



FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1985

**Friends of the Spit**  
6 Scarth Road, #3  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2S6

SPLITTING THE SPIT .....THE CUT IS COMING

Bad news. It now seems certain that the Province will give the Toronto Harbour Commissioners (THC) the go-ahead to dredge the Keating Channel. The THC will then deposit the dredgeate in the containment cells on the Spit - with the barges reaching them via a channel cut through the Spit!

The channel will be cut midway along the main spine of the Spit (see map, above). The cells will be closed at their ends so a new road can be built all along the endikement (see map). We are told that the cut will be bridged with a walkway for pedestrians (and bicycles?). Despite our representations over the past few years, the Provincial Ministry of the Environment will likely allow the proposal to go ahead soon - without ever ordering a public hearing!

So what can be done now? We must insist that the cut not become a convenient boundary for dividing up the Spit, with everything on one side of it being developed for yacht clubs, marinas, and parking lots. Our position remains unchanged - we want all of the Spit left as a wilderness preserve, free of private autos.

NEW CITY POLICY FOR THE SPIT.....MTRCA TAKE NOTE!

Good news. In July 1984 City Council finally adopted a new set of policies for the waterfront, after hearings and meetings held by the Land Use Committee earlier in the year. Some of you came to these meetings and made our views on the Spit abundantly clear. Nothing seemed to happen. But when the issue came up before Council finally (July 16), a critical amendment to waterfront policy was introduced - **FORBIDDING THE USE OR PARKING OF PRIVATE AUTOS ON THE SPIT!** The motion, moved by Alderman Dorothy Thomas, and seconded by Alderman David Reville, passed! So the City now has a fine policy.

Hopefully, the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) will not try to overturn it (although we hear pressure is already being exerted on the Mayor to modify the new policy). Anyway, thanks to all of you who wrote in or spoke up on this issue. And special thanks to Aldermen Thomas and Reville.

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PLANNING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.....SLOW PROGRESS, FORTUNATELY!

The MTRCA planning process for the development of the Spit grinds on, slowly. We attended a progress meeting of their Aquatic Park Task Force on December 11, and what we heard was alarming. MTRCA staff presented a tentative proposal for development zones on the Spit. We can't give you the details (they refused to let us have a copy of the proposal) but it was clear that it ignored the hands-off approach, (the approach most people want and will cost taxpayers least). Fortunately, the proposal was sent back for further study. We've protested their approach - and urged them to get back to CONSERVATION, not DEVELOPMENT.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1985 .....MTRCA NOW IN CHARGE

Now that the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has taken over the Spit, financing and responsibility for the summer programme will be in its hands, for the first time (though it will probably pay the THC to manage it for them). MTRCA has so far not revealed details of their programme. We've asked for a number of improvements, including a longer bus season, enforcement of rules against use of private autos, better signs at entrance for new visitors, etc. We await final details on the programme - what the MTRCA does may reveal a lot about their future policy on Spit development, re private cars, yacht clubs, etc.

NOTE: Annual General Meeting set for Tuesday, April 23 - details later.

RENEWALS FOR 1985

Memberships for 1985 are now due, and prompt responses make work much easier for us. The organization depends upon your support. We now have over 1,200 members and keeping the books (discs) in order is a time-consuming task - we can no longer afford the expense of keeping on our mailing list members who are in arrears. PLEASE RENEW NOW!

Please tear off and mail to: Friends of the Spit, 6 Scarth Road, #3,  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2S6

Membership dues for 1985: Individuals \$3.00 (or more)  
Family \$5.00 (or more)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_