



GARDINER REHAB MAKES FOR SLEEPLESS NIGHTS JACK HAMMERING 24/7 FOR 1.5 YEARS

For Immediate Release

January 9, 2020 – Residents of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood have run out of patience, and are demanding the City of Toronto live up to its commitments on the rehabilitation of Gardiner Expressway from Cherry to Jarvis Street.

Local residents living north of the Gardiner, between Jarvis and Parliament were told in mid-October the construction would continue until early 2021, and occur mainly around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to help shorten the project duration and minimize traffic disruption and congestion. They were also told that while the majority of most disruptive work would be completed before 11 pm, “some disruptive work such as saw cutting would occur around the clock in concentrated areas.”

Neighbourhood residents along the corridor have had to endure jack hammering, drilling saw cutting and other activities causing them sleepless nights and a decline in their quality of life.

Sabina Sormova says jack hammering, saw cutting, drilling and coring starts almost every night at 9:30 pm and runs until 5:00 am. “I am so tired from lack of sleep that when I finally fell asleep I then overslept and missed a meeting”. Another area resident, Ben Bull, says “my kids find it difficult to pay attention at school because of the lack of sleep. We have noise machines, eye masks and ear plugs scattered around the house.” Community members like Ben and Sabina are frustrated as they cannot complain to 311 about what would otherwise be violations of the City’s noise bylaw. 311 will not take any info because the City exempted themselves from their own regulations.

Another resident closer to The Esplanade suggests senior City staff and politicians should try to have a sleepover in the neighbourhood and listen to what residents have to endure night after night. Suzanne Kavanagh says residents understand that this work must be completed to keep this roadway safe. “We are simply asking that most of the noisy work be done during the day.

This Friday evening, residents are finally getting a meeting with City staff, almost three months after one was requested, to hear from staff about the project, the current stage of work, its impact to the community and mitigation strategies.

“We are looking forward to the meeting Friday night” says Kavanagh, “to hear how staff are going to respond to the problems the construction has caused. We do not want to hear any more words, the time for action is now”.

Meeting: Friday, January 10, 2020

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: St. James Cathedral Centre – Lecture Room

For more information,

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The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) represents the interests of 30,000+ people who live in the neighbourhood, which includes the Gardiner Expressway. The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1982. Our boundaries are from Queen Street south to the rail corridor/Lake Shore Blvd, Parliament Street and west to Yonge Street.