

Lakeview renewal will be 'inspirational'

By RICH LETKEMAN

Planning and visioning initiatives for an exciting, future waterfront district in Lakeview are taking form, and prospects for industrial and power-generating alternatives have dimmed dramatically.

The Lakeview Ratepayers' dream of revitalizing and developing nearly 500 acres of unproductive land from scratch, and reclaiming their waterfront, began some five years ago when Jim Tovey was elected as president.

Now, after the public visioning exercise in October, a three-day meeting in early December concluded with the City asking all Mississauga residents to join in the idea-development process. City Hall has suggested this spring as the opportune time for finalizing the Visionary Concept Plan.

Mississauga now has a City Waterfront "website", an add-on page, which details the meetings, the next of which will be in early January, and summarizes the process of public input. The web page is: www.mississauga.ca/-portal/residents/-inspirationlakeview.

The City's Waterfront Task Force, charged with visioning and planning for Mississauga's

entire lakefront, will also make a preliminary report in the new year that includes proposals for Ontario Power Generation's (OPG's) 160-acre brownfield in Lakeview, for certain parts of Port Credit, for the marina lands, the Imperial Oil brownfields, and other sections of the city's 22 kilometres of lakefront.

Virtually all of the 22-km stretch, except for a few parks, a dozen short residential streets and some large factories, has been totally neglected in terms of its potential value to residents. Port Credit is the only village centre with visible views of the lake and most of these are elevated.

The "Mississauga Summit" task forces are responsible for identifying and engaging "allies" to the visions and then getting commitments from them. In November just past, the Summit presented the best-supported ideas, and they came out strongly in favour of major infrastructure upgrades, more post-secondary institutions, development of a sustainable waterfront, and a fourth that has something to do with "excellence of diversity and immigration".

For Lakeview residents, the third priority has flashing lights on it. In the Summit's eye, the waterfront is Mississauga's "hidden gem". In Lakeviewers' eyes, it should never have been hidden at all.

The Waterfront Task Force is expected to recommend converting the Lakeview district and waterfront into a showcase of environmental sustainability, and environmental groups are impressed, thinking that would be a departure from the normal sphere of activity.

The biggest news lately has been the three-day, public workshop held in December, organized by Urban Strategies Inc. as consultants.

The OPG part of the site is key, since it's right on the waterfront. Visions for this brownfield include a stadium, an aquarium, a university, a complex of parks and art works tied in with the waterfront trail, or a combination of some of these things.

Mayor McCallion said: "This is the last piece of land in Mississauga and we will do something really unique with it."

A few days prior to the public meeting the City, and OPG through the provincial government, announced they're now in a "shared development plan" that may soon take form.

Said Tovey, the winning candidate for councillor in Ward 1: "Today is the beginning of a whole new future for the area." Added McCallion: "I feel so good we finally have control of what happens."

MPP Charles Sousa said: "This is the first chapter in Lakeview's post-power story."

OPG's director of public affairs, Bob Osborne said: "However, we [OPG] do need to maintain value of our asset, which is owned by the people of Ontario."

Most people in Lakeview are asking why OPG and the provincial government are holding secret the future of OPG's key 160-acre "asset".

Two and a half years ago, George



The future of the former Lakeview Generating lands brought all interested parties together last month at the Port Credit Yacht Club for an announcement that lands will be developed for popular use. From left, City Manager Janice Baker, Ward 1 Councillor Jim Tovey, MPP Mississauga-South, Charles Sousa, Director Strategic Community Initiative City Manager's Office, Bruce Carr, Mayor Hazel McCallion and Ontario Power Generation's, Bob Osborne.

Photo by Fred Loek

EDO wins big

The City of Mississauga was recently presented with two prestigious awards at a meeting of Council, recognizing the work of the City's Economic Development Office (EDO). The EDO team's Business Location Advantages brochure received a first place marketing award from the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) and an international honourable mention from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

Said Janice Baker, City Manager and CAO: "The EDO team is doing an excellent job of promoting our City as a place where businesses can prosper thanks to our location, infrastructure and skilled workforce."

Both awards recognize excellence and creativity in furthering the City's economic development priorities. The awards also allow for an opportunity to share best practices with peers.

An online version of the award winning brochure can be viewed online at www.mississauga.ca/business.

Big bucks

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, last month announced a major investment in a \$1-billion research and development (R&D) project being undertaken by Pratt & Whitney Canada Corporation.

The investment is expected to create and maintain an average of more than 700 highly skilled jobs during the project work phase and more than 2,000 jobs during the 15-year benefits phase.

"On behalf of the Harper Government, I am pleased to announce this major investment, which is creating jobs and strengthening Canada's economy," said Minister Clement. "The project we are investing in today will create and maintain Canadian research jobs, encourage public and private partnerships, and keep Canada at the forefront of the international aerospace industry." Pratt & Whitney is located in Mississauga.

The project's R&D work, which will take place in Longueuil, Quebec, and Mississauga, will lead to lighter aircraft engines with more power, better fuel consumption and improved durability. The engines will give off fewer emissions and make less noise. They will cost less to own and take less time to make.

"I'm proud to say that Pratt & Whitney Canada is one of this country's major investors in aerospace R&D," said John Saabas, president P&W Canada. This \$300-million repayable investment is being made through the Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative (SADI), which supports industrial research and pre-competitive development projects.

Smitherman as Minister of Energy for the Province, was believed to have stated that the OPG land, or at least the land use, would go to the people of Lakeview and Mississauga.

Some residents are wondering if the former coal-burning site is an embarrassing polluted example of Lakeview's "legacy" and unfit for human occupancy. Others think the Premier might just be holding onto it until it serves merit as an election platform.

No fewer than 10,000 municipal planners from the Western world visited the Stockholm waterfront district to see the transformed village known as Hammarby Sjöstad ("seaport").

It's been crowned as Europe's most perfect example of the sustainable urban community with green infrastructure.

The early-December "Inspiration" event was visited by Erik Freudenthal, a Stockholm City communication director who made a presentation on the formerly polluted industrial "mess" in this part of Stockholm's harbour district, near the Baltic Sea.

"The process has only taken a few years," said Freudenthal. "The planning tasks integrated everything [we could think of] and that's the reason for the project's success."

In transforming the "stad", teams of

residents and contractors created user-friendly green spaces while always saving the trees and wildlife habitats.



Hammarby, Sweden. Is Lakeview next?

Transit was improved with rail links, ferry routes and car pool incentives. The City organized a system of "eco inspections" to monitor environmental conditions and ban invasive construction materials. Health, exercise and arts

facilities were enhanced and upgraded and made more accessible.

What is called "the Hammarby model" produces both heating and cooling energy from recycled wastes and centralizes it by district; encourages residents to produce half of their own energy needs; recycles waste and rainwater in commercial districts; experiments with technologies that have existing and future urban potential; and supports both thermal and electric solar panels.

Leaders in the Lakeview community were mind-boggled at the number of opportunities that could be employed in its future waterfront district.

Mississauga has an Official Plan and a Lakeview District Plan and an Action Plan and a Port Credit District Plan to give this city an efficient transit system and make its mixed-use neighbourhoods more vibrant and "walkable".

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