



RE- VITA- LIZA- TION. ontario place

Heritage Canada
The National Trust Conference
October 3, 2014

Alena Grunwald | Manager, Partner and Stakeholder Relations
Tamara Anson-Cartwright | Heritage Advisor

Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture + Sport



Today's discussion



Our approach to understanding the cultural heritage landscape of Ontario Place

1. Understanding the place.

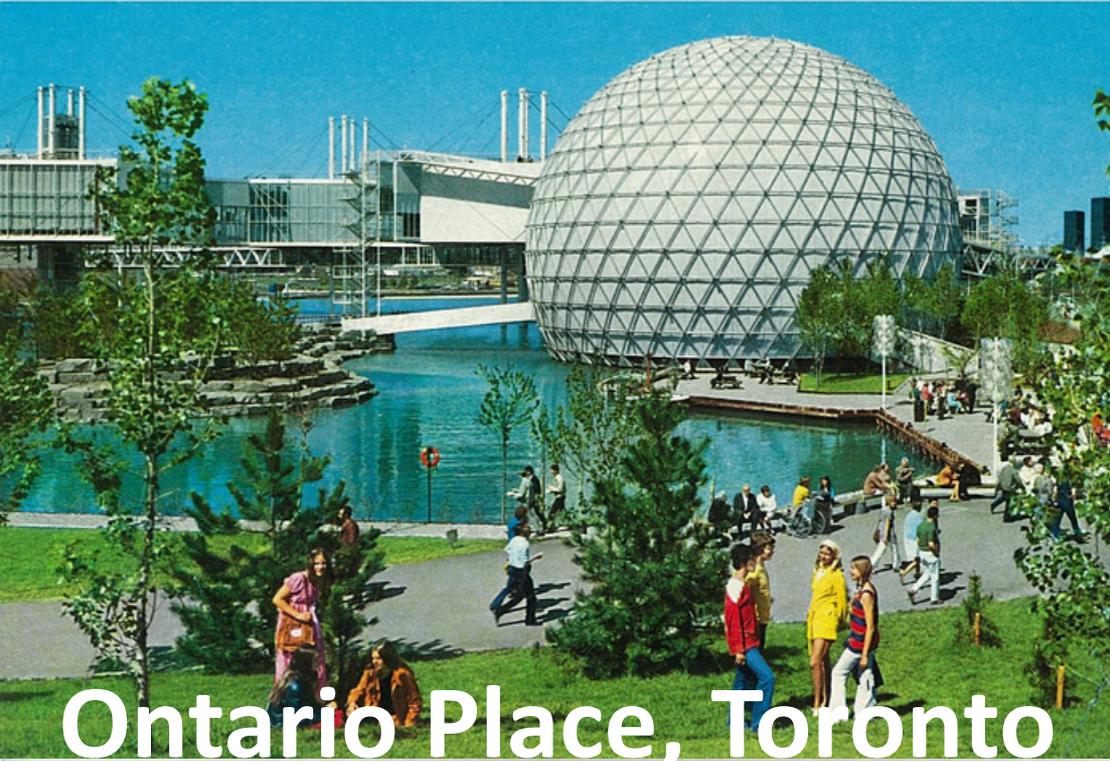
- Connecting the Modern design of Ontario Place – its role in the past, present and future Toronto.

2. Listening to a range of views.

- Public has strong memories and nostalgia of Ontario Place – woven into discussions about the future.

3. Managing change.

- Applying a heritage lens **early on in revitalization** – and following a robust heritage evaluation process has been integral to preparing for future development.



Ontario Place, Toronto



1. Understanding Place

“They will find as you will, a new focal point for our province. A festive, informative and exciting place; a place which demonstrates a new attitude to our lakefronts; a place which offers a tremendous amount of activities to meet the variety of interests held by people from all across our province and beyond.”



Ontario Place today

Toronto's Western Waterfront

The value of place-making

An essential part of the Heritage Review Committee's discussions was understanding the original design and spirit of Ontario Place.

