

## **This Week in the Annex:**

**September 06, 2023**

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### **ARA Cornfest this Sunday 3:00 - 5:00 pm**

Calling all Annexionians! September is a turning point in the year for so many of us – back from holidays – back to school – back in the office – you name it. It's the perfect time to re-connect with neighbours and catch up on what's been going on these past summer months.

So please set aside a couple of hours this coming **Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>** – from **3:00 to 5:00 pm** – to join the fun at **Jean Sibelius Park**. As always there'll be live music, with the special treat this year of performances by the *Jõgevahe Pere* [women's Estonian folkdance group](#) sponsored by KESKUS.



Bring the whole family to enjoy the entertainment, free corn, cold drinks, and cookies. All we ask is that you bring your own a cup – and clear skies, too, if you happen to have any pull in that department.



Micky Fraterman and Terri Chu had a steady stream of customers at last year's Fest.

## How's That Sounding to You?

Love it or hate it, you can't escape it. The Annex turns into a sonic war zone every Labour Day weekend. And while there are many opposing voices (ranging from [organized pacificists](#) to [ordinary citizens](#)), it's highly unlikely that, after 74 years running, the annual CNE air show will be shut down any time soon.

That makes the City's timing for a review of Toronto's noise bylaw apropos, albeit ironically so.



Watch (don't blink) as the [US Navy's Blue Angels fly off](#) to leave the Annex in peace.

## Review of the Noise Bylaw

You might remember that in 2019 several amendments were made to Toronto's noise bylaw. They included potentially controversial items like:

*. . .set a single time prohibition [for operating power equipment from] 7 pm until 7 am the next day, except until 9 am on Saturdays, Sundays, and statutory holidays.*

and no-brainers like:

*. . . prohibit sound resulting from unnecessary motor vehicle noise, such as the sounding of a horn, revving of an engine, squealing of tires, banging, clanking or any like sounds, if the sound is clearly audible at a point of reception.*

(You may, of course, be wondering whether anyone informed drivers about that last one.)

The [full list of 2019 amendments is available here](#). But you might find it easier to learn about them by attending one or more of the City's planned consultation sessions outlined in the following table.

Meeting Focus	Format	Date	Where	When
<b>General Noise</b> (eg: unreasonable and persistent noise, power device noise, noise from waste collection)	<a href="#">In person</a>	Tues, Sep 12	Metro Hall 55 John St Room 308/309	7 to 9 pm
	<a href="#">Virtual</a>	Tues, Sep 19	Zoom	7 to 9 pm
<b>Amplified Sound</b> (eg: music from bars or concert venues)	<a href="#">Virtual</a>	Wed, Sep 13	Zoom	7 to 9 pm
	<a href="#">In-person</a>	Thurs, Sep 21	Metro Hall 55 John St Room 308/309	7 to 9 pm
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<a href="#">Virtual</a>	Mon, Sep 18	Zoom	7 to 9 pm
<b>Construction Noise</b> (eg: condo developments and residential infill)	<a href="#">In-person</a>	Wed, Sep 20	North York Central Library 5120 Yonge St, Meeting Room 101	5:30 to 7:30 pm

Note that there will be two meetings held for Amplified Sound and General Noise, identical in content but different in delivery. If you're interested in attending, [you should register using this link](#) and select the meeting(s) that most align with your interest(s). Links to the virtual meetings are available on the dedicated [registration](#) pages.

## Submitting Feedback

No big changes are in the works, but depending on public feedback there could be some [refinements](#) recommended in the report that's going to the Economic and Community Development Committee of Toronto City Council this coming November. For more background information, check out the City's [noise review webpage](#).

If you have something to say – negative, positive, or constructive – you should consider [submitting feedback by email](#). (Note that the deadline for these written responses is October 15.)

And if you'd like to go a step further, why not check out [Noise News](#) to find out what local residents are doing to address this issue?



