

New Park and Trail Launch the Next Era of Ontario Place

Province Unveils New Urban Green Space to Celebrate Ontario's 150th Anniversary

NEWS

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For the first time in more than 40 years, Ontario residents and visitors can enjoy a spectacular part of Toronto's waterfront at Ontario Place's newly opened park and trail.

Premier Kathleen Wynne and Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, were at Ontario Place today to unveil the new Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail, and officially open them to the public. The opening is the first milestone in the province's plan to transform the iconic landmark into a vibrant, year-round destination for people of all ages.

As progress on Ontario Place continues, the site will be at the centre of the action as the province celebrates Ontario's 150th anniversary, a year-long celebration that aims to honour Ontario's past, showcase the present and inspire future generations.

To create the new Trillium Park, a seven-and-a-half acre parking lot was converted into green space using ideas from people across Ontario. The new site features an open-air pavilion inspired by evergreen forests and Ontario Place's unique design, as well as open spaces to host art fairs, film festivals, yoga classes, school groups and food vendors.

The William G. Davis Trail, named for Ontario's Premier at the time of Ontario Place's opening in 1971, is a 1.3 kilometre-long trail that connects the new park to the Trans Canada Trail.

Other highlights of the park include:

- The Ravine with Moccasin Identifier: Developed in collaboration with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, a moccasin etching in this gateway to the park provides a visual reminder to celebrate and honour the history and culture of Indigenous peoples
- The Bluff: Stacked boulders and rocks from a Muskoka quarry are located along the trail, symbolizing the prehistoric Lake Iroquois shoreline.

Transforming Ontario Place is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTES

"More than 45 years ago, Ontario Place opened as a testament to our province's potential. Beyond realizing this potential, we have continued to expand it — welcoming new people and building on new ideas. Our vision for a transformed Ontario Place honours our history, our people and our landscape. I am so pleased that a new generation can begin to build memories here."

— Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

“What better time than 2017, as we mark our 150th anniversary, to open the Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail and celebrate the incredible province we live in. This new public park and trail brings the beauty of Ontario’s natural landscapes to the heart of downtown Toronto. In a city this size, it’s important to have resources like this one for people to enjoy.”

— Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

“Over time the city of Toronto has changed from the beauty of nature to constructions of man. The Park at Ontario Place restores this beauty and pays tribute to the role the Mississaugas of the New Credit hold as stewards of these lands and waters, and we are pleased to have collaborated with the Province of Ontario on creating this space. As the City continues to expand, it is important that we continue to create spaces like this Park that respect and reflect Mother Earth for the people who live, work and play in Ontario.”

— Chief Stacey LaForme, The Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation

“I am pleased to see a new era begin for Ontario Place and I am honoured by the beautiful trail that now bears my name. When Ontario Place opened in 1971, it was designed to be a place that everyone in the province could enjoy — a place that would show Ontario’s potential. Forty-six years later, that potential is our reality — a province that is inclusive, innovative and a place that people from around the world are proud to call home. Once again, Ontario Place will be a gathering spot for the people of this province to come together.”

— William G. Davis, Former Premier of Ontario (1971–1985)

QUICK FACTS

- Key design elements of the new park and trail reflect the Indigenous heritage of the site, which is located on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.
- A continuous route of more than 2,000 kilometres in Ontario, the Trans Canada Trail includes the Martin Goodman Trail and the Pan Am Path.
- In celebration of Ontario’s 150th anniversary, Ontario Place is hosting a themed event every long weekend this summer.
- Every year, Ontario’s festivals and events attract tourists, support tens of thousands of jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue.

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