

1  
N

0m 10m 30m

circulation core

97.4m : top of union

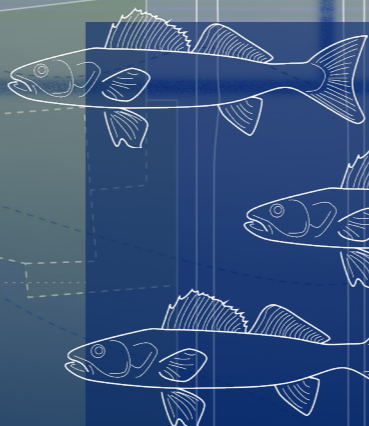
81.2m : grade at ground

79.1m : concourse  
76.8m : moat  
74.9m : Lake Ontario water level  
73.2m : retail level  
73.5m : PATH

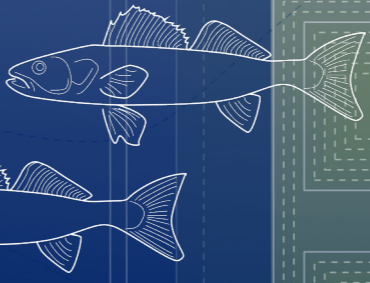
69.3m : subway platform  
68.1m : subway

0m : sea level

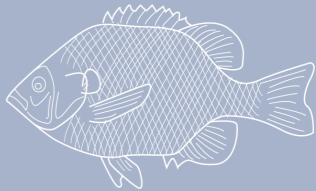
-169.1m : depth of Lake Ontario



Walleye  
25 - 85cm  
Lakes and rivers throughout  
most of Ontario  
A school takes up a whole subway cart



Carp  
30 - 75 cm  
shallow, warm waters,  
primarily in Southern Ontario  
takes the PATH to work



Bluegill  
15 - 30 cm  
warm, vegetated, still waters  
throughout southern Ontario  
hangs out in union station's concourse

*Buried Topographies*

Beneath the bustling platforms and concourses of Union Station lies a hidden shoreline where Lake Ontario once lapped at the edges of Front Street. Starting in the mid-1800s, Lake Ontario's shoreline was pushed further south to create the waterfront we know now, filling the water with a new ground plane for urban infrastructure.

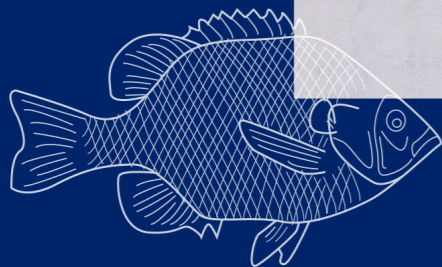
Today, Toronto's Union Station is the intersection of thousands of people each day, where beneath the street lies a vast network of thoroughfares for the city, including subways, underground paths, and concourses for the VIA Rail, and GO Trains—a subterranean city beneath the city. Commuters have replaced the activity of the Great Lakes Ecoregion, as the artificially created ground plane is now the site for people to move across the city. But what if the shoreline never changed? How would the lake's ecology be present?

Buried Topography reveals an intersection of transit and past landscape. The map proposes a reconciliation: where infrastructure becomes porous to ecology, where the city intertwines with memories of water. Pathways of Union Station are reimagined to connect to a historic version of Lake Ontario; humans are transformed as they move underground into the lake, turning into the fish that would have been if the shore never changed.

To bring light to the hidden ecological past, a **"costume party"** invites commuters to reconnect with the site's historic ecology. As they descend deeper into the station, they symbolically transform into the fish of Lake Ontario—honoring the lake's old shoreline through movement and festive transformation.



*Bluegill*  
15 - 30 cm  
warm, vegetated, still waters  
throughout southern Ontario



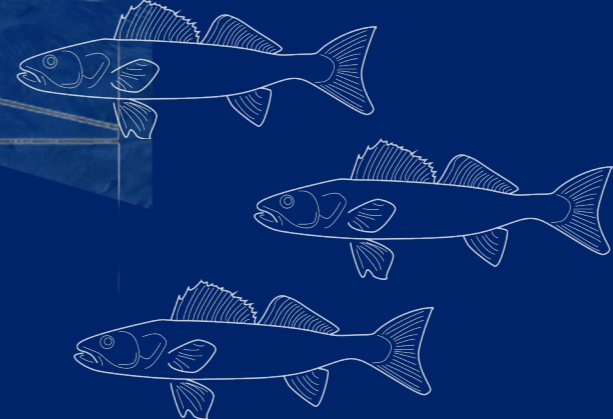
*Lake Whitefish*  
30 - 65cm  
Great Lakes and deep,  
cold, inland lakes  
across Ontario

*Bluegill*  
15 - 30cm  
warm, vegetated, still  
waters throughout  
southern Ontario

*Brown Trout*  
35 - 60cm  
found in all Great Lakes  
and some tributaries

*Cisco*  
20 - 30 cm  
cold waters from Great  
Lakes to Hudson Bay

*Walleye*  
25 - 85cm  
Lakes and rivers throughout  
most of Ontario



*Lake Trout*  
30 - 80 cm  
cold waters of deep lakes  
throughout much of Ontario

*Carp*  
30 - 75 cm  
shallow, warm waters,  
primarily in Southern Ontario

