

# Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

*Reflecting the interests of the Swansea Community*



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## Swansea Area Ratepayers' Group

**Present:** Nick Singh, Louis Gris, David Fleming, Chris Korda, John Meijer, Bill Roberts, Bill Steele, Ed Gaigalas, George Dubauskas, Kate Lawson, Ian McIsaac

**Regrets:** Sybil Wilkinson

**Guests:** Michael McClelland, E.R.A. Architects Inc.

**Approval of Agenda:** The Agenda was approved upon a motion by Bill Roberts, seconded by George Dubauskas and carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the AGM of May 24, 2006 was approved