



Flooding on the Lower Don circa—1918

Schedule of Study Activities:

X's represent general time of meetings and events—but not the exact dates	Autumn & Winter 2003	Winter 2004	Spring 2004	Summer 2004	Autumn 2004	Study completion Oct. 15, 2004 Hurricane Hazel's 50th anniversary
Study Work	-----					
Technical Advisory Committee	X X	X X	X	X X	X	
Community Liaison Committee	X	X X	X	X	X	
Public Events		Jan. 19	TBD	TBD	TBD (if required)	
Submission to the TRCA Board	X					
Environmental assessments submission for approval	X—Provincial X—Federal					

**ContactUs:**

**Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project**  
Web site: [http://www.trca.on.ca/water\\_protection/lower\\_don\\_ea](http://www.trca.on.ca/water_protection/lower_don_ea)

or

<http://www.towaterfront.ca>

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PublicInformationCentre  
andOpenHouse

You are cordially invited to attend the first of several public forums to provide input on the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project. This public forum will be held on:

**Monday January 19, 2004.**  
**6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.**  
**Metro Hall—Rooms 308 & 309**  
**55 John Street, Toronto**

The Open House will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 7 p.m. with a presentation and breakout sessions to follow.

For more information, please contact Alex Blasko below.

TBD—Exact date to be determined

LowerDonRiverWest  
RemedialFloodProtectionProject

LOWERDONRIVERWESTNEWS

January 2004

Edition One

TheProject

The objective for the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project is to develop a flood protection functional design that will protect human life and infrastructure from flooding by permanently removing an extensive swath of Toronto from the Regulatory Floodplain, west and north of the Don River Mouth.

The Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project (LDRW) will ensure the city's safety and security by providing a flood protection solution along the west bank of the Don River (between the CN Railway embankment and Queen Street East). This flood protection solution will remove 210 hectares of the City of Toronto currently located within the floodplain. This flood protection solution will be selected through a detailed public and technical evaluation of alternatives through a coordinated Environmental Assessment process that will meet provincial and federal regulations.

DesignOpportunities&Challenges

- Infrastructure Constraints
- Ice Management
- Flood Protection
- Public Access
- Dynamic Edge /Water Level Fluctuations
- Gateway Aesthetics

There is a renewed interest in revitalizing Toronto's waterfront. The availability of new funding, advancements in computer modelling and new technologies, and the completion of the City's Official and Secondary Plan have resulted in the energy, motivation, and ability to eliminate the risk of flooding to this extensive area of downtown Toronto.

A legacy of contaminated soils and groundwater has been left behind from past industrial activities in the study area. Recommendations arising from a study to treat these contaminated soils and groundwater, which is being spearheaded by the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), will be incorporated into the flood protection design for the LDRW project. As is required with all EAs, the cultural, social, and economic issues will be assessed. Railway operations, infrastructure, land use planning, recreation, the natural environment, and public health are included in the study as part of the environmental assessments.



Flooding and Ice Jams on the Lower Don circa—1925



### Funding, Partnership, Coordination

Remedial flood protection for the Lower Don River is a key component of waterfront revitalization. What's more, the large population and extensive infrastructure currently within this floodplain has been identified as TRCA's highest priority for flood protection since 1980. TRCA is carrying out this project on behalf of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC), which was established by the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto to lead and coordinate waterfront revitalization. The project is being conducted by TRCA in conjunction with Dillon Consulting Limited. The City of Toronto is facilitating the public consultation component for the environmental assessment process.

Given the large number of projects involved with waterfront revitalization within the area, the LDRW project will proceed in a coordinated and parallel process with the Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project (DMNP), the West Don Lands and East Bayfront Precinct Planning Processes, the Gardiner Expressway/Lake Shore Boulevard Scoping Study, the Don Valley Corridor Master Plan, the GO Transit - Lakeshore East Corridor Rail Expansion Study, and the Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan. This list of projects within the area is not inclusive.

### Two Separate Environmental Assessments

The Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project, does not focus on the river itself. The project addresses the floodplain lands in the area known as the Lower West Don Lands. A separate EA, the Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project, will also be conducted by TRCA using a coordinated EA process to streamline the Provincial Individual EA and Federal Environmental Screening Report.

### Environmental Assessment for Flood Protection Planning

The preferred flood protection solution will be developed in accordance with the provincial Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) using the Conservation Authority Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects. To ensure that the preferred flood protection solution does not produce significant adverse environmental effects, the project will also be subject to an environmental screening under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)*.

The development of both reports will be conducted in coordination to ensure that the requirements for both levels of government are addressed. When all government approvals are received, detailed construction designs can be developed followed by the construction of preferred flood control measures.



### The Flood Area

The general study area includes 210 hectares of land that are subject to flooding (see below) between the Don River and the CN Tower, and extending as far north as Queen Street. Flooding to this portion of Toronto would occur under the Regulatory Flood and would originate through Spill Zone 3, along the west bank of the Don River between the CN Tracks and Queen Street. The Regulatory Flood refers to the extent of flooding if a storm the size and duration of Hurricane Hazel were to occur over the Don Watershed.

Areas located immediately north of the CN Railway and west of the Don would be subject to the most severe flooding under the Regulatory Flood: flood waters would be in excess of three metres. The floodplain extends south of the railway embankment as floodwaters would flow to Lake Ontario through the railway underpasses at

Cherry Street, Parliament Street, and Sherbourne Street.

### Consultation and Public Events

The Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project has three key levels of stakeholder and public consultation. All stakeholders and the public are being consulted throughout the course of the EA study.

### The Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is made up of technical experts from the federal, provincial and city governments and agencies, Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation staff, and public community and stakeholder representatives. The TAC began meeting in the Spring of 2003 to lay the groundwork for both the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project and the Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project.

### The Community Liaison Committee

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) is made of community representatives and members of the public who are interested in the environment, the future of the Don River, and the social and economic effects of the flood control measures that will result from the project. The committee was established by the TRCA community members of the TAC in fulfilment of the requirements of the Class EA. The CLC will meet five or six times during the course of the study.

### Public Events and Consultation Process

Local residents, environmental groups, stewardship organizations, ratepayer associations, and businesses will be contacted through a variety of means to be made aware of issues and opportunities to provide input. TRCA staff will carry out direct contact with area landowners. At least three public events, including three open houses with presentations and workshops are scheduled. In addition, comments raised through the East Bayfront and West Don Lands Precinct Plans will also be incorporated.