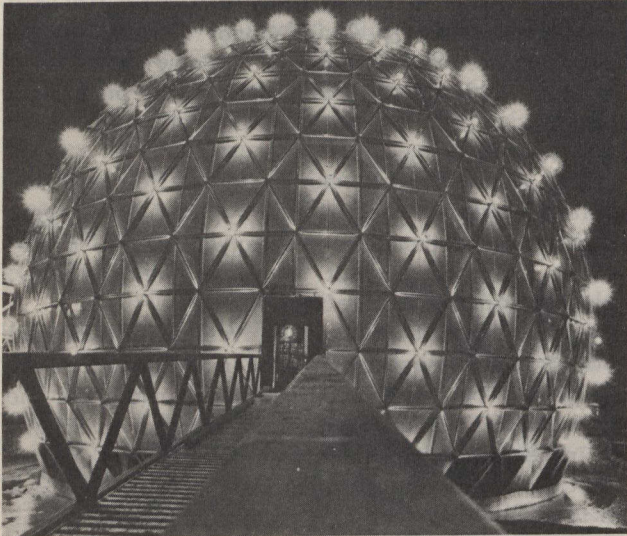


ONTARIO'S PLEASURE PLACE

A mammoth entertainment complex built by the Province of Ontario on man-made islands off the north shore of Lake Ontario will open on May 22. Ontario Place, situated south of the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds in Toronto, will be open to visitors seven days a week until October 11 and will become a permanent feature of the Toronto scene. The massive project, which cost \$19 million, is expected to pay its way.



The dome-shaped Cinesphere theatre, jewelled with 310 cylindrical lights, will illuminate the night scene at Ontario Place.

Its attractions will include: a film theatre with a screen as high as a six-storey building; a huge outdoor forum, resembling an ancient Greek amphitheatre; five gleaming "pods" rising out of Lake Ontario on steel stilts; and a marina, acres of parkland, canals, boutiques and restaurants. Grassy picnic areas and contoured beaches will also be found there.

DREAM TO REALITY

The daring proposal of creating this entirely new complex on the Toronto waterfront was first announced in August 1968 by the former Prime Minister of Ontario Mr. John Robarts, when he officially opened that year's Canadian National Exhibition. It would employ he said, "the natural setting of the waterfront, modern structural designs and attempt to create the mood of gaiety and openness which helped make so popular the Ontario Government pavilion at Expo 67".

The vision began to assume reality on March 17, 1969, when construction started on the complex on the lake. To create the two islands at Ontario Place,

more than 2.5 million cubic yards of fill were needed, with as many as 1,800 truckloads of fill being dumped each day. By opening day, almost 30,000 trees, shrubs and plants will have been planted, 17 acres of grass sodded, 3.4 miles of pathways constructed, and almost half a mile of beaches graded and contoured.

FILM THEATRE

The west island at Ontario Place is dominated by Cinesphere, a triodetic, dome-shaped theatre. One of the most advanced theatres in the world, it houses a giant 60 by 80-foot screen, a projection capability that ranges from 16 mm to the Ontario-developed "Imax" projection system that fills the entire screen, and a 24-track stereophonic sound system with 55 speakers.

The east island houses The Forum, an 8,000-capacity outdoor amphitheatre, where live entertainment, including symphony concerts, folk-dancing, pop and rock music, jazz and other events will take place. A province-wide amateur talent hunt is now under way, to provide opportunities on stage at The Forum for performers from all over Ontario.

MARINA

To welcome visitors who come by water, Ontario Place offers one of the largest, most modern and best-equipped marinas on the Great Lakes. It will have 292 slips, in five sizes, accommodating boats of up to 40 feet in length. Alongside the marina is a seafood restaurant and a sailors' pub. Adding to the nautical atmosphere, the *Haida*, a destroyer of the Second World War and a veteran of the Murmansk run and of service with the United Nations in Korea, will use the site as "home port".

Rising between the east and west islands is the Ontario Place Pavilion, designed with five "pods", which are suspended above Lake Ontario from 105-foot-high steel columns. Exhibits in each of these pods depict the story of Ontario and its people. The roofs of all five may be used as observation areas, providing a panorama of the entire site, as well as of the Toronto skyline and Lake Ontario.

PROVISION FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The handicapped and the aged have also been considered in the design of the new giant showplace, where the islands and buildings can if necessary, be reached without climbing a single stair. Graduated ramps and walks will easily accommodate a wheelchair or those who have difficulty in walking.

Ontario Place will be able to handle 30,000 to 40,000 people a day, with a peak capacity of 19,000 visitors at one time.