ACCIDENTAL WILDERNESS

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The Origins and Ecology of Toronto's Tommy Thompson Park

Walter H. Kehm with photographs by Robert Burley

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Recognition, Respect, and Relationships

This book is an acknowledgement of the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples who have inhabited these lands and waters for over 10,000 years. We pay tribute to their teachings about the sacred earth upon which all life is dependent. We have been given the gifts of clean air and water, abundant vegetation, and diverse fish, animals, and insects. Within nature are the seeds of regeneration that allow the cycle of life to continue. As we seek reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, we are aware of the need to recognize the sanctity of the earth and its people and pay tribute to it as our home and refuge.

The authors offer this book as a tribute to all the unsung champions of “The Spit” who have worked tirelessly over many decades to protect and preserve this unique landscape. Their stewardship continues to this day, sustaining the diverse biological character of this urban wilderness for others to enjoy.

This book is dedicated to my family, who have supported and shared in my lifelong obsession with the natural world.

— WALTER H. KEHM