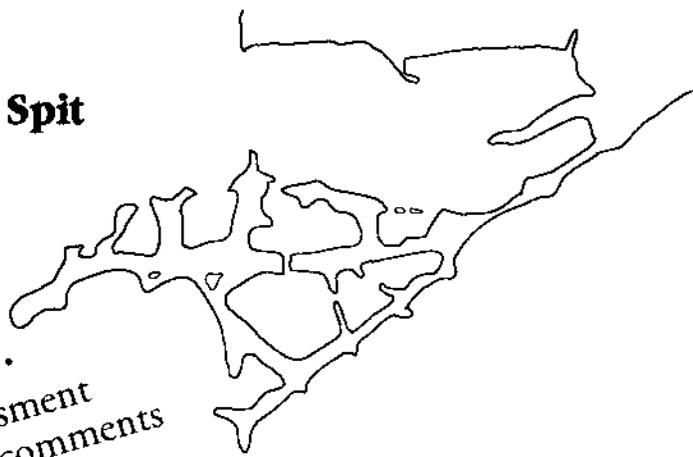


# Friends of the Spit

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



**SPECIAL ISSUE...**  
Environment Assessment  
for the Spit. Your comments  
needed by June 25

## AS AN EDITORIAL ...

In 1987, the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) approved Plan "C" for Tommy Thompson Park (e.g. the Spit), over the objections of thousands of users.

This plan would have established an additional 7 or 8 sailing clubs out on the Spit, located a huge interpretive centre with 100 parking spaces mid-way onto the Spit and lakefilled another 30 acres to create more land for sailing clubs. The cost of the plan was pegged at \$4.85 million (1987 dollars).

In 1989, the MTRCA filed an Environmental Assessment document for Plan "C" with the Province.

Friends of the Spit's representations and lobbying and those of our allied groups continued at all levels: at the Ministry of the Environment, at the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront (Crombie Commission), at Toronto City Council, at Metro and within the community. No opportunity was missed, no energy spared, to carry our message that Plan "C" was flawed, an out-right cop-out, and a misuse of taxpayers' money.

There were some dark days but you, the membership, hung tough. We were rewarded in November 1991, when the Ministry of the Environment advised the MTRCA that its 1989 submission was being returned!

The MTRCA then produced a Revised Master Plan, which, lo and behold, seems to understand — with one notable exception — that the Spit is indeed a car-free public urban wilderness that should be allowed to grow and vegetate as nature would have it.

The Revised Master Plan was issued in early 1992, culminating in the public meeting at Hart House in May of that year.

This meeting saw many of our members in attendance and again demonstrated so ably that the sailors were one small self-centered club, interested only in furthering their own well-being, while the broader community in general supported a concept of a place that would be car-free forever and protected as a nature reserve and informal park, for the present and future generations to enjoy.

### And now is the time...

...for all good Friends to come to the aid of the Spit Plan. We urge you to write to the Ministry of the Environment. And we know you will. Through thick and thin, Friends of the Spit have always risen magnificently to the occasion.

Please read the article opposite, which briefly summarizes the Revised Plan and may help you write your letter.

.....

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1993

### COMMENTS SOLICITED ON SPIT REVISED MASTER PLAN

*Revised Plan meets many of Friends of the Spit's objectives. We have endorsed it, with the exception of retaining Aquatic Park Sailing Club.*

We have made representations, and will continue to make representations, that in terms of long range planning it is a folly to leave the Aquatic Park Sailing Club on the Spit a generation from now, people will look and say why on earth did they leave this one club, of 100 members, currently paying \$5,200 a year (1992) total lease, on the Spit.

We maintain that between the North shore and the Outer Harbour Marina there is ample space on the waterfront to accommodate this sailing club. The club was only ever granted a year-to-year lease, and its continued presence in Embayment C is at odds with Tommy Thompson Park — the Leslie Street Spit — being a public urban wilderness.

Your comments are required by the Environmental Assessment Branch of the Ministry of the Environment. PLEASE WRITE.

