Bicycle Lanes

Below is the text of a letter that TICA sent to the Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee last month.

Dear Councillor and Committee members

I am writing to you on behalf of the Executive of the Toronto Island Community Association (TICA), the residents’ association that represents the interests of the Toronto Island community.

As a year-round bicycle commuter, I and many of my neighbours, are concerned about the improvements that are being contemplated for this area. There is the potential for a truly forward thinking solution to the problems of the conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and automobiles in this area.

The Toronto Island community has the highest percentage of year round commuting cyclists of any community in the City of Toronto over at 29%. http://thestar.blogs.com/maps/commuting/ We anticipate that the number of cyclists from the waterfront community, already growing with the new condominiums, will probably continue to increase as the cycling environment is improved. Many of these residents are currently pedestrian or TTC commuters.

In addition over 1.5 million people a year visit the Toronto Islands. Many of the visitors to the Toronto Islands are cyclists. The vast majority of cyclists arrive at the Toronto Island ferry terminal via Bay Street. Bay Street between Front Street and Queens Quay, particularly southbound Bay Street is a very dangerous street for cyclists.

TICA is writing to indicate its strong support for the proposals of the Toronto Cyclists Union contained in their letter of February 10, 2010 to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

Specifically TICA requests that:

1. The new Bay Street bicycle lanes between Front Street and Queens Quay be physically separated from traffic by a curb or bollards. If the lanes are not physically separated they will be unusable due to illegal parking in front of the ACC and vehicles dropping off passengers on Bay Street just south of Front Street. There is also significant illegal parking in front of 10-20 Bay Street which would also obstruct any bicycle lane in the west side of Bay Street if it is not physically separated.

2. The Bay Street Front Street West Intersection be reconfigured as a pedestrian scramble intersection, like Dundas and Yonge Street, so that pedestrians can cross the intersection directly on the diagonal.

3. The double southbound Bay Street right hand turn lanes to west bound Lakeshore be removed. Motorists should be encouraged to use Simcoe Street to leave Downtown, not Bay Street.

4. The east side Bay Street sidewalk, south of Front Street, needs to be widened and the existing light standard poles and fire hydrant between the GO Bus Terminal need to be relocated off of the sidewalk. Currently there is considerable pedestrian spillover onto the road, where a future bicycle lane might be located, from the east Bay Street sidewalk north of the GO bus terminal to Front Street West. There needs to be more space for pedestrians on the sidewalk.

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Bicycle Lanes... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In addition TICA would like to make the following additional suggestions:

1. A street level pedestrian traffic signal needs to be created between Union Station and the GO bus terminal just north of the railway tunnel. This could be integrated with the traffic signal at Bay and Front. Many pedestrians currently ignore the barrier that has been installed and cross the street there. To widen the pedestrian crosswalk south from Front would alleviate this dangerous situation.

2. If the recommendation for a scramble intersection is accepted, TICA would request that both the north and southbound bicycle lanes be located on the east side of Bay Street from Queens Quay to Front Street West. This would relieve the conflict between bicycles and the pedestrian spillover that occurs on the west side of Bay during events at the ACC.

3. The northbound Bay Street TTC bus stop located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Bay Street and Front Street should be relocated to the northeast corner of the Bay/Front Street intersection or to just south of the new pedestrian street level Bay Street crossover recommended earlier in this letter.

We are requesting that the Bay Street promenade plan reflect the above recommendations and that the intersection changes be adopted as part of any bicycle lanes on Bay Street south of Front Street.

The need for physically separated bicycle lanes on Bay Street is well illustrated by the situation on Yonge Street south of Harbour Street and north of Queens Quay where the bicycle lanes in both directions are almost continuously blocked by cars, taxis and delivery vehicles dropping off parcels and passengers at 10 Yonge Street and the Toronto Star building. Unseparated bicycle lanes on Bay Street would only repeat this dangerous situation.

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Interested in Backyard Trees for $20?
TIM GRANT, CHAIR, HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Harbord Village Residents' Association has a great deal for a healthy, good sized backyard tree for homeowners. Thanks to a funding grant from the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation and volunteer work, over 100 backyard trees have been planted since we began this project in 2008. This is the last time we are making this offer to other community groups before the unspent grant money will be returned to the City. The deadline for orders with us is May 15th.

Here’s what’s needed to work with us to provide your neighbourhood with backyard trees:
• commitment: surveying your homeowners and getting their sign up with a $20 deposit for a back yard tree they will water and care for
• order information: name of owner, address where tree will be planted, species of tree selected from our recommended list (see below) all returned to Dinny with the $20 deposit per tree (cash only) by May 15th 2010
• your own arrangements to pick up the trees you order from a central location in Harbord Village (early June)
• your own organization of volunteers to deliver and plant the trees in home owners' backyards (early June)

Please Note:
1. We are expected to include the TPTF logo and statement in all public information about this particular grant and planting project.

“The City of Toronto Water Section encourages backyard tree planting to reduce storm water run-off and the overloading of storm sewers.”

2. Here is the list of trees to choose from that we have found grow well in our city environment. Go to our website to find out more:
http://harbordvillage.com/files/FallTreeList%20Sept09.pdf

LARGE (may grow to 16 m tall):
American Basswood (Linden), Ginkgo, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Red Oak, Black Locust

MEDIUM (10-15 m):
Black Cherry, Bur Oak, Northern Catalpa, Ruby-Red Horse Chestnut, Sweet Gum, White Spruce

SMALL (less than 10 m):
Serviceberry, White Cedar

If you are interested in this project, please email/call Dinny (dinnybiggs@gmail.com 416 923 6321), Chair of Treeing the Village Committee with questions or to indicate a tree order will be placed by the deadline of May 15th.

