

NEWEST CONSERVATION AREA IN LAKEVIEW NAMED AFTER JIM TOVEY

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The legacy of Mississauga's environmental champion will live on at the Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area.

The Credit Valley Conservation board of directors unanimously voted to

recognize late councillor Jim Tovey, not just in his role in creating the new conservation area, but for his legacy.

"It reflects his strong commitment to environmental conservation, the waterfront, and the Lakeview community," CVC chief administrative officer

Deborah Martin-Downs said.

On Aug. 24, the CVC board was joined by the late councillor's wife Lee Tovey, councillors Karen Ras and Dave Cook, Mayor Bonnie Crombie's chief of staff Rob Trewartha, and others to witness the board vote on renaming of the Lakeview

Waterfront Connection to the Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area. Tovey played a critical role in bringing the Region of Peel, the CVC, the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority, and other organizations together to envisage a sustainable waterfront.

"Naming the conservation area in his honour recognizes Jim's central role in this project and is our way of honouring his legacy forever," CVC chair and Ward 7 Coun. Nando Iannicca said.

As the region's capital works projects generated

clean fill on the site, Tovey recognized an opportunity to reuse it to create a new natural environment. The CVC says responsible reuse of the material is central to the project.

The 26-hectare waterfront will be transformed into a naturalized conservation area by 2026. The project aims to transform what is currently a degraded and inaccessible section of the waterfront into the conservation area that includes 1.5 kilometres of trail, 12 hectares of meadow, five hectares of forest,

eight hectares of wetland, and one hectare of cobble beach.

The CVC expects the connected habitats to create a coastal ecosystem - recovering what was lost due to development. The conservation area will also support local fish, wildlife and migrating birds.

Construction and restoration began in fall 2016 and since 6.63 hectares of new conservation land has been created.

For more information visit lakeviewwaterfront-connection.ca.