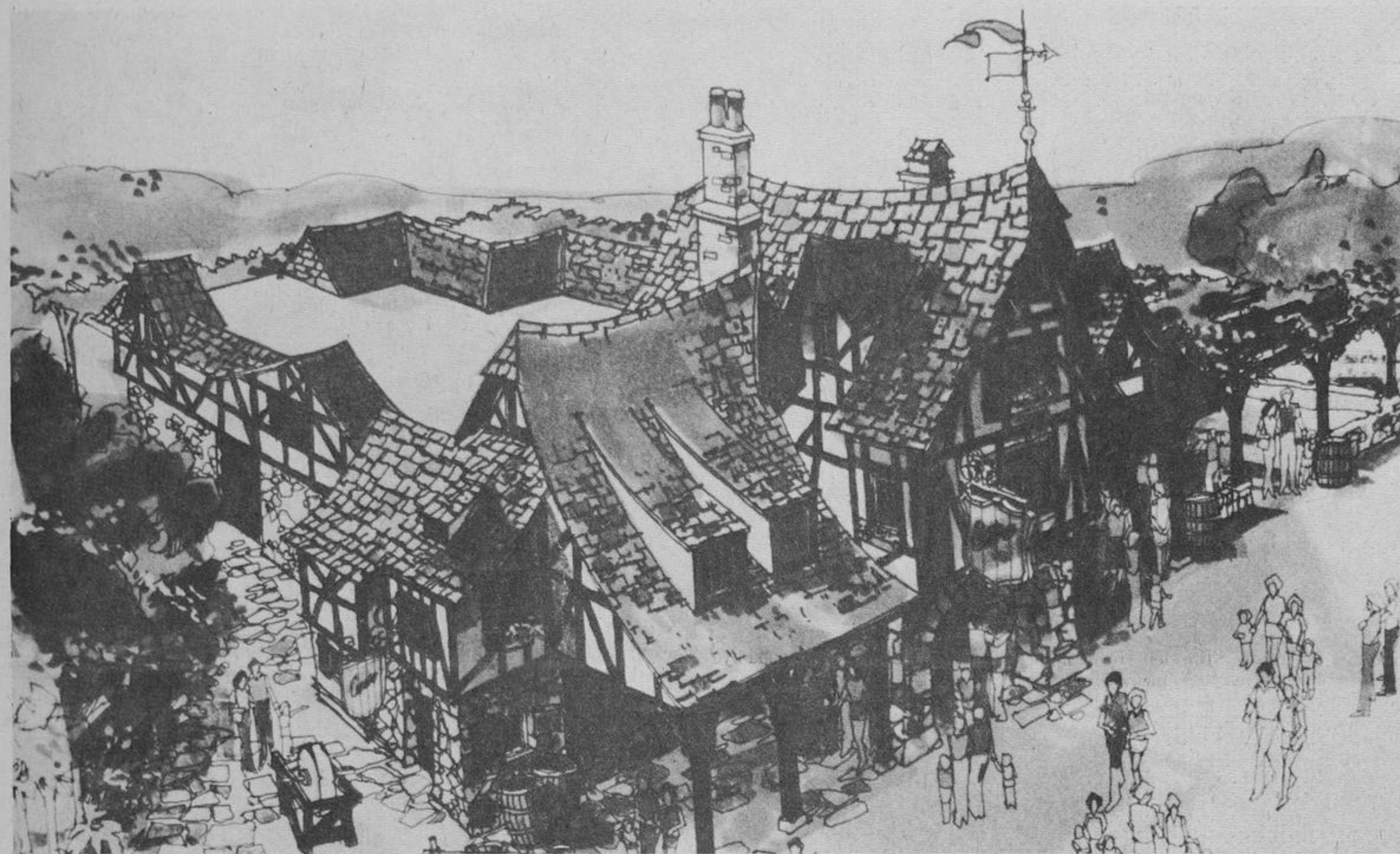


The Crystal Palace



The Medieval Faire

In its first year

Canada's Wonderland expected to attract 2.8 million visitors

Heavy construction equipment has moved onto the site and work is well underway toward the completion of Canada's Wonderland, a 320-acre park in Maple.

