



*"Water by the Water" by Kent Ford Design Group won Landscape Ontario's prestigious Dunington Grubb award.*

*Kent Ford, founding member of Kent Ford Design Group Inc. of Toronto, Ont.,*

*Below: By utilizing his top 10 favourite perennials in the renovated gardens at this historically designated condominium site, Ford completely phased out the need for any bedding annuals, at a long-term cost savings for the condominium corporation.*



space the studio overlooks. Many of our favourite design features will be included in this project: a fire pit, pond and even a meditation pavilion. For our grand opening, we're planning a lantern party on the fall equinox. The garden will have two benefits: it will provide a healthy environment for staff, which in turn may increase productivity; but it will also be a place to showcase the value of outdoor rooms to our clients,

many of whom are big developers. We can show them the value of a more humanistic design and how it can be adapted for multi-family developments.

FORD: Our 2006 Dunington Grubb Award project, "Water by the Water," is a case study in advance design planning. Beyond the usual pool permits required by the city, we also had to gain approvals from the local conservation

and marine authorities. Rigid side-property-line and lakefront setbacks were dictated. A geotechnical (soils) study was also required. The siting of the pool became like locating a new house for site plan approval. These fixed requirements, combined with the clients' design program, created an intensive design and approvals process, which took over a year to complete before ground was broken. I would encourage all landscape