

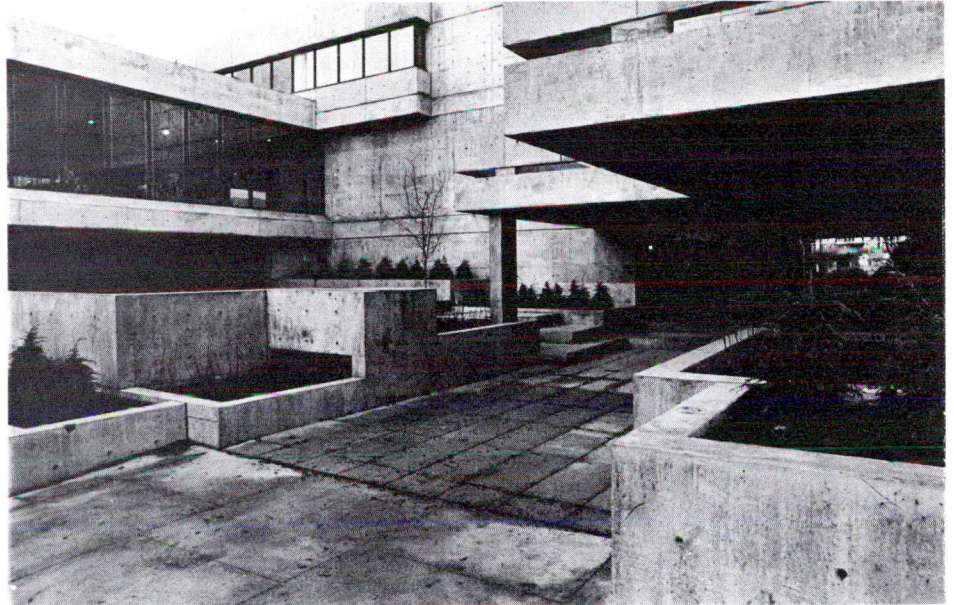
Third Governor-General to inaugurate new Montreal Museum wing

Before a distinguished audience of international museologists, art collectors, dealers, and critics, Governor-General Jules Léger will officially reopen The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on May 8 after a three-year expansion program costing \$10 million. In so doing, he will follow in the footsteps of two other governors general of the past — the Marquis of Lorne in 1879 and the Duke of Connaught in 1912.

The Marquis of Lorne and his wife, Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria, were guests of honour at the opening of the Museum's first building on Phillips Square 107 years ago. The Duke of Connaught, brother of Princess Louise, inaugurated the building at Sherbrooke Street West and Avenue du Musée (formerly Ontario Avenue) 64 years ago.

The Museum's new wing, which has been added to the back of the Sherbrooke Street building, has more than doubled previous space in what is the oldest art institution in Canada.

Some 34 galleries are now available, as well as outdoor sculpture courts, a modern 400-seat auditorium with closed-circuit television and projection facilities, and a 150-seat restaurant with an open terrace. More space has also been added to the library, workshop and



New wing of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

storage rooms.

Contributions to the expansion and renovation program came from the public and private sectors, including a \$3-million grant from the Government of Canada.

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is the only major institution in Canada that combines the fine and decorative arts. The permanent collection contains works by the Old Masters and decorative arts from 3000 BC to the present. Its collection of Canadian art is one of the largest and most comprehensive in

the world. Virtually all schools and periods are represented, with special emphasis on such artists as Krieghoff, Morrice, Borduas, Riopelle and Pellan.

Despite the renovations, the Museum continued to present exhibitions. From the date it closed, April 26, 1973, when the program began, it made many loans to institutions abroad and throughout Canada.

Three major art reviews, *Apollo*, *The Art Gallery* and *Vie des Arts* are devoting their May issues to the reopening of the Museum.

Beaufort sea drilling with caution

The Cabinet has authorized open-water drilling for oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea by Dome Petroleum, with the imposition of special safety precautions for the summer of 1976.

Northern Affairs Minister Judd Buchanan said the special precautions this year were to reduce environmental risks to a minimum during the period when the drilling system and contingency plans were being tested.

Drilling will be stopped on September 15 and an assessment made of meteorological conditions. If the outlook is favourable, a ten-day extension may be authorized. The purpose of this limitation is to allow a month or more in which a relief-well could be drilled in the event of a blow-out late in the season.

In addition, a program for more comprehensive testing of all parts of Dome's system than was originally contemplated will be developed and implemented.

"The Government had to weigh pressing national energy requirements, the potentially rich oil and gas resources underlying the Beaufort Sea, and the substantial financial commitment made by Dome Petroleum, against the environmental risks and the concerns expressed by native groups and by the United States," said Mr. Buchanan.

"The Government concluded that the risks were low enough to be acceptable and, balanced with the need to confirm Canada's energy resources, justify proceeding with drilling this year."

Mr. Buchanan noted that out of a total of over 20,000 offshore wells drilled during the past 20 years less than one-

fifth of 1 per cent resulted in blow-outs. Of these, only four wells had oil spills. This suggests that risks of extensive pollution from offshore drilling are far less than from normal tanker traffic.

The drilling technology to be applied is recognized to be the finest in the world.

Safety measures

In addition, unprecedented environmental-safety conditions are being imposed by the Government, which will apply in 1976 and future years. They include:

- two drillships operating simultaneously, providing back-up capability one for the other;
- continuous monitoring of operations by ship-based federal inspectors