

Great Lakes - down the Mississippi - and across to Cuba. They left their mark. There are no less than three cities named Le Moyne in the United States of America.

St. Helen's Island became a fortress for the protection of the city but, when it was no longer required for this purpose after 1812, it became a park and picnic ground for Montrealers and has remained so to this day.

Thirty-five years ago a plan was presented to the City of Montreal which suggested the development of the park, which would leave the original island untouched but extend the area by filling downstream over Ile Ronde, upstream over Ile Verte, and create new islands along the south shore of the river.

Following an Old Idea

It is remarkable how closely the present plan for the World Exhibition follows this old idea. On the upstream side, to the left, St. Helen's Island will be increased by 55 acres to incorporate the present Ile Verte. On the downstream, or righthand side, St. Helen's Island has been extended to provide 135 acres and to incorporate Ile Ronde. Along the river side of the St. Lawrence Seaway, a group of islands will be combined to form the 310-acre Ile Notre Dame. And finally, over 100 acres of Montreal island, known as MacKay Pier, will form the entrance and approach to the main centre of the Exhibition. The original St. Helen's Island of about 120 acres will be left untouched to form a natural park - resting place for exhibition visitors. A total of about 720 acres.

Actual experience of other World Exhibitions has shown that we probably do not need as much acreage as is now proposed and, in fact, the Bureau of International Exhibitions has suggested a total of 500 acres to provide for a World Exhibition of the first category, including approaches, parking and "elbow room". It may be, therefore, that not all of the acreage possible will be developed.

To solve our approach and access problem, we have made surveys of the number of visitors and the directions from which they will approach the Exhibition. On our absolute peak day, approximately 400,000 people will visit the Exhibition and most of them will come from the Island of Montreal. Stated in other words, our more than 6,000,000 tourists who will come to the Exhibition from outside the Montreal area will go first to hotels or the homes of friends and relatives to arrange their lodgings before they actually visit the Exhibition site.

Approach Routes

Visitors will approach the Exhibition by car or from the airport, railroad stations and shipping terminals by a system of expressways to be completed before 1967. Through the longitudinal centre of Montreal Island will run the Trans-Canada Expressway, which picks up the traffic from the mountain resort area to the north coming down the Laurentian Autoroute.