

# Canada's Wonderland announces free admission

TORONTO - As a special 10th Anniversary gesture, Canada's Wonderland has just announced that the Park will be extending Free admission for all guests to the exciting, new Cirque du Tonnerre Circus spectacular when it makes its Ontario debut August 9th-27th. This differs from the previous announcement that admission to the Cirque du Tonnerre would require a special purchase ticket.

"We believe that free admission is the best way to make our guests part of our 10th Big Year celebrations," commented Park spokesman Liz Powers. "This circus clearly has amazing thrills that everyone will enjoy, and we hope that it will give Ontarians yet another reason to visit the Park at least once this season." The Cirque du Tonnerre addition to the park's entertainment line-up comes just two weeks after the park added another unique new show, "The Lazer Zone," an explosive indoor laser, light, music and multimedia

spectacular, now offered free several times nightly to guests purchasing a Pay-One-Price Passport to the park.

Cirque du Tonnerre is an amazing circus spectacular built on the Quebec tradition of high impact acrobatics, theatrics and comedy performed under The Big Top with a touch of mystery and magic, but without animals. It was created from the excitement and tremendous success of "Cirque du Soleil." In fact, many of the artists are former stars with the "Cirque du Soleil."

Circus seating will be on a first come, first-served basis, so guests are encouraged to arrive early. Admission is free with any park ticket, including Season Pass. All discount coupons on Pay-One-Price Passports also apply. Performances will be three times daily under a specially-erected Big Top behind the Medieval Faire theme area. Show dates are

August 9 through 12, August 14 through 19, August 21 through 27, with performance times at 2:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. there are no shows on August 13 and August 20. Guests holding pre-purchased \$3 Circus tickets can obtain a full refund at the Guest Services window at the Front Gate of the park through August 27, 1990.

The magic of the Cirque du Tonnerre is revealed by an inventive production that weaves the extraordinary and professional talents of twenty different and varied artists - award-winning acrobats, gymnasts, trapeze artists, jugglers, comics, tumblers, unicyclists, musicians and more. There's clearly something for everyone! Cirque du Tonnerre is a spectacular circus that's a blend of theatre, comedy and special effects - totally different than a conventional circus.

The approximately 75-minute performance at Canada's Wonderland will be the first time

Cirque du Tonnerre has performed in Ontario and the first time Canada's Wonderland has ever presented a circus. Cirque du Tonnerre shows have been drawing rave reviews since opening last Spring at La Ronde in Montreal.

Since then, Cirque du Tonnerre has played at the Equestrian Park in Blainville, Quebec, the International Summer Festival of Quebec in Quebec City and in the popular Eastern Township resort of St-Sauveur.

# Early patronage scandals

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builders we are taught to revere. In fact, the doors to Parliament hadn't opened before one of the earlier patronage scandals was ignited by the award of the Centre Block construction contract to a Quebec friend of John A. Macdonald's Conservatives. The result, major cost overruns and missed deadlines, may seem very familiar to anyone following some government construction projects even today.

Macdonald, nevertheless, endured criticisms and relied heavily on patronage to cultivate loyalists and ensure his string of victories.

But Stilborn's 38-page analysis of political patronage reminds us that concern, even then, ran deep. A committee struck in 1877 to determine how patronage had afflicted the public service found "the exercise of patronage seems to be almost unchecked" and that the government considered it "as a means of rewarding personal and political friends."

Stilborn's review leads the reader to conclude that critics of the patronage system at the time never had any real chance of terminating the practice. And within a few years, the Liberals under Wilfrid Laurier finally mastered the art and achieved a lasting power.

At that point, Stilborn concludes, patronage was on its way to becoming "an established norm in Canadian politics."

Even war couldn't break the habit. During the First World War, Robert Borden promised that military appointments and contracts would not be offered as political rewards. Alas, his minister of militia and procurement, Sam Hughes, either didn't hear or didn't care and the system rolled on unchecked.

Public outrage over the influence that political partisanship had on the war effort eventually led to the disgrace of Hughes and some efforts were made in the years between the wars to limit patronage within the public service.

### PLUMS

But the expansion of government and the growth in the number of commissions and agencies assured a continuing supply of patronage plums.

Today, thousands of federal jobs fall under the influence or direct control of political masters.

For the donors of partisan benefits, Stilborn's analysis contains words of caution. There are signs, he says, that the traditional public tolerance of patronage is evaporating.

The televised 1984 campaign debate between Brian Mulroney and John Turner - the "you had an option" clash over Liberal patronage appointments - had a significant impact on the vote, he said. And the Conservative government's pursuit of the traditional practice since then has been accompanied, "perhaps not coincidentally," by a sharp decline in popularity, he added.

"Political patronage, in short, has emerged as an issue," he concludes.



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