



Humber Bay for All
websa.toronto@gmail.com
1491 Lake Shore Blvd W
Toronto, ON M6K 3C2

Executive Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: EX34.10 - Update on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization

Dear Executive Committee,

Humber Bay for All, a sub-committee of the West End Beaches Stakeholder Association (WEBSA), would like to thank the Executive Committee Members, Chair, and City Staff for including the Western Beaches, along the Humber Bay, in the next phase of the City's Waterfront Revitalization.

Since forming in 2005, WEBSA's members have advocated for Toronto's Western Beaches. We look forward to seeing greater accessibility and improvements to public amenities, transportation, infrastructure, and open green space along the waterfront in our community. The Western Beaches waterfront has been a destination for Torontonians and visitors alike; since its heyday in the early twentieth century. However, the construction of the Gardiner Expressway in the 1950s fractured the beach from the local community, impeding the usership of the waterfront.

The recent 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan has addressed the connectivity issues along the Western Beaches, yet, it has not prioritized a resilient shoreline strategy. Minor projects and upgrades have been made along the Humber Bay. However, large-scale projects like the replacement of the breakwater that protect the shoreline have stagnated.

A resilient shoreline strategy is essential to the protection and promotion of recreation and naturalization in Toronto's west end and the broader city. It is critical that the next phase of the Waterfront Revitalization includes and prioritizes a resilience shoreline strategy for the Western Beaches. In addition to taking a long look at the breakwater and its current condition as part of the *Western Waterfront Master Plan* update.

As waterfront users, WEBSA members see the need every day for a revitalization of the Western Waterfront. During the 2017 and 2019 high water episodes, Lake Ontario, the Humber Bay, and the Western Beaches experienced the impact of larger waves that further eroded the shoreline and threatened the already vulnerable breakwater infrastructure. It is clear that the effects of climate change are omnipresent with higher summer temperatures, flooding and infrastructure damage due to rising water levels as well as greater frequency and intensity of storms. Yet, the Western Beaches have become a magnet for non-motorized watercraft, kid instructional camps, cold water swimmers and outdoor enthusiasts. All of whom deserve a safe and accessible recreational environment that an enhanced breakwater structure would afford.

Humber Bay for All believes that the Western Beaches can return to their former glory as a gateway and destination site for residents and visitors alike in the City of Toronto. However, as the 3.5km of the 1912 breakwater that protects the Humber Bay shoreline rapidly deteriorates, the health and safety of waterfront users are put at risk. The flooding, congestion, and contamination of Western Beaches not only impact WEBSA's use of the Western Beaches but the whole community's use of the area.

The Western Beaches need a resilient shoreline strategy. Which is why *Humber Bay for All* supports the creation of a Wider Waterfront Coordination Table as part of the next phase of the Waterfront Revitalization. We hope that the table focuses on setting priorities outside of the central waterfront, especially along the Western Beaches. In addition to focusing on creating a resilient shoreline strategy that will advance projects along the Western Beaches so that they are shovel-ready.

Humber Bay for All recommends that the Wider Waterfront Coordination Table prioritizes the advancement of required studies needed to ensure that a resilient shoreline is in place prior to infrastructure upgrades. The *Western Waterfront Master Plan* outlines in its Phase Two Medium Term Implementation timeline that the breakwater be replaced. We feel that the breakwater project should take precedence so that infrastructure upgrade transportation, parks, and trail infrastructure are appropriately protected.

We feel that advancement of appropriate studies like a feasibility study or environmental assessment by the Wider Waterfront Coordination Table will allow large-scale projects like the breakwater replacement proposal to enter the design phase of the public process. The completion of appropriate studies will allow the City and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to seek out the funding necessary to implement and advance the projects from the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Advancing *Humber Bay for All's Humber Bay Naturalization and Recreation Plan* and the City's *Western Waterfront Master Plan*, also speaks to Toronto's existing Strategies, Policies, Plans, and Reports. In addition to this, the Ontario Place redevelopment project could provide an opportunity for cost-saving inter-jurisdictional synergies. That would allow the City, Province, and Federal governments to integrate the ideas of the *Humber Bay Naturalization and Recreation Plan* and the *Western Waterfront Master Plan's* shoreline resilience strategy into the Ontario Place western island redevelopment proposal.

The synergies of having these two projects come online at the same time would allow for cost savings that would benefit the whole community. The Metrolinx Ontario Line Project could also provide another cost-saving synergy between jurisdictions. Fill from the project could be used for the *Humber Bay Naturalization and Recreation Plan's* proposed habitat islands and the other environmental landform elements that are comparable to the Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area in Mississauga for example.

The existing condition of the Western Beaches breakwater must be addressed and the creation of the Wider Waterfront Coordination Table represents an incredible opportunity for this to happen. We believe that a sufficient breakwater structure can contribute to the protection of the environment, combat siltation, create habitat for wildlife, help diffuse the

Humber plume and high e.coli levels in the water, and support the city's 40% tree canopy goal by providing proper shoreline protection.

In addition to this, the City of Toronto has an opportunity to celebrate our connection with the water and our connection with the natural world along the Western Beaches and at the mouth of the Humber River. The COVID-19 pandemic was a nation wide reminder that vitality, physical activity and wellness are all integral components of mental health. The public want for greenspace and connections with the natural world has never been higher.

The pandemic was a reminder to people in Toronto of the value of parks for year-round recreation, and that our waterfront is an extremely special resource for those residents across the city that don't have a backyard or the luxury of a cottage.

The Western Beaches are connected to the Carrying Place Trail, a significant Indigenous Heritage site. Therefore, a resilient shoreline strategy and updates to the 2009 *Western Waterfront Master Plan* must include Indigenous engagement and should advance the City of Toronto Reconciliation Action Plan for 2022-2032.

The need for a resilient Western Waterfront shoreline has not changed in over 100 years. We hope that you agree with us that the Western Waterfront is a significant public asset that needs an enhancement as part of Toronto's Waterfront Revitalization. We look forward to working with the City of Toronto to modernize the *Western Waterfront Master Plan* and are excited to see what solutions can be found to protect the Western Beaches and greatly enhance our community for all.

Thank you again to the Chair and Executive Committee Members for your time today.

Charles Rishor, Chair
Marienka Bishop-Kovac, Project Coordinator
Humber Bay for All

Humber Bay for All Deputation to the ***Executive Committee***

Agenda Item: EX34.10 - Update on
the Next Phase of Waterfront
Revitalization

July 12th, 2022



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT



The Humber Bay for All would like to acknowledge that the Western Beaches are located within the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Humber River watershed historically provided an integral connection for Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat peoples between the Ontario Lakeshore and the Lake Simcoe/Georgian Bay regions. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. Toronto continues to provide a vital source of interconnection for all (Humber College Indigenous Education & Engagement, 2021 & City of Toronto, 2021).

