



March 25, 2025

councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Ms. Sylwia Przewdziecki
Toronto City Hall,
100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

To the Members of the City Council:

**Re: March 26-28, 2025 City Council Meeting Agenda Item CC28.1
Authority to Negotiate Agreements Related to Queen's Park North
Through Philanthropic Partnerships in Alignment with City of
Toronto Priorities**

For the last 30 years, the Bay Cloverhill Community Association has been representing 18,000 individuals in the Yonge/College/Queen's Park/Charles neighbourhood in University Rosedale Ward 11 and Toronto Centre Ward 13. From 2011 to 2021, the number of people living in the Bay Cloverhill neighbourhood has grown by 68%, with a density of over 25,000 residents per square kilometer. The Toronto Central Metropolitan Area has only grown by almost 11% in that same time. There are over 1,000 residents moving into a recently completed condominium building, with another 11,000 residents estimated for developments that have been approved or are in the planning process.

We have been in discussions for years with the University of Toronto and both the previous and current City Councillors, about the non-operational fountain at the south end of Queen's Park North and have proposed an educational and informative sundial as an alternative use. We supported the pilot project that allowed drinking in parks last year. We have alerted Toronto Police Services about an illegal noisy all night rave that happens annually during Nuit Blanche. Another challenge was an encampment that exists in the park. We consulted on the installation of the secondary Museum TTC subway station in the park. Last year, our initiative to create and install a bench made from an almost 200 year old Great White Oak that was cut down from Queen's Park North, came to fruition.

While we applaud the generosity of the Weston Family Foundation donation of \$50m, we are concerned that Queen's Park North will be turned into an events centre, like Sankofa Square, the Bentway or Harbourfront Centre. People living in Bay Cloverhill and area need to have a say if they want to be a tourist area, with usage dictated by post secondary education organizations and museums.

A Strong Voice for A Strong Community

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Conditions

The provincial government recently announced plans for a major renovation of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, located adjacent to Queen's Park North. There are no public washrooms in the area, other than the facilities in the Ontario Legislative Assembly which are only open business hours during the week.

Queen's Park North is home to many native species of trees and some of the oldest trees in the City. As you are aware, the City's goal is to have a 40% tree canopy by 2050. The benefits of trees include providing shade and cooling in the urban jungle, improving air and water quality, giving a home to birds and squirrels and boosts the mental health of people.

When not used for events, the park provides a quiet respite from a busy city for many residents who live in apartment and condominium buildings, with no access to private outdoor space. It is busy year round and enjoyed by people chatting with friends, partaking in a healthy walk or just sitting down while taking in some sunlight.

History

The Bay Cloverhill Community Association and the "Friends of Queen's Park" committee were very involved in the last renovations to Queen's Park North, which took place in 2019. Almost \$1m of Section 37 and Section 45 funds were spent to improve/create walkways, enhance the perimeter walking/jogging path, add benches and plant trees.

Events

Queen's Park hosts many scheduled and unscheduled events. In addition to numerous official/unofficial protests at Queen's Park, the following charitable or community events happen annually at or near Queen's Park:

1. Bumrum Toronto walk/run
2. Ontario Police Memorial Foundation Ceremony of Remembrance
3. March for Life
4. Law Enforcement Torch Run
5. Run for Women
6. Epilepsy Toronto Purple Walk
7. Toronto Jazz Festival
8. Jesus in the City musical street pageant
9. Princess Margaret Walk to Conquer Cancer
10. Yorkville Run
11. Grassy Narrows River Run
12. National Police Officers' Memorial Run
13. Word on the Street Festival
14. Ontario Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial
15. Fridays for Future climate strike rally
16. Remembrance Day
17. Santa Claus Parade

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Sincerely,

Bay Cloverhill Community Association Executive

Christine Dingemans, President

Cathy Carnevali, Secretary

Marilyn Tait-McClellan, Treasurer

Kathryn Holden, Ex-Officio

cc: Mayor Olivia Chow mayor_chow@toronto.ca
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