Tree Analysis by Wayne Christian and Carolyn Johnson Executive of YQNA – June 24th 2018
2018 Tree Report (Yonge Street to Spadina Avenue) Completed July 03rd 2018

Who is YQNA?

York Quay Neighbourhood Association covers the Central Waterfront from just east of Spadina Avenue to Yonge Street. YQNA is among Toronto's busiest associations due to the urban renewal that is transforming our neighbourhood. We have members in every building and work with condo boards, politicians, planners, developers, Waterfront Toronto, Waterfront BIA and many city agencies, businesses and other associations.

YQNA has bi-monthly meetings as guests of the Radisson Admiral Hotel on Queens Quay. All are welcome to bring their questions and ideas, learn about issues and hear our guest speakers. Decisions are made by a majority vote of people attending. After meetings we socialize in Radisson's lounge. YQNA's committees meet separately to focus on planning, traffic, police liaison, social events and more.

YQNA's website aims to receive and gives information in a transparent manner. We encourage you to visit often and use the many links to our vibrant Waterfront. You may sign up to get emailed news. There are no membership fees, but donations are welcome.

YQNA will keep you in touch with events and developments in our iconic community – a favourite recreational area for visitors and the entire GTA.

Before commencing; please see the below definitions of the state of trees that I (W.C.) used in my autumn of 2017 tree analysis on Queens Quay West from Yonge Street to Spadina Avenue.

Live Trees – no sign of meeting my definition of a dead tree or a questionable tree

Dead Trees – obvious signs of being dead and/or orange ribbon on trees or simply cut down at its base or totally missing.

Questionable Trees – obvious signs of a relatively high possibility the tree may be dead (no leaves for quite sometime)

Total Trees – a total of live trees + dead trees + questionable trees (i.e. 1+1+1=3)

Also, a medium sized tree just behind the greenish washroom at the corner of Rees and QQ West needs to be cut down (been dead for more than a year).

To make it very clear to anyone who may question our statistics; C.J and I (W.C) decided we needed to have a criterion for ranking a tree as dead, questionable or good (healthy).

We (C.J. and W.C.) made a joint decision to have a shared eye-ball analysis as such:
Good trees would be ranked good when the trees had 65% or more good foliage
Questionable trees would be ranked questionable when the trees had 35% to 75% unhealthy foliage (lack of leaves and/or dead limbs)
Dead trees would be ranked as dead trees when trees had more than 75% unhealthy foliage and meeting my (W.C.) 2017 definition for dead trees as in **brown** above

Note – anytime C.J. and I (W.C) did not agree with the state of the tree (good-questionable-dead trees/s) we discussed the health of the tree and made a consensual decision per each tree.

June 24th 2018 Tree Analysis as Compared to the 2017 Autumn Tree Analysis

2017 Year – Yonge - Bay	2017 Trees		2018 Year – Yonge - Bay	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	6 (42.9%)		Dead Trees	6 (42.9%)
Questionable Trees	0 (0%)		Questionable Trees	1 (7.1%)
Good Trees	8 (57.1%)		Good Trees	7 (50%)
Total Trees	14 (100%)		Total Trees	14 (100%)
2017 Year – Bay - York	2017 Trees		2018 Year – Bay York	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	11 (26.2%)		Dead Trees	24 (57.2%)
Questionable Trees	5 (11.9%)		Questionable Trees	8 (19.0%)
Good Trees	26 (61.9%)		Good Trees	10 (23.8%)
Total Trees	42 (100%)		Total Trees	42 (100%)
2017 Year York – Lower Simcoe	2017 Trees		2018 Year York – Lower Simcoe	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	0 (0%)		Dead Trees	1 (3.0%)
Questionable Trees	0 (0%)		Questionable Trees	20 (58.8%)
Good Trees	34 (100%)		Good Trees	13 (38.2%)
Total Trees	34 (100%)		Total Trees	34 (100%)
2017 Year Lower Simcoe - Rees	2017 Trees		2018 Year Lower Simcoe - Rees	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	11 (16.2%)		Dead Trees	20 (29.4%)
Questionable Trees	10 (14.7%)		Questionable Trees	18 (26.5%)
Good Trees	47 (69.1%)		Good Trees	30 (44.1%)
Total Trees	68 (100%)		Total Trees	68 (100%)
2017 Year Rees - Spadina	2017 Trees		2018 Year Rees - Spadina	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	5 (8.1%)		Dead Trees	19 (30.6%)
Questionable Trees	0 (0%)		Questionable Trees	12 (19.4%)
Good Trees	57 (91.9%)		Good Trees	31 (50.0%)
Total Trees	62 (100%)		Total Trees	62 (100%)
2017 Year Yonge - Spadina	2017 Trees		2018 Year Yonge - Spadina	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	33 (15%)		Dead Trees	70 (31.8%)
Questionable Trees	15 (6.8%)		Questionable Trees	59 (26.8%)
Good Trees	172 (78.2%)		Good Trees	91 (41.4%)
Total Trees	220 (100%)		Total Trees	220 (100%)

Key points of the YQNA Queens Quay West Tree Analysis:

Note – there are 220 total trees in total in our Queens Quay West tree analysis

Dead trees from Yonge to Spadina Avenue more than doubled from the fall of 2017 analysis to June 24th 2018 analysis (33 dead trees in 2017 versus 70 dead trees in 2018)

Dead trees were significantly more prominent on the south side of Queens Quay West, accounting for 59 (84.3%) dead trees versus only 11 (15.7%) dead trees on the north side of Queens Quay West

All trees on Queens Quay West from Yonge street to Bay Street are dead. There are 22 (88.0%) out of 25 (100%) trees on Queens Quay West from Yonge to York that were analyzed as, dead trees