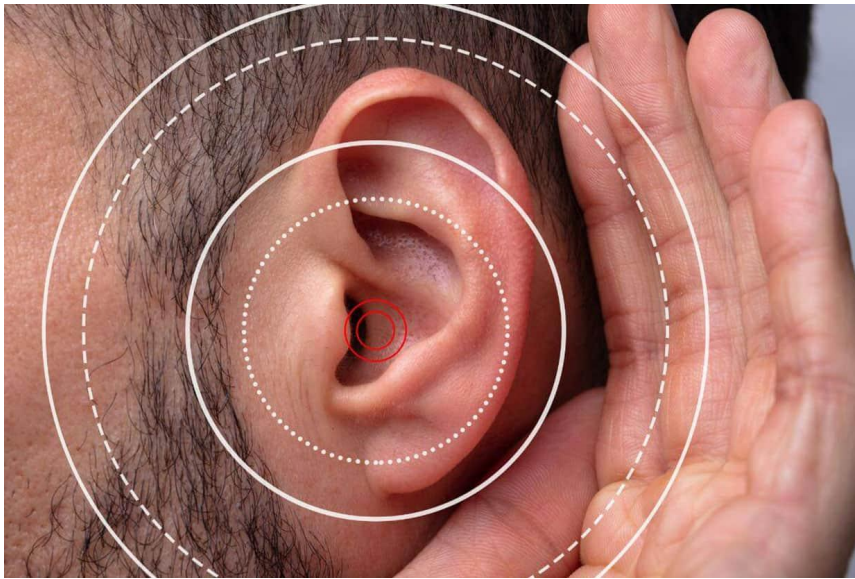
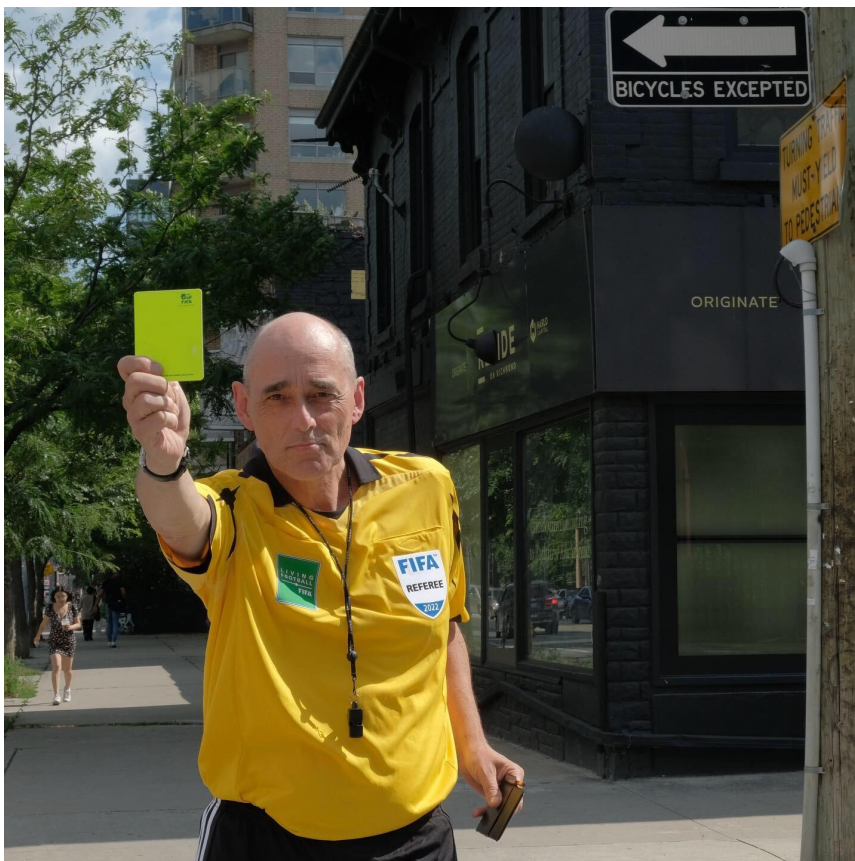


Image: [Soundwave Hearing Care](#)

## Safe Streets for All

You might have [caught the news reports](#) a couple of weeks ago about the self-appointed crosswalk referee who created a buzz on Toronto streets by issuing fake penalty cards to errant drivers.

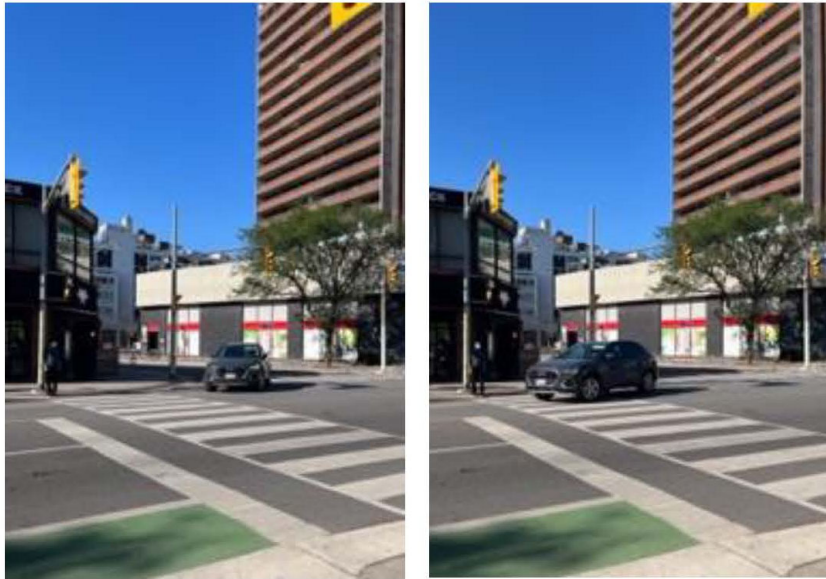


*Photo courtesy of Martin Reis*

It should have come as no surprise. After all, the Annex is a hotbed of artistic creativity and animated activism. But still we were delighted to learn that this quest to shame aggressive drivers through humour was born from the corners of our very own 'hood.

