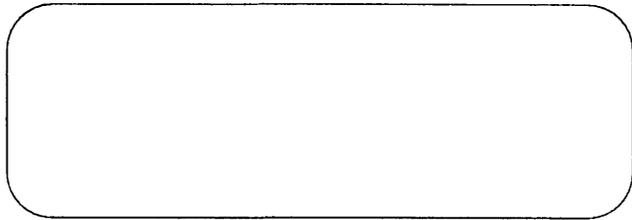


Friends of the Spit

P.O. Box 51518
2060 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M4E 3V7

Inside:
VICTORY!!!
City Council
approves Gr
zoning

Telephone: 699-3143



Friends of the Spit would not normally issue a newsletter so close to holidays. It was thought, however, that such uplifting news had to be announced as quickly as possible.

Rejoice!



Writing or phoning your Toronto City Councillor and the Mayor to thank them for having the vision to rezone to Gr (conservation lands) the 12-acre parcel along Unwin Avenue between Leslie Street and the Hearn bridge would be a nice gesture.

The mailing address is:

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

For phone and fax numbers, see below.

NEWSLETTER

December 1996

AS AN EDITORIAL

Where do we go from here? If the rezoning of the 12-acre parcel at the base of the Spit happens without a hitch — as it should now that all City Council voted in favour of it, Friends of the Spit will participate in the planning process for the rest of the Portlands.

In addition to moving the approval of the rezoning for the land, Councillor McConnell put forward a motion to create a committee of stakeholders (TEDCO, MTRCA, the Don Task Force, Friends of the Spit, etc.) to prepare the template for a development concept that addresses the economic and environmental issues of all the lands south of the ship channel.

We are very pleased to have this opportunity to continue contributing our expertise to the well-being of the city.

But...

Among the good news, we should remember that there are further regulatory steps in the implementation process before the Gr zoning is finalised. As you well know from past experience, nothing is cast in concrete, least of all unanimous votes.

In the meantime, let's celebrate!

Unanimous approval by Toronto City Council

Base of Spit to be zoned conservation lands

At the Toronto City Council Meeting of Monday, December 9, all the 15 Councillors present and the Mayor voted to adopt the Land Use Committee recommendation to rezone to Gr (conservation lands) the 12-acre parcel of Spit baseland south of Unwin Avenue between Leslie Street and the Hearn bridge.

"It is a beautiful wilderness..."

"I don't want to fight over a piece of land that we currently know we have no use for, that is currently going to an incredible use which is a naturalist use, a part of a flyway as well as just a wonderful place for families and people to walk."

Councillor Pam McConnell (Ward 7)

"Having gone out and looked at the site, it's pretty clear to me that... in reality this parcel of land has become, for the public, part of the base of the Leslie Street Spit."

"When you go there you see that this property has de facto become part of that greenspace, and I don't think we could either politically or realistically, or in good conscience, take it away at this stage."

Councillor Peter Tabuns (Ward 8)

"I'm very glad to see that councillors will now support the rezoning to conservation land..."

"This is the way to allow the greenspace to be protected and preserved, and to move forward to plan the area."

Councillor John Adams (Ward 13)

Five councillors spoke on the issue. Here are some of their remarks.

"We were concerned that in any other like type of situation (as the golf academy) we would be caught with a proposal that clearly was against the best interest of the people that use that area for recreation and conservation."

"I'm quite happy that we can protect this land in perpetuity for the birds and the animals and the people and the future generations..."

Councillor Steve Ellis (Ward 9)

(Councillor Ellis moved the initial motion at Land Use Committee to rebuff the Planning Department recommendation to maintain industrial zoning on the lands.)

"I'm pleased that Land Use Committee has come to the realisation of the importance of the Spit. We were very fortunate that man's desire to expand has created a natural environment that has rapidly become an important laneway for birds."

"It is essential that these areas be protected and be maintained for life, for ever, because simply put if we don't have them we won't have the benefit of birds, of butterflies and the small animals that exist in these areas and give us nature in our own backyard."

Councillor David Hucheon (Ward 1)

Toronto Councillors numbers – First 3 digits are always 392, e.g.: 392-7001 for the Mayor

Ward #	Phone	Fax	Ward #	Phone	Fax
Mayor Barbara Hall	7001	0026	9	Steve Ellis	7904 1050
1 David Hutcheon	7909	1867	10	Tom Jakobek	7915 0390
2 Chris K.-Kuczynski	0202	0398	11	Rob Maxwell	7908 1050
3 Mario Silva	7012	7957	12	Betty Disero	7011 0212
4 Martin Silva	7910	0095	13	John Adams	0013 1461
5 Dan Leckie	7911	1870	14	Howard Joy	7912 1865
6 Kyle Rae	7093	0206	15	Kay Gardner	7017 1873
7 Pam McConnell	7916	7296	16	Michael Walker	7906 1050
8 Peter Tabuns	7914	1744			

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1996

Memberships for 1996 are now due and still remain at :

\$5.00 — Individual Save time & postage
\$8.00 — Household/group

Please fill this form and mail it with your cheque to:

Friends of the Spit
P.O. Box 51518, 2060 Queen St. East
Toronto, ON M4E 3V7

If you haven't renewed yet for 1996, why not mail your cheque for an amount covering both 1996 and 1997. You will save time and money and make the treasurer happy!

