

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU!

Kingston's Waterfront Public Consultation



"The relationship of the City (Kingston) to Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence, and the Great and Little Cataraqui Rivers is one of the great assets of Kingston, the benefits of which should be to the advantage of the citizens at large as well as those living close to the waterfront."

(Former City of Kingston 1981 Official Plan)



Presented by the City of Kingston in partnership with the
Waterfront Regeneration Trust, September 2002





CITY HALL

216 Ontario Street
Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3

COUNTER STREET BUILDING

211 Counter Street

MIDLAND AVENUE BUILDING

1425 Midland Avenue

www.city.kingston.on.ca

waterfront@city.kingston.on.ca

For more information contact:

Cherie Mills, Project Manager
Planning Division, City of Kingston
cmills@city.kingston.on.ca
(613) 384-1770, extension 289 or

Suzanne Barrett, Facilitator
Waterfront Regeneration Trust
sb@trust.com
(416) 943-8080, extension 226

One in five respondents want
Completion of Pathways.

One in five respondents want
a **Comprehensive Waterfront
Plan.**

One in five respondents want
**Council Commitment and
Action.**

Introduction

The City of Kingston's unique blend of past and present is reflected in one of its greatest assets - the waterfront. Kingston has over 150 kilometres of waterfront; along Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, the Great Cataraqui River and the Little Cataraqui Creek.

Kingston's waterfront is an important resource and contributes significantly to the quality of life available to the City's residents and visitors. It is well suited for recreational uses, is well used, accessible to many people and is home to a variety of fish and wildlife. It also provides economic benefits through activities such as tourism and fishing.

While there have been many waterfront studies, there is not one plan for the future of the entire waterfront of the new City of Kingston. Planners for the City of Kingston have not yet taken a "big picture" look at the entire waterfront so it is timely to seek public input before embarking on any future waterfront planning.

Council considers the waterfront to be one of their highest priorities. In late 2001 and early 2002, Council participated in a series of workshops and information sessions concerning the waterfront and specific waterfront studies. Throughout the visioning and workshop exercises, Council expressed an interest in involving the public directly in waterfront planning.

As a result, plans were made to begin the waterfront public consultation process. In order to provide everyone in the City with an opportunity to share their visions, principles and priorities for the City's waterfront, a booklet was prepared for public distribution including a survey and an invitation to participate in a workshop on May 23, 2002.

The Waterfront Public Consultation Booklet was distributed city-wide in May through a local newspaper, posted on the City website, and made available at all the libraries and municipal offices. The booklet was designed to serve two purposes. First, it provided background information for those attending the Waterfront Public Visioning Workshop held on May 23, 2002. Second, it served as a comprehensive document that permitted members of the public, who were unable to attend the May 23, 2002 workshop, to record their thoughts and ideas and forward them to any City of Kingston municipal office in person, by mail, by e-mail or by facsimile by June 21, 2002.

The Public Consultation Workshop held in Memorial Hall began in the afternoon with an open house that was attended by more than 40 people. Following the open house was a facilitated workshop attended by over 70 people who shared their ideas in roundtable discussions. Later in the evening each group shared its visions, principles and priorities for Kingston's waterfront with the rest of the participants.

The feedback received from the workshop and from the over 250 booklets received by June 21, 2002 was reviewed, compiled and analyzed.

The following is what we learned.

You were asked to share:

Your Vision

"Imagine it is the year 2022. You have a guest from out-of town, **or** you would like to take your family on an outing. Suggest an experience and/or specific activities you would like to be able to enjoy on Kingston's waterfront."

