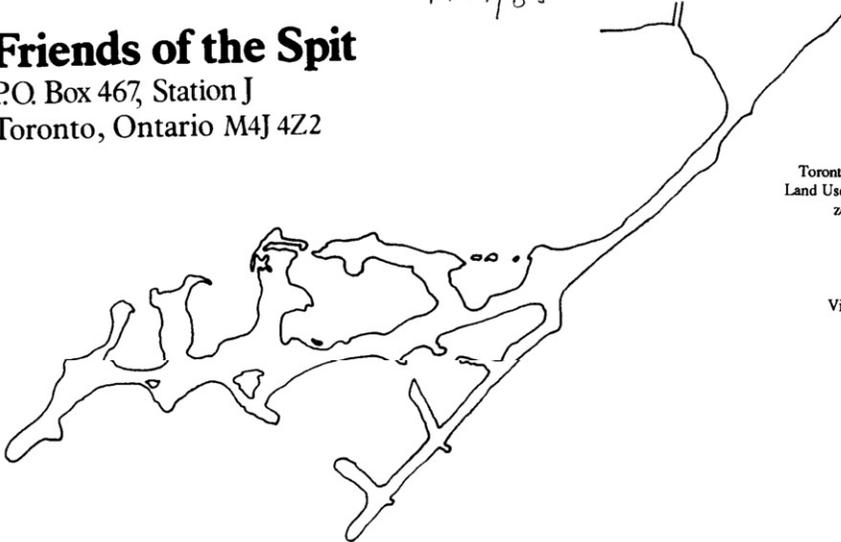


Friends of the Spit

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MAY/88



On Your Agenda

Wednesday, May 18

Toronto City Hall, in the Council Chamber
Land Use Committee meeting to discuss new
zoning for the Spit and adjacent areas
(see feature below)

Sunday, June 5

World Environment Day at the Spit
Viewing stations staffed by naturalists
(see over)

Sunday, June 5

Move-a-thon for the Environment
(see over)

NEW ZONING FOR THE SPIT TO BE DISCUSSED MAY 18 AT CITY HALL

On Wednesday, May 18, starting at 2:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, the Land Use Committee of the City of Toronto will be discussing a report from the Planning Department on new zoning designations for the Central Waterfront, including the Spit and the area between Cherry Beach and Leslie Street.

This is an extremely important discussion, that could have a critical impact on the future of the Spit since, through zoning, City Council has the power to decide what uses are permitted on lands within the City. Here is a summary of the zoning proposals that could have an impact on the Spit.

Special Recognition for Resource Areas

The Planning Department is proposing three "park/open space" designations for the Spit and the lands south of Unwin Avenue between Cherry Beach and Leslie St. These are:

"G" for Cherry Beach. This allows a wide range of active recreation. (Exhibition Place is zoned G.)

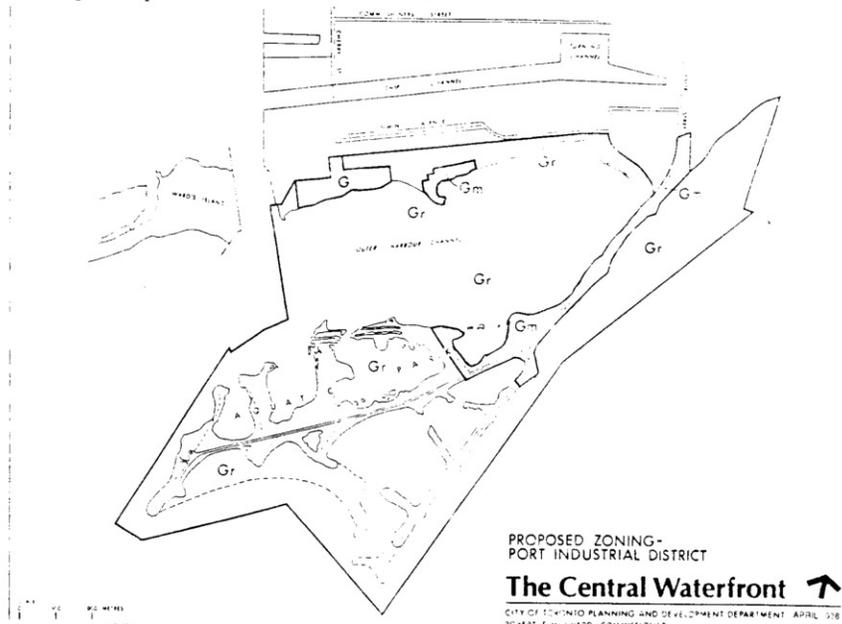
"Gm" for the area on the north shore of the Outer Harbour where the sailing clubs are presently located and for the western part of the Spit to the second embayment (see map). This allows the same intensive recreation uses as "G", with the addition of marinas. (Ontario Place is zoned Gm.)

"Gr" for the rest of the Spit and the waterlots in the Outer Harbour. This is a new zoning designation that permits only a botanical garden, a bathing station and conservation lands (areas that due to their vegetation, location or scenic value "have been acquired by the City, Metro, the Conservation Authority or other government agencies for preserving in their natural state").

