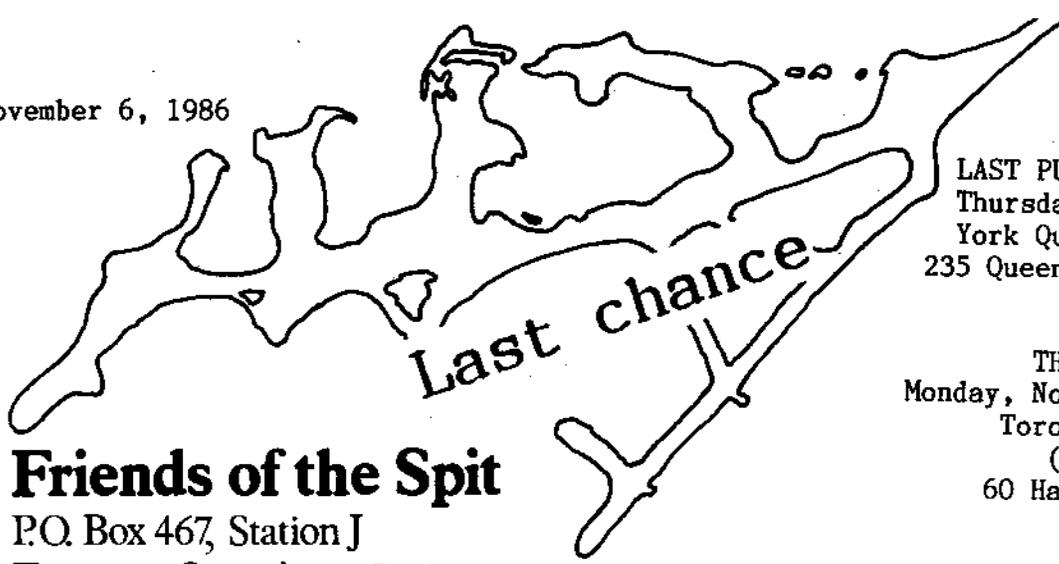


November 6, 1986



On your agenda

LAST PUBLIC MEETING ON THE SPIT
Thursday, November 27--7:00 p.m.
York Quay Centre Brigantine Room
235 Queen's Quay West (Harbourfront)
BE THERE

THC MARINA OPEN HOUSE
Monday, November 24--3:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Toronto Harbour Commission
(World Trade Centre)
60 Harbour Street, 3rd floor
BE THERE

MTRCA WATER BOARD MEETING
Friday, December 5--1:00 p.m.
Visitors Centre
Black Creek Pioneer Village
BE THERE

For more info
call our hot line
699-6442

Friends of the Spit

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

THIS IS THE TIME

YOU COME OUT TO SAVE THE SPIT

SPIT AT A WATERSHED -- IT'S NOW OR NEVER.....

On November 27 (Thursday) at 7:00 p.m., the last public meeting on the future of the Spit will take place, in the Brigantine Room, York Quay Centre, at Harbourfront.

The last chance meeting

This is your last chance to give your input to the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Your last chance to show that you will not take no for an answer. Your last chance to demonstrate to politicians and the media that we are a force to be reckoned with. Your last chance to save the Spit from an invasive, well-pampered minority. Your last chance to implement the concept of a Public Urban Wilderness for the general population.

Every member must attend

YOU must be there on November 27. We mean YOU, who is reading this newsletter, each and everyone of YOU. This is the time to show your colours and your convictions.

You can be sure the sailing community will be there in force, as it was at the previous meeting (see "Carrying the Banner" below). We should pack that meeting with hundreds of Friends of the Spit speaking up, asking questions, voicing comments. And don't count on ~~"Charlie doing it", because "Charlie counts on you to do it", with the result that nobody does anything.~~

What will happen at this meeting?

The meeting will open with a short presentation on the preferred concept for the Spit. Then, the floor will be given to the public. If you wish to speak (and we strongly urge you to do so) call Larry Field at the MTRCA (661-6600) or you can have your name added to the speakers list upon arrival at the meeting. The MTRCA will also receive your written comments that should be sent within one day of the meeting to Larry Field, MTRCA, 5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview, Ontario, M3N 1S4.

What is the preferred consultant's concept?

At the time of this writing, we do not have complete details on the consultant's preferred concept to be discussed on November 27. According to our present information, it would provide for car access to the head of the endikement (where the road to the dumping site starts) with parking for 200 cars and boating facilities (for large boats, not community clubs). The MTRCA has prepared an information kit. Ask for your copy by calling Larry Field at 661-6600.

How to get there

York Quay Centre at Harbourfront is accessible by public transit (Bay Street trolley or Union Station subway). Parking is available at the Harbourfront Garage.

THC STARTS CONSTRUCTION OF ITS MARINA.....

