



WATERFRONToronto

March 2009 Newsletter

EA and Urban Design Study Begins on the Future of the Eastern Gardiner

A multi-year environmental assessment and integrated urban design study has begun to decide the future of the Gardiner Expressway from Jarvis Street to east of the Don Valley Parkway.

The comprehensive environmental assessment, co-sponsored by Waterfront Toronto and the City of Toronto, will examine the feasibility, impacts and costs of potential options for the easternmost stretch of the elevated roadway. While Waterfront Toronto has advocated for the removal of the Gardiner, the study will examine several alternatives, including removal, replacement, enhancement, and maintaining the status quo.

The first step in the environmental assessment and integrated urban design study process is to develop the terms of reference for the scope of the study. Public suggestions, comments and concerns will be solicited throughout the process. Public meetings will be held in locations across the city and a dedicated consultation website

www.gardinerconsultation.ca has been built to enable online public involvement and input.

The draft terms of reference are expected to be submitted for approval to City Council in July and to the Ontario Minister of the Environment in September. Upon approval of the terms of reference, the environmental assessment and integrated urban design study will commence with the development and evaluation of alternatives.

Public Forum #1 will be held at the following locations:

Saturday, March 28

Trident Banquet Hall and Conference Centre
145 Evans Avenue, Etobicoke
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Open House)
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Presentation)

Monday, March 30

Scarborough Civic Centre - Rotunda
150 Borough Drive, Scarborough
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Open House)
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Presentation)

Thursday, April 2

Harbourfront Community Centre – Gymnasium
627 Queens Quay West, Toronto
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Open House)
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Presentation)

Saturday, April 4

North York Memorial Hall - Burgundy Room
5110 Yonge Street, North York
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Open House)
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Presentation)

Online public involvement: www.gardinerconsultation.ca



Technically Recommended Alternative for Revitalizing Queens Quay Boulevard Unveiled

After comprehensive study, Waterfront Toronto is recommending that remaking Queens Quay into a grand lakefront boulevard featuring streetcar lanes in the centre, with traffic on the north side and a pedestrian space on the south side is the preferred option, for transforming the waterfront's main road.



Determined through an environmental assessment process, the technically recommended alternative for Queens Quay includes two options for the traffic lanes, one which would have two-way traffic and the other one-way traffic. While Waterfront Toronto has a slight preference for the two-way option at this time, further analysis and public input are required before a final option is presented to City Council.



The EA process, which has been ongoing for the past two years, has included the examination of several alternative planning solutions for Queens Quay. The recommended alternative provides the greatest opportunity for creating a world-class waterfront street.

Queens Quay Blvd. has also been the subject of a second EA which is looking at the transit infrastructure required to service the new East Bayfront community. These EAs were joined together at a recent public meeting. For more information, please click [here](#).

Both EAs are ongoing and public input is still being sought. Waterfront Toronto is holding a Drop-in Centre where plans of the recommended preferred alternatives for the Queens Quay Revitalization EA & East Bayfront Transit EA will be on display and team members will be available for one-on-one discussions.

The recommended plan incorporating the preferred alternatives will be identified after we have taken into account public and stakeholder input. The plan will be submitted to City Council for approval in July.

Drop-In Centre

Saturday, March 28

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Harbourfront Centre, York Quay Centre, Lakeside Terrace

235 Queens Quay West

Lake Ontario Park Plan and the Spadina WaveDeck Win Prestigious Design Awards

Waterfront Toronto's Master Plan for Lake Ontario Park and the Spadina WaveDeck have received two National Awards from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA). The Master Plan for Lake Ontario Park was awarded the CSLA's highest prize, a National Honour Award and the Spadina WaveDeck earned a National Merit Award.

The CSLA Professional Awards Programme recognizes and promotes excellence in all aspects of landscape design. This year's competition included 56 projects in seven categories.

Designed by award-winning landscape architecture firm Field Operations, the Master Plan for [Lake Ontario Park](#) presents a bold vision for transforming 375 hectares of Toronto's waterfront into an urban wilderness and recreational park. The proposed park would assemble a series of underutilized industrial sites, existing parks and regionally important ecological areas into one of the most significant and exciting open space urban projects in Canada.



The [Spadina WaveDeck](#) opened in September 2008 and is the first in a series of spectacular new public spaces being built along Toronto's central waterfront. Designed by West 8 of Rotterdam and Toronto's du Toit Allsopp Hillier, the new wavedeck is a gateway to the lakefront at a site that previously lacked public access. This summer, wave decks will open at Rees and Simcoe Streets.

LEED for Neighbourhood Development Pilot Project

Waterfront Toronto has recently submitted a Stage 1 certification package to the U.S. Green Building Council for its LEED for Neighbourhood Development (LEED ND) program. This program focuses on sustainable development from a comprehensive, neighbourhood-wide perspective rather than on a building-by-building basis.

Stage 1 certification is an optional pre-review stage that is available for projects at any point before the development approvals process begins. Once this stage is achieved, the U.S. Green Building Council will issue a letter stating that if the project is built as proposed, it will be able to achieve LEED ND certification. Waterfront Toronto expects to receive this letter in May 2009. Waterfront Toronto is working to achieve gold certification for its waterfront communities in East Bayfront and the West Don Lands.

Port Union Waterfront Park

Port Union Waterfront Park will now create a western-gateway into the City of Pickering from the City of Toronto with the addition of an eastern trail initiative named "First Nations Trail". Waterfront Toronto's Board of Directors recently approved a joint proposal from the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) requesting an amendment to the park to include this project. This initiative enhances the connectivity of the waterfront trail system and helps show case Waterfront Toronto's commitment to creating accessible and vibrant public spaces. Construction will begin on the First Nations Trail later this year.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction continues on phase two of [Port Union Waterfront Park](#) and to-date, the site has received a total of 3,109 truckloads of material. Phase two of the

park stretches from Chesterton Shores in the west to the Rouge River in the east. Port Union Waterfront Park runs along Lake Ontario providing waterside public access to Port Union residents in an area where none previously existed. Park features include improved recreational access to the waterfront, shoreline protection, cobble beaches, waterfront trail connections, and improvements to aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Phase two of the park is expected to open to the public in 2011. Waterfront Toronto opened phase one of Port Union Waterfront Park in 2006 and it has been a wonderful and very popular addition to the Port Union community.

Building Toronto's New Blue Edge

In order to identify waterfront projects while they are in the construction phase, Waterfront Toronto is producing branded signage for the fencing securing our construction sites. All signage will feature renderings and information on what is being built behind the fencing. Signage is already up at the construction sites of the Rees and Simcoe WaveDecks. Over the next eight weeks, signage will be going up in the West Don Lands and at various locations in the East Bayfront including at the future Sherbourne Park and Sugar Beach.



Martin Goodman Trail Improvements at Ontario Place

After a winter break, crews have resumed work on the reconstruction of the Martin Goodman Trail at Ontario Place. The existing trail, which runs along the water's edge, will continue to be open without disruption during the construction. The transformation of the newly aligned trail includes extending the trail from Marilyn Bell Park to the existing trail within Coronation Park at Strachan Avenue. Planned for completion this summer, the trail will be bordered by trees and plants, and will run parallel to Lake Shore Boulevard on the south side to accommodate a variety of uses.

Central Waterfront Construction Update



The aquatic habitat work is now complete at the Rees and Simcoe Slips, as is the installation of the new piling system which is part of the necessary substructure for both the Rees and Simcoe wave decks. The structural steel beams for the Simcoe WaveDeck are now being installed, showcasing the wave deck's unique and exciting design. Installation of the wooden beams and deck boards will begin shortly. There are two types of wood being used to build the wave decks - lpe wood decking, a durable hardwood with an extended life-cycle of 40 years and Glulam Coastal Yellow Cedar beams, chosen for its water-repellent characteristics. The Simcoe and Rees wave decks open this summer and will be spectacular new public gateways to the waterfront.

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

East Bayfront Construction Update

Construction in East Bayfront, which includes the installation of municipal services such as water, hydro, sanitation, storm, gas facilities and district energy infrastructure, is moving ahead on schedule. These services will accommodate the new amenities being developed on the waterfront, such as the new headquarters for Corus Entertainment and the new George Brown College campus. Decommissioning of 5 Lower Sherbourne will commence at the beginning of April and take approximately four weeks to complete. The former Town and Country Restaurant located at 190 Queens Quay East is set to be decommissioned at the end of April and will take approximately two weeks to complete. Building decommissioning is a sustainable practice that allows for building materials to be reclaimed and recycled. Many new green buildings are utilizing existing building materials as a source for new efficient buildings.



Upcoming Design Review Panel Meetings

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

please check website for agenda

Upcoming Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

please check website for agenda

New Faces

Recent Additions to the Waterfront Toronto Team

Samantha Gileno, Project Communications Manager
Sheri DeCarlo, Project Communications Manager

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