

(Draft) MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #93 Tuesday January 10, 2023

On-line Via ZOOM due to COVID-19 Pandemic (approximately 98 participants)

Hosted by Neal Colgrass, Chief Technical Officer

Chaired by Angelo Bertolas, Co-chair

1. Angelo Bertolas – Meeting Chair

Angelo welcomed participants to the YQNA's regular bi-monthly meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. We pay tribute to their legacy and the legacy of all First Peoples of Canada. Today the traditional meeting place of Toronto is still home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work in the communities that have grown in the treaty lands.

3. Provincial Update - Chris Glover

- **'Santa'** visits by Chris were a big success this year
- **Food drives** at 3 different school were conducted before Christmas. Spadina - Fort York Community Care program was the recipient. This program was founded in March 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic. Their mission is to bring hope, dignity, humanity, care, meals, groceries, hygiene and supply kits to those who need it most.
- **Homelessness** - People experiencing homelessness continues to be a priority issue for Spadina–Fort York. 216 homeless people died on the street over the past year, one sadly, in early January in an encampment in Liberty Village. All three levels of government need to act. 'There is no reason why a wealthy community should be allowing this to happen. We know how to run supportive housing for people.' Strachan House in Liberty Village provides a template. The 'cost per cot' per year is \$24,000 in supportive housing like Strachan House, versus a cost of \$50,000 per year to support people in the blue tents.
- **Greenbelt Plan Investigation** - As a result of complaints filed by incoming NDP Leader Marit Stiles, both the Auditor General and Integrity Commissioner of Ontario will be opening investigations into the government's Greenbelt actions.
A letter was sent to Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk asking for a value-for-money audit and an assessment of the financial and environmental impacts of removing land from the Greenbelt. Approximately 4,500 acres formerly belonged to Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve that had easements protecting the land as farmland.
The province maintains that the move was made to build more affordable homes. But prominent developers bought up the land as recently as September – land that had not yet been slated for development. https://www.chrisglovermpp.ca/protect_the_greenbelt
- **Ontario Charter of Democratic Rights** – The following notes are taken from the NDP press release. In the wake of continuous attacks on the democratic rights of Ontarians, NDP MPP Chris Glover (Spadina—Fort York) has tabled a motion to create an Ontario Charter of Democratic Rights to ensure people's rights are upheld and protected.
"Ontarians trust that they have the right to freedom of speech and association, and that when they mark an X on a ballot that their votes will be respected," Glover said.
"But the Ford Conservatives have twice used the 'notwithstanding clause' to strip Ontarians of their fundamental freedoms under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In addition, Doug Ford interfered in Toronto's municipal elections, weakened democratic institutions by allowing

minority rule in Toronto and Ottawa, and allowed his minister to hand-pick the heads of regional councils.

“We need an Ontario Charter of Democratic Rights to enshrine our democratic rights.”

Glover’s motion calls for the government to have a broad public consultation on what the Ontario Charter of Democratic Rights should look like. It highlights the need for the Charter to include that Ontarians have the right to democratic municipal elections and governance and that the legislature commit to not using the ‘notwithstanding clause’ to suspend the Charter rights and freedoms of the people of Ontario. www.chrisglovermpp.ca/stop_bill_39

- **Ontario Place** – The proposed Provincial plan has been submitted to the City for review. The NDP has asked the auditor general to assess the cost to taxpayers.

Actions to Fight for Ontario Place

1. HAVE YOUR SAY: Give Feedback on the Ontario Place Draft Heritage Impact Assessment
2. Share Ontario Place for All’s Call to Demand Accountability as Ontario Place Costs Mount
3. Get a Copy of Spacing Magazine’s Ontario Place Issue!
4. EVENT: Imagine the Future of Ontario Place at DesignTO!
5. Share Recent Ontario Place Articles

I am working with *Ontario Place for All* to ensure we do everything possible to protect Ontario Place and call on the government to be transparent with their redevelopment plans.

