

VILLES

DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX

Parcs Centennial Lake

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Dollard to vote on June start for 125-acre park

By BOB HAYES
of The Gazette

The Town of Dollard des Ormeaux will start excavating a million cubic yards of earth and rocks for its long-delayed Centennial Lake project this summer if taxpayers vote in favor of two loan bylaws next week.

Mayor Gerald Dephore yesterday revealed plans for the ambitious project, which would provide residents of the West Island community with a year-round, 125-acre playground.

"To give some idea of the size of the development, the lake would be five times larger than Montreal's Beaver Lake on Mount Royal," the mayor said.

The focus of the recreational area, the artificial lake would occupy 20 acres and will measure one-half mile long by 800 feet at its widest point. It would have a maximum depth of eight feet, gradually dropping off one foot for every 15 feet of distance.

SAFE DEPTH

"This will make it safe for the youngsters," explained Dephore, who sees the lake as a mecca for small sailboats, canoes and rowboats (but not motorboats). In winter it would be the island's largest skating rink. The lake will also be part of Dollard's storm drainage system.

For the shores of the lake, the town has planned a toboggan hill, observation promontory, arboretum, nursery, greenhouse, marina, amphitheatre, picnic areas, horseshoe pits, mini-golf and a sandy beach. In the lake itself five pockets of forested land would be left as islands.

It would all be part of Centennial Park — the name it got back in 1966, when council first considered the project. At that time the project never got off the ground.

Last November, however, the municipality purchased the 5,445,000 square feet of vacant land from private owners for \$1,300,000. A loan bylaw to cover the cost was approved by taxpayers and the park was well on its way.

NEARLY \$2 MILLION

Mayor Dephore said the excavation of the lake would cost the town an estimated \$1,400,000 while the park construction with landscaping and contouring would add another \$415,000.

Next Wednesday the two bylaws for loans totalling \$1,815,000 will go before a public meeting of taxpayers for approval. If they pass, the shovels would go into the ground on June 1, with completion scheduled for Oct. 30.

Dephore explained in an

interview that work on the park would cost taxpayers at large two cents per \$100 valuation, while the lake's construction would be charged to homeowners living in the area to be drained. This amounts to \$7 a year for the average ratepayer with a 6,000-square-foot lot. The total project would be financed over a 30-year period.

