



THE QUAY WORD

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Toronto Island Airport

The Island Airport **IS** good for Harbourfront

The Island Airport has been receiving a lot of negative press for the last few years for its apparent negative affect on the quality of life of the Harbourfront area. There are really 2 current issues: the status of the airport itself, and the new upstart airline Porter Airlines who is adding new commercial service to the airport.

First the airport itself: a lot of Harbourfront residents claim that the Harbourfront is no place for an airport now that the waterfront has shifted from an industrial focus to a residential and leisure focus. They are perhaps correct; if we were to start over, probably no one would support building the island airport where it is. However, that decision has come and gone. The island airport has been in place since the 1930's and as with all airports, the airport land is heavily contaminated. The cleanup cost of a closed island airport to turn it into parkland is an estimated \$1B. No level of government has that amount of money. Closing the island airport is simply not a viable option. Hence, we need to make the best use of the airport, which leads to Porter.

Porter Airlines inaugurated scheduled flights from the island airport in October 2006 and now operates 19 weekday non-stop flights to Ottawa and Montreal, with more flights and destinations to come. From an environmental standpoint, the Bombardier Q400 aircraft that Porter utilizes are extremely quiet and will not add any appreciable noise to the waterfront area (so this kills the noise argument) and all passengers flying Porter will not instead be driving a car, or taking a cab or bus to Pearson.

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The Island Airport **is not** good for Harbourfront

I have just moved to Toronto, and, living on Queens Quay, recently attended a public meeting where councillor Vaughan (who appears to be a well-meaning man) was present. There was much dismay among the public about the airport, and fear that planes would fly to the US, which, we were told, was unlikely because of custom etc.

I have been informed by some very reliable people, that Porter flights to New York have already been approved! I would appreciate knowing if this is true, as I am in the process of buying property here; I was thinking of a condo on Queens Quay, but this will become a terrible address once planes will fly in and out every 10 minutes (once custom and security will be in place other cities in the US will be on the menu). Then, we have not only the Gardiner on the side and behind buildings, but double pollution in front as well, and the constant fear that Little Norway Park may be "torn up" by those who have "interests" in it (i.e., TO airport). The poor people who have invested here!

Since airplanes are the highest polluters around (not to mention noise pollution) I hope that the Mayor and Councillors will do their utmost to prevent such a situation, and move on with getting a fast train to Pearson airport, increase landing fees etc. to make it less attractive to fly out of Toronto airport, and more attractive to leave from Pearson.

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Dear Editor,

The TTC-TWRC Transit EAs should consider both waterfront residents and the millions of pedestrian tourists directly impacted by Queen's Quay East transit. The best corridor alternative is the "Queens Quay + Lakeshore Express" option primarily to prevent



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long lines of congestion, air and noise pollution along Queens Quay. And with the technology alternative of "Buses in Dedicated Right of Way" powered by environmental and people friendly technologies (e.g. hybrid and/or hydrogen-powered).

Hydrogen-powered buses are clean, quiet and

use renewable energy and are more attractive than streetcars or LRT which are noisy, old technology, create offensive vibrations, have ugly rail/wire infrastructure, and source energy from mainly non-renewable and environment damaging sources (dirty coal, nuclear).

Marie Cusimano
(Editorial note: Marie is the President of MTCC989)

Dear Editor,

"My Concerns about Closing Two South Lanes on Queen's Quay"

Besides the traffic problems inherent with this proposition, Toronto has many beautiful parks that people love to visit, so **Quay to the City** will be competing for visitors.

After the initial interest wears

off, I cannot imagine that walkers will intentionally visit to walk. Don't people come to Harbourfront to see the water and the views of the island? In the winter, the lanes will be empty and desolate.

Cyclists who use these lanes will be constantly stopping at stop lights. It will become a needed pass through for those

wanting to go from Etobicoke to the Beach, NOT a destination. Wouldn't a bicycle lane suffice and use a lot less real estate?

Heather Macnaughton

Dear Editor,

Benefits of the **Bicycle Lane** Extension along Queen's Quay.

Oh what a great summer we had in 2006. And oh, what a great success the temporary bicycle lane extension along sections of the Queen's Quay was!

Bicyclists and pedestrians alike were able to enjoy the two traf-

fic lanes that had been converted for the 2 week pilot project into extra green space and enlarged bicycle lanes. Local residents and thousands of tourists enjoyed less vehicle traffic, less noise, more secure bicycling, roller blading and running, and an overall much more pleasing Queen's Quay! Let us just hope that this bicy-

cle lane extension project will become ASAP a permanent fixture of our waterfront!

