

Ile Notre-Dame

Site of the outdoor exposition of Les Floralties internationales de Montréal from May 31 to Sept. 1, 1980, Ile Notre-Dame was especially created for Expo 67. Its sister island, Ile Sainte-Hélène, was doubled in size.

In 10 months, 15 million tons of earth and rock were brought to the site. The world's two most powerful dredges brought up 6,825,000 tons of fill from the river bed. The rest was trucked, some of it from the abuilding Métro.

Dotted with lakes and canals as well as a magnificent park, Ile Notre-Dame was itself one of the features of Expo. It continued to form part of the site of Man and His World until 1972 when, due to prohibitive costs and the deterioration of a number of pavilions, it was decided to limit the permanent international exhibition to Ile Sainte-Hélène alone.

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In 1974, however, work began on a rowing basin on Ile Notre-Dame which was to serve for the 1976 Summer Olympic Games. The year after the Games, the island was selected for another international undertaking-- the Grand Prix.

Ile Notre-Dame also has become the site of open-air sports for the general public throughout the year: cycling, walks and picnics in Spring, Summer, and Fall, and cross-country skiing, skating, snowshoeing, sliding, etc. in Winter.

Now, with the holding of the 1980 Floralties, Ile Notre-Dame will have a permanent vocation as one of North America's greatest floral parks.

To achieve this, five Expo 67 pavilions have been demolished--those of Greece, Israel, Trinidad Tobago, the Atlantic provinces, and a theme pavilion.

Seven others have been totally or partially restored. They are those of France, Britain, Québec, and Jamaica as well as the Christian, United Nations, and Indians of Canada pavilions.

The former Christian pavilion will become an horticultural information centre; the former United Nations pavilion, a centre where one may rest and buy refreshments; the former Indians of Canada pavilion, a children's centre for the interpretation of nature; the former Jamaica pavilion, a sidewalk café; the former France pavilion, an exhibition centre for commercial and institutional participants as well as a seminar centre; the former Québec pavilion, an animation centre; and the former Britain pavilion, a storage centre for participants.

As the direct descendant of Expo, Man and His World retains many of the features which made the 1967 exhibition one of the most successful international expositions of all time. A cultural and recreational presentation, Man and His World is devoted to promoting international friendship and understanding among nations and individuals. In 1977, its cultural and educational objectives were officially recognized by UNESCO as Man and His World celebrated its tenth anniversary.

Of the total land area of Man and His World--442 hectares (1,096 acres)--239 hectares (521 acres) already are set aside for green spaces and for the sports facilities on Ile Notre-Dame; 67 hectares (167 acres) for the exhibition site itself; and the remaining 136 hectares (338 acres) for the La Ronde amusement park.

Since Man and His World opened 11 years ago, 59 countries have taken part in the exhibition. They are: Algeria, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Cameroon, Ceylon, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guiana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Thailand, Tobago, Togo, Trinidad, Tunisia, United States, USSR, and Yugoslavia.

The exhibition has attracted some 60 million visits since 1968.