

EXPO '86 preview points to exciting prospects



The Beefeater Band joined thousands of performers in the colourful opening ceremony of the Expo Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia, on May 2, 1985.

During its preview opening, May 2 to October 14, 1985, the Expo Centre complex has proved to be a major attraction in Vancouver, and one that has created an enthusiastic awareness of the 1986 World Exposition, EXPO '86, to be held in the city from May 2 to October 13, 1986. With far more than 500 000 visitors to the centre, the attendance was almost double the original estimate of 300 000.

The Expo Centre, a 17-storey geodesic

dome, houses the world's largest OMNIMAX Theatre, as well as Canada's first interactive film, exhibits, restaurants and daily live entertainment (see *Canada Weekly*, April 17, 1985). Visitors this summer took guided tours of the giant site model and could view a dazzling 18-projector show hourly. The Expo Centre will reopen in May as one of three theme pavilions.

Adjacent to the centre, in the Folklife complex, a two-week preview of the Folklife

Festival was held in August. From native dancing or Newfoundland fiddling to contemporary song writing, the festival will feature an all-Canadian line-up of talent which will be continuous during EXPO '86.

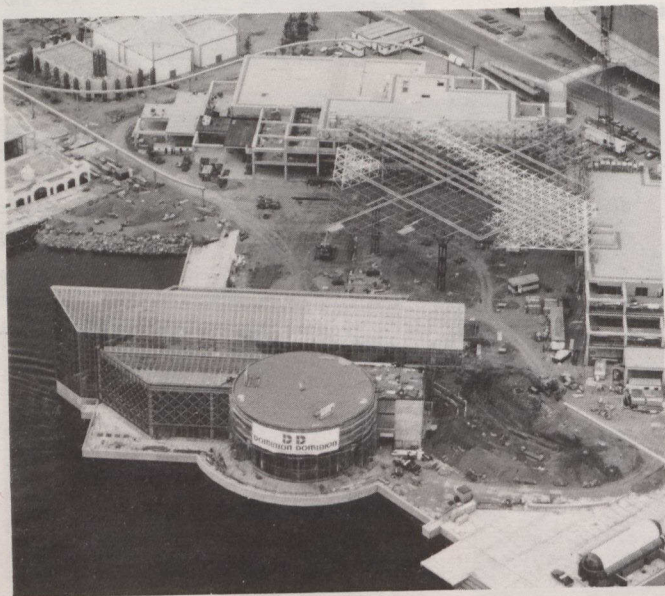
An estimated 15 million visits are expected to be made to the Expo site during EXPO '86. Sixty per cent are expected to be Canadians, 30 per cent from the US and the remainder from the major international markets of the Pacific Rim and Western Europe.

Season, and Royal Bank of Canada three-day passes, have been on sale in Canada since May 2, 1985 while single tickets went on sale on October 14. Three-day passes have also been available in Washington state from Seafirst Bank since September 3 and season passes are available from The Bon department stores in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

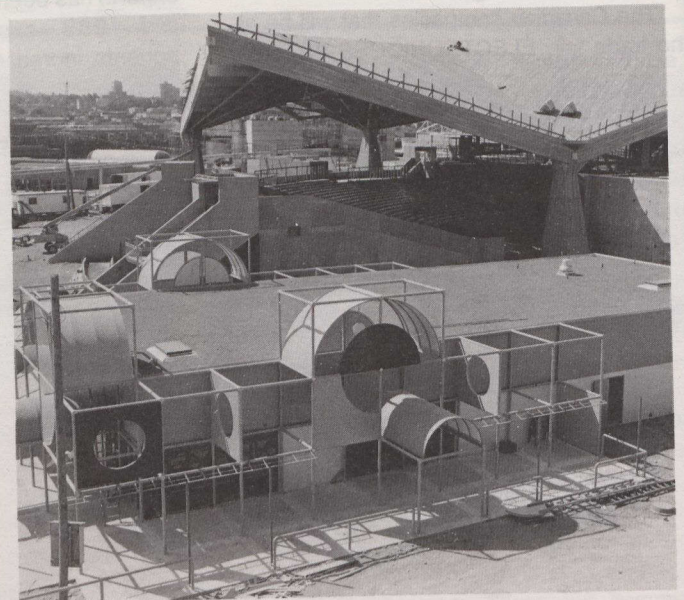
Included in the admission price is entrance to the more than 80 pavilions, all displays, including the *Ramses II* and *His Times* exhibit, special demonstrations, most on-site entertainment and special events such as the Tall Ships, SteamExpo, the DC-3 Airmada and the Vintage Car International. Unlimited use of the monorail, cable skyways and intra-site ferries as well as transportation between the False Creek site and the Canadian pavilion on Burrard Inlet are also included.

Growing participation

As the opening date for EXPO '86 draws closer, the list of participants continues to grow and exceed initial predictions. From Britain to Hungary, the first and most recent



British Columbia, the host province, will be showcased in the three-building complex that is dominated by a 30-metre galleria and cylindrical shaped theatre.



A major restaurant (foreground) will be one of 70 food facilities at the exposition site and the 4 500-seat Expo Theatre will feature pop, jazz, folk and rock stars.