



## This Week in the Annex:

October 04, 2023

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### The 311 Merry-go-round

Well, not so much merry as frustrating. . . at least we've found that's what it can be like if you wish to contact 311 regarding a noisy frat party.

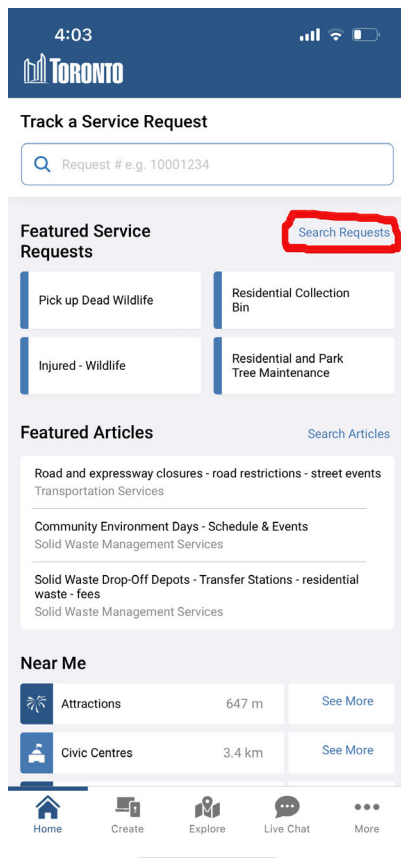
First and foremost, readers report that phone calls require the patience of Job. You could be on hold for aeons. But don't think to circumvent the wait by dashing off a complaint via email. Nope. The folks at 311 have stopped creating official service requests through that route for quite some time.

Instead, you are urged to reach out, either by filling in the appropriate form on the 311 website ([accessible by clicking here](#)) or by using the 311 Mobile App on your smartphone ([available for download at this link](#) or in the App Store on iPhone).

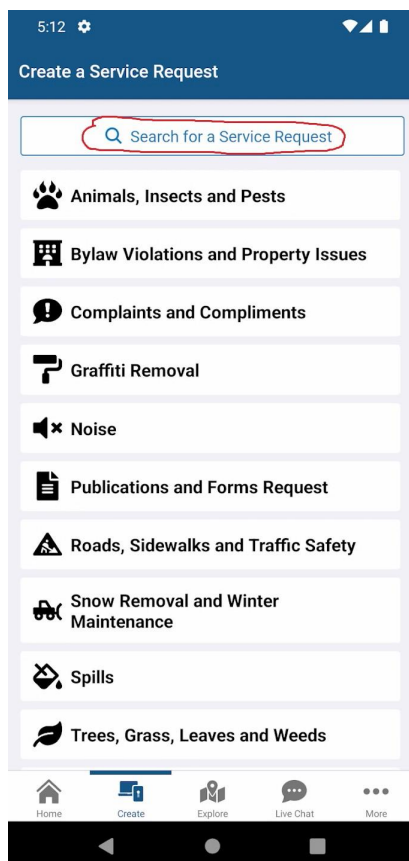
### Navigating the App

Be warned that you're in for a whole lot of clicking before you get to unleash your keyboard on describing the problem. But that's mitigated by the fact that using the site introduces you to a cornucopia of concerns you didn't know you could have.

First off, you'll see a screen headed with "Track a Service Request." This boldfaced title can be discombobulating if you've not yet made an official complaint. But look closely and you'll see in tiny print on the left the words "Search Requests" (see below circled in red).



Click on those words and you will be taken to a page of potential problems. Not surprisingly, frat parties aren't on the list. So you need to type "noise" in the search box at the top (circled in red below) and press enter.



That will get you a menu of all kinds of noises. Take your pick. But either “unreasonable and persistent noise” or “amplified sound” will do. Clicking on one of those will then take you to a page that cautions you will need to provide your name and contact information before proceeding. At the bottom you’ll find the words: “Create Request.” Go for it with a click.

Whew! Now you’re off and running. Just a few (?) questions to answer before you get to have your personal say. On the upside, if you’re adept with technology, you also have the option of adding up to 5 photos to supplement your complaint. There’s always a silver lining...

## **Frat Specific Woes**

The folks at 311 had something specific to say regarding “a noisy party which involves yelling, screaming, people being violent” (aka a frat party that’s out of control). They advise that you may (their word) want to contact Toronto Police 911 (emergency) or 416-808-2222 (non-emergency). But readers report there’s been little joy reported going that route, either.

Still, it’s important not to give in. We soldier on. Keep up the pressure. Every time you report to 311 it confirms other people’s voices. And it never hurts to [bombard our councillor with emails](#). Squeaky wheel and all that.

## **Notes and Queries**

### **Truth and Reconciliation**

We’re pleased to report that quite a few Annexonians were spotted last weekend wearing orange tee-shirts in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. But by far the largest gathering of observants was crowded outside the [Native Canadian Centre of Toronto](#) (NCCT) on Friday.

As well as enjoying the community BBQ held on the front lawn, participants were welcome to visit the main auditorium for the official opening of the [Orange Shirt Day StreetARToronto Art Exhibit](#). The exhibit was movingly introduced by [Elder Whabagoon](#), herself a 60s scoop survivor, and attended by political luminaries including our voice in Ottawa, the Honorable Chrystia Freeland, and MP Seamus O’Regan from St. John’s South—Mount Pearl.



**Pictured L to R: Camden Maracle, Richard Hunter, Zechariah James, Elder Whabagoon, Chrystia Freeland, Seamus O'Regan, and John Miller**



**ARA Chair Rita Bilerman is flanked by NCCT Fund Development Officer Richard Hunter and Camden Maracle, Treasurer for the NCCT board.**

## A Weekend of Protests

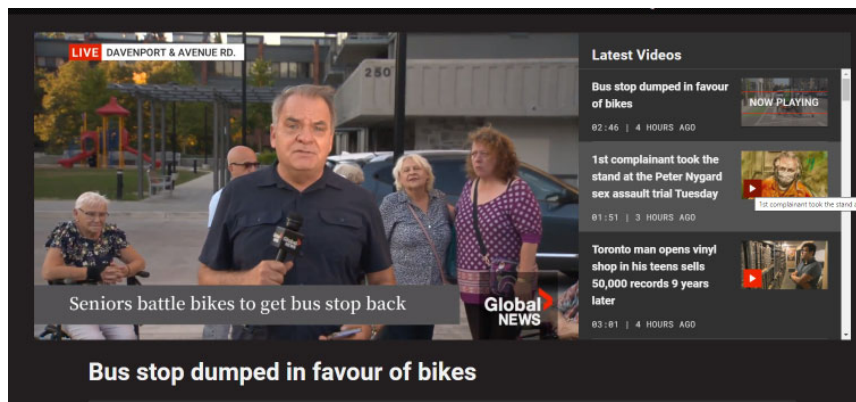
While most of the country was focused this past weekend on acknowledging the ignominy of Canada's residential schools, other groups took to the streets – St George, to be specific – to express their own grievances against the Chinese government. Saturday saw a sizeable gathering and march by Falun Gong supporters, while on Sunday it was the turn of those protesting mainland China's designs on Tibet, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to take to the pavement. ARA members Sarah Potts and Victor Gauthier kindly sent along [a short video](#) and photos of Saturday's assembly. By Sunday they fled to find peace elsewhere in the city.



## News Flash

Did you catch Global News last night – Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup>? We were delighted to see a clip devoted to the vanished bus stop outside 250 Davenport Road. The news item's headline said it all: "Bus stop dumped in favour of bikes." [Click here](#) to watch the residents make their case for its return. As reporter Seán O'Shea promises at the end – we'll keep an eye on this story going forward.





## News Leak

We're grateful to self-styled cub reporter Tim Hadwen who filed the following report from deep in the 'hood:

The fire hydrants in the Annex tend to be as old as the homes. That means that many are over 100 years old, but only rarely do they spring a leak. When that does happen, the City of Toronto folks responsible for the Northern Main Water Line get to work.

