

EROSION THREATENS NIAGARA FALLS

This summer, the thousands of tons of water that normally thunder over the bluffs on the United States side of the Niagara River will be temporarily diverted to the Canadian side.

The project, under the supervision of the International Joint Commission, a Canada-U.S. agency that regulates the river, will get under way on June 1, when a 1,200-foot dam will be built in the river near Goat Island on the American side. The dam will force the water to alter its course to the Horseshoe Falls, on the Canadian side. Geologists will be lowered down the 160-foot rock wall to study the composition of rock formations at its base. They hope to find a way of arresting the erosion of the wall, which is seriously reducing the scenic splendour of the cataract.

Niagara Falls form part of the Niagara Escarpment, a shelf of rock 600 miles long, which stretches across central Ontario like an enormous backbone. Five hundred million years ago, a sea covered much of North America and the Niagara Escarpment formed part of the shoreline. It is not known for sure how old the Falls are, but geologists estimate that 14,000 years ago they were at least four miles downstream from their present location. During the last 200 years, the forces of erosion have been accelerating, at such a rate that the Horseshoe Falls have receded 865 feet since 1764.

The first recorded impressions of the Falls were those of Father Hennepin, a Recollet friar in the party of the explorer La Salle, who arrived in the Niagara region in 1678 to trade with the Indians and to follow up his search for an inland route to China.

The Niagara River supplies a quarter of the electric power used in Ontario. The generating-stations at Queenston on the Canadian side and Lewiston in the State of New York combine to make up the largest generating complex in the world.

ILO JUBILEE STAMP

A Canada Post Office 6-cent stamp commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the International Labour Organization, which will be released on May 21, will have a format that makes it usable in any position.

The new steel-engraved 40 by 24 mm. issue is the first Canadian stamp created by the Montreal designer Julien Hébert, whose "Man and His World" symbol for Expo 67 became familiar to millions of people in Canada and abroad during centennial celebrations in 1967. The predominant feature of the new stamp design, in white, is an elliptical globe superimposed on which is an assemblage of tools and instruments representing trades; olive green is used for the background. Wording, arranged on four sides and printed in a 15 percent value of the same green, faces the centre.

Thirty million stamps will be printed by the British American Bank Note Company, Ottawa.



ILO TERMS OF REFERENCE

A universal lasting peace based on social justice is the objective of the International Labour Organization, which emerged as an intergovernmental co-operative structure as part of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. Canada, one of the 45 founding member countries and a staunch supporter through five decades, was the seat of the ILO from 1940 to 1947, after which permanent headquarters were re-established in Geneva.



The American Falls (left), Goat Island and the Canadian Horseshoe Falls (right).