Tell them once again, loudly and clearly, how you love the public urban wilderness at the Spit and how it should never be compromised for the sake of a few automobiles or a few sailors.

Tell them also that the Revised Plan is a tremendous achievement and simply ask them to go that one last final

step further, so that for all time, all citizens of this province can look to the pioneering efforts of the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority in creating the first public urban wilderness on Lake Ontario.

Tell them that the more than 4.3 million truckloads of fill which created the Spit have not gone to waste but now can return to Toronto some of the historic beauty of the marsh and wilderness at the Lake, and can return it to the public now.

### WHERE TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments should be submitted in writing to the Ministry of the Environment, by June 25, at the following address:

MTRCA  
EA DOCUMENT (Tommy Thompson Park)  
Ministry of the Environment  
250 Davisville Avenue, 5th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M4S 1H2  
Tel: 440-3450  
Fax: 440-3771

### With a copy to:

- MTRCA
- EA DOCUMENT (Tommy Thompson Park)
- Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- 5 Shoreham Drive
- Downsview, Ontario M3N 1S4
- Attn: Larry Field
- Manager, Waterfront Planning
- Tel: 661-6600 Ext 243 Fax: 661-6898

### REVISED MASTER PLAN

#### \*\*\*\*\* THE GOOD & VERY GOOD ...

- Locates the Visitors' Centre at the park entrance, at the base of the Spit, rather than half-way through.
- Recognizes the commitment by the City of Toronto to keep sailing clubs on the North Shore at the THC Waterfront Park.
- Stops private vehicles at the base.
- Eliminates the lakefilling that would have created land along the city side of the Spit to accommodate several sailing clubs.
- Reduces capital costs by \$2.5 millions (in 1987 dollars).

#### THE NOT SO GOOD ...

- Proposes a 1,000 square feet fully serviced "environmental education shelter" half-way down the Spit complete with schoolbus parking.

#### ... AND THE UGLY

- Retains Aquatic Park Sailing Club with 100 swing moorings at Embayment C, on a 2-acre landbase, with parking lot and vehicle access (by a service road for emergency, maintenance, school buses and "potentially a park transportation service").

The map on the reverse will help you visualize the Revised Plan and write your letter.

## 1993 MEMBERSHIPS NOW DUE

A red checkmark on your label indicates that your renewal for 1993 has been received. Thank you. If you have not renewed yet, and we hope you do, mail this slip with your cheque to:

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

**Membership: \$5.00 (individual) \$8.00 (family)**  
 Additional donations welcome.

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**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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FRIENDS OF THE SPIT DOES NOT EXCHANGE ITS MAILING LIST WITH ANYONE

