

Wonderland nearly complete

From the summit of Wonderland's man-made mountain near Maple, Ontario, you can see all the way to the CN Tower in downtown Toronto, 32 kilometres (20 miles) away. Below the mountain spreads 144 hectares (360 acres) of fantasy.

It is Canada's Wonderland, a Disneyland of the North, and a self-contained world of imagination. The park is scheduled to open this May.

At a cost of \$115 million, Wonderland has more than 30 rides, four live shows running several times daily, restaurants and air-conditioned kennels for pets.

What is in store

Four of the five theme areas will be finished by May: International Street, Medieval Faire, Grande World Exposition of 1980 and the Happyland of Hanna-Barbera. Frontier Canada will be ready in 1982.

On International Street, in the Alpine, Scandinavian, Latin and Mediterranean buildings, there will be souvenirs, Spanish dolls and hand-blown glass for sale.

In a 3,500-seat open-air Greek amphitheatre, a 30-minute revue of pop and country music will alternate with a 1950s musical about high school heartache.

Canterbury Theatre in Medieval Faire (a castle 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 more than 200 costumes. That works out to a different costume every



An aerial view of Canada's Wonderland taken in October 1980.

Canadian Government Office of Tourism photos



Some attractions are free.

four minutes.

At a privateer's ship moored at Arthur's Bay, there will be fireworks and acrobatic stunts, and a chance to participate in the show.

At the Grande World Exposition, children can play video games and pinball in the Crystal Arcade, a miniature version of Britain's Crystal Palace, while their parents take a nostalgic ride on a refurbished merry-go-round, circa 1928.

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

There will also be jesters juggling in courtyards, Acapulco-style high-divers, a gang of musical Pearly Kings playing jazz and Fred Flintstone and Yogi Bear posing for pictures.

Wonderland staff predict it will take eight hours to see everything. An average family of four is expected to spend about \$80, although it can be done for about \$46.

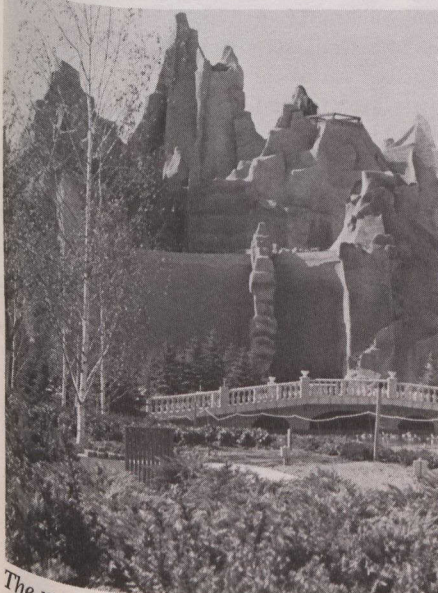
Half an hour's drive northwest of Toronto, and with 14 million people within a 322-kilometre (200-mile) radius — including Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, Detroit, Buffalo, Cleveland and Pittsburgh — Wonderland is expected to attract two to three million visitors in its first season.

(From Canada Tourism, December 1980-January 1981.)

Cost: A variety of passes, including a two-day passport for \$23.50 for both adults and children, will be available. Most visitors will probably opt for a book of 12 coupons (\$11.95 for adults, \$10.95 for children aged three to eight) which includes admission (quoted at \$9.95 alone for adults) and some attractions.

Transportation: Special buses from two Toronto subway stations — Yorkdale and York Mills (\$1.00 for adults, one way). By car, Wonderland is a half-hour trip from Toronto. There is parking for 12,000.

Season: Opening weekend, May 23. Open daily May 30 to September 7; weekends only September 12-27.



The man-made mountain.