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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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First of a kind man-made river in Toronto's newest park

By Carys Mills
Globe and Mail Update

Feds covered \$27-million of total \$28.7-million cost for Sherbourne Common

A man-made river runs through Toronto's newest park, Sherbourne Common, which officially opened on Friday.

The water channel, constructed from concrete and granite, is the first of its kind in Canada. At almost 240-metres long, the river transports storm water through a process of ultraviolet treatment before pumping the water into Lake Ontario.

The federal government paid for \$27-million of the park project, which includes the river. The park's total cost was \$28.7-million.

"There's very little city money in this," said federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

"We put lots of money into Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area," Mr. Flaherty said. "We also do in other parts of the country."

He was joined by Ontario Minister of Research and Innovation, Glen Murray, and the chair of Waterfront Toronto, Mark Wilson, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday morning.

Mr. Murray said that Toronto's waterfront needs to rival others like Chicago's through new ideas like the treatment system.

"This is part of a platform for new economy," he said.

The park, which is almost an acre in size, spans to both sides of Queen's Quay near Lower Sherbourne Street.

During the winter a large pond will become a skating rink while it will serve as a splash pad area in the summer. The park will also have a wooded area, lawn and children's play equipment.

The north side of the park will be completed late this year.

The Sherbourne Common is the latest of the city's waterfront projects and is near Sugar Beach, which opened this summer.

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