- **Ontario Line, East LRT** – will tear up the 170-year-old Osgoode Hall lawn. ‘It is the last piece of green space in that area.’
- **Healthcare crisis – Bill 124** freezes public sector wages at 1%. This is not constitutional.
- **Legislature recessed until February 20th.**
- **Skate with Chris** on the Bentway Friday the 13th
www.chrisglovermpp.ca/stop_bill_39

4. City Councillor – Tom Davidson

- **New Housing Action Plan** – newer expansive planning opportunities are being pursued that include rooming houses which are particularly important in the suburbs. There had been institutional resistance to rooming houses, but challenges have been overcome. The new Housing Action Plan specifies that rental units have to be replaced with rental units. Multi-unit housing is now covered by the same regulations.
- **Budget Process Season** – A budget Town Hall is being planned for Monday January 16th Information will be circulated
- **Waterfront Transit** – Seeking funding alongside funding waterfront parks.
- **The impact of storm run-off into the harbour.** The city has a long-term plan for a new interceptor tunnel – a failsafe where the storm run-off can be discharged. The Design phase is underway and will be complete by 2024. Completion expected 2030 versus the original plan of 2039
- **Ontario Place Plan** – now being reviewed by the City. City will institute a robust open and public dialogue. Beginning in March, sessions will look at the entirety of the space to assess whether the proposed project meets the agreed to ‘guiding principles.’
- **Bathurst Quay Revitalization** – The current work at the Canada Malting silos, will protect it for future adaptive re-use. The surrounding park space will take a year to develop. The cultural centre is underway and should be completed in 2024. East of the site another City of Toronto (versus a Waterfront Toronto Park) is planned.

5. **Federal Update – Kevin Vuong**

- **Responsiveness** - 6000 people reached out to Kevin’s Office. Queries were responded to averagely in 3.4 hours
- **Riding received \$120 million in federal funding.** The tourism relief fund received a meaningful portion of that funding.
- **Illegal Pot Shops** – There is an ongoing effort to shut these down
- **8 Respite Centres** in Toronto – 4 are in our neighbourhood
- **38 Safe Injection Sites** are in our neighbourhood
- **Student debt Bill 301** – Private Members Bill. Included in fall update. Our riding is one of the youngest in Toronto.
- **Grants for Canada** – \$400 million donated in goods in support of our neighbourhood

Kevin encouraged participants to reach out to his office kevinvuong.com

6. **Waterfront Toronto – Adam Novak, Natasha Tolkunow**
Love Park

Construction Progress



- Updates:
- Pond liner and sand complete, concrete to be poured
 - Red Mosaic Tile complete and protected
 - Trees planted and sod installed
 - Curbs and exposed aggregate pathways 90% complete
 - DOLA 90% complete
 - Granite installation around pond edge 35% complete
 - Trellis pavilion 80% complete

Remaining Work

Mechanical Room:

- Walls Forming and Pour
- Roof Forming and Pour
- Interior Finishing and Hardware
- Equipment Installation

Pond:

- Caulking and sealing of red mosaic tile
- Concrete interior pond pour and river rock installation
- Commissioning of pumps (Spring 2023)

- Testing of water (Spring2023)

Other

- Benches
- Water Fountain
- Park Signs
- Animal Sculptures installation
- Spring plantings: Shrubs and vines

Completion Timing – Spring 2023

Rees Ridge Park

Location

The park is located at the corner of Rees St. and Queens Quay.



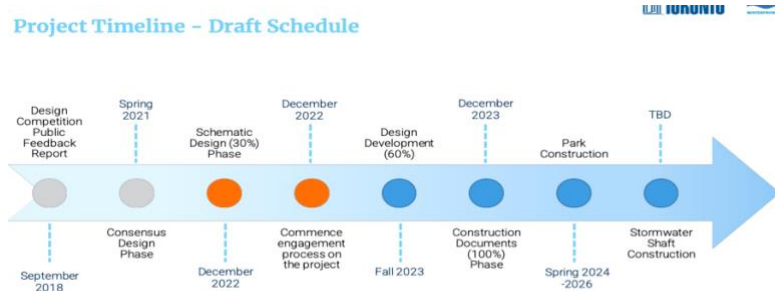
Features

The design concept is based on the rugged cliffs of the Scarborough Bluffs.



KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	KEY PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATIONS
1. REALIGN DESIGN TO MEET NEW BUDGET	1. MIX OF ACTIVE AND PASSIVE USE
2. RETAIN CHARACTER AND SCALE OF RIDGE	2. PLAYGROUND IS FEATURE ELEMENT THAT DRAWS FAMILIES TO PARK
3. MAXIMIZE GARDINER SCREENING	3. MAKE OFF LEASH AREA A RESPITE FOR WATERFRONT DOG OWNERS
4. ENLIVEN AND GREEN LAKESHORE RIDGE FACE	4. COURT IS MULTI-USE & ABLE TO HOST RANGE OF ACTIVITIES BEYOND BASKETBALL
5. RETAIN ACCESSIBLE LOOKOUT AT TOP OF RIDGE	5. ACTIVE SPACE IN ALL SEASONS
6. RETAIN RIDGE INSPIRED PLANTING APPROACH	6. PARK INFRASTRUCTURE MEETS NEEDS OF WATERFRONT COMMUNITY
7. PROGRAM EMBEDDED IN OR UTILIZES SLOPES	
8. ACCOMMODATE FLEXIBLE PROGRAM	
9. FUTURE SHAFT CONSTRUCTION	

