



## Friends of the Spit

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

Happy Holidays!

December 1985

### RAYS OF HOPE.....

#### THANK YOU VERY MUCH

A special thank you to all the members who rallied around our call for support. Your generosity is enabling us to keep up the work required to save THE SPIT.

#### MTRCA VOTE KEEPS OPTION 1 (ALL NATURAL) ALIVE.....

On November 29th, the full Board of the MTRCA met to discuss and vote on the acceptance of the Aquatic Park Master Plan Phase I report, and their staff recommendation to proceed with Option 3 (Option 3 would divide The Spit into 3 zones and allow extensive marina, etc., development).

21 deputations were heard. Six delegates (the Board of Trade, Ontario Sailing Association, and 4 yacht clubs) were in favour of Option 3. The sailors' position was that they approved of the mixed-use solution but that they hoped that more of the spit could be designated for their use.

Speakers in support of Option I included Friends of the Spit, the U. of T. Botany Conservation Group, Beaches Marathon Runners Association, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Toronto Ornithological Club, Mrs. M. Bryden (MPP, Beaches-Woodbine), plus several concerned individuals. All spoke eloquently in favour of Option I. Several showed slides and maps of the Spit and similar urban wilderness parks.

Following the deputations, the MTRCA's Craig Mather outlined the staff position. Mather stated that the staff felt:

- 1) that the public participation process had been adequate (!!!!),
- 2) that the detractors of Option 3 were basing their opposition on a "worst-case scenario" when really nothing had been decided yet, and
- 3) that when Phases II and III were complete there would be a lot more "concrete" plans to discuss.

Following Mr. Mather's presentation, it became apparent that votes of this nature seldom occur - there were many "points of order" questions. The full board then "received" the Water and Related Land Advisory Board report (recommending Option 3).

Then, Mr. R. Crowe moved, seconded by Mrs. L. Griffin, that the MTRCA staff be directed, as well, to continue to study Option I in Phases II and III!!! The Board, after discussion voted 20-11 in favour of Mr. Crowe's motion!!!

The implication of this vote is that, for the next 2 phases of the Planning Process, Option I (the all-natural option) will be considered as an equally appropriate solution as Option 3 (the divided Spit option) and must receive the planning staff's equal attention. Option I is now equally alive as Option 3, but, Option 2 (the all-development, all-marina option) is dead!

This wasn't the war, but, a major battle has been won!

We will let you know how and when our feelings and deputations can be made known to the planners during Phases II and III. We will be asking for full public consultation and full input into the Task Force deliberations.

#### EXTENDED SEASON.....

The Spit will be open every weekend from now on, weather permitting. Take advantage of this to cross-country ski, winter duck watch or see the ice formations this winter. However, please note: IT IS VERY COLD on The Spit in Winter! Bundle up and remember there will not be a van to pick you up so plan your visit accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there on sunny winter Sundays!!.....

INTERIM USER GROUPS ANNUAL MEETING

The MTRCA again hosted a meeting of all User Groups on November 15th. The 1985 programme was reviewed and proposals for 1986 were discussed. The good news is The Spit will be open weekends all year, weather permitting. Unfortunately, there is still the unresolved problem of car access to the sailing club ... on some Spring and Fall weekends you may be disturbed by boaters driving out their gear. Other good news is the MTRCA is considering a better form of public transportation on The Spit - maybe a Pt. Pelee style tram, running more frequently. We're glad to see the MTRCA moving to accommodate two of our long-standing requests - increased access, and increased van/train service!

SPECIAL DAYS AND SPECIAL USERS

MTRCA is planning a more extensive interpretive programme in 1986. Included in their interpretive programme planning is their intention to co-host special events with various user groups, eg. Friends of The Spit, TFN, Aquatic Sailing Club, Beaches Marathon Runners, etc. To assist them with crowd control and to allow them to ensure any assistance required will be available, the MTRCA requests that any groups planning tours, runs, classes, etc. (that might include large numbers), to give the MTRCA advance notice. For further information, call Peter Wigham at the MTRCA, 661-6600. To inform the public of upcoming events the MTRCA is planning to publish a regular Newsletter. Again, it's nice to see the MTRCA responding to our suggestions!!!!

AND CLOUDS OF GLOOM.....

TORONTO HARBOUR COMMISSION MARINA PROPOSAL

The THC unveiled the Phase One Study of their Marine proposal for the outer harbour to invited members of the public. The design the consultants are recommending consists of a new landfill arm paralleling The Spit between the north shore and The Spit to create a new harbour which will have a mooring capacity of 1200 boats. The average boat is assumed to be 30 feet long and to be motor and sail powered. Friends of the Spit's official response to the proposal pointed out: The marina would be destructive to the enjoyment of The Spit and outer harbour by present users; the water quality studies for the outer harbour must be completed before any further planning is considered; and public funding is going to be used to provide a facility for a financially advantaged group to the detriment of a much larger user group. If you wish to receive an information kit for the Outer Harbour Public Marina write to : Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited, 275 Duncan Mill Road, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2Y1, Attn. H.L. French. More on this issue will follow.

HYDROPLANE RACES AGAIN!?!?!?....

More immediately, the THC has voted again to allow hydroplane races. For all of us who were completely disrupted by the races, this comes as an impertinent slap from a 5 man board accountable to no one. We will strenuously oppose the races...if you oppose the races, write the THC now (Ian Brown, General Manager), and send a copy of your letter to the Mayor of the City of Toronto. Tell him how you were bothered last year, and your anger at the THC's actions.

STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

We have been lobbying at the Provincial level and have had meetings with the Ministry of Tourism & Recreation and the Ministry of the Environment. We are planning meetings with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Premier's Office. Friends of The Spit is represented on the new City of Toronto's Waterfront Remedial Action Committee, co-ordinated by Alderman Dale Martin, and, of course, we are a constant presence at the MTRCA!

A few members have now renewed for 1986. If you have not yet renewed but intend to (and we hope you do!), please tear off the form below and mail in with your dues to our new address:

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 \_\_\_ )