers also make appropriate opening features in the building.

QUEEN TO VISIT
The official opening of the building is the highlight of the centennial year. The Fathers anniversary for the Charlottetown Conference on September 1, 1964; a century later Canada's first memorial to them will be dedicated to them and to the nation they founded. On Oct. 6, the building will be officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen.

The character and facilities of the building were the result of a great deal of planning and consultation by the foundation and its advisors, and these were indicated in the instructions for the architectural competition. A building of style and beauty which would be useful and which would be built to last for centuries was wanted. And the interior facilities were specified in such a way that the monumental and functional could be appropriately combined.

"The work of the architect in our modern society," read the instructions, "consists largely of buildings of an impermanent nature. Apartment houses, hotels, schools, and offices are built in such a way that the monuments

tal and functional could be appropriately combined. "The work of the architect in our modern society," read the instructions, "consists largely of buildings of an impermanent nature. Apartment houses, hotels, schools, and offices are built in such a way that the monuments

tal and functional could be appropriately combined. "The work of the architect in our modern society," read the instructions, "consists largely of buildings of an impermanent nature. Apartment houses, hotels, schools, and offices are built in such a way that the monuments

EXCITING PHASE

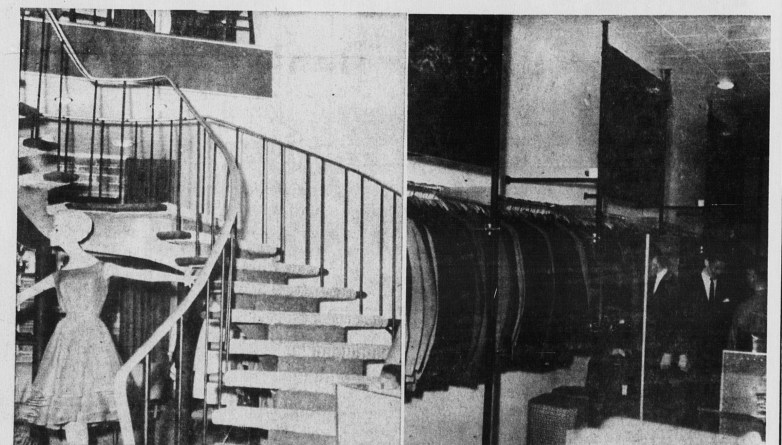
One would feel that the Fathers themselves would be pleased at such a combination of a tribute to them and an edifice devoted to a new and exciting phase in Canada's growth.

The dream of such a building, like that of the confederation honours, required much work and negotiations to translate into reality. Nation-wide participation was necessary in planning, finance, and design and construction. Appropriate credit had to be devised for such an unprecedented effort. Opportunity had to be provided on a national scale for the expression of ideas, seeking of advice, and participation in the work. And business methods appropriate to such a large project were essential.

A private company was there for organized in 1960. The Fathers of Confederation Memorial Citizens Foundation. Incorporated under the Canadian Companies Act, it consists of a national Board of Directors of 16 trustees. The Foundation directors were hosts at a major awards

100TH YEAR IN BUSINESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1865



Stairway to Fashion . . . Ladies' Wear Second Floor Ground Floor Showing Men's Suit Section

Quality and Service A Reputation MacNEILL MOTORS Ltd. Have Established In SUMMERSIDE in The Past 30 Years



Much has happened in Summerside during the past few years, and we here at MacNeill Motors have been happy to share in the town's progressive growth . . . we too have progressed, we are selling more cars to more people and this year with the introduction of the 1964 Chevrolets, Corvair, Oldsmobile, Cadillac, Envoy cars and Chevrolet trucks, we feel that we are marking a milestone in automobile history . . . drop in and see us anytime, we'll be happy to serve you.

"A MacNeill Deal Is A Good Deal Better"

MacNeill Motors Limited

Chevrolet — Corvair — Oldsmobile — Cadillac
Water Street East Summerside Dial 2291



Ross MacKenzie

From Fashion Houses in Montreal, Toronto and imports from England are styles especially chosen with you in mind.

For the future Bride and Groom, let us plan your wedding trousseau from start to finish.

