




Toronto Foreshore Protection Group

Preserving Toronto's Public
Foreshore Land as Park for a
Growing Population

Website: www.tfpg.org.au

The background is a dark green gradient. In the corners, there are decorative circuit-like patterns made of thin yellow lines and small circles, resembling a printed circuit board (PCB) layout. These patterns are located in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners.

PART 1: WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

WHERE IS THE BATH ST DEVELOPMENT UP TO??

These slides address 4 questions:

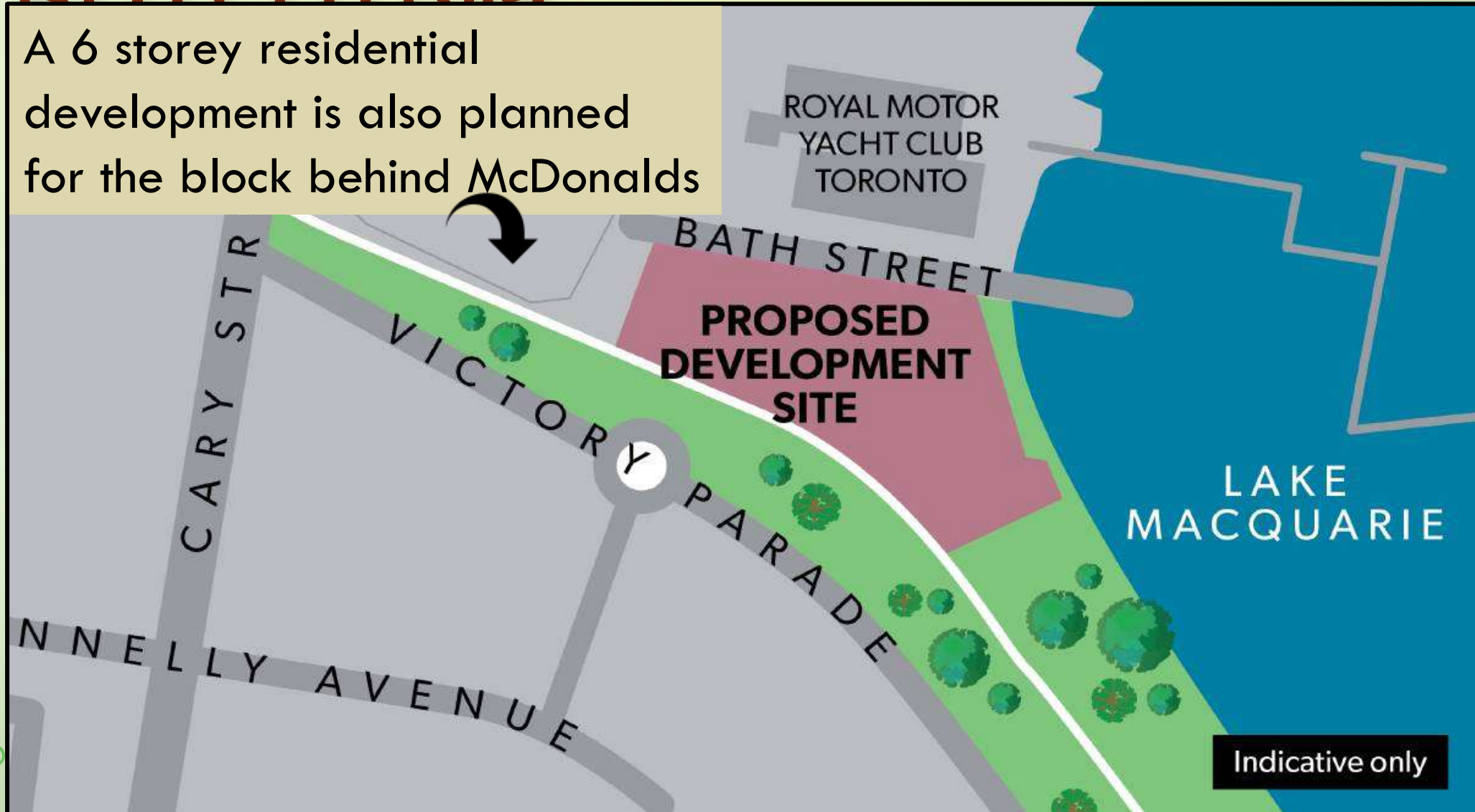
- What stage is Council's Bath St development proposal at?
- What actions have TFPG taken since the Public Meeting of 4th September 2018?
- Has there been any recent progress?
- What are the planned future steps towards achieving our goals?