Vision	Responses
Walk across large portions of the city waterfront on pathways	91
Eat/drink at a restaurant or café directly on the water	82
Boating, canoe rental, paddling, etc.	78
Ride a bicycle on more pathways	72
Have a picnic on the waterfront	67
Enjoy theatre & music concerts	65
Relax on benches or at rest areas	62
Swim, visit beaches	56
Walk on the waterfront (no destination specified)	49
Enjoy history/museums	40

Out of the 1178 total activities noted:

- 55% of respondents want to walk along the waterfront
- 25% of your visions involved sports on the waterfront such as boating, canoeing, biking, swimming, sailing, windsurfing, skiing, skating
- 16% of your visions included pathway activities (walking, biking, multi-uses)

Your Principles

"Review the draft principles developed in the first Council workshop. Will they help achieve your vision for 2022? What would you like to add or change?" The draft principles included: *accessible, beautiful, clean, natural, historic and lively.*

Principle	Responses
General support of the principles	79
Accessibility for all persons	35
No high-rises	31
Natural and environmental – green	27
Clean up the Inner Harbour	27
Public ownership – waterfront acquisition	19
Completion of the pathway	15
Clean	14
Plans/density controls	13
Lively	10

Out of the 439 total principles noted:

- 48% of your principles made reference to Council's principles
- 30% of your principles stressed "one" of Council's principles
- 7% of your principles concerned no high-rises on the waterfront

Comments from You!

"Let's just do something and not worry about getting it perfect!"

"Don't stop!"

"It is better to have a road next to the water than a hotel. Better yet a bicycle path and better than that is a boardwalk."

"There is such untapped potential in terms of 1. seniors; 2. students."

"Simply to walk freely in open, clean air in a background of green and interesting buildings that are in actual use, not merely preserved museums."

"I think waterfront activities should be more actively promoted by the City as I feel that I have a very limited view of what Kingston's waterfront has to offer me."

"It is now or never for Kingston to come to grips with its waterfront development. It is wasting away now and losing its appeal."

"As a new citizen, it appears that people want to see the local government actually do something."

"The waterfront should be a lifestyle area that takes into consideration natural habitats without spoiling them but giving access to areas of use with focal areas for focal interaction".

More Comments from You!

"Cities aren't made of concrete and brick, they are made of people. The citizens of Kingston deserve a beautiful, clean people-oriented waterfront. It is difficult to believe that this might really happen."

"A positive and successful project will increase the likelihood of the next project starting."

"The City needs to have control of Block D. This piece of land is pivotal."

"We have made many mistakes on the waterfront. We need to tie the entire City together - the waterfront and waterfront paths and parks could do this!"

"What is the use of doing this if Council does nothing? They need to get the people's trust back – not just another study or survey!"

"I believe the City must become very aggressive to protect the limited amount of waterfront by purchasing these areas."

"I applaud the idea of doing a waterfront plan. Let's do it and stick with it."

"Quality doesn't have to mean grand plans. Start with passive recreational activities."

"Enjoyed the booklet – well done! Look forward to next steps!"

Your Priorities

"What are your priorities for action? Who should take the lead? Who should participate?"

Priority	Responses
Completion of continuous pathways	53
Do a comprehensive plan for the entire waterfront	46
Council show commitment, and do something, even something small	43
Council/City to take a leadership role	43
More parks/nodes – people places	39
Clean up the Inner Harbour – environmental toxins, sewers	38
Engage groups/citizens – communication	37
City purchase all waterfront properties as available	33
Clean up – no pollution/sewer run-off (not including Inner Harbour)	31
Maintenance of wildlife, nature, wetlands – environmental	27

Out of the 791 total priorities noted:

- 14% of your priorities included environmental concerns/clean up
- 11% of your priorities mentioned a proactive role by Council/City
- 11% of your priorities concerned pathways
- 11% of your priorities concerned planning – either a waterfront plan or height/density controls

Your Location

Of those respondents who provided a postal code:

- 60% live at least 1 kilometre from the waterfront
- 40% live within 1 kilometre of the waterfront
- 21% live in apartments or condominiums
- 5% live outside the City of Kingston
- 2% live in rural areas (north of Highway 401 and east of Highway 15)

It is important to note that this a starting point in the waterfront public consultation process – an organization of the responses from the citizens of Kingston. The feedback from the responses reflected in this document was reviewed to identify common themes and key trends from respondents who completed the booklet. The analysis of the booklets is not a statistically valid exercise.

We are hopeful that this booklet will act as a catalyst for further discussion and action on the waterfront.

Next Steps

On October 1, 2002, Council authorized staff to provide details for a waterfront strategy for the City of Kingston waterfront.

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The City of Kingston asked you to share your visions, principles and priorities and you responded. Thank you for your input.