

## Historic Triangle Photo Worth a Second Look

By John Ellis

The photo printed in the Winter 2006 Triangle Topics was interesting to a lot of people, so we are re-printing it here with more commentary. The photo portrays the corner of Queen and Woodbine circa 1905 (Woodbine appears to bend at Queen because of a distortion resulting from putting two photos together).

First, a resident called to say, "I was really thrilled to see the house I live in" – one of two houses on Queen just west of Woodbine. In fact, it is one of only four or five houses visible in the entire Triangle in this view (there were a few other houses further north on Woodbine). Just beyond these two houses is the rather odd looking building still standing on the northeast corner of Rainsford and Queen Street.

In the distance we see a rather large house on Queen near what today would be Lark. Finally, there are buildings just beyond this house and opposite the original Woodbine Race Track Grandstand that may have been the home and stables of Joseph Duggan, owner of the farm that today is the Triangle. Duggan sold the land south of Queen to Howell and Pardee, who established the racetrack in 1875. Duggan also owned the Woodbine Hotel at the intersection of Queen and Kingston Road (where the little plaza is today). Although the alley behind the houses on Queen is clearly visible, there is no sign of any of the inner-Triangle streets.

Speaking of the fire hall, Triangle Topics editor, Keith Schengili-Roberts, pointed out that the Toronto Archives dating of the photo as circa 1902 should be revised, since the photo was taken from the fire hall tower, which wasn't completed until 1905.

Also of interest is Small's Pond clearly visible to the right, just beyond Kingston Road, a popular recreational area for boating, picnicking, games and walking. The pond was later diverted underground and parts were filled in for development. The base and banks of the pond are still visible east of Coxwell, north of Gerrard.

Finally, looking across the racetrack to the south, there is a natural sand spit that began at Kippendavie and extended west to today's Toronto Islands, creating Ashbridge's Bay. In 1912 the Toronto Harbour Commission began to fill in the bay. Today, Lakeshore Boulevard, the Sewage Treatment Plant and the Port Lands are in this landfill area.

This is a most interesting photo, indeed.

Do you know of the history of your home? Share it – contact John Ellis at [ellisjohn@rogers.com](mailto:ellisjohn@rogers.com) or at 416-694-3288.



The corner of Queen and Woodbine, circa 1905. Picture courtesy of the Toronto Archives.

# TRIANGLE TOPICS

Neighbourhood News and Information

Spring 2007

Published by

The Beach Triangle Residents Association  
Toronto, Ontario

## The BTRA Lawn Sale: Sat. May 26th 2007

By David Windrim

Rather than discarding items as "junk," try selling them at the BTRA lawn sale - it can be a profitable and fun way to recycle items. Check with friends, relatives, and neighbours to see if they would like to join you in the sale or have anything you can sell for them. More sellers means less work, and a larger inventory means more buyers.

### Promotional details

To attract customers for you, the BTRA places and pays for sale notices:

- Sunday May 20th - Flyer delivered to each Triangle residence
- Tuesday May 15th Beach Metro News Website - Community Calendar

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- Friday May 18th Beach Mirror - Classified
- May 25th Toronto Star - Classified

### Things You Can Do:

- Put up balloons or streamers to draw the attention of shoppers.
- Sell coffee or cookies.
- Have a radio playing music.

### Be Organized

- Set up your sale items in a covered area in case of a shower.
- Mark items with a different coloured dot to differentiate each family in a group sale.
- Have items priced and laid out by 8:00 am on sale day – many buyers come early.
- Price items fairly, but not too low – some people will want to bargain.
- Be an Effective Seller
- Have lots of small bills and change in your cash box or apron.
- Keep track of your initial "float" so you can tally profits at the end of the sale.
- Display clothing on hangers – consider providing a fitting space and mirror.
- Display all other items on tables, and make sure they aren't crowded.
- Don't follow your buyers around. Be prepared to slash prices as the sale ends.

### Have Fun!

For many people in the Triangle, the annual sale is also a social event. Arrange a potluck supper with

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Neighbourhood Watch is a program that provides a means of reducing the opportunity for crime through the active participation of neighbours. Community members are taught how to make their homes less inviting for thieves, how to make their personal property less desirable to burglars, and how to be alert to suspicious activity in their neighbourhoods. The program also helps to co-ordinate the efforts of the police and the community in tracking down criminals.

