



TORONTO WATERFRONT
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TORONTO AND REGION
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First Phase of New Waterfront Park Now Open

Toronto, September 29, 2006 – The first phase of the Port Union Waterfront Park, a new park that provides the people of Toronto with access to 3.6 kilometres of shoreline, trails, wetlands and beaches was officially opened today by Peter Van Loan, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Hon. John Baird, President of the Treasury Board of Canada; The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, MPP and Minister of Children and Youth Services, and Toronto Mayor David Miller.

“This new park is further proof that Canada’s New Government is delivering for Toronto,” said Van Loan. “With today’s opening of the Port Union Waterfront Park, Torontonians can now enjoy the great waterfront that Torontonians and all Canadians deserve.”

One of the first parks to get underway as part of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation’s (TWRC) renewal of the city’s waterfront, Port Union Waterfront Park runs along Lake Ontario from Highland Creek in the west to the Rouge River in the east. Phase one extends from Highland Creek to Port Union Road. Up until now, public access to the water has been restricted due to the proximity of the CN railway line to the Lake Ontario shoreline.

“This is an exciting time for the families in the Port Union community,” said Minister Chambers, MPP for Scarborough East. “The new Port Union Waterfront Park will provide environmental benefits, attract visitors, and give residents of our community and other Toronto communities better access to one of the city’s most beautiful natural assets.”

A bridge over the mouth of the Highland Creek and a pedestrian tunnel at Port Union Village Common now provide safe access to the lake. A 1.4 km trail links these two access points and includes five cobble beaches as well as a major peninsula south of the pedestrian tunnel. Shoreline restoration and improvements to aquatic and terrestrial habitat were important parts of the first phase of work and are in keeping with TWRC’s sustainability commitments.

“The revitalization of Toronto’s waterfront means improving access along the entirety of the lake shore from Scarborough to Etobicoke,” Mayor David Miller said. “I’m pleased to see this important piece of that big picture puzzle in place.”

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) is responsible for planning and building the Port Union Waterfront Park.

“It’s the perseverance of this community that has made the Port Union Waterfront Park a success. The support from the community was demonstrated in the overwhelming participation of the public at the park celebration held this past Sunday, said TRCA Chair Dick O’Brien.

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The overall revitalization of Toronto's waterfront will create more than 750 acres of new and improved parks and public spaces.

"Improving public access is a key objective of waterfront revitalization," said John Campbell, TWRC's president & CEO. "Leading waterfront revitalization with parks like the one here in Port Union is the way we are meeting this important goal."

Other waterfront parks and public space projects include:

- Western Beaches Watercourse (complete)
- John Quay and York Quay Promenade Improvements (complete)
- Cherry Beach Improvements (complete)
- Marilyn Bell Park Promenade and Trail Improvements (complete)
- Leslie Street Greening (complete 2006)
- Tommy Thompson Park (Phase 1 complete 2009)
- Port Lands Transitional Sport Fields (complete 2007)
- Mimico Waterfront Linear Project (Phase 1 complete 2008)
- Don River Park (complete 2008)
- Central Waterfront Queens Quay & Water's Edge Redesign (Phase 1 complete 2009)
- Lake Ontario Park

Phase one of Port Union Waterfront Park cost \$13 million. TRCA will start construction of phase two once property needed for the park is acquired. Phase two will cost \$16 million.

The Government of Canada, Province of Ontario and City of Toronto established the TWRC in 2001 to lead the renewal of Toronto's waterfront.

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