

Accessible, Recreational Docking comes to Oakville!

The collaboration between the Wai Nui O Kanakā Outrigger Canoe Club and CharterAbility paid dividends with a \$99,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and a 20-year lease to land adjoining Oakville Harbour from the Town of Oakville. And, the Rick Hansen Foundation chipped in with a grant of \$3,500 dollars.

Spearheaded by Wai Nui's Commodore, Wendy Perkins, assisted by our Executive Director, Alan Tonge, the effort has been ongoing since the beginning of 2007. While Wendy was busy setting up appointments and getting quotations Alan prepared the budget and a presentation video, following which they completed a business proposal for submission to the Town of Oakville..

During the first few months of 2007 several presentations were made to special interest groups and committees throughout Oakville following which the Town Council directed its Department of Parks and Open Spaces "to work cooperatively with "PARDners" to develop a business plan for accessible recreational docking at Oakville Harbour."

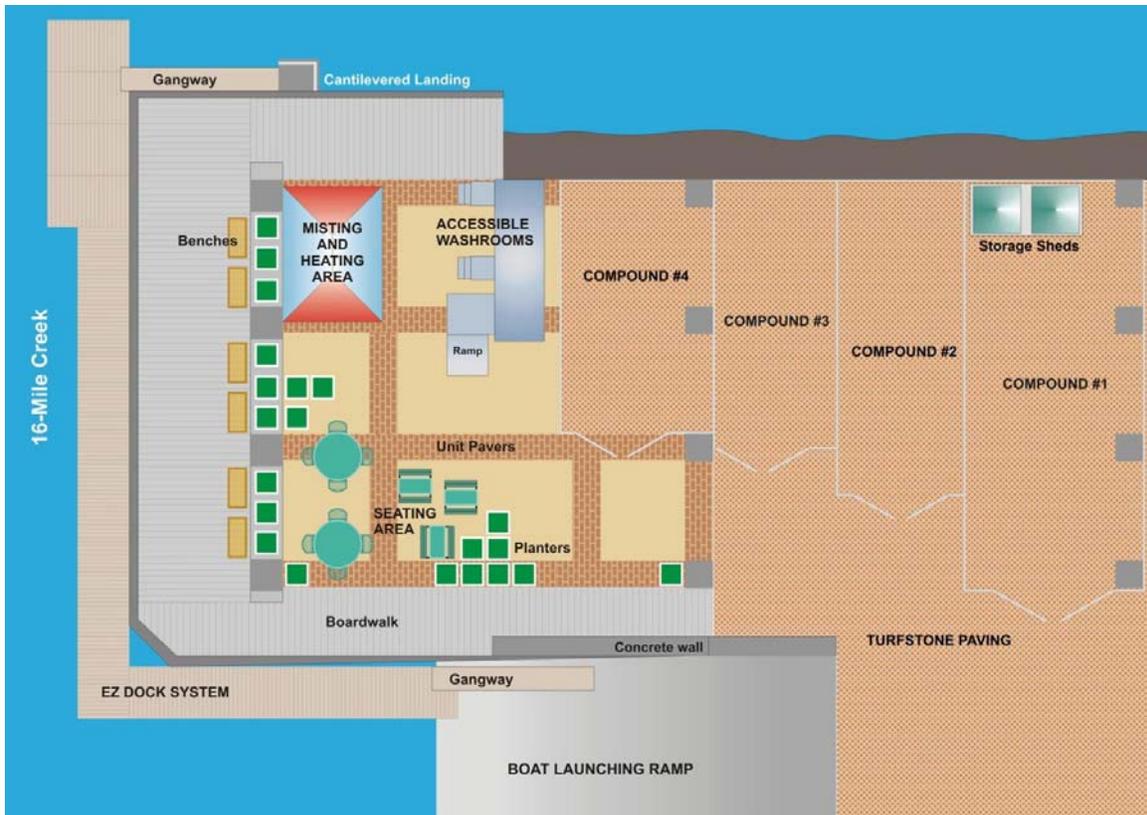
While discussions with the Town staff were underway, Wendy and Alan set about an application for funding to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Wendy's experience from her other charitable endeavors, such as [Home Suite Hope](#), proved invaluable in preparing the application which was approved at the beginning of June. And then, just before our September 2007 *Cruise for a Cause*, final agreement was reached with the Town on a lease.

The September cruise gave us an opportunity to publicly announce the Trillium grant. Oakville's MPP, Mr. Kevin Flynn kindly agreed to make the announcement on Oakville pier alongside the *Wayward Princess* just prior to departure. The Ontario Trillium Foundation was represented by Angela DiCintio and Gilmar Militar, and Oakville's Mayor, Rob Burton, honoured us with his presence.



The grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation will cover the cost of 100' of accessible dock and the washrooms. We are looking to the Town, local business owners and suppliers to fund some of the other items – the canoe storage compounds and racks (both private and public) and the leveling of the area, for example.

During 2008 we anticipate a major fundraising drive in order to complete the landscaping work that will make the area truly accessible to persons with disabilities and mobility challenges. Although we are hoping to enlist the support of local contractors in providing some of the necessary labour and materials, we will likely need to raise an additional \$50,000 to translate our vision into reality.



The accessible dock is located beneath the Rebecca Street bridge adjoining Busby Park, as shown below.



We are grateful for funding from:

