

DARE TO 'BEAR' IT ALL? POLAR BEAR SKATE RETURNS TO THE BENTWAY DECEMBER 29

The Bentway invites adventurous Torontonians to skate the trail in their bathing suits

WHAT:

The Bentway brings back the ultra-popular **Polar Bear Skate** for its second year on **Sunday**, **December 29, 2019**, where brave Torontonians (and visitors!) are invited to strip down to their skivvies or bathing suits and skate the figure-eight skate trail underneath the Gardiner Expressway at 2 p.m. This totally unique, free and participatory winter event encourages the community to come together in an unconventional way - and gives participants major bragging rights.

Registration is open now via <u>Eventbrite</u> and the first 100 pre-registrants will receive a free hot chocolate. Don't have skates? Rentals will be available on-site.

WHEN:Sunday, December 29, 2019On-site registration begins at 1:00 p.m.Polar Bear Skate takes place at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Bentway, 250 Fort York Blvd., Toronto, ON

Interviews with a representative of The Bentway can be arranged through Linda Yahya, Craft Public Relations. Contact information below.

For more details on the Winter 2019/20 skate season, visit thebentway.ca.

The Bentway is supported by the City of Toronto, Maxine Granovsky Gluskin & Ira Gluskin, Richard M. Ivey, Frances & Tim Price, Rosamond Ivey, Mazyar Mortazavi & Bita Doagoo, Howard Sokolowski & Linda Frum, Donald K. Johnson O.C. & Anna McCowan-Johnson, DiamondCorp, and a growing family of supporters.

The Bentway Winter 2019/20 Season is supported by Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, Corona, Quaker®, and Vaseline.

Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u> using @TheBentway and <u>YouTube</u> #TOBentway Access to The Bentway is Always Free | Enjoy WiFi Courtesy of Beanfield

(more)



About The Bentway

The Bentway is a unique and innovative public space that transforms 1.75km underneath Toronto's Gardiner Expressway into a new gathering place for our city's growing population.

The Bentway knits together seven local neighbourhoods with over 77,000 residents, becoming a gateway to the waterfront, while providing access to important attractions and destinations – from Fort York National Historic Site, Ontario Place and Exhibition Place to Harbourfront Centre and the CN Tower. The Bentway offers year-round activities and events, including gardens, a skate trail, recreational amenities, public markets, public art, special exhibitions, festivals, theatre and musical performances, and more. Since opening in 2018, The Bentway has welcomed over 250,000 visitors to experience free year-round programming including public art installations, performances, festivals, recreational activities, and much more. The initial phase of The Bentway stretches from Strachan Avenue in the west to just east of Bathurst Street underneath the Gardiner Expressway, this section of The Bentway is located on the lands of Fort York National Historic Site, recognized by the Government of Canada as a site of national significance. The Bentway is maintained, operated, and programmed by The Bentway Conservancy. The Bentway is a proud member of the High Line Network, an international network of projects that transform underutilized infrastructure into new urban landscapes.

About Fort York National Historic Site

Fort York National Historic Site is one of 10 Toronto History Museums operated by the City of Toronto. Since 1793, Fort York has been an important military location and is where Toronto was founded as an urban place. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, this 43-acre heritage conservation district is home to Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings. Fort York offers permanent exhibits and immersive multimedia displays at the Visitor Centre, ongoing programming and events, site tours, military displays, historic cooking demonstrations, and the annual Indigenous Arts Festival. Fort York National Historic Site is also home to the first phase of The Bentway. For more information, visit http://www.toronto.ca/fortyork.

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