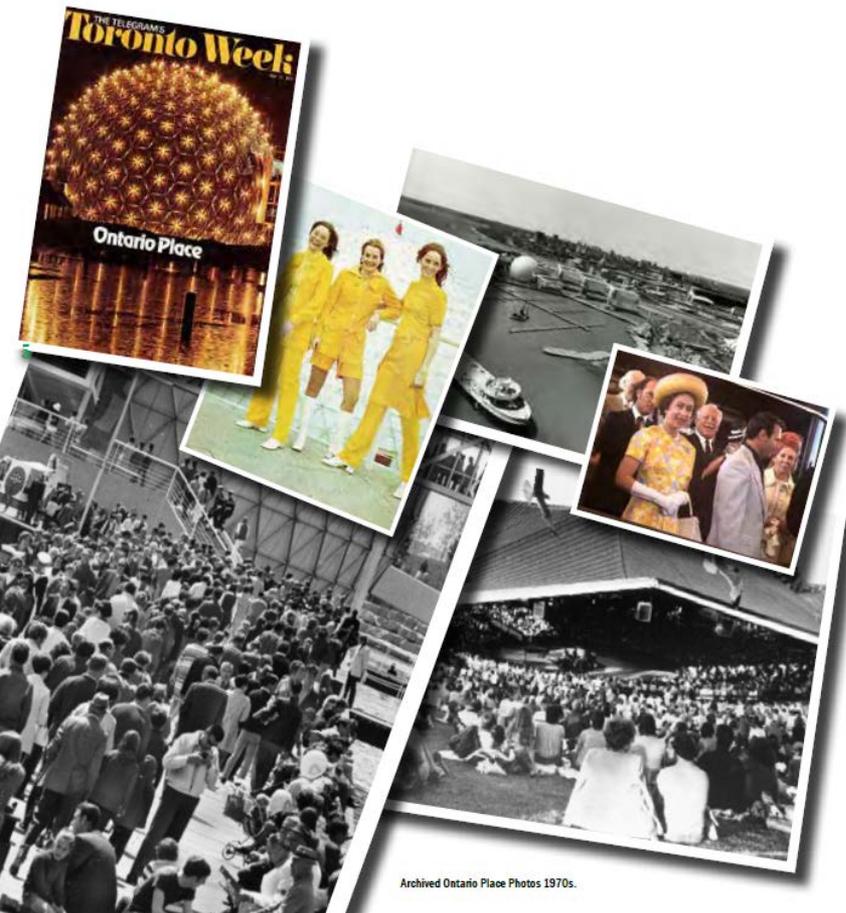
As well as a discussion about the future – how the site could again be a signature of provincial place-making in Toronto:

“Ontario Place featured innovative new landforms and structures built on Toronto’s waterfront, reshaping the relationship between the urban landscape and Lake Ontario.... It was a remarkable and ambitious achievement of late twentieth century architecture, and holds an enduring influence in Toronto, the province and internationally. “

– THE STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE FOR ONTARIO PLACE.

“... any new elements developed on the Ontario Place site should consider the contextual and design value of the site, as identified in the Statement, as a way to enhance the original spirit of the property and respect the original innovative architecture and landscape”.

– COMMITTEE LETTER TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER.



Archived Ontario Place Photos 1970s.

Listening to a range of views

Ontario Place Heritage Review Committee

- Advised on cultural heritage value and make recommendations on heritage significance.
- Gained a deeper understanding of the unique identity of Ontario Place.

Public Consultations

- Opportunities to express memories which have helped inform the new vision.
- Cinesphere and pods and the spirit of Ontario Place were often raised.

