

YQNA NEWS

In view of the cancellation of our meeting on March 18, 2020, we are sending you this newsletter.

Flood 2020 – Are We Ready?

On March 3, 2020 YQNA partnered with the Toronto Island Community Association (TICA) to hold a forum on flooding issues arising from the very high water levels in the Great Lakes system. Harbourfront Centre kindly donated meeting space in and beside the Brigantine Room. Their event staff advised that 236 people attended the meeting.

Carolyn Johnson and Lynn Robinson presented information on flooding levels now and expected, along with photos of what happened in the past two floods. Rosemary Clark of Harbour Square and Chris Sawicki from Billy Bishop Airport showed some of the impacts to their properties. Mike French from the Island gave a talk on how lake levels are measured and forecast by the International Joint Commission (IJC), and how he expects even higher water levels are possible beyond the IJC's 5% confidence level projection of 75.9 m on Lake Ontario. The final presenter in part 1 of the forum was Sarah Delicate from United Shorelines Ontario, who has been advocating tirelessly for stronger management measures ever since her home in Bowmanville was flooded. She has given talks at various locations along the shore; here she is [talking about flooding](#). She explained how the Great Lakes system works and how the only real regulation is through the Moses-Saunders dam near Cornwall. The IJC and its International Lake Ontario and St Lawrence River Board follow a protocol called Plan 2014 to control the flows through the dam while allowing for safe shipping and avoiding flooding Montreal.

After a short break, Tony Farebrother, President of TICA, took over to bring our elected officials to the stage to explain what their respective governments are doing to mitigate flooding and help affected residents and businesses.

MP Adam Vaughan advised that he would be meeting with his colleagues who represent shoreline communities on March 11. He stated that his government is well aware of the issue and is working with the IJC and American counterparts to try to bring the water level down. There is funding for emergency relief. It would help if the Bird Sanctuary designation for the islands could be finalised with the City, because that would allow the Federal Government to release funds to reinforce protection for the shorelines.

Councillor Joe Cressy brought a staff team from the City:

Emilio Borges, Senior Project Coordinator, PF&R

Jet Taylor, Senior Project Manager, TRCA

Dave Kellershohn, Manager, Stormwater Management, Water Infrastructure Management Toronto Water

Tom Dole, Senior Engineer, Stormwater Management, Water Infrastructure Management, Toronto Water

Charles Jansen, Director, Office of Emergency Management

Emilio discussed the work to be done to raise critical sections of the island roads to allow safe passage by emergency vehicles. Jet focussed on the remediation of shoreline damage carried out at various parks from Bluffers in the east to Sam Smith in the west. He also said that TRCA is working on accurate flood mapping for the shore. Dave and Tom spoke about measures to prevent basement flooding and studies the City is doing for the southern part of Toronto to upgrade the stormwater system. Finally Charles talked about the City's efforts on resiliency, with interdepartmental connections to address

various kinds of emergencies. At the time of the meeting, his group was very much focussed on the COVID-19 health issue.

MPP Chris Glover was the final speaker. He noted that the Provincial government has cut funding to conservation authorities. The Premier has asked for a greater voice for Ontario on the IJC. Ontario has a Disaster Recovery Assistance program, but it has yet to fund any supports. In November 2019 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry released a report about its review of the Province's current flood management framework, but to date none of the recommendations has been implemented.

Note: Some forecasts are for 76.2 m on Lake Ontario. We have heard that the people in New York State are preparing for 250 feet, which is 76.2 m.

Enbridge High Pressure Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement

As mentioned at our last meeting and featured on our website, Enbridge is conducting an EA study for the replacement of its aging pipeline currently located on Lakeshore Boulevard between Cherry and Bathurst Streets. Three routes are being considered: Lakeshore, Harbour Street and Queens Quay. In response to our blog, over 100 people sent letters of opposition to the consultants doing the study. In addition, the Waterfront BIA and Mariposa Cruises sent similar letters, and Councillor Cressy issued a statement requesting that Enbridge drop Queens Quay from consideration.

The window for public input closed at the end of February. The report with recommendations is expected to be filed with the Ontario Energy Board in May. We will keep you posted on this matter, as further public input is made available.

Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan

Work has begun on the waterfront promenade. The historic building beside Ireland Park is being converted into a cultural centre. The silos are to be stabilized while awaiting a new use, and the taxi corral will be revamped.

Billy Bishop Airport Noise Study

This study is under way. Temporary noise monitoring microphones and recorders are being installed at various locations. Two were recently placed at the corners of the Rees Street parking lot, for example.

Bathurst Street Construction

YQNA has just received a Pre-construction Notice from the City. From May to December the bridge over the rail corridor will be repaired. It will be closed to vehicular traffic, but open for pedestrians. From May to August the water main will be replaced on the section from Front to King Streets, followed from August to November on the next section to Queen Street. Then in September and October the TTC tracks will be replaced between Wolseley and Dundas Streets.

The 511 streetcar service will be replaced by buses starting on March 29, and once the bridge is closed they will turn back on Front, Portland and Wellington Streets. There will be enhanced service on the 509 and 510 streetcars.

The City is planning to hold two information sessions about this work:

March 31 St Mary's Church, 588 Adelaide 8:30 to 11:30 am and 1:00 to 3:00 pm;

April 1 at Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre 5:00 to 8:00 pm;

but they may have to be cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak.