

# TOMMY THOMPSON PARK

THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tommy Thompson Park Concept Plan  
Dredgeate Access Channel Update  
Proposed Repairs to APSC Shoreline  
Tommy Thompson Park 1986 Park User Survey  
Lakefill Quality Study

### TOMMY THOMPSON PARK CONCEPT PLAN

On January 23, 1987, Phase III (Concept Plan Development) of the Tommy Thompson Park Planning Process was completed with the following resolution adopted by the Full Authority:

Res. #197

THAT (1) The recommended concept plan, as presented by Authority staff for Tommy Thompson Park and appended as schedule "C" of the minutes, be approved;

(2) Staff be directed to proceed with Phase III - Concept Plan Report as outlined by the Tommy Thompson Park Planning Process;

(3) An advisory committee be established, with representation from the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Canadian Wildlife Service, local universities, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Toronto Ornithological Club, the Friends of the Spit, and related groups, to prepare detailed implementation recommendations for the natural resource area;

(4) The letter, dated January 20, 1987, from the Toronto Harbour Commissioners, on the issue of long-term tenure for the community sailing clubs on the north shore and/or on the north shore of the T.H.C. marina spit of the Outer Harbour, be received for information.

### Amendment Res. #198

THAT Item 1, Clause (3) of Report #6/86 of the Water and Related Land Management Advisory Board, be amended to add the words "with itemized budget estimates attached".

### Sub-Amendment Res. #199

THAT Item 1 of Report #6/86 of the Water and Related Land Management Advisory Board be amended by the addition of Clause (5) reading "That the pedestrian and bicycle paths be separated".

The Authority has initiated the preparations of a Master Plan Report in accordance with the approved Concept Plan. Submission of the Master Plan to the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and Ministry of Natural Resources for approval is planned for summer - 1987.

### DREDGEATE ACCESS CHANNEL UPDATE

Improvements to the Embayment C entrance channel were started in December 1986. Dredging, which is 50% complete has been delayed temporarily by ice formation. Dredging and jetty construction, which includes the positioning of the Bluebell Hull, should be completed by March 31, 1987.

The contract for the cut through the headlands and construction of a floating pedestrian bridge and silt curtain has been awarded to Canadian Dredge and Dock Co. Ltd. Construction starting in February, 1987, should be completed by July 15, 1987.

The Toronto Harbour Commission is proceeding to narrow the existing entrance to Cell 3 to a minimum width. Cell 3 will be closed quickly following the installation of the floating pedestrian bridge and silt curtain in the new entrance channel.

#### PROPOSED REPAIRS TO THE AQUATIC PARK SAILING CLUB

The Aquatic Park Sailing Club has requested permission to carry out erosion repair work to the shoreline in the vicinity of the clubhouse. The work would include minor filling, grading and rip-rap. Authority staff will be involved in the design and supervision of this work which is expected to commence in the spring 1987.

#### TOMMY THOMPSON PARK 1986 PARK USER SURVEY

The MTRCA would like to thank the many Park Users who took the time to complete the 1986 questionnaire. Information gathered from these surveys is used in developing the Interim Management Program.

In 1986, individuals from as far away as Sweden, Germany and New Zealand visited Tommy Thompson Park. Over 85% of the visitors were from Metropolitan Toronto.

Many singles, couples, small family groups and clubs ventured out to Tommy Thompson Park to enjoy activities such as cycling, jogging, sailing and nature viewing. People of all ages, from under 5 to over 65, visited Tommy Thompson Park. The average length of stay was 2-4 hours.

Individuals and groups from various organizations were attracted to the Park in 1986. Visitors included members from the Toronto Field Naturalists, Federation

of Ontario Naturalists, Friends of the Spit, Bruce Trail Association, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Toronto Ornithologists, Montreal Field Naturalists, and Southern California Audubon Society and sailing clubs.

Authority staff will be asking for your assistance once again, with the 1987 Park User Survey. These questionnaires provide the MTRCA with valuable information. Your cooperation in completing a Tommy Thompson Park visitor survey is greatly appreciated.

#### LAKEFILL QUALITY STUDY

The Ministry of the Environment will be undertaking a Lakefill Quality Study in the Park during February and March, 1987. Objectives of the study are to characterize the quality of the fill deposited at the Spit from 1963-1986 and the fill currently being dumped. Boreholes and sample collection sites will be located throughout the headlands. Work on this study will be limited to weekdays. Authority staff will be involved in the selection and monitoring of test hole sites.

#### NATURE CORNER

During the winter months, Northern Shrikes may be seen perched in the tree tops of Tommy Thompson Park. The open areas with scattered trees provide ideal winter habitat for the Shrike. In the summer, these birds prefer to nest in the dense conifers found in open woodlands and swamps. The Shrike, a robin-sized bird, is gray above, white below, and has black wings, tail and mask. Its flight is rapid and direct. Unlike most songbirds, the Northern Shrike preys on small birds and rodents which are caught with the bill. Prey are often impaled on thorns or barbs where they can be easily torn apart or stored. Rodent skeletons occasionally found hanging from thorns indicate the presence of a Shrike.