The Toronto Harbour Commission has started the construction of its 1,200-slip marina on the neck of the Spit. Friends of the Spit together with environmental groups and several Toronto aldermen and councillors strongly object to this marina for the following reasons:

1. It will ruin the quiet enjoyment of the Spit
2. It will pollute (by dumping contaminated fill) the outer harbour - the only part of the waterfront that is relatively clean
3. No environmental assessment was held because the THC claimed no one objected (Friends of the Spit, for one, sent a letter outlining its concerns)
4. The promised public consultation process never materialized
5. It was started without any consultation with the City of Toronto and without any regard for the Central Waterfront Plan
6. It uses fill that should serve to close the heavily-contaminated containment basins on the Spit, where the very toxic dredgeate from the Keating Channel is to be dumped
7. It will end small craft sailing and windsurfing activities in the outer harbour
8. It preempts and interferes with the industrial park proposed for the area
9. It privatizes waterfront recreational lands that should be preserved for the public

It's now or never

Our action

We wrote a letter to the Mayor of Toronto asking for City Council to impeach the three city representatives on the THC and to initiate procedures to replace the THC by an agency accountable to the public (as opposed to a developer of public lands responsible to no one). At the same time, we issued a news release on the subject, which was reported in several media. We also sent letters to the Federal Ministers of Transport and of the Environment to complain about the lack of public consultation on the marina and the lack of accountability of the THC.

Public consultation after the fact

Then, lo and behold, 11 days after our letter to the Mayor, the THC, sent us an invitation to "an open house information session with respect to the planning of the Outer Harbour Public (sic) Marina". (Do you smell a ...harbour rat? We do.)

YOUR action

You must attend this open house, on Monday, November 24, at the Toronto Harbour Commission offices, 60 Harbour Street (World Trade Centre), from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. (parking at rear--accessible by Bay Street trolley/Union Station subway)

You should also write your objections to the consultant, Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited, 275 Duncan Mills Road, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2Y1, attention H.L. French. Send us a copy of your letter so that we can include it in our future communications with the government.

MTRCA WATER BOARD TO VOTE ON FATE OF THE SPIT DECEMBER 5.....

The MTRCA Water and Related Land Management Board will vote on the MTRCA staff recommendation for the ultimate fate of the Spit at a special meeting scheduled for December 5. The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., at the Visitors Centre, Black Creek Pioneer Village.

This is a public meeting, and you will be able to speak (to be put on the list, call Larry Field, at 661-6600). Please make every effort to attend this meeting as well--a show of numbers is needed again, to give the MTRCA Water Board the clear message that we are resolved to continue the fight.

THIS IS THE TIME YOU COME OUT TO SAVE THE SPIT

It's now or never

CARRYING THE BANNER SEPT 27, 1986.....

A special thank you to the few members who gave up their Saturday to attend the MTRCA public workshop on September 27. It was greatly to our disadvantage that more of you did not sense the urgency of the meeting. As a result, individuals supporting the "let it be" concept were outnumbered eight-to-one by the sailors.

The workshop began with a presentation by Walter Kehm, a consultant hired by the MTRCA, on four possible concepts for the Spit, ranging from leaving it totally natural to dedicating a large part to boating, with car access.

Fighting against the odds

Small discussion groups were formed to review these concepts and arrive at a "preferred" concept to be presented to the whole group. It quickly became evident that the sailors had one objective: pinpoint their clubhouse and their parking lot on the map. With only one "keep it natural" supporter in each group, getting our view across and attempting to steer the group to an examination of all four concepts required tremendous energy. As it turned out, the sailors showed their "requirements", while the lone "let it be" person in each group presented his or her concept. In fact, the only real consensus between the two groups was that the THC marina should not be located near the Spit.

Committee proposed to interface with the THC

In an attempt to save the day Jack Layton (Toronto councillor and member of the MTRCA board), proposed the creation of a committee comprising representatives of the various interest groups to lobby the THC in favour of the North Shore community sailing clubs, which are at the mercy of the THC for their tenure. We indicated our strong interest in belonging to this committee, but the THC still has to set a date for a meeting.

WATERFRONT CLEAN-UP REPORT RELEASED.....

Friends of the Spit has been very active on the Waterfront Remedial Action Plan Committee (WRAP), a coalition of citizens and environmental specialists funded by the City of Toronto to prepare a clean-up plan for the waterfront. The enclosed WRAP brochure is self-explanatory. We strongly encourage you to support the work of WRAP by attending a public meeting and voicing your concerns and your ideas.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

1987 is approaching fast. If you have not yet renewed for 1986, please tear off the form below and mail it with your dues to: FRIENDS OF THE SPIT
P.O. BOX 467, STATION J
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4J 4Z2

Membership dues for 1986: Individuals \$3.00 (or more) Family \$5.00 (or more)

NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

(NEW ADDRESS? YES ___ NO ___) (NEW MEMBER? YES ___ NO ___)