

## **MELOCHEVILLE TUNNEL**

### **Introduction**

The Melocheville Tunnel was built during construction of the Beauharnois Canal, which is part of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The tunnel is an extension of Highway 132. It runs under the Beauharnois Canal at Melocheville, Quebec and is located close to the Beauharnois hydroelectric power station.

Approximately four million vehicles travel through the tunnel each year.

### **Historic**

#### **Construction (1956-1957)**

Construction of the tunnel began in 1956 and was completed in 1957.

#### **Official Name (1991)**

For more than 20 years, it was known as the “Beauharnois Tunnel” and in 1991 was officially named the “*Melocheville Tunnel.*”

#### **Transfer of the Operation, Maintenance and Administration (1998)**

On October 1, 1998, The Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated became responsible for the operation, maintenance and administration of the tunnel. It was formerly the responsibility of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority.

### **The Tunnel**

#### **Geographic Situation**

The Melocheville Tunnel is the extension of Highway 132 and is located in Melocheville near to the Beauharnois hydroelectric power station on the South-West shore of Montreal. This tunnel is located directly under the St-Lawrence seaway and permits the interrupted road and maritime traffic.

#### **Traffic**

Approximately four million vehicles travel through the tunnel each year.

### **Type of Structure**

The tunnel is made of 18 caissons. There is one lane of traffic in each direction and a sidewalk on the north side. Three ventilation shafts (one air outlet and two air intake shafts) ventilate the tunnel. The two traffic lanes are separated by a central support structure forming the first ventilation shaft (air outlet). The second ventilation shaft (air intake) is located on the south side of the caissons, while the third is on the north side under the sidewalk.

The caissons lie directly on rock.

### **Maintenance**

In 1968, the tunnel was restored and resurfaced. Since then, maintenance work, such as pavement repairs, cleaning and painting of the tunnel walls and restoration of the approaches, has been performed regularly to ensure safe and effective passage for the public and to preserve the structure's integrity.

### **Technical Data**

Total length of tunnel:	746 ft, 6 in. (227.6 m)
Total width of tunnel (including external ventilation shafts):	93 ft, 6 in. (28.5 m)
Width of sidewalk (downstream side):	5 ft, 6 in. (1.7 m)
Vertical curve of tunnel:	1,918 ft, 1 in. (584.6 m)
Degree of curve:	3°
Exterior measurements of each caisson:	
- length	40 ft, 0 in. (12.2 m)
- width	78 ft, 2 in. (23.8 m)

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