



West End Beaches Stakeholders Association
1225 Lakeshore Boulevard West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M6K 3C1

WEBSA address to Executive Committee - September 26, 2017

I am a volunteer from the West End Beaches Stakeholders Association (or WEBSA) which represents four clubs and up to 5,000 recreational flat water users on the western beaches. WEBSA has been in operation since 2005 but three of the four clubs that make up WEBSA, the Argonaut Rowing Club, the Boulevard Club, the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club, and the Sunnyside Paddling Club--have been in that location sailing, paddling and rowing for almost a century. WEBSA was established 12 years ago to promote and protect the West End Beaches area in Toronto for multiple flat-water sports and recreational use.

In 2005, \$23 million was spent on a 600 M breakwall for the 2006 Club Crew World Dragonboat Championships. In 2009, Council approved the Western Beaches Master Plan, where use of the 4.4 km waterway from Ontario Place to the Humber River be primarily flat-water, an area that provides protected water for the quiet enjoyment of thousands of recreational users annually.

In advance of the 2015 Pan and Para Pan Am Games, that we welcomed, we learned that water ski, wakeboard and other events were to be held in the West Channel. We offered our advice on the design of the venue, based on our knowledge of the site. We were advised after the fact, that there was an intention to establish a legacy for water ski on that site.

I'm not sure I need to tell you, that there is incompatibility between high-speed motor boats travelling at 40 km an hour, towing a water skier and someone in a canoe or racing shell.

Nevertheless, once we understood from City staff that there needed to be some legacy, we accepted this, and worked with the representatives of the city and the water ski association to arrive at an agreed maximum number of days for motorized competition on this site.

In July 2014 Council voted 38 to 0 for a motion that there be no more than 10 days of motorized competition annually, commencing 2016. The summer of 2016 was a bit of a disaster, as an 80 M dock was installed just east of the Ontario Place Gap obstructing free flow of flat-water traffic to Ontario Place, and not removed for 39 days, despite repeated requests. Motorized events took place for the 18 days of the CNE. Details are provided in an attachment to these notes.

We got agreement in the fall of 2016 that there would be consultation with WEBSA, before next summer. WEBSA met with the CNE in November 2016 and clearly described the 10-day maximum of the Council Resolution.

In January 2017, the CNE began negotiating an agreement with the City that would bypass the 10-day restriction.

In late July 2017, when the CNE was formally advised of the Council resolution, their response was that if the City enforced the 10 day maximum, the City would be liable for the costs of cancelling various high performance competitions scheduled during the CNE. Faced with this prospect, the Acting City Manager overruled the 2014 Council resolution and granted the CNE the exception on a one-time basis.

Over 5,000 users are on the course over a week. In addition to the club members, countless others launch stand-up paddle boards, kayaks, outrigger canoes and other flat-water vessels daily. Summer camps are run there, teaching youngsters how to row, paddle and sail. People with disabilities are freed from the strictures of their disability by being able to get safely onto the water in a sailboat, a rowing boat, a canoe or Dragon boat.

The 2006 government expenditures of \$23 M for a flat-water sports venue, the 2009 Western Beaches Master Plan and the 2014 Council resolution, all support flat-water use of the whole watercourse, including the West Channel. But here we are again facing yet another challenge from the CNE to exempt their operations from the 10-day maximum.

The CNE has been very supportive of us while they continue to press for their 22 days of motorized use. Our only argument is that that's too much, that's twice more than was agreed to, and it is inconsistent with long-term planning for the site. We seek Executive Committee support in enforcing the 2014 Council resolution.

Thank you.

Judy Sutcliffe
Secretary
West End Beaches Stakeholders Association
E: secretary@argonautrowingclub.com
T: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]

