



November 18, 2010

## Howe Caverns to add dinosaur-themed park

### Staff Report

Howe Caverns Vice President and co-owner Emil Galasso unveiled plans for a dinosaur-themed amusement park to be built near Howe Caverns in Cobleskill. The announcement was made Wednesday at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo in Orlando, Fla.

According to a media release, "Dinosaur Canyon," a walk-through outdoor attraction, will "offer visitors the opportunity to interact with prehistoric giants of the past."

"My vision is to create a destination resort," Galasso said in the release. "Right now, even during these tough economic times, we're getting nearly 200,000 visitors a year to Howe Caverns. We want to give them more to do while they're here. Dinosaur Canyon will help us to become a true destination attraction. I feel like we're bringing a bit of Disney to upstate New York."

Work has already begun on the complex; some venues are scheduled to open in 2011.

Dinosaur Canyon will feature more than 20 animatronic dinosaur figures situated in rock chasms, caverns and valleys.

"We're pulling out all the stops to create the most amazing, life-like dinosaurs since their living forebears walked the planet 66 million years ago," said Garner Holt, CEO of Garner Holt Productions Inc., which is working on the concept and installation for the park. "With our new silicone skin formulations and cutting-edge motion-control system, which creates exceptionally fluid movements, these creatures will stand up to intense scrutiny of leading scientists and even harsher critics \_ 7-year-old boys with a passion for dinosaurs."

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Garner Holt has designed and manufactured animatronic components for Disney theme parks, Universal Studios, the San Diego Museum of Natural History and Egypt's Science City.

The park will also feature an educational component, according to the release.

other private matters.

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