

**Dylan Reid**

50 Camden St. #401, Toronto, ON, M5V 3N1 (416) 682-1038 dylan.reid@sympatico.ca

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Toronto Pedestrian Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto

Subject: Closing streets to motor vehicles during Nuit Blanche

Nuit Blanche, held this year on the night of Saturday October 4, is one of the largest pedestrian events of the year in Toronto. It is estimated that 800,000 or more people visit the various venues spread out over the central area of the city. Almost all of these people do most of their travelling during this night on foot.

As a result, sidewalks on many key routes, such as Queen Street West, are completely congested with foot traffic, and many people spill out onto the roadway in order to travel.

However, despite the extraordinarily heavy concentrations of pedestrians during this event, the City of Toronto closes very few streets to motorized vehicle traffic during this evening. This lack of street closures results in great inconvenience for people taking part in Nuit Blanche, and also results in potential danger as many of them are forced to travel on the roadway where motorized vehicles are present.

It should be noted that the City of Toronto regularly closes down large sections of main streets in the city for pedestrian events during the day.

While it is important that transit vehicles and bicycles continue to be able to travel on streets during Nuit Blanche in order to facilitate circulation between exhibits, this travel can be accommodated while still restricting private motorized vehicles.

I propose that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommend to the appropriate standing committee that, during future celebrations of Nuit Blanche, the City of Toronto implement more extensive restrictions on private motorized vehicle movement on the streets that will be most heavily travelled by pedestrians, in order to create more space and improved safety for pedestrian travel, while still allowing space for transit vehicles and bicycles.

Yours truly,

Dylan Reid

Co-Chair  
Toronto Pedestrian Committee