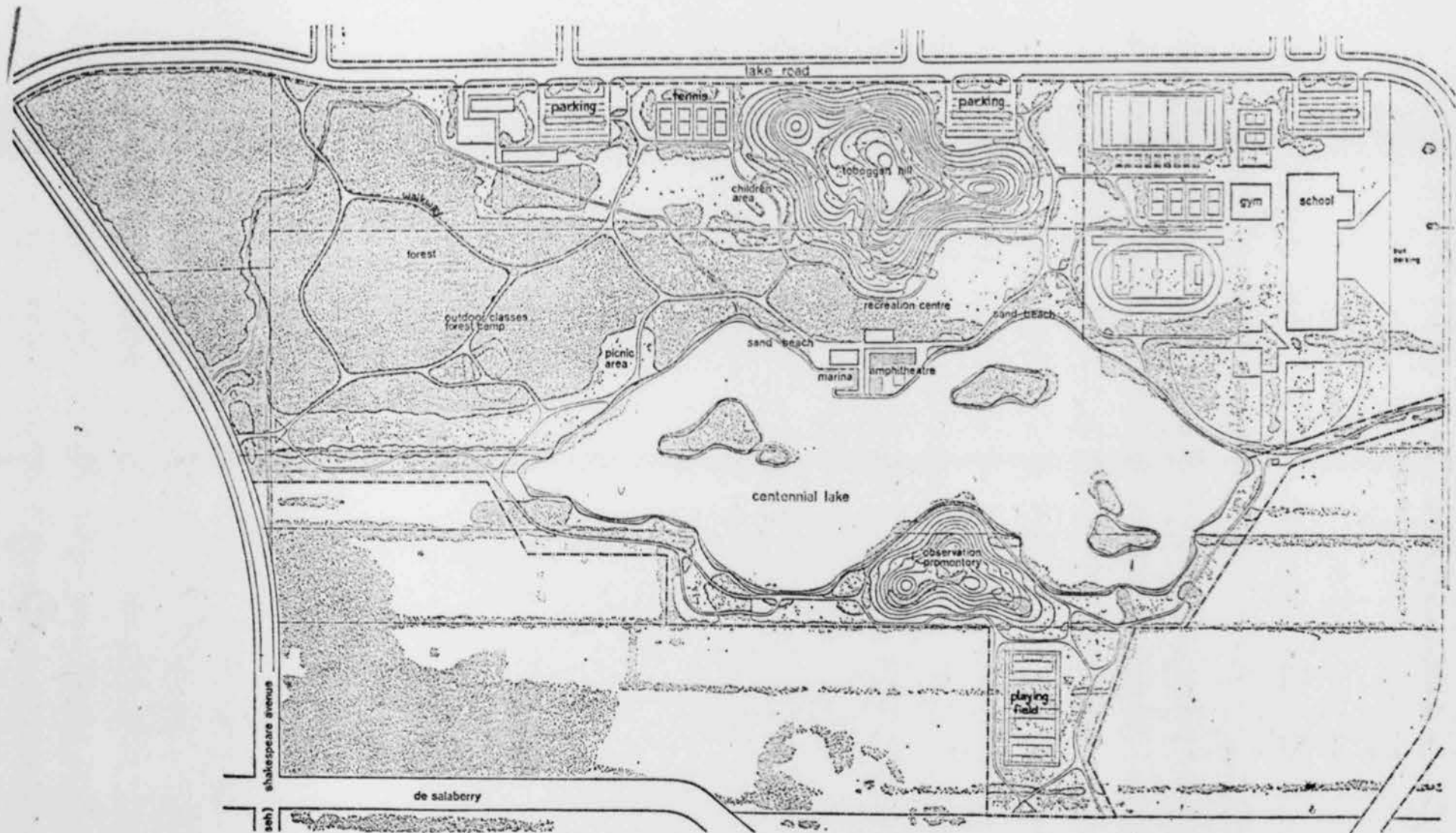
USE FOR EARTH

The planners have come up with a use for the earth to be excavated for the lake. It would be used to build up a 150-foot high toboggan hill on the north side and a 100-foot-high observation site on the opposite shore.

"It would cost the town \$400,000 to cart the fill away, but that money will cover the cost of putting the park in shape," Dephore said.

The project would also serve as an outdoor classroom for a comprehensive high school to be built by the Baldwin-Cartier School Commission on an adjoining 1.2 million-square-foot site. It will open in September, 1974.

For both citizens and students the park couldn't be in a more ideal location, according to town officials. Situated in the heart of the suburb, it will provide a vast area of water and forests for asphalt-weary residents to "get away from it all."



Centennial Lake — five times the size of Mt. Royal's Beaver Lake—would be the centre of Dollard's 125-acre playground, which could be started this summer.



Feu vert au Lac du Centenaire

Le conseil municipal de Dollard-des-Ormeaux a obtenu le feu vert, de la population, au sujet de son projet du Lac du Centenaire qui aura cinq fois la superficie du Lac des Castors, sur le Mont-Royal. Le projet est évalué à \$1,895,000. Le maire de Dollard-des-Ormeaux pourra dorénavant se gonfler la poitrine quand il rencontrera le maire Jean Drapeau ! M. Gerry Dephore réalisera lui aussi un "petit" rêve de grandeur...

West Island park plan takes shape

By RAY DOUCET

Land stripping and excavation for a huge artificial lake in the heart of Dollard-des-Ormeaux is nearing completion and city officials hope to have the work finished by the end of October.

Faced with a one-month delay at the beginning of the massive park development project for the West Island city, city officials hope to have

at least part of the over-all park plan ready before winter.

