



September 10, 2008

The Honourable John Gerretsen  
Minister of the Environment  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

Honourable Minister:

**RE: Proposed ice skating track in Colonel Sam Smith Park, Toronto**

Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW) was formed in 1989 when it spearheaded the fight to secure public access to a section of Lake Ontario waterfront immediately west of the Humber River. The area was being redeveloped for condominiums. CCFEW's efforts and the support of the provincial government contributed to the reduction of development density and the creation of Humber Bay Shores Park. For nearly twenty years we have worked constructively with the municipality and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to ensure responsible development and to promote a healthy, green, accessible waterfront environment through preservation and rehabilitation.

Recently the City of Toronto has decided to build a \$2 million ice skating track in Colonel Sam Smith Park on the Etobicoke waterfront. The creation of this park was approved under the Environmental Assessment Act in 1980. In 1993 modifications to the original plan were required to take the Act into consideration. The site of the ice skating track is a woodlot part of which is designated for "landscape regeneration" in the Master Plan of the park. It borders a treed corridor that is used by migratory birds and contains a remnant creek which flows through nearby wetlands into Lake Ontario.

We are writing to ask that as Environment Minister you pass a project-specific regulation designating this project as an undertaking to which the Environmental Assessment Act applies. The project and our concerns are outlined in detail in the attached submission.

The reasons for our request to you are:

1. The environmental impact of the City's proposal has not been evaluated within the context of current natural heritage policies.
2. There has been no evaluation of the environmental impact of this proposal on the woodlot where the artificial rink is to be located or on the park in general.

3. There has been a lack of genuine and open consultation in the decision making process.
4. The Province has both an historic and ongoing connection and involvement in The Lakeshore Grounds.

Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront contends that the City has not provided a justification for the need to build this facility in an environmentally sensitive area. After a decade of work and investment by the City and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Colonel Sam Smith Park has evolved into a unique naturalized waterfront park. The introduction of active recreational facilities such as an ice skating track is not in keeping with the original vision of the park nor the spirit of the Master Plan.

A designation under the Environmental Assessment Act is the only way in which significant unresolved concerns regarding rationale, environmental impacts and land use compatibility can be addressed.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and would be happy to provide further information at any time.

Sincerely:

Brian Bailey  
President,  
Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW)  
6 Meaford Avenue,  
Toronto, ON M8V 2H5  
416-288-3060 Ext.5450 (days)  
416-253-9811 (evenings)  
brian@ccfew.org