A REMINDER OF COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL

- Lake Macquarie City Council have allocated up to \$1million for the preparation of a Development Application to erect a **4-6 storey building on foreshore land** opposite the Royal Motor Yacht Club.
- The building is to be a mix of *residential apartments, tourist accommodation, and commercial premises.*
- Details have been classified as **"commercial in confidence"**

LOCATION OF THE BUILDING

A 6 storey residential development is also planned for the block behind McDonalds



COUNCIL CONSIDERED 7 OPTIONS

1. *Two level scheme* (Development Control Plan compliant)
2. *Four level scheme* (DCP non-compliant)
3. Four levels as above, however *including an additional basement car park level.*
4. *Six level scheme* (DCP non-compliant)

5. To not proceed with any redevelopment, and leave the land available for ***unformed car parking for the public.***

6. To not proceed with any redevelopment and allocate the land for community purposes . . . for the purpose of ***consolidation into the overall foreshore masterplan*** redesign in 2018/19.

(This is the option favoured by the TFPG.)

7. Develop a design with RMYC for a ***Joint Venture.*** . .

**Council decided to proceed to DA stage
with Option 4 -**

the 6 storey development

**At this point in February 2019, they have begun
preliminary work in preparation for the lodgment of a
Development Application mid 2019. The DA will
eventually be considered by the Regional Approvals Panel**

TORONTO FORESHORE PROTECTION GROUP FORMATION

This group was formed from a number of community groups and concerned residents during May 2018 to oppose Council's plan.

The group comprises:

Toronto Sustainable Neighbourhood Group - Nico Marcar

Sunrise Rotary - Jeff Jansson

Coal Point Progress Association - Suzanne Pritchard

Royal Motor Yacht Club - Melvyn Steiner

Toronto Residents - Bob and Linda Ireland,

Lindsay and Maryanne

Cartwright,

TFPG ACTIONS TO DATE

TFPG has *lobbied Council* on several occasions, meeting with

- The Mayor, Kay Fraser,
- CEO, Morven Cameron,
- Property & Business Development Manager, Kate Cramp and
- Several Councillors (Langford, Adamthwaite, Pauling, Belcher)

TFPG members have attended these meetings singly and in groups of 2,3 &4

RESULTS . . .

- Most meetings were in excess of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour
- We were able to put our case clearly and forcefully
- We were given a fair hearing
- We were given Council's view
- We were able to leave documents for Council to consider our views in depth

OUTCOMES OF LOBBYING EFFORTS

- Council were *defensive* of their position and showed no willingness to change
- Council listened to our views, but *did not accede* to our requests or agree with our arguments
- It appears that councilor support for the development proposal is *entrenched*

OTHER TFPG ACTIONS

- A *Petition* was developed protesting against Council's building proposal, and seeking to have Council reclassify the Bath St land as Community Parkland. (This Petition is still active on the tfpg website and can be signed, if you have not already done so.)
- A *website* was created (tfpg.org.au) presenting up-to-date information, action options and news updates.
- The website also includes copies of all *relevant documents* which support our cause

PUBLICITY

- Numerous *press releases* have been issued
- *Opinion pieces* have been submitted to Newcastle Herald and Lakes Mail
- Numerous *interviews* have occurred with radio, TV and Press
- Multiple *letters* have been lodged with Councillors
- *Letters to the Editor* have gone in big numbers to print media
- Articles featured regularly in *Coal Point Chronicle*

THE PUBLIC MEETING - 4TH SEPT

- Our 1st Public Meeting was attended by *above 450 people*. Only Councillors Harrison & Pauling attended, despite the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and all Councillors being invited.
- A $\frac{1}{2}$ hour *video presentation* gave members of the public information and the TFPG's objections to the proposal
(This presentation is still available on the website)
- 30 minutes of *question & answer* followed
- 3 *Resolutions* were passed by an overwhelming majority

THE 3 RESOLUTIONS . . .

