

# Lake Ontario Waterfront News

## Issue 15/02

June 18, 2002

Welcome to our newsletter recipients! We hope you will find our Ezine interesting and informative. We find it a great way to keep our readers up to date on the work of the Trust and important issues that affect the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and Greenway. If you have any stories or concerns that you would like to share with our readers please send them to us at [mk@wrtrust.com](mailto:mk@wrtrust.com) and perhaps your article will be in one of our future ezines.

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### Grimsby Beach

On Wednesday, June 12th, I attended a meeting of the Grimsby Public Works Committee to urge committee members to reconsider their recommendation to Council to lease part of a road allowance to adjacent homeowners. This road allowance parallels the Grimsby Beach Waterfront Park. While the committee had ensured that Waterfront Trail would continue to be routed through this area, I believe that their plan would undermine the greenway objectives that are critical to the philosophy and success of the Waterfront Trail. This seemingly small piece of land could add to the existing park by as much as 25 to 30%.

Sharon Porter, a resident who frequently uses the park, made us aware of the controversial plan. It was her efforts that earned the community a chance to voice their views on the matter. Over 200 people showed up for the meeting. The overwhelming sense was that Grimsby residents want to preserve their access to waterfront greenspace and officially add this road allowance to the Grimsby Beach Park.

The Committee deferred a decision pending the development of a lease that could be reviewed by all concerned. This is definitely disappointing news.

A complete text of my presentation follows at the end of this ezine.

### Waterfront Trail User Survey

June has been a busy month for our students, Nikki Rendle and David Ritter, as they begin the data collection and entry for the Waterfront Trail User Survey. Response from trail users has been very cooperative and so far we have collected close to our target of 100 survey responses per site.

Don't forget to give them information about park or trail surveys you may be conducting this or next year as soon as possible. We want to be sure to include them in the report's listing of relevant studies. Questions can be directed to Nikki Rendle at [nr@wrtrust.com](mailto:nr@wrtrust.com) or David Ritter at [dr@wrtrust.com](mailto:dr@wrtrust.com).

Steve Ganttner, our communications student, is working to publicize the survey in the local media where the survey is being conducted. He has also been updating event listings on our website. To get your event listed email Steve at [sg@wrtrust.com](mailto:sg@wrtrust.com).

### **The Bay Area Restoration Council Web Site**

Be sure to visit this amazing new web site, [www.hamiltonharbour.ca](http://www.hamiltonharbour.ca), activated on June 11th as part of the BARC's media tour. Site visitors are invited to complete a survey, offered information on harbour events and history and become members.

### **Waterfront Trail End to End with the Toronto Star: The Web Edition**

Check out our web site (under events) for Kate Harries' latest article on her tour of the Waterfront Trail from end to end. On June 9th the group traveling with Kate completed the second part of the journey—Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville—a total of 77kms. The first trip in May took us from Queenston to Grimsby.

It's been some time since I have had the opportunity to venture out and experience the trail outside of Mississauga. What I'm seeing is incredibly impressive and inspiring. Thanks to all of you for the tremendous work you have undertaken.

Trip Three takes in Mississauga and Toronto. We're getting ambitious and plan to complete the 70km section in one day, July 11th. Trip Four, Pickering to Cobourg, is scheduled for August 10 and 11. The rest of the trail, from Hamilton Township to Gananoque will be completed in two trips, scheduled for September 14/15 and 28/29.

Special thanks to our community organizers and guides for Trip Two (in order of appearance).