Questionable trees almost quadrupled from the fall of 2017 analysis to June 24th 2018 analysis (15 questionable trees in 2017 versus 59 questionable trees in 2018)

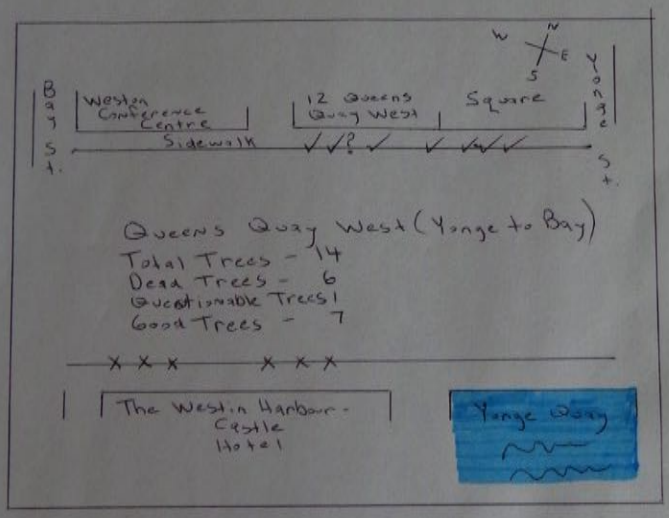
Questionable trees were more significantly obvious on the south side of Queens Quay West, accounting for 48 (81.4%) questionable trees versus only 11 (18.6%) questionable trees on the north side of Queens Quay West

Good (healthy) trees plunged by 47.1% (172 good trees in 2017 versus 91 good trees in 2018 out of a total 220 trees)

Only 41.4% of all 220 trees are reported as healthy/good from Yonge to Spadina inclusive.

Good trees percentage-wise (%) were significantly more prominent on the north side of Queens Quay West from Yonge Street to Spadina Avenue.

Tree Count – Yonge to Bay
2018.



The condition of trees bounded by Yonge and Bay as compared to the other 4 street areas (Bay to York, York to Lower Simcoe, Lower Simcoe to Rees and Rees to Spadina) along Queens Quay West changed the least overall from 2017 to 2018. The statement above however; should not be overshadowing the high percentage (**42.9%**) of dead trees as expressed in conclusion as stated below.

2017 Year – Yonge - Bay	2017 Trees		2018 Year – Yonge - Bay	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	6 (42.9%)		Dead Trees	6 (42.9%)
Questionable Trees	0 (0%)		Questionable Trees	1 (7.1%)
Good Trees	8 (57.1%)		Good Trees	7 (50%)
Total Trees	14 (100%)		Total Trees	14 (100%)

Of the 14 total trees in this study area:

- **Dead trees – both 2017 and 2018 years recorded 6 dead trees (no change)**
- **Questionable trees – in 2017 there was 0 (zero) questionable trees; however, in 2018, 1 questionable tree was recorded**
- **Good trees – in 2017 there were 8 recorded good trees; however, in 2018 that number dropped to 7 good trees**

In conclusion:
All trees on the south side of Queens Quay West from Yonge to Bay are recorded as dead both in 2017 and 2018. All of these dead trees are fronting The Westin Harbour Castle (Hotel).

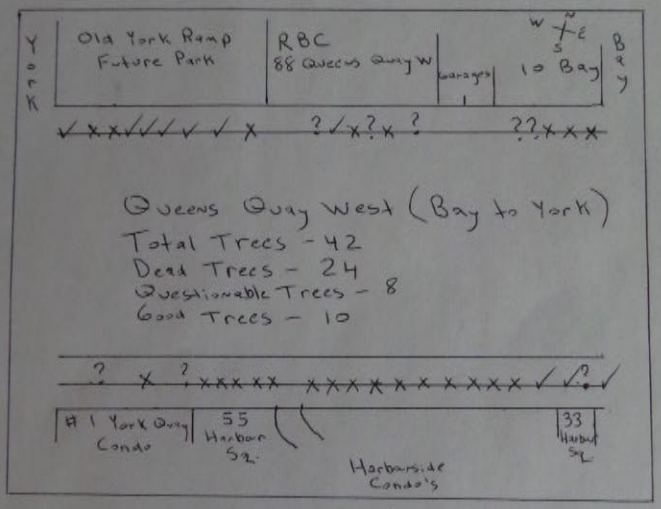
A view of Dead and Missing Trees on the south side of Queens Quay West just west of Yonge St.

A view of good (healthy) trees on the north side of Queens Quay West just west of Yonge St.

Another view of Dead and Missing Trees on the south side of Queens Quay West just west of Yonge St.

A view of Dead and Missing Trees on the south side of Queens Quay West just east of Bay St.

Tree Count - Bay to York
2018



The amount of dead trees bounded by Bay and York increased the most by numbers from 2017 to 2018 as compared to the other 4 street areas (Yonge to Bay, York to Lower Simcoe, Lower Simcoe to Rees and Rees to Spadina) along Queens Quay West.