- This meeting of the Toronto community asserts that Lake Macquarie City Council has no community mandate to progress the Bath St/Victory Row development.
- This community meeting urges Council to stop proceeding with the Bath St/Victory Row development and to include the site in the Foreshore Master Plan as an integral part of the Toronto foreshore park.
- This community meeting urges Council to rezone and reclassify the Bath St/Victory Row site as community parkland.

LETTER TO MAYOR FRASER

- The three resolutions were presented on 11th September to the mayor in a letter written on behalf of the TFPG.
- The letter included the *full wording of the 3 resolutions*
- Letters were also sent to non-attending Councillors
- The Mayor replied on 27th September

The Mayor's reply

Subject: Toronto Foreshore

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Toronto Foreshore Protection Group regarding the community meeting held on 4 September 2018.

I appreciate that there is a range of views within the community about the proposed Bath Street development and acknowledge the concerns put forward by the members of your group and others who attended the meeting.

As you are aware, Council recently conducted initial consultation for the Toronto Foreshore Master Plan and many people took the opportunity to contribute comments and views about the Bath Street development. The purpose of this initial consultation is to inform the design brief for both the Master Plan and the proposed development and all of the feedback received will be considered and incorporated into the community engagement report.

Both projects are at a very early stage of development and there will be further opportunities for the community to have input as they progress.

Council has resolved to prepare a detailed design for a medium-density, mixed-use commercial and residential building on the Bath Street site. This decision is consistent with Council's objectives of stimulating employment and economic activity and providing more housing diversity in our economic centres, both to activate those areas and provide for our growing population. These priorities are outlined in the draft Lake Mac 2050 Strategy and reinforced on a regional level by the objectives of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan.

As Councillors, we have not only a mandate but a responsibility to plan for the City's future. The provision of open and recreational space to balance the built environment is an important aspect of that future planning, which is why Council is simultaneously developing a Master Plan to enhance and open up under-used areas of the Toronto Foreshore precinct.

The planned development of the Bath St site is not 'fait accompli' – the proposal will be subject to a stringent assessment process, including determination by the Regional Planning Panel, an independent body.

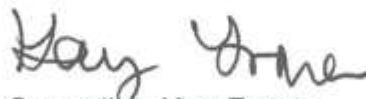




Reply continued . . .

I am confident this process, combined with future community consultation, will result in the best outcome for the community.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Kay Fraser
Mayor

PREPARATION OF A SUBMISSION

- The TFPG decided to prepare a *detailed Submission* to Council to be presented with the Petition at the Council meeting on 29th October (see full copy on TFPG website)
- A comprehensive document was drafted, detailing:
 - History of the site
 - Previous Council comments/decisions concerning development
 - Issues with the proposal, including *deviations of the proposal from 10 planning documents* at Council & state level
 - Copies of all press articles, letters to the editor, Petition comments
 - Recommendations

COUNCIL MEETING 29TH OCTOBER

- An *overflowing gallery* attended
- A Public Access speech on behalf of the Coal Pt Progress Association *supported Council's Foreshore protection* policy
- Councillor Wendy Harrison asked that the *Agenda be changed* to bring the Petition presentation forward (usual practice) in recognition of the large gallery
- *Mayor ruled against* the requested agenda change, treating Wendy Harrison curtly when she tried to protest

COUNCIL MEETING 29TH OCTOBER (CONT...)

- The Petition presentation was *last on a full agenda*, causing the gallery to wait close to 2 hours
- When Councillor Harrison tried to explain that the Petition had been thoroughly vetted for accuracy, the Mayor intervened, *over-ruled further comment* and asked for the Petition to be tabled
- The Gallery erupted angrily at the treatment of Wendy Harrison. The Mayor called a 5 minute recess and *threatened to expel gallery*



Toronto Foreshore Protection Group

Preserving Toronto's Public
Foreshore Land as Park for a
Growing Population

Website: www.tfpg.org.au