

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK

THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Vol. 3 No. 2

April 15, 1988

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gull Control Program: March 28 - July 8
Van Service: April 30 - May 29
Interpretive Program: June 4 - September 5

Water and Related Land Management Advisory
Board Meetings: April 15
May 13
June 24

Full Authority Meetings:
May 6
June 17
July 29

GULL CONTROL PROGRAM

The 1988 Gull Control Program at Tommy Thompson Park began on March 28, 1988. This year's program was contracted out to Bird Control International (formerly U.W. Enterprises and Pestco). Discouragement will occur in the following areas during the week:

- (1) The Endikement;
- (2) The areas south of the main road;
- (3) Peninsula D.

As in the past, the discouragement techniques will include a combination of falconry, pyrotechnical devices, and mock gulls to prevent the gulls from nesting and/or loafing in the control areas.

During the peak egg laying periods, discouragement may take place on weekends, however, the program will not interfere with the public's use of the park. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

1988 TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

A van shuttle service will be operating at Tommy Thompson Park on weekends and holidays starting on Saturday, April 30, 1988, and running until Sunday, May 29, 1988. During the months of June, July and August the TTC bus service will be operating. The van service will resume on Saturday, September 10, 1988 and run until Monday, October 10, 1988.

This year's system will consist of two multi-seating vans, operating on half hour runs. The vans will once again operate from the Leslie Street/Unwin Avenue parking lot and can be boarded anywhere along the park route.

Due to the condition of the access road between the Endikement and Hardpoint 5, and to reduce the impacts on the Tern colonies located on the Endikement, this year's van and bus route will run from the main gate to the pedestrian bridge.

1988 INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

The 1988 Tommy Thompson Park Interpretive Programs will be offered on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays starting June 4, 1988. The general program will once again cover topics ranging from park development and history to ecological succession, birdlife, mammals, herptiles, fish and botany. The program will consist of guided hikes, bicycle tours and bus tours.

Special theme hikes and nature viewing stations will be offered along with the general program.

Further details on program scheduling and activity starting locations will be outlined in the next Newsletter and posted on the park's Informaion Board. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this year's program, please contact SCOTT JARVIE at 661-6600.

DREDGEATE ACCESS CHANNEL UPDATE

Dredging operations in the Keating Channel are now underway for this season. As in previous years most of the work will be undertaken during the week and will not interfere with the public's use of the park, however, some weekend dredging may be required. In this case, the Toronto Harbour Commissioners have been requested to maintain pedestrian use of the bridge during these operations.

This dredging project is expected to continue to the end of 1991, after which maintenance dredging will be undertaken on an annual basis.

NO ACCESS TO THE ENDIKEMENT

With the creation of the construction road between the Endikement and Hardpoint 5, access to this area has been greatly increased.

Please remember that this area and the Endikement is not part of Tommy Thompson Park and is restricted. The boundary of this area has been clearly posted as "No Trespassing" and your efforts to keep other pedestrians and cyclists out of this area will be appreciated.

NATURE CORNER

Tern Management Program

One of the most significant aspects of the park is the unique habitat(s) it offers for a variety of bird species and in particular, breeding colonies of terns, gulls and herons. These colonies represent an important scientific and educational feature in Toronto, the Region and the Province.

Unfortunately, the tern populations have been declining. In order to enhance their populations, the MTRCA, in consultation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, developed a set of tern management options. The report was then submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Natural Area Advisory Committee for comment. The final management program is to be implemented this Spring.

The management program will include delineation of the colonies and signage to restrict access, reduction of pressure by the Ring-billed Gull colonies, an experimental tern nesting raft and a program of patrol and enforcement to prevent access and impacts on the colonies.

The program's success depends largely on the public's cooperation and efforts to prevent disturbance in and around the colonies. Any assistance in preventing access to the colonies will be greatly appreciated.