

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK

THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Vol. 2 No. 3

May 20, 1987

UPCOMING EVENTS

T.T.C. Bus Service June 6 - Sept. 7
Interpretive Program June 6 - Sept. 7

T.T.C. BUS SERVICE

The T.T.C. bus service will be operating free of charge in Tommy Thompson Park this summer from June 6 until September 7, 1987.

Once again the bus will be servicing designated bus stops located along the park road. Due to construction of the Keating Access Channel, this summer's bus route will be shorter. A new turnaround facility has been constructed just south of Peninsula D, on Hardpoint 4. Visitors are welcome to board or disembark at this point. Pedestrian access to the rest of the park will be maintained through installation of a floating bridge.

Visitors requiring transportation to the park can board the bus at Queen and Berkshire at 15 minutes to the hour. Visitors using the bus outside the park are required to pay the regular fare.

The T.T.C. bus will be leaving the parking lot every hour on the hour from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The van shuttle service will resume on September 12 and run until October 12, 1987.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

A variety of Interpretive Programs will be offered at Tommy Thompson Park during the 1987 season. These programs will be

running on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from June 6 until September 7, 1987.

Guided hikes and bus tours will provide visitors with general information about the park. Topics will include history and construction of the park, Master Planning, floral and faunal succession, E.S.A.'s and urban wildlife.

Program Schedule:

General Interest Hike - 2:00 p.m. Saturdays
- 11:00 a.m. Sundays
and Holidays

Hikers should meet at the Information Board in the parking lot just before the hour and take the T.T.C. bus to the last stop. Visitors already in the park should meet the group at this point. The hike starts from the bus turnaround and heads out towards the tip. Program length is approximately 1 hour.

Bus Tour - 4:00 p.m. Saturdays,
Sundays, Holidays

Catch the 4:00 p.m. T.T.C. bus from the parking lot. The Park Interpreter will join the bus for an informal general interest presentation.

Theme Hikes - 2:00 p.m. Sundays,
Holidays

Specific theme hikes will be offered on Sundays and Holidays. They will be of the same format as the general interest hike but will focus on one specific topic such as succession, aquatic life, photography and wild flowers. Meet at the Information Board at 2:00 p.m. or join the group at the last T.T.C. bus stop, to begin the hike.

Additional Activities:

In addition to the scheduled programs the Park Interpreter will be setting up informal nature viewing stations. The Interpreter will be circulating throughout the park and will set up stations at various locations for passing park visitors. The Interpreter will be available to answer your questions and to provide general park information.

Details regarding theme hikes and nature viewing stations will be posted on the Information Board at the park entrance.

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK CONCEPT PLAN

The "Natural Area Advisory Committee" held its second meeting on May 11, 1987, with a third meeting scheduled for June 8, 1987 to continue the formulation of detailed management and cost recommendations for the Natural Resource Area outlined in the approved Concept Plan. These recommendations will be reflected in the Master Plan scheduled for completion later this year.

A reminder that the committee includes representation from the Toronto Field Naturalists, Friends of the Spit, Botany Conservancy Group (University of Toronto), Toronto Ornithological Club, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ministry of Natural Resources, Metropolitan Toronto Parks and Property Department, Outer Harbour Sailing Federation (Aquatic Park Sailing Club). No representatives have been appointed as of publication time from these invited groups - the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists and the Field Botanists of Ontario.

DREDGEATE ACCESS CHANNEL UPDATE

Construction on the cut through the headlands is progressing. Construction of the floating pedestrian bridge is underway.

Vehicle access to the entire park will be restricted for the next two to three month period, until the cut is completed and the existing entrance to Cell 3 is closed.

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS

The Authority has classified the gull and tern breeding sites in Tommy Thompson Park as E.S.A.'s. Access to these areas is restricted during the spring and summer to protect the breeding birds and their habitat. Human disturbances can cause neglect of eggs and young, leading to unsuccessful breeding.

As the sign below indicates, there is No Entry to these areas between April 1 and August 15. Visitors are required to recognize the E.S.A. signs and not venture beyond them during the restricted period.

Please be aware that nesting sites occur in non-restricted areas as well as in E.S.A.'s. Do not remove eggs or young birds from any nests.



NATURE CORNER

Rare Flora:

Sea Rocket (*Cakile edentula*) and Bushy Cinquefoil (*Potentilla paradoxa*) have been classified as rare flora in Tommy Thompson Park. These two plants occur in less than four sites within the MTRCA's jurisdiction.

Sea Rocket is a member of the mustard family. It has purple flowers which bloom from July to September. The small flowers are composed of four petals and are arranged in terminal clusters. The plant grows six to twelve inches high and has been noted for its distinctive pods.

Bushy Cinquefoil is distinguished by its flowers composed of five yellow petals. Leaves which are made up of many smaller leaflets, are arranged in groups of five. This one to two foot member of the Rose family blooms from June to September.

Just a reminder: DO NOT PICK ANY FLOWERS IN TOMMY THOMPSON PARK, LEAVE THEM FOR OTHERS TO ENJOY!