In May, this year, two loan by-laws authorizing \$1.9 million for a Centennial Park and artificial lake were approved following a public hearing where no objections were raised.

The plan for what will eventually be the largest recreational area in the West Island calls for flooding a 27-acre marshy area between St.

John's Road and Sources Boulevard, north of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Cost of the lake, including excavation and some sealing, will be about \$1.5 million. The 90-acre park surrounding the lake will cost about \$415,000.

It will include tennis courts, a toboggan hill built from earth excavated from the lake site, a greenhouse, football, baseball and soccer fields, a marina and a lakeside amphitheatre.

City manager Robert Theriault said that the lake should be ready by the end of October.

Since the toboggan hill is being built from lake excavations, it will also be ready for winter.

"Other parts of the park will be ready sometime next year after we've gotten clearance for them."

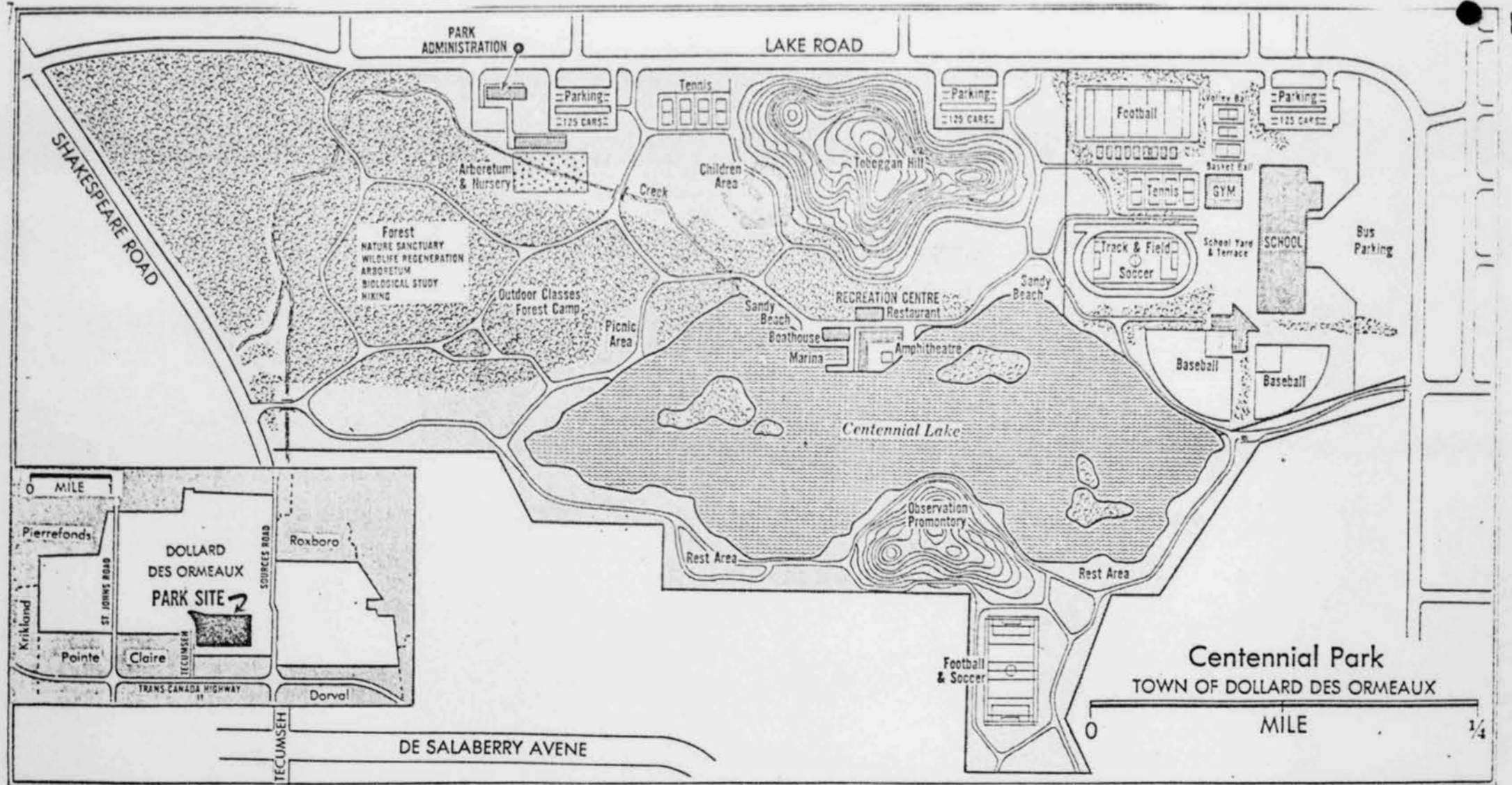
One of the difficulties in the development is that the football, soccer and baseball fields are on properties owned by an adjacent school.

