

NEW BRIDGE COMMEMORATES PIERRE LAPORTE



The new Pierre-Laporte Bridge, which spans the St. Lawrence between the municipalities at Bernières and Sainte Foy, Quebec, contrasts sharply with the old bridge 650 feet downstream.

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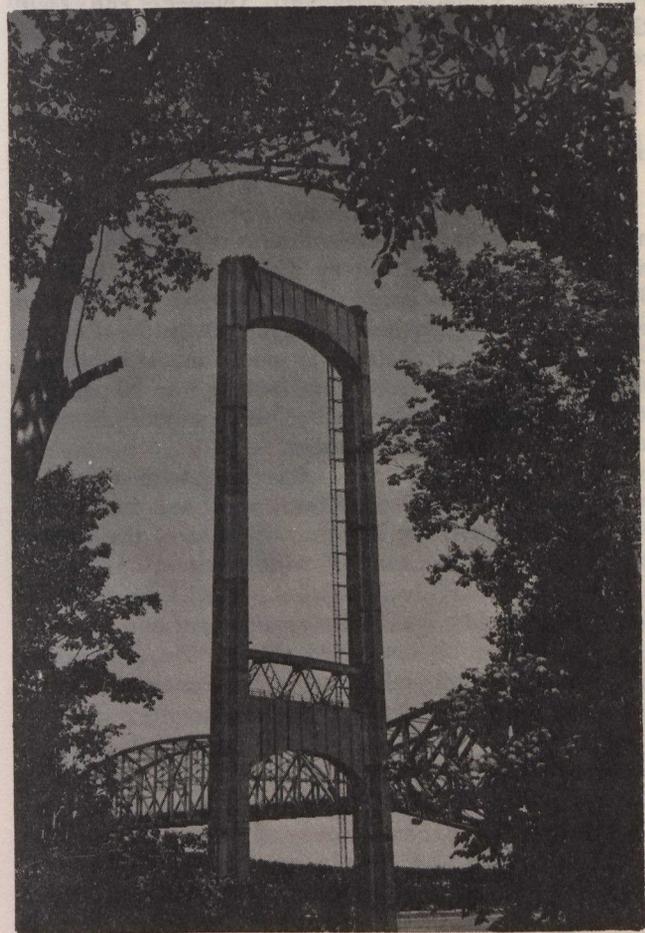
A bridge that was opened last November at Quebec City, and was to be named after Count Frontenac, has been called the Pierre-Laporte Bridge by a decision of the Quebec government, in memory of the former Quebec Minister of Labour, Manpower and Immigration, who was assassinated in October by terrorists.

The new structure, with its clean lines and much wider roadway and access routes, presents a striking contrast to the ponderous steel cantilever bridge, 650 feet away, erected 53 years ago.

The new 2,190-foot suspended structure is the longest bridge in Canada. Its six lanes have a capacity of 90,000 vehicles a day, compared to 17,500 for the old bridge. It is one of the major links in Quebec city's network of roads, since it provides a direct and rapid connection between the two circular routes of the urban area. After the Lafontaine bridge-tunnel at Montreal and the bridge at Trois-Rivières, the Pierre-Laporte Bridge is the third roadway crossing the St. Lawrence to be built in the last three-and-a-half years.

The three structures cost \$200 million, of which some \$60 million was spent on the latest one.

This product of Quebec engineering includes a technical innovation: it is the first suspension bridge in Canada to use cables of parallel strands. The access routes on both shores consist of at least 23 structures and have a total length of nearly 2 miles. The lighting system of the north interchange is the only one of its kind in Canada. It consists of eight 100-foot towers, each topped with a 17-foot diameter circular roof and diffusing a uniform light. Light intensity is controlled by a photoelectric cell.



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The two towers resting on the river piers rise to a height of 402 feet.