



SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S NEW

Opening of Spadina WaveDeck

The Spadina WaveDeck, the first of a series of unique public gateways along the central waterfront, officially opens September 12. The new wave deck will be a gateway to the waterfront and provide public space at a site which was previously a pinch point on the waterfront. This project is the first step towards the implementation of the West 8 + DTAH award winning international design for the central waterfront, which spans 3km's from Bathurst Street to Parliament Street.

Construction activities over the last ten months have included dockwall repairs, in-water fisheries habitat construction, the installation of the new wave deck and landscape improvements. Later this fall, construction is expected to begin on additional wave decks at Rees and Simcoe streets.

Join us Friday, Sept. 12 at 1:00 p.m. for a community event to officially open the Spadina WaveDeck. The event will take place onsite at the foot of Spadina Avenue at Queens Quay Boulevard West.



Harvard University - Graduate School of Design to Study Waterfront Toronto

Students from Harvard University - Graduate School of Design will be studying Waterfront Toronto's work and plans to revitalize Toronto's waterfront. Harvard is offering a course called Toronto, Landscape Urbanism, and the 21st Century Park: Downsview Postscript, the Waterfront Rises. The seminar is largely focused on researching, documenting and understanding the goals, mission, plans and projects of Waterfront Toronto. The research projects produced through the seminar will ideally culminate in a publication, exhibition and symposium with the student-prepared work forming the core of the presented content.

Opening of Cherry Beach Sports Fields

Toronto soccer and lacrosse teams will begin playing on two new elite sports fields located in the Port Lands on Sept. 22. Waterfront Toronto built the much needed regulation-sized fields on previously underutilized contaminated land.

The Cherry Beach Sports Fields are part of an overall strategy to revitalize the Port Lands. After several delays, due to complications with contamination issues in the parking lot area adjacent to the fields and construction delays due to this year's excessive rainfall, the fields are now ready for play.

To mark the completion of the fields, Waterfront Toronto is holding a community celebration on Saturday, Sept. 20 (date to be confirmed) from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Cherry Beach Sports Fields located at 275 Union Avenue (between Cherry Street and Regatta Road south of Union Avenue). Parking is available onsite. Please be aware that all vehicles must enter the Port Lands via Cherry Street. If you are traveling by TTC, take the 172A Cherry Street bus from Union Station and walk south from Commissioners Street.

For more information, please contact Andrea Kelemen, akelemen@waterfronttoronto.ca or 416-214-1344 ext. 248.

EAST BAYFRONT

New George Brown College Campus Coming to East Bayfront

On July 8, Waterfront Toronto announced its partnership with George Brown College to develop a new state-of-the-art campus in East Bayfront. Premier Dalton McGuinty, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure George Smitherman, and Mayor David Miller joined Waterfront Toronto and George Brown College officials to make the announcement.

Slated to open in 2011, the new campus will be located in the heart of the East Bayfront on the south side of Queens Quay Boulevard between Lower Jarvis and Lower Sherbourne Streets. The campus will house the college's Centre for Health Sciences, its first student residences and a recreational complex. George Brown students will help create a vibrant lakeshore community.

Waterfront Toronto's partnership with George Brown reflects a key city-building objective of Waterfront Toronto – to ensure that the waterfront can leverage the creativity that exists in Toronto and build new synergies, dynamism and animation on the revitalized waterfront.



Municipal Infrastructure Construction Starts This Fall

Construction begins this fall on municipal infrastructure in the East Bayfront. This includes demolition and site preparation, and extensive infrastructure improvements including dock wall repairs, storm water management system construction for the entire area, sanitation and water facilities installation and installation of hydro, gas and district energy infrastructure. Construction will commence in late September.

A portion of The Martin Goodman Trail from Parliament Street to Richardson Street will be closed from September 2008 until next fall due to the construction. Cyclists can continue to use the east and west bound bicycle lanes along Queens Quay Boulevard.

WEST DON LANDS

Update on Construction

More than 250 trucks a day are bringing soil to the West Don Lands to help build the Flood Protection Landform; an extensive engineered berm that will provide flood protection to the surrounding area. This part of the West Don Lands development is located on land built on the old Don River bed and underlying soils are very spongy. The earthworks included the requirement to "wick" away moisture and secure the base is 90 percent complete. The landform, being constructed by our partners at the Ontario Realty Corporation, will also be the future home of Don River Park. Work on the reconstruction of a major low level interceptor sewer is also nearing completion.

This fall, construction of the municipal infrastructure required in the West Don Lands is set to begin at Mill Street just east of Cherry Street.



First Phase of West Don Lands Development

River City, the first West Don Lands development is moving along. The team of Urban Capital Property Group of Toronto and Redquartz Development of Dublin was selected to lead the 850 unit development project. Both companies bring local and international interest and perspective to the development, a unique and bold architectural response to the site, and a deep commitment to sustainability.

River City will be built in the area that runs from King Street in the north, to the new Don River Park in the south, and from St. Lawrence Street in the west to Bayview Avenue in the east.

The River City team will be making its second presentation to the Waterfront Design Review Panel in October for the first two buildings in phase one of development. The sales launch for River City is expected early in 2009. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2010, and first phase of occupancy in 2011. Site signage and a marketing website will be up and running in the coming weeks.

Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), the developer of the 130 units of affordable housing presented their design to the Waterfront Design Review Panel in July. TCHC was granted approval for site plan application for fall 2008 with construction to begin summer 2009. Designing the mixed market and affordable housing units is Baird Sampson Neuert Architects, working with The Daniels Corporation as the developer partner.

District Energy

As part of its mandate to make Toronto a global leader in sustainable development, Waterfront Toronto has committed to meeting all of the heating and cooling demands of its new waterfront neighbourhoods through a centralized district energy system. Designed by Steven Holl Architects, designs for a District Energy Centre were presented to Waterfront Toronto's Design Review Panel in July and approved to go into detailed design phase. The District Energy Centre is expected to go into construction by the end of 2008.

Sustainability

Waterfront Toronto showcased its plans to create a mixed-use, sustainable community in the West Don Lands at a recent event hosted by the Canada Green Building Council Toronto Chapter. The presentation was well-received by more than 120 green building industry professionals. The focus of the presentation was "Building Sustainability at a Community Scale: the West Don Lands Development". Waterfront Toronto's Planning and Design Project Manager Carla Guerrero provided an overview of the plans and current status of the West Don Lands. Director of Development Derek Goring gave participants a perspective on implementing these designs in partnership with the development community and outlining Waterfront Toronto's sustainability goals through market transformation.

OTHER NEWS

New Waterfront Park Opens in Mimico

On July 28th, Waterfront Toronto with its government partners and the Toronto and Region Conservation, officially opened Phase I of the Mimico Waterfront Park. A community celebration to commemorate the occasion was held and welcomed more than 350 area residents to festivities which included a community BBQ, fish demonstration and lots of fun in the new park.



A key goal for the park is to provide Mimico residents with previously non-existent public access to the waterfront. Features of the park include the extension of the multi-use waterfront trail, sand dunes, cobble beaches, enhancements to natural habitats and spectacular views of Lake Ontario and the city skyline.

[For more information.](#)



Lower Don Lands

Waterfront Toronto together with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates recently received the 2008 Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's (RAIC) Sustainable Development Award for the design of the Lower Don Lands. The Sustainable Development Award, one of RAIC's National Urban Design awards, recognizes the role urban design and architectural excellence play in maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in Canadian cities. [For more information.](#)

On July 23, Waterfront Toronto together with the City of Toronto and Toronto Transit Commission held the first public meeting for the Lower Don Lands Municipal Infrastructure Class Environmental Assessment and Keating North Precinct Plan project. To access the presentation and other meeting material, please visit the project website at: www.waterfronttoronto.ca/lowerdonlands

Gardiner Expressway

Toronto City Council recently approved Waterfront Toronto's proposal to undertake an individual environmental assessment on removing part of the elevated Gardiner Expressway and replacing it with a lakefront eight-lane boulevard.

The results of the environmental assessment will determine the feasibility and logistical requirements for removing the Gardiner from Jarvis Street east to the Don Valley Parkway. The environmental assessment process, expected to take several years to complete, will include a thorough public consultation component and an extensive in-depth technical analysis.

Part of the environmental assessment process will include examining all alternative solutions. Development of an approved design, a construction management plan and an environmental management plan are also expected to be included in the process. A comprehensive study of both regional and local traffic impacts is anticipated.



The environmental assessment will also determine the cost of the proposed removal of the Gardiner east of Jarvis and replacing it with a waterfront boulevard. Public consultation will be an integral part of the process. For more information on the Gardiner Expressway, please visit:

www.waterfronttoronto.ca/gardiner

Transformation - A look at Toronto's evolving waterfront

A recently published article in the influential landscape architectural trade magazine *TOPOS, the International Review of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design* featured Waterfront Toronto and its work to evolve Toronto's waterfront. Written by Waterfront Toronto Planning and Design Project Manager James Roche, the article explores the predominant role that landscape architecture and urban design play in the restructuring of Toronto's waterfront. To view [here](#).

Aquatic Habitat Toronto

Waterfront Toronto is committed to enhancing the aquatic habitat in Toronto's Inner Harbour. Planning and Design Project Manager Pina Mallozzi recently presented at the American Fisheries Society Annual Conference in Ottawa. The talk focused on the integrated approach to habitat restoration in central waterfront revitalization projects. Waterfront Toronto presented along side colleagues from Toronto and Region Conservation, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources. The presentations demonstrated the positive role that the Aquatic Habitat Toronto Committee is having in recreating the ecology of the lake. Increasing fish habitat is part of ongoing efforts to revitalize Toronto's waterfront. Shoreline restoration and improvements to aquatic and terrestrial habitat have already been completed at Port Union Waterfront Park, Mimico Waterfront Park and at the Spadina WaveDeck.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting

Waterfront Toronto's Annual General Meeting is being held on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Steam Whistle Brewing, The Roundhouse, 255 Bremner Boulevard, Toronto, M5V 3M9 (see [map](#) for directions).

In addition to providing an update on Waterfront Toronto's accomplishments over the last year, we will also feature a presentation on the importance of modern and intelligent city-building using and moving beyond current global best practices to do so. Our keynote speaker is Carol Coletta, President and CEO of CEOs for Cities, a national network of urban leaders dedicated to building the next generation of intelligent, sustainable cities.

Please mark this date in your calendar.

4/7/2010

WATERFRONToronto

If you would like further information, please contact Amanda Flude at 416-214-1344 ext. 276 or aflude@waterfrontoronto.ca. Note: you do not need to register for the event.

Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

please check website for agendas

Waterfront Design Review Panel Meetings

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

please check website for agendas

NEW FACES

Recent additions to the Waterfront Toronto team

David Dubois – Executive Director, Geo-Environmental Services

Brandon Fernandes – User Support Technician

Tao Liu – Financial Analyst

Jeff Leung – Senior Financial Analyst

Betty Leung – Procurement and Contracts Coordinator

Kavitha Sivakumar – Accounts Payable Supervisor

Michelle Noble – Director, Communications & Marketing

Raffi Bedrosyan – Director, Port Lands Development

Edward Chalupka – Manager, Government Relations

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