2017 Year – Bay - York	2017 Trees		2018 Year – Bay - York	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	11 (26.2%)		Dead Trees	24 (57.2%)
Questionable Trees	5 (11.9%)		Questionable Trees	8 (19.0%)
Good Trees	26 (61.9%)		Good Trees	10 (23.8%)
Total Trees	42 (100%)		Total Trees	42 (100%)

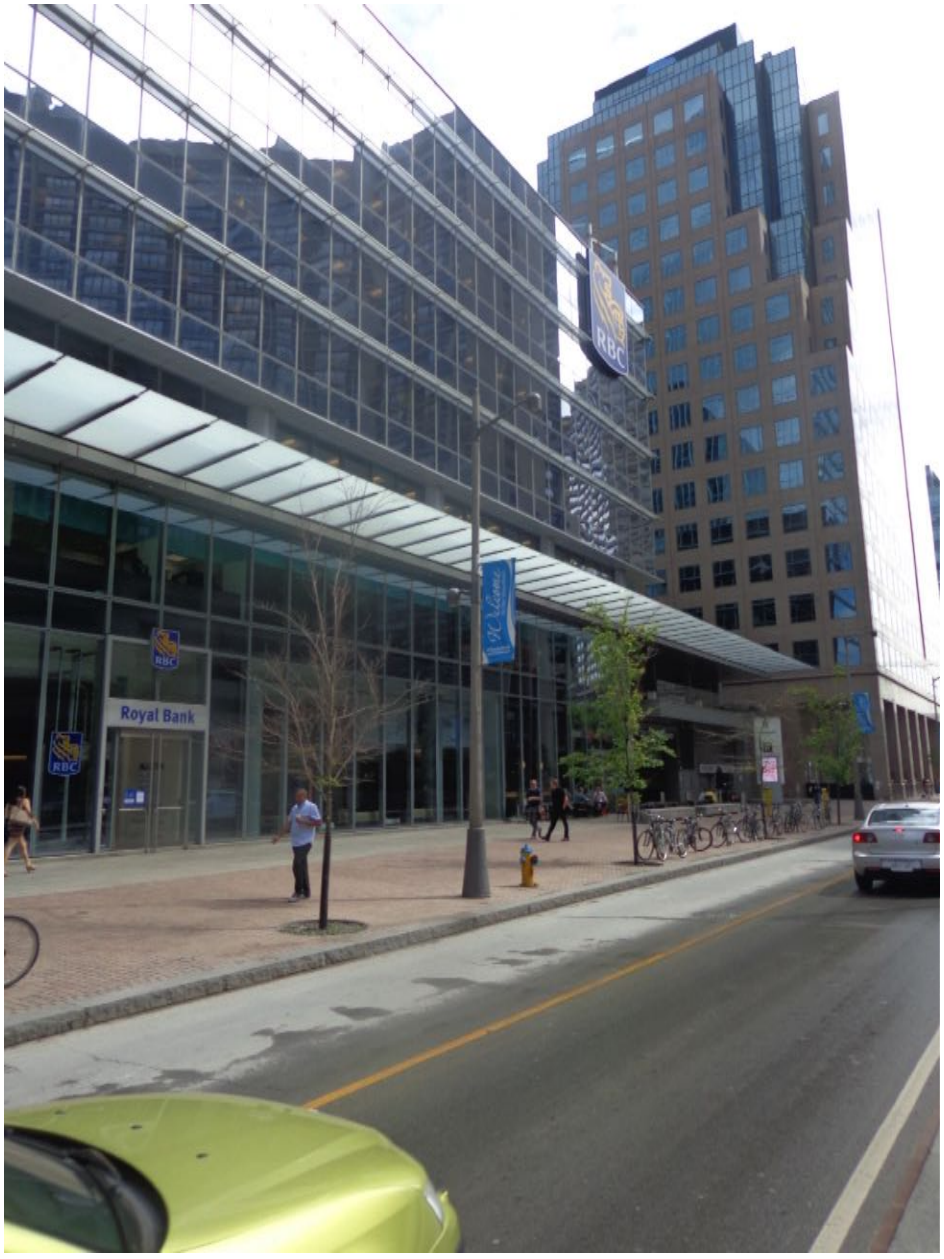
Of the 42 total trees in this study area:

- **Dead trees – more than doubled from 2017 to 2018 (rising from 11 dead trees to 24 dead trees – 118% increase in dead trees from 2017 to 2018)**
- **Questionable trees – significantly up from 5 questionable trees in 2017 to 8 questionable trees in 2018 – 60% increase in questionable trees from 2017 to 2018**
- **Good trees – healthy trees statistically crashed from 2017 to 2018 from Bay to York; going from 26 good trees in 2017 to only 10 good trees in 2018 – a huge 62.5% decrease in dead trees from 2017 to 2018**

In conclusion:

There are only 3 trees on the south side of Queens Quay West from Bay to York that are alive; keeping in mind that the entire number of trees on the south side of Queens Quay West between Yonge and Bay are dead) this results in, only 3 trees that are good/healthy all the way from Yonge to York on the south side of Queens Quay West; in other-words only 10.7% of trees are good trees on the south side of Queens Quay West between Yonge and York, 21.4% are a combined good + questionable state and 78.6% of trees are dead or missing in this stretch, of what one could consider the 'Pedestrian Gateway to and from Toronto City Ferry System'.

A view of a dead tree and a few good trees on the north side at 88 Queens Quay West between Bay St. and York St.

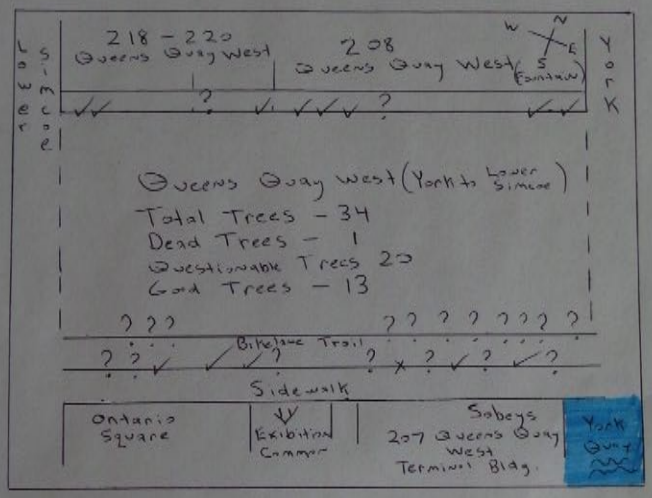


A view of dead and missing trees on the south side of Queens Quay West just west of Bay St.

