

# 9 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

## BRIDGE TOWERS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge will have the longest main span of any cable-stayed bridge in North America. Two massive bridge towers, one in Canada and one in the US, and both built on land, along with a complex cable system, will support the bridge deck. Here are some facts about the bridge towers that will pierce the Windsor-Detroit skyline.

# 1

### LOOK WAY UP

The bridge towers will soar to approximately 220 metres/722 feet tall and will rival the height of the tallest building of the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit.



# 2

### COOL SHAPE

The towers in Canada and the US each have two pylons, sometimes referred to as legs, which give the structures the shape of an inverted 'Y'.



# 3

### PYLON HEAD

The upper 80 metres/262 feet of the tower, known as the pylon head, will house the cables that are attached to the road deck.



# 4

### LOWER PYLON

The lower pylon, at 140 metres/460 feet, makes up the longest portion of the bridge towers and supports the pylon head and the cable-stayed system.



# 5

### LEG SUPPORT

Each individual pylon, or leg, is supported by six shafts which have been drilled into the bedrock to a depth of 36 metres/118 feet - the equivalent of the height of a twelve-storey building. Each of the shafts are filled with approximately 262,000 litres/69,000 gallons of concrete.



# 6

### SUPPORT SYSTEM

Together, the bridge towers and cable system will be rated at 151,060 kilonewtons (kN) to support nearly 34 million pounds of weight. That is the equivalent to 5,660 African bush elephants standing together on the bridge deck at one time.



# 7

### BRIDGE DECK

The bridge deck is approximately 42 metres/138 feet above the Detroit River. It will be 37 metres/121 feet wide to support six lanes of vehicular traffic and the multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists.



# 8

### MAIN INGREDIENT

The towers will each require 10,000 cubic metres/353,400 cubic feet of concrete and 4,500 metric tonnes/4960 tons of steel bar for construction. Once completed, the full weight of just one tower will be approximately 30,000 metric tonnes/66 million pounds - the weight of 165 jumbo jets.



# 9

### CABLE-STAYED

The bridge is designed with a cable-stayed system and will include 216 parallel strand stay cables strung from the tower to the bridge deck.



PONT INTERNATIONAL  
**GORDIE  
HOWE**  
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE