



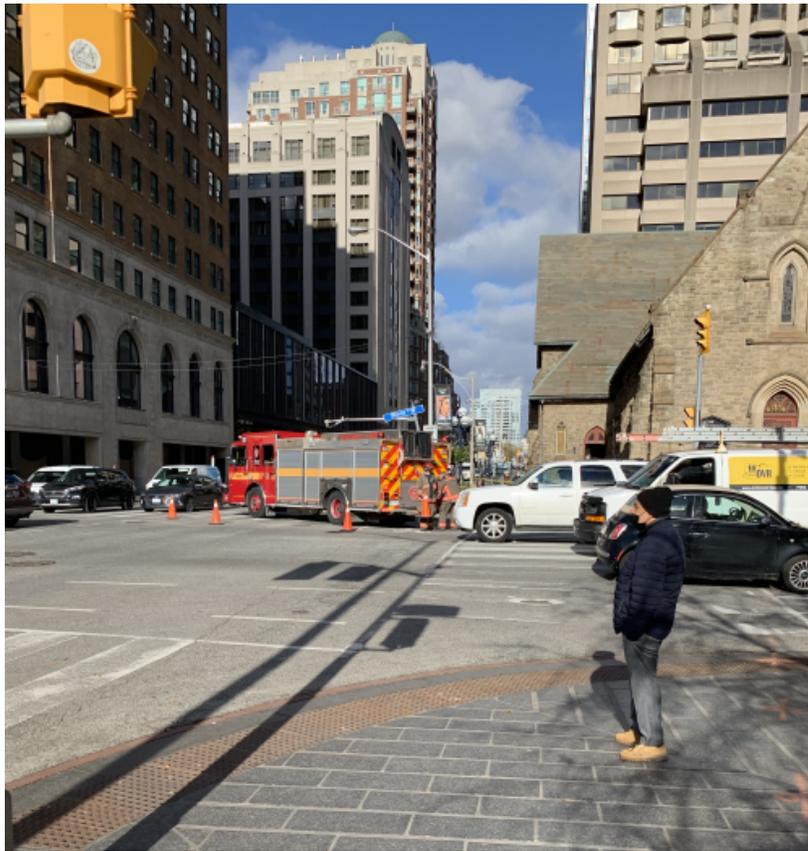
This Week in the Annex:

November 17, 2021

Honouring Road Traffic Victims

Mark it on your calendars: this coming Sunday, November 21st is the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. This global commemoration – observed on the third Sunday of every November – was proclaimed by the UN in 2005 as the appropriate acknowledgement of the many millions who have been killed and seriously injured on the world's roadways.

Here in Toronto the [Friends and Families for Safe Streets](#) have organized a candle lit memorial walk to take place on our very eastern border – that perilous stretch of Avenue Road that has been the subject of so much recent discussion. Participants are invited to meet at 5:00 pm at the west end of Ramsden Park as it heads south down Avenue Road. You can be sure that members of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition will be out in force. Read the [full details in this post](#).



Henry Wiercinski captured the chaos yesterday morning as firefighters made emergency repairs at Avenue Road and Bloor. Apparently a truck had taken out a utility pole but blithely kept on moving. This travesty at the very corner where a young cyclist was recently killed underscores the importance of Sunday's memorial walk.

Report on the Underground Annex

Pity the TTC, recent victim of a ransomware attack that left its communications in a shambles. Pity, too, those Annexionians living along subway Line Two who continue to be victims of noise, pounding, and vibrations for 20 hours each day. (If you need a refresher, check the story in our [October 27 newsletter](#).)

Albany resident Anne Marie Madura reached out this week to TTC Liaison Diego Sinagoga for a progress report. He told her that they've now identified the areas of track that require attention and will get back to her with more information once the rail grinding service provider submits a schedule.

Though he himself is not personally subject to the frayed nerves, disrupted sleep, and mental stress experienced by residents near the line, Diego is sympathetic to the negative impact of the situation.

In fact, Anne Marie is confident that the TTC will come through with a solution. But in the meantime, it wouldn't hurt if the rest of you who are similarly afflicted contacted the commission in solidarity. Do give them a call at 416-393-3030 so that they remain fully aware of the situation.



One solution to the noise and vibration problem is to grind the rails at critical rough spots. That said, it's not an easy fix. Check [this website on rail grinding](#) if you're curious as to the ins and outs.

Progress on the WAHP

Last month some 44 participants took part in focus groups for the West Annex Heritage Project (WAHP). And the discussions just went to prove the truth that while we love our red and yellow brick buildings and trees, the Annex is about much more than its physical features – it's about the people and the cultural diversity of our community.

Of the participants, 62% were homeowners and 30% tenants – flipping the 2016 Stats Canada census numbers that told us that more than 70% of Annexonians are renters. But regardless of ownership, everyone who spoke showed a strong passion for living here and a commitment to protecting not only the “built form” but also the spirit of this special part of Toronto.

You can read a [full summary of the discussions](#) on our website, but the visual below gives you a pretty good feel for how the conversations went. And not to worry if you feel you've missed out. Plans are for more focus groups in the Spring.

Heat Pump Webinar

Is your furnace teetering on the blink? Are you eager to help fight climate change? Then you'll be interested in the webinar sponsored by the Harbord Village Residents Association (HVRA) on Tuesday November 23 at 7pm. Mary Neumann of HVRA tells us that air source heat pumps (ASHP) can replace both your furnace and air conditioner while reducing carbon emissions by 60%. As an added bonus, the federal government now provides a \$5000 grant to make them competitive with high efficiency gas furnaces. And for those with newish gas furnaces, a small ASHP can be used to provide heat in all but the coldest weather, thus extending the life of your gas furnace. Register for the webinar directly through HVRA's Net Zero web page at <https://harbordvillage.com/projects/netzero-carbon-project/>.



Energy advisor Trish Long from Goldfinch Energy and Steve Cornelius from Mitsubishi Electric will explain how this ASHP technology works and answer your questions.

Developing Walmer Road Baptist Church

Several readers have alerted us to the widely publicized [story tours](#) organized by the developers who have purchased the historic property at 38 Walmer Road. As our heritage guru, Sandra Shaul, says, this project is critically important. Walmer Road Baptist was the largest of its kind in Canada when it was built, and it was funded by none other than Lawren (the painter) Harris's family. What's more, the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto was originally built as the bible college for

the church. Developers TAS clearly appreciate the importance of the sanctuary as indicated by this [community initiative](#). We'll keep you apprised of plans for development of other parts of this site as they become available.



No word yet as to how the developers will respond to the chimney swift roost at Walmer Road Baptist Church.

Speed Camera Bust

Oh dear. We knew it. That automated speed camera that was originally installed in Jay Macpherson Green has proven to be a bust. We were perturbed in the first place that it was installed at about the only point along Avenue Road where cars would naturally tend to slow down. But it seems that vandals managed to disable the system from the get-go to the point that no data was recorded from May through to July 9th. Not surprisingly, the camera has now been replaced by a red-light camera. Yet the fact is that drivers mostly do observe those red lights. Please, let's attack the speeding on this stretch!



The Annex Residents' Association is a volunteer organization of residents committed to improving and preserving the distinctive character of our neighbourhood. Our strength depends on our base of support in a well-informed community.

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The Annex Residents' Association