It works! Our neighbours to the south in the Woodbine Park community have successfully implemented the Neighbourhood Watch program and have seen a drop in the level of graffiti vandalism and petty crime in their area. As a first step to implementing the program in the Triangle, we are gauging the interest level of the community. If sufficient interest exists, we will arrange for a meeting where a Police Liaison will explain the Neighbourhood Watch concept to our residents and identify volunteers to act as Block Captains and Assistants.

If you are interested in attending an information session or volunteering to help launch the program, please contact Ingrid Furtado at 416-686-9025.

(With excerpts from the Neighbourhood Watch Registry and information from the Woodbine Park Neighbourhood Watch team. Visit [www.neighbourhoodwatchregistry.com](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchregistry.com) for more details).

### Dealing with the City's "residual waste"

By Philip Knox  
Toronto has a lot of garbage challenges. There are two components in Toronto's garbage; one is know as Industrial, Commercial and Institutional or IC&I waste. This is the garbage that comes from manufacturers, office buildings, hospitals, shopping malls, fast food drive-through restaurants and

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### BeachTriangle.com: A New Web Site for the BTRA

By Keith Schengili-Roberts  
The old BTRA Web site has recently undergone a much-needed makeover, as well as a change of address. [BeachTriangle.com](http://BeachTriangle.com) is the new Web address for the BTRA.

You can find articles from the previous newsletters here, and our intention is to place local information pertinent to Triangle residents on the site as well. If you want to print out of the latest Lawn Sale sign for your lawn or window, you can find that here too.

If there are other features you'd like to see on the new Web site (polls, forums, etc.), please tell the Webmaster at: [webmaster@beachtriangle.com](mailto:webmaster@beachtriangle.com).



Sample graffiti found on the side of 1864 Queen Street East, late April 2007.

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Stories from the Winter 2006 Newsletter

Shoo the Pigeons! Powerplant  
The BTRA Board is supporting the City of Toronto and the Toronto Green Coalition (TGC) in a campaign to stop the Pigeon Energy Centre (PEC) being proposed for the Government of Ontario. [More]

Talkback: Liquor License Meeting Held  
On September 20th, the Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG), operators of the GreenWood Tavernette, invited the Beach Triangle and the Woodbine Park Residents Associations, City of Toronto Councilor Sandra Bounie, and Richard Ellis, legal counsel representing the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), to a meeting to discuss ongoing plans. The result of the two-hour meeting was quite surprising. [More]

Beach Yard Parking Or Not Permitted  
In July this year, 674-4446, contacted on 8/17 and parking was approved by City Council. There may be several of [www.toronto.ca/transportation/transportation.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/transportation.htm). Following is a screenshot of the meeting. [More]

Screenshot of the BeachTriangle.com Web site.



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makers jostled to brand the new park. Quick action by the BTRA and councillor Bussin managed to deflect both comers, but there may well be reason to expect even more intense pressure with a project of this magnitude. Well-serviced parkland stretching across the entire Eastern waterfront could be seen as an unparalleled marketing opportunity for some. But we feel our parks should provide residents some respite from commercial influences, so -- once again -- we're on watch to fight off corporate initiatives that aim to sell-out our waterfront to the highest bidder.

Globe and Mail writer John Bentley Mays put forward an interesting opinion very early in the process. In a June 22, 2006 piece he notes that: "Whatever else Lake Ontario Park may be or do ... it should provide tranquility and an opportunity for spiritual renewal within the hectic grid of Toronto life. It should not be forced to provide a space for every interest or sport... Rather," he adds, "the park should be more of what it is already; a margin of wild nature between the city and Lake Ontario, a zone where water and land meet in a wonderful variety of ways."

#### An Integrated Whole

As large as this concept is, Lake Ontario Park is only one of several, inter-related projects currently underway that, together, will forever change the way we see and use our waterfront. It is important, therefore, that residents be informed and become involved.

After all, it will be our legacy for generations to come.

#### An Exciting Evening Event

Thankfully, a special opportunity to become involved is imminent in the form of a fun and engaging social event.

The Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation and the Royal Ontario Museum's Institute for Contemporary Culture are hosting a free evening: *"Leading with Landscape"* How parks and public spaces are defining Toronto's revitalized waterfront. It's a presentation and panel discussion featuring the internationally recognized landscape architects at the forefront of four projects that are transforming our waterfront.