Attachment: Timeline 2011 - 2017

WEBSA Timeline - 2011 - 2017 - West Channel

Date	Attachment Number	Event & outcome
December 8, 2011		WEBSA meeting - Paul Roberts (Water Ski Wakeboard Ontario-WSWO) advised WEBSA members (Argonaut Rowing Club - ARC, Boulevard club - BC, Sunnyside Paddling Club - SPC, Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club - TS&CC) that the Water Ski event for the Pan Am Games will be hosted in the West Channel from Ontario Place Corporation (OPC), and that a permanent water ski facility will be established on that site after the Games. Designs were promised, but not shared.
April 20, 2012	#1	ARC writes to Jim Hart (GM, Parks, Forestry and Recreation-PFR) and Bob O'Doherty, Senior Vice President, Sports & Venues, TO2015 Pan/ParaPan Am Games, seeking opportunity to be consulted about the design of the venue for Water Ski events, and seeking clarification on plans for consultation, exclusive use, repair of the gap, wave dampening, course ownership/management and construction period.
April 25, 2012	#2	Reply from Mr. Jim Hart: this is premature as nothing has been confirmed yet.
October 25, 2012		Paul Roberts (WSWO) advises a WEBSA meeting that the City plans to replace 600 M of shore line in the West Channel, as state of good repair. Paul describes his desire to have the shore replaced with riprap revetment, which will reduce wave action. At this point, Water Ski is not on the program of the Pan Am Games.
February 8, 2013		Pan American Sport Organization (PASO) votes to include Water Ski in the 2015 Pan Am Games to be held in Toronto
February 13, 2013		Water Ski Wakeboard Canada CEO assures Rowing Canada Aviron's (RCA) CEO in a phone call that local rowing stakeholders will be consulted on the design of any watercourse for water ski events at the 2015 Pan Am Games
February 21, 2013	#3	ARC writes again to Mr. Jim Hart seeking further information on a construction project in the West channel, for which there has been no consultation.
March 6, 2013	#4	Email from Catherine Meade, Director, Capital Projects and Legacy, 2015 Pan/ParaPan Am Games Office, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to ARC with attachments showing extent of sea wall replacement
March 18, 2013	#5	Email from WEBSA to Catherine Meade seeking consultation on any projects affecting the West End Beaches waterway (from Ontario Place to Humber River)
April 23, 2013		City staff Catherine Meade, Peter Diadano and Bob Duguid met with three ARC members to review plans for timing of repairs to the shore wall, to ensure that the waterway remained open for flatwater users. ARC requested that WEBSA be notified as soon as TO 2015 made the request to the City to host the water ski events in the West Channel.
May 29, 2013		WEBSA Meeting was attended by Catherine Meade, Peter Diadano and Bob Duguid (City) and Cally Ashby (TO 2015). City staff described in more detail the plans for replacing the vertical shore wall with revetment, the timing of their work, and plans to go to Executive Committee and Council with proposals for funding support to TO 2015. TO 2015 staff described their plans for hosting Water ski and Open Water Swim events in the West Channel, and proposed plans for modification to the breakwall in the West Channel. WEBSA advised against building only to the height of the existing breakwall, over which waves can crash during stormy weather, and the need to replace the deflector arm.

Date	Attachment Number	Event & outcome
June 18, 2013		City staff report concerning the West Channel proposal (for Executive Committee on July 3, 2013) is shared with WEBSA.
July 2, 2013	#6	WEBSA writes to Mayor and Executive Committee expressing conditional support for West Channel proposal, and concern about proposed legacy of motorized use of the flat-water course, inconsistent with the 2009 Western Beaches Masterplan.
July 3, 2013		Executive Committee approved the West Channel proposal. Councillor Shiner moved a motion for PFR to report at the November 2013 Parks & Environment Committee meeting on the legacy use of the West Channel after the TO 2015 Games. City staff (C. Meade) commits to consult with WEBSA in formulating this report. 2013.EX33.14 - West Channel 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Venue Proposal http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX33.14
September 18, 2013		WEBSA meeting attended by City (C. Meade, P. Didiano) and TO 2015 (S. Iskandar, A. Bradley). C. Meade asked that a small group of users meet to discuss ways that waterski competitions (not training or daily use) could be integrated into existing use.
October 29, 2013		Meeting of flatwater users (ARC, SPC), WSWO, and city staff (C. Meade) agree to no more than 10 days annually for towed waterski/wakeboard events. C Meade agrees this will be confirmed in a Staff Report for consideration by Council.
December 10, 2013		Staff Report for the Parks & Environment Committee Information only, permitting hosting approximately two elite level motorboat-towed waterski wakeboard (WSW) competitions per year totalling a maximum of 10 days, beginning in the 2016 season. The report notes: <i>"All WSW events, annual or special, would occur mid-day, between 10 am to 5 pm, and will allow the flat-water sport participants access to the site during their core training times in the mornings and/or evenings."</i> http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-67366.pdf
January 15, 2014	#7	Email from WEBSA to City Clerk expressing concern with the Staff Report and stating that WEBSA cannot support an ongoing legacy of conflicting use on a flatwater course.
March 26, 2014		West Channel Facility Agreement signed between City and TO 2015. Agreement contains Article 9: Post-Games Legacy Matters. <i>"Designated High Performance Athletes' Organizations shall be provided preferential access of not less than 10% of the programming hours of the Facility at such times as are mutually acceptable to the City, Western Beaches Watercourse Advisory Committee and the High Performance Athletes' Organizations..."</i>
June 23, 2014		Parks and Environment Committee moved: <i>"That City Council restrict the hosting of motorboat-towed competitions and events within the West Channel to a combined total maximum of 10 days per calendar year, including all days which interrupt public use, so as to ensure access to and quiet enjoyment of the surrounding parkland by residents."</i>
July 8-11, 2014		Council approves <i>"City Council restrict the hosting of motorboat-towed competitions and events within the West Channel to a combined total maximum of 10 days per calendar year, including all days which interrupt public use, so as to ensure access to and quiet enjoyment of the surrounding parkland by residents."</i> 38 -0

