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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LACE UP YOUR SKATES, TORONTO! THE BENTWAY ANNOUNCES WINTER 2019/20 SKATE SEASON

The Bentway transforms into a uniquely urban winter wonderland with the December 20 opening of its 220 metre skate trail. Seasonal activities include a winter village, free skate days, the popular Polar Bear Skate and more.

November 7, 2019 - [Toronto, ON] - The Bentway, the innovative public space project underneath Toronto's Gardiner Expressway, today announced a December 20 opening date for the site's beloved 220 metre figure-eight skate trail. Through the holiday season and into 2020, The Bentway will bring families and friends together around the skate trail with a full slate of activities and events to encourage city-dwellers to discover, re-imagine, and redefine this space for themselves.

Over the holidays from **December 20, 2019 to January 5, 2020**, The Bentway will open up its skate trail seven days a week from 12 - 9 p.m. An on-site winter village will offer hot chocolate and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for skaters and spectators, while warming stations will help visitors get toasty before getting back on the ice. Can't skate? No problem! The Bentway will offer recurring free skate lessons for kids and adults. On-site skate rentals are available daily.

The Bentway's winter programming doesn't stop once the holidays are over. Programming in 2020 continues from **January 6 to February 17, 2020**. Skate trail hours will shift to 5 - 9 p.m. on weekdays and 12 - 9 p.m. on weekends. Plus, extended hours on PA Days and Family Day (the Skate Trail will be open from 12 - 9 p.m. on both January 17 and February 17, 2020) ensure The Bentway is a key family-friendly winter activity hub.

A Toronto favourite returns: Much like the Polar Bear Dip, but with a twist, The Bentway will host their second annual **Polar Bear Skate on December 29**, inviting adventurous Torontonians to skate the trail in their bathing suits for a refreshing - and unconventional - winter event. All pre-registrants will receive a free hot chocolate, and of course, bragging rights.

"The Bentway is about potential and curiosity. We pride ourselves in being able to offer a unique and contemporary experience, and that doesn't stop once the snow covers the concrete," says Ilana Altman, Co-Executive Director of Programming at The Bentway. "We're excited to be able to invite Torontonians and visitors to the city to discover our sense of imagination this winter."

Additional details of the winter season will be announced in early December.

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 & Bitia Doagoo, Howard Sokolowski & Linda Frum, Donald K. Johnson O.C. & Anna McCowan-Johnson, DiamondCorp, and a growing family of supporters.

(more)

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) using @TheBentway and [YouTube](#)

#TOBentway

Access to The Bentway is Always Free

Enjoy WiFi Courtesy of Beanfield

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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