



# Bulletin

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## GIANT PRAIRIE FLOODWAY

The Red River Floodway, one of Canada's great excavation projects, will be opened formally on October 11 by the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Mr. J.J. Greene, and Manitoba's Premier Walter Weir.

The inauguration of the \$63-million federal-provincial project, which will be held at the intersection of the floodway channel and the Red River, south of St. Norbert in suburban Winnipeg, will be the culmination of five years of intensive work during which 100 million cubic yards of earth were removed, a massive \$10-million inlet control structure and allied outlet structure were built, 13 road and rail bridges constructed, and two trunk highways relocated. Major crossings were built for two aqueducts, 27 miles of dyking, a river - the Seine - diverted under the floodway by means of an inverted siphon and crossings made for oil and gas pipe-lines, six hydro transmission-lines and a major telephone-line.

The 100 million yards of excavation is 30 per cent greater than the volume of earth removed for the Canadian section of the St. Lawrence Seaway and is 40 per cent as great as that excavated for the Panama Canal.

The opening will take place six years, almost to the day, from the time that the then premier, Duff Roblin, and the then federal Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Walter Dinsdale, stripped the first sod from the floodway on October 6, 1962.

Flanked by construction equipment of the sort used on the floodway, Mr. Greene and Premier Weir will unveil two plaques on a 7-foot concrete cairn - one to commemorate the opening and the other bearing statistics of the project.

The \$63.2-million floodway has a channel length

of 25.4 miles. It is trapegoidal in shape, with a base width of 380 to 540 feet, a top width of 700 to 1,000 feet and an average depth of 30 feet. The minimum depth of the channel is 24 feet and the maximum depth is 67 feet. The floodway also has a low-flow channel some 4 feet deep and 54 feet wide.

## PROTECTION OF CITIZENS

For citizens of Greater Winnipeg, the floodway represents a major form of insurance. In 1950, about 100,000 people had to flee the city to escape the rising waters, and 10,500 homes were inundated, as were 50 of the 63 schools.

Since then, a massive system of dykes and pumping stations has been built to help contain flood waters. The new floodway, together with this protective system, and with other control works on the Assiniboine River which feeds into the Red at Winnipeg, will give protection for a flood 60 per cent greater than that of 1950.

Since 1950, the Red has been above initial flood stage seven times. Two were serious threats. In 1956, it first appeared that another flood of even greater dimensions than that of 1950 was in the offing. Only through the fortuitous circumstances of good run-off and extremely favourable weather was the flood contained within the existing dyking system. In 1965, extensive emergency dyking had to be

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