

Harbourfront Centre Water's Edge Revitalization Project

York Quay Design Highlights

Harbourfront Centre Water's Edge Revitalization Project will reshape and increase public access to the Harbourfront Centre's water's edge by improving and enhancing its physical and perceptual connections to the lake. It is an integral part of an overall Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation plan to improve the quality of the public realm on Toronto's waterfront by establishing a continuous water's edge that is easily accessible and maintains distinct and consistent design elements and street furnishings.

The project has been divided into two stages; York Quay and John Quay. York Quay, located south of Queen's Quay West between York Street just west of Lower Simcoe Street, will be the first stage implemented. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall of 2003 and will be completed by summer of 2004. Similar plans will be announced and implemented for the John Quay area next year.

The concept plan for York Quay, developed by a team comprising Peter Clewes and Adrian DiCatri, partners, Architects Alliance and David Leinster, principal, Envision – The Hough Group, has been divided into three main components defined by area:

- **East Promenade:** York Street and Queens Quay West to lake front
- **West Promenade:** Queens Quay West to lake front
- **Lakefront:** South of York Quay

York Quay design highlights outlined by area include:

- **Significant improvements to landscape and overall design of the area**

East Promenade:

- A sculptural entry pavilion announces the main pedestrian entrance to Harbourfront Centre from York Street. Evocatively hull-shaped it is clad in translucent glass and evenly lit from within to glow at night;
- A double row of trees that will run down the centre of a promenade creating a French-style allée that runs from the street to the lake. Continuous tree pits ensure long term sustainability;
- The service road adjacent to the water's edge will be raised to create a level surface that extends from the patio level of Queen's Quay Terminal Building to the water's edge. Existing concrete walls, stairs, ramps will be removed to create a level and uninterrupted promenade.

Lakefront:

- A continuous 5 metre wide wooden boardwalk on the lake adjacent to the promenade, which includes an open grating at the south end of the wooden boardwalk allowing pedestrians to see the lake as they walk along the water;
- A continuous 12 metre wide water's edge promenade that, combined with the boardwalk, creates a 17 metre seawall – which has the potential to mimic Vancouver's seawall if stretched all along Toronto's waterfront
- A continuous 1.0 x 0.15 meter granite capstone for seating will run the full length of the sea wall and will be raised 150mm above the promenade, with the wooden boardwalk approximately 450mm below.
- Trees planted at the north side of the promenade providing shade to pedestrians and a demarcation between the promenade and Harbourfront Centre.



- **Improved access to the waterfront and a safer disembarking strategy for boating will increase the public's overall enjoyment and view of Lake Ontario. This will be achieved by installing:**

East Promenade:

- Floating pier at the head of the slip will provide convenient mooring for water taxis

Lakefront:

- Two floating finger piers extending perpendicularly from the boardwalk into the lake. The piers will be able to accommodate the majority of tour boats while improving the view of the lake.

- **A lighting scheme all along the water's edge which will create a unique nocturnal waterfront experience, including:**

Lakefront:

- A series of Harbour Beacons located along the promenade will serve as harbour markers and will be programmed to allow lighting to be tailored for seasonal and special events.
- Continuous in-ground lighting along the promenade that will minimize glare from overhead fixtures;
- Trees up-lit to provide night time definition to the edge of the promenade;
- Underwater lighting beneath the open grating that will provide continuous illumination along the boardwalk.

For more information please visit the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation website at www.towaterfront.ca or Harbourfront Centre website at www.harbourfront.on.ca.

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