



CAN-ALLIANCE QUARTERLY



Welcome members and neighbours to “CAN - Alliance Quarterly “, the newsletter for residential and business neighbour members in Bloor/Yorkville South, between Church and Yonge (both sides of the bounding streets) and extended area south to Gloucester. You don’t have to be in the area to be a member and membership is free.

“Our mission is to provide a consolidated voice for our neighbours”

Presently we have a cozy geographical area that it is heavily populated with our member condominiums, apartments and businesses. These members represent approximately 6500 residents and 10 businesses. However this area is rapidly expanding with a number of new condo developments on the horizon. Since the Alliance stretches across the borders of Wards 11 and 13, we’ll be working with both Councillor Wong-Tam and Layton.

CAN-Alliance’s mission is to provide a consolidated voice for its members and to be proactive on issues which impact Yorkville South. Our goal is to ensure those issues that impact our quality of life, security and prosperity are effectively planned and managed by working closely with officials in Municipal and Ontario Governments, developers and businesses. Our newsletter is intended to update our members and neighbours on issues that CAN-Alliance is working on and to inform you on what is being advocated in support of the neighbourhood.

Administrative Members

Trevor Laignchild, Chairman
email: trevor@can-alliance.ca

Jodi Cassidy, Secretary
email: jodi.cassidy@can-alliance.ca

Committees

Safety/Crime Prevention:
cplc@can-alliance.ca

Parks & Curbside development:
parks@can-alliance.ca

Communications:
comms@can-alliance.ca

Volunteers

We’re looking for volunteers for a few hours a month in a variety of areas from Website and Digital Communications to Membership Admin. Send us an email and tell us a little bit about yourself and your experience.
info@CAN-Alliance.ca

Crime and Safety Report

Safety/Crime Prevention Committee

Meeting 1: November 6, 2019

A group of concerned neighbours gathered at our first meeting around safety which was set up as a “Town Hall” and was the jumping off point to forming CAN-Alliance. In attendance representatives from 20+ neighbour residents and businesses and from the City, Councillors Wong-Tam (and staff) & a representative from Councillor Layton’s office; Police officers from the Neighbourhood Officer Program; Representatives from Parks, Forestry & Recreation, Toronto Public Health, and Community Crisis Response.

Residents raised concerns about the operations of Sanctuary, citing drug trafficking, garbage dumping, random violence, theft, graffiti, escalating security costs and the associated impacts on the usability of the adjacent park and sidewalks. Numerous victim statements were presented and the main request from residents and business owners was for additional and accelerated police responses. There was also an expressed desire to see Sanctuary take more responsibility for the property standards of their building exterior and to see the City step up MLS by-law enforcement.

Meeting 2: January 9, 2020 & January 16, 2020

Jan 9: Over the holidays several reports had been lodged to Councillors Wong-Tam regarding groups of tents set up at the Sanctuary and increased incidents of violent behaviour lodged at passersby and people in the park. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation supported reports on violence as well as needles and broken glass in the flower beds and shrubbery.

Sanctuary cited the housing crisis and no space in shelters (especially for couples) as the reason for the encampment. The City acknowledged the housing crisis but informed Sanctuary that the encampments are unacceptable, City Staff to help relocate these individuals and couples to shelters.

Jan 16th: Updates from Sanctuary and City staff, 4 of the 10 individuals are currently still in the encampment. Sanctuary were successful in moving one of the remaining tents to the back but that one tent remains in the front. Over the weekend, the garbage out front became really bad which resulted in Sanctuary bringing in a clean-up crew.

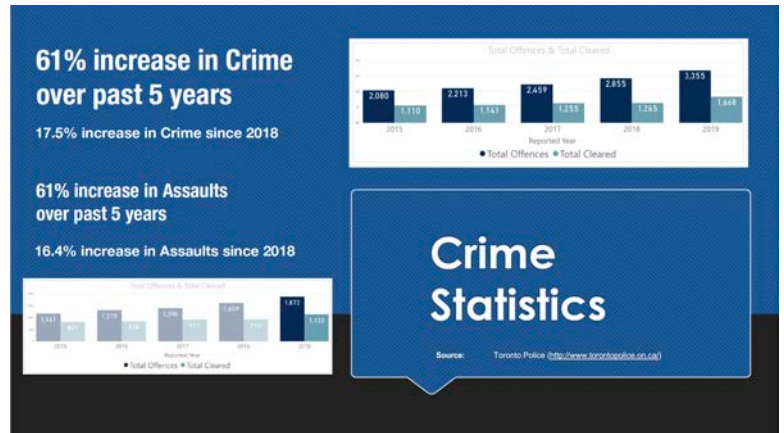
Meeting 3: January 28, 2020

Residents and representatives from CAN-Alliance expressed serious safety concerns that continue to escalate on and around Sanctuary’s property and in George Hislop Park. Threatening behaviour, violence and harassment are affecting the mental health and wellbeing of residents and their families to the point some have sought trauma counselling for their children. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff expressed that their frontline staff have also experienced and been the target this behaviour, and are at risk of harm due to needles and broken glass in the flower beds and shrubbery.

Parks Ambassadors visit downtown parks at least two times per day, including George Hislop and stated that George Hislop Park is among the highest for violence out of all downtown parks. *(Parks Ambassadors are a responsive, mobile crew, day-to-day works ensuring parks remain welcoming for passive and recreational use and work to resolve conflicts between patrons of the park system. Parks Ambassadors work to ensure the city’s parks are accessible, equitable and safe places for all.)*

Meeting 1 Results:

- Toronto Police 51 Division add CAN-Alliance area to Neighbourhood Officer program providing additional foot and bike patrol.
- City staff in attendance noted service requests



Meeting 2 Results:

- Sanctuary must move tents. Municipal Licensing and Standards indicated encampments are a clear violation of multiple property standards bylaws
- Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) deployed a command centre inside Sanctuary. In coordination with Streets to Homes, SSHA to-date found shelter for individuals and the couples.
- SSHA provides training for Sanctuary staff to help them gain better access to City’s shelter and housing.. Also informed them that there are a number of shelters that can accommodate couples.
- Toronto Public Health working with Sanctuary to develop a Code of Conduct for their clients and Downtown East Action Plan helping Sanctuary to develop long-term strategic plan to improve service delivery and community relations.

Meeting 3 Results:

- Parks, Forestry, and Recreation installed fencing and a gate on the city-owned property to help delineate property boundaries between George Hislop Park and Sanctuary’s backyard and provide a safer environment.
- SSHA reported with over 50 interactions at Sanctuary:
 - 4 individuals accepted shelter, 6 have turned down shelter.
 - 4 new housing applications were completed.

Other Safety

CAN-Alliance is now a member of (CPLC) Community Policing Liaison Committee. Representatives from the various Business Improvement and Resident Associations work together with Police with a focus on crime prevention and safety measures throughout downtown.

Reporting Crime

The Toronto Police stress the critical importance of reporting crime and are asking our members to please report all incidence of violence and harassment or any type of threatening behaviour. [Click here for links to reporting crimes, online or by telephone.](#)

Reporting Streetscape Issues

Issues ranging from garbage overflow to needles on the ground or in flower beds as well as graffiti on public property and posters pasted to hydro poles all should be directed to 311.

When calling 311, they will give you a file number which you should keep. If your complaint has not been addressed after a number of days, you should call them again and ask for an update. We have had some good success with dealing with 311 but sometimes it does require a follow-up call.

Update on Parks Initiatives

We're also working with Toronto Parks in support of projects that foster the public safety and recreation in the system of parks that start at "George Hislop Park" (Charles St.) travelling south to Gloucester's "James Canning Gardens".



Currently James Canning Gardens is under renovation, if you walk by you can see the plans taking shape. CAN-Alliance had a sneak peak at the plans for the other two parks and similar renovations are sketched out and will work their way to to George Hislop Park over the coming months.

Read more and view the Linear Parks concepts on our [website](#).

CAN-Alliance website is now live!

CAN-Alliance.ca

CONTACT 311

Garbage • Violent Behaviour • Homeless Encampments • Non-compliance with the [Physical Distancing by-law](#)

To report issues in a greenspace, public square or City park online...

WEB: toronto.ca/311
Email: 311@toronto.ca

By Telephone...
Call: 311 or our Parks Ambassador, Troy Ford at 416-771-3042.

For persons sleeping on the streets call: Streets to Homes at 416-392-0090.

If not successful with the above numbers: call 311, request that they report it to Outreach, which is opened 7 am–11 pm. They will forward the complaint and are said to respond to the situation within four hours.

Neighbourhood Development Watch

55C - 55 Charles St E

Site Plan approval:
- 48-storey residential building.
- 541 condominium units
- 100 rental replacement units (former tenants of 55, 61-63 Charles).

68 Charles St E

Proposed application:
- 47-storey mixed-use building
- 408 residential dwelling units
- 20 rental replacement units
- 349 square metres of retail
Formerly 628, 634, 636 & 638 Church and 68 & 70 Charles East.

625 Church (at Charles)

Development Proposal:
- 59 storey mix-use tower (current Traders Building)
- retain the west elevation of the existing 6-storey building and portion of north and south elevations.
- 10,672 square metres of office and retail
- 651 dwelling units
- 260 parking spaces

33 Isabella (Isabella Court) Infill

Development Proposal:
- 4 storey building on west side of 27 storey Isabella Court,
- 15 apartments and ground floor administrative offices.

[Visit our Development Watch page for more information.](#)