



# Friends of the Spit

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

JUNE 1985

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## HYDROPLANE RACES.....HARBOUR BOARD GIVES GO-AHEAD!

The Toronto Harbour Commissioners (T.H.C.) finally gave the go-ahead for the hydroplane races on June 15 and 16, Chairman Andrew Paton insisting "we have an absolute right to do what we wish". City Council (who had no real authority in the matter) voted 11-8 against the races but the T.H.C. ignored this opposition (perhaps because the Mayor actually supported the races and voted in favour of them in Executive Committee). The Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (M.T.R.C.A.) saw no reason to oppose the races. It's important NOT to blame the racers or the hydroplane boat fans - remember, it's the T.H.C. who wanted these races and who approved them! And the M.T.R.C.A. acquiesced. We're mounting a Spit Watch during the race events - call for more info if you can help us - we need volunteers - call Lee at 691-4215 or 766-0722 on Wed., Thurs., or Fri. evening, June 13,14 or 15.

Meanwhile, we have refused to co-operate with M.T.R.C.A.'s elitist plans for the race days - they propose to restrict access to the Spit to card-carrying members of certain clubs - Thanks but No Thanks! was our response and we wrote to tell them that "We regret we cannot participate in a scheme that grants some users exclusive access and excludes others".

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## MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY.....

.....the Aquatic Park Task Force (A.P.T.F.) grind on with the production of its MASTER PLAN for the Spit. The Task Force is now at the stage of presenting proposals for carving up the Spit into several development areas ("planning zones). The proposals are to be presented at "public information meetings" in order to get reactions. Meetings will be around June 20 to 26 - for final details of location and date call Larry Field at M.T.R.C.A. offices 661-6600 (and request a copy of report). As usual, boaters will turn up en masse and put in written responses. We will put in one official response for Friends of the Spit - BUT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE SHOULD ALSO ATTEND ONE OF THE INFORMATION MEETINGS OR SCUTINISE THE REPORT AND THEN SEND IN REACTIONS IN WRITING TO M.T.R.C.A.

IN BRIEF IN BRIEF.....

Many thanks to all who showed up for the Annual General Meeting - a good crowd was treated to an exceptional screening of Spit slides presented by Jonathan Grant....City Council's proposals for the new official plan for the waterfront (with new zoning for the Spit) are now apparently all put on hold - they may re-surface at Council June 17, or they may be deferred until after the major new proposal for housing and industry on the eastern waterfront has been more fully considered.....Please note our new MAILING ADDRESS, as at the top of this Newsletter....Finally, and most important (perhaps!), we now have a new provincial government - please start writing appropriate members in order to suggest that it's time to start making the M.T.R.C.A. a little more responsive to the widespread support for protecting the Spit, and Less responsive to boater's desires to put yacht clubs, marinas, and parking lots there.

And, just incidentally, did you know that the M.T.R.C.A.'s latest approach to conservation is to shoot gulls? Your Steering Committee recently found out that M.T.R.C.A. had authorized gull shooting - WITH SHOTGUNS!! - on a regular basis. With questions from us, and the press, the M.T.R.C.A. has halted the killing programme and blamed "overzealous staff". Is this a Conservation Authority or a Destruction Authority??

SUMMER PROGRAMME.....NOW IN FULL SWING

Summer bus service began June 1st. The buses run every hour on Sats., Suns., and Holidays. They leave Queen St. and Berkshire (Jones) from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, southbound from the Spit main entrance 9:55 am to 4:55 pm, with an extra trip at 5:40 pm. Buses return from the Spit from 10:15 am to 5:15 pm, with an extra trip at 5:50 pm. No charge if you board on the Spit! Wildlife Viewing Days will be held on June 23 and July 7 - with telescopes, field glasses, and interpreters on hand, courtesy of Ministry of Natural Resources: call ANGUS NORMAN at 832-2761, Ext. 259 for more info. and to confirm.

RENEWAL FOR 1985.....LAST CHANCE

Most members have now renewed for 1985. If you have not yet renewed but do want to remain a member (and we hope you do!), please tear off the form below and mail it in with your dues to our new address:

FRIENDS OF THE SPIT  
P.O. Box 467, Station J  
Toronto, M4J 4Z2

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

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

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