Regards,
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Submit a letter to the editor, send an email to info@cwna.ca or mail your letter to: CWNA | P.O. Box 81002 | Harbour Square Postal Outlet | 47B Harbour Square | Toronto | ON | M5J 2V3

Quay Strategies for Healthy Living in Your Condo

With January now in the past, over 50 percent of New Year's resolutions involving health will have already been abandoned. Fortunately, for those residing in condominiums, the limitation of fitness equipment doesn't have to be a barrier in getting into shape. Most developments in the Harbourfront area are well-equipped; with cardio and resistance training machines. Condominium fitness amenities may also include group exercise classes and drop-in programs to keep you accountable to any wellness goals you're striving to achieve.



Unsure how to get the most of your condo's fitness amenities? Are you a fitness-buff looking for added motivation to carry you through a challenging goal straight to the finish?

If there is an obstacle preventing you from being your best and getting the most use out of your condo gym you might consider some additional help from a certified health professional. Personal trainers, Yoga instructors and Pilates instructors have become some of today's leading health experts. They can assist you in your wellness endeavours by visiting you in the convenience of your own condo, assembling a safe and effective workout, and provide added education and motivation to make sure you succeed.

Make 2007 a great year; your fitness success is imminent.

Mark J. Stables
the benchmark group inc.
www.benchmarkgroup.ca



Join the CWNA Team for
the 2007 Scotiabank Toronto
Waterfront Marathon.
www.cwna.ca

Letter from the CWNA President



I feel honored to be elected as the president of CWNA this year and am looking forward to meeting as many residents and working with the dedicated members of the CWNA board.

The Waterfront region has recently witnessed the construction of thousands of new condos. As well The Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation has proposed many plans for residents of the condos, concerning business, entertainment

and great ideas for Parklands. Many of these projects should be implemented soon.

Our goal at CWNA is to encourage communications among the diverse residents of the central waterfront with an interest in waterfront revitalization and the city. Our priorities are public transit, better public facilities, more parks, cleaner lake water, architectural aesthetic and public consultations for planned development.

We are going to continue to organize public meetings to provide an opportunity for residents to discuss and express opinions on waterfront issues as well as hosting guest speakers on topics of interest to the community.

I am hoping that together we are going to enjoy a better vision of our waterfront and seek to determine where we, as a community, will stand as the waterfront development unfolds.

Karim Mirshahi
President - CWNA

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Hence, Porter will actually reduce traffic on the Gardiner (along with noise) thus reducing the environmental impact of the Gardiner. As a resident of Harbourfront, all the noise that reaches my condominium unit comes from the Gardiner and other road traffic; little to none comes from the island airport.

So, it would seem apparent that Porter is actually helping the local environment and quality of life by reducing road traffic.

There are other benefits to Porter also. Porter will be creating several hundred jobs in our area. These include pilots, flight attendants and ground staff along with HQ staff (although the head office of Porter is further uptown). The Bombardier Q400 aircraft is also built in Toronto at the Downsview plant which helps maintain jobs in North York. Porter is creating flight options for all downtown residents and workers which will make air travel much easier and quicker for those traveling to Ottawa and Montreal. A small commuter airport on our doorstep is a great convenience for all residents.

In summary, given that the island airport cannot feasibly be closed (since the cleanup costs are too high), we are left with the challenge of making the airport commercially viable. Porter has stepped up to the plate and added service to Ottawa and Montreal, creating jobs and helping the local environment by pulling travelers out of cars and cabs heading for Pearson. As a resident of Harbourfront, that is why I support the island airport and the entrepreneurial efforts of Porter Airlines. - Name Withheld.

Continued from “not good for Harbourfront” p.1

I realize that the airport is a federal issue, but surely the city can do something - besides being able to cancel planes for the time the new park will be opened (a clear admission how disruptive these planes are to all of us, not just us living on the Western side).

My question to the mayor is (besides the above) of why he wants to bother spending all this money in developing parks and revitalizing the city's lakeshore if people will not enjoy it because of the noise pollution, not to mention the air pollution, which will endanger our health???? The city might as well save our tax money and let the market forces rip it all apart - Lakeshore, Queens Quay, central TO, existing parks, etc. !!!!

I have heard our mayor is a cultured man, which I admire. He might be interested to know (he may know this) that the Music Garden will most likely be without concerts in the future (so I have heard from insiders), since noise levels have been so high already around this garden that the public cannot hear the music. What a shame!!!

Councillor Vaughan, who has the great idea to attract families to 2 BR condos along the "Lakeshore", will have to realize that this will not happen with the kind of pollution the airport will generate. And he might want to ask himself, why would anyone who has children (and even those without) -- in this post 9/11 world -- want to live in or near high-rises so close to a busy airport??? Anyone can get there...

I would greatly appreciate information on this issue, as well as on where else I could take my concerns. - Karin MacHardy

The CWNA has a mission to be a forum for exchanging information that is vital to the neighbourhood's quality of life and to provide leadership that enables residents to exercise their rights.

Quay Word Editorial Team

Vanessa Lewin
James Russell
Margaret Samuel



Photograph by Daniel Belanger