James Corner, Principal of Field Operations (the lead design firm for the Lake Ontario Park project) together with the lead designers of three other, related, projects: Adriaan Gueze, concerning the Central Waterfront Promenade; Greg Smallenberg, regarding Sherbourne Park; and Michael Van Valkenburgh on the Don River Park. Each will provide an overview of their respective project.

So get involved -- Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 pm at the Royal Ontario Museum. The event is moderated by the museum's Director & CEO, William Thorsell.

And for more information on Lake Ontario Park or any of the related projects, please contact the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corp. at 416.214.1344, [www.towaterfront.ca](http://www.towaterfront.ca) or e-mail [lakeontariopark@towaterfront.ca](mailto:lakeontariopark@towaterfront.ca).

#### Local Notices/Events:

- **55 Division and Toronto Police Week:** New Woodbine Park from 4-8 p.m., May 23.
- **BTRA Annual General Meeting:** Wed. June 6th @ 7:00PM, Corpus Christi Church, Basement Meeting Room, Lockwood and Queen. Meet your friends and neighbours, hear reports on Triangle Issues, speak on the issues that concern you, and elect your 2007-2008 Board of Directors.
- **Sandra Bussin's Environment Day:** Woodbine Park, south of Lakeshore at Coxwell (Parking Entrance), Sat June 9, 10:00-14:00



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such. If you work in an office building and create garbage there, you are part of this sector. Most if not all building and home construction and demolition waste is also part of this sector along with from all manufacturing companies, grocery stores, and so on. Historically, this sector generates approximately 1m/tonnes/year, and there are a number of private contractors that are regulated by the provincial Ministry of the Environment (MOE) on how they should collect and deal with this garbage. Currently this sector, Ontario wide, is performing at around 25% diversion (reduction, reuse, recycle) rate, with the remainder going to landfills and thermal treatments in Canada and the U.S.

The second component in Toronto garbage is the "residential garbage", for which the City of Toronto (City) is currently responsible. This sector currently includes single family and multi family homes, along with agencies, boards, commissions, and divisions of the City such as the TTC, parks, street sweepings, schools, and some small restaurants and commercial operations with less than 2,500 sq. ft. of space. This sector generates a little over an additional 1m/tonnes/year of garbage. Through a variety of City initiated programmes we currently divert 41.8% of this garbage by way of citizen (or "source") separation efforts. The remaining or "residual waste" of 58.2% or 728k/tones/year is going to a landfill in Michigan. The City is also regulated by the MOE on what and how it can deal with waste in the province, and the MOE is currently working on blending the regulations for these two components so that the same rules apply to both components.

The City has created a citizen led group to help look at the "residual waste" part of this and help the City conduct an



**Wayne Olson**  
B Arch, OAA, MRAIC  
Vice President

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individual environmental assessment (EA) on facilities to help manage this part of the garbage. The group is called Community Environment Assessment Team (CEAT). As of March 7, 2007 we have had two sets of public consultation, gaining input on the development of a plan or "terms of reference" on how the City will want to conduct the EA. The next step is bring the "draft" plan back to the citizens and let them have a look at the what, when, where, why, and how of we hope to conduct this EA. The draft plan has been available for viewing with a public consultation to gather feedback in April, 2007. From your feedback we will then provide a "proposed" plan to the Public Works and Infrastructure subcommittee and City Council in May/June 2007. With Council blessing we then will have to present the plan to the MOE for approval before we proceed so that we do not spend a lot of time and money on an exercise that does not provide a solution. If all the decision bodies hit their target dates we hope to start the EA in September, 2007.

There is still a lot of work to do, time pressures are mounting, the greater diversion that we can do as a City, the less "residual waste" we will have to deal with. The existing system of City garbage truck and contracted collection, along with mechanical separation and recycling, recovery, and composting are but a few of the necessary components. All are all part of the City's long-term residual waste system. The exploration of the possible addition of other components and technologies to this system in the safest and most cost effective way is what we shall work on in the EA, and bring back to you the options for your consideration and comment before we submit recommendations to the City. We hope to see you at the consultations. To find out more go to [www.toronto.ca/ceat](http://www.toronto.ca/ceat).