## PLANT COMMUNITIES OF THE LESLIE STREET SPIT

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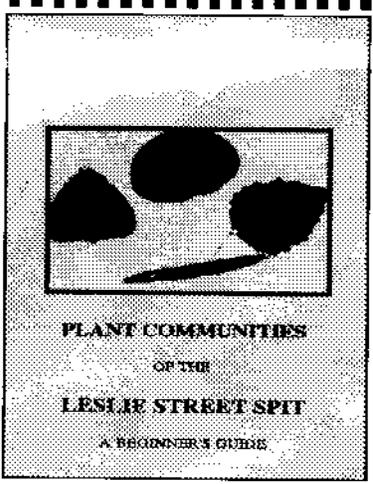
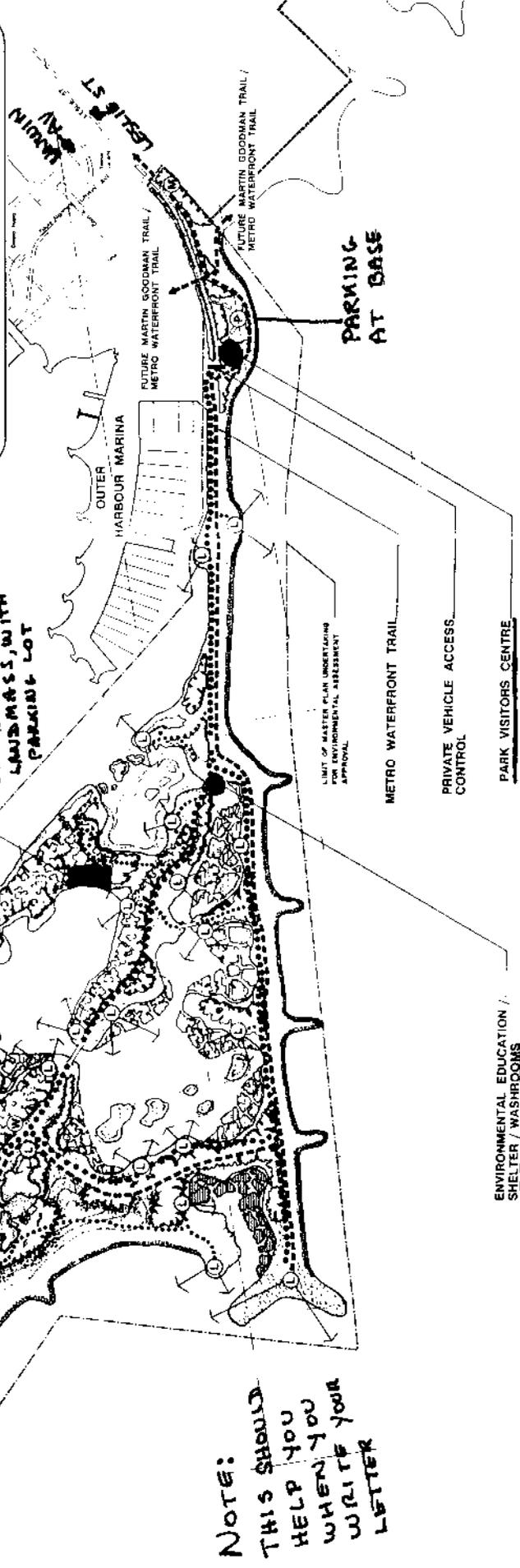
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## TIP OF THE HAT TO...

*Environment Canada scientists Hans Blokpoel and Gaston Tessier, who spent the whole day on Sunday, June 6 explaining the life of colonial birds to delighted and numerous Spit visitors (the weather was nothing short of superb, the baby Terns had hatched and the Cormorants were in a sociable mood!)*

*Upper Canada Brewery, for turning the grounds around its plant in west-end Toronto into a mini "public wilderness".*

And to *all the Friends of the Spit*, for their staunch, unremitting support through the years. A special salute to those members who joined in 1978, when Friends of the Spit was founded, and have kept the faith.



There is still time to get your plant guide for summer enjoyment

This booklet, illustrated with 5 pages of colour photographs and a location map, describes the varied plant communities on the Spit. Whether you are a beginner or a more experienced plant spotter, you will find this publication helpful and interesting.

Use the handy form above to order your copy.

**NOTE:**  
 THIS SHOULD HELP YOU WHEN YOU WRITE YOUR LETTER

the metropolitan toronto and conservation authority  
 150 Queen Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M5H 2M2  
 EDAC COLLABORATIVE INC.

**MASTER PLAN**  
 (REVISED MAY 1992)  
 MAY 1992

**TOMMY THOMPSON PARK**

SURFACE / SITE PREPARATION FOLLOWED BY NATURAL SUCCESSION



PALUSTRINE MARSH  
 LACUSTRINE MARSH  
 LAKE/ISLAND  
 DRY MEADOW  
 WET MEADOW  
 SHORELINE/POND  
 BEACH / DUNE  
 SHINGLE BEACH  
 COTTONWOOD / ASPEN / WILLOW

LOOKOUT  
 WASHROOM  
 PARKING  
 MAINTENANCE DEPOT  
 PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN TRAIL  
 SECONDARY PEDESTRIAN TRAIL  
 BICYCLE PATH  
 PRIVATE VEHICLE ACCESS  
 RESTRICTED VEHICLE ACCESS

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