A view of a dead tree on the north side of Queens Quay West just east of York St.

A view of a several missing trees on the north side of Queens Quay West just east of York St.

Tree Count - York to Lower Simcoe
2018



The condition of trees bounded by York and Lower Simcoe compared to the other 4 street areas (Yonge to Bay, Bay to York, Lower Simcoe to Rees and Rees to Spadina) along Queens Quay West is a mixed story with a twist of good news and caution. The good news is that it appears that the number of dead trees recorded in 2017 recoded at 0 (zero) has only risen to 1 dead tree in 2018. The cautionary portion of the tree report on Queens Quay West between York and Lower Simcoe is the 0 (zero) questionable tree in 2017 has risen to 20 questionable trees in 2018; resulting in good trees dropping from 100% in 2017 to only 38.2% in 2018; if this trend continues into 2019 (which there is a high likelihood); York to Lower Simcoe could see the largest percentage (%) increase in dead trees of all 5 street areas.

2017 Year York – Lower Simcoe	2017 Trees		2018 Year York – Lower Simcoe	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	0 (0%)		Dead Trees	1 (3.0%)
Questionable Trees	0 (0%)		Questionable Trees	20 (58.8%)
Good Trees	34 (100%)		Good Trees	13 (38.2%)
Total Trees	34 (100%)		Total Trees	34 (100%)

Of the 34 total trees in this study area:

- **Dead trees – increased from 0 (zero) dead trees in 2017 to 1 dead tree in 2018**
- **Questionable trees – blasted from 0 (zero) questionable trees to 20 questionable trees in 2018**
- **Good trees – keeping in mind of the above questionable trees statistic/s; therefore, good trees decreased from 100% in 2017 to only 38.2% in 2018 on Queens Quay West from York to Lower Simcoe**

In conclusion:
Although it appears impressive that in 2018 only 1 dead tree was recorded on Queens Quay West between York and Lower Simcoe, caution should be advised. As stated in the above bullet (questionable trees) this category of tree-state increased from 0 (zero) questionable trees in 2017 to 20 questionable trees in 2018 which very well could be an indicator of recording many more dead trees into 2019 for this boundary area.

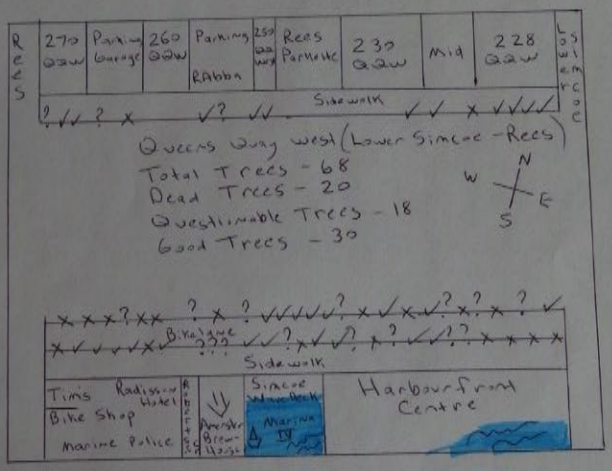
Note – again, as per the areas of Yonge to Bay and Bay to York, a high majority of non-good trees are found on the south side of Queens Quay West. There are no dead trees found on the north side of Queens Quay West between York and Lower Simcoe.

A view of good (healthy) trees on the north side of Queens Quay West just west of York St.

A view of several good (healthy) and questionable trees on the south side of Queens Quay West near York St.

A view of a few good trees on the right side of the this photo and several questionable to dead trees on the south side of the bike-lane along Queens Quay West between York St. and Lower Simcoe

Tree Count – Lower Simcoe to Rees
2018



The condition of trees bounded by Lower Simcoe to Rees compared to the other 4 street areas (Yonge to Bay, Bay to York, York to Lower Simcoe and Rees to Spadina) along Queens Quay West continues to follow a downward trend. Dead trees in this study area almost doubled (increasing from 11 to 20 dead trees; an 81.8% increase from 2017 to 2018). Questionable trees followed along the same pattern as dead trees (increasing from 10 to 18 questionable trees; an 80.0% increase from 2017 to 2018). In 2017 good trees accounted for 69.1% of all trees along Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe to Rees; however, in 2018, good trees only accounted for 44.1% of all trees along Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe to Rees (a drop from 47 to 30 good trees).

2017 Year Lower Simcoe - Rees	2017 Trees		2018 Year Lower Simcoe - Rees	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	11 (16.2%)		Dead Trees	20 (29.4%)
Questionable Trees	10 (14.7%)		Questionable Trees	18 (26.5%)
Good Trees	47 (69.1%)		Good Trees	30 (44.1%)
Total Trees	68 (100%)		Total Trees	68 (100%)

Of the 68 total trees in this study area:

- **Dead trees – increased from 11 dead trees (16.2%) of total trees on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe and Rees in 2017 to 20 dead trees (29.4%) of total trees on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe and Rees in 2018**
- **Questionable trees – increased from 10 questionable trees (14.7%) of total trees on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe and Rees in 2018 to 18 questionable trees (26.5%) of total trees on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe and Rees in 2018**
- **Good trees – good trees decreased from 47 good trees (69.1%) in 2017 to 30 good trees (44.1%) on Queens Quay West from York to Lower Simcoe of total trees on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe and Rees in 2018**

In conclusion:

In 2017 good trees (69.1%) looked somewhat promising on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe to Rees; however; good trees decreased well below 50% in 2018 (44.1%) of total trees on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe and Rees. Questionable trees will most likely die from now into 2019 as leaf loss and branch wear is surpassing 50% on several trees.

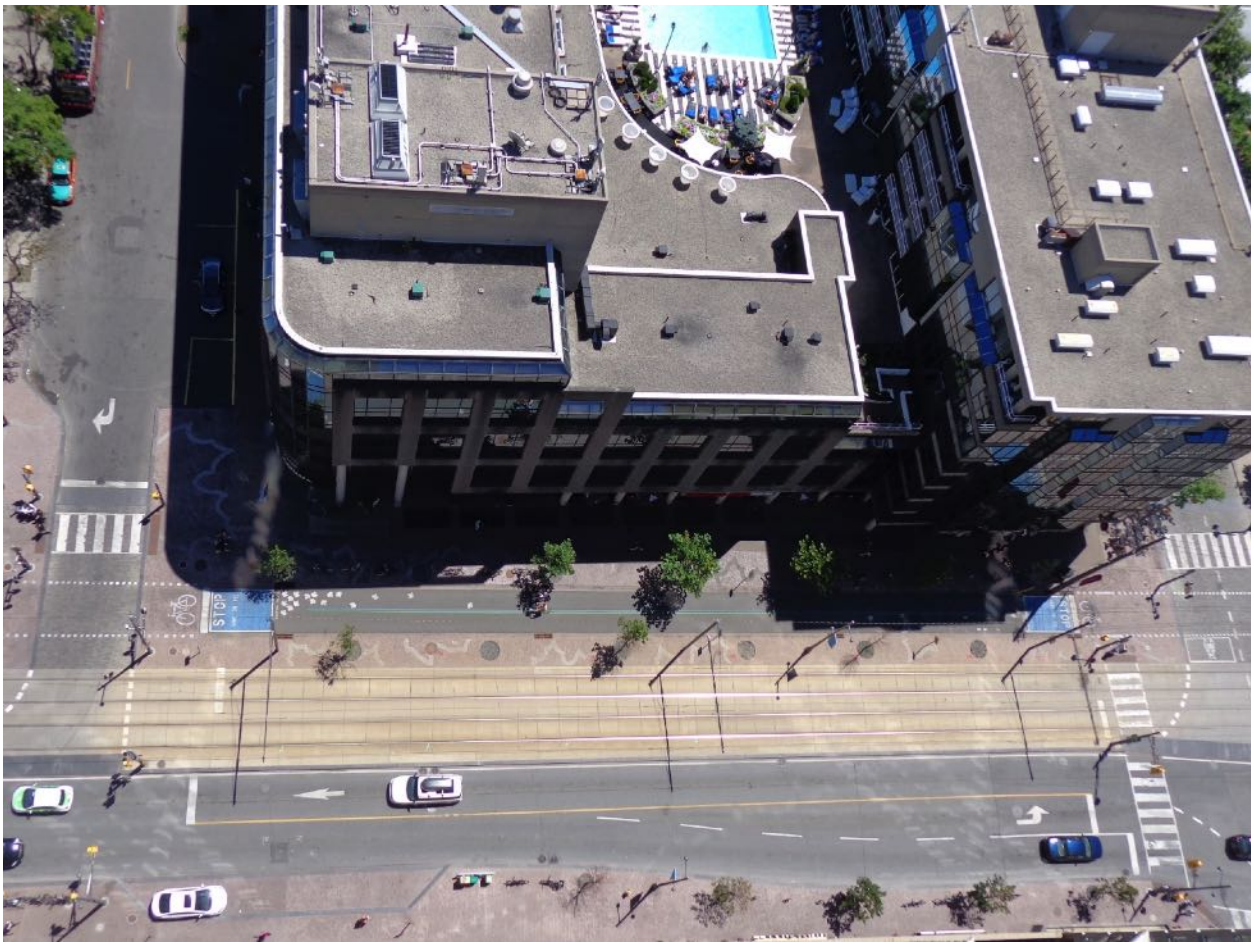
A view of dead tree (orange ribbon) near the Simcoe WaveDeck on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe and Rees

A view of good trees but not perfect trees near the Simcoe WaveDeck on Queens Quay West between Lower Simcoe and Rees (note weed growth)

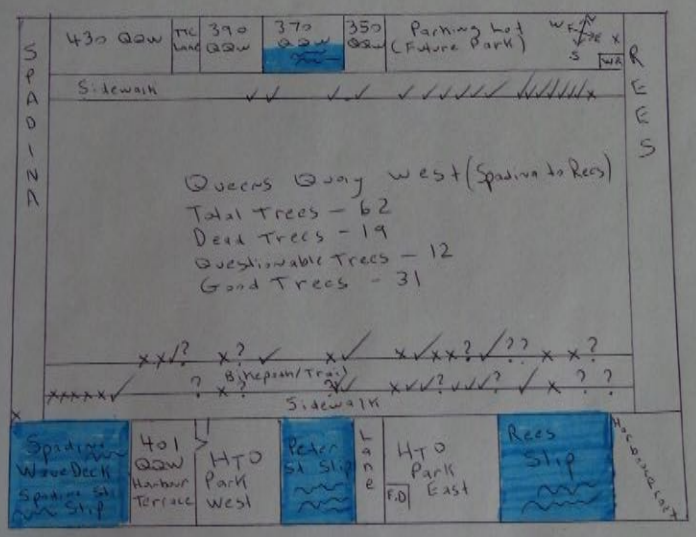
C.J and W.C. decided to weed

A view of missing and a mix of relatively non-perfect trees and good trees
on the south side of Queens Quay West at Robertson Crescent

A view looking downward from 300 feet onto the missing trees on the south side of Queens Quay West between both sides of Robertson Crescent



Tree Count – Rees to Spading
2018



The condition of trees bounded by Rees to Spadina compared to the other 4 street areas (Yonge to Bay, Bay to York, York to Lower Simcoe and Lower Simcoe to Rees) along Queens Quay West illustrated an almost quadrupling of dead trees from 2017 to 2018. Questionable trees increased from 0 (zero) to 12 questionable trees. Good trees decreased almost by half from 2017 to 2018 dropping from 57 to 31 trees respectively.

