



Programme of the Official Opening of the Atmospheric
Environment Service Headquarters Building

by The Honourable Jack Davis, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of the Department of the Environment

on Friday, October 29, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.



Atmospheric Environment Service Headquarters Building,
Toronto (Downsview), Ontario

Constructed under authority of the Department of
Public Works (Canada)
The Honourable Arthur Laing, Minister

Consulting Architects
Boigon and Heinonen
Don Mills, Ontario

General Contractors
W. A. McDougall Limited
London, Ontario

O CANADA

Northlandia—North York Concert Band (David Clothier, Conductor)

Chairman: W. H. Robinson, A/Regional Director, Ontario Region
Department of Public Works (Canada)

Opening Remarks & Introduction of Platform Guests by the Chairman

Invocation by Rabbi Joseph Kelman, Beth Emeth Synagogue, Downsview

Northlandia—North York Concert Band,
“Overture from the Fireworks” by Handel

Introduction by James E. Walker, M.P. of the Official Host,
the Honourable Arthur Laing, Minister of the Department of
Public Works (Canada)

Introduction of the Guest Speaker, The Honourable Jack Davis,
P.C., M.P., Minister of the Department of the Environment

Address by The Honourable Jack Davis

Official Ribbon Cutting and Plaque Unveiling Ceremony

Presentation of Ceremonial Scissors to Mr. Davis by Irvin D. Boigon
representing Consulting Architects

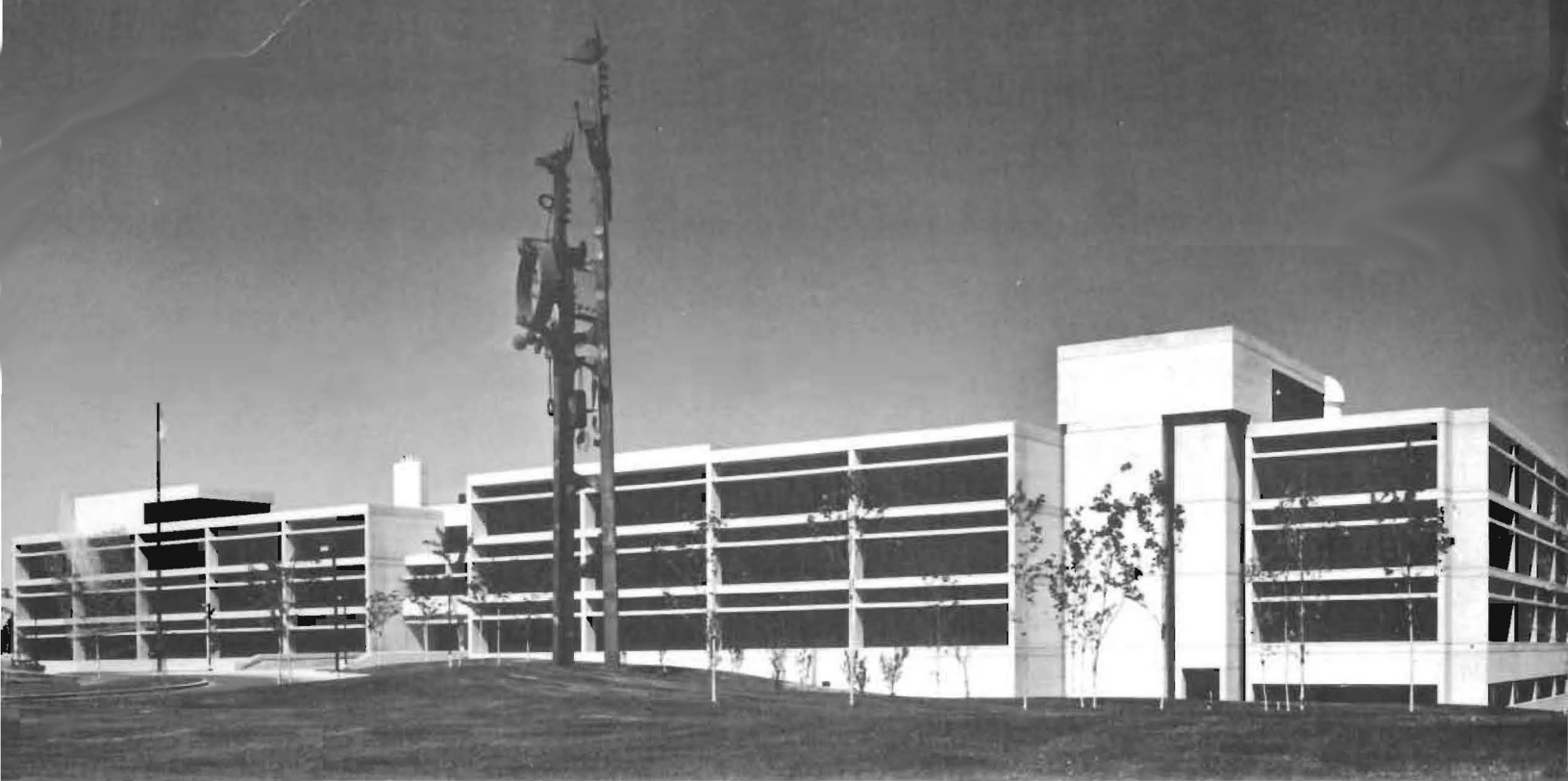
Presentation of Centennial Plaques by Mr. J. R. H. Noble,
Assistant Deputy Minister, Atmospheric Environment Service

Prayer of Dedication by Dr. R. S. Dunn, Walmer Road Baptist Church

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Tour of the Building

Reception



In 1871, the newly formed Meteorological Service was located in the Dominion Magnetic Observatory on the grounds of the University of King's College, (the present day University of Toronto).

By the turn of the century, increased staff and operational considerations required that larger quarters be found. A suitable building was constructed at 315 Bloor Street West and was occupied as headquarters of the Meteorological Service in 1909.

The inauguration of Trans Canada Airlines in the thirties and the outbreak of World War II stimulated a major expansion in Meteorological Service activities, and demands for weather services continued to grow enormously through the thirty year period up to 1971. Divisions which were expanded to meet these requirements were relocated at auxiliary buildings around Toronto, often at great distances from the main headquarters. Training, research and instrument testing programs expanded also, and along with these the archives necessary for proper data storage and retrieval soon demanded space that was unavailable in most Divisional locations. The decentralization trend was, through necessity, continued and by 1970 headquarters units were to be found in nearly a dozen Toronto office buildings.

A greatly expanded sphere of activity for Canadian meteorology was unveiled in 1971 as the Service marked its centenary. The Canadian Meteorological Service became part of the new Department of the Environment, was renamed the Atmospheric Environment Service, and was given responsibilities in addition to its historical role of weather research and forecasting.

The new headquarters building at 4905 Dufferin Street in Downsview consists of 4 stories with a total area of 339,000 square feet. Approximately 800 people occupy the building. With few exceptions, all the administrative, training and research programs previously conducted in Toronto are now co-located here. Some of the design features of the building include a 96 foot long wind tunnel, a satellite data laboratory and receiving station, a climatological computer, a 290 seat auditorium, a library with a large scientific and historical collection, closed circuit television capabilities, communications links with national and international circuits, and advanced facilities for all types of atmospheric research. Floor plans include outdoor courtyards, a spacious lobby with provision for historical and current displays and the interior has been designed to produce a happy occupational environment.