

Magical world - Canada's Wonderland nears completion

by Linda Rheume
From the summit of Wonderland's man-made mountain you can see all the way to the CN Tower in downtown Toronto, 32 km (20 miles) away. Immediately beneath is \$115 million worth of fantasy in a 144 ha (360 acre) amusement "theme" park. It's the

Movie Review

Incredible Shrinking Woman is incredible!!!

by Terry Dupuis

One of the classic science-fiction films of the 1950's was *The Incredible Shrinking Man*. In it Grant Williams played an average man who begins to shrink after accidentally being exposed to radiation.

Doctors couldn't reverse his condition. Eventually he is living in a dollhouse and is menaced by the family cat. But he continues to shrink even more, and he ends up being trapped in his own basement, where everything from a match box to a spider takes on gigantic proportions.

This film, which was based on a novel by fantasy writer Richard Matheson, has just been remade but with a number of changes. To begin with the shrinking hero of the original has been replaced by a shrinking heroine played by Lily Tomlin and it has been turned into a comedy.

Another big change is that the main character's shrinking condition is not caused by radiation this time. Instead it is caused by a combination of all the food additives harmful elements contained in everyday household products.

In other words, what we have here is not science-fiction as much as a satire on our modern consumer society. Pat Kramer, the role played by Tomlin, is an average middle-class housewife.

But the irony is that her husband Vance is an advertising executive whose job it is to promote these products. Pat has even named some of the very products which eventually cause her to shrink.

Part of the fascination with this movie, as with the original, is the startling way in which a person's home with its everyday household objects can suddenly become an alien and menacing world when he or she is reduced in size. The family dog becomes a huge monster.

A child's toy robot becomes a lethal mechanical giant. The side of a bed has to be scaled like a mountain.

Some of the most hilarious scenes show Lily Tomlin trying to do her normal household chores in her shrunken condition. For instance, in making breakfast we see her dragging gigantic strips of bacon onto a skillet. The special effects in *The Incredible Shrinking Woman* are outstandingly clever in their creation of these gigantic sets.

A sinister organization which is seeking world control wants to get hold of Lily to obtain a serum from her which will enable them to shrink entire populations.

Lily is kidnapped and imprisoned in a secret laboratory. Here she meets another caged inmate, a gorilla named Sydney. Here the movie diverts into a spoof of King Kong, as the big gorilla goes ape over Lily. From this point on the movie really gets wild and frantic with loads of well-paced slapstick comedy as Lily and Sydney make their escape from the villains.

Tomlin, who is a graduate of the old television series "laugh-in" seems to have had a difficult time over the years trying to make it in the movies. But this year her luck seems to have changed.

She can currently be seen in the hit comedy *Nine To Five* with Jane Fonda and Dolly Parton. And *The Incredible Shrinking Woman* provides her with another strong comedy role. In fact, actor Charles Grodin who plays her husband definitely takes a back seat to her in this film.

The Incredible Shrinking Woman has the potential to please a wide range of audience, since it combines quite a number of elements. It has sci-fi and fantasy elements, satire on consumerism, middle class suburbia and the news media, an undercurrent theme on women's lib, and lots of comedy in the old slapstick tradition.

hottest Ontario tourism attraction since the tower went up.

Canada's Wonderland, a Disneyland of the North, is a self-contained world of the imagination. As well as elaborate rides, games and live shows, there will be restaurants serving everything from brontosaurus burgers to tempura; air-conditioned kennels for pets, who are not allowed in the park; and even a branch of the Toronto-Dominion bank.

Half an hour's drive northwest of Toronto, near Maple, Ontario, Wonderland will come to life in the spring of 1981 when it will open to an anticipated two to three million visitors in its first season, from May to September.

It was a windy day in late October when I put on a hard hat and toured Wonderland for a preview of its near-finished state. As we climbed the 45m (150 foot) mountain and walked the streets paved with red and white bricks (no hot sticky asphalt here), we had to imagine the hordes of children who are expected to pour in next summer. More than fourteen million people live within 322 km (200 miles) of the site.

When the doors swing open next May 23, here's what's in store.

What you'll see

In the shadow of the mountain, a jester juggles in the courtyard of Medieval Faire.

From the face of the mountain, an Acapulco-style high diver leaps 18m (60 feet) into the reflecting pool of the Royal Fountain. Over at the Victorian Bandstand, a gang of musical Pearly Kings play jazz.

Kids hang tight as a replica ship, the Viking's Rage, swings high in the sky. Fred Flintstone and Yogi Bear climb off the TV screen and walk around, hugging visitors and posing for pictures.

As our tour guide painted this scene, amid the jackhammers and wheelbarrows, I looked up to see a roller coaster waving a Canadian flag at us.

Four of Wonderland's five theme areas will be complete by May: International Street, Medieval Faire, Grand World Exposition of 1890 and the Happyland of Hanna-Barbera, a playland for younger children named after the creators of Fred, Yogi, Barney Rubble and Scooby Doo. Frontier Canada will be ready for the 1982 season.

You'll be able to buy souvenirs, Spanish dolls and hand-blown glass on International Street in the Alpine, Scandinavian, Latin and Mediterranean buildings.

In a 3,500-seat open-air Greek amphitheatre, a 30-minute

revue of pop and country music called *Singing to the World* will alternate with *Rock Around the Clock*, a 1950s musical about high school heartache. Canterbury Theatre in Medieval Faire (a castle on the outside, a modern 1,100-seat theatre inside) will be home to a 40-minute musical, *Those Magnificent Movies*, presented by 20 singers and dancers in over 200 costumes. That works out to a different costume every four minutes.

At a privateer's ship moored on the water at Arthur's bay, you'll see fireworks and acrobatic stunts, and have a chance to participate in the show.

At the Grande World Exposition, children can play video games and pinball in the Crystal Arcade, while their parents take a nostalgic

ride on a refurbished carousel, circa 1928.

Past the rainbow entrance to the Happyland of Hanna-Barbera, acrobatic seahorses, dolphins, cockatoos and macaws will entertain. This is where you'll find Scooby's Ghoster Coaster (you'll have to brave your way through a haunted house to get on). Flintstone mobiles that drive the children to Barney's Burgers, and Boulder Bumpers (bumper cars only for people under a certain height).

Wonderland staff predict you will need eight hours to see everything. An average family of four is expected to spend about \$80, but if you bring a lunch and forgo souvenirs, you can do it for about \$46.

If you're driving to Canada's Wonderland, don't worry about

missing the turnoff. You can see the mountain and the roller coasters waving Canadian flags from the highway.

What it costs

Official prices have been set. A variety of passes, including a two-day passport for \$23.50 per person will be available. Most visitors will probably opt for a book of 12 coupons (\$11.95 for adults, \$10.95 for children 3 to 8). This will cover admission


(quoted at \$9.95 alone for adults) and rides and attractions.

Wonderland's opening weekend is May 23. Thereafter it will be open daily May 30-Sept. 7; weekends only Sept. 12-27. Hours: May through August, 10 am-10 p.m.; after Sept. 7, 10 am-8 pm.

For general information on Canada as a travel destination contact the Canadian Government Office of Tourism, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0H6.

Pre-School Screening Clinic

— Simcoe County District Health Unit is offering its annual Pre-school Screening Clinic for children who will be entering kindergarten this fall. Purpose of the screening clinic is to detect any health problems, which need to be corrected before the child begins school. It includes a health history, physical assessment, assessment of general development, vision and hearing test, urinalysis, hemoglobin and updating of immunization. Dental care and good health habits will also be discussed. Phone 526-9325 for an appointment or information.



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