



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION · DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS · OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 14 No. 26

July 1, 1959

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## THE OPENING OF THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

Her Majesty the Queen and President Eisenhower formally opened the St. Lawrence Seaway on June 26, 1959 in the presence of a large gathering of distinguished guests, representing government, industry and commerce. The two Seaway entities, the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation of the United States, were the hosts on this great international occasion.

The ceremonies took place at the western end of a 300 acre area bordering the approaches to the St. Lambert Lock, on the south side of the St. Lawrence River opposite Montreal. The official platform was approached by a raised roadway, or mall, which was flanked by the house flags of shipping companies whose vessels sail the Seaway.

As the Queen and President Eisenhower approached the dais, an RCAF Band broke into "The Star Spangled Banner". A U.S. Band then played "God Save the Queen" which was followed by "O Canada" sung by a choir in French.

Mr. J.B. Roberts, President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, opened the ceremonies with a short address. He presented Her Majesty with a commemorative book containing the names of organizations and individuals who took part in the construction of the Seaway. Mr. Lewis G. Castle, Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation presented a similar book to President Eisenhower and requested that the Seaway be declared open.

The Queen and President Eisenhower then spoke briefly. The text of the Queen's speech follows:

Mr. President:

"I am delighted that this occasion which marks the inauguration of a great joint enterprise between our two countries should afford me the first opportunity of welcoming you and Mrs. Eisenhower to Canada. It is with the warmest feelings of friendship that I do so on behalf of the Canadian people, myself and my husband.

"The President of the United States will always be welcome here, but today there is an added pleasure and a special warmth in our greeting.

"You will always be remembered as one of the great military leaders who brought the free world through the most severe crisis of modern times. The soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Commonwealth, including many thousands of Canadians, were proud to serve under your leadership until the ultimate victory was won.

"We welcome you here as President of a great and friendly neighboring state; but we have a special welcome for you as General Eisenhower.

"Today, Canada and the United States are celebrating a victory of another kind. This distinguished company has come together from the two great countries that border this waterway to mark the completion of a combined operation that ranks as one of the outstanding engineering accomplishments of modern times. We can say in truth that this occasion deserves a place in history.