



In 1997 the Toronto Bay Initiative was launched to draw public attention to the degraded state of Toronto's central waterfront, and to promote a cleaner, greener, healthier and more accessible Bay. One of this community group's most successful annual events is the Big Summer Splash! – a swim race across the Bay and a ceremonial plunge by community leaders, to celebrate improvements in water quality, to increase environmental literacy, and as a call for further action. The event takes place at Harbourfront Centre – a 10-acre cultural and recreational complex.



The rejuvenation of Oakville's Coronation Park, including the construction of a performance stage, stimulated the growth of the highly successful Oakville Waterfront Festival.



The Waterfront Trail is used constantly - there are people on it all the time. It's very positive because it gets people walking along the lakefront that never had the chance to do that before. The Trail connects people to our history - like Canada House, one of Port Hope's oldest, and a wonderful marshy area near Gages Creek.

**A.K. Sculthorpe,
Willow Beach Field Naturalists**



The Town of Fort Erie, in partnership with the Niagara Parks Commission and others, has made waterfront access and revitalization a priority over the past decade, and is starting to reap the rewards. Private lands have been brought into public ownership through the development process, a boat launch ramp has been constructed, the Niagara River Recreational Trail has been extended, an abandoned railway line is connecting the Niagara River, Fort Erie shoreline and Niagara Peninsula trails, a riverwalk is being developed, and local businesses are planning improvements to take advantage of the enhanced waterfront setting.



The previously industrial Cobourg waterfront has received such an attractive and dramatic transformation over the past decade that it has become a popular vacation destination and a favourite location for special events. These have included the annual Waterfront Festival, Canada Day, the Great American Land Regatta, and Driftwood Theatre productions. The Waterfront Festival alone hosts 60,000 visitors over three days, including many Americans who come across the lake by boat. A new marina, waterfront promenade, campground, Victoria Park and extensive, pristine beach are all developed with a heritage theme, consistent with the nearby historic downtown main street. With estimated revenues of \$90.00 per day per person, the economic spin-offs from the Waterfront Festival alone are \$2.7 million annually.

Celebration of success is another important way to reflect community priorities. Many waterfront projects have received awards during the past decade, applauding a wide range of accomplishments.

A selection of the awards given to the Waterfront Trail, and the municipalities and organizations involved in the Lake Ontario Greenway over the past decade:

- 2000 Attractions Ontario Award as the province's best Outdoor Tourist Site to the **Royal Botanical Gardens**.
- 2000 City of Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Award in the Large Place category for the **Don Valley Brickworks**, to Oleson Worland, Landplan Collaborative, Hough Woodland Naylor Dance Leinster, and Baird Sampson Architects.
- 1999 Ontario Professional Planners Institute Award for Outstanding Planning in the communications/public education category to **Brookfield Homes** for the Whitby Shores homeowner stewardship kit.
- 1999 Canadian Institute of Planners Awards for Planning Excellence Honour Award to the **Red Hill Creek Watershed Plan**, coordinated by the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth.
- 1998 Grand SAM (Sales & Marketing) Award from the Canadian Home Builders' Association, and 1998 Project of the Year from The Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association, to **Tribute Homes/Runnymede Development Corp.'s Lakeside Project** on the Ajax waterfront.
- 1998 Canadian Institute of Planners Awards for Planning Excellence Honour Award for Urban Design to the **Stoney Creek Olde Towne Urban Design Plan**, by the City of Stoney Creek Planning Department and Dillon Consulting.
- 1998 Canadian Institute of Planners S. George Rich Award for Planning Excellence Grand Prize to the Humber River Watershed Task Force and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, for **Legacy: A Strategy for a Healthy Humber**.
- 1997 Mississauga Urban Design Award of Excellence to the **Port Credit Harbour and Credit Village Marina**.
- 1997 Excellence on the Waterfront Award in the Park/Walkway/Recreational category to the **Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail**, by the Waterfront Center in the US. This was jointly awarded to all the Lake Ontario Network members, an impressive group of over 120 organizations.
- 1997 Corporate Habitat of the Year to **Ontario Hydro's Darlington Station** by the Wildlife Habitat Council in the US.
- 1997 Excellence on the Waterfront Award in the Park/Walkway/Recreational category to the **Humber River Pedestrian Cycling Bridge**, by the Waterfront Center in the US. The Humber Bridge also won a Canadian Architect Magazine Award of Excellence, and a 1995 Award of Excellence for outstanding steel structure in Ontario from the Canadian Institute for Steel Construction.
- 1997 Federation of Ontario Naturalists W.E. Saunders Natural History Award to **Friends of the Spit**, for their work on the Leslie Street Spit in Toronto.
- 1997 Excellence on the Waterfront Award Honor Award, to the Royal Botanical Garden for its **Hamilton Harbour Fish and Wildlife Restoration Project**, by the Waterfront Center in the US.
- 1997 Clearwater Award for outstanding efforts of a non-profit citizen's organization, to **Ratray Marsh Protection Association** in Mississauga, for their efforts since the 1960s to protect and restore the marsh, by the Waterfront Center in the US.
- 1997 and 1999 Best Outdoor Mural to the **"Whaling Wall"** by **Wyland**, on the Redpath Sugar raw sugar shed, by NOW Magazine readers in their annual Reader's Poll.
- 1996 State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference Steering Committee (USA and Canada) Letter of Commendation to **Friends of Second Marsh**, for exceptional and distinguished achievements in Great Lakes Ecosystem improvement.
- 1994 Federation of Ontario Naturalists Lee Symmes Municipal Award to the **City of Oshawa**, for its contribution to the health of its Lake Ontario shoreline marshes.
- 1992 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Planning Excellence to **Bringing Back the Don**, a publication of the City of Toronto Task Force to Bring Back the Don.
- 1989 Federation of Ontario Naturalists Conservation Award to the **Thickson's Woods Heritage Foundation (TWHF)** for their efforts to raise funds and purchase a white pine forest on the Whitby waterfront. TWHF has also received recognition awards from CLOCA, Pickering Field Naturalists, Durham Region Field Naturalists, and the Town of Whitby.

LOOK BEYOND YOUR BOUNDARIES

Over the past decade, communities around the Lake have benefitted from what they call the "domino effect". Through the Lake Ontario Waterfront Network, they have shared information and experiences that have inspired healthy competition and provided valuable learning opportunities.

The initial work of the Royal Commission on the Future of Toronto's Waterfront encompassed Metropolitan Toronto. After the first year, then Premier Peterson requested that

the Commission extend its work to the GTA waterfront. Port Hope and Cobourg then asked to be included, and the initial Waterfront Trail spanned the shore from Burlington to Trenton. The domino effect continued, with Hamilton and the Niagara Peninsula becoming involved in the mid 1990s, and most recently Belleville, the Bay of Quinte, Prince Edward County and the Greater Kingston area coming on board.



The Trust's International Brownfield Exchange provides opportunities to exchange information, establish new working relationships, and test the best new practices for sustainable brownfield development. Amsterdam's Westergasfabriek project is an excellent example – showing how a former coal gasification plant can be transformed with local government leadership, community collaboration, cultural reuse of historic buildings, a phased remediation plan, and most importantly, the visionary ideas of the project team.