

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4 – VIEWING
DAY AT THE SPIT**

Again this year, we are celebrating **World Environment Day** by inviting the public to come and explore the Spit, enjoy the quiet, car-free experience, and get acquainted with its wildlife.

For the second consecutive year, we have received a grant from Environment Canada to hold a "Viewing Day" at the Spit. Our objective is to increase the awareness of this unique urban environmental resource among the public.

Last year, the event was a great success. It attracted several hundreds of first-time visitors. We had viewing stations, staffed by naturalists, and a brochure with information about the wildlife areas that enabled people to take a self-guided tour of the Spit.

We are planning a similar event this year, on **Sunday, June 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Come and join us in this celebration of World Environment Day. Come to learn more about the Spit. Come to enjoy the Spit ...and bring your friends.

Can you help? No experience necessary!

Put up posters — Can you put up posters in your neighbourhood – in stores, workplaces, schools, churches, shopping malls, community centres, on construction hoardings, etc. Call 699-6442 and we will send you a supply of posters.

On Sunday, June 4 — Can you help for a couple of hours on the day of the event? We need many volunteers in the morning and afternoon, to hand out brochures and direct people so that the day runs smoothly and first-time visitors feel welcome. No experience necessary, just your enthusiasm and love for the Spit. We are going to organize shifts: from 10 to 12 a.m., 12 to 2 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. **Select the time that is convenient for you, and call us at 699-6442.**

The Toronto Harbour Commission has been allowed by the City to merrily dump lakefill to construct its huge 1,200 boats marina in the Outer Harbour by the neck of the Spit, despite a "natural resource area" zoning designation applied last year to the waterlot by City Council.

This zoning designation (Gr) permits only conservation lands and bathing stations and prohibits lakefilling. But the THC has been dumping fill, up to 1,800 truckloads a day diverted from the completion of the Spit, to build its marina and has started building the facilities for the first 400 boats, all without having applied for the zoning changes.

Earlier this year, the THC requested the City to provide service connections (sewers, etc.) to the marina. The City Planning Department in a report to the Land Use Committee recommended that **no connections be provided to the marina.**

Naturalists and small boat sailors in agreement

The issue was discussed at Land Use Committee on March 29. Friends of the Spit, naturalist groups and the north shore sailing and sailboarding clubs spoke overwhelmingly in favour of the Planning Department report and against the THC marina. (The only one praising the marina was the paid lobbyist for the Ontario Sailing Association!).

Speaker after speaker got up and said that the marina was ill-conceived, would ruin the public's enjoyment of the area and generate large boat traffic that is incompatible with the pursuit, enjoyment and safety of waterfront public recreation.

A very poor show

Given this massive opposition to the marina from the public, one would have thought that at least the Committee would discuss planning issues, particularly since it was the first time the THC marina came under scrutiny by the City (despite repeated requests for scrutiny by Friends of the Spit and other groups).

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT RENEWAL

Memberships for 1989 are now due. We hope you will renew your support as we continue to face new challenges to protect the Spit from development.

Dues for 1989: Individual — \$5.00 Family — \$8.00 (Additional donations are very welcome)

Please tear off and mail with your cheque to:

Friends of the Spit, P.O. Box 467, Station J, Toronto, Ontario M4J 4Z2

I want to renew my membership support for 1989.

Name..... Phone number.....(H)(B)

Are your name and address on the mailing label correct? If not, please make the necessary changes on the label.

Note: If you already have renewed for 1989, you will find a red check mark on your mailing label. Please accept our thanks for renewing so promptly.

Well, that's not the way things are done in our fair and financial city! First, no one paid any attention to the deputations being read. Then, led by Councillor Nowlan (who had voted for the Gr zoning last year) the committee threw out the Planning Department's report and proceeded to allow an application for rezoning the marina to Gm (which permits marinas – and much much more).

Most of the discussion centered around the fact that the "poor" owners of luxury boats to whom berths had been pre-sold (on an unzoned site) were going to be upset and, of course, deprived of their constitutional rights. How's that for the tear-jerker of the year. If you have followed the Harbourfront saga, this will sound very familiar to you. Plus ça change...

Zoning proposal to be considered on May 10

The proposal to rezone the THC marina from Gr to Gm will be considered at Land Use Committee on Wednesday, May 10, at 11:00 a.m., in Committee Room 4, New City Hall. We will be speaking at that meeting. Please make an effort to come and speak as well to request the City not to allow the THC marina to be rezoned.

To obtain the planning report and to be put on the speakers list, call the Secretary of the Land Use Committee at 392-7033. If you are unable to attend, send a letter supporting our position to Councillor Nadine Nowlan, Chair of the Land Use Committee, City Hall, Toronto M5H 2N2 and write or phone your City Councillor.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Membership lists

Friends of the Spit does not exchange or sell any of its membership lists. This has always been our policy. All membership information is kept confidential and used for file purposes only.

Annual Meeting deferred

We have traditionally held our Annual Meeting in the early spring. This year, however, the many issues we had to address and the number of briefs and deputations we had to prepare left us little time (and energy) to put together a meaningful and interesting meeting.

Friends of the Spit

P.O. Box 467, Station J
Toronto, Ontario M4J 4Z2



The meeting is an excellent opportunity for the Steering Committee to meet a large number of members face to face, and for members to get acquainted. While we are awaiting more propitious circumstances to hold a meeting, we will be at the Spit on June 4, at our Viewing Day, hoping to talk to as many members as possible. Please look us up.



Do you want clean air, safe drinking water, beaches we can swim at, and green space we can escape to in the city?

Get Involved.

People from all across Toronto will be walking, wheeling, running and ambling along in the Second Annual Move-a-Thon for the Environment on Sunday, May 7, 1989.

Explore Local Issues.

Enjoy a spring day. Take a self-guided Eco-Tour of some of Toronto's best green spots (and a few of the hot spots). Learn more about the environmental groups from around the city, and the issues they work on.

You Can Make A Difference.

Collect sponsors and make the move for your choice of 14 environmental groups. Or call TEA to sponsor a "Group Mover."

Three Different Routes:

- Don River 10 Km** 12:00 noon sharp.
Pottery Road & The Don River
(Broadview bus North to Pottery Rd.
— walk down the big hill and look for the banner).
- Downtown 10 or 20 Km** Registration 10:00-1:00
Start at Pollution Probe's Ecology Park, 12
Madison Ave., one block east of Spadina, half
block north of Bloor.
- Rouge Valley 10 Km** Registration 10:00-1:00
Start at the Hillside Outdoor Education Centre,
northeast corner of Finch and Meadowvale.

Pledge forms are available from your local Roots store or call Friends of the Spit at 699-6442. If you do not have the time to participate, would you like to sponsor a member of Friends of the Spit who badly needs to burn off extra calories? Please call in your pledges at 699-6442.



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