



CANADA

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## THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

At the end of 1958, just four years and six months after The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority was established, construction of works under its jurisdiction has progressed to a stage which assures that all channels, locks and ancillary structures will be available to shipping at the opening of navigation next spring, although subject, in part, to a restricted depth of twenty-four and one-half feet until June 1, when the specified minimum depth of twenty-seven feet will be available throughout.

A statement to this effect was made on January 20 in the House of Commons by Mr. George Hees, Minister of Transport. He said that before vessels may safely transit the new Seaway facilities, aids to navigation have to be placed and this is a responsibility of the Department of Transport. Every effort will be made to have this work completed as closely as possible to the time when navigation normally would commence. This is dependent of course on weather and ice conditions. The objective for the completion of this work is not later than April 20. However, in accordance with established canal operation practice, a more precise statement as to the opening date can be expected toward the end of March.

The Authority has summarized progress on the principal features of construction as follows:

### CHANNEL DREDGING

An overall insufficiency of equipment suitable to dredging of the various classes and conditions of materials encountered, aggravated by the early advent of winter which so seriously interfered with the clearing of ocean vessels from the Lachine Canal and the Montreal Harbour, has retarded the completion of production and clean-up dredging and the proving of all navigation channels to the specified 27' depth and, in a few places, to full width.

Production dredging remains to be performed in the following locations:-

- 1) Turning Basin at Montreal Harbour - This work is not expected to be completed until the end of the 1959 season but, until then, ships may turn at the Longue Point Anchorage.
- 2) South Cornwall Channel - Completion is now scheduled for October 31, 1959. However, a safe channel of 450' minimum width and 27' depth will be available at the opening of navigation.
- 3) North Cornwall Channel - As the use of this channel is not required in 1959, dredging equipment was transferred to more critical locations. This work is scheduled for completion by late summer 1960.