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Quebec City hosts first Annual Conference in Canada



The massive portal of the great Pont de Québec, the Québec Bridge, longest cantilever span in the world (1,800 ft.), and an International Civil Engineering Landmark. Turn page for more photos of this extraordinary structure. *R. Frame photo.*

The SIA's 18th Annual Conference, the first ever in Canada, opened with an elegant reception hosted by Lise Bacon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Cultural Affairs, complete with a response *en français* by SIA President Emory Kemp. David Mendel, who was to lead several tours throughout the conference, presented a lecture on regional IA.

Friday was devoted to tours of the City of Québec, located at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and St. Charles rivers. Each of the four tour busses ventured off on its own itinerary of stops, drive-bys, and process tours. Tourgoers moved through the walled Vieux-Québec (Old Québec), admiring the architecture responsible for the city being named the first in North America to be included on UNESCO's world heritage list. Not to be missed was the architecturally extraordinary (and romantic) Chateau Frontenac, built in 1892-93 by the Canadian Pacific RR.

Beyond any doubt, the premier site visited was the celebrated **Pont de Québec**, the **Québec Bridge**, whose profile graced the conference

logo, along with the Chateau Frontenac. Containing the longest cantilever span in the world at 549 meters (1,800 ft.), it is one of five International Civil Engineering Landmarks designated by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Work on this monumental steel bridge began in 1907, but it collapsed during construction, killing about 80 men. It then was rebuilt according to a new design and, after two attempts, was completed in 1917. Since then, it has been an important rail and later, road, link between the north and south shores of the St. Lawrence. SIA tourers had an opportunity to discuss the bridge with one of the CN Rail engineers responsible for its maintenance. We also viewed several trains moving along the tracks on the side of the deck. Alongside the great cantilever stands the **Pierre Laporte bridge** (1966-70), the longest suspension span in Canada.

Among the most interesting process tours was the **Maranda & Labrecque Tannery**. There have been tanneries on SIA tours before, but never one devoted to dressing only furs, a special process necessary to

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