MAKING WAVES

Toronto’s Central Waterfront is poised to break the mould with originality, quality and astonishment. The Port Lands and the West Don Lands, with unique attributes, are remaking Toronto into a 21st century city.

The Plan is structured around four core principles. These principles, framed by the Part I Plan, are a foundation for making waves. They will guide the development of the Central Waterfront as a new city district.

THE PART II PLAN IS:

A Toronto Imperative: the size of this initiative, the prominence of the Central Waterfront as Toronto’s waterfront stretches 46 kilometres from Marie Curtis Park at the Etobicoke Creek in the west to Rouge Beach Park at the mouth of the Don River in the east and north to Prince Edward Viaduct, is reflected in the Plan.

The benefits to the city and the entire GTA region will be enormous. Over 40,000 housing units and 35,000 jobs can be generated, all in the core of the city. The Plan proposes three land use designations: Development Area (allows a wide variety of land uses) and Existing Use Area and Parks, Open Space, and Public Use Area. The Plan is designed to be a catalyst for economic prosperity by attracting the land use activities that will be attracted to this extraordinary setting will all have a profound influence on our city’s waterfront.

A Provincial Opportunity: promoting a magnificent capital city waterfront, featuring cultural and tourist attractions that will attract millions of visitors.

A National Initiative: showcasing Canada’s waterfront as a destination for international tourism, national celebration and local enjoyment. Quality public places will distinguish the Central Bayfront and Harbourfront neighbourhoods, the East Bayfront, the Port Lands and the West Don Lands.

The third principle focuses on achieving a high level of environmental health in the Central Waterfront. A wide variety of initiatives are already planned or underway in the Western and Eastern Waterfronts to increase public awareness and participation in developing a clean and green waterfront.

The second principle of the Plan recognizes the significance of the public realm in transforming the Central Waterfront into a destination for international tourism, national celebration and local enjoyment. Quality public places will distinguish the Central Bayfront and Harbourfront neighbourhoods, the East Bayfront, the Port Lands and the West Don Lands.

Big Moves

The City will work with the Province, the federal government, the private sector, and the public to ensure environmental protection, economic development and quality of life.

A UNIQUE PLAN IN A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT

The Plan is unique in that it is a Principles Plan concentrating on high level transportation and public realm strategies, significant impacts on the environment, and focuses on public policy, to develop a comprehensive approach for waterfront revitalization.

A VISION TO MAKE THE REVITALIZATION OF TORONTO’S CENTRAL WATERFRONT A REALITY.

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B9_Harbourfront Centre will become an even stronger draw with a new public plaza between Queens Quay Terminal and York Quay Centre and an integrated nautical centre on John Quay (see map).

B10_A bold new East Bayfront Park, reflecting the industrial heritage of the area and anticipating its extraordinary future, will be created (see map).

B11_A new green corridor, the Don Greenway, will be developed in the centre of the Port Lands (see map).

B12_A new Lake Ontario Park, from Clarke (Cherry) Beach to Balmy Beach, will give Toronto a much-enhanced continuous urban park system (see map).

B13_The Ship Channel through the Port Lands will become a powerful focal point around which new mixed-use communities will be built (see map).

B14_A new Fort York Park will be larger and more visible, re-establishing the Fort's status as Toronto's most significant heritage site (see map).

B15_Almost three hectares will be added to Marilyn Bell Park, which will be redesigned and improved as a gateway to the waterfront (see map).

B16_Ontario Place will be woven into the waterfront park system with better access for the public to enjoy its facilities and paid attractions (see map).

C) PROMOTING A CLEAN AND GREEN ENVIRONMENT

C17_A next generation transportation system will give priority to transit, cycling, walking and water transport.

C18_A flood protection berm will be built along the Don River to eliminate flooding problems in the West Don Lands and surrounding neighbourhoods (see map).

C19_The mouth of the Don River will be rerouted and re-naturalized, thereby improving the ecological function of the river, and providing flood protection and an important open space and recreational link to adjacent parklands (see map).

D) CREATING DYNAMIC AND DIVERSE NEW COMMUNITIES

D20_The vast Port Lands will be cleaned up and opened to a range of urban development opportunities including new urban communities, an international convergence district, “green” industries and a rich infrastructure of recreational, cultural and tourist amenities (see map).

D21_The West Don Lands will be given a new life as diverse mixed-use communities emerge (see map).

D22_The East Bayfront will become a prominent waterfront address for working and living (see map).

D23_Building on its historical role as a place for celebration and exhibition, Exhibition Place will be expanded into a dynamic area where people work, play, visit and live (see map).

The following “Big Moves” will ensure that Toronto takes its place with other great cities like Barcelona, London, Sydney, New York and Chicago who have used waterfront revitalization as a means of focusing world attention on their city:

A) REMOVING BARRIERS/MAKING CONNECTIONS

A1_Once funding for major improvements to the road system and GO Transit/TTC services including Union Station is in place, and once these improvements have been substantially completed, the elevated Gardiner Expressway will be replaced.

A2_A Waterfront Light Rapid Transit line will stretch across the Central Waterfront from Exhibition Place to the Port Lands.

A3_Lake Shore Boulevard will be transformed into a grand waterfront boulevard.

A4_Queens Quay will become a scenic waterfront drive from Bathurst Street to the Port Lands.

A5_The Martin Goodman/Waterfront Trail will be completed through the Central Waterfront and connected to the city-wide trail system.

A6_Key cultural and heritage corridors which link the assets of the city with the waterfront’s edge will be promoted and reinforced.

B) BUILDING A NETWORK OF SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

B7_A continuous band of green will be reserved along the waterfront’s edge.

B8_A dramatic new Yonge Street Pier will be built at the foot of Toronto’s historic main street (see map).

CENTRAL WATERFRONT PART II PLAN

PUBLIC REALM PLAN

MAP INDEX: