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The Canadian War Museum at a Glance — 2007

- Canada's national museum of military history.
- Award winning architectural design, innovative exhibitions, diverse public programmes and leading-edge scholarly content make it one of the world's most respected museological venues for the study and understanding of armed conflict.
- The Museum preserves the artifacts of Canadian military experience, interprets them for present and future generations, and advances the professional study of Canadian military history, including the effects of war and conflict on the nation and all its citizens.
- Its exhibitions and public programs have a single overriding objective: to help all Canadians understand their country's military history in its personal, national, and international dimensions

Background

The Canadian War Museum traces its origins back to 1880, when it consisted primarily of a collection of militia artifacts. The Museum opened at its new location on the LeBreton Flats site in downtown Ottawa on May 8, 2005. Its opening not only marked the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe (V-E Day), but also the 125th anniversary of the Museum itself.

Attendance

The museum has welcomed more than 1,000,000 visitors within its first twenty-one months of operation, making it the second most visited museum in the National Capital Region after the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Exhibitions and Programmes

The Museum's exhibition galleries and public programs have been designed to emphasize the human experience of war in order to explain the impact of organized human conflict on Canada and Canadians past and present and to show how, through war, conflict, and peace-support operations, Canadians have affected and been affected by the world around them.

The Canadian Experience Galleries, the Museum's Permanent Exhibition, presents the military history of Canada from earliest times to present day, as well as Canada's history of honouring and remembrance. Each gallery highlights defining moments in Canada's military history and the ways in which past events have shaped the nation.

Public programmes — in gallery, off-site, or web-based — enhance the interpretation of all major Museum products, especially for visiting groups and school audiences, and help fulfil the Museum's national mandate by bringing instruction, materials and information to Canadians from coast to coast.

Special Exhibitions complement and build upon subjects found in the Canadian Experience Galleries, but also go beyond these to explore international or universal themes, topical or non-traditional subjects, and new media presentations.



Canada

Research and Collections

The Canadian War Museum's collections are among the finest military holdings in the world, comprising some 500,000 military artifacts from rare vehicles and artillery to uniforms, medals and personal memoirs, including the Beaverbrook Collection of War Art with more than 13,000 works of art.

The Military History Research Centre houses the George Metcalf Archival Collection and the Hartland Molson Library. These extensive national collections of primary and secondary research material document Canada's military history from the earliest times to the present.

Warmuseum.ca

Visit the Museum's Website at www.warmuseum.ca for details on current and upcoming programming and exhibitions as well as access to extensive Web modules on Canada's military history, interactive games, Collections databases and more.

Services

The Museum offers a full range of visitor services:

- The Museum's riverside cafeteria, The Mess, offers an appealing and varied menu as well as quick, friendly service in a casual atmosphere;
- Indoor parking;
- Wheelchair accessibility;
- A Boutique offering a wide selection of gifts and souvenirs;
- Services and facilities for groups.
- Facility rentals as well as banquets and special events services.

The Building

The Museum was designed by Moriyama & Teshima Architects, in joint venture with Griffiths Rankin Cook Architects. The innovative design is based on the theme of "regeneration", which brings to mind not only the impact of war on the land, but also Nature's ability to regenerate and recover from the devastation of human conflict.

Energy-efficient construction and the use of recycled materials reflect the Museum's architectural theme. River water is used in the cooling systems and recycled fly ash is used in the concrete (the building's main construction material, noted for its high energy efficiency). Native self-seeding grasses create a low-maintenance green roof which is one of the largest of its kind in Canada.

Revenue

The Museum Corporation* generates \$15 million a year and receives approximately \$60 million a year from the federal government. It is the largest national museum corporation in the country and is accountable to Parliament via the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the Status of Women.

**The Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation manages the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum.*

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