Heritage Community

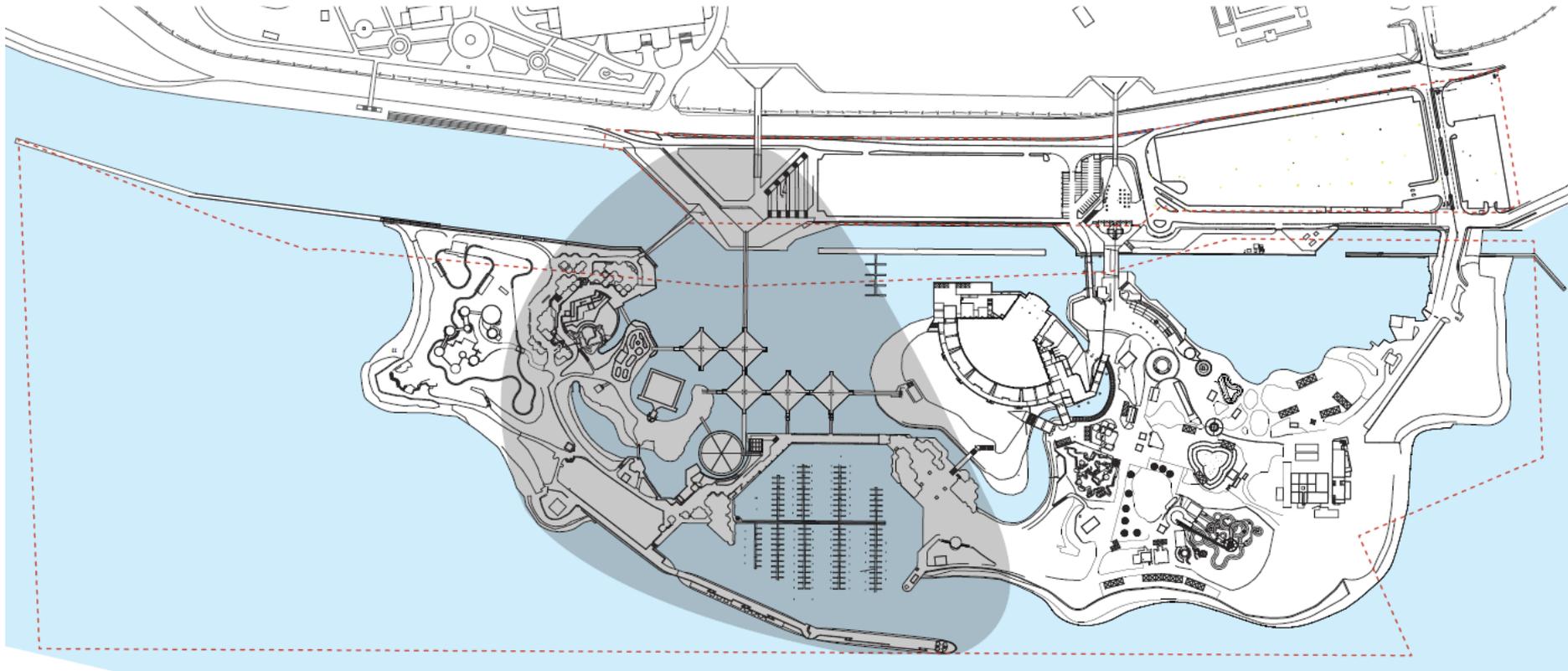
- City of Toronto and **other heritage experts** were vocal on the need to conserve the legacy of Ontario Place.



Managing Change: *Cultural heritage property of provincial significance*

Ontario Place is a **rare surviving example of a designed cultural heritage landscape within the international modernist movement of the late twentieth century.**

The core area is where the integrity – the spirit – of the original design can still be found and best expresses the site's integrated approach to architecture, engineering and landscape, while honouring and incorporating the natural setting of Lake Ontario.



Core Area

The Urban Park and Waterfront Trail, first phase of revitalization

- Considers Michael Hough's approach to the Ontario Place landscape:
- A naturalized shoreline.
- A trail throughout the park with views into and out of the site.
- Naturalized surroundings of mature trees and native plant species.



A renewed space that honours the past and celebrates the future

The new vision for Ontario Place – a year-round, vibrant waterfront destination – proposes a mix of future designed and landscaped spaces that honour and reflect the legacy of Ontario Place.

- Integrates the Cinesphere and pods as part of a renewed cultural core.
- Canal district strengthens the connection between the city and the lake.
- More recreational and green spaces consider the unique location where land meets water.
- A waterfront trail along the perimeter of the island brings public access to the shoreline and offers views to the city, the lake, and Ontario Place.





Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Thank you.

