

Lake Ontario Waterfront Network News

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Waterfront Trail Artists

Recently incorporated, the Waterfront Trail Artists (see *Decade of Regeneration*, page 26) was established in 1997 in the City of Etobicoke. There are over 100 lakeshore area artists involved. Together they have come up with many creative projects to connect children and families to their waterfront heritage while building a strong sense of community as well. For example, in 1999 more than 2,000 students participated in a project to create papier mâché replicas of the now extinct passenger pigeons (once abundant along Lake Ontario). The students displayed their artwork in a symbolic flight that was part of local Canada Day celebrations.

The Waterfront Trail Artists have secured funding for some exciting new interpretative projects. The Trillium Foundation has provided \$10,000 to help with:

- a kite-making workshop for the Mimico Festival which was held on August 11th at Amos Waites Park on the waterfront; over 100 kites were made;
- a sand-castle building initiative;
- the continuation of a historical mask project and
- a scare-crow building workshop planned for this fall.

The group is seeking funds for the giant sand-castle building planned for the 2002 Mimico Festival. A submission will be made to Ontario Arts Council. Suggestions for other funders are welcome.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 22, 2001 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm - Tour of Art –

Self-guiding walking tour maps available at all Etobicoke libraries. Tour artists' studios to see finished work, work in progress, and demonstrations of how art is made. Many panoramic views of the City of Toronto from parks along the Waterfront Trail. For Info. call 416-259-9597.

Saturday, September 22, 2001 from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm - Scarecrows in the Apple Orchard – at the apple orchard at the corner of Lake Shore Blvd. and Kipling Ave. in Etobicoke across from the historic Assembly Hall

Family scarecrow-making workshop led by local artist, Pat Lewis. Make a pint-sized scarecrow from apples, popsicle sticks and fabric scraps, and take it home. Full-sized scarecrows will be made by the community and donated to local schools and day cares for their naturalized garden playgrounds. Free "heart healthy" apple treats provided for workshop volunteers. Bring along some old clothes if you can to dress the scarecrows.

For Info. call 416-259-9597.

Both events are FREE ArtsWeek events.

Saturday, October 27, 2001 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm - The Great Pumpkin Art Festival – Assembly Hall at the corner of Lake Shore Blvd. and Kipling Ave. Cost is \$3.00 at the door.

A family celebration of Hallowe'en where participants may carve a pumpkin, cook with pumpkin, make a mask or puppet, try pin-hole photography, get a henna design painted on your skin, listen to scary stories, and eat all the roasted pumpkin seeds you can.

For Info. call 416-259-9597.

Wendy Lilly, Acting Artistic Director.

trailart@interlog.com

www.interlog.com/~trailart/main.html

Mimico Creek Waterfront Restoration

The Mimico waterfront in Etobicoke, has come forward as the next stretch of Toronto waterfront due for a facelift. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has submitted a Terms of Reference for an Environmental Assessment to undertake erosion protection and shoreline habitat improvements, increase public access and streetscape linkages, provide day-use boater access, and extend the Waterfront Trail. For more information, contact Nancy Gaffney, Waterfront Specialist, TRCA, (416) 661-6600 ext. 5313

Toronto Bay Initiative

Toronto Bay Initiative held its fifth annual Big Summer Splash on Sunday, August 19th at noon. Event highlights included a race by swimmers across the Toronto Bay and a ceremonial plunge into the water by local celebrities and politicians to call attention to the need for further action to clean-up Lake Ontario. In addition to being a lot of fun, the event attracted a lot of public and media attention.

On March 7, 1997 the WRT coordinated a city-wide public forum on Toronto Bay, which formally launched TBI as a volunteer-based effort to fulfill a vision declared by the 400 participants, for a cleaner, greener and healthier Bay. Throughout 1997 and 1998, TBI, as a special project of the WRT, established an organizational structure and implemented a full range of hands-on projects and events. In July 1999, TBI incorporated as an independent not for profit organization; the Trust is proud to be one of their partners.