HVRA hopes you will join us in this great ‘greening’ project supporting neighbours helping neighbours and shares the benefits in nurturing an urban forest.
News from the Ferry Docks

Packages and Drop Offs at the Ferry Docks
JAMES DANN, WATERFRONT PARKS MANAGER

I met with Transport Canada today to discuss security issues here at the docks. I have good news to report from our meeting today. Many of you have asked about packages, groceries, and general supplies being dropped off at the back gate. This is a practice that for the most part can continue. If you are personally bringing deliveries in your car they can be dropped off for a short period of time, to say go and park your car, with the dock staff. The staff will direct you as to where to leave your belongings and they can be picked up after you enter in through the pedestrian entrance.

If you have deliveries that are on their way to the ferry docks please call ahead to Rafik Jaffer 392-8662 or the Traffic Office 392-8194 or let the back gate staff know about your delivery. Ideally you will be able to personally be there to meet the package.

WE WILL NOT BE SIGNING FOR ANY PACKAGES OR ALLOWING ANY UNANNOUNCED DELIVERIES INTO THE COMPOUND.

Thank you very much for understanding that any previous confusion around this issue is a direct result of a somewhat grey area in regards to Transportation Security. Please let me know if you have any concerns with this issue.

G20 and the Ferry Docks
JAMES DANN, WATERFRONT PARKS MANAGER

The G20 will have an impact on our operation here at the ferry docks. Here is some of what we’ll need to plan for:

• The fencing in the downtown and around the Harbour Castle Westin will start to go in on Monday June 21st. Access to these areas will be gradually decreased over the course of the week.

• The exterior of the hotel and the lane way to the east side will be completely off limits Friday June 25th, Saturday 26th and for part of the day on Sunday the 27th. During this period there will be NO VEHICLES ALLOWED INTO OR OUT OF THE COMPOUND. All deliveries, Wheel Trans, etc. will have to operate out of the Toronto City Centre Airport for this period.

• Passenger ferry service will be open to the public throughout the entire G20 provided security levels remain at normal levels.

• In the unlikely event that the ferry service compound becomes off limits to the public the City of Toronto will maintain a modified ferry service for island residents through Ward’s and a city side docking location.

I will continue to share information as it comes through to me where I can.

Bedbugs

Just a reminder that we are not immune to bedbugs. Long considered eradicated in most metropolitan areas, they are making a comeback. There have been reports of infestations in the downtown area and along the waterfront. Since information is our best defence, you may want to consult the web sites below to familiarize yourselves with the problem.

According to Public Health, bedbugs do not travel from house to house. They hitchhike on clothing and baggage. As with head lice, there is no correlation to cleanliness. It is just plain bad luck if you get them, but once you’ve got them, it’s a bit of a nightmare to get rid of them.

Toronto Public Health has lots of info at http://www.toronto.ca/health/bedbugs/infoforpublic.htm and other pages. If requested, they will send inspectors over to do educational sessions. There is also a Bedbug Registry at http://bedbugregistry.com/metro/tor. There have been reports at locations in close proximity to the Ferry Docks.
This schedule of events provided by James Dann might help people make their plans and avoid long line ups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT/COMPANY</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>LOCATIONS</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Art Keay Racewalkers</td>
<td>Athletic Event</td>
<td>Hanlan's</td>
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<td>June 11,12,13</td>
<td>H.O.P.E. Volleyball</td>
<td>Athletic Event</td>
<td>Olympic Island</td>
<td>2000+</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>Tree Festival (Warren)</td>
<td>Special Event</td>
<td>Franklin Garden</td>
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<td>June 12,13</td>
<td>Viking Boat</td>
<td>Athletic Event</td>
<td>Centre, Long Pond</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>Set Sail for Hope</td>
<td>Charity Event</td>
<td>Hanlan's</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>June 19, 20</td>
<td>Dragon Boat</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Hersenhoren</td>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>Olympic Island</td>
<td>7500-10,000</td>
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<td>Dominion Day Regatta</td>
<td>Athletic Event</td>
<td>Hanlan's Beach</td>
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<td>July 3</td>
<td>The Beach Ball</td>
<td>Charity Beach Party</td>
<td>Hanlan's Beach</td>
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<td>July 8</td>
<td>Firefighters Picnic</td>
<td>BBQ</td>
<td>Olympic Island</td>
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<td>July 16 - 19</td>
<td>Festival of India</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Island Park</td>
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<td>July 27-31</td>
<td>Scouts Camporee</td>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>Snake Island</td>
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<td>Hersenhoren</td>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>Olympic Island</td>
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<td>Multisport Triathlon</td>
<td>Athletic Event</td>
<td>Hanlan's Point</td>
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<td>August 19</td>
<td>Long Boat: Sunset Shuffle</td>
<td>Athletic Event</td>
<td>Roadways</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
<td>Multisport: Women’s 10k</td>
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<td>Police: 5k Run</td>
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<td>Centre Island</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
<td>The Beach Ball</td>
<td>Charity Beach Party</td>
<td>Hanlan’s Beach</td>
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<td>September 10</td>
<td>Ryerson Parade &amp; Picnic</td>
<td>Frosh/BBQ</td>
<td>Hanlan’s Point</td>
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<td>Multisport: Women’s 1/2 marathon</td>
<td>Athletic Event</td>
<td>Island Park</td>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>Winners Walk of Hope: Cancer</td>
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<td>Olympic</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>Long boat</td>
<td>Athletic Event</td>
<td>Centre Island</td>
<td>1500</td>
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