Project Timeline



7. Neighbourhood Community Officer Program – Sgt. Elizabeth Harnett, Officer Barry Bates, Officer Mark Ferreira

Four officers have been working in the neighbourhood for the past 8 months. The neighbourhood comprises the area from Spadina to Yonge – Wellington to the waterfront including the Island. Their focus has been on:

- Traffic enforcement
- A traffic safety plan for Rogers Centre
- User education on the Martin Goodman trail
- The underhoused. ‘Everybody is dealing with our underhoused neighbours, tents or people in crisis. NCOP is trying to support initiatives to get the underhoused, housed.’
- Communication with the neighbourhood...the BIA, the business owners and some of the condo boards. November 27th the ‘coffee with a cop’ enjoyed excellent turnout and positive feedback from the community.’

The following table shows the traffic offences and warnings issued in 2022 for the Waterfront Neighbourhood Community Officer Program Jurisdiction.

Figure 05: Highway Traffic Act offences (POTs, Summons and Warnings) by Month, in the year 2022

HTA Offence Type	Month												Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Provincial Offence Notice: Part I (POTs)	230	176	280	322	250	185	155	226	161	231	255	195	2,666
Prov Offence Summons: Part III - Form 104	1	11	14	4	14	10	23	7	3	13	12	12	124
Warnings: POA	33	32	19	20	6	17	12	22	16	16	26	47	266
Grand Total	264	219	313	346	270	212	190	255	180	260	293	254	3,056

Crime Report

- The waterfront Major Crime Indicators (MCI) for 2021 and 2022 are noted below.
- Officers indicated that the Waterfront continues to be a relatively low crime area with seasonally lower activity in the winter.
- Gun related crimes are not an issue in this area. However, they noted that Airbnb’s can be problematic for guns.

Figure 3: MCI offence distinct count by year, 2021 and 2022

MCI Offence	Year		Total
	2021	2022	
Assault	178	239	417
B&E	55	61	116
Theft Of Motor Vehicle	21	44	65
Sexual Assault	30	31	61
Assault With Weapon	17	35	52
Assault Peace Officer	15	24	39
Theft Of Ebike Under \$5000	9	23	32
Assault Bodily Harm	11	15	26
Theft Over	7	15	22
B&E W'Intent	15	6	21
Robbery - Mugging	5	12	17
Robbery - Business	8	7	15
Robbery - Other	4	11	15
Robbery With Weapon	6	7	13
Assault - Resist/ Prevent Seiz	4	5	9

Aggravated Assault	2	3	5
Pointing A Firearm	4	1	5
Theft From Mail / Bag / Key	2	3	5
Theft Of Ebike Over \$5000	1	4	5
Sexual Interference	1	2	3
Theft From Motor Vehicle Over	1	2	3
Unlawfully In Dwelling-House	2	1	3
Voyeurism		3	3
Assault - Force/Thrt/Impede		2	2
Assault Peace Officer Wpn/Cbh	1	1	2
Discharge Firearm - Recklessly		2	2
Robbery - Home Invasion	2		2
Administering Noxious Thing	1		1
B&E Out	1		1
Murder Second Degree		1	1
Non-Consensual Distr Int Image	1		1
Robbery - Atm		1	1
Robbery - Financial Institute		1	1
Robbery - Purse Snatch		1	1
Robbery - Vehicle Jacking	1		1
Sexual Assault - Aggravated	1		1
Take Mv W-Out Consent		1	1
Grand Total	406	564	970

8. Harbourfront – Martin Kinneally

The Harbourfront Rink

- In November 2020, irreparable infrastructure issues forced the closure of Harbourfront Centre’s skating rink after 37 years of use. While it was originally thought the rink could be repaired as part of the \$20 million repair budget that was allocated by the federal government, when quotes came in it would have taken up well over half the \$20 million budget. The Board of Harbourfront decided that the money would be better spent by re-thinking how we can use our limited resources to create more opportunities for our space, including in winter.
- New technologies can allow skating installations each year with portable surface refrigeration systems that could allow for a variety of surfaces or ice paths. This is technology similar to what is used at many popular skating experiences and would be more cost effective.
- A new public square with trees and misting stations is slated to begin early in 2023 and should be completed by the end of the summer 2023.
- Harbourfront provided the following additional detail to support their decision to close the rink.

Harbourfront centre

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Dear members of the YQNA,

We recently announced that Harbourfront Centre is creating a new public square on our 10-acre campus along our beloved Toronto waterfront. This open-air public square will offer year-round recreation space for people to connect on the waterfront and enjoy creative programming, events and festivals with picturesque views of Lake Ontario.

We sincerely recognize and appreciate that residents of the city – and especially our waterfront community – have a deep connection to the skating rink and have many fond memories of using it when it was in operation. As do we. We also recognize your concerns about the replacement of the rink and understand your surprise when you received the information that it was changing at the last YQNA meeting.

We would like to provide some clarity around the details of the square and how it came to be as we replace the much-loved skating rink. In November 2020, irreparable infrastructure issues forced the closure of the rink after 37 years of use.

As you may know, in 2021, Harbourfront received a \$20 million capital funding grant from the Government of Canada towards urgent capital work and repairs over two years. The rink replacement was one item on a long list of critical infrastructure repairs required to keep Harbourfront Centre and its venues and spaces safe for our visitors and our community.

We anticipated in initial forecasting that the rink could be repaired as part of the \$20 million budget, however, the quotes received were exponentially higher than original estimates and would have consumed well over half the \$20 million budget.

While significant efforts were made to find ways to deliver a rink within budget, we had to pivot from our original plans to repair and update the rink and arrived at a solution that will provide a great public space for our visitors and neighbours. The goal of the newly imagined space is to offer a variety of pop-up events and attractions for visitors to the site year-round.

As you may recall, the last season for the Lakeside Rink was the winter of 2019. Due to Covid restrictions, there was no skating in 2020 and a portable surface refrigeration rink was put in place for the winter of 2021 skating season that our neighbours and visitors enjoyed. Harbourfront visitors who participated in skating are a small but important percentage of the overall Harbourfront Centre winter visitations relative to the rest of the winter programming on campus. The recent Nordic Lights exhibit, for example, attracted significantly more visitors than the removable rink.

As construction commences this winter, it was decided that it is not safe to offer skating this year. We hope to secure funding each winter to include skating at Harbourfront, and we are actively speaking to our partners and others for future winter skating installations.

As the Toronto waterfront continues to positively transform with projects such as Love Park, the soon- to-be Rees Street Park and Bathurst Quay, the new public square at Harbourfront Centre will be right at home and will attract even more visitors to our campus year-round.

Construction is slated to begin soon, and planned completion of the square is currently set to wrap up at the end of the summer/early fall this year.

Some of the many projects to be supported by the federal government's \$20 million investment in our general state of good repair needs, include:

Various critical infrastructure repairs, accessibility needs and lighting for public safety.

An update of the Harbourfront main building including refurbishment of public bathroom facilities that are open all year long.

Modernization of the iconic outdoor Concert Stage by the water.

Expanding the tree canopy to create areas of shade and rest.

The Harbourfront Centre team sincerely values the relationship we have with the YQNA and will update the group as we continue to introduce programming and improve the site for our visitors.

Other Harbourfront News

- Glass breaking at Harbourfront has been a problem. Perpetrators have been caught on security cameras, but no suspects have been identified yet.
- The floors in the shared lobby of the Power Plant are being redone.
- Active discussions are ongoing about the rental of 245 Queens Quay and the Lavazza site. Harbourfront will know in the next few months whether they have a viable rental option for 245 Queens Quay.
- New bridge options are being explored

9. Tim Kokur – Waterfront BIA

- **January 20th DesignTO** will be hosting an outdoor installation at Sugar Beach North called 'Territories 2.0' by artist Olivier Roberge, a dark cube that houses miniature landscapes depicting a natural environment that has been transformed by human intervention and climate change.
- **Sugar Shack, March 11 and 12** - Sugar Shack is a free, two-day, family friendly event that celebrates all-things maple.

9. Carolyn Johnson – Treasurers Report

Current bank balance as of December 31, 2022:	\$2,520.67
Recent expenses: Zoom for last quarter of 2022:	\$167.06
Upcoming expenses: Website:	\$165
FoSTRA:	\$25

Our typical annual expenses are about \$1000 so we have a good cushion.

Next Meeting Tuesday March 7, 2023