

# LAKEVIEW WATERFRONT CONNECTION PROJECT



Edition #1, January 2012

## Background

The Lakeview shoreline once hosted numerous species of birds, mammals and aquatic flora and fauna. Coastal wetlands were found at the mouths of several creeks, a barrier beach protected these wetlands from the full force of Lake Ontario, and low-lying eroding bluffs offered the shore with bed material which were critical for fish habitat.

Over the last 200 years, the shoreline and adjacent tablelands in the Lakeview area have seen the removal of wetlands and the barrier beach, the filling and armouring of the shoreline, the mining of lakebeds for bedrock and stone, the impairment of soil and water due to past and on-going industrial and urban activities, the removal of forest and the burial of streams. Furthermore, public access to and along most of the shore in the Lakeview area is not possible.

The Lakeview Waterfront Connection Project (LWC) seeks to address many of the above environmental and access issues, while at the same time, offers a sustainable and cost-effective solution for reusing locally generated fill as part of the Region of Peel's and City of Mississauga's Capital Works Infrastructure expansion plans over the next 10 years.

## Inspiration Lakeview

Inspiration Lakeview is an initiative that is led by the City of Mississauga which began in 2010. Inspiration Lakeview provides a publicly established vision that seeks to revitalize the southeast corner of the City of Mississauga including the OPG lands and surrounding industrial business district. Key goals for Inspiration Lakeview include:

- Link the City and the Water
- Open the Site with a Wealth of Accessible Public Spaces
- Create a Green, Sustainable, Innovative Model New Community
- Create a Vibrant Community
- Connect in Multiple Ways: Transit, Walking, Cycling and the Car
- Create a Destination to Draw Local, Regional and International Visitors
- Commemorate History While Creating a New Legacy
- Balance Public and Private Investment to be Economically Viable and Sustainable

## Lakeview Waterfront Connection Project

The LWC is being funded and overseen by the Region of Peel, and is being led by Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) with the assistance of Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA). The Project is also one of the first components moving forward of the City of Mississauga's Inspiration Lakeview Program. The Region of Peel and CVC are anticipated to be co-proponents on the EA. TRCA may become a co-proponent, depending on the selection of the Preferred Alternative. The LWC proposes to create a public waterfront greenspace on the Lakeview Shoreline by reusing locally generated fill material arising through Region of Peel and City of Mississauga infrastructure expansion projects.

This project envisions the creation of important coastal habitats and public trails to and along the waterfront. New beaches, meadows, forests, wetlands and stream channels are all elements envisioned by this project. Visitors could potentially swim, fish, canoe/kayak, bird watch, picnic or simply enjoy the view of the Lake Ontario from the Mississauga shoreline.



## What's Inside

- [Background](#)
- [Lakeview Waterfront Connection Project](#)
- [Inspiration Lakeview](#)
- [What are the Challenges?](#)
- [What are the Opportunities?](#)
- [What is the EA Process?](#)
- [Proposed Project Goal and Objectives](#)
- [Proposed Framework for Alternatives To](#)
- [Opportunities for Public Involvement](#)
- [LOISS](#)
- [Next Steps](#)



## What are the Challenges?

As highlighted in the Background Section of this newsletter, there are a number of challenges associated with the Project Area for the Lakeview Waterfront area. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Soils and groundwater that have been impaired by past and current industrial land uses.
- Urban stream run-off and nearby sanitary outfalls produce high nutrient loads, stimulating heavy algae growth and unpleasant shore conditions.
- Public access to the waterfront is limited to Marie Curtis Park and Lakefront Promenade.
- Beach conditions are generally unpleasant at Marie Curtis Park.
- The Waterfront Trail is largely located away from the Waterfront.
- Past stone-hooking along the shoreline has destroyed nearshore fish habitat.



- Coastal wetlands and most terrestrial habitats have been destroyed.
- Past shoreline protection works are inaccessible, and impair natural shoreline processes.
- Serson Creek is partially buried, providing very poor habitat connections to Lake Ontario.
- Fill generated by the Region of Peel is generally hauled long-distances for disposal resulting in substantial costs to the Regional and Local governments, significant emissions of greenhouse gases and contributes to congestion of regional and provincial highways.



## What are the Opportunities?

These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Create a new regional public greenspace with improved Waterfront Trail connections and recreation on the Mississauga Waterfront.
- Greatly increase the amount of aquatic and terrestrial habitat along the waterfront.
- Celebrate the rich cultural heritage for the area.
- Treat fill as a “local resource” AND create savings for the taxpayer
- Substantially reduce gas emissions, and wear and tear on highways.

