



ONTARIO  
SCIENCE  
CENTRE

# next

2006

OUR YEAR  
REVIEWED

OUR FUTURE  
PREVIEWED

An Ontario Science Centre Publication



changes  
**outside**

changes  
**inside**

changes in  
**approach**

changes in  
**experiences**

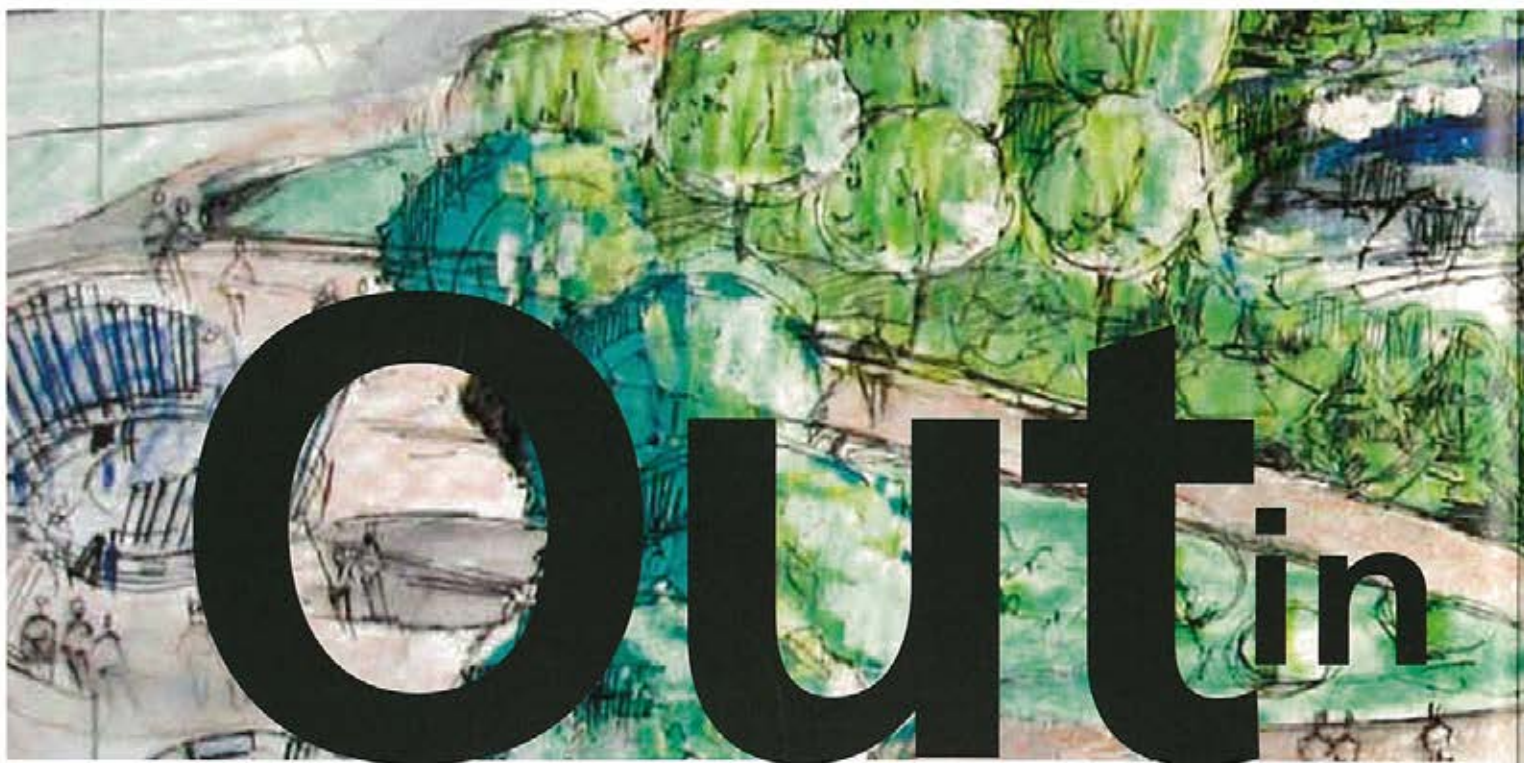
changes in  
**you**

# the face of **change**

Science is always changing.  
So is the Ontario Science Centre

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FREE FOR  
MEMBERS





**TELUSCAPE, the dynamic new exploration plaza: its origins, its development and the surprises waiting for you**

**H**ow can we bring excitement back to our “front yard”?

That was the challenge put to a team brought together to contemplate this key question in the Ontario Science Centre’s transformation.

Over 35 years ago, when the Science Centre opened, the area in front of the building’s main entrance housed a popular display of 100 gurgling, splashing, shooting fountains, a nod to Canada’s 100th birthday and the fact the Science Centre was Ontario’s official Centennial project. But over time, the plumbing that made it all work deteriorated. The area was eventually paved over.

So the team had a blank slate – and a passionate supporter: TELUS. “The Ontario Science Centre’s commitment to education, youth, science and technology mirrors our own and TELUS is proud to support the creation of a new and extraordinary learning space,” says Joe Natale, president, TELUS Business Solutions.







## CHANGES OUTSIDE

"We wanted the tentacles of the green space in the Ontario Science Centre's 'back yard' to reach up and get the attention of the people out front."

# front

But just what would go into that new learning space? The team was driven by three prime inspirations:

## 1 Architect Raymond Moriyama's Original Vision

Back in the 1960s, Moriyama wanted a building that would guide the visitor in a specific way: the main entrance was for mundane tasks (ticket-taking, shoving jackets in lockers, etc.); then a bridge would lead the visitor to places where he or she could get lost and begin a journey of discovery. *What if, thought the Science Centre team, you could begin that journey of discovery right from the moment of arrival?*

## 2 The Ontario Science Centre's Own "Back Yard"

One of the unsung treasures of the Science Centre is the wetlands at the bottom of the Don Valley. Protected by more than two hectares of natural pond and lush vegetation, the wetland is home to, among other things, dragonflies, woodpeckers, great blue herons, red-winged blackbirds, ducks, kingfishers, beavers and common moorhens. *What if, thought the Science Centre team, you could bring that sense of nature to a renewed "front yard"?*

## 3 The New Type of Urban Park

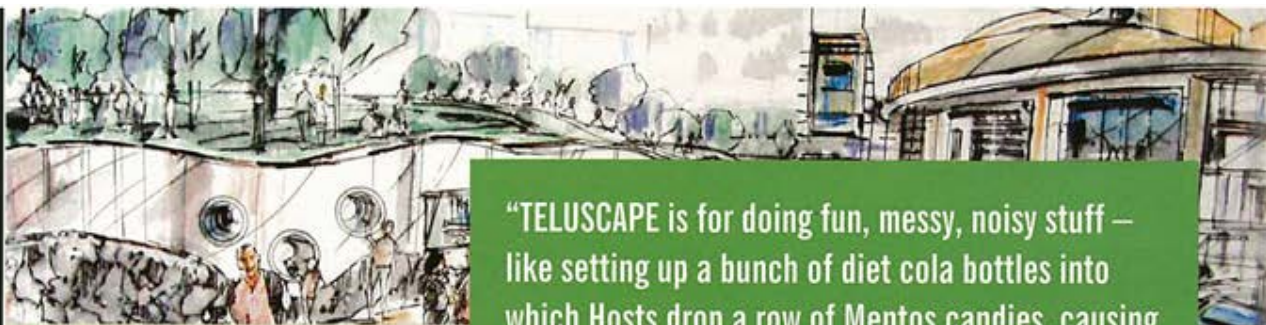
Throughout Canada, landscape architects are rethinking what can be done in the open public spaces within cities. In Toronto there are the unexpected structures of Martha Schwartz's Cumberland Park; the undulating stream paths, giant grass steps and circular concert pavilion of Julie Messervy's waterfront Music Garden; and Brown + Storey Architects' water-maze experience at Dundas Square. *What if, thought the Science Centre team, you could create something that would appeal not just to people who come to the Centre, but also to residents of the local neighbourhood?*

Thus inspired, the team went to work. Among those working with the Science Centre: landscape architects EDA Collaborative Inc.; experience designers Reich + Petch; traffic consultant Reed Voorhees and Associates; construction manager Buttcon Ltd.; and exhibit developers Krause + Johnson and Kathy McLean of Independent Exhibitions. What they came up with is a showcase for the Centre's commitment to innovation, transformation and deeper participation. It opened in September 2006 and on the next page is a sampling of what awaits you:





# TELUSCAPE exploration plaza



“TELUSCAPE is for doing fun, messy, noisy stuff – like setting up a bunch of diet cola bottles into which Hosts drop a row of Mentos candies, causing each bottle to spurt its contents 10 metres into the air. You can’t do that inside!”

## A SPACE

that totals 6,600 square metres and designed to be, says John A. MacDonald, senior project manager of our Agents of Change initiative, “accessible and visible, more illuminated and inviting...connecting the TTC stop to our front door.”



## A SPACE

with a 350-seat amphitheatre, which is accessible to the public 24/7. Programs may include: afternoon science demonstrations for seniors; daytime or weekend workshops like drum-making and playing, bubble-making, live animal shows; noon-hour activities like local school concerts or science programs to lure employees from nearby businesses to bring their brown-bag lunches; evening events like astronomy Star Parties, fireworks workshops and demonstrations; even film nights for the community.

## A SPACE

with climbing boulders/spheres and an Urban Orchard.

## A SPACE

that tries to achieve a “blurring of the boundary between landscape architecture and art,” a feat that Claude Cormier, an avant-garde Montreal landscape architect, pulled off years ago when he covered a diseased Monterey Pine slated for removal in Sonoma, California, with 80,000 sky-blue Christmas balls.

## A SPACE

with a 60-square-metre naturalized wetland that includes bulrushes, stumps, aquatic plants, etc. and surrounded by native plant species. The clay-bottomed pond/wetland collects storm and waste water from nearby activities: heavy metals sink to the bottom of the pond, while the cleaner water is recycled into sewers.

## A SPACE

for our neighbours to do Tai Chi, play ball, set up a Farmers’ Market, stroll and socialize.



## A SPACE

that, says MacDonald, “drags the wetland out to the front” by, among other things, featuring a walkway that includes impressions of sticks, leaves, reeds and branches that were pushed into wet concrete to give a fossilized look.

## A SPACE

with LED trees, fibre-optic reeds and stumps presenting interesting juxtapositions and an opportunity to interact using cellphones.



## A SPACE

to reflect the area’s gurgling, splashing, shooting aquatic past with a Water Maze (one-metre-high walls of water that shoot up in changing patterns); FUNtain (a spectacular interactive sound sculpture by Toronto artist Steve Mann that can be played like a flute – by blocking water-jet holes to create different notes); and a piece of the original fountain wall (on the southeast side), distressed to look like a relic. ☘





# TELUSCAPE

On September 20, 2006, the Ontario Science Centre welcomed government and business leaders, the media and the community to enjoy Ontario's first outdoor science exploration area. Mark Cohon and Lesley Lewis were joined by Joe Natale, President, TELUS Business Solutions, Ontario Minister of Culture the Honourable Caroline Di Cocco and many exuberant children from Grenoble Public School to unveil TELUSCAPE, an airy, pedestrian-friendly 5,208-square metre outdoor exploration plaza in front of the Science Centre. TELUSCAPE is a major component of the \$47.5 million Agents of Change initiative.

Named TELUSCAPE in recognition of TELUS' \$10-million sponsorship contribution to the Science Centre, the new plaza juxtaposes the surrounding Don Valley environment with the highly urbanized community of Flemingdon Park across the street from the Centre. "TELUSCAPE demonstrates on the outside how the Science Centre is transforming itself, setting up rich learning environments where visitors can explore and interact with their surroundings," said Lesley Lewis. "Walking around this unique outdoor space will encourage visitors to 'question the landscape' and learn about science by exploring and connecting with the natural world."

Joe Natale, President, TELUS Business Solutions, said, "TELUSCAPE offers a whole new way for families to engage with science. At TELUS, we believe that supporting a new generation of innovators is essential to securing Canada's future. TELUSCAPE encourages Toronto's youth to get excited about science and technology in a legacy green space that will make a lasting contribution to Toronto's cityscape. By taking a lead in business, culture, education, healthcare, sports and the community, TELUS is making a real difference to Ontario families. We are very proud to be a valued partner of the Ontario Science Centre."



A panoramic view of TELUSCAPE, the Ontario Science Centre's new outdoor exploration plaza

TELUSCAPE is the new face that visitors see as they pass along Don Mills Road in front of the Science Centre. The area includes a 60-square metre wetland pond surrounded by a naturalized area planted with native grasses and wetland species that will evolve over time; Climbing Spheres, a set of three large spheres which appear to be scooped out of the east wall of the TELUSCAPE Forum (a 350-seat open air program space) and are the perfect size for children to climb; and a Water Maze, which invites visitors to navigate a maze without getting wet (or soaking wet if they so choose). At the centre of TELUSCAPE, visitors will discover FUNtain, an interactive sound sculpture created by Toronto artist Steve Mann. FUNtain functions like a musical instrument using water – beautiful sounds emerge as visitors interrupt fine streams of water.

TELUSCAPE also incorporates numerous technological landscape features for visitors to discover and experience. These elements include sculptural trees each covered with 150-high input light emitting diodes which can create a vast range of colours and patterns and LED kaleidoscopes in the west wall of the Forum powered by energy generated by three wind turbines. The sculptural trees will not only change colours automatically but can also be controlled through an interface with visitors using TELUS cell phones during a pilot period.

This innovative outdoor experience offers visitors a whole new way to participate in science by exploring the landscape around them. But for the community, the Science Centre has radically changed the concept of a walk in the park, forever!



Joe Natale, President, TELUS Business Solutions and Lesley Lewis, CEO, Ontario Science Centre are the first to experience the water maze on September 20th, 2006.



Visitors make beautiful music using water and their imaginations on Steve Mann's FUNtain.



Grenoble students release monarch butterflies to mark the opening of TELUSCAPE.



Over 25 years, we have evolved our viewpoint  
about design to create extraordinary  
moments and opportunities for people to have  
experiences that change their understanding  
and perspective of the world they live in.

## **REICH+PETCH**

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