The relevant section of water main is turned off. The old hydrant is replaced with a new one. It is first put in backwards while being installed, then rotated to the front and pressurized. Below is pictured Chris Moore, who, with his colleague Lloyd Notice, got it all done efficiently next door to our reporter's house last week: three days of steady toil, but with the water thankfully shut off for only a few hours on two occasions.



By the way, the blue discs recently installed on every hydrant are reflectors to help the fire department find them at night.

## Fresh from the Farm

The Bloor Borden Farmers' Market will be shutting down this month, but here's another opportunity to purchase locally grown produce while simultaneously helping a good cause. Huron Street Junior Public School is holding a fund-raiser that sees Ontario farmers donating an unprecedented 40% of their sales to the school.

The deadline for orders is next Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>. Just select and pay for your purchase as a guest through [the school cash online portal](#) using [huronffc@gmail.com](mailto:huronffc@gmail.com) as the contact information. Produce will be delivered to the school for pickup between November 6<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>.



Healthy Fundraising  
for Ontario Schools

## A fresh take on school fundraising

Since 2013 *Fresh from the Farm* school fundraising has connected over 2,200 schools with Ontario farmers and enabled them to raise over \$1.9 million for school initiatives by selling over 4.3 million pounds of Ontario grown fruits and vegetables

### 14lb Vegetable Bundle

**\$22.00**

LESS THAN  
\$1.60/lb

#### Includes

- 5 lb bag White Potatoes
- 3 lb bag Sweet Potatoes
- 3 lb bag Yellow Onions
- 3 lb bag Orange Carrots



### 8lb Apple Bundle

**\$24.00**

ONLY  
\$3.00/lb

#### NEW - 8 lb bag Ambrosia apples

Ambrosia apples are a beautiful bright pinkish red and light yellow coloured apple. They are crisp and juicy with a distinct sweet aroma and sweet low acid flavour. Excellent for eating fresh.



Thank you for supporting school based initiatives and Ontario farmers



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## A Stage on Brunswick

ARA Board Secretary Micky Fraterman caught the action on camera last weekend as a crew of carpenters built a stage on the forlorn and neglected space at the northeast corner of Brunswick and Bloor.

The once shabby lot . .





is being transformed into an attractive performance space for people to watch or be watched.



This is just the latest of many welcome initiatives by the Bloor Annex BIA to revitalize the street. A hearty bravo and thanks to Brian Burchell and every one of the Bloor Street businesses involved.

**Giving Thanks**

It's sometimes hard to believe that a neighbourhood as magnificent as ours is also home to many who are struggling to find their next meal. If you care to donate to support those less fortunate this Thanksgiving weekend, there are several worthy enterprises right here in the Annex that could use your help.

The **Church of the Redeemer** is on our doorstep at Bloor and Avenue Road. It's the home of the *Common Table Drop-In Program*, a grassroots community effort which relies on volunteers and donors to help serve two meals daily, provide toiletry supplies, and offer basic social services. You can learn more from their website [by clicking here](#).

Further up Avenue Road at Dupont is the **Church of the Messiah** about whose food bank we have written frequently in these pages. Details of how to donate or volunteer are given [on their website](#).

Finally, there is the program at the **Native Canadian Centre of Toronto** (NCCT) at Bloor and Spadina which provides healthy lunchtime meals to anyone in need. Again, NCCT is grateful for monetary donations. But as an alternative to offering cash, you also support its programs by [shopping at the Cedar Basket](#) gift shop.

Wherever or however you may choose to donate, you'll be helping to enrich our community. And for that, we give thanks.

With all best wishes for a fine weekend.



From the [West Annex Heritage Project Final Report](#)



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.

This email was sent to [gillianbartlettara@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbartlettara@gmail.com). To stop receiving emails, [click here to unsubscribe](#).

The Annex Residents' Association