Detailed plans of the park were revealed recently by Vice-President and General Manager of Canada's Wonderland, Michael Bartlett.

The completed project will cost in the neighborhood of \$106 million.

When it opens in the spring of 1981, it will feature a man-made mountain — 150 feet high — four different live shows and five distinct theme areas.

The theme areas include:

INTERNATIONAL STREET — Dominated by a spectacular fountain with jets that shape and reform the water, this European boulevard of restaurants, shops and boutiques, leads to the 150-foot man-made mountain which contains a 100-foot wide and 60-foot high version of the famous Victoria Falls.

MEDIEVAL FAIRE — European life in the Middle Ages is the theme of this area, featuring rides, pavilions and restaurants. A main at-

traction will be the Medieval Theatre, an indoor theatre seating 1,200 where live song and dance reviews will be presented. The Ships Stunts Show, a new concept for theme parks, will feature active audience participation in its daily shows.

WORLD EXPO 1890 — Borrowing its theme from the famous 19th Century Exposition, this area will include a games complex housed in a replica of the famous British Crystal Palace; a Moroccan Bazaar for shopping, as well as seven rides, including a Victorian Carousel.

FRONTIER CANADA — Our 19th Century heritage will be recreated in acres of fun and adventure, within this area of Canada's Wonderland. An outdoor amphitheatre will house the Lumberjack Show, highlighting log-rolling and pole climbing four times daily. A Log Flume ride is just one of the four amusement rides planned for this area.

HAPPY LAND OF HANNA-BARBERA — Designed specifically with young family members in mind, this area will offer 12 rides for children. Included will be Scooby Doo's

Roller Coaster, Yogi's Cave and Boulder Bumpers. Climaxing Happy Land's offerings will be the Dolphin and Sea Lion Show with live performances six times daily.

\$5 MILLION IN WAGES

Canada's Wonderland will employ a full-time staff of 205 at an estimated wage bill of more than \$5 million in its first operational year.

Also, some 3,000 job openings during the May to Labor Day season will provide Canadian college and high school students with approximately \$4.5 million in wages.

Federal and provincial taxes generated by the park are estimated at \$30 million during the first five years of operation, and entertainment taxes are estimated to be in the region of \$2 million annually.

"Canada's Wonderland will provide a boost for Canadians in two sorely needed areas — employment and tourism," Mr. Bartlett said.

More than 2.6 million visitors are expected to attend the park in the first year, in addition to 200,000 visitors coming in from the United States.

Board frowns on elite program for gymnasts

The Program Committee of the Board of Education will decide if York County is to designate up to 15 female students to a specialized gymnastics course designed to prepare them for Canada's Olympic Team.

The York Board has received an invitation from its sister in North York to participate in the program, which has been run at Seneca College since the beginning of 1978.

In a letter, the Director of the North York Board admitted the project's aim is to develop "elite gymnasts". That's the point York trustees found most contentious.

A preface to the letter by Director Sam Chapman explained the fundamental question about this type of program is not necessarily the administrative or financial implications but the willingness of the board to

encourage this type of elitism.

Though the idea is to produce world class athletes, Mr. Chapman wondered if trustees would give similar support to students with outstanding abilities in other areas like music, dance, athletics such as hockey.

Georgina Trustee immediately moved the board not support such a program.

"I believe it's simply a matter of dollars and cents," he said. "I don't think this board can afford such an elitist program because we'd be offering something to a very select group of students at the expense of the rest of the system."

Mr. Chapman claimed he used the word 'elitism' in his overview intentionally, because that's the kind of program the North York Board is talking about.

"After one year, the

selected group of 10 or 15 students is cut in half simply because a certain level of ability is required and some of them won't be good enough to continue. If that's not elitism, then what is?" he asked.