Turns out that Martin Reis has worked for more than a decade in the [Tafelmusik](#) offices in Trinity St Paul's at the corner of Bloor and Walmer. And over the years he has become increasingly irritated by discourteous drivers, particularly those who push through intersections regardless of pedestrian rights and safety.

With soccer in the news, Avery Goodcall (get it?) was born. And Martin was off to make his point.



When we met with Martin last week it took less than a minute for us to witness exactly the behaviour he abhors. No matter that the walk signal in the image on the left is lit in favour of the pedestrian. The impatient driver cuts him off in order to make a right turn. We've all been there, haven't we?

## **A Design Experiment**

City officials aren't likely to adopt Martin's tactics. But they do have plans to re-design the intersection at Bloor and St George to discourage just the behaviour he deplores.

Fashioned on the intersections developed in Holland, the road markings encourage drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians to share the road companionably.

One glance at the rendering reproduced below suggests it's going to take a bit of time for everyone to get the hang of it.



If you want to understand the thinking behind the design, check out [Joshua Cong's article](#) in the *Toronto Star*. For the more visually inclined, the City has produced [a "fly-through" video](#) to show how it is intended to work.

## Notes and Queries

### Food Bank Community BBQ

It's going to be quite a weekend in the Annex. Turns out that the Avenue Road Foodbank (ARFB) housed in the Church of the Messiah is having its own community foodfest – this one on **Saturday September 09**. You're invited to meet the ARFB volunteers and neighbours and tour the historic church from **1:00 to 3:00 pm** while enjoying a hot dog (or two) and a drink.

**The bbq is complimentary, but feel free to bring a donation of some kind to add to the ARFB storehouse.** Monetary donations, non-perishable food, and personal care products are all gratefully accepted. And note that they are always short of re-useable bags and egg cartons.



**Our Mission:**  
At ARFB we work together to promote human flourishing by providing dignified, equitable access to food and community

Avenue Road Food Bank is hosting a

## **COMMUNITY BBQ!**

Saturday, September 9, 2023

1pm to 3pm

240 Avenue Rd., on the corner of Dupont and Avenue Road, at the Church of the Messiah.

Please come out to meet the volunteers and neighbours; and take a tour of the historic Church of the Messiah, and learn about the work we do. Have a hot dog (or two) and a drink and relax with some great company!

**The bbq is complimentary, but feel free to bring a donation of some kind to add to our storehouse!**

Monetary, non-perishable food, and personal care donations are all gratefully accepted! We also always need re-useable bags and egg cartons.

We now feed 450+ families (representing about 900-1000 people) per week, so we can use all the help we can get.

We are grateful for past support - we couldn't have found a home in a nicer neighbourhood!

We hope to see you on the 9th!

## **Renovation not Demolition**

We admit to being not a little nervous about the future of the affordable rental buildings that permeate the Annex and the hundreds of tenants who call them home. The impending demolition of 145 St George to make way for a tower of cramped, investor-owned condos should give everyone pause.

That's why we care not a whit about [the noisy jackhammers](#) at 277 St George as the owner refurbishes the property. That's what we're after. Maintenance first. Next renovation. But please – NOT demolition.

So if you agree that the owner of 277 St George is doing the right thing, and if you are against the mass demolition of apartments currently planned in Toronto, then by all means [sign the petition](#) from the [No Demovictions](#) tenant collective to show your support.





## Flitter Corner

We're going to stretch the boundaries here, but we couldn't resist: Charlotte Mickie's image is just too beautiful not to share. She was out for a walk early one sunny morning and happened to catch these three (or is it four?) monarch butterflies feasting on some idle stalks of *liatris ligulistylis*, aka Rocky Mountain blazing star. (Thanks to Ernest Berdan for that identification.)

Unlike the creeping bellflower that's been [in the news of late](#), this plant is NOT considered invasive. Yet it's apparently easy to cultivate and is a known favourite of the monarch (aka *Danaus plexippus* of the order *Lepidoptera* for those who want to be in the know). So it would be lovely to see more of it in the Annex next year.



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