TBI offers excellent volunteer opportunities and an interesting calendar of events and an informative newsletter.

Contact: Rande Holmes 416 943-8080 ext. 227 if you want to volunteer or learn more.

www.torontobay.net/

Lake Erie Circle Tour

On June 6th to 8th the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors met in Sault Ste. Marie for its annual meeting. One of the presentations described how seven visitors and convention bureaus along Lake Erie () have worked together for 12 years to promote themselves under the umbrella of the Lake Erie Circle Tour. Moreover, what began as a promotional partnership has now become the structure to coordinate strategies to preserve and protect Lake Erie's resources through a nature-based tourism shoreline strategy.

The dynamic and interesting presenter was Melinda Huntley, Executive Director, Ottawa County Visitors Bureau located in Port Clinton, Ohio. She is leading the Lake Erie Heritage Area program, a new initiative to expand nature-based tourism and historical tourism along the entire coastline. She is an excellent resource to any organization seeking to build similar marketing and promotional partnerships.

Melinda Huntley

Ottawa County Visitors Bureau

109 Madison St.

Port Clinton, OH 43452

(800) 441-1271
(419) 734-4386
tourism@lake-erie.com

Paletta Lakefront Park, Burlington

Congratulations to all on the occasion of the official opening of Paletta Lakefront Park (formerly McNichol Estate) at 4250 Lakeshore Road, Burlington.

The official opening marks the completion of the restoration of the major features of the park including four heritage facilities, a magnificent waterfront park and a Discovery Walk, which winds through the site and 10 acres of wetland.

Located at the mouth of Shoreacres Creek, on one of the most desirable residential spots on the lakeshore between Hamilton and Burlington, the mansion commands a breathtaking view of Lake Ontario. Edythe Merriam MacKay built the sprawling estate in 1930. Restoration on the mansion began in April 2000.

The site features three other buildings: a gatehouse built circa 1912 which has been redesigned to serve as a small art studio and display area; a dollhouse, the only known heritage children's playhouse in Burlington; and one of the last remaining stables in urban Burlington. The two-storey barn and stable has been converted into an educational loft. Youth camps, art classes and environmental workshops will be held here.

Preserving the natural habitat and landscape is a top priority in the development plans. Shoreacres Creek runs through the 14-acre property, featuring a flood plain that is one of the only natural areas of its kind remaining along the Halton shoreline of Lake Ontario.

To see photos and learn more about the park's history, impressive list of donors and supporters, and the volunteer program, please visit <http://www.city.burlington.on.ca/> and click on the Paletta Park icon.

Waterfront Trail Mapbook

A great resource for people exploring the Waterfront Trail, the Waterfront Trail Mapbook has sold over 10,000 copies since its release in the fall of 1999. Designed by trail users, the mapbook features coloured maps detailing on/off road alignments and hard/soft trail surfaces. It notes landmarks and places where extra caution is required, for example busy roads, railway crossings.

The book makes an excellent gift for donors and volunteers and staff. Organizations ordering 5 or more copies will receive the wholesale discount of 40%. For single orders, send a cheque for \$14.93 (includes shipping and taxes) to the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, 207 Queen's Quay West, Ste. 403, PO 129 Toronto, Ontario M5J 1A7. To pay by VISA, call 416 943-8080 Ext. 321 and leave your VISA number, expiry date, name of cardholder and address. Please specify you are ordering a mapbook.

Cheers!

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Order your copy of *A Decade of Regeneration* today! (\$31.03 includes shipping and taxes). We require payment in advance by cheque or VISA. Cheques should be made payable to Waterfront Regeneration Trust. To pay by VISA please call 416-943-8080 Ext. 321 and leave your VISA number, expiry date and name of the cardholder as shown on the card. Please remember to mention you are ordering *A Decade of Regeneration*.

Thank you to our supporters

The Waterfront Regeneration Trust gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. With \$100 million in annual funding from the province's charitable gaming initiative, the Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social service sectors. (www.trilliumfoundation.org/)

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