

# Shipp breaks ground for \$20 million building

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It was only the high wind that prevented William Cole from dropping in to see Harold Shipp Thursday afternoon.

Cole, a sky diver and stunt man, had been expected to arrive via parachute at the groundbreaking of Two Robert Speck Parkway, the first of four buildings in the Mississauga Executive Centre being developed by the Shipp Corporation.

But when two test streamers were dropped from Cole's plane and carried almost to the QEW, the jump was called off.

(Robert Speck Pkwy. continues east from city hall, across Highway 10 and runs south to join up with Burnhamthorpe Rd.)

Upon landing, Cole was to have made his point by presenting Mayor Ron Searle with an engraved pocket knife, indicating that the mayor had come to a 'keen' spot in the Mississauga city core, Shipp said later.

Two Robert Speck Parkway will be a 15-storey, mirrored glass building containing 300,000 square feet of office space, with the first tenants expected to move in Sept. 1, 1979.

Among those tenants will be the Canadian corporate headquarters of Swift Canadian Company, currently finalizing leasing arrangements for the top two floors of the building.

Two Robert Speck Parkway, along with the three Shipp buildings to follow, will provide 853,000 square feet of commercial office space in the Mississauga core.

They comprise only part of the development planned for the 35 acres in the area which have been held since 1966, when they were acquired by a group including the Shipp Corporation.

Construction is expected to start early next year, Shipp said, on the first of two, 40-storey condominium apartment buildings, also in the city core. Those projects still require the approval of city council.

Work on the three commercial office buildings to follow Two Robert Speck Parkway is expected to start within the next 10 years.

The value of Two Robert Speck Parkway is estimated at \$20 million, a Shipp spokesman said last week.



When the Shipp Corporation hosts a ground breaking, there's no fooling around. Everybody digs. Even the dog. Included among the workers last week were mayor Ron Searle, Shipp Corporation founder and chairman of the board Gordon S. Shipp and Enid Speck, wife of the late Bob Speck, the former mayor after whom Robert Speck Pkwy. was named. There were 55 diggers in all, to help commemorate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Shipp Corporation.

(Staff photo by Fred Loek)