Refined through engagement

WHO WE ARE



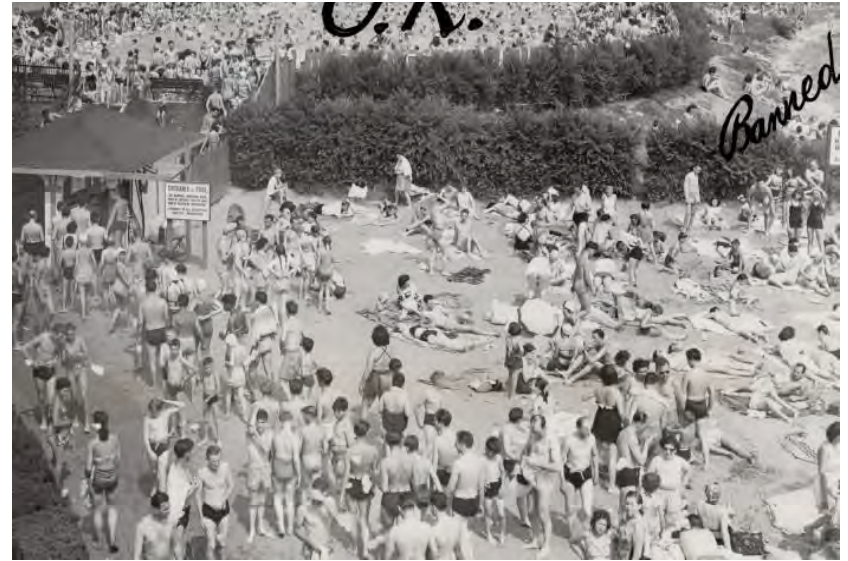
- **West End Beaches Stakeholders Association (WEBSA)** was formed in 2005.
- **Humber Bay For All** is a sub-committee of WEBSA.
- The catalyst for the **Humber Bay For All (HBFA)** Vision was a 2014 meeting with the TRCA.
- HBFA seeks to work with community members to entice the City of Toronto to reconstruct the breakwater that protects the Humber Bay shoreline.



SUNNYSIDE BATHING PAVILION AND AMUSEMENT PARK



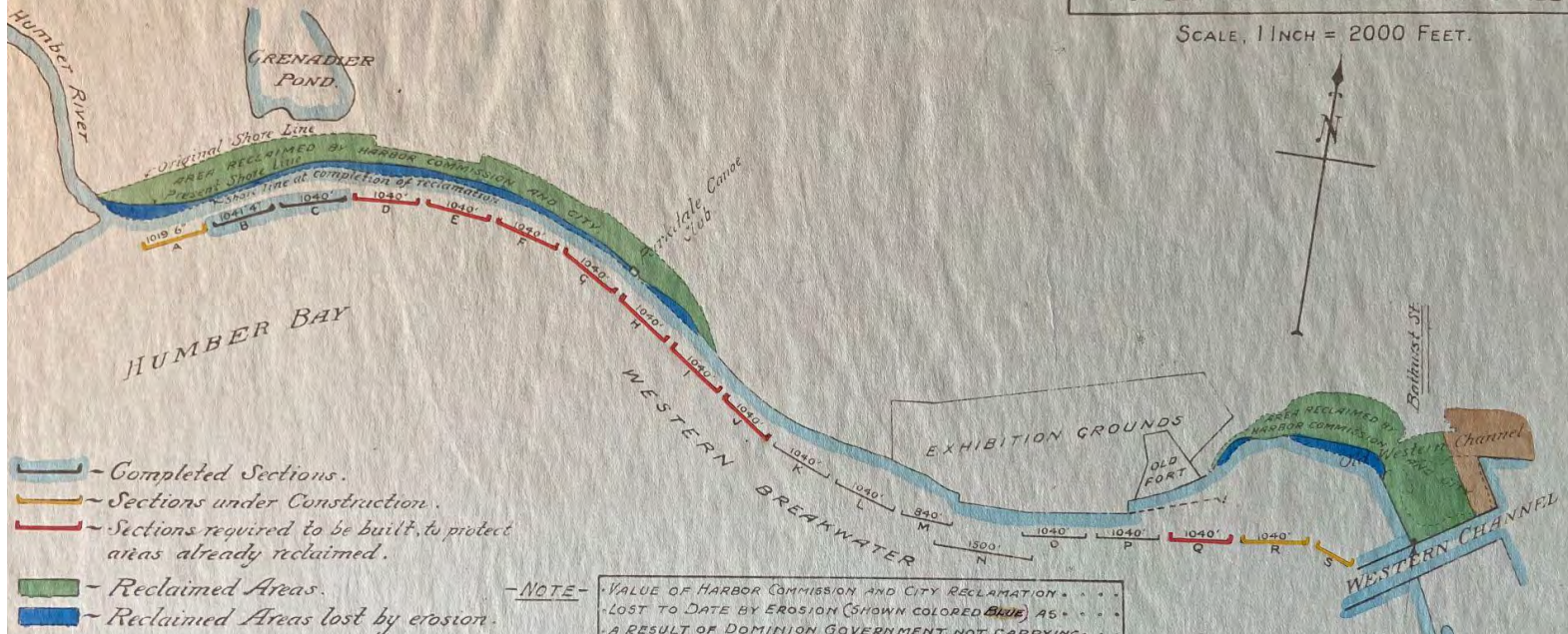
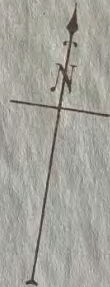
Toronto Star Archives, 1924



Toronto Star Archives, 1943

WESTERN SECTION DEVELOPMENT. HUMBER RIVER TO BATHURST STREET.

SCALE, 1 INCH = 2000 FEET.



- Completed Sections.
- Sections under Construction.
- Sections required to be built, to protect areas already reclaimed.
- Reclaimed Areas.
- Reclaimed Areas lost by erosion.

-NOTE-
 VALUE OF HARBOR COMMISSION AND CITY RECLAMATION
 LOST TO DATE BY EROSION (SHOWN COLORED blue) AS
 A RESULT OF DOMINION GOVERNMENT NOT CARRYING
 OUT THEIR AGREEMENT TO BUILD WESTERN BREAKWATER
 EXCEEDS \$ 150,000.00

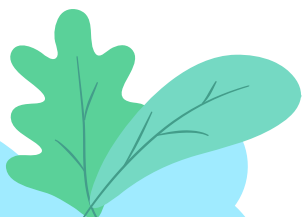
NEW LIFE-SAVING STATION
 UNDER CONSTRUCTION
 ABSOLUTELY UNPROTECTED

LAKE ONTARIO

— TORONTO HARBOR COMMISSIONERS —

Spencer
 Chief Engineer & Manager

THE 2009 WESTERN WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN



WATERFRONT FLOODING



Walter Kehm, 2017

WESTERN BEACHES PARKLAND

Over **0.96 sq km** of
Open Green Space





Charles Rishor, 2021

TIMELINE OF THE SITE



1912-1917



The breakwater is constructed as part of the newly formed Toronto Harbour Commission & the federal Department of Public Works

1979-Present



Portions of the breakwater begin to break and deteriorate over the next few decades

2009



The Western Waterfront Master Plan is implemented

2017 & 2019



The lakeshore experiences major flooding from higher than normal lake water levels