2017 Year Rees - Spadina	2017 Trees		2018 Year Rees - Spadina	2018 Trees
Dead Trees	5 (8.1%)		Dead Trees	19 (30.6%)
Questionable Trees	0 (0%)		Questionable Trees	12 (19.4%)
Good Trees	57 (91.9%)		Good Trees	31 (50.0%)
Total Trees	62 (100%)		Total Trees	62 (100%)

Of the 62 total trees in this study area:

- **Dead trees – increased from 5 dead trees in 2017 to 19 dead trees in 2018 (a 280% increase)**
- **Questionable trees – zoomed from 0 (zero) questionable trees to 12 questionable trees in 2018 (an infinite increase)**
- **Good trees – keeping in mind of the above questionable trees statistic/s; therefore, good trees decreased by 45.6% from the year earlier along Queens Quay West from Rees to Spadina**

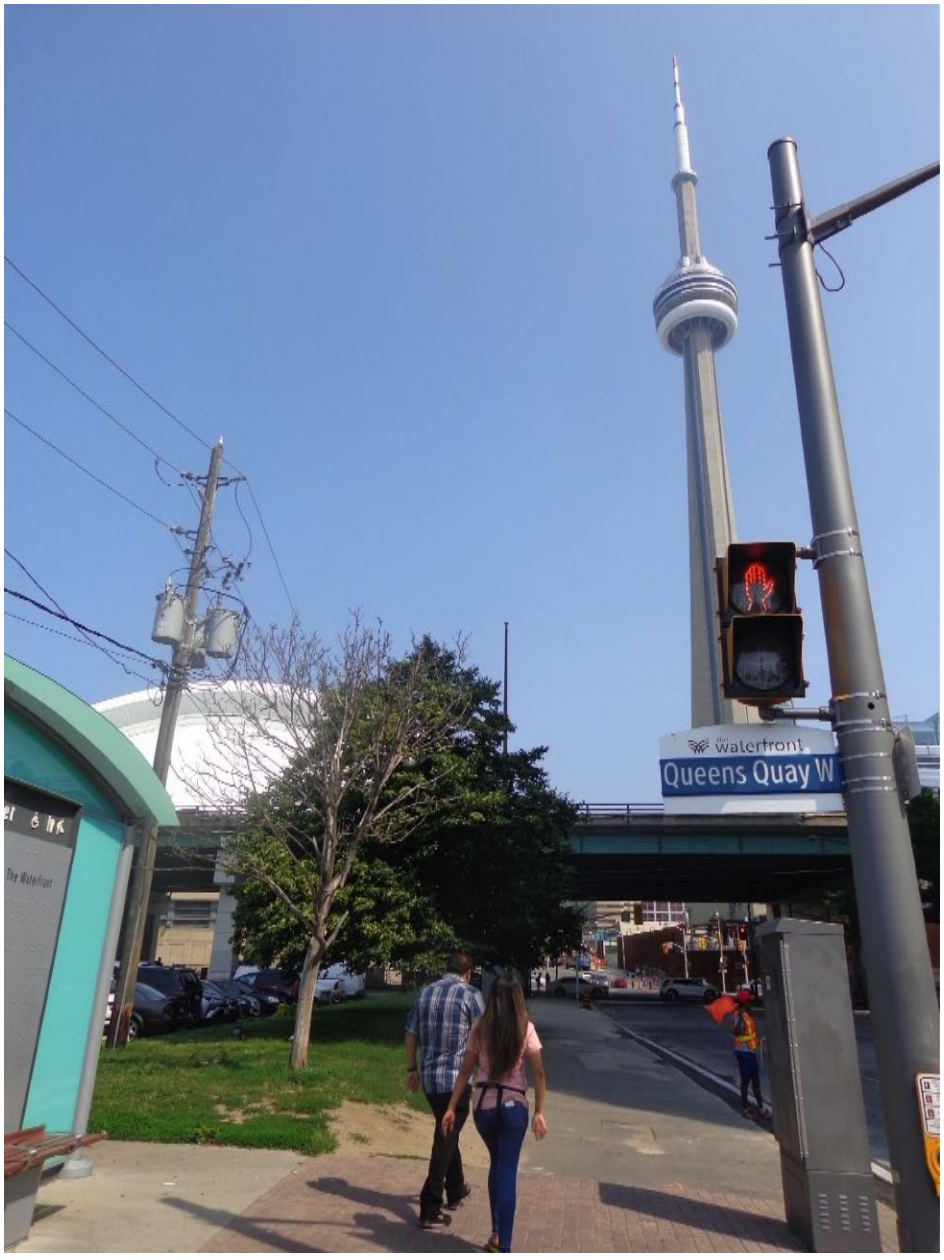
In conclusion:

As per both the 2017 and 2018 tree reports; the north side of Queens Quay West from Rees to Spadina indicates only 1 dead tree, while the south side of Queens Quay West from Rees to Spadina increased from 4 dead trees to 18 dead trees. There definitely appears yet again to be a problem of tree health on the south side of Queens Quay West, as questionable trees similar to dead trees saw a dramatic increase in numbers (going from 0 (zero) questionable trees all the way up to 12 questionable trees in 2018. Good trees are right at the 50% mark (31 out of 62 are good).

