

March 1, 2021

Thanks for all your support!

Thank you for your passion.....so many emails and postings, so eloquent, all in support of the fabulous urban wilderness we know as The Spit !

All these messages were successful in telling those in power at the City, Ports Toronto, and the TRCA how much you love the Spit, and how the commercial filming they sanctioned has damaged the Spit's habitat, wildlife, and visitor enjoyment, especially in these covid times.

This film shoot will end March 1st, and all props and equipment and shelters will be removed by March 10th, so we are informed.

We witnessed an attempt by the authorities to divide the Spit: divide it between the TRCA's Tommy Thompson Park, and the land leased by Ports Toronto from the MNR, as if the users and flora and fauna make that differentiation... as if! We are Friends of the Spit: the entire Spit, the whole place. We don't make arbitrary distinctions between who owns or leases what. We are advocating for the entire Spit and Baselands, regardless of ownership or lease.

While we could not prevent this filming, we all served notice how important the Spit is as an urban wilderness, and that it is not the place for commercial filming. Those in power have taken notice!

We also wanted to address the filming issue from a different perspective. We fully understand that Toronto has a strong and important film industry, employing many talented people, some of whom were employed on this current feature. Our issue is not their work or employment opportunity: our issue, and problem, is with Ports Toronto and the TRCA issuing permits for commercial filming in an important public amenity, with the resulting damage of habitat and disruption of visitor uses. Their lack of understanding of what the Spit means has resulted in this uproar. It is the principle: the Spit is an urban wilderness, and all activities must be considered in that light.

During the past 12 months, the Spit has been a refuge, has been a solace, has been vital to the physical and mental health of hundreds of thousands of park visitors. The Spit is held dear because it provides significant physical and mental health benefits to the citizens of Toronto; it also provides habitat for creatures great and small. Nothing is gained by compromising the Spit for a film production which could have been sited elsewhere in the City (even on other Ports Toronto land!); a great deal is and will be lost if we start to think of the Spit as a place for institutions to gain rental income.

Thanks again for all your support!.