



AQUATIC HABITAT TORONTO

Because water is life

September 3, 2008

Aquatic Habitat Toronto has won an “Award of Excellence” recognizing outstanding achievements in public service. The awards will be presented at the Public Sector Quality Fair (PSQF) on Monday, September 8th at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This is the second award for Aquatic Habitat Toronto, the first being an “Award of Merit” received in 2007. This award is being granted for the aquatic habitat restoration work currently occurring on the waterfront. This work will be featured later in the week at the Grand Opening of the Spadina Slip. This event takes place at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 12th, at the foot of Spadina Avenue.

Aquatic Habitat Toronto (AHT) represents a consensus based partnership between agencies with a vested interest in the improvement of aquatic habitat on the Toronto Waterfront. Partners include Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto and Region Conservation in consultation with the City of Toronto. Aquatic Habitat Toronto is responsible for the implementation of the *Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy (TWAHRS)*. This strategy has been prepared to help guide the re-development of the Toronto waterfront and to focus habitat restoration efforts. Aquatic Habitat Toronto works closely with Waterfront Toronto to provide advice on aquatic habitat work and facilitate the approval process for projects.

The PSQF is a province-wide showcase for service excellence in government, health care and education. Its objectives are to promote awareness and the use of quality principles and practices, to share ideas and to celebrate successes. All applications to the PSQF are evaluated against the same quality criteria that the National Quality Institute uses for the Canada Awards for Excellence. Submissions are assessed on a range of criteria, including leadership, citizen/client focus, people focus, process management, supplier/partner focus, and organizational performance.

The Grand Opening of the Spadina Slip is an exciting event taking place to celebrate the completion of a new wave deck at the foot of Spadina Avenue. Located under the wave deck is 2,500 square metres of new aquatic habitat. The aquatic habitat created will attract fish and other aquatic life to inhabit the area. Conveniently, this area is situated directly next to a northern pike spawning area in the Spadina wetlands. To create aquatic habitat in this deep water, sea wall environment a variety of different measures are being used, such as placement of boulders, smaller aggregate gravel, root balls, and large logs – all providing an environment for fish to reproduce, live, and grow. Aquatic plants will now be able to root amongst the habitat features, providing both food and shelter. This is another important step in creating a healthier waterfront environment.

For more information, visit www.aquatichabitat.ca.