Date	Attachment Number	Event & outcome
		2014.PE28.1 - Legacy Usage of the West Channel 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Venue http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.PE28.1
July-August 2015		Pan/ParaPan American Games
Summer of 2016		
Aug. 18. 2016		CNE, WSWBC installs waterski jumps and 80 M dock extending south from the shore wall diagonally to the west across the watercourse, just east of the Ontario Place gap
August 19 to Sept. 5, 2016		3:00 - 3:30 PM and 5:00 - 5:40 PM. CNE stages waterski show.
August 19-20, 2016		Wake Surf National championships
August 21, 2016		ARC's HogTown Heats Rowing Regatta (8:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
August 21, 2016		Wake Surf National Championships continue 1:00 - 5:00 PM
August 22, 2016		Paul Roberts advised by R. Blunt that the Narval boom across the OPC gap had broken loose, and swung out into the channel. As well, it was not lit in the early morning.
August 25 - 28, 2016		World Wakeboard Championships
Sept. 5. 2016		City permit ended for the dock blocking the watercourse. CNE contacted Ports Toronto, who extended the permit, without checking with the City. (New staffer at Ports Toronto may not have known permitting is supposed to "lock-step" with City.)
September 10-11, 2016		Masters Marathon Open Water Swim event
Sept. 14. 2016		Paul Roberts was advised via email that the Narval boom is loose again and floating in the middle of the channel, causing a navigational hazard. On same date, Paul was also advised that the dock across the course is breaking up with the stairs/ramp falling into the lake. Paul promised to remove it the next day.
Sept. 15. 2016		Ports Toronto was advised that the dock and floating Narval causing navigational hazards.
Sept. 18, 2016		Dock still in place, Narval boom still in place, floating. Paul Roberts replied to an email noting that WSWC has extended the permit to September 30, 2016.
Sept. 15 - 25, 2016		Art installation in the West Channel near Ontario Place—likely part of the Art show at the Ontario Place.
Sept. 19, 21, 2016		ARC contacted Daniel Vala, City Parks, to inquire when the 80 M dock blocking the course is being removed.
Sept. 23, 2016		ARC requested Mike Riehl, Ports Toronto that the dock be removed, who said it would be removed on Sept. 25, 2016.
Sept. 25, 2016		Dock was removed, 39 days after it was installed.
November 9, 2016		Meeting of WEBSA, WSWO with CNE to attempt to iron out difficulties for summer of 2017. WEBSA sought to adhere to Council Resolution of 10 days maximum. No resolution agreed to.
Summer of 2017		
January 2017		CNEA begins negotiations with City PFR legal staff for a licence agreement that CNEA assumed would cover the use of the West Channel during the 18 days of the CNE. WEBSA was unaware of these negotiations, or the potential for a licence agreement. City PFR legal staff did not advise the CNEA of the 10-day restriction from the July 2014 Council resolution.

Date	Attachment Number	Event & outcome
July 2017		Local Councillor's office is provided with the draft licence agreement and advises City staff of the 10-day maximum restriction. WEBSA advised of the licence agreement negotiations
August 2017		Acting City Manager issues a one-time exception to the CNE for 2017, and issues a 26-day permit, starting daily at 7:00 AM.
August 8, 2017		CNE requests that ARC compress the Hogtown Heats Regatta - by another hour (ARC had already ceded three hours of the time originally issued to ARC for the permit for August 27, 2017), as the "World Wakeboard Association ...were angry because they felt they had already compromised by starting at 1:00 as originally requested" and requesting that the regatta start one hour earlier at 7:00 AM. ARC agreed to end the regatta at 1:30 PM, and the CNE provided the ARC with a prize pack worth \$120 and 80 CNE passes.
August 18, 2017		6:45 AM, water skiers in the West Channel advised rowers in singles that they would be starting waterskiing imminently. Rowers advised them that the water-skier's permit started at 7:00 AM, but this was disregarded and a motorboat-towed water-skier raced by the rowing shell causing significant and dangerous wake.

Attachments

1. Letter from ARC to Jim Hart (GM, Parks, Forestry and Recreation) and Bob O'Doherty, Senior Vice President, Sports & Venues, TO2015 Pan/Pan Am Games, seeking opportunity to be consulted about the design of the venue for Water Ski events. April 20, 2012.
2. April 25, 2012 - Jim Hart replies.
3. February 21, 2013 - Email from ARC to Jim Hart
4. March 6, 2013 - Email from Catherine Meade, PFR to Judy Sutcliffe, ARC
5. March 18, 2013 - Reply email to Catherine Meade from WEBSA
6. July 2, 2013 - Letter to Executive Committee from WEBSA
7. January 15, 2014 - Email from WEBSA to City Clerk re: upcoming Parks & Environment Committee meeting



