

# Friends of the Spit

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

*Inside:  
- Gr zoning: your  
help is needed!  
- Power boat  
races again*

Telephone: 699-3143

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			

Postal address: City Hall, 100 Queen St. West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

email addresses:

Mayor: mayor@city.toronto.on.ca

Councillors: ward\_xx@city.toronto.on.ca

(where "xx" is the number of the ward). For example,  
ward\_6@city.toronto.on.ca will reach Ward 6 Councillor Kyle Rae

# NEWSLETTER

March 1997

## AS AN EDITORIAL

*Toronto residents rejected overwhelmingly amalgamation into a Mega-City, feeling as we did that they had been well served by local councils.*

For instance, would a councillor responsible for region-wide issues be willing to champion rezoning of the Spit base and take a fellow councillor to visit the area — as Peter Tabuns did with Pam McConnell, which led to her from-the-heart "It is a beautiful wilderness" and support at Council?

For further thoughts on this issue, see over excerpts of a letter we addressed to the Province.

*Gr zoning at the base of the Spit*

## IT'S NOT OVER YET!

*You will remember that the Toronto City Council meeting of December 9, 1996 saw all the 15 Councillors present\* and the Mayor voting in favour of the Land Use Committee recommendation to rezone to Gr (conservation lands) the 12-acre parcel of Spit baseland south of Unwin Ave. between Leslie St. and the Hearn bridge.*

This was a tremendous victory for the environment, and for Friends of the Spit and the many other individuals and groups that worked very hard lobbying their councillor, spoke at Land Use Committee, wrote or phoned in support.

However, a rezoning requires a lengthy legal process under the Planning Act before the revised by-law can be in force.

So, here is the next step in the process.

The rezoning will be discussed (again) by the Land Use Committee, on Thursday, March 27, at 10:00 a.m. (see box below). Once more, your show of support is needed. The process should go smoothly, but, as we said in the editorial for the last issue: "...nothing is cast in concrete, least of all unanimous votes". Therefore, we are counting on you to make sure no councillor reverses his/her commitment to protect the base of the Spit.

For the next steps, see "...it ain't over..." on the reverse.

\*Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski was absent

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

*A large number of you have already renewed their support for 1997 (and without reminders being sent — that's the spirit!).*

If you have not yet renewed according to our records, a separate renewal slip with your label has been enclosed. We would greatly appreciate your early renewal and we thank you.

Members who have renewed for 1997 will see "REN/97" on their mailing label.

### Land Use Committee Meeting regarding Gr rezoning

Thursday, March 27, 10:00 a.m., Committee Room no 4, City Hall

#### What to do:

- Write a letter in support of the rezoning addressed to:  
City Clerk (Land Use Committee) City Hall, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2.  
**Important:** address your letter as above and reference the item "Part of no. 3 Leslie Street". You can fax it at 392-1879.
- Come to the Land Use Meeting. You may speak at this meeting. To be put on the speakers list, call 392-7033, no later than noon on March 26.
- Call or write your Councillor (see phone, fax and address at the top of the page) to remind him/her of the unanimous commitment of Council.

## Power boat races redux — *The issue that never seems to go away!*

Four years ago, Friends of the Spit and the community sailing clubs fought a proposal for power boat races in the Outer Harbour, by the THC marina. We lost and a 3-year temporary by-law was granted (but no races were held). Now the promoter wants another 3-year by-law to hold one event of up to three days a year.

We are against this kind of event being held by the Spit. There is potential for wildlife disturbance, pollution, danger from increased traffic to people on the road portion of the Goodman Trail, creation of a circus atmosphere that is not compatible with the area, and the conveyance of the wrong messages when the City works very hard to curtail fossil fuel emissions.

The City Planning Department has also come out against the power boat races, but is attempting to limit damage by recommending a series of conditions should the project be approved by Council — the same politicians who rallied so heartily to protect the base of the Spit against development.

Address your letter to: Land Use Committee, Secretariat Division, Department of the City Clerk, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto ON M5H 2N2. Reference it "Formula One Power Boat Grand Prix in the Outer Harbour". You can fax your letter to 392-1879.

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*A great and thoughtful present for graduations, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, birthdays... or just a treat for yourself!*

## The Spit Kit

The Spit Kit includes:

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

To order: send \$17 (individual) or \$20 (household/group : 2 or more at the same address) to Friends of the Spit , P. O. Box 51518, 2060 Queen St. East, Toronto, ON M4E 3V7.

Include: name, complete address and phone number of the recipient and your name, address and phone number (unless otherwise requested, Kit will be mailed to you). Allow at least 3 weeks for delivery.

*You may also order the plant book only. The cost is \$6.00 including postage and handling*

\* Posters are free. \$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) or \$15 (household) per Spit Kit.

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## ...it ain't over until...

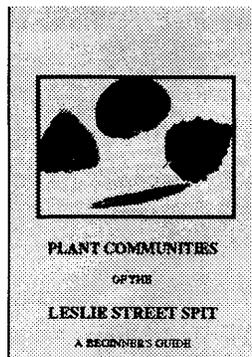
*On March 27, Land Use Committee will make its recommendations to Council (and it should be to adopt the by-law — but beware of dark horses!).*

Then the recommendation goes to Council on April 14-15. Watch the proceedings on Rogers Community Channel on the 14th, or go to City Hall. We have no specific time yet, but we will post a message on our machine (699-3143) if we have information.

Then, assuming Council gives the go ahead, the revised by-law is sent to the Province, which has 90 days to render a decision

Then, follows a 20 day period to file an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Who said that life in the fast (!!!) lane was ever easy?



## You deserve a break!

*Want to know more about the Spit wildlife? And how you can participate in monitoring programs?*

The Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) is holding a

### CONSERVATION SEMINAR

Wednesday, April 9, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Ralph Thornton Community Centre

765 Queen St. East\* – 2nd Floor

There will be a slide presentation, and information about conservation and volunteer involvement.

For more information, call Scott Jarvie at 661-6600, ext 246.

\*Accessible by 501 Streetcar (Queen). Located 2 blocks east of Broadview at Saultier St.

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## Christmas Bird Count

*The Toronto Christmas Bird count took place December 22. On the Spit 32 species were counted. For decades, the Christmas Count data has been used to assess winter populations and their movements continent-wide*

Highlights were 3 Snowy Owls, 2 Great Horned Owls, 1 Red-necked Grebe, and 3 Northern Shrikes.

The 1997 Waterfowl Inventory took place on January 12. In absolutely foul weather, 2,386 ducks of 18 species were seen on the Spit route, including, 2 Harlequin Ducks, 1 female King Eider (the first on a count since 1971!) and a pair of Canvasback. This count, the 51st annual, censuses all waterfowl along the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario.

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## WE WRITE

*Excerpt from the letter we wrote the Province on the subject of Mega City.*

*"To a very great extent, our organization has been successful in its goals: the Spit is used by thousands of people engaged in passive recreational pursuits. (...)*

*"We strongly believe that his was made possible by our members active and passionate commitment, expedited by the fact that they could speak directly to local councillors and officials who had a direct knowledge of the land.*

*"Councillors representing a vast Mega City would neither have the expertise nor the interest in a piece of land such as this and hence could not be responsive to key issues affecting land such as the Spit."*