2020

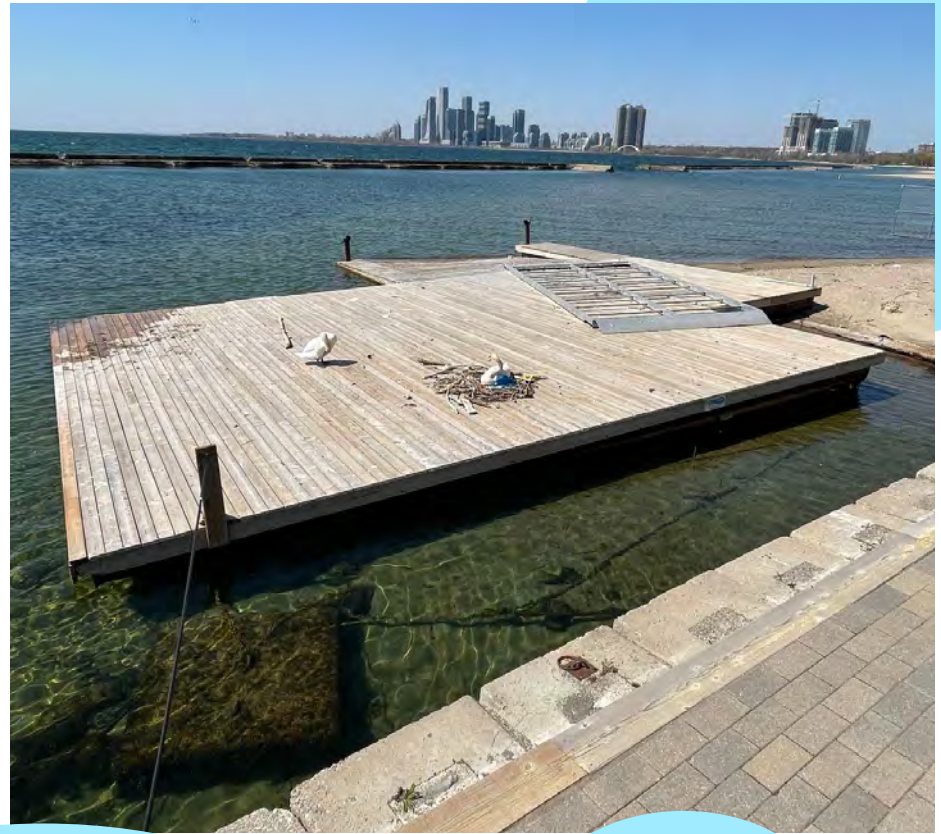
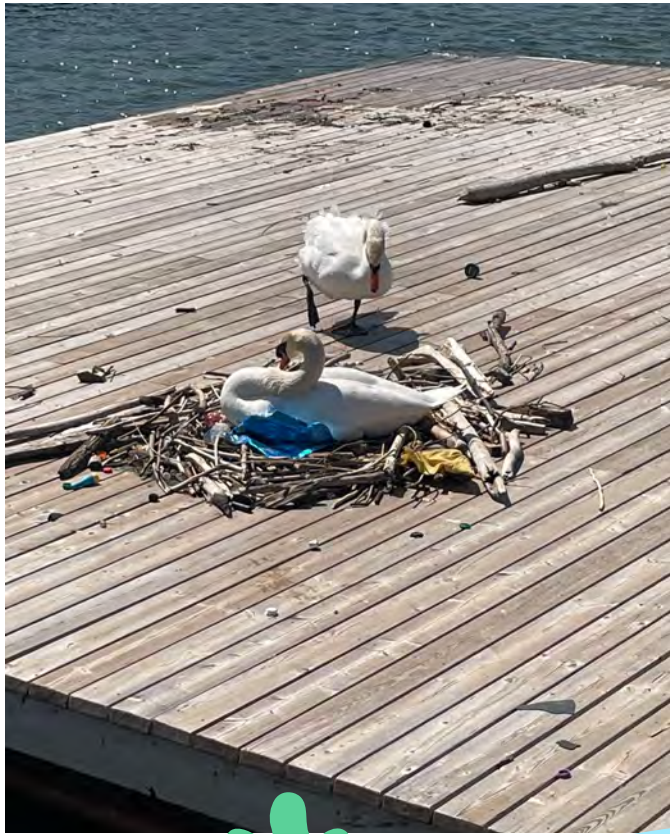


COVID-19 pandemic leads to the increased use of the western beaches

2022



The Western Waterfront Master Plans undergoes revisions



Charles Rishor, 2021

Inadvertent lake filling is hampering water circulation behind the breakwall which is harming aquatic and avian habitats, and access along the Western Beaches



Walter Kehm, 2021



Charles Rishor, 2021



Charles Rishor, 2021



Charles Rishor, 2021

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETINGS



- Nancy Gaffney, John Mackenzie, Anil Wijesooriya from the TRCA
- Tom Davidson, Executive Assistant To Councillor
- Lara O'Donnell & Gabriella Silano, Weston Foundation
- Councillor Gord Perks
- Bhutila Karpoche, MPP
- Arif Virani, MP
- Wayne Reeves, Former Chief curator of Museums and Heritage Services, City of Toronto
- 416 Caucus
- Chief R. Stacey Laforme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Sunnyside Community Association Members
- Waterfront For All Members



THANK YOU

CONTACT *HUMBER BAY FOR ALL* AT
WEBSA.TORONTO@GMAIL.COM