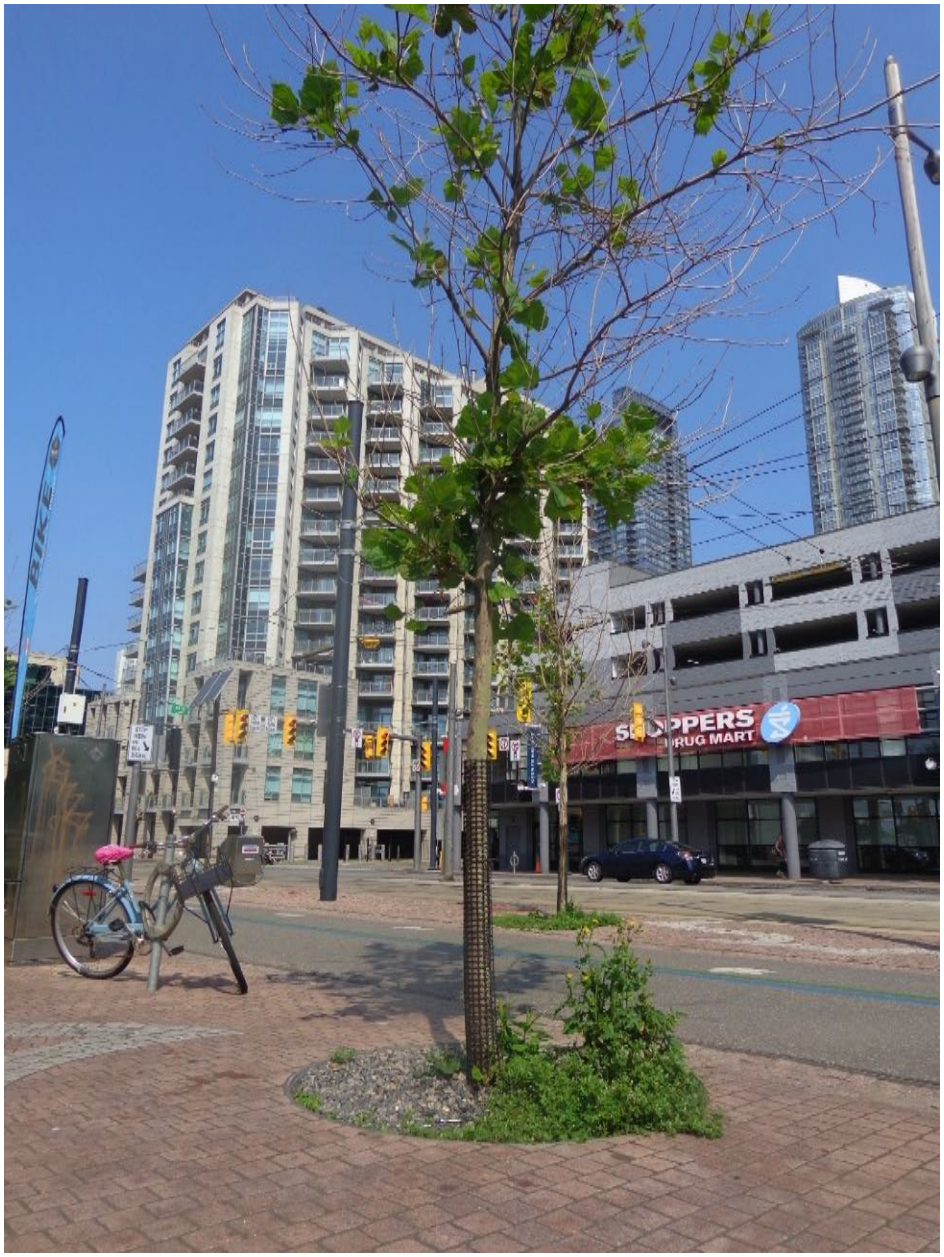
A view of a missing tree and a questionable/good tree on the south side of Queens Quay West just west of Rees Street

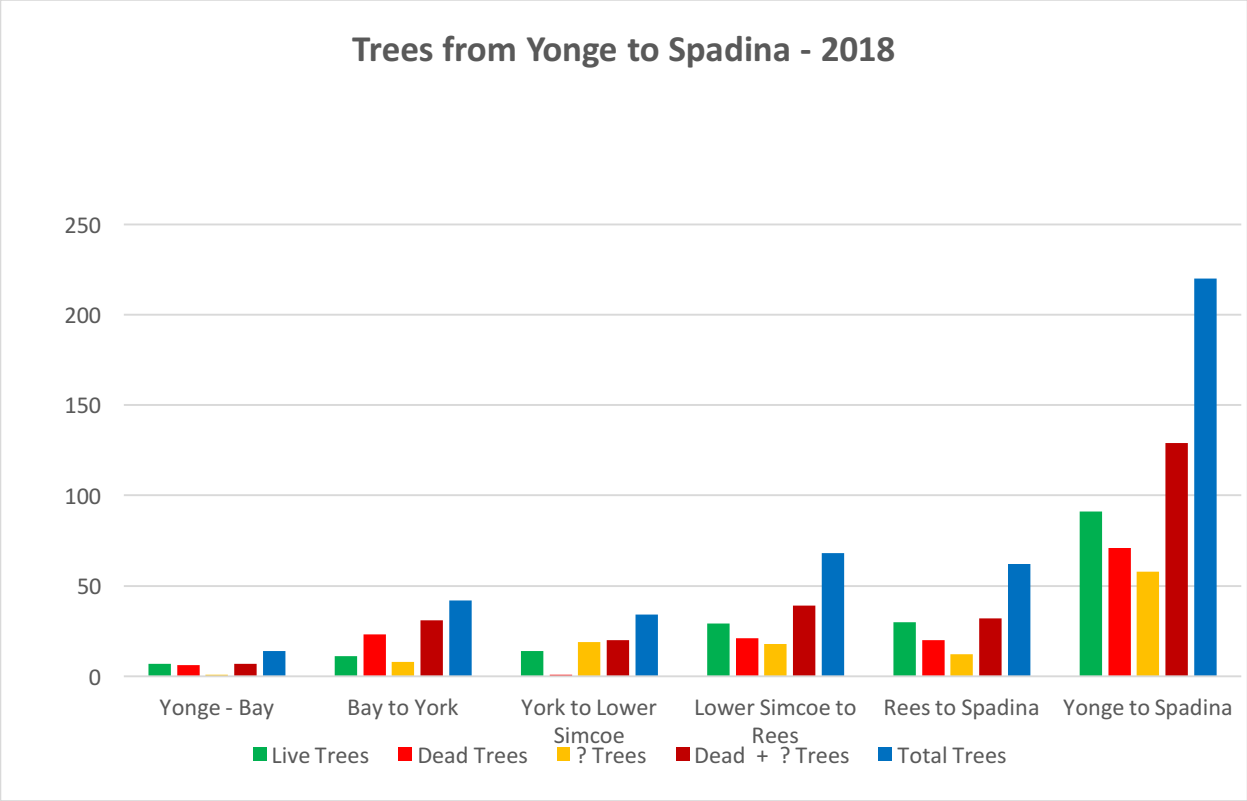
A view of a good (healthy) trees on the north side of Queens Quay West just west of Rees Street

