

# Rehabilitation of Toronto Harbour:



The Portlands

# Where are the Portlands?



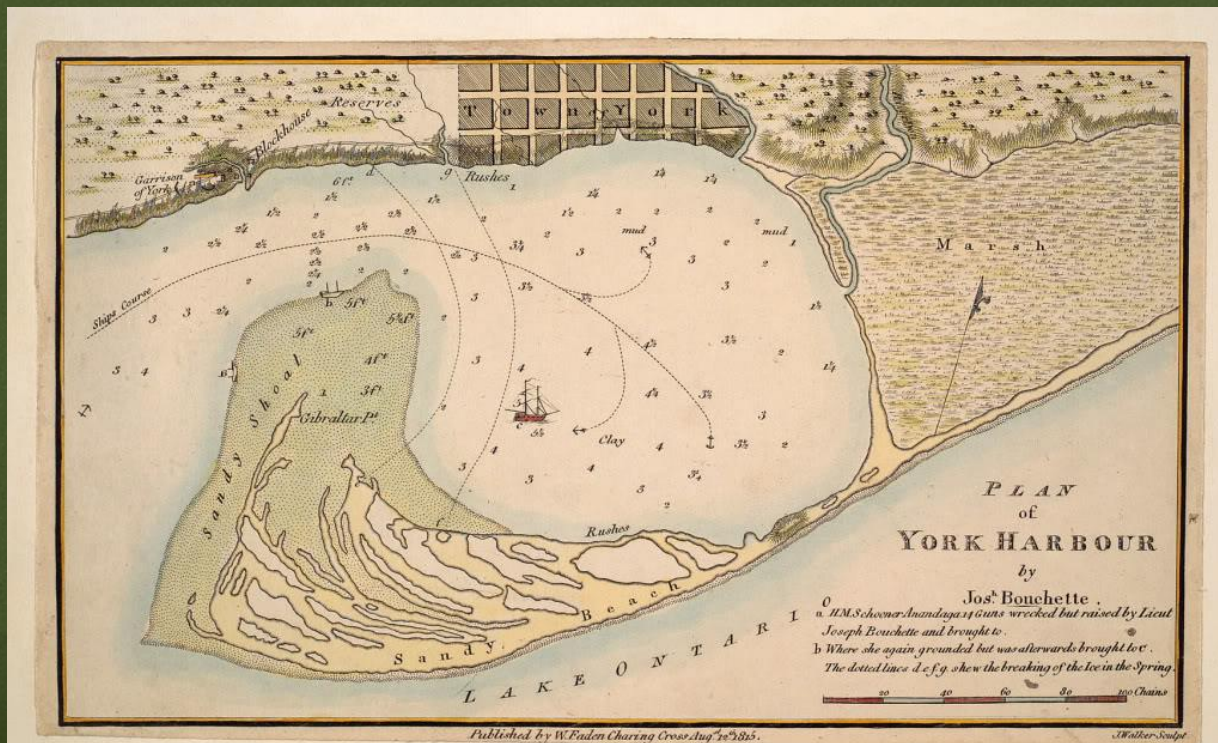
☞ Located in the eastern portion of the Toronto Harbourfront



# Surface Waters of the Portlands



Land was formerly marshland and delta for the Don River which directly flowed into Toronto Harbour & Ashbridge's Bay



# History of the Portlands



Gooderham & Worts used the marsh to dispose of waste from pigs and cattle, as well as wheat swill from their distilling operations (beer & whisky)



# How were the Portlands Created?



- œ In 1886 work began to channelize and straighten the Don River
- œ Infilling of the waterfront begins.
- œ In 1912 the polluted marsh was drained & filled in



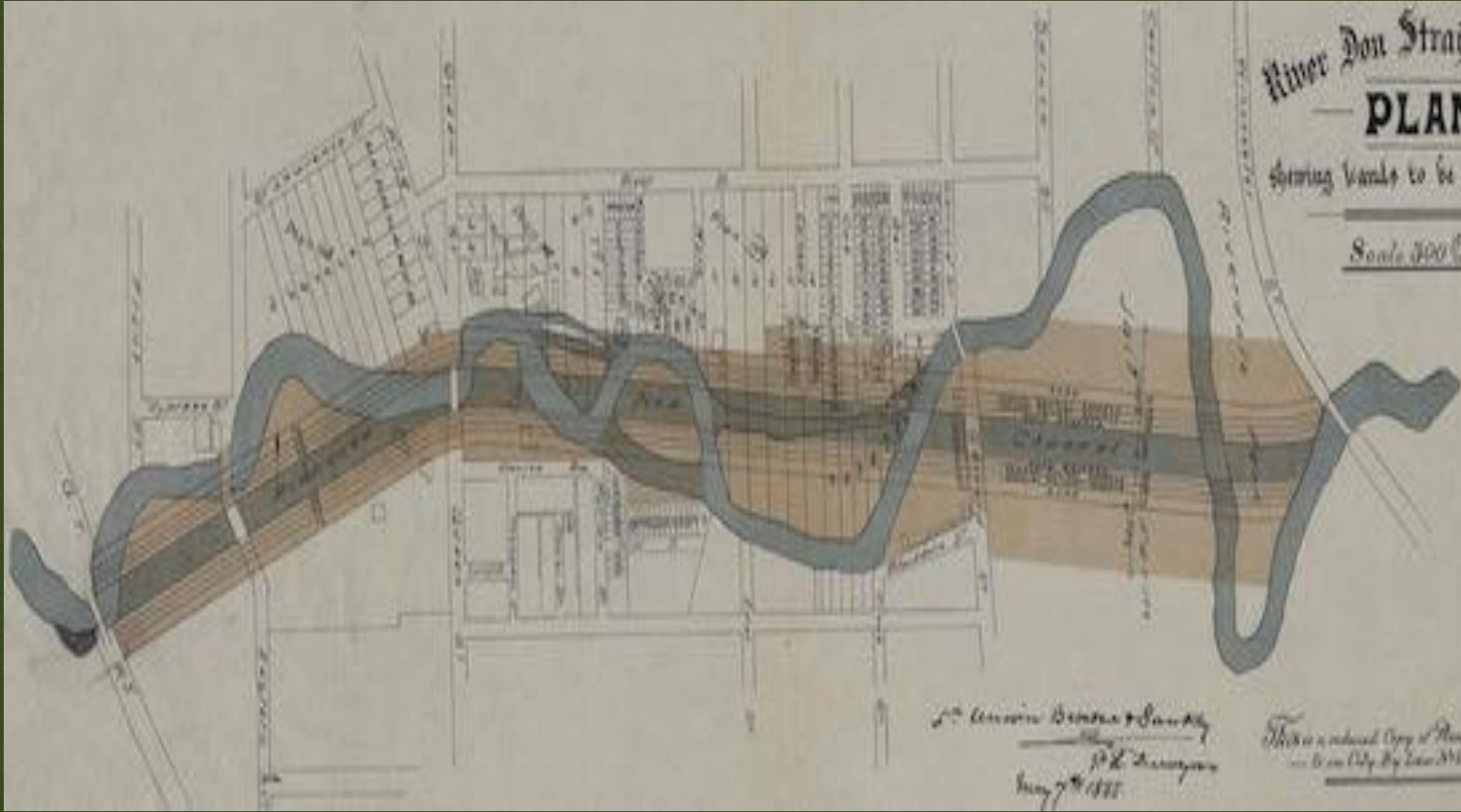


- ∞ 1912 – Toronto Waterfront Harbour Commission Plan of 1912
- ∞ 1959 – Second wave of infilling
- ∞ 1973 to present
- ∞ Three periods of intense filling
- ∞ Filled with various potentially harmful ingredients

# River Don Straightening PLAN

Showing lands to be expropriated.

Scale 500' = 1"



J. L. ...  
May 7th 1888

This is a reduced copy of Plan referred to in City By Law No 1000'

New industry – increased shipping, coal, petroleum & salt storage, oil refineries



*Cherry St. oil refinery aerial 1930?*  
City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, f1244\_jt1440

#1440



# Contamination of the Portland



- Contaminated soil pockets are located throughout the entirety of the Portland



# How do we clean it up?



Annual dredging activities increase contamination



# Soil Remediation





# Future Use of the Portlands



Reconfiguration & reconstruction of mouth of Don River and Keating Channel





# Thank you!



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