

MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #102 Tuesday Nov. 12, 2024
Live at Harbourfront Centre with approximately 100 participants
Chaired by Ryan Singh, Former Chair
Full video [available on YouTube](#)

1. 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.

Key Speakers and Topics

2. Ryan Singh – Chair

- Ryan Singh announced he will no longer be Chair of YQNA.
- YQNA started a newsletter, created a database of buildings and reconnected with Harbourfront Centre during his leadership.
- He reminded people to donate to YQNA and volunteer for open positions, including Secretary.

3. Constables Barry Bates and Pankaj Kasturi – Toronto Police, 52 Division

- 52 Division has a [Waterfront neighbourhood community program](#) that collects feedback on issues like traffic, under-housed people and thefts.
- Bates predicted heavy traffic during the 6 sold-out Taylor Swift concerts at Rogers Centre, saying some streets would be closed.
- Bates said he has “great concerns” about theft in convenience stores now that some are selling alcohol.
- Police ticket e-bikes and other similar devices that are overwhelming roadways and trails.
- Traffic wardens try to prevent cars from blocking intersections, and recently increased fines might help — but there are still no demerit points attached to the violation. “Generally, points are what change people's attitude towards things,” Bates said.

4. Motivational speaker “Randall Walsh” played by performer Gavin Pounds – The Second City Toronto

- *Comedy break.* Walsh urged people to embrace hard work, dedication and resilience in their search for happiness: “Success doesn't happen overnight,” he said. “Success takes two, three nights minimum, right? Sometimes even up to a month.”
- Second City offers 15% off tickets Tuesday to Thursday, valid until Dec. 31, with discount code YQNA15.

5. Dorsa Alizadehshabani – Waterfront BIA, Operations Manager

- Events and amenities in the neighbourhood include the Immersive Van Gogh exhibit at Lighthouse Toronto, a lighting installation in the gazebo at the Music Gardens, and ice skating at Sherbourne Common south rink (starting late November) and [the Bentway](#) (starting Dec. 21).

6. Cathy Loblaw – CEO, Harbourfront Centre

- Now CEO for 3 months, Loblaw said she envisions “a vibrant, connected, caring campus of arts, culture, education, and a place where we all build community and where we all feel a sense of belonging.”
- Harbourfront Centre (HfC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary.
- Upcoming events and activities include [KUUMBA Festival](#), Toronto’s longest-running Black Futures Month Festival with music, theatre, dance, spoken word and more; Summer Music at the Toronto Music Garden; and Season of Cool.
- A skating rink will return to HfC this winter, with free skate rentals on Saturdays and some “DJ Nights” from 8-10pm.
- HfC will continue to celebrate arts & crafts, design studios, art exhibitions and installations. It will also host the International Festival of Authors, fireworks, a holiday market, [children’s camps](#) and [KidSpark](#), an immersive space for children designed by the Ontario Science Centre.
- Queens Harbour restaurant is coming to the old Paw’s Way building in spring 2025 with a 21,000-square-foot space, combining Asian and Mediterranean food.
- The Fleck Dance Theatre is closing due to finances. The lease was over \$400,000 a year and average occupancy was about 40%.
- Waterfront marina resident Andy Oakes complained about erosion of HfC infrastructure, particularly the condition of marinas and the lack of “pump-out services” for boats to empty their toilets. Loblaw thanked him, saying HfC is discussing marina management with the City.

7. Chris Glover – MPP

- HfC’s Science Centre exhibit is “bittersweet,” coming at the cost of losing the original Science Centre location in Don Mills.
- Premier Ford’s redevelopment of Ontario Place brings more problems. 850 trees are being cut down without an environmental assessment that would have relocated wildlife habitat. The deal with Therme, an Austrian spa company, allows it to sell the lease to anyone with only two months’ notice. “It’s absolutely appalling,” Glover said. “We are continuing to fight back.”
- Homelessness is a “catastrophe” across the province, with 234,000 homeless and 1,400 encampments. The province needs more nonprofit housing.
- Join Glover’s annual “Holipalooza” concert and party on Dec. 7 or “Skate with Chris” on Jan. 17 ([both here](#)). Sign up for [Glover’s newsletter here](#).

8. Ausma Malik – Deputy Mayor and City Councillor

- Malik is excited by new leadership at Harbourfront Centre. With it comes a new Community Liaison Committee with HfC, and renewed HfC-City engagement on issues including the repair and upkeep of Amsterdam Bridge.
- City Council has followed federal regulations in allowing the Island Airport to expand and meet essential RESA requirements, with a 12-year extension of its current timeframe.
- A resident asked about an article saying Ports Toronto is ignoring City Council guidelines, and proceeding with more extensive expansion of the Island Airport. Malik expressed interest in the article.
- The City is reviewing community feedback on a future Rees Park design.
- The City is trying to house people living in encampments at Little Norway Park. Malik noted reports of harassment and commended the police for helping.
- The City has committed to 65,000 new affordable housing units.
- Sign up for [Malik's newsletter here](#).

9. Ed Hore – YQNA member, AGM

- Hore welcomed the return of longtime YQNA members Ulla Colgrass (chair of the Planning Committee), Carolyn Johnson (treasurer), Liz McGroarty (FoSTRA representative), Neal Colgrass (chief technical officer), Leah Lambert (social media), Hal Beck (Island Airport expert) and Planning Committee member Rosemary Fleming. David Lewis has resigned.
- Vital positions of Co-Chairs and Secretary are available.
- Claire Sparks signed up for the Police Liaison Committee.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025 on Zoom.