Scott Konkle, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Chair Mark Shurvin, Hamilton Conservation Authority

General Manager Ben Vanderbrug, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Shane Omerod, Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Rob Norman, City of Hamilton

Bryan Shynal, Director of Parks, City of Hamilton

Kathy Falcone, City of Hamilton

Councillor Marvin Caplan, City of Hamilton

Werner Plessl, Hamilton Waterfront Trust

Marilyn Baxter, Bay Area Restoration Council  
Fred Eisenberger, Chair of the Hamilton Port Authority  
John Hall, Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan  
Catherine Talbot, City of Burlington  
Ross Stephen, City of Burlington  
Marg MacVinnie, City of Burlington  
Gary Goodman, formerly of the City of Burlington  
Bob Edmondson, Conservation Halton  
Ian Ross, Burlington Arts Centre  
Len Simser, Royal Botanical Gardens  
Adrian Markowiak, Burlington Bikeway Committee  
Councillor Mike Wallace, City of Burlington  
Chris Mark, City of Oakville  
David Carter, Oakville Heritage Trails  
Barbara Ann McAlpine, Sovereign House  
Susan Sheppard, Bronte Butterfly Heritage Park  
Mayor Ann Mulvale  
Janet , Oakville Waterfront Festival  
Jane Hawkrigg  
Paul Linetsky, Ramada Inn

## **Petticoat Creek Bridge Crossing**

On June 8th the City of Pickering opened the Petticoat Creek Pedestrian Bridge, a key link in establishing a seamless trail across the waterfront.

The Petticoat Creek Pedestrian Bridge provides a brilliant view of the lake and shoreline and connects the Petticoat Creek Conservation Area and Park Crescent in the West Shore neighbourhood of Pickering. The valley floor and shoreline consist of significant wetland, hardwood forest and a beachfront. The challenge of the design and construction was to maintain and protect the environmental integrity of the area while providing improved access.

The bridge structure has a total span length of 170 metres and is at a height of 8 to 10 metres above the valley floor. It is constructed of self-weathering steel beams with timber decking and handrails. The piers that hold up the structure are reinforced concrete.

In his remarks, Mayor Wayne Arthurs noted the tremendous progress being made to Pickering's waterfront. The eastern section of Waterfront Trail was recently completed from Duffins Creek at the Pickering/Ajax border to Millennium Square at the foot of Liverpool Road, with the installation of the Millennium Boardwalk last year. The western section of the Waterfront Trail is nearing completion from the Pickering/Toronto border to Park Crescent thanks in part to this new crossing of Petticoat Creek.

The Western gateway design at the Rouge River will commence this year, with construction in the near future. Later this year improvements within Bruce Hanscombe

Park including the construction of another section of the Western Waterfront Trail will be completed.

Other waterfront projects that are in the design concept stage include the Master plan for Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park on the west side of the bay, and Progress Bayfront Park on the east side of the bay. The City's future focus will also include the completion of design and construction of the Waterfront Trail around the shores of Frenchman's Bay.

Petticoat Creek Bridge is one of the 52 projects submitted by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and 28 waterfront partners to SuperBuild for funding. At this time no decision on the Trust's joint application has been made by SuperBuild. For the complete press release and construction photos visit <http://www.cityofpickering.com/>

## **Award for Achieving Niagara Falls' Future: An Assessment of Waterfront Planning**

The report, **Achieving Niagara Falls' Future: An Assessment of Waterfront Planning**, prepared by The Urban Design Group of the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Buffalo, Foit-Albert & Associates, and the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, for the City of Niagara Falls, USA has been selected to receive a Special Director's Award from the Western New York Section of the American Planning Association.

The award is one of eleven being presented by the WNY Section of APA. This year's Annual Awards/Business Dinner will take place on June 25, 2002 at Harry's Harbour on Niagara Street.

Please contact Nicole Killenbeck-Pirrone at [nicole\\_pirrone@hotmail.com](mailto:nicole_pirrone@hotmail.com) or call 716-816-0403, for more details about the event. Questions concerning the report should be directed to Bob Shibley at [rshibley@ap.buffalo.edu](mailto:rshibley@ap.buffalo.edu)

### **PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN OF GRIMSBY PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE Wednesday, June 12, 2002 @ 7:00 pm**

Chair Fertich and Members of the Public Works Committee, thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you this evening.

My name is Vicki Barron and I am the Executive Director of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust. The Trust is a not for profit charity whose goal is 'to complete, market and promote the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and Greenway'.

