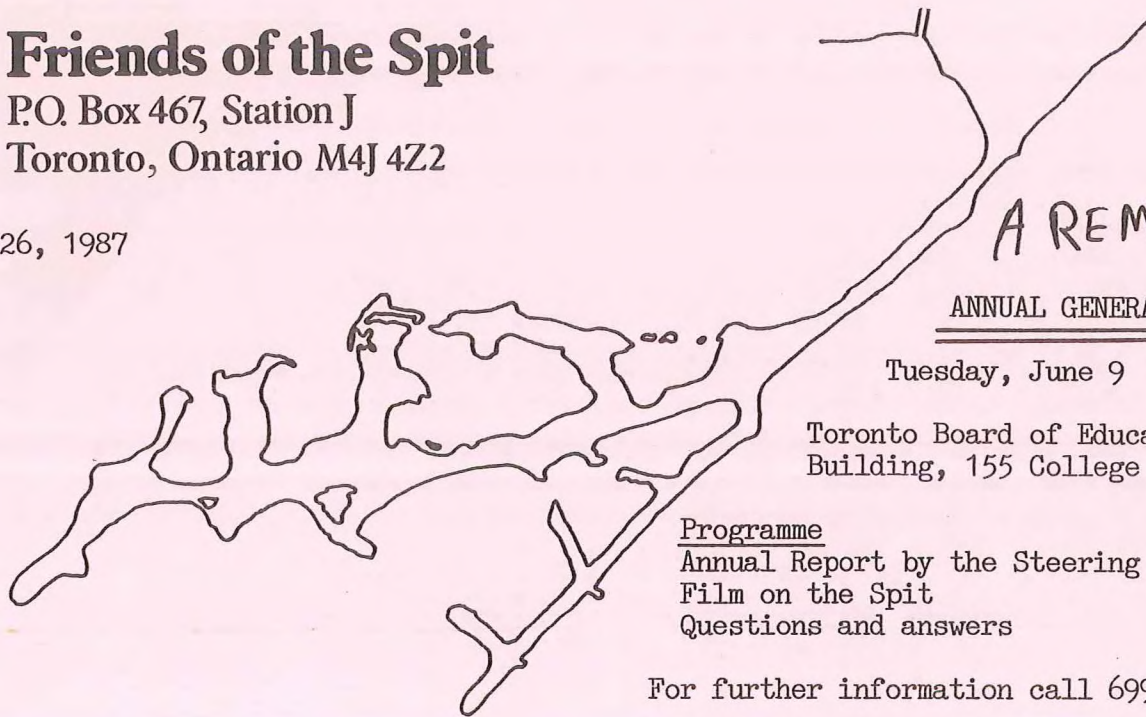


Friends of the Spit

P.O. Box 467, Station J

Toronto, Ontario M4J 4Z2

May 26, 1987



A REMINDER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 9 7:30 p.m.

Toronto Board of Education
Building, 155 College Street

Programme

Annual Report by the Steering Committee
Film on the Spit
Questions and answers

For further information call 699-6442.

LANDMARK CITY MEETING REKINDLES HOPE FOR SAVING THE SPIT!

The special meeting of the City of Toronto Land Use Committee held on May 6 (see last newsletter) concluded on a very hopeful note for Friends of the Spit and all those working towards keeping the Spit as a Public Urban Wilderness.

After hearing more than 25 deputations, the Committee adopted a series of motions that, if implemented, would contribute much towards preserving the Spit from development. These motions include:

1. Requesting a report on the Toronto Harbour Commission (THC) 1,200-boat marina now under construction and on the proposed City of Toronto policies for the Spit with a view of satisfying the naturalists and the sailing clubs in the area.

(This is a strong indication that the City of Toronto is starting to recognize the existence of a vast body of citizens wanting to keep the Spit as an undeveloped and unprivatized recreational and natural resource.)

2. Requesting a report on appropriate zoning designations to protect the Outer Harbour with regard to landfill and land use.

(The City of Toronto has the power, through zoning, of deciding which uses are permitted on a particular piece of land. For instance, Friends of the Spit asked the City to give the Spit a special zoning designation -- which we call PW, for Public Wilderness.)

3. Adopting a report on the Port Industrial District (the lands between Cherry Beach and the Spit) and a report recommending a comprehensive waterfront parks policy.

(These reports provide for most of the lands south of Unwin Avenue, between Cherry Beach and the Spit, to be kept as parkland including the possibility of allowing the community sailing clubs to remain at their present location.

This is a major step forward. Providing for the north shore sailing clubs to remain where they are within this proposed park -- which has been their expressed wish all along -- would relieve the pressure to accommodate them on the Spit.)

4. Requesting the City Solicitor to report on whether the City has the authority of applying zoning to the THC marina before the lakefilling process is completed.

(This could result in the City applying a zoning designation that prevents the marina from being built. However, there has to be the political will on the part of City Council to adopt this policy.

5. Requesting recommendations on vehicular access and parking on the Spit, in the context of developing a comprehensive park plan for the Central Waterfront.

(This is another very important step. It signals the City's intentions to look at the waterfront, including the Spit, in a comprehensive manner.)

Issue Far from Being Resolved

Things are certainly looking up and we can be cautiously optimistic about the future of the Spit as a Public Urban Wilderness. But the issue is far from being resolved. Implementation of the motions made at the Land Use Committee will meet with strong opposition from several quarters, including the MTRCA, the THC, certain members of City Council and the Ontario Sailing Federation that will continue its efforts to place marinas on the Spit.

We Need Your Help

IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL.

WRITE (or phone) THE MAYOR AND YOUR ALDERMEN to say that you support the plan for a park south of Unwin Avenue from Cherry Beach to the Spit that will accommodate community sailing clubs, that you want to see the entire Spit zoned car-free with no development and that you are against the THC marina in the Outer Harbour. The address is City Hall, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2. (If you are not a resident of Toronto, you can still make your views known to the Mayor, as a user of a recreational amenity within the City.)



T-SHIRTS

We are offering Friends of the Spit T-shirts for sale. The design selected is illustrated here.

It will be reproduced on good-quality material. To order, send a cheque or money order payable to Friends of the Spit for \$10.00 per T-shirt with your name, address and size (S, M, L or XL) to our P.O. Box. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

Wearing a "Let It Be T-shirts is a good way to carry our message in the community.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you to the many Friends who renewed their membership for 1987. If according to our records you have not renewed, you will find a form with this newsletter. We would appreciate receiving your renewal and thank you in advance.