

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK

THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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NEWSLETTER

June 23, 1989

Announcements

Just a reminder to all cyclists to be aware of the speed bumps located along the main road near the entrance to the park. Although attempts are made to maintain the visibility of these structures, please reduce speed and exercise caution in these areas.

Tommy Thompson Park will be open to the public on Monday July 3, for Canada Day.

A.P.S.C. Identification

In order to reduce the number of unauthorized vehicles entering the park during the weekly periods of construction, the Toronto Harbour Commissioners have been requested to ask for A.P.S.C. membership cards and refuse access to anyone without identification or proper authorization.

This notice is to remind all A.P.S.C. members to carry their cards as proof of membership when entering the site. Any member without this identification may be refused access. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Interpretive Program

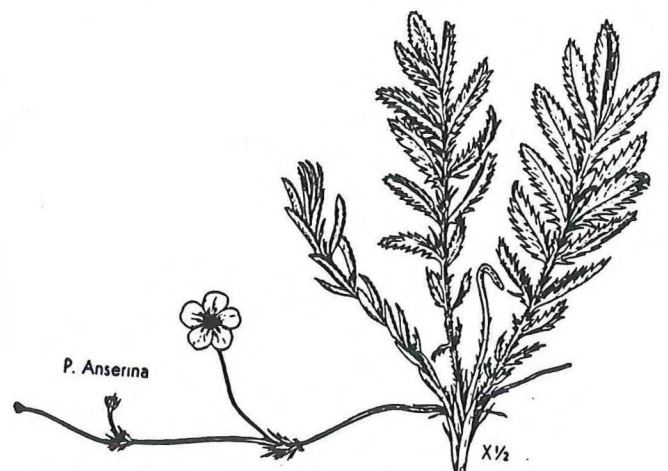
The following is a schedule of the summer theme hikes offered at Tommy Thompson Park as part of the Interpretive Program. The various hikes are scheduled on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays until September 3.

General interest walks are scheduled on Saturdays at 1:10 pm, and Sundays and Holidays at 10:10 am. Theme hikes are offered on Sundays and Holidays at 1:10 pm only.

To participate in any of these activities, take the bus into the park or meet the interpreter at the bus turnaround at the designated time. Check the park bulletin board for further information or contact 661-6600.

Theme Hikes:

July 2 & 3	- Wildflowers
July 9	- Wildlife Management
July 16	- Herpetiles
July 23	- ESA's (Environmentally Significant Areas)
July 30	- Nature Photography
August 6 & 7	- Urban Mammals
August 13	- Wildflowers
August 20	- Artificial Ecosystems
August 27	- History & Planning of the Spit
September 3 & 4	- Birds and Birdwatching



E.A. Document Update

The Master Plan and Environmental Assessment Document is now complete and will be submitted by the end of June to the Minister of the Environment for approval. The Environmental Assessment Branch will coordinate the government agency review in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act. Following the completion of the review, the government review report will be available for public review and comment.

Copies of the Tommy Thompson Park Environmental Assessment Summary document will be available as of July 17, 1989 at the MTRCA head office.

Disposal Cell Capping

As part of the Authority's Keating Channel Environmental approval, disposal Cell 1 must be capped no later than December 31, 1992. The degree of sediment contamination existing within Cell 1 will determine the eventual capping technique. Sediment analysis has not shown serious levels of contamination relative to Ministry of the Environment guidelines. More studies and analysis are in progress.

In this regard, Authority staff have recently undertaken a small pilot study to assess the uptake of contaminants by typical marsh plants in Cell 1 under existing conditions. In the extreme Southwest corner of the Cell, a small island was created by using existing sediments to gradually build up the land surface. A shallow shelf was also created to mimic the nearshore zones of typical marshlands.

Several species of native marsh plants including; Cattail, Marsh Marigold, Arrowhead, Soft Rush and Pickerel Rush, were planted in mid-June. Their growth will

be monitored throughout the summer and fall.

Numbered wooden stakes were placed behind each plant to aid in maintaining accurate records of growth and chickenwire fencing was installed around all plantings as a precaution against disturbance by carp.

For further information on this project, please contact Rick Hubbard or Larry Field at the MTRCA head office, 661-6600.

Nature Corner

Dead Fish... Polluted Water?

Each year at this time, park staff receive a number of questions from the public regarding the large number of small dead fish along the shore at the Toronto Waterfront. In most cases there is a concern that this occurrence is an indication of pollution levels in the lake. Fortunately, this is not the case.

These fish are Alewives, a small herring-like fish which inhabit the open lake for most of the year and move into the shallows and bays to spawn. The annual "mass die-offs" that occur are considered to be the result of the fish's inability to rapidly adapt to rising or falling water temperatures. These temperature fluctuations are the result of the spring mixing of deep cold waters and shallow warm waters by prevailing winds.

Apart from being unsightly at certain times of year, the fish are an important component in the ecology of many large fish species including Salmon and Trout. The small fish are also an important source of food for the colonial bird species at the park and are consumed by gulls, terns and herons.