ARGONAUT
ROWING CLUB

Attachment #1

April 20, 2012

Bob O'Doherty
Senior Vice-President, Sport and Venues
Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games
Corus Quay
25 Dockside Drive, 7th floor
Toronto ON M5A 0B5

Jim Hart
General Manager
Parks, Forestry & Recreation
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, West Tower, 4th Floor,
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Sirs:

RE: Proposed Water ski and wakeboard facility in Marilyn Bell Park

We are the Argonaut Rowing Club (ARC or Club), which is located at 1225 Lakeshore Boulevard West. More specifically, the ARC is located between Ontario Place and the Palais Royale on the Western Beaches.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the ARC's perspective of what we understand is being "privately" discussed between individuals associated with the sport of waterski and wakeboard, Ontario Place and a person or group involved with venue selection for the Pan/Parapan Am Games in 2015.

1225 Lakeshore Boulevard West, Toronto, Canada M6K 3C1 (416) 532-2803

The first item we need to make clear is that the ARC is fully supportive of Toronto hosting water ski and wakeboard events either at Long Pond on Centre Island or inside the breakwall in the Western Beaches during the 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games (PAG). In fact, we offer our assistance in running the event(s) at either venue as we are intimately familiar with both sites through our over 125 year use of the Long Pond venue for our own Canada Day Regatta. We use the flat water course directly adjacent to Marilyn Bell Park daily (from March to November) for over 90 years.

We understand that water skiers and wakeboarders want to cut off access to the eastern part of the existing flat water course to build a permanent legacy venue for waterski and wakeboard activities. Unfortunately use of the flat water in this location involving wake producing power boats and ski ramps does not compliment existing daily flat water sports such as dragon boating, canoe/kayak and rowing. We are concerned that placement of permanent fixtures in the water and changes to the breakwall may significantly change our shared access to a single purpose area and eliminate an important training venue for multiple users.

We do believe there can be a solution worked out that expands the availability of protected water for training purposes for multiple sports and multiple users.

The ARC believes that if we are consulted at the beginning of the process (which admittedly it appears has started without seeking our input so far) we can provide valuable input into the venue selection and design. This will ensure that not only water skiers and wake boarders will benefit from the improvements to either venue, but that the existing users/neighbours will not be negatively impacted.

Working in isolation is not to the benefit of the end user, those directly impacted or the public servants who are put in a position of making decisions and are responsible for the venue in the short term or long term. We demonstrated a capacity to work together to the benefit of many current users, resulting in an enhanced waterway regarding the design process undertaken for the Western Beaches Watercourse created for the 2006 World Club Crew Dragon Boat Championships now located adjacent to Marilyn Bell Park.

Argonaut Rowing Club Background

The ARC has a long history (over 90 years) of development and delivery of the sport of rowing from its present location on the Western Beaches (the Club itself is 140 years old). We would like to highlight that the ARC is the only private (sporting Club) landowner adjacent to the potential venue in front of Marilyn Bell Park.

The Club along with the Sunnyside Paddling Club (Dragon Boat, Canoe/Kayak) are the only "organized" sports that train inside the breakwall in the proposed location for the water ski and wakeboard course. We note that the Ontario Place marina, the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club and the Boulevard Club only use the water within the breakwall for access out to the Lake.

Unlike those other water users, the ARC (and Sunnyside Paddling Club) has no option with respect to training. Its athletes have to train inside the breakwall as it provides relatively flat water that is safe to use and has proven to be an effective (usable) training ground for numerous Olympic/Paralympic and National Team athletes over the

decades the Club has been located here. Also, it is worth noting that Club is not only a training ground for National Team athletes, but also offers high school, competitive, recreational, masters, adaptive and other rowing programs that continue to use this area within the breakwall.

The flat water users are a combination of organized users (rowers, dragon boaters, canoers and kayakers supported by organized coaching and support structure), as well as casual canoers, kayakers and stand-up paddlers. The users are not transient because they are using "human power" therefore they don't have the means of leaving the area (like a motor boat can) to train somewhere else. A very high percentage of these "users" live in the neighbouring residential areas.

As noted above, the ARC has an interest in both of the Toronto area venues (that we are aware of) under consideration for a permanent or event specific facility for water ski and wakeboard. Even though we are a user of Long Pond as described, we have not felt the need to become actively involved until now. However, now we understand that either a temporary or permanent facility is under consideration in part of the existing flat water course that is located in front of or beside Marilyn Bell Park.

By way of background, the flat water course (water inside the breakwall) in the Western Beaches (the only such course in the GTA) stretches 5 kilometres from Brigantine Cove at Ontario Place to the mouth of the Humber River (and an additional 3 km of rowable water is used up the Humber River to Bloor Street as well). Racing shells often row the whole distance from the Humber to Ontario Place as part of the training to build strength and endurance.

Rowers and paddlers need the flat protected water course to maintain safe training practices. Of particular relevance to the potential use of the flat water course towards Ontario Place is that water has been identified as having the most consistently calm and predictable water (i.e. safest), and is the widest part of the course.

Argonaut Rowing Club comments:

- 1. Lack of consultation*

Our first concern is obvious. We have not been formally consulted to date. We were advised, verbally, by Mr. Paul Roberts, at the end of a West End Beaches Stakeholders Association (WEBSA) meeting on December 8, 2011, of plans to host the PAG water ski event there and possibly to establish a permanent facility on the watercourse to the west of Ontario Place, and were promised but have not received any documentation. Not a letter, a sketch or a plan. Nothing. Mr. Roberts provided further verbal information at a WEBSA meeting on February 9, 2012 and again promised documentation, which has yet to be received.

We acknowledge this is less of an issue if a one off, temporary event specific venue is being considered for either Long Pond or the Western Beaches flat watercourse. That being said, it is unfortunate on the part of those reviewing the water ski wakeboard venue if a permanent facility is being considered in either location in view of the impact on ARC (especially if it is in the Western Beaches and/or Ontario Place) and all the other organized or unorganized users of the impacted sites.

That being said, we believe our “other” comments may be able to mitigate the concerns of the existing flat water course users.

Although we are speaking on behalf of the ARC, all of the flat water users generally have the same requirements/goals. That being said, ARC is the only landowner so we do not have the option of “just moving on” if this area of the waterfront becomes unusable. What would happen is that the Club would not be financially viable and would have to close. There are no other options for the Club within the City.

Again, we note that we have never been provided with actual drawings of the proposed venue. We have been given very limited verbal details of what is under consideration. Therefore, this has put the onus on the ARC to try and guess, based on past experiences what the issues may be.

Fortunately, unlike our first comment, it appears (hopefully) that it is not too late to assist the decision makers by providing our other concerns/comments now.

2. *Exclusivity*

Our second concern is that we understand that water skiers and wakeboarders want to “cut off access” to the eastern part of the existing flat water course. As noted above, that would have critical implications, as that space is absolutely required in order to practice our sport even if the cut-off period is “only” for three months out of the year. It goes without saying that those three months are our peak season for learn to row, competitive, junior, adaptive, master’s rowing. If the three months were December, January, and February, we would have little or no concerns!

As an alternative, we would be willing to review alternative methods to be used by the water-skiers and wake boarders to limit access to the proposed training area by flat-water users during peak usage by the water-skiers. For example, a system of overlapping water based structures/features that dampens/kill the waves entering from the west or a marker system that would prohibit motorized boats from entering a proposed venue. We trust there must be some system that could be employed that does not require that a water ski and wakeboard venue has exclusive use of an area, along a public park, that has been available to all since the construction of the break wall over a century ago (1911).

3. *“Gap” Repair*

We wish to provide our full support for the permanent closure of the “gap” that would be in the middle of the proposed water ski venue. We believe that all flat water users would find this beneficial in order to improve the usability of that part of the flat water course.

4. *Wave Dampening*

We would like to comment on proposed wave dampening technologies. This is something that ARC (and other flat water users) would support assuming it wouldn’t narrow to any significant extent the existing flat water course. This becomes even more critical to the existing flat water course users if motorized boats are encouraged to relocate into this part of the Western Beaches.

5. Course Ownership/Management

It concerns the ARC that there are no details about who will “own/manage” this venue once the event takes place (safety, access to the waterway and maintenance). From what little we know, it appears that this venue is being proposed as a single purpose facility that is being overlaid over an existing flat water course. It is one thing if the facility is built for one event and it is entirely a different matter if events are scheduled daily/weekly.

As all levels of government have shown in the past, no one really wants to take ownership of the existing breakwall so it is possible to assume that no one will want to be responsible for the maintenance of a proposed new venue, and liability for any problems that might arise in the future.

6. Course Design

With respect to the actual design of the proposed venue, as noted, the ARC has been provided with very limited details to date. We understand jumps, ramps, docks will be constructed. Once again, ARC’s issues may be resolvable if details were provided. ARC is the first to acknowledge that based on successful dialogue in the past, the temporary placement of jumps, ramps and docks for the former Exhibition Watershow were accommodated on a short term basis by the flat water users.

7. Construction period

Details of the construction/demolition are critical. To date, we have been provided with no formal information and the Pan/Parapan Am Games are to take place in just over three years. We assume construction considerations must be already taking place, but we have not been consulted.

Conclusion

As noted above, we fully support the City of Toronto hosting water ski and wakeboard as part of the 2015 Games even though we realize that there will be an impact on the ARC if either of the two venues we are aware of is chosen to host the events. We expect that a temporary venue with a one off event taking place in it would have less significant impacts. Any proposed permanent facility will definitely have impacts on our use of either Long Pond or the West End Beaches flat water course.

At this point, all we are asking for is to be consulted.

Unfortunately for us, time is of the essence and the potential impacts on our Club could be critical. We appreciate Mr. Roberts’ efforts to inform us through WEBSA. That being said, considering he offered to provide us with plans and further details in December 2011 and nothing has been provided since, we can only conclude that someone has decided deliberately to exclude us from the discussions, despite Mr. Roberts’ best efforts.

We see some potential benefits for the flat water users if either venue is chosen and the required support facilities are constructed. However, we also realize that design

details are being considered that we cannot support and we will have no other option, but to defend our interests and the interests of the other flat water users by whatever means may be required.

We don't want to be forced to discuss our concerns about this proposed venue under the watchful eye of the media knowing that whatever decisions are made regarding venues for the 2015 Games and the recent closure of Ontario Place will be highly scrutinized.

We trust you will agree that it is likely not in the best interests of anyone for the venue considerations to continue without involving the "neighbours".

We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours truly,

Original signed by:

Judy Sutcliffe
Secretary
Board of Directors

Copy: Donna Atkinson, Executive Director, Rowing Canada Aviron
Derek Ventnor, Executive Director, ROWONTARIO
Blair McIntosh, Director, Sport, Toronto 2015 Pan/ParaPan Am Games
Nancy Gaffney, Toronto Region Conservation Authority
James Dann, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, City of Toronto
Blake Hara, Executive Director, Sunnyside Paddling Club
WEBSA members

Attachment #2



Brenda Patterson, Deputy City Manager

Parks, Forestry & Recreation
100 Queen Street West
4th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Jim Hart
General Manager

Tel: 416-392-8182
Fax: 416-392-8565
jhart@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca/parks

April 25, 2012

Ms. Judy Sutcliffe
Argonaut Rowing Club
1225 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
Toronto, ON M6K 3C1

Dear Ms. Sutcliffe:

Re: 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games

Thank you for your correspondence dated April 20, 2012. Your keen interest in the West Channel at Ontario Place is certainly understandable.

All discussions regarding the use of the West Channel as a competition venue for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games have been preliminary and exploratory. The City has not received a formal request for the use of the property from T02015.

In the event that the West Channel is selected as a viable competition venue for the Games, I am confident that a variety of stakeholders will be consulted, including the Argonaut Rowing Club.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hart".

Jim Hart
General Manager
Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Attachment #3

Email sent Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 6:07 PM, to jhart@toronto.ca

Dear Mr. Hart,

I am writing further to a letter sent on April 20, 2012 to your office (attached) to which you kindly replied on April 25, 2012. In that reply, you indicated "in the event that the West channel [of Ontario Place] is chosen as a viable competition venue for the Games, I am confident that a variety of stakeholders will be consulted, including the Argonaut Rowing Club."

It has come to our attention that there may be plans to undertake a construction project in the West Channel affecting the seawall near Ontario Place and also near Marilyn Bell Park (MBP). This project may or may not be connected with the Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games. Can you please confirm if the City is involved in any way with such a construction project?

If so, can you please indicate what are the City's proposed plans to consult with stakeholders such as to Argonaut Rowing Club, the Sunnyside Paddling Club (dragon-boaters) and the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club (TSCC) all of whom are users of the watercourse in the West Channel into Ontario Place? Is it possible to see drawings of what is being proposed?

As you may know, the low level of the water to the west of the Palais Royale has prevented racing shells from travelling farther to the west and if there is a construction project planned for the West Channel of Ontario Place, this will further restrict rowers and paddlers from access to good flat water.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Judy Sutcliffe
Secretary
Argonaut Rowing Club

E: [REDACTED]
T: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]

Attachment #4 -

Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 5:32 PM; email from Catherine Meade to Judy Sutcliffe, ARC copied of Sunnyside Paddling Club, ROWONTARIO, Boulevard Club, Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club

Dear Ms. Sutcliffe -

Thank you for your inquiry and for your continued interest in the West Channel/Marilyn Bell Park. I am writing to you on behalf of Jim Hart, as he is out of the office until March 18, 2013.

Although I am not sure of the specific construction work to which you refer, I can advise that the City will soon embark on a project to repair the North wall of the West Channel. This work has been on our Capital Projects State of Good Repair list for a long time. The decision to repair the wall was made in response to an audit regarding its state and was not in any way related to the 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games.

2015 PAN/PARAPAN AM GAMES

As for the 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games, their status regarding the West Channel has not changed from the time of Jim's April 25, 2012 correspondence with you. TO2015 has not made a formal request of the City to host any Games events in the West Channel. If they do make such a request, there is a process that the City will follow before providing a definitive response. As Jim mentioned in his previous correspondence with you, that process would involve consulting with key stakeholders, such as the Argonaut Rowing Club.

SCOPE OF CONSTRUCTION

As for our currently planned scope of work, we will be replacing the existing sea wall with a new parapet wall and sloped stone revetment along the north side of the West Channel. The attached aerial photo indicates the extent of wall replacement.

The sloped revetment will extend approximately 6.0 meters (20 feet) into the lake. A design section of the sloped stone revetment is attached, as requested. The purpose of the revetment is to mitigate wave impact on the parapet wall. This method of replacement is more economical, and quicker to build, than the replacement of the damaged wall with a new sheet steel pile wall.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACT

We are working towards starting construction in September 2013, and finishing construction in June 2014. We do not anticipate any detrimental impact to boating activities during construction or post-construction. However, we are always open to hearing from key stakeholders on such matters.

Again, thank you for your inquiry. If you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact by email or at either of the phone numbers listed below.

Kind regards,
Catherine

Catherine Meade

Director, Capital Projects & Legacy
2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games Office
Parks, Forestry & Recreation
City of Toronto
cmeade@toronto.ca
416.392.6727 (office)
416.791.6214 (cell)

Attachment #5:

Monday, March 18, 2013 at 8:31 PM; from Judy Sutcliffe to Catherine Meade, copied to SPC, ROWONTARIO, BC, RCA, TSCC

Dear Catherine,

Thank you for your email and attachments showing the design of the wall and the location of the proposed replacement. It is good to have this information.

I appreciate your observation about the Pan/Parapan American Games (PAG) and sites for various sports. I think it is possible that there may have been a misunderstanding on the part of the City that the Argo Club and the other stakeholders of the Western Beaches (WEBSA) were only interested in the use of this site for the PAG and that any other capital activity was not of interest. I attach the letter sent to Mr Hart in April 2012 for reference.

For your information, the West End Beaches Stakeholders Association (WEBSA) meets four times a year, and in addition to the four founding Clubs—Argonaut Rowing, Toronto Sailing and Canoe, Boulevard and Sunnyside Paddling--includes representatives of the City Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department, Toronto Port Authority, a City Councillor's office (although all three are invited, only Mr. Perks' office has been able to attend), and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. We are concerned with the use and state of the waterfront from Ontario Place to the Humber River. As such, we are a little disappointed that we were not consulted on this project and the impact that it might have on our training activities.

Perhaps we have not included the right representatives from the right departments of the City on WEBSA, that we could have missed a major project taking place in the watercourse, or that it had been on the Capital Projects State of Good Repair list for such a long time. Can you please advise us of any other planned projects on the Western Beaches that might be on this list? As well, is there anyone from your department that we could invite to attend the WEBSA meetings who might be able to keep us up to date in the future on any other projects that might be planned for the Western Beaches? As mentioned, we meet quarterly for about an hour or so.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience and I will share this information with the rest of WEBSA.

Regards,

Judy

Judy Sutcliffe
Secretary/A/Treasurer
Argonaut Rowing Club

E: [REDACTED]

T: [REDACTED]

M: [REDACTED]

Attachment #6



July 2, 2013

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL (EXC@TORONTO.CA)

Kelly McCarthy
Committee Secretary
Executive Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Ms. McCarthy

Dear Madam:

Re: Item EX 33.14 West Channel 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Venue Proposal

This letter is written on behalf of the West End Beaches Stakeholders Association (WEBSA), the members of which are the Argonaut Rowing Club (ARC), Boulevard Club (BC), Sunnyside Paddling Club (SPC) and Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club (TSCC).

WEST END BEACHES STAKEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION POSITION

The purpose of this letter is twofold. The first is to offer WEBSA's conditional support (detailed below) for the West Channel 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Venue Proposal as detailed in the June 13, 2013 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Staff Report. The second purpose of this letter is to express WEBSA members' concern with the implied legacy of the proposed facility and our continued long term use of this area of the waterfront. Our concern is with details in the Conclusions that are expressed in the Staff Report, namely:

"...the West Channel Project would leave an exciting legacy for Toronto residents as the city could host more international calibre events at that site. The Project has a direct and positive impact on West Channel users who see the benefits of wave attenuation on their respective sports."...

"Finally, were water ski and wakeboard to move to another municipality, not only would Toronto miss the economic benefit of hosting that event at the 2015 Games, but also it would lose the economic benefit from hosting other high calibre events in the future."

We have met with City staff several times and thank them for seeking our input into the details of this worthwhile project. In terms of the concept of the proposed wave attenuation measures, and the proposed breakwall and seawall stabilization, we are in full agreement with the proposed seawall stabilization and replacement. We are in

Page 1 of 3

general agreement with the proposed breakwall changes although the details have not been definitively confirmed.

As you may be aware, the City has previously identified this area of the waterfront in the Western Beaches Waterfront Master Plan (2009) as an area for recreational and competitive flat water sports. For your information, flat water sports can be categorized as generally being those that don't involve motor boats (ski boats in this case) or create wake that would negatively impact other users of the watercourse. By their very nature of being flat water sports that do not generate waves, they are able to share the same body of water not to the exclusion of others.

We understand that a legacy is a requirement of the Pan/Parapan Am facilities. What we don't understand is why the City is proposing to change the legacy that arose from the significant (\$23 million) infrastructure expenditure for the 2006 IDBF World Club Crew Dragon Boat Championships. The 2006 enhancement to increase the protected flatwater has already resulted in a number of significant economic and tourism benefits through the hosting of large events each year—dragon boat championships, canoe/kayak championships and rowing races since the new breakwall was constructed. If the legacy of this worthwhile project is in fact to encourage the conflicting future use after the Games of non-flat water sports, than unfortunately, WEBSA cannot offer its support for the proposed works.

BACKGROUND

WEBSA was founded in 2005 by the users of the Western Beaches in Toronto to ensure the mutual effective use of the Western Beaches. WEBSA members are the principal organizations representing rowers, dragon boat paddlers, outrigger canoeists, kayakers, recreational canoeists, and sailors in the area—flat-water users. In fact, when the Western Beaches Watercourse was constructed to host the 2006 IDBF Championships the City Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department sought out WEBSA to form a City Advisory Committee (Western Beaches Watercourse Advisory Committee—WBWAC) to advise on the permitting of the new watercourse.

WEBSA's objective is to work with the responsible government agencies and non-governmental organizations to focus on the needs of the people who daily use the western beaches. Members of WEBSA have a long history (over 95 years) of development and delivery of the amateur/recreational sport along this portion of the City's waterfront. In fact, some of the members are specifically located in this area of the waterfront because of the protected "flat-water" opportunities that the breakwall provides.

Unlike other types of water users, the flat water sport participants must train inside the breakwall along the entire 5 kilometre stretch as it provides relatively flat water that is safe to use and has proven to be an effective (usable) training ground for numerous Olympic/Paralympic and National Team athletes over the decades. We note that the flat-water users are not only National Team athletes, but also high school, competitive, recreational, masters and para-athletes.

The long-standing boathouses, clubs and organizations that use the full stretch from Ontario Place to the Humber River are an indication of the significant advantage of the adjacent protected waterway. A very high percentage of these "users" live in the neighbouring residential areas. Our clubs represent 7,000 regular water users that depend on flat water conditions for sustainability and we collectively contribute to parking and infrastructure improvements on the waterfront (at Sunnyside alone our members contribute \$2,000-3,000 per week to parking).

It is worth noting that the flat-water users are a combination of organized users (rowers, dragon boaters, canoers and kayakers supported by organized coaching and support structure), as well as casual canoers, kayakers and stand-up paddlers.

Although the flat water course (water inside the breakwall) in the Western Beaches (the only such course in the GTA) stretches 5 kilometres from Brigantine Cove at Ontario Place to the mouth of the Humber River (and an additional 3 km of rowable water is used up the Humber River to Bloor Street as well), the area in the vicinity of the Western Beaches Watercourse and Ontario Place has been identified as having the most consistently calm and predictable water (i.e. safest), and is the widest part of the course. Canoers, rowers and paddlers need the flat water course to maintain safe training practices. During the low water months, and busy sailing season, the Ontario Place area provides a valued area for paddlers and rowers with less boating traffic and low water navigational hazards.

Conclusion:

At present, we acknowledge that the revetment design proposed for the replacement of the seawall will offer wave attenuation, which is very desirable to flat-water users such as canoers, kayakers, rowers, and stand-up paddlers, and we express our support and appreciation for the proposed approach. As well, although we have not been provided with the detail, we anticipate that we will support the revetment design also proposed for the breakwall on the south side of the West channel, opposite the seawall replacement.

We wish to be clear, however, that we cannot support a legacy that changes the use of the Western Beaches Watercourse from a flat-water course to a motorized/conflicting use course.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information.

Yours truly,



Judy Sutcliffe
Secretary, WEBSA

[Redacted]

Cc: Councillor Gord Perks
Councillor Mike Layton
Councillor Sarah Doucette
WEBSA members

Catherine Meade, Director, Pan/Parapan Am Capital Projects & Legacy, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Attachment #7

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 5:28 PM

From WEBSA to Parks & Environment Committee City Clerk

Dela Ting
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY TO: pec@toronto.ca

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are the West End Beaches Stakeholders Association (WEBSA). We wrote to the City Executive Committee in July 2013 (attached) about the proposal to establish the waterski wakeboard (WSW) course for the Pan/Parapan Am Games, and its legacy uses.

We support staging the Pan/Parapan Am Games, and holding a number of events in the Western Beaches including WSW.

We thank the City staff for meeting with us and representing our views about legacy use to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation. In our meetings with City staff and WSW representatives, we agreed to a maximum of two events, totalling no more than 10 days. Unfortunately, this agreement is not reflected in the Staff Report.

We regret that we cannot support an ongoing legacy of a conflicting use of a flatwater course.

Yours truly,

Judy Sutcliffe
Secretary, WEBSA

T: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]

cc: Councillors G. Perks, M. Layton, S. Doucette
WEBSA Members
Catherine Meade, City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation