



HYDROPLANE RACES.....SPIT WATCH REPORT

In a letter to the Toronto Executive Committee, Ian Brown, General Manager of the Toronto Harbour Commissioners (THC), had assured that the races would not inconvenience Spit users and area residents and that they would be very beneficial to the city by bringing international tourism and media coverage. The facts belied the letter. The noise could be heard in residential areas more than two miles from the site. A large area of the Spit was mowed of shrubs, trees, grasses, and wildflowers, and the habitat of many species of wildlife was destroyed. A "sturdy" fence promised by the promoters turned out to be a flimsy plastic barrier enabling spectators and cars to go into the Spit. Fires were lit. As for "international" visitors, few such licence plates were spotted, but several concession owners were seen leaving for lack of business. Access for users was through screening by THC police and MTRCA officials (Friends of the Spit had categorically refused passes). The process went quite well, despite the fact that officials had to face some angry users, including boaters who had not been informed that the promoters had relocated their base for the duration.

DEMONSTRATION AT THE THC.....

Thanks to all those Friends who joined in the demonstration at Noon, June 6th, in front of the THC headquarters, to protest the hydroplane races and to protest the THC's dictatorial powers. Three T.V. networks, as well as the press, gave us excellent coverage, and focussed great attention on the issues. Thanks for your support!!!

LUNATIC FRINGE, EH.....

"...The port facility has never been needed...and the spit has never been developed into the great public resource it promised to be. The spit could still meet its objectives...Problem is, a lunatic fringe has delayed the spit plans because some vagrant bird choose to make use of what we did not. As time passed and as the birds became more entrenched, the more adamant the bird watchers became in their defense of birdie rights. Their effective lobbying for the birds has resulted in the denial of use of the spit for the enjoyment of people..." John Bleasby, in Sailing News, June 5, 1985. Congratulations, Admiral, you have lowered yourself to the level of Andrew Paton (Chairman, THC), Tony O'Donohue (Alderman, Ward 4, Toronto), and Ted Welsh (columnist, Toronto Sun).

MEANWHILE ON TERN ISLAND.....TENANTS WANTED

Conditions are far from crowded on Tern island, built at great expense by the MTRCA. According to our observers, the only tenants so far are decoys put in by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1985.....WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

This is a critical time for Friends of the Spit. Postage rates have increased. We have contributed towards the cost of producing a brochure describing the Spit (more about it in the next newsletter). Fill the form below and mail it with your dues to our new address. (New members are welcome, ask your friends). Friends of the Spit, P.O. Box 467, Station J, Toronto, M4J 4Z2

Membership Dues for 1985: Individuals \$3.00 (or more) Family \$5.00 (or more)

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