The program is set up for girls in Grades 3 to 6. At present, 21 students receive their academic instruction from a North York teacher in a portable at Seneca's Finch campus. Advanced level training in gymnastics is provided by the Faculty of Gymnastics and Coaching program.

If the York Board were to participate, it would pay about \$30,000-worth of fees in transfer payments to North York.

The Program Committee will consider a request that Grades 2 and 3 girls be screened in physical education activities, if not for entrance to the program next September, then sometime in the fall.

Risebrough

Joyce still optimistic despite many problems

The Ministry of Education is playing havoc with Superintendent of Business Administration Ed Joyce and his efforts to have a portable school ready by September 1 for the Separate School Board in Risebrough.

"Aside from the fact the board has yet to buy a site, has no Ministry or Ontario Municipal Board approval, no building permit from the Town of Markham and no allocation of up to \$500,000 for the school, everything is go, according to Mr. Joyce.

"I have been given the green light from the board to get a portapack up on a site and have instructions to use any means legal but necessary to get the job done. Right now, I can't say for sure we'll even get the money from the ministry," he said.

Approval of funds was supposed to come two weeks ago and Mr. Joyce is supposed to receive word today (Wednesday) if the money is forthcoming. He has spent hours negotiating with Chief Architect Dick Lawton but he claims pressure is being put on school boards not to build schools.

"I think the province must be running out of money. There's an order from the Treasury Board to hold up all requests by regional boards for capital allocation. My contacts at the ministry keep telling me they're trying (to get approval) and all I can say is they are trying."

Mr. Joyce has been discussing the 10-pak relocatable school with two companies who claim if they start by July 7 and barring any strikes, bad weather or work slowdowns, the structure can be in place for school opening. He feels a more realistic date would be sometime in mid-September.

The site in Risebrough still must be cleared (and paid for) but Mr. Joyce is taking a short-cut on the plans — he's using a similar design to the one at St. Paul's in Newmarket. He also has to have a topographical survey done by the architect which is necessary, since a permanent structure will eventually go on the site.

"One of our big headaches at the moment is the approval of a building permit by the Town of Markham. Usually this takes from three to six weeks but I think we get that cut down to one-and-a-half weeks if the St. Paul's plan is used," he said.

Using John XXIII, the board will set up a second school organization with a separate principal and staff so the school can establish its own identity by the time it is ready to be shifted into the relocatable.

The approximate costs to the board, most of which it is hoped will be covered by ministry grant are: \$137,500 for the land at \$25,000 per acre, there is a built-in option or carrying charge of 10 per cent: \$35,000 for

furniture and fixtures; the actual 10 portable structure which includes an office and health room is worth \$260,000; an optional gym (depending on how much the ministry is good for) costs \$48,000, bringing the total of \$475,500.

There are a couple of incidentals like \$1,000-\$1,500 for the land survey and an architect's supervision fee worth \$5,000-\$10,000, plus money for a soil analysis and proper footings for the building.

If the ministry were to approve only \$400,000 for the school, the gym facility would likely have to be dropped.

"All this preparatory work may be for nothing," said Mr. Joyce. "It all hinges on the ministry at this point."

Too late to clean up town this year

Town Maintenance Manager, Merv Perkins has decided it's too late this year for spring cleaning and if we leave it until next May there may be international help available.

Richmond Hill Civic Improvement Committee asked the town for a clean up week, "so residents would be proud of their town," said Councillor Dave Barrow, the council representative on the committee.

A report on the subject from Mr. Perkins said the town traditionally held a Clean Up Week in May, as soon as the good weather arrived, but it was dropped in 1977 because

community interest was waning and the money was required in other areas.

Mr. Perkins said he felt it was too late in the year to have a Clean Up Week in 1979 but added the American Public Works Association and the Canadian Council of Public Works are planning a national Public Works Week in May of 1980 when it is intended all public works departments will be urged to participate and will do high profile work in the community.

"I hope we'll be tackling this from a national viewpoint next year," said Mr. Perkins.

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