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## Lake Ontario Park

By Chris Blythe

Big changes are coming to our waterfront, as a capacity crowd discovered January 17 past.

The event, in an overflowing ballroom at Harbourfront's Radisson Admiral Hotel, was the official unveiling of the Lake Ontario Park concept plan, an ambitious project that encompasses all the waterfront parkland from Cherry Beach eastward to the Scarborough Bluffs – including Ashbridges' Bay Park, Woodbine Park, Pantry Park, Kew Gardens, the Eastern Beaches and even the R. C. Harris Water Filtration Plant.

Twice the size of New York's Central Park and stretching along 37 kilometres of shoreline, the 925 acre park, as currently conceived, boasts 14 km of paths and trails, 24 acres of "swamp forest," 60 acres of wetland, 140 acres of "recreational dunes", 2 km of new beachfront, a new water playground, and many, many other features. It proposes bringing several neglected waterfront areas into active parkland and is also expected to encourage redevelopment of some areas of the Portlands, Lower Riverdale, and Leslieville.

Several public bodies are involved in the project. Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC) is the master developer, but Toronto Region and Conservation Authority (TRCA) is playing a major role as design partner. The City of Toronto Parks and Recreation department, the Toronto Port Authority, various provincial bodies and Parks Canada are also all very active in the project.

As you can see in the enclosed, full-colour, concept plan – generously provided by the TWRC ([www.towaterfront.ca](http://www.towaterfront.ca)) – the project is far too large and detailed to cover here in its entirety. So let's concentrate on the section most effecting us.

### Eastern Beaches and Ashbridges' Bay

Our beloved Eastern Beaches currently work so well that very little change is planned as they become part of Lake Ontario Park. Some general upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities perhaps, but no major design initiatives.

And, we are told, the existing development plan for Tommy Thompson Park – the plan already finished and in place -- will remain as-is, seeing only minor changes to harmonize the 'look-and-feel' with the rest of Lake Ontario Park.

The Ashbridges' Bay area, on the other hand, sees huge change. In fact in this iteration of the plan it becomes a formal gateway to the park. The



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sailing facilities are extensively repositioned and expanded and a major re-engineering of the bay itself addresses the age-old raw sewage and odour problems, while reducing the need for regular, costly, dredging.

Clappison's Cut (the mouth of the bay) is finally bridged, opening the waterfront trail from Tommy Thompson Park to Woodbine Beach. Even a water's edge "performance bowl" and a rowing/canoeing channel are proposed.

Keep in mind though, this is simply an initial concept. Nothing is engraved in stone yet. It is simply an integrated initial look at what could be done. It's meant to generate comment and stimulate new ideas.

### Time Line

The design of Lake Ontario Park began just over a year ago, when Toronto hired New York-based international design firm 'Field Operations' ([www.fieldoperations.net](http://www.fieldoperations.net)) to bring several ongoing design projects into one massive park development.

As you can see by looking closely at the attached concept plan, much has been done in that year.

The next stage, currently in process, involves evaluating and integrating changes and new ideas into a 'Draft Master Plan,' which is expected to be presented at Public Meeting #3 late this summer or early autumn.

Comments and concerns from that process will then lead to the 'Final Master Plan', expected next year.

Note also that this is a 'phased' project. It will come together in several stages spread over many years. This early in the design process no one knows just how long,

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but we hear a ten to thirty year time-frame mentioned often during informal discussion.

### Concerns?

As planned, the concept has generated much comment. Most, we hear, is overwhelmingly supportive. But there are also concerns.

To date local sailing interests have been the loudest, voicing concerns regarding water access and security. Thus, yellow 'Outer Harbour Sailing Federation' T-shirts literally overran the January 17th workshop.

And our local councillors are very involved too. Local (Ward 32) Councillor Sandra Bussin calls the concept a "great plan" but points out that there are many complex issues that must be ironed out – especially in the Ashbridges' Bay portion, where several long-standing initiatives are already on the drawing board. These include – from a long list -- water treatment, recreational sailing and funding issues.

Councillor Paula Fletcher, whose ward encompasses the Western portion of the new park, has expressed concerns regarding tree removal, park character and its relationship to other greenbelt areas.

### Your BTRA

The BTRA is watching carefully too. One touch-point at present conjures up memories of the brewery sponsorship issues that surfaced as the new Woodbine Park was being completed. Two major beer

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