Our Comments

We strongly agree with the new Gr zoning and the rationale for applying it to significant parts of the parkland. As the Planning report states, by applying this designation "the city will be clearly indicating its position that the MTRCA, like the Harbour Commission, should apply for a rezoning for any boating uses proposed on any new lakefill area".

We are very concerned, however, about the Gm zoning for the first part of the Spit. Permitting intensive recreation and marina uses will seriously jeopardize the integrity of the Spit and promote applications for more of the Gr area to be rezoned Gm to establish an increasing amount of high-intensity recreation uses (changes to zoning can be requested — parkland is not exempt). It is critical that the first part of the Spit remains as low-intensity parkland if the unique atmosphere and features of the area are to be preserved.



PROPOSED ZONING-
PORT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

The Central Waterfront

CITY OF TORONTO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT APRIL 1988

It is also critical that private car access be prohibited on the whole Spit, which would not be the case with a Gm zoning. There is a resolution that calls for the City to "regulate" private vehicle traffic on the Spit. We feel this is very ambiguous and should be replaced by a categorical statement to ban private cars.

Another of our serious concerns is that in zoning the Spit, the City follows the intent of the MTRCA plan, which was prepared in isolation and predicated on the north shore boating clubs having to go to the Spit because they would not be allowed to remain where they are. Since the Planning report proposes a Gm designation for the north shore, the rationale for the MTRCA putting sailing clubs on the Spit no longer exists.

The Toronto Harbour Commission Marina

The waterlots where the THC is building its marina are zoned Gr, which does not permit this use. In order to have its proposed 1,200-boat marina at that location (which has been criticized by both small boat sailors and "naturalists"), the THC would have to apply for rezoning "a process that would ensure that it will be reviewed and reported on in meaningful detail" (In other words, if City Council is responsive to the wishes of the majority of the public and has the political will, it could prevent the establishment of a marina on that site — by the way, wouldn't it be a good site for an interpretive centre?.)

We strongly agree with and support the new Gr zoning for the waterlots.

Industries and Housing

The Planning report proposes industrial zoning designations for the lands north of Unwin Ave. and for a large part of the "triangle lands" located on the west side of the neck of the Spit (see map). We generally agree with this zoning meant to establish "contemporary, clean and environmentally compatible" industries, and feel that "clean" industries can coexist with open space (with good planning, landscaping and proper buffer zones). The Planning report states that this is the only area within the city where sufficient land can be assembled to attract industries providing high-employment and high value added jobs (which are rapidly moving away to the suburbs). We are concerned, however, about the proximity to the Spit of the industrial development in the "triangle lands". While the industrial park planned there would not be located directly on the water, proper safeguards for the open spaces will have to be provided.

The Planning report states very strongly that the area is not suitable for housing, for several reasons including isolation, toxic soil, cost of providing services, potential for land speculation, open space being taken over for housing and transforming even more of this unique area to manicured parks to serve local needs (i.e. another Harbourfront), etc. The report suggests instead that the needs for housing would best be met in the Central Bayfront area.

Public Meeting May 18

The City of Toronto's Land Use Committee will be discussing this new zoning on Wednesday, May 18, starting at 2:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber at New City Hall. **Please try to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend, call your alderman to indicate your support and your concerns** (phone numbers for aldermen can be found in the blue pages of the telephone directory).

Viewing Day at the Spit on June 5 — Volunteers Needed

To celebrate World Environment Day, on Sunday, June 5, Friends of the Spit is inviting people to come to the Spit and "see how Nature has taken residence in the city". There will be six viewing stations, staffed by naturalists, and we are preparing a brochure to help visitors understand and appreciate the unique environmental features of the Spit.

We had a good response to our call for volunteers, but to make this day a success we need more help. Can you volunteer a few hours on June 5? We particularly would like to hear from members willing to help direct people at the Spit, assist with viewing stations and help clean up at the end of the day. Between now and June 5, we also need members to deliver posters to local schools and community centres (particularly in the downtown area) and to place posters in local shops and other public places. To volunteer, please phone Susan Craig, who is coordinating the event, at 699-3642, as soon as possible.

Move-a-thon for the Environment on June 5

Friends of the Spit is one of many environmental groups participating in Toronto's first annual Move-a-thon for the Environment. This move-a-thon is like no other. It is an opportunity to enjoy a spring day and take a self-guided ecotour of local environmental hot spots and green spots. There is a choice of four routes: downtown east (which goes by the Spit), downtown west, Humber River/Black Creek and the Rouge Valley. Checkpoints are located at environmental landmarks and will be staffed by members of the organizations concerned with the issue.

Pledge sheets and posters advertising the move-a-thon are available by calling 699-3642. If you are unable to participate yourself, can you contact local groups (for instance, high schools, clubs, etc.)? Participants collecting \$70 in pledges will receive a move-a-thon T-shirt, or a sweatshirt for \$100, or a sports jacket for \$200.

Membership renewals

Most members have renewed their support for 1988. If we have not received your dues yet, you will find a renewal slip enclosed with this newsletter. We were not able to process membership cards in time for this mailing. We hope to enclose them with the next newsletter.