There have been some difficulties in negotiations on development of this property, said Mr. Theriault.

Work on the lake was originally scheduled to begin June 1, but was delayed to the beginning of this month.

The cost to the taxpayer will be two cents per \$100 valuation per year for the park, and \$7 per year for an average 6,000-square-foot lot for the lake.

THE MONTREAL STAR, SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1973



Centennial project . . . a little late

Dollard digs in to create parkland

By BOB HAYES
of The Gazette

Centennial Park, the Dollard des Ormeaux project intended to mark the city's contribution to Canada's 100th birthday celebrations, is finally off the ground.

A million cubic yards of it. Roger Theriault, manager of the West Island community, said yesterday that excavation of the lake site — believed the largest in Canada — should be complete by the end of October.

The lake will feature a 125-acre playground which will include a beach, marina, picnic areas, observation promontory, greenhouse and amphitheatre.

TOBOGGAN HILL, RINK

A toboggan hill 150 feet high and the largest rink on the island are scheduled for winter sports.

When it's finished, the park will become a leisure area of 5,445,000 square feet.

A group of Dollard citizens is keeping close watch on progress in hopes of retaining a large part of the sector in its present natural state.

"We want to make sure a variety of mature and developing woodland is undis-

turbed," said Margaret Hendrick, spokesman for the residents.

"We are mainly concerned with the future of birds, plant life and small animals that have been located in the wooded areas. If the undergrowth in these regions is destroyed, it would have a disastrous effect on their natural habitat."

M. J. Dannatt, 20 Place Gauthier, said the group has spotted 112 species of birds, of which 57 remain to breed, in the past two years. Among the "exciting arrivals" this spring were three Great Grey Owls from the North.

"If we manicure the grounds and lay asphalt walks, we will eliminate nesting areas and destroy the natural plant material."

Mayor Gerald Dephoure and councillors are sympathetic and say bulldozers will not stray from the immediate area of the lake.

In the meantime, giant shovels are digging deep into ground just west of Sources Rd. for the 28-acre lake. Earth and rocks are being used to build the toboggan and observation hills.

The \$400,000 it would have cost to get rid of the material is being used to dress up surroundings.

While digging to a maximum of nine feet in the lake bed, the shovels are carefully carving

out five tree-shaded islands that will dot the water.

Dollard officials are still studying the possibility of swimming when the lake is finished. Water is to be drained from excess supplies from surrounding districts and will have to be tested before swimming is allowed.

MAY BE STOCKED

There is chance the lake will be stocked with fish hardy enough to withstand stiff winters in comparatively shallow water.

Land for the park cost \$1,500,000 and excavation and landscaping will cost \$1,815,000. Financing has been approved by Dollard property-owners.

"I think it's one of the best investments the town has ever made," said Dephoure, who expects the development to be complete within 10 years.

The development has attracted the interest of a U.S. firm which will start building 300 homes nearby this autumn.

Construction also will start soon on a high school on a 1.2 million-square-foot site adjacent to the park. It will include an array of sports facilities with an outdoor biology classroom "right on its doorstep."

This could be the greatest thing that's ever happened in the West Island," said Dephoure.