

Town of Port Credit Association (TOPCA)

TOPCA Painted Bicycle / Flowering Baskets Project for PC175

We are very excited about our Association's public art project in honour of Port Credit's 175th Anniversary in 2010. With the assistance of City of Mississauga Parks staff, TOPCA will be acquiring, painting and displaying twenty (20) creatively painted bicycles (all donated) around Port Credit, complete with cascading flowering plants in their baskets. It will be a bright Spring, Summer and Fall!

TOPCA, as a volunteer residents' group, is looking for a sponsor to pay for the bicycle baskets and brackets (already bought) and the best possible blooming plants (and soil) for both Summer and Fall baskets. The City has provided us with an estimate of \$200 per bike, for a total of \$4,000 (based on the City's supplier: Sheridan Nurseries).

This project is made possible through partnership with the City of Mississauga which is preparing (welding) the bikes and providing secure installation once the bikes have been painted by community volunteers, using metal paints also provided by the City. The City is also insuring the installations.



We know this project will be welcome and successful because of a pilot project conducted at one Port Credit location at the entrance to St. Lawrence Park (*shown at left*) during 2009 that has been very well received by the community. This year will entail the placement of bikes all around the village of Port Credit.

This is expected to become an amazing signature project with a look of quality and beauty. The goal is to transform yard sale bikes into classic plant holders. The plants are the key to this project, with the bike frame a creative way to support the flowering baskets.

The long stretch of fencing along the Imperial Oil property facing Lakeshore Road West in Port Credit (*shown at right*) will be the primary site for displaying the painted bicycles in 2010 and beyond. The niches in the fencing provide an excellent framework for public art, and will highlight our walkable / bikeable community. Nine (9) bikes will be displayed here and given permanent installation.

The City is providing decorative (and low-maintenance) 'gardens' of wild grasses for the bikes to be mounted in, within the niches in the fence. The Imperial Oil boulevard is exposed to all of Lakeshore Road and will undoubtedly attract a lot of media and community attention to an artful procession of bikes along the fence.



In addition, bikes will appear throughout Port Credit in prominent locations to delight residents and tourists alike, e.g. by the boat launch, along the harbour promenade, with even a tomato-red bike at the Saturday Farmers Market location.

We have a committee of 20 volunteers who have undertaken to watering the baskets throughout the seasons to keep the plants healthy and monitor the locations -- this will be a point of community pride.

These same volunteers will come together for the bike-painting party on Saturday, May 29 from 1-6 pm at the Peel Chrysler dealership, on Lakeshore Road West across from the Imperial Oil site.



On **Monday, May 31**, the City's Parks crew will collect the bikes from Peel Chrysler and commence secure installation at the various locations.

We have been told it will be important to get the plant material into the baskets as soon as possible after the bikes are installed, ideally on same day, in order to complete the effect and discourage tampering.

The photo (*shown at left*) shows the welded 4-foot post attached to the bottom bracket of the bike. The post will be augered into the ground below frost line, with the post out of sight so the bike will appear to stand on its own.

The basket is supported by an L bracket which is welded to the handlebar stem of the bike. The bottom of the basket is attached to the L bracket with a nut/bolt/washer system.

All moving parts of the bikes will be welded to ensure solid support and for safety reasons.

TOPCA will be very pleased to publicize the sponsorship of the flowering baskets. This vital assistance will ensure we can beautify the community and celebrate the 175th Anniversary of Port Credit in a most charming and unique way.

Please contact:

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