

From: [Alex Chreston](#)
To: [General Government Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2026.GG27.14 on March 9, 2026 General Government Committee
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To the City Clerk:

On behalf of the Toronto Humber Yacht Club, please add the following comments to the agenda for the March 9, 2026 General Government Committee meeting on item 2026.GG27.14, Renewal of Various Boat Club Leases

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Executive Summary

The Toronto Humber Yacht Club (THYC), a community fixture for 70 years, faces an abrupt end to its operations following a notice of lease non-renewal. Despite a history of cooperation and environmental stewardship, the Club has been excluded from the decision-making process regarding the future of the property. This note outlines the Club's value to the community, the practical risks of an immediate shutdown, and a proposal for a sustainable transition.

Background & Context

- **Historical Roots:** Established in 1956, THYC operates on the west bank of the Humber River. The land was originally expropriated following Hurricane Hazel, with the understanding that the club would continue to serve the community through long term leases.
- **Unique Affordability:** THYC is one of Toronto's most accessible boating clubs. While other clubs charge \$15,000–\$20,000 annually, THYC caps fees at approximately \$5,500 with no initiation fees, making boating possible for a diverse group of residents.
- **Membership:** The club serves 111 members and their families, including 52 boaters, 40 paddlers, and 12 personal watercraft users.

Key Issues & Concerns

1. **Lack of Consultation:** The City recently posted signs stating "no boating in 2026" without prior consultation with the Club's volunteer board. This has caused significant distress among members who feel singled out.
2. **Unclear Objectives:** City staff indicated the non-renewal is due to "different plans" for the site rather than past compliance issues (which THYC has consistently resolved). However, these plans have not been shared with the Club or the public.
3. **Financial Viability & Decommissioning:** As a non-profit with no reserve funds, an immediate cessation of boating in 2026 would strip the Club of its only revenue source. This would leave THYC unable to cover operating costs or decommissioning expenses, which are estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
4. **Environmental & Social Stewardship:** THYC has invested over **\$120,000** since 2022 in modern removable docks and conducts bi-annual river cleanups. It also hosts local Scouts Canada groups and autism advocacy organizations.

THYC's Proactive Mitigation Measures

To address City concerns regarding motorized traffic and noise, the Board has already resolved to:

- **Reduce Footprint:** Phasing out all boats over 28 feet and eliminating motorized personal watercraft (Sea-Doos) docking privileges.
- **Enhance Paddling:** Negotiating a partnership with *Toronto Adventures* to operate a public kayak, canoe, and paddleboard rental program.
- **Enforce Rules:** Installing "no-wake" signage and hiring a duty officer to monitor river conduct and noise.

Proposed Path Forward

The THYC is seeking a collaborative solution rather than an abrupt termination. We propose:

- **A Short-Term Lease Renewal (2–5 Years):** This transition period would allow the City to monitor the Club's new sustainability measures while giving members time to relocate or sell their property responsibly.
- **A Performance Bond:** THYC is prepared to post a letter of credit equal to two years' rent to guarantee compliance with all lease obligations.
- **Annual Reporting:** Providing the City with transparent annual reports on stewardship, membership levels, and community contributions.

Conclusion

Terminating a 70-year community relationship without public discussion or a clear transition plan risks the loss of a historic institution and creates a significant financial liability for decommissioning. THYC remains eager to work with the City to align the Club's operations with modern waterfront goals while preserved affordable access to the Humber River.

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