

May 2010.

Update on Aviation Noise over Lawrence Park.

In response to concerns expressed by numerous residents, Jaye Robinson and Irma Baldanza recently met with Toronto city councillors Cliff Jenkins and Michael Walker, about increased aviation traffic and noise over North Toronto (which includes areas such as Davisville Village, Sherwood Park, Lawrence Park, Lytton Park, Bedford Park and Wanless Park). Increased aviation traffic over Lawrence Park has been observed by numerous residents in the past 1-3 years.

The GTAA has indicated there was no change to procedure; however, as a result of a perceived volume increase in traffic, the end result is greater flight operations of arrivals and departures over the neighbourhood. Pearson arrival traffic from the U.S eastern seaboard and Caribbean/South American origination points are responsible for overflying the neighbourhood prior to landing at Pearson. This fact has been confirmed with NAV Canada and GTAA Noise Management office and is part of a standard pattern NAV Canada uses to manage the traffic.

Jaye Robinson and Irma Baldanza, along with Greg Russell of Davisville Village, recently attended a CENAC (Community Environment and Noise Advisory Committee) meeting which was held at the GTAA offices near Pearson airport. While attending this meeting they met a group of concerned citizens from Bedford Park and have agreed to join forces in order to present a stronger unified voice in opposition to the increase in aviation traffic flying directly over our neighbourhoods.

Some important facts regarding commercial aviation traffic and resulting noise:

1. The IATA directed airports to manage aviation noise and has required a minimum noise certified aircraft to be "Chapter 3" (i.e. Airbus A319) or higher.
2. Due to increased airline costs airports were advised not to pursue quieter aircraft such as "Chapter 4" (i.e. Boeing 777 and Airbus A380).
3. Noise decreases by 6dB by doubling the distance.
4. Low frequency noise dissipates at a slower rate than high frequency noise.
5. Terminology to describe jet noise after the aircraft has passed is **jet wake**.
6. Health impacts of having to endure aviation noise over a prolonged period:
 - potential increased blood pressure levels;
 - concerns over cognitive learning abilities of children;
 - air pollution concerns due to jet exhaust particles deposited in the air above residential neighbourhoods at minimum altitudes (3000 ft.ASL (above sea level), this is equal to only 600 ft. higher than the CN Tower!);
 - sleep disturbance, (unknown impacts to REM sleep, and of sleep deprivation);

Other impacts:

- loss of enjoyment of ones property and the surrounding neighbourhood;
- possible cost to soundproofing ones home.

Concerned residents who wish to help in the effort to get the federal government to force Pearson Airport to change the airplane flight patterns so that there is less aviation traffic flying over North Toronto may do the following:

Express your concerns to:

Your federal MP:

- Robert Oliphant, Don Valley West, email: Oliphant.R@parl.gc.ca ,
website: www.Roboliphant.ca/index.php
- Joseph Volpe (Hon.), Eglinton-Lawrence, email: Volpe.J@parl.gc.ca ,
website: www.joevolpemp.ca/
- Carolyn Bennett (Hon.), St. Paul's, email: Bennett.C@parl.gc.ca ,
website: <http://www.carolynbennett.ca/>
- Bob Rae (Hon.), Toronto-Centre, email: Rae.B@parl.gc.ca
website: <http://bobrae.liberal.ca/>
- John Baird (Hon.), **Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities**, Ottawa West-Nepean,
email: Baird.J@parl.gc.ca , website: www.johnbaird.com/

Your Toronto city councillor:

- Cliff Jenkins, Ward 25 Don Valley West, email: councillor_jenkins@toronto.ca ,
website: <http://www.toronto.ca/councillors/jenkins1.htm>
- John Parker, Ward 26 Don Valley West, email: councillor_parker@toronto.ca ,
website: <http://www.toronto.ca/councillors/parker1.htm>
- Michael Walker, Ward 22 St. Paul's, email: councillor_walker@toronto.ca ,
website: www.michaelwalker.ca
- Karen Stintz, Ward 16 Eglinton-Lawrence, email: councillor_stintz@toronto.ca ,
website: www.karenstintz.ca
- Rob Ford, Ward 2 Etobicoke North (City of Toronto's representative on the CENAC committee),
email: councillor_ford@toronto.ca ,
website: <http://www.toronto.ca/councillors/ford1.htm>

The GTAA (Greater Toronto Airports Authority):

- GTAA website:
http://www.gtaa.com/en/community_relations/noise_management/noise_management_com/
- Tim Kendall, Manager, Airside Systems & Programs, GTAA;
- Toby Lennox, V.P. Corporate Affairs, GTAA; Chair of the CENAC committee;

Register a noise complaint with CENAC (Community Environment & Noise Advisory Committee):

- Complaint form:
http://gtaa.com/en/community_relations/noise_management/register_a_complaint/
- How to register a complaint:

-keep a log of the times when the airplane noise is most bothersome/annoying to you;
-submit no more than 2 complaints (ie. 2 different airplanes) in a 2 hour period from the same person, otherwise the “extra” complaints are registered as multiples of the same complaint;

NOTE: Registering multiple complaints can be done using one entry on the GTAA web site complaint form, listing all times of noise intrusion in your area. You need to indicate which time was most objectionable. If all these times of noise intrusion are off the same runway by multiple airlines, GTAA will classify this as “a single operation”.

* Noise complaints can be made after the day of the noise intrusion – i.e. Saturday a.m. noise intrusions could be registered on the GTAA web site on the following business day. GTAA data goes back many months, however, timely reporting makes the process better.

EXAMPLE: If you wish to have 14 complaints registered for a departure operation between 6:30 and 7:15 a.m. on a Saturday/Sunday morning, notify 13 other neighbours to pick one of the times in your list to make a greater impact to noise collection statistics.

-focus your complaint(s) on the most intrusive/bothersome time(s), typically early mornings, late evenings, weekend mornings and evenings or whenever the airplane noise is most bothersome to you;

-request a “call-back” for every complaint that you register in order to emphasize that the aviation noise is very intrusive and intolerable;

-when you get a call-back, ask for the following information:

- Aircraft type;
- Direction the aircraft was flying in;
- Whether the aircraft was an arrival or departure;
- How high it was flying when it was over your home/neighbourhood (eg. it should be at least 3000 ft. above sea level when flying over any part of Toronto).
- Proximity to your address