

MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #103 Tuesday January 14, 2025

On-line Via ZOOM with 112 participants

Chaired by Ed Hore, Interim Chair

Hosted by Neal Colgrass

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.

2. Ulla Colgrass – YQNA Planning Committee Chair

- Ulla emphasized the urgent need for volunteers to keep YQNA operational. YQNA appears to have reached an impasse in active membership. Specific volunteer roles include co-chairs to replace the recently resigned chair Angelo Bertolas, a secretary to write minutes, and volunteers to meet every two months with Toronto Police 52nd Division, park designers at Waterfront Toronto, a support group for Harbourfront Centre and FoSTRA (a coalition of downtown neighbourhood associations). Without new volunteers, YQNA could fold. To volunteer or get more information, [click here](#).

3. Tom Davidson (on behalf of Ausma Malik – Deputy Mayor and City Councillor)

- A new Harbourfront Centre (HfC) skating rink is in place thanks to Councillor Malik, efforts by YQNA and new HfC leadership, and City funding. A Community Liaison committee between HfC, the City and community organisations will begin soon.
- Tom discussed ongoing work to implement the Runway Safety Area (RESA Option 1) at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. The potential 12-year extension of the Tripartite Agreement is still under discussion between Ports Toronto and City Staff.
- The City has endorsed a package for the next phase of Waterfront revitalization, which includes a City commitment to fund infrastructure required for affordable housing in Quayside and the newly renamed [Ookwemin Minising Island](#). The package also makes possible a dedicated bus line on Queens Quay from Bay Street to Parliament while work on the light rail transit is underway.
- Sign up for Ausma Malik's newsletter [here](#).

4. Chris Glover – MPP

- Chris Glover said Premier Ford's Ontario Place Development plan will alter a combined sewage pipe that empties into Lake Ontario, so it will now empty behind an existing breakwater into the West Channel where Sunnyside Beach is located. Diverting sewage to the West Toronto waterfront near the shore, in water with little flow, will create an

“entrapped bathtub” that becomes a breeding ground for E. coli, listeria and other water-borne diseases.

- Chris Glover emphasized the need for a comprehensive plan to address homelessness and the opioid crisis in Ontario, citing the lack of available detox programs and growing number of homeless individuals.
- Sign up for Chris Glover’s newsletter [here](#).

5. Joan Prowse, BQNA and Dr. Greg Evans of ISTEP, University of Toronto

- Joan Prowse, Chair of the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association (BQNA) and Dr. Greg Evans, the Director of the Institute for Studies in Transdisciplinary Engineering Education and Practice at UofT (ISTEP) discussed their air quality study of the Bathurst Quay area, which focused on Ultra Fine Particles (UFPs) from the Billy Bishop City Airport and Gardiner Expressway.
- Prowse became interested in air quality when NoJetsTO was fighting jet flights and expansion of Billy Bishop airport. During an assessment, the city’s Medical Officer of Health said community health should be paramount over any increase in airport operations. This assessment relied entirely on modelling the data collection and did no sampling. And it did not include Ultra Fine Particles (which are part of airport emissions).
- BQNA reached out to the Transportation and Air Quality Research Group at the University of Toronto about doing a study. The result was a 3-year partnership (2020-2022) between UofT, City of Toronto Planning, Waterfront Secretariat, Toronto Public Health, Billy Bishop Airport, government representatives and the Bathurst Quay community.
- Dr. Greg Evans said airports are increasingly recognised as potential sources of air pollution in urban areas, especially for neighbouring communities. Higher levels of air pollutants such as UFPs are often observed at and near airports. But in most environmental assessments only regulated pollutants are considered, not emerging unregulated pollutants such as UFPs.
- The study measured a wide range of pollutants including PM2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns), nitrogen oxides, ozone, carbon monoxide, UFPs, black carbon and trace metals.
- UFPs are air pollutants with a diameter less than 100 nanometres. These tiny particles are invisible and can enter our organs and bloodstream with every breath. In urban environments, UFPs tend to come from combustion emissions and various local sources such as motor vehicles, aircraft activities, cooking, power plants and industrial processes. There is a growing body of evidence indicating likely UFP health impacts, but it’s an emerging area of science and remains unregulated.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) provides the following guide as “high” for UFPs:
 - 24-hour mean > 10,000 particles per cubic cm
 - 1-hour mean > 20,000 particles per cubic cm
- Conclusions of Study:
 - On average, Bathurst Quay has UFP concentrations similar to other downtown locations in Toronto.
 - High UFP levels (more than double) occur under southerly winds when the airport is operating.
 - The airport flight and ground activities are major sources of UFPs.

- Recommendations and Future Directions:
 - Consider UFP exposure when planning any future changes to airport operations (meaning all airports, including Billy Bishop).
 - Evaluate the feasibility of additional ways to reduce UFP exposure in the community.
 - Encourage national and international agencies to undertake research on the health impacts associated with exposure to aircraft-related UFPs.
- Additional Information
 - [Measuring Air Quality in the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood](#)
 - [BQNA Air Quality Study](#)
 - Articles at [BQNA Blog - Air Quality](#)
 - Email: contact@bqna.ca

6. Massimo DeMaria – Harbourfront Centre

- Massimo DeMaria shared details about the successful Winterfest, the opening of the skating rink, Ontario Science Centre pop-up location, and New Year’s Eve celebrations.
- Click [here](#) for Massimo’s presentation.

7. Carolyn Johnson – Treasurer, YQNA

- Carolyn Johnson updated attendees on the [demolition of the garage](#) at 200 Queens Quay West.
- Carolyn provided the Treasurer’s Report, saying YQNA has nearly \$2,000 in the bank. Ed and Carolyn suggested that people donate to YQNA by clicking on the “Make a Donation” button at the top of the [YQNA website](#).

8. Ed Hore – Interim Chair, YQNA

- Ed recommended that people check the [Waterfront BIA website](#) for upcoming activities on the Waterfront.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 18, 2025.