



# Island Airport bomb scare: QUESTIONS GALORE

## **BQNA PUBLIC MEETING**

Thursday, December 1, 2022, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre, Dance Studio  
627 Queens Quay W. (QQW and Bathurst)

On Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022, residents of the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood were forced from their homes for eight hours due to an alleged bomb found at the Toronto Island Airport.

Toronto Police and Ports Toronto have been invited to answer questions about the handling of this event.



Scan the QR code for more info or go to [bqna.ca](https://bqna.ca)

Email [contact@bqna.ca](mailto:contact@bqna.ca) to request a Zoom meeting link if you prefer not to attend in person

The meeting is co-sponsored by Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association, York Quay Neighbourhood Association, and Toronto Island Community Association.

**Media Release: For immediate release**

**Public Meeting Concerning Recent Island Airport Bomb Scare  
6:30-8:30 PM, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022  
Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre, 627 Queens Quay West, Toronto**

The Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association (BQNA) is co-hosting a public forum to get answers from Toronto Police and the Toronto Port Authority about a bomb scare at Toronto Island Airport and to solicit feedback for community action.

On Saturday October 22, 2022, Police were called to Billy Bishop Airport, before 4 pm, to investigate a suspicious package. “We are dealing with a potential explosive device,” Toronto Police said in a tweet. Television news reports passed along this minimal information, with no additional details, for several hours.

Residential buildings near the ferry terminal were evacuated, and people were not allowed to return home until after midnight. The neighborhood was locked down with police tape, which blocked all entrance and exit for pedestrians and traffic. The airport stopped operations and flights were diverted to Hamilton. Police snipers with rifles patrolled the area from rooftops.

As it turns out, there was no emergency plan for community consultation or information sharing. Residents of the neighborhood, many in wheelchairs, waited outdoors for 8 hours, through the cold autumn evening. As residents were given no information about when the police operation would end, some felt forced to stay in hotel rooms at their own expense. The alleged bomb turned out to be an electric bicycle with two batteries attached to it parked outside the ferry terminal on the city side.

The Bathurst Quay neighborhood wants to discuss with police and airport security how this kind of problem can be better managed in the future. Lessons learned from this experience can help ensure that future emergencies are handled more professionally, and with attention to the needs of people who are affected by unrestrained police actions.

The meeting is co-hosted with the York Quay Neighbourhood Association and Toronto Island Community Association. Everyone is invited. More information about the incident and a backgrounder is available at <https://www.bqna.ca/>

**Media Enquiries:**

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