

The Gazette

WEEKEND

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SPORTS FINAL

Make it a bridge to magnificence

THE WORLD'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST should be invited to make the Champlain replacement span a monument for the 21st century



Stephen Leopold

is a Montreal real-estate executive. He was the only Canadian to have had a chapter devoted to him in Donald Trump's book *The Best Real Estate Advice I Ever Received*.



L. Yves Fortier

is an international lawyer and former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations as well as president of the United Nations Security Council. He lives in Montreal and Magog.



Adam Daifallah

is a partner at Hatley Strategies, a Montreal public-affairs firm.

Once in a generation there may come to a fortunate people a magnificent opportunity.

Today we Quebecers have an unparalleled chance to build a new structure that will astonish the world.

We have the opportunity to bring forth a new symbol of the Quebec and Canadian nations and of the wonderful metropolis of Montreal and its region: a spectacular, iconic new gateway to link Montreal to the rest of the world, a structure that, through inspired design, state-of-the-art technology, brilliant execution and sheer beauty, will be our equivalent to the Eiffel Tower, the Sydney Opera House and the Statue of Liberty. A structure that will drive Montreal's strength for business and industry, academia, the arts, and residential and commercial real estate.

The 60-year-old Champlain Bridge must be replaced. This is a necessity. So let us make a great virtue of this great necessity. Let us conceive and build a new bridge that will make our hearts swell with pride.

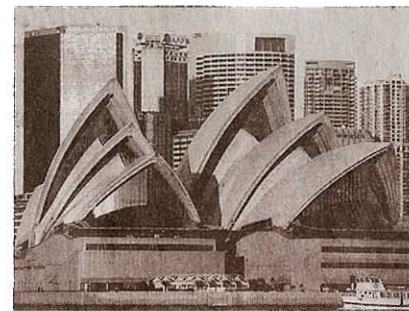
As Beijing did for its extraordinary "Bird's Nest" Olym-

pic Stadium, as Sydney did for its Opera House, which stands as one of the great architectural monuments of the world, let us begin by staging an international competition to design the finest and most modern bridge on Earth, a monument to the Quebec of the 21st century.

Let us invite the world's best architects, engineers and technologists (many of whom are in Quebec) to submit to a jury of their peers their most inspiring ideas and concepts.

A similar competition was held for New York's World Trade Centre Transportation Hub, designed by renowned Spanish architectural engineer Santiago Calatrava. Our own much-admired Place Ville Marie, designed by I.M. Pei, initiated the renewal of Montreal's entire downtown business district. A magnificent multi-functional new bridge will do the same for the Bonaventure and Griffintown districts, as well as for the entire South Shore.

Let's advertise ourselves to the world with a monument that ranks with the world's great ones. Let's make it Quebec's greatest and most profitable attraction.



GAZETTE FILE PHOTOS

San Francisco has its Golden Gate Bridge, New York the Statue of Liberty, Sydney its Opera House and Beijing its extraordinary "Bird's Nest" Olympic Stadium. In replacing the Champlain Bridge, we have the opportunity to build something that will be at least as beautiful and iconic, and that will bring prosperity and renown to Montreal.

It can also be a showcase for clean, green electricity. It should produce its own electricity with wind and water turbines that can make it a spectacular lighted monument every night of the year, using energy-saving LED lights. Light shows created by the world's leading lighting artists would attract millions of tourists every year. And this same electricity could heat the roadbed of the

bridge to keep it free of snow and ice in winter.

Like the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, our new bridge will bring profit and renown to our city, which will be worth billions of dollars to businesses and real estate. Whatever its cost, the Golden Gate has proved to be San Francisco's most profitable investment.

In 2017 Montreal celebrates

the 375th anniversary of its founding by de Maisonneuve in 1642, while we also mark 150 years since Confederation in 1867. Let us make our inspiring new bridge our project for these twin anniversaries.

We urge our fellow Montrealers, Quebecers and Canadians to share this exciting vision.

We must bring together all interested parties. Ottawa

and Quebec, municipal governments on both sides of the St. Lawrence River, business, labour, and leaders in architecture and urban design must join hands.

Let us build an iconic structure that will become a positive, inspirational symbol for our city and our province – and that will be our stunning new gateway to the world.

This opportunity will not come again.