



Summer 2010 Facility to Facility



### Canada's Largest Water Park Opens

Until now, the town of Limoges outside Ottawa has had as its major attraction a cheese factory, closely followed by a carefully tended swath of forest that is popular among hikers and cross-country skiers.

But “the coming of Calypso,” now the largest water park in Canada, may change Limoges forever. On June 7, Calypso water park opened its doors on the outskirts of town, and Quebec amusement park veteran Guy Drouin, owner of the sprawling \$45-million outdoor entertainment mecca, hopes to attract more than 350,000 people to the park between June and Labour Day.

The park is on 70 acres of recently deforested land and features 35 slick slides along with 80-foot long extreme-style waterslides, a half-kilometre jungle river winding past a 52,000-square-foot wave pool that hosts five different types of waves, a beach, restaurants, shops, splash pads and pools for toddlers, and enough picnic tables and green space for 12,000 visitors a day. And the water temperature at Calypso will be maintained at an even 27 C—not quite up to bathtub standards, but comfortable enough that Drouin

believes visitors will keep coming even when the air temperature dips.

Another technological investment at Calypso is its point-of-sale system, which uses a swimmer's fingerprint to process transactions and allows patrons to simply point at whatever they want to buy throughout the day—without having to reach into their pockets—a real challenge when the majority of people are wearing bikinis or swim trunks.

According to Drouin, there are no similar parks within a 100-kilometre radius. "There's no real park out there to compete with us," he says. "There are a lot of museums, but not a lot of outside activities."

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