

Slot start pushed back

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

The introduction of slot machines at Mohawk Raceway has been pushed back a month.

Due to a series of design changes to accommodate facilities, the 750 one-armed bandits are now expected to be operational at the Campbellville track in mid-July, said Nick Eaves, vice-president of marketing for the Ontario Jockey Club (OJC).

The target date for opening had been June.

The OJC is currently implementing a \$17 million renovation that includes a new front entrance and floor in the slot machine area, Mr. Eaves said.

Outside, new signs will be installed and improvements will be made to the parking lot.

Mr. Eaves said the Ontario Lottery Corporation, the slot machine operator, expects about 2,000 people will come through the door just to play the one-armed bandits.

The OJC hopes the influx of visitors will arouse more interest in horse racing.

For now, the track will hold its regular 100 days of live racing, but simulcast wagering will be open seven days a week, year-round, except on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Mr. Eaves said.

Slot machine operation is expected to run from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. daily.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Maplehurst superintendent Michael Stephenson and project manager Christina Danylchenko survey the correctional centre's expansion, which is proceeding on schedule and is now well into phase two. Construction is expected to be done by April, 2001.

Jail work right on schedule

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The Maplehurst expansion is on schedule and well into its second phase — the main construction of the 'super-jail'.

A temporary inmate admitting and discharge area and health care facilities were recently completed in phase one.

Minimal inclement weather is making building easier for the 625 construction workers, said superintendent Michael Stephenson.

"The project is proceeding according to the work schedule that the contractor has set out," he said. "There have been no major road blocks."

The second phase includes the construction of the four major cell units for males as well as the female units and food services facilities.

The new administration building, admitting and discharge area and central control unit are also being

erected in phase two, which is expected to be completed by next April.

The third phase will see the remodeling of the female admitting and discharge area and health care facilities for both men and women. The entire project is expected to be completed by April, 2001.

Security concerns surrounding the continued operation of both holding and correctional centres while undergoing major construction are being addressed on an ongoing basis, said local project manager Christina Danylchenko.

She said all parties involved in the project are cooperating well to ensure that the required security measures are followed. "We have to keep disruption of prison operation as minimal as possible."

The correctional facility on Martin Street will house more than 1,600 male and female prisoners requiring up to maximum security for all types of crimes.

The concept is unprecedented in Canada.

Live python at exhibit

They don't have a snake in the grass, but they will put one in your hand.

Hilton Falls Conservation Area will be visited by snakes, amphibians and reptiles of all sorts on Sunday, May 16 as people from the Ontario Herpetological Society display local and exotic reptiles.

There will be an opportunity to have photos taken with a four-foot python for \$5.

Those who may want to take in another sight than reptiles could hike to Hilton Falls, which are generally spectacular at this time of year.

Admission to the park is \$3.25 for adults and \$2.25 for kids, and that will get visitors into the reptile display, which runs from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m.

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