# The Residence of Canadians



Rideau Hall in 1865



Former facade of
Rideau Hall (around 1904)

*As we climb the stairs of the Entrance Hall, the treasures of Rideau Hall are gradually revealed. With every step we take, we are adding to the history of this residence. Rideau Hall has a storied past as a vice-regal residence. It has been the official home and workplace of every Governor General since 1867. Also, its architecture has been modified over the years to respond more appropriately to the requirements of the highest official position in Canada. The rooms still used for official purposes include the Tent Room, the Ballroom and the Entrance Hall, where visitors are greeted.*

*Entrance Hall (2000)*

## Entrance Hall

This is the residence's formal entrance. It was completed in 1913 at the same time as the new stone facade (left).

*Facade of Rideau Hall (1913)*

*Indoor tennis court in the Tent Room (date unknown)*

## Tent Room

*Tent Room during the children's Christmas party (1992)*

This room, which was built in 1876, had two functions: it was an indoor tennis court during the day and was also used for evening dinner parties. Tennis was played in it until 1959 (period of the Vaniers). It is now used for receptions and official dinners.

**1** Look at the photograph of the Tent Room (right) and explain how it acquired its name.

*Tent Room decorated for a banquet (around 1873 - 1878)*

## Ballroom

The Ballroom was first used in 1873 for official ceremonies as well as for music, theatre productions and formal balls. Today, it is used for official ceremonies, such as:


*Theatrical production in the Ballroom (1882)*


*Formal Presentation of Letters of Credence in the Ballroom (1993)*

- Swearing-in of the Prime Minister, Cabinet members and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada;
- Installation of the Chief of the Defence Staff;
- State luncheons and dinners during visits by foreign Heads of State.

## The Official Residences of Canada

**1** The Governor General has an official residence in each Canadian province. True or false?

**2** Employees of the National Capital Commission maintain the grounds and residence of Rideau Hall and the other five official residences in the Ottawa area. Identify the main occupant (title and name) of the following residences:

   a) 24 Sussex Drive
   b) Harrington Lake (Gatineau Park).
   c) Stornoway (Rockliffe Park Village)
   d) The Farm (Kingsmere estate, Gatineau Park)
   e) 7 Rideau Gate

### Choice of answers
Official guests of the government, Leader of the Opposition, Prime Minister of Canada, Speaker of the House of Commons, Governor General of Canada
*N.B.: The same answer may apply more than once.*

**3** There is a seventh official residence in Canada.
   a) Where is it located?     b) What is its occupant's title and name?