

## Friends of the Spit

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MAY 6, 1996



Just when  
we all thought life  
at the Spit was  
going smoothly.....

### LESLIE STREET SPIT

#### BASELANDS IN JEOPARDY

**After all these years — would you believe it?!!'**

On April 29 and 30, Toronto City Council debated a proposal to allow a 20 acre Golf Academy to be built on the Spit baselands. This proposed "Golf Academy" includes a driving range, 108 car parking lot, miniature golf, short game and putting area, equipment and food and alcohol "sales". Further, the developer would lease the land from TEDCO [Toronto Economic Development Corporation] and requires the City to exempt the project from municipal taxes!

Thanks to many phone calls, faxes, letters, and media scrutiny, Council returned the proposal to Executive Committee for public deputations -- the first time the public has been allowed to comment!

This meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 1996, at the Executive Committee, Committee Room 4, Toronto City Hall, ~~time to be announced~~ **11 A.M.** Call the City Clerk's office at 392-7031 to be put on the speaker's list. If you cannot speak or attend, fax the Executive Committee at 392-1879. Sign your letter!!

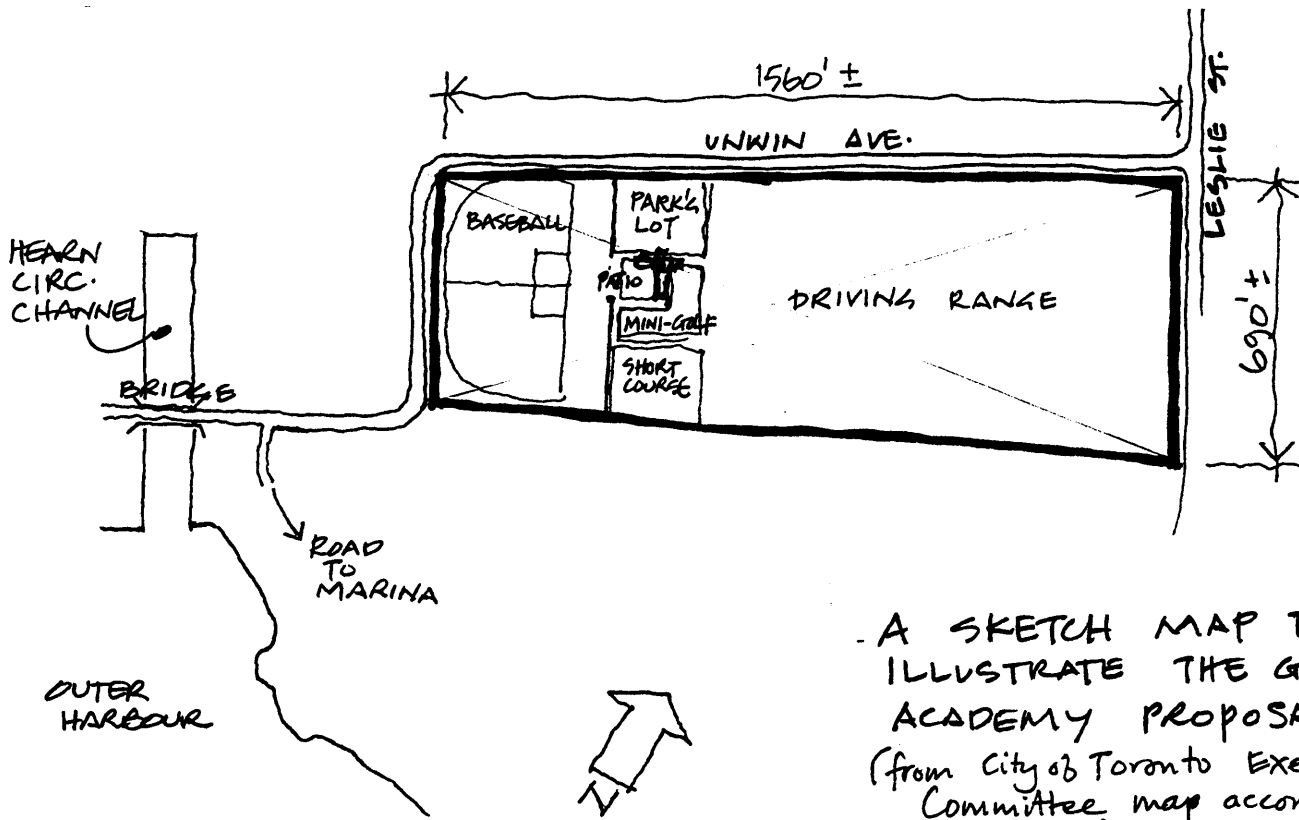
Please contact Mayor Barbara Hall, and your councillor. If you are not a City of Toronto resident, still write or attend - the City needs to know your opposition to the "Golf Academy"!

Why do we oppose this 20 acre Golf Academy development?

1. The Spit is unique -- recognized world-wide -- a Public Urban Wilderness where people can go "to get away from it all" -- within a major metropolis!
2. The baselands of the Spit (i.e. all land South of Unwin Ave.) are a part of the Spit experience.
3. The baselands are a designated E.S.A. [Environmentally Significant Area].
4. The baselands are an important wildlife corridor and connection to other natural areas in the Port lands.
5. Many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies, and plants are found on this land. Some are regionally rare and endangered.
6. A 20 acre Golf Academy would remove these lands from the public use, and allow use only by paying customers.

7. The 20 acre Golf Academy is a barrier to wildlife, and a barrier to the lake.
8. A 20 acre Golf Academy could be placed anywhere in the Port lands -- a driving range and mini-golf are not waterfront dependent.
9. Why should the Golf Academy receive exemption from city taxes?
10. All planning documents and discussion papers refer to lands south of Unwin Avenue as parkland. The Royal Commission, in Pathways refers to this land as "Significant terrestrial wildlife habitat".
11. The Waterfront Trust calls for our waterfront to be Clean, Green, Accessible. Further principles call for the waterfront to be useable, affordable, diverse, attractive, connected, open.
12. Page 65 Watershed: Royal Commission  
 "...not all uses can be accommodated at all sites. Waterfront planning must pay special attention to protecting natural areas and passive open space along the water, pieces of green that are an essential part of the urban infrastructure..."

The resolution from the Executive Committee goes to Council for May 21. Please maintain your contacts with your councillors!



A SKETCH MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE GOLF ACADEMY PROPOSAL (from City of Toronto Executive Committee map accompanying proposal)