CHAPTER 14
Part 1 of 3

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The Chateau Laurier Hotel (1908–1912, 1927–1929) in Ottawa, Ontario, is faced mainly with early Carboniferous Indiana Limestone from the United States. ROB FENSOME.

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View along Prince William Street, Saint John, New Brunswick, about 1900. The first structure on the left is the old Bank of New Brunswick, constructed of a white sandstone of unknown, but possibly Nova Scotian, origin. The white stone is more fitting to a classical style than darker New Brunswick sources offered. Next to the Bank is the old Post Office Building, its street front exhibiting darker sandstone from the Dorchester area of New Brunswick. Farther down the street, the buildings are predominantly of brick with sandstone trim. COURTESY OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM, ACCESSION NO. X12421(2)

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The Saint John County Courthouse (1826–1829) on Sydney Street, Saint John, New Brunswick, predates the province’s domestic dimension stone industry. The back wall, shown here, is a mixture of cheaper stones from a variety of sources, some local and some possibly retrieved from ballast. The nicely finished sandstone blocks to the right. Representing the edge of the side wall, are of unknown origin, but may have arrived in New Brunswick as ballast from England. RANDALL MILLER.

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Detail of the Pugsley Building (1879) at the corner of Prince William and Princess streets in Saint John, New Brunswick. Red and grey sandstone blocks used in its construction are possibly of late Carboniferous age and from Marys Point, New Brunswick. RANDALL MILLER.

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Carving in yellow sandstone by James McAvity of a head spitting coins. This “grotesque” appears on the Palatine Building (1877–1878) on Prince William Street, Saint John, New Brunswick. RANDALL MILLER.

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The City Market (1876) in Saint John, New Brunswick, is the oldest continuously operating farmers’ market in Canada. It has decorative sandstone trim, but is largely made of locally manufactured brick. RANDALL MILLER.

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Granite columns surround a doorway of the Palatine Building (1877–1878), Saint John, New Brunswick. Features carved in granite are still shiny and fresh, in contrast to sandstone carvings, which are losing their detail. The grey and red pillars shown here are of Silurian-Devonian age and were quarried near St. George, New Brunswick. RANDALL MILLER.

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More substantial building materials such as stone are rare in the Prairies, so many of the original farmsteads were made of wattle and daub, basically sticks and soil. This farmstead, photographed in 1979, was near Mendham, Saskatchewan. ROB FENSOME.

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Fieldstone barn at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, recently refurbished. The stones used in its construction are a variety of rock types from the Canadian Shield, transported to the Indian Head area by ice during the last glaciation. ROB FENSOME.

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The University of Saskatchewan Observatory (1929) in Saskatoon is constructed from Ordovician dolostone, locally called greystone. Despite its uniformity, much of Saskatoon’s greystone is actually a fieldstone, as explained on page 284. ROB FENSOME.

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Weathered sandstone gravestone, Clementsport, Nova Scotia. ROB FENSOME.

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A gravestone for victims of the sinking of the Titanic, Fairview Lawn Cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Although set up over a hundred years ago, this poignant marker of a family tragedy, made of hard gabbro, still looks fresh. ROB FENSOME.

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Carved heads peek out from ornate fringes on the lower part of the Greenshields Building on Water Street in Vancouver, British Columbia. The stone for the carvings and surrounds is Gulf Islands or related sandstone, though the location of the quarry is unknown. LINDA CAMPBELL.

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Paleocene Paskapoo Sandstone was used for trim and columns, together with brick, in the construction of Southminster United Church (1913) in Lethbridge, Alberta. DIXON EDWARDS.

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The Kamenka stone quarry in the Bow Valley, just outside Banff National Park of Canada, Alberta, produces hand-split Rundlestone, a Triassic clastic deposit used regionally as a building stone. DIXON EDWARDS.

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Part 2 of 3

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The Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta, is largely constructed of Triassic Rundlestone. In the background the Bow River cascades over Triassic strata at Bow Falls. KEITH VAUGHAN.

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Detail of the TCU Financial Group Building (2003) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, which is partly constructed of late Ordovician Tyndall Stone, one block of which shows a section through a nautiloid. KIM MYSYK.

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Reinforced concrete of the Whitney Block (1925–1928), Toronto, Ontario, is faced with Silurian Queenston Limestone. ROB FENSOME.

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Detail of the Whitney Block (1925–1928), showing the finish of the Queenston Limestone. ROB FENSOME.

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Part of the Ontario Legislative Building (1886–1893), Toronto, Ontario. The principal building stone is Silurian Whirlpool Sandstone, quarried near the forks of the Credit and Orangeville rivers. ROB FENSOME.

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Detail of the Ontario Parliament Buildings (1886–1893) showing an intricately carved detail in a Whirlpool Sandstone block. Note the cross-bedding in the sandstone. ROB FENSOME.

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Government House (1831) in St. John’s, Newfoundland, is built mainly of red Ediacaran sandstone quarried from the slopes of nearby Signal Hill. The granite trim is of unknown origin. LAWSON DICKSON.

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The MacDonald Farmhouse (1820), Bartibog, New Brunswick, is built of local Carboniferous sandstone. GWEN MARTIN.

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The sandstone blocks used to build the Cabot Tower (1897) at Signal Hill in St. John’s were in part salvaged from the ruins of a former barracks and hospital built on the site in 1842–1843 and destroyed by fire in 1892. The lower part of the structure is local Ediacaran conglomerate. The upper part is mainly of local Ediacaran grey sandstone, with Nova Scotian sandstone (probably Carboniferous Wallace Sandstone) used around the windows and for trim. LAWSON DICKSON.

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Detail of the Hotel Vancouver, on West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia. Construction on this elegant building began in 1929 but, because of delays caused by the Depression, was not completed until 1939. The exterior is finished with Haddington Island Andesite, shown here. The well-preserved decorations demonstrate this stone’s suitability for carving. LINDA CAMPBELL.

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Polished anorthosite (a mafic igneous rock) with coarse iridescent plagioclase feldspar crystals and fewer dark pyroxene crystals is used as facing on pillars at Constitution Square (1987), on Albert Street in Ottawa, Ontario. ROB FENSOME.

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The granite quarry near the shoreline at Petites, southwestern Newfoundland. DAVE EVANS.

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Detail of the Frost Building North (1954), Toronto, Ontario. The exterior is mainly Queenston Limestone (right), with Stanstead Grey Granite (immediately right of the door frame). ROB FENSOME.

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Blue Eyes or Reflect Blue, Mesoproterozoic anorthosite quarried near Nain, Labrador, is one of Canada’s most recognizable building stones: the trade names refer to the presence of striking blue labradorite crystals. LAWSON DICKSON.

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Detail of the Canadian Volunteers Monument (1870) in Toronto, Ontario, commemorating volunteers who perished in the Fenian Raids of 1866. This statue is one of several on the monument that were carved from Italian Carrara Marble. It has passed the test of time better than the motif in the next photo. ROB FENSOME.

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Detail of the Canadian Volunteers Monument (1870) in Toronto, Ontario, commemorating volunteers who perished in the Fenian Raids of 1866. This relief, carved from soft Nova Scotia sandstone, has weathered much more extensively than the statue in the previous photo. ROB FENSOME.

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The Prince of Wales Martello Tower (1796–1797) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was built of local Meguma “ironstone”. ROB FENSOME.

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The local brick and Paskapoo Sandstone used to build Athabasca Hall (1906–1911) at the University of Alberta in Edmonton suffered significant weathering. The building was restored during the 1970s and now looks much as it did when it was first built. DIXON EDWARDS.

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Gravel pit developed in an esker (Chapter 11), near McAdam, New Brunswick. ALLEN SEAMAN.

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