2007 J-Town Sailing Club

Come sail with us! Our boats, Your community"

March 28, 2007

Mr. J. Campbell
President and CEO
Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation
20 Bay Street, Suite 1310
Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2N8

Subject: Planning Issues Vital for the Immediate Future Sustainability of St James Town Sailing Club.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Our club is part of the Outer Harbour Sailing Federation and has been represented by OHSF in contacts with TWRC and the planners. We have decided, however, to put forward a presentation of the planning issues whose satisfactory solutions are vital for our club's survival. We believe that TWRC has only a general understanding of the Outer Harbour Sailing Federation which is composed of a number of dissimilar clubs with different requirements for the use of land and water. Awareness of the issues concerning our club will benefit the planning process not only by helping to achieve a consensus between the planners and the stakeholders, but also, it will enable the planners to further develop their vision for the future of the Outer Harbour and to better incorporate our club and other similar clubs into this vision. Acceptable resolution of the following issues is a necessary condition of our club's survival beyond the creation of the Lake Ontario Park.

1) **Boat Storage and Shelter**: For sustainable operation the club requires enough land to build a club house and to store boats.

2) **Transportation Access**: The club needs road access to be able to trailer boats in and out.

3) **Parking**: We need a free and a sufficient amount of parking space for the members. We keep our fees low to make sailing available to everyone on a first come first served basis. Even a modest parking fee would likely double the cost of sailing in our club, thus diminishing our accessibility and our membership.

4) **Long Term Commitment**: A secure long term lease is necessary for the club's survival in order to plan for the future and to upgrade our facilities.

5) **Protected Water Frontage**: Our sailing and education activities require us to have a dedicated water frontage and floating docks. Such amenities are necessary to permit normal activities of a cooperative small boat sailing club. All of our boats can be in use at the same time with boats being put in and out of the water throughout the day during weekends and evenings. In addition we teach on the docks and exchange boat crews on the docks. The docks need ramps on both their sides and they need to be easy to access, while the public cannot be allowed on the docks or around our boats for safety and security reasons. Crossing a public path and unlocking a dock gate which works for keelboats that are moored on the water in not possible with dinghies that are taken in and out of the water several times a day.

6) **Outer Harbour Location**: We need to be located on the Outer Harbour together with other small boat sailing clubs. We need to provide sheltered water for sailing lessons and pleasure sailing. The clubs need to maintain integrity of our public educational program and our racing fleet, which is the biggest one design fleet in North America.

7) **Useful Sailing Area**: Preserving sufficient sailing surface on the Outer Harbour is the issue of utmost importance for the survival of the club and for functionality of the harbour as a venue for small boat sailing. Significant water areas have been lost already due to land fill (Marina Peninsula) and sedimentation along Southern and Northern shores of the harbour. There are also several usage conflicts occurring at present and expected to worsen with the planned increases in use.

Having presented our needs, we invite you to browse through the appendices where we provide a more detailed justification of club's vital needs, our club's structure, activities, record of achievements in providing sailing opportunities for non boat owners, and the role of the community sailing clubs in acquainting the public with the sport of sailing. Our achievements on their own constitute a strong justification for our presence on the Outer Harbour and for not degrading the experience the community clubs provide to Toronto public. In order to further facilitate the planning process, we have also attached "Toronto's Outer Harbour: A Report on Recreational Boating Uses" prepared by one of our members for OHSF in 2003.

We trust that all the issues can be resolved to mutual satisfaction of TWRC and St James Town Sailing Club. In order to facilitate the mutual understanding and a satisfactory solution of the issues, we would like to propose a meeting between the planners and the representatives of our club.

Sincerely,

Ed Young, Commodore
St James Town Sailing Club
P.O. Box 98092
970 Queen St. E.
Toronto, Ontario, M4M 3L9

enclosed:

"Presentation of the Club Structure and Activities"
"Explanation of the Need for Dedicated Water Front"
"Toronto's Outer Harbour: A Report on Recreational Boating Uses"