April 20, 2021

To: Chair and members of the Board, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority,

I am writing to urge you to take action on a long-neglected project. There is a dam roughly one kilometre from the mouth of Etobicoke Creek. The dam was constructed by the Toronto Golf Club in 1913. This dam is an impassable barrier to the movement of fish, and its removal has been planned for many years. The TRCA publication “Greening Our Watersheds: Revitalization Strategies for Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks” features the removal of this dam as a case study of how the creek is being rehabilitated. Sadly the removal, scheduled for 2002, never happened.

An excerpt from that publication is attached.

CCFEW is asking for a fresh commitment from the TRCA to get this project started before the twentieth anniversary of the originally planned date.

Sincerely,

Brian Bailey
President, CCFEW

c.c. Toronto Councillor Mark Grimes
Mississauga Councillor Stephen Dasko

Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront
6 Meaford Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8V 2H5
www.ccfew.org

TORONTO AND REGION Conservation
for *The Living City*

Greening Our Watersheds:

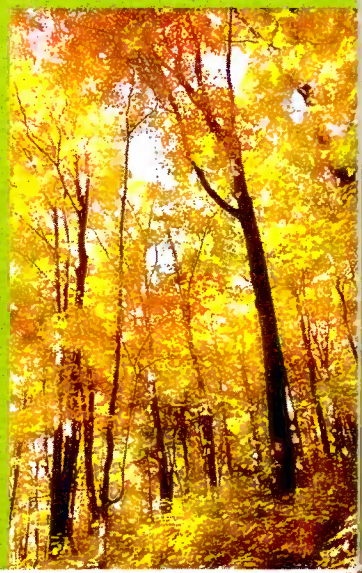
Revitalization Strategies for Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks

Including the Etobicoke-Mimico Report Card

Prepared by the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Task Force

May, 2002

Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks



Loss or physical alteration of habitats, including in-stream barriers to fish passage

Urbanization and agricultural land practices have resulted in the filling of wetlands and estuaries and the channelization or piping of the creeks in some areas. As a result, much of the historic fish habitat within Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks has been eliminated or altered to a significant degree.

In terms of natural stream length, the 1998 Etobicoke and Mimico Creek *State of the Watersheds* report indicates that 33 per cent of Etobicoke Creek and 59 per cent of Mimico Creek are no longer in a natural state. Details are provided below.

In 1947, the Etobicoke Valley Report recommended that barriers be installed in the creeks as a method of water conservation (see Appendix 1). Currently, there are 61 in-stream barriers in Etobicoke Creek and 73 in-stream barriers in Mimico Creek. These barriers primarily limit the movement of fish throughout the watersheds restricting access to spawning, feeding and resting places. The removal of barriers to fish movement and the restoration of pool and riffle features will improve the condition of fish habitat for resident and migratory fish.

Stream Alterations

Watercourse	Natural	Concrete	Altered[a]	Piped[b]
Etobicoke Creek	67%	4%	28%	1 %
Mimico Creek	41%	19%	40%	0 %

[a] Altered includes watercourses which have been straightened or otherwise altered, but not lined in concrete or piped. Detailed site assessment is required to confirm this figure and it is expected that this number will increase for both creeks.

[b] Piped watercourses have not been well-documented. A historic review of mapping is required and it is expected that this number will increase for both creeks.

Loss of woody riparian vegetation

Woody riparian (trees and shrubs) provide an organic food source for many benthic invertebrates, provide stream shade, stabilize banks and once fallen into the water, provide habitat for fish. Without such deep-rooted vegetation, soil from eroded streambanks can cause turbidity and the disruption of food supply to fish communities. Riparian zone is an indicator of aquatic ecosystem condition, and is further discussed in section 6.2.3.

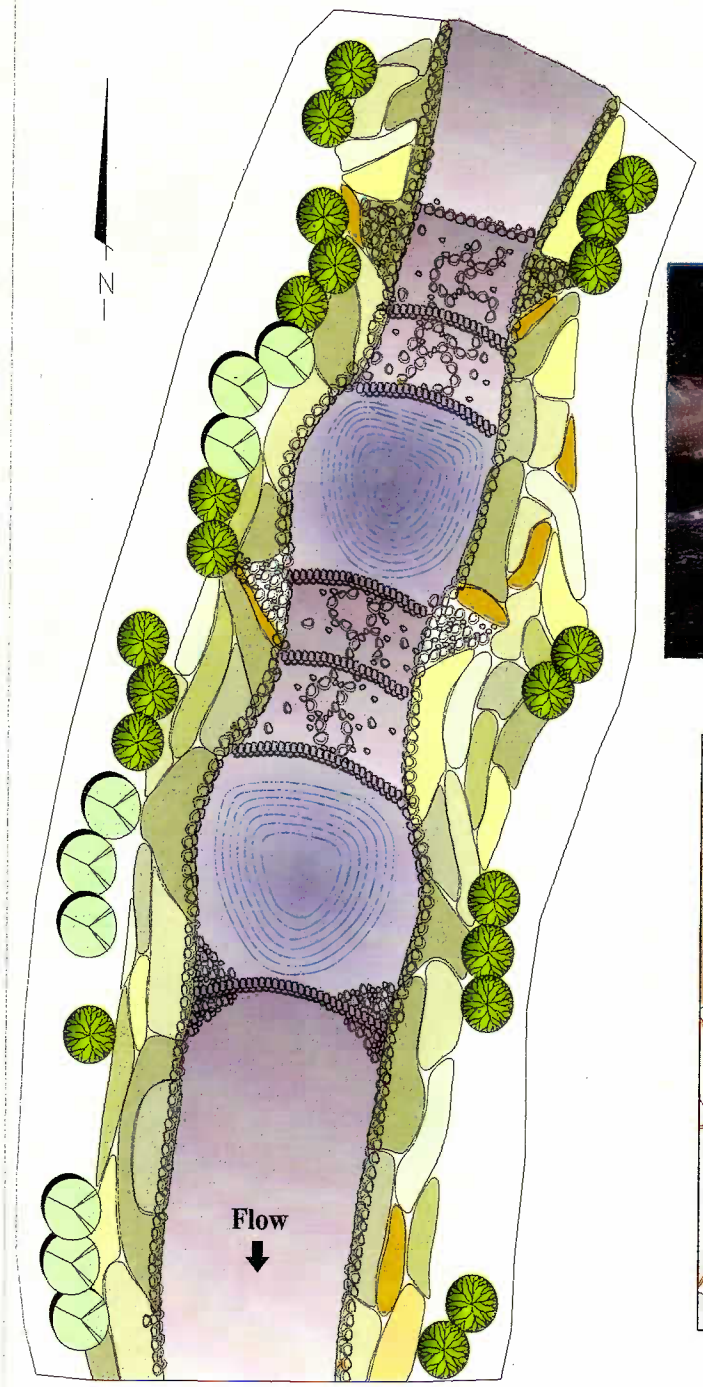
Case Study: Toronto Golf Course weir mitigation project on Etobicoke Creek

Since 1913, the Toronto Golf Course located on the west bank of Etobicoke Creek in the City of Mississauga, has been pumping its irrigation waters from the creek. In order to do this, a large dam was built to contain waters during the summer months. In winter, stop logs are removed, but the 20 foot drop in the creek still remains.

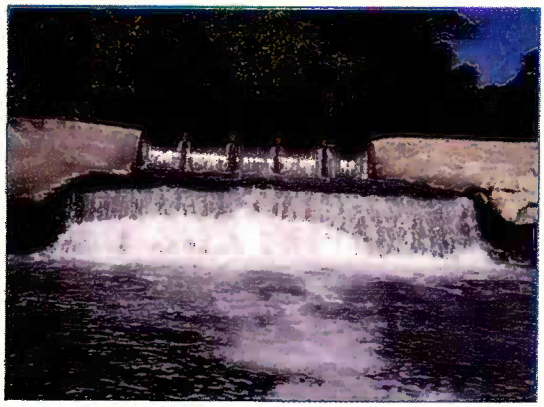
In 2002, the Toronto Golf Course will remove this barrier to fish movement and replace it with a series of pools and riffles, thus providing the opportunity for Lake Ontario fish to once again travel upstream. The riparian area on both sides of the creek will be planted.

Water use from the creek by the golf course will continue but to a much lesser degree. Irrigation ponds will be constructed on the tablelands as part of the golf course itself. The ponds will be fed with both stormwater runoff, and waters pumped from the creek.

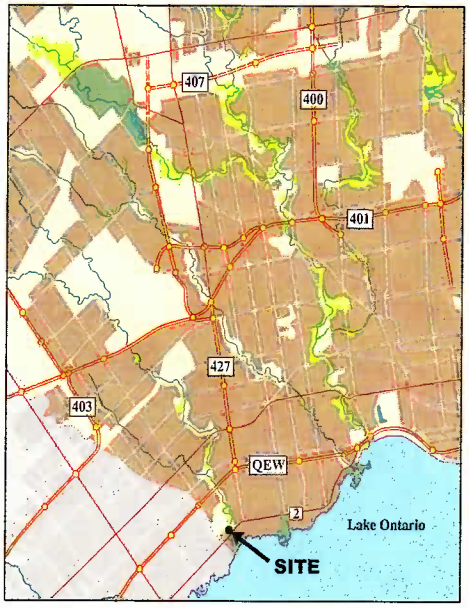
Over time, we expect water levels in the creek to decrease as a result of climate change. With its tableland irrigation ponds, the golf course should be better able to sustain its operation standards without adversely affecting the creek's aquatic ecosystems.



Plan Prepared by
SCHOLLEN & Company INC.



Existing Barrier



Key Map (Map Art)

Toronto Golf Course
Proposed Instream Barrier Mitigation Project