

Dome is probable

Mike Guy

Texas has the Astrodome; Seattle the Kingdome; and Vancouver will soon have their Vancouverdome.

Jim Edwards, president of the Ontariodome Booster Association, which was registered with the Corporation of Consumer Affairs in late 1981, wants Ontario to follow suit.

Edwards hopes to muster up enough public support so that he can prove to big business, banks, and private investors that the people of Ontario desire a "climate-controlled stadium with upholstered seats and excellent acoustics." He would prefer that volunteers finance the dome rather than a rich donor because he wants it to be a "community affair." The investors would, then, pay the contractors and the engineers to construct the hundred-million-dollar project, which if started in 1983 could be completed by 1985.

He adds that "the dome could be built in Mississauga due to cheap land; in Maple, near Canada's Wonderland, or near the Downsview Airport."

Edwards is confident that the dome will be a success and feels it would be unwise to erect the dome, as some have suggested, close to the Canadian National Exhibition, "because it would tie up traffic."

The domes location will permit easy and convenient access for Metro residents and for persons travelling from the 'Golden Horseshoe' area, particularly Hamilton. Vehicular traffic going to the dome will be adequately conveyed on existing roads without causing bottlenecks and there will be ample parking for autos and buses, with at least 10,000 spaces at the site.

Increased tourism

The dome, with a capacity five times greater than Maple Leaf Gardens, would offer its spectators a variety of programmes ranging from popular sports to the big rock concerts such as Canada Jam.

Edwards described a day at the Ontariodome as if it were a day at a circus or an exhibition, saying that, "if you become tired of watching the baseball game, you could always look to the performers on the side lines. It's a real show for the whole family, and it can make a poor show a good one."

In Edwards opinion, "the dome would increase Ontario's tourist industry immensely." People would come from a two hundred mile radius to see the Yankees play the Blue Jays, since "no city in the North East has a dome."

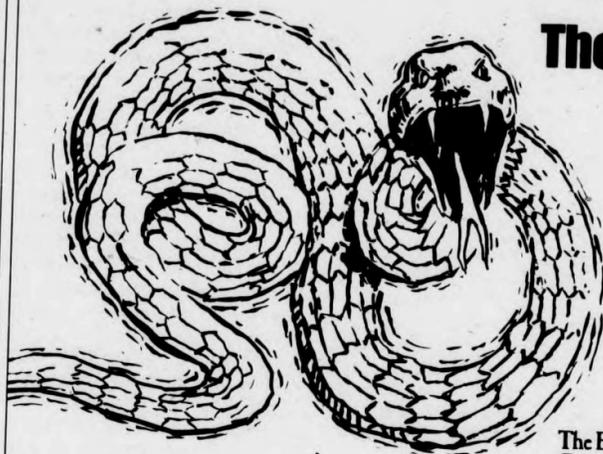


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