

23rd Annual Manulife Paddle the Don
Sunday, May 1, 2016
Launch Site — E. T. Seton Park — 8:15 a.m.

Welcoming Remarks and Greetings — Councillor Paul Ainslie, Member, TRCA

- Good morning everyone and thank you Edwina for the generous support that Manulife continues to provide for this great event! We very much appreciate our ongoing partnership and look forward to continuing to work together in the future. I am very pleased to be here today to welcome our dignitaries and paddlers and bring greetings on behalf of TRCA at the 23rd Annual Manulife Paddle the Don. This exciting annual event attracts hundreds of eager paddlers to challenge the river each spring and we truly appreciate your participation.
- Paddle the Don is all about having fun, enjoying nature and celebrating the Don River and its valley. The trip also provides a time for reflection on all the benefits we derive from the natural environment – air, water, resources, recreation and spiritual renewal – that are integral to the function of the City of Toronto and the surrounding region. It supports our vision for The Living City - where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity. This vision can only be achieved with the help of our partners and the community.
- On behalf of Toronto and Region Conservation I want to thank everyone who makes this annual event such a success, including our sponsors, partners, supporters, safety associations, volunteers and staff. Also, we couldn't do it without our individual paddlers, corporate teams and partners who have helped raise over \$600,000, since the pledge program began in 2002, to help support initiatives that are of environmental benefit to the Don watershed and the people who live, work and visit the Don.
- I would again like to thank Manulife for continuing their generous support and express my appreciation to the Toronto and York Region Métis Council, as well as the Premier for being here today. Premier Wynne has been a regular participant in this event for many years and we thank her for taking the time to be with us today.

In closing, I would again like to thank EVERYONE for making this day possible. I wish you the best of luck on your experience today and I hope you enjoy your journey down the Don.”