The Trail follows the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario – right from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Gananoque, some 650 kms. Right now, about 1/3 of the Trail is in place – however it is possible for one to travel the entire distance, using interim alignments.

In fact, a colleague and I are biking from end to end with a Toronto Star reporter – Kate Harries. We did the section from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Grimsby on the weekend of May 11/12. It was reported in the Toronto Star on May 20 and is recorded on our web site [www.waterfronttrust.com](http://www.waterfronttrust.com).

On our trip we had the pleasure of traveling through your wonderful Town, and we biked on the Trail, which abuts the land that we are here tonight to discuss. Traveling through the Grimsby Beach stretch of the Trail was really unique - my congratulations on your successes to date.

But please don't rest on your laurels. It can be better, and that's what I'm here tonight to talk to you about. Really it is more than just to talk – it's to plead with you to retain and manage all of the road allowance that is adjacent to your existing parkland at Grimsby Beach.

A bit of history of our organization may be helpful to set the context for my remarks. The Waterfront Regeneration Trust grew out of the work of David Crombie and the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront, which started in the late 1980's.

The issue that sparked the formation of the Royal Commission is not unlike what we are here to talk about tonight – the protection of public land for public use.

What I can tell you from experience is that the issue becomes magnified when the public land is near or adjacent to the Lake Ontario waterfront. The citizens of our fine Province, no matter what waterfront community they reside in, all share one common desire that they will go to the wall for; and that is the protection of public lands on the Lake Ontario Greenway. And the Waterfront Regeneration Trust support this common goal. Its not just the Trail that we are advocating for – it's good planning and land use in the area that is connected to the Lake Ontario shoreline, that's what we call the greenway.

Good planning considers such principles as clean, green, accessible, diverse, open, connected, usable, attractive and affordable. These nine principles were developed out of the work of the Royal Commission and they offer the planning discipline that should guide all decision making in the greenway. Most of the waterfront municipalities have adopted these principles as a framework for their decision-making.

In my mind what you are considering tonight and at the next council meeting, is whether to add this road allowance to your existing public waterfront greenway at Grimsby Beach – or – to allow some of it, through a lease arrangement, to be exclusively used by adjacent landowners.

In my travels on my end-to-end bike tour, which right now has taken me to the Oakville/Mississauga border, I have met many people and visited many sites where the debate over public/private use of public lands has taken place. Some have been won, and

some have been lost. In my humble opinion, any loss of public open space, even by lease, is a loss and a lost opportunity.

Although I understand the dilemma that faces the land owners adjacent to this road allowance, I cannot see how the greater public good can be rationalized by continuing to allow them exclusive use of some or all of this road allowance, even for a limited time period.

My request to you this evening is to take back this land, both in right and use, and do the necessary planning and pass the necessary bylaws so that it will be permanently and officially added to Grimsby Beach Park.

In doing this, you will add to your waterfront open space system, and I can tell you from experience you can never have enough waterfront public open space – and – you will enshrine in your community, through your actions, the commitment of Town staff and Council of your fine Town to the nine waterfront principles.

I urge you to reclaim this road allowance for the use of all of the citizens of the Town and work in consultation with the community to plan for its use.

There are many possibilities for its use, right from allowing it to regenerate naturally; to planting it with native trees, shrubs and plants which will create an eco buffer; to placing benches and using it as a trail resting spot.

I would like to conclude my presentation with a quote from our Decade of Regeneration publication: “Waterfront regeneration is a project that will never be complete – that’s part of the beauty of it. It’s a matter of having a long-term plan and seizing the moment whenever it presents itself to do the bits and pieces that will add together to be something truly wonderful. To be part of something in your time that will make a difference in times to come.”

Members of the Public Works Committee, Councillors and citizens of Grimsby, now is the time to seize the moment to do the bits and pieces that will create something truly wonderful for the Grimsby waterfront.

Stake your claim, make your mark!

Thank you,  
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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/](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org/))

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