## What is the EA Process?

The Environmental Assessment (EA) process varies according to the nature of the project. The LWC EA will proceed through an Individual EA to meet provincial EA requirements, while it is anticipated that an Environmental Screening will be required to meet federal EA requirements. These studies will be undertaken in a Coordinated EA Process to maximize efficiencies and consistency between the two processes.

The first step in an Individual EA process is to develop an EA Terms of Reference (ToR). In a very general sense, the EA ToR sets the Project Goal and Objectives for the EA; the Alternatives and Methods that will be considered in the EA; the criteria and framework that will be used to evaluate the Alternatives and Methods; the understanding of the existing environment; the consultation framework; and project schedule.

The second step in the Individual EA process is to undertake the EA according to the approved EA ToR.

## Proposed Project Goal and Objectives

**PROJECT GOAL:** “To enhance and re-create coastal habitats through the establishment of a natural park that encourages public access, use and exploration along the waterfront while facilitating sustainable urban redevelopment on the existing tablelands”

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

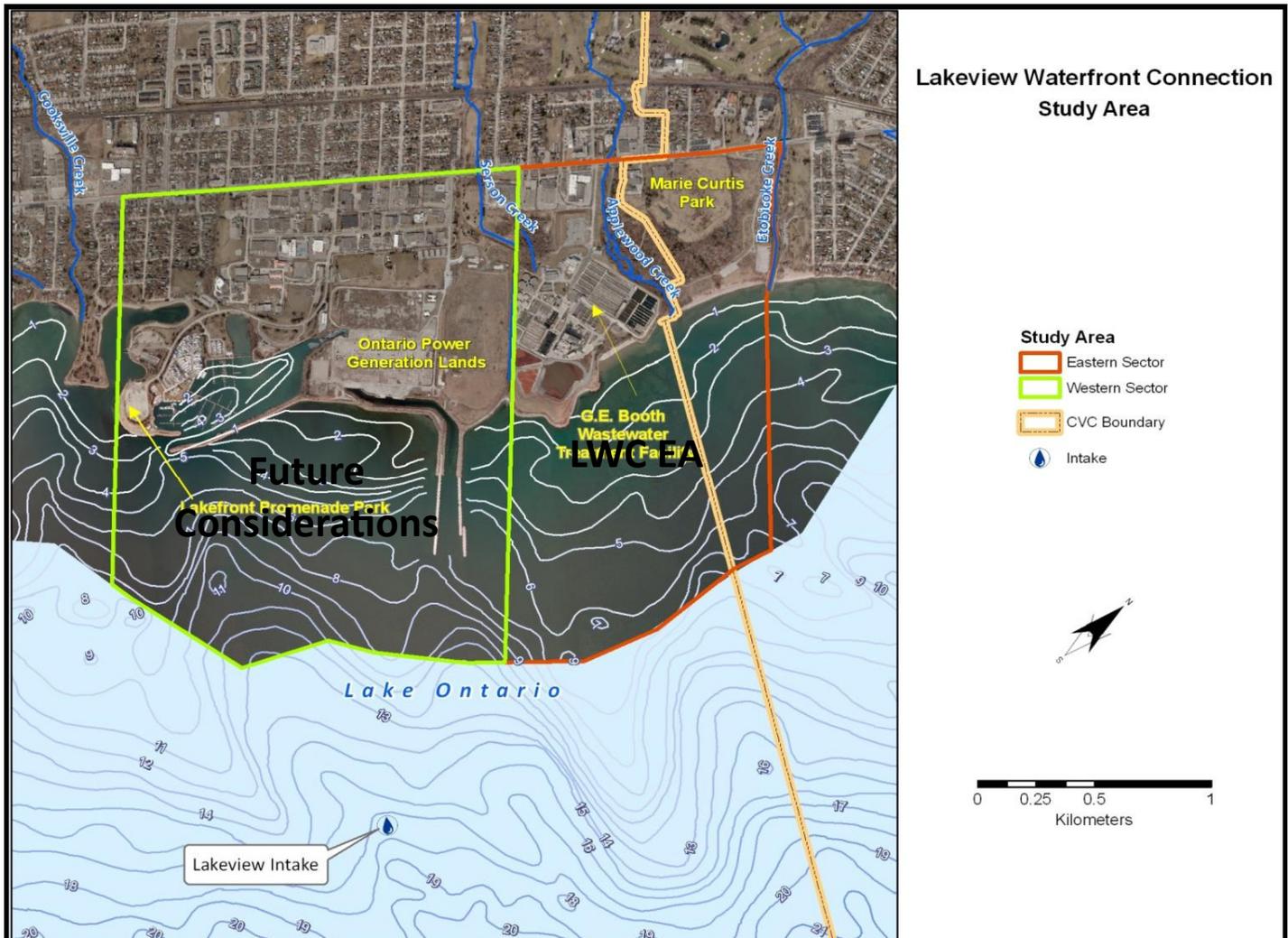
- Enhance and create a diverse mosaic of naturalized terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem habitats
- Create public access to and along the waterfront while allowing for compatible recreation and cultural heritage opportunities
- Design and implement this project in a manner that is environmentally and economically sustainable
- Ensure that the project is compatible with existing infrastructure
- Coordinate with and inform other local planning and development efforts

## Proposed framework for “Alternatives To”

The co-proponents for the LWC EA propose to identify two “Alternatives To” the Undertaking:

- “Do Nothing” - status quo conditions along the Lakeview Waterfront and current “Dig and Dump” fill management approach;
- “Lakefill Approach” - which allows opportunities to use reuse fill, improve habitats and establish connections.

“Alternatives To “ that would have sought to achieve the Project Goal without the use of Lakefill are not available for the LWC EA as existing lands within the Project Study Area are required for critical infrastructure at the waste water treatment plant .



# LAKEVIEW WATERFRONT CONNECTION PROJECT



Edition #1, January 2012

## Continued: Proposed framework for “Alternatives To”

The EA ToR will be prepared in accordance with 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) of the Ontario EA Act that includes the requirements outlined in sub-section 6.1(2) known as “focusing”. Focusing or scoping integrates previous planning works, specifically the LWC Feasibility Study (Dec. 2011) to reduce duplication of efforts and focus the selection of Alternatives.

Alternative Methods to be established for the Lakefill “Alternative To” may include, but not be limited to, variations on wetland and terrestrial habitat mixes and functions; different public linkages and uses; orientations for Serson Creek; beach and shoreline configurations; and ability to link with future expansions of the lakefill project.



## Come Join Us...

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**  
**Cawthra Senior Citizen's Centre**  
**1389 Cawthra Road, Mississauga**  
**6:30 pm – 9:00 pm**  
**(Presentations start at 7:00 pm)**

### LOISS

CVC is undertaking a comprehensive study of the Lake Ontario shoreline in Mississauga to increase its understanding of this unique feature and to find ways to restore and protect it. Working closely with local residents, community-based organizations and government agencies, CVC is gathering its findings in order to provide guidance on future development and land use decisions. CVC's findings will help inform the City of Mississauga's Inspiration Lakeview waterfront visioning process and the larger Lake Ontario Biodiversity Strategy.

CVC's strategy addresses four key shoreline concerns – habitat loss and degradation, the spread of invasive species, water quality and water quantity. The Lakeview Waterfront Connection (LWC) project (part of the Inspiration Lakeview visioning process) helps to remedy one of the key shoreline concerns – habitat loss and degradation. The information gathered by CVC will aid the LWC project and provide a larger regional context for the LWC Environmental Assessment. At the same time, information gathered through the LWC project and its Environmental Assessment will contribute to the community's overall understanding of the Lake Ontario shoreline.

## Opportunities for Public Involvement

Consultation between the proponents and interested parties is required as part of preparing the EA ToR and conducting the EA. The **Public Information Centre (PIC)**'s will be the main forum for engaging the general public in the Environmental Assessment process.

The proposed PIC format includes:

- Open House Session
- Formal Presentation
- Facilitated Discussions

It is anticipated that three PICs will be organized to collect input for the EA Terms of Reference and three PICs will take place during the EA stage. The most up to date information on the LWC EA Project can always be found at [www.creditvalleyca.ca/lwc](http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/lwc).

## Next Steps

The Region of Peel and Credit Valley Conservation, supported by the City of Mississauga and Toronto and Region Conservation, plan to work with the public and members of the community, aboriginal communities, business and landowners in the area and the Technical Advisory Committee to develop a Terms of Reference.

## Comments? Questions? Want more information?

Visit our website at: <http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/lwc>

Or contact:

Brooke Erickson

Waterfront Resources Planner

Toronto and Region Conservation

416 661 6600 ext 5581

[berickson@trca.on.ca](mailto:berickson@trca.on.ca)