Note - this dead tree on the northwest corner of Rees St. and Queens Quay West is in need of removal and replacement



A view of a questionable/‘iffy’ tree and abundant weed growth on the south side of Queens Quay West adjacent to HT0 Park West





YQNA's goal in regards to this specific tree report, is to find solutions on how to improve the survival of trees along Queens Quay West and replace existing dead and missing trees.

Maintaining trees along Queens Quay West is worthy of 'Keeping it Beautiful'

Contact in regards to this report – Wayne.christian@rogers.com

More than happy to collaborate with any/all interested parties – W.C. & C.J - YQNA

WATERFRONToronto illustrates healthy and leafy trees along Queens Quay West

What happened?

The Toronto Star - June 23rd 2018 - An article on Queens Quay trees

Why does this spot mean so much to you?

Glad Day is a cultural hub for the community. They have everything from poetry readings to drag to big dance parties.

Being gay and Asian has obviously had its challenges in the community, and I just strive to make it better for anyone else who is recently coming out and doing what I can to support the current and future generations. I've been in nightlife and events for quite a few years and I do remember being part of a minority of queer gay Asian men, and now to see other parts of the community is very special to me.

it was very inexpensive to live here. And there was a lot of sadness in my life at the time because I was a teenager, unprepared, and this was one of the few beautiful places in Toronto that I felt that I could comfortably be in. Being here is magical, it takes you to another place.

Back in the 1880s, noted author and cultural thinker Oscar Wilde who

same sex and looking for love interests or for romance. There used to be these big tall bushes. That's how people met, and they met like that largely because they couldn't meet freely. There were no restaurants or bars for them that welcomed them. There were a few, but this was the sanctuary.

> THE FIXER

Street trees are dying in droves on Queens Quay

JACK LAKEY
THE FIXER

What's going on with the young street trees planted as part of the upgrades to Queens Quay, and why are so many dying or already dead?

Anybody who's paying attention has noticed that dozens of trees planted less than two years ago along Queens Quay are withering or deceased, particularly on the south side west of York St.

We've received notes about it from TTC streetcar driver Terry Manella, who has been watching closely since before they were planted, and from David Crawford, our well-informed friend from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association. Crawford noted that the trees are planted in special trenches to allow more oxygen and moisture to reach the roots than would otherwise be the case, but far too many are still dying.

"Last summer, Waterfront Toronto told me that there were plans to replace all dead and missing trees in spring 2018. Well, spring has now passed with no action that I can see," he said. "Is the earth not good, were the wrong species planted, did nobody water them properly?" he asked, adding, "Queens Quay is a signature area and the situation is simply unacceptable."

Manella noted that "a very expensive and complicated plastic structure was placed well below the bicycle trail, all across the main waterfront area," referring to the same special trenches that Crawford referenced. He estimates that hundreds of trees are "dying off. Just walk or ride the trail and stop in front of the Harbourfront Centre, and take a good look," he said, adding that he doesn't think the trees are getting a good supply of water.

"Even planting new trees will not solve this problem. I hate to see trees dying for no good reason."

STATUS: We turned to Waterfront Toronto, which was in charge of the Queens Quay redevelopment, and urban forestry, which has a vested interest in tree issues, for answers.

Christopher McKinnon, a manager with Waterfront Toronto, confirmed in an email that all dead trees are under warranty from the contractor and will be replaced at no cost to taxpayers. "While it is normal for a percentage of newly planted trees to fail, the rate of failure we're seeing on the south side of Queens Quay is higher than we typically see," he said. "We're actively working with the city's urban forestry team to consolidate recommendations and make a plan to move forward with replacement. We've missed the spring-time window for planting, so they earliest they can be replaced is in the fall.."

Andrew Pickett, a senior official with urban forestry, said his department will be "working with Waterfront Toronto on a replanting strategy."

Maybe we're being too judge-y, but it doesn't sound like anybody knows why so many trees are dying, at least not yet.

Avoid the wedges that drive divide

MICALLEF: OPINION from GT1

to city quadrant, then by neigh-

why people vote the way they

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AT YOUR SERVICE

By Wayne Christian & Carolyn Johnson