



CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

New Book Now Shipping

Château Laurier – A Splendid Century

The Life and Times of Ottawa's Grand Railway Hotel

Kevin J. Holland

Based on years of archival research, this new book blends an engaging narrative and more than 200 rare images to present the fascinating story – much of it previously untold – of this iconic Canadian hotel.

Opened in 1912 by the Grand Trunk Railway and greatly expanded in the late 1920s by corporate successor Canadian National Railways, the Château Laurier was the flagship property of the CNR's cross-Canada chain of hotels and summer resorts.

Today, as Fairmont Château Laurier, it remains an architectural gem at the heart of Canada's capital.



In concept and construction, the Château Laurier gave form to the varied aspirations of a governor general, a prime minister, and a railway baron. Architects' reputations were made – and maligned. Its opening was overshadowed by tragedy, and its expansion on the eve of the Great Depression contributed to the howling of political wolves bent on bringing down one of North America's most capable railway executives. It has been permanent home to Prime Minister R.B. Bennett, renowned photographer Yousuf Karsh, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Ottawa radio studios.

The book also includes a chapter on Ottawa Union Station, built by GTR in conjunction with the hotel.

160 pages
Hardcover with dustjacket, 11" x 8.5"
More than 240 black-and-white and colour photographs
Endnotes; Bibliography; Index

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