Check here if you are renewing for both 1996 and 1997.

Check your label...

John and Jane Eider
 123 Teal Street
 Toronto, ON M4M 4M4
REN/96

You will see "REN/96" when your membership is up-to-date for 1996.

IMPORTANT: Friends of the Spit do not sell or trade their mailing lists.

Yes, I want to renew my membership in Friends of the Spit

Name _____ Phone _____

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS. Please indicate address/name corrections on the label on the reverse.

Great stuff!

Excerpts from letters sent to Land Use Committee by members of Friends of the Spit and unaffiliated individuals.

"Anyone who has spent any time there, observing the seasonal changes in the flora and fauna, knows how beautiful and fascinating this area is."

"Tommy Thompson Park and the baselands of the Spit form a unique ecological area. Here visitors to Toronto and fortunate residents of Metro may stroll the waterfront, explore its well-established plant and animal communities, and enjoy breath-taking views of the city."

"Yesterday, I was struck by the great number of people enjoying the Spit, even though the weather was cold, dull and windy. The people of Toronto love the Spit as it is, and will not tolerate it being handed over to private interests, wholesale or bit by bit."

"The interests of the citizens of Toronto are best served... by permitting this haven of habitat to evolve naturally. When compared to the amount of natural landscapes converted to heavy human use I think it would be best to give something back to nature and Torontonians by leaving this section of land undeveloped."

"Toronto has a unique natural environment right on its doorstep that is enjoyed by thousands of people year-round. After all the construction and removal of natural areas around this city, it is a small miracle that we could actually create a new one..."

"The Spit is unusual and priceless. From wasteland, it grew on its own into this rich little wild area that supports a whole lot of natural life..."

"It should be remembered that protection of the Spit did not come about easily... only the untiring efforts over two decades of citizens and citizens' groups under the leadership of the Friends of the Spit prevented the Spit being plundered for other purposes."

"... if you visited these lands this summer, you'll have noticed that the public, your constituents, have already decided their fate. En masse, they cycle, roller blade, walk and wheelchair their way through this area. While planners wait, this entire area has become prime recreational open space."
 (excerpt from Friends of the Spit deputation)

"The Spit is just one of the amazing, exciting and varied attractions which the City of Toronto has to offer to each one of us, and to visitors, and which make us proud to be Torontonians."

... and the **Positively bizarre**

"The ABC* Advisory Committee, constituted and formally recognized by the XYZ Council**, discussed the issue of the Diamond Lands (sic) being rezoned. The Committee was informed that environmentalists want the lands rezoned/re-designated to an environmental zone. The Committee feel that the designation should be left as Industrial."

*Name changed to protect the ignorant ** Name changed to protect the innocent

We are not making that up! This letter, dated November 19, 1996 and signed by a corporate executive, was filed with Land Use Committee for its November 21 meeting.

Spit Kit a hit!

It was so popular that we are offering it through the year. The Spit Kit is an ideal, inexpensive, and unusual gift for birthdays, graduations, anniversaries...

The Spit Kit includes:

- * 1 year membership in Friends of the Spit
- * Bird checklist
- * Plant Communities of the Leslie Street Spit (our plant book, see below)
- * Come, explore (brief intro with map)
- * Spit poster (mailed in a tube)*
- * A card announcing the membership

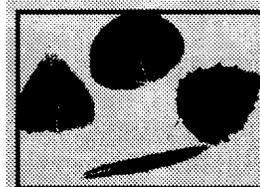


For each Spit Kit: send \$17 (individual membership) or \$20 (household - 2 persons or more at the same address) to Friends of the Spit at the P.O. Box address above.

Include: name, complete address and phone number of the new member(s) and your name, address and phone number (unless otherwise requested, Kit will be mailed to you). Your order must be sent at least 3 weeks prior to the date of the event.

* Posters are free. An amount of \$5.00 in the price covers the cost of the tube and postage. Posters are available at the Spit from the MTRCA (who designed and produced them). If you want no poster, send \$12 (individual membership) or \$15 (household) per Spit Kit.

Also a thoughtful gift!



PLANT COMMUNITIES
 OF THE
LESLIE STREET SPIT
 A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

This booklet illustrated with colour photos will please the budding naturalists as well as experienced plant spotters.

It makes a lovely little present for many occasions (and for yourself).

To order, send \$6.00 per book (includes postage) with your name, address and phone number to Friends of the Spit at the address above.