



million coming out of the Cumberland Legacy Fund, a \$2.2 million fund assigned by the new city to the former City of Cumberland (which was holding a hefty budget surplus when it joined the new Ottawa). The catch? The money must be used for capital projects—not programs—and should fund projects the whole city can benefit from. At first blush, Petrie Island sounds like an ideal place to plunk down the money, but a spring meeting to discuss the fund drew more than 100 residents with a disparate wish list of projects. Petrie Island was mentioned by many in the crowd that night, but so, too, were hockey rinks, swimming pools, skateboard parks, libraries, and nature trails. As the ideas rained down, it didn't take long to figure out that \$2.2 million doesn't stretch very far.

"We need to use the legacy funding to seed programs," Councillor Kreling said in his address to the crowd that night. "We've got to explore working with the private sector, because, obviously, demand far exceeds the fund."

The councillors certainly have their work cut out for them, but McNeely continues to think big. "Right now, there's just going to be sand," he says. "But when that beach opens in 2003, it's going to be so popular that the rest of the money will flow naturally." The talk runs to ultimate Frisbee, a rowing club, links with the H.O.P.E. Beach Volleyball tournament. "I see a community building—maybe with a balcony. A place that could be rented out for receptions and community events."

As for Tweddle, he's a bit more circumspect. The Friends would like a bigger beach, more parking, and an interpretive centre. "As more people come to enjoy the island, though, the challenge will be managing the environment. We want to see Petrie Island developed; we don't want to see it overdeveloped."

With July 2003 fast approaching, it's going to be a busy year.