

Lake Ontario Waterfront News
An Ezine produced by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust

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Photo of Keith Richan with his family

Trust Announces New Phase of Investment for the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and Greenway

At the York Quay Centre in Toronto, March 5th marked the announcement by SuperBuild and Industry Canada that together they are contributing \$9.2 million to help fund projects to enhance and expand the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail. Partner municipalities, conservation authorities and community groups are contributing \$23 million for a total investment by all levels of government and community partners of \$32 million.

The investment will result in 125kms of new trail and trail connections; 6 major waterfront promenades; 2 bridges; improvements to over 20 waterfront parks; 5 new cultural heritage facilities; interpretation of over 20 waterfront habitats; 4 major brownfield rehabilitation projects; 6 significant waterfront habitat restoration projects; and 3 harbour/marina revitalization projects.

Thank you to all Trust partners for your continuing support.

CIBC renews its commitment to waterfront regeneration

The Waterfront Regeneration Trust is very pleased to announce that CIBC has renewed its partnership with the Trust. The CIBC has committed to a three-year partnership and will provide \$250,000 toward the Lake Ontario Waterfront Investment Program. As many of you will know, CIBC became first major corporate sponsor of the Waterfront Trail in 1996 and has collaborated with the Trust on its signage, publishing, web and event programs.

The CIBC's donation makes it possible for the Trust to continue to work towards the goal of completing, enhancing and extending the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and Greenway and to coordinate the Lake Ontario Waterfront partnership. Through our partnership with

CIBC the Trust will conduct research studies, install trail signage, develop promotional and resource materials, and redesign the Trail website.

Extending the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail

The Waterfront Regeneration Trust Board has officially approved the extension of the trail eastward to Brockville, subject to the approval of the affected municipalities and agencies. We are currently working with a number of community contacts to identify opportunities and challenges and develop next steps. Based on our experience through the Toronto Star End to End Tour last summer and discussions to date, we are hopeful that some signage may be in place this year.

The Keith Richan Walkway

On February 3rd Keith Richan celebrated his 90th birthday! To commemorate the occasion and to honour Keith's tremendous contribution to the Port Hope Waterfront Trail, the Municipality of Port Hope named the new bridge over the Ganaraska River, the Keith Richan Walkway.

Despite frigid winter winds, about sixty people attended the ribbon cutting ceremony to hear Mayor Rick Austin and Waterfront Trail Working Committee member Peter Huffman pay tribute to Keith. Keith's determination and energy made the Port Hope Waterfront Trail possible—proving the best asset in trail development is the people supporting the project. With few resources available, Keith, Peter and A.K. Sculthrope who all served on the first Waterfront Trail Working Committee, rolled up their sleeves to get the job done. Recruiting volunteers and boy scouts to help, they created the trail and constructed benches, birdhouses, gazebos. The result is a charming natural pathway that extends nearly 2kms (see attached jpeg file).

At 90 Keith doesn't appear to have any plans to slow down. He and the Committee are now busy at work to establish a connection between Port Hope and Cobourg.

Congratulations and thank you Keith for your tremendous work!

Abitibi's Community Paper Retriever Program: a fundraising opportunity for community groups helping to regenerate the waterfront

Abitibi has an interesting program that raises funds for charity while encouraging recycling. Abitibi will install free Paper Retriever bins at schools, charities, other not for profit locations. Members are encouraged to drop off all clean dry paper into the bin to raise funds for the charity. Since Abitibi pays the charity based on the weight of the paper collected, newspapers, magazines, office and school papers are strongly encouraged because they weigh more than cardboard.

Abitibi will also install the bins at local businesses such as grocery stores. Paper donated at these sites is then credited to the charity partnering with the business. The bins hold approximately one ton. There is no sorting required, stapled paper is acceptable and no cost to the charity. As you can imagine there are a number of fun ways community groups could launch the program to increase the volume of paper collected.

Last year over \$3.3 million was paid to Paper Retriever participants. Through their combined efforts to divert paper from the waste stream, Abitibi Consolidated and its Paper Retriever Program save an estimated 2.2 million cubic yard of landfill space each year in North America.

If you are interested call Carlos Duchesne at 416-461-3118 ext 210 or email carlos_duchesne@abicon.com. The web site is PaperRetriever.com.

We learned about this program through XTL, a national trucking company that has installed a bin to raise funds for Trust activities. Thanks especially to Lorraine Gard for her initiative and support.

Detroit's East Riverfront Vision

In December Detroit unveiled a bold new plan to rebuild its run-down riverfront. With over \$500 million committed by a new partnership among public, corporate and foundation funding sources, the vision is well on its way to becoming a reality. The revitalization will involve five initial projects: 3kms riverwalk, new port authority terminal, GM plaza and promenade, the first Michigan State Park and Harbour built in an urban area; north/south connections to the waterfront.

A Riverfront Conservancy has been formed to undertake the establishment, operation, maintenance, improvement and conservation of public parks, the Detroit RiverWalk and other public green space.

The vision and mission are described in a beautiful pamphlet describing a once-in-a-300-year opportunity to transform Detroit's historic riverfront. The Kresge Foundation has committed \$50 million and has challenged the Detroit community to come up with a matching grant of \$25 million to endow the conservancy that will maintain the RiverWalk.

Last summer members of the Detroit partnership visited the Waterfront Regeneration Trust to learn about our partnership with waterfront municipalities, conservation authorities, corporations and community groups and how we managed to create the Waterfront Trail. Our collective story never fails to impress and inspire visitors. We will keep you posted on how this new undertaking rolls out.

Toronto Star End to End Tours brings over 200,000 visitors to the Trust's Website each month

In reviewing our web statistics for the past year, we were elated to learn that during the months of the Toronto Star Tour (May 2002 to October), the Trust web site was visited by an average of 189,625 per month. July was the highest month with 226,935 and October the lowest month at 158,927.

Cheers!
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