

The Shoreline Shuffle

On June 23, several hundred people walked, paddled and cycled 7.7km along Kingston's downtown waterfront in the *Shoreline Shuffle*. The Shuffle was designed to create awareness about the need for better public spaces and planning on our waterfront.

"It was our hope that the Shuffle would inspire Kingston City Council to take seriously the need for a long-term waterfront plan...."

Kingston has more than 220km of shoreline within its municipal boundaries but we have never had a comprehensive waterfront plan. This has resulted in the jumbled, sometimes beautiful, sometimes dilapidated waterfront that we have today.

The Shuffle started in Douglas Fluhrer Park and ended in Lake Ontario Park. Many participants had never gone end to end before, so it was a chance to see the state of our waterfront first hand. It was also a great way to build a waterfront coalition, as the planning of the event brought together some 25 different organizations.



Martine Bresson

Some of the many participants in the *Shoreline Shuffle*.

The *Dear Kingston* art exhibition along the Shuffle route consisted of 15 'word art' installations. Each word or phrase was chosen to be relevant to the need of its immediate surroundings and to encourage participants to consider and imagine a perfect waterfront.

It was our hope that the Shuffle would inspire Kingston City Council to take seriously the need for a long-term waterfront plan – one that involves a variety of citizen groups and all levels of government, and one that

recognizes the need for a diverse and intriguing waterfront that respects different interests.

To that end the event appears to have achieved its objective. A report is going to Council on Tuesday, October 1, recommending the creation of a Working Group to develop a "comprehensive waterfront plan" for Kingston. The group would include community members and a host of other agencies. We are confident that this proposal will be approved.

Thank you to the Community Foundation of Kingston & Area for supporting our work, our waterfront and our city.

Lea Westlake

Update: City Council passed the motion on October 1st that called for a comprehensive waterfront plan. A committee will be formed in the near future that includes various stakeholders and community groups to work on this project.