

Lake Ontario Waterfront Network News

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A Summer's Journey 2002

There are hundreds of people whose love for the waterfront has led them to organize groups, volunteer time and donate talent and funds to protect, restore or create something special on the shores of Lake Ontario. In this issue of the ezine we update you on the efforts of two such groups, the Thicksen's Woods Land Trust and Camp X Historical Society.

Community action is one of the themes of A Summer's Journey 2002, our invitation to the public to experience the waterfront and participate in its regeneration. If your group is organizing a community event, a planting, cleanup, a festival or a fundraiser, please let us know so we can include it in our comprehensive website calendar. From the calendar, we will select one event from each waterfront municipality to create a special summer itinerary booklet for families who want to get out and explore Lake Ontario.

Please send event information, including date, time place, directions, admission costs, parking availability and a 20 word description to mkoehler@istar.ca.

Thicksen's Woods Land Trust

Thicksen's Woods Land Trust (formerly Thicksen's Woods Heritage Foundation) is raising funds to purchase a 8.5 acre meadow immediately north of the woods. This acquisition removes the threat of industrial development and will provide a critical buffer that will be reforested to protect and enhance the existing creek, wetland and woods.

The group's short-term goal - for a down payment of \$100,000 by February 2002 - has just been met. The long-term goal is to raise the remaining \$431,250 by 2007.

That's a LOT of fundraising for a land purchase by a small charity with no staff! But the members of Thicksen's Woods Land Trust are dedicated and determined. They raised \$150,000 about 10 years ago for the original purchase of the woods. The Land Trust is now calling for volunteers to help with fundraising and of course appealing for donations from all who love the waterfront and know what a precious opportunity this is to add to its natural heritage.

For a wonderful history of the woods and the story of the community commitment behind protecting it check out their web site www.thicksonswoods.com.

Please do what you can to help this organization in its efforts to protect the last remnant old growth pine forest on the north shore of Lake Ontario.

Camp X Historical Society, Whitby

The Camp X Historical Society is developing plans to create an interpretive trail, museum and new memorial on the former site of Camp X now Intrepid Park on the Whitby/Oshawa border. Camp X was a training facility for intelligence agents during World War II. It also was home to a sophisticated top-secret communications centre. Over 500 agents were trained at the Camp between 1941 and 1944, many recruited in downtown Toronto.

Historically, Camp X represents a significant milestone for security intelligence in Canada and has been described as the genesis of institutionalized intelligence training in North America.

The Camp was decommissioned in 1969. Most of the buildings were levelled, although one - the Commanding Officers Quarters - was relocated and the Society plans to return it to the Park as part of the interpretive facility and a home for the archives.

The Camp X Historical Society was established in 1998 as registered not-for-profit historical society made up of volunteers. The Society's primary mandate is to conduct research to document the Camp's history, conserve related artifacts and educate the community. The Society works with veteran agents, former Camp X staff and instructors to document their experiences for historical research purposes. It also organizes special events, for example Remembrance Day celebrations.

The planned museum, memorial, interpretive stations and trails will be welcome additions to the Waterfront Trail. To learn more visit www.campxhistoricalsociety.ca or email campx@canada.com.

SuperBuild Update

Although several announcements concerning health and safety projects and municipal stream applications have been made by SuperBuild, no decisions have been announced on Provincial stream submissions. The Trust's submission to SuperBuild for the next phase of investment along the waterfront is part of the Provincial stream. In December, the Trust heard that decisions could be made by early February.

We will keep you posted and will pass on any news from SuperBuild.

Upcoming Conference on Protected Areas and Heritage Coastal Ecosystems

The Parks Research Forum of Ontario (PRFO) invites you to PRFO 2002
Ridgetown College in Ridgetown Ontario, April 25, 26, and 27

The theme for PRFO 2002, to be introduced and developed on the first day of the conference, will address Protected Areas and Heritage Coastal Ecosystems. A combination of two panels, commentators and rapporteurs will explore this theme from its current conceptions internationally and nationally, and then explore potentials and challenges to its broader application in Ontario, particularly to the southern Great Lakes.

Participants will be able to interact and respond to the theme day presentations and participate in afternoon working groups. The second day of the conference is dedicated to participants volunteering and presenting their own work on a wide range of Parks and Protected Area research topics, not necessarily relating to Heritage Coastal Ecosystems

An optional field trip will be offered for the final day of the conference which will explore the Coastal areas of southern Ontario with visits to Rondeau Provincial Park and Clear Creek. This is an exciting conference program and, as the fifth PRFO event, it continues an excellent tradition of research exchange.

We invite abstracts to be submitted for presentation of volunteered papers and posters for presentation on Friday April 26, 2002. The submission deadline is March 31, 2002.

The conference program, registration form, accommodations listing and other information on the conference, past conferences or PRFO in general is available on the new PRFO website at (www.prfo.ca). Currently this website is under construction, however, once completed it will be the permanent internet home of the Forum and the best source of updates on past and future events. I hope you will consider participating in this event, and please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Porter
PRFO 2002, Coordinator

Appointment of New Executive Director

After two fulfilling and exciting years at the helm of the Trust, I have decided to pursue graduate studies at Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto School of Theology. I am very pleased to announce that Vicki Barron will replace me as the new Executive Director of the Trust.

Many of you will know Vicki < she has over 32 years of experience in watershed management; most recently as the General Manager of Credit Valley Conservation, and in 1994/5 she chaired the Shoreline Management Working Group in the development of the Trust's Lake Ontario Greenway Strategy. She has also participated in water protection projects in Brazil and Great Britain.

As a passionate advocate for government leadership and reform in water management, she is committed to our mutual goal of making sure people can get to the water; and that the water is worth getting to. She is looking forward to working with all of the Lake Ontario waterfront stakeholders to make sure that we protect and respect this precious environment.

I will continue to work with the Trust on a part time basis focussing on assisting waterfront communities to regenerate brownfield sites.

Cheers!

Beth Benson
Executive Director
Waterfront Regeneration Trust
207 Queen's Quay W. Suite 403

Toronto, Ontario M5J 1A7

tel: 416-943-8080

fax: 416-943-8068

email: info@wrtrust.com

www.waterfronttrust.com

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Thank you to our supporters

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