

Friends of the Spit

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



AS AN EDITORIAL ...

YOU LOOKED VERY, VERY GOOD!!! Congratulations and thanks to all the Friends and representatives of allied groups who spoke so eloquently at the MTRCA meeting May 27. Your presentations were thoughtful, rational, articulate, forward-looking, and made a very eloquent case for keeping the entire Spit car-free and free from development and privatization. Thanks also to all who could not attend and wrote to the MTRCA.

"Let me first congratulate the staff of the MTRCA for the courage and initiative to revise their 1988 Master Plan to resemble very closely the model that many of us requested at that time. We thought at that time that we were very progressive in our expectations of the future for the Toronto waterfront; however, in the intervening years, the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront headed by David Crombie has changed everyone's perspective of the waterfront. Things we never dreamed of now seem possible. Meanwhile, the Toronto environment has changed for the worse — there are more people, more cars and more pollution — the Spit is more and more a haven for many of us who live in the Greater Toronto Area.

It is apparent that the main issue facing us tonight is not whether the Revised Plan is superior to the original plan, there is no doubt about that. The real question is should it still include the Aquatic Park Sailing Club, a question which we have spent a lot of time considering. As it presently exists, the club has little effect — granted their stewardship leaves something to be desired — monitoring of visiting boats to the club is suspect when two such boats remain all winter; perhaps the vehicle which drove through the adjacent wet meadow containing the Bog Twayblade did not belong to the club; even the ever-expanding parking lot/garbage area can be tolerated. No, these are all small petty things.

It is when I thought about the Spit user of the future that I realised the importance of what seems such a trite issue now. Fifteen years from now as the Spit finally nears completion, will the new user of the site understand or forgive us for leaving a piece of the park in private use? Will they understand why at a time when there was space at the North Shore Park or the THC marina for that club that we agreed to continue this compromise in our only urban wilderness park? (Would our forefathers, who established Banff National Park still opt to retain a townsite that could still continue to expand 100 years later?) thus, I can not in good conscience agree to this part of the plan. I really wish I could."

Verna J. Higgins, Botany Conservation Group

NEWSLETTER JUNE 1992

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Friends of the Spit Annual Meeting will take place on
Wednesday, June 17, 1992 – 7:30 p.m.
at
the Board of Education Building, 155 College Street*
(4th Floor Auditorium)

AGENDA

1. Report from the Steering Committee
Many good news to discuss, many challenges to face and many decisions to be taken by Friends of the Spit on its future directions, actions and strategies.
2. Question period and general discussion
Bring your ideas, questions or concerns to the attention of the Steering Committee.
3. "PLANTS OF THE SPIT: A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY"
An illustrated talk on the evolution of the Spit's flora.

SPEAKER: Dr. Nancy Dengler, professor of Botany, University of Toronto.

A popular lecturer who, for the past 20 years, has been showing undergraduates how exciting plants really are. Dr Dengler will illustrate her talk with slides from her extensive collection.

This is a most important meeting. All members, old and new, are cordially invited.

NOTE: Motions must be submitted in writing at least 5 days in advance of the meeting so that we can confirm that the mover and the seconder are members in good standing.

*One block west of University Avenue (south side). College St. streetcar at door or take the subway to Queen's Park station. For more information, call 699-3143.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE — HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR COMMITMENT YET?

Memberships for 1992 are due. We hope you will renew your commitment to continue the fight for the Spit. Please mail this slip with your cheque to:

Friends of the Spit
P.O. Box 467, Station J
Toronto, Ont. M4J 4Z2

Membership: \$5.00 (individual) \$8.00 (family)
Additional donations welcome.

Are your name and address correct? **If not**, please check here and write corrections on your label on the reverse of this slip.

NAME _____

PHONE NOS _____

IMPORTANT • A red check mark on your label on the reverse indicates you have paid your membership for the year. Thanks.

NOTE: FRIENDS OF THE SPIT DOES NOT EXCHANGE ITS MAILING LIST WITH ANYONE

TIP OF THE HAT TO...

The MTRCA Water and Related Land Management Committee, chaired by Lois Griffin (Metro Councillor Etobicoke Rexdale), for extending to all the speakers at the May 27 meeting at Hart House the courtesy of listening and for their open-mindedness. It was a long day. Members of the committee had toured the Spit that afternoon, and many expressed their wonder about this unique public urban wilderness. Also present at the meeting were Bill Granger, Chair of the MTRCA, Lois Hancey, Vice-Chair, and several MTRCA staff members.



FRIEND OF DISTINCTION



Marion Bryden, former MPP for Beaches-Woodbine, was recently honoured by the YWCA as a "Woman of Distinction". Both as an MPP and in 'retirement', Marion has been a tireless supporter of the Spit as a public urban wilderness. Our most sincere congratulations.

MP VISITS THE SPIT

Pauline Browse, MP for Scarborough Centre and Parliamentary Assistant to the federal Minister of the Environment, was taken on a tour of the Spit on June 2 by Dr. Gaston Tessier of the Canadian Wildlife Service. According to reports, Mrs Browse was "charmed" by the Spit. She had planned to come to our Viewing Day on June 7 but had to change her schedule.

PLANT COMMUNITIES OF THE LESLIE STREET SPIT **ORDER FORM**

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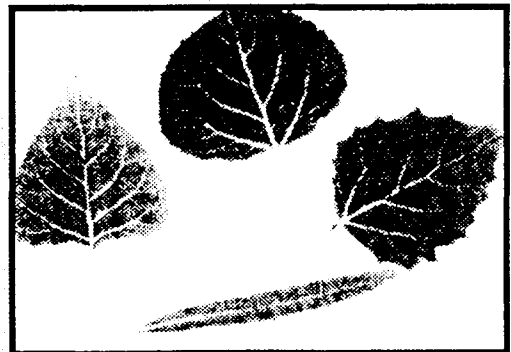
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HOT OFF THE PRESS

A book on the plants found on the Spit has just been published by Friends of the Spit and the Botany Conservation Group. The publication is designed to help all those visiting the Spit to better appreciate its plants.

The 44-page booklet, written in clear language, describes the varied plant communities that can be found on the Spit. It contains 5 pages of colour photographs and a location map. It is intended for both beginners and more experienced plant spotters.

Order your copy now on the form above. Or come to the Annual Meeting, where the book will be available, and save on the postage.



PLANT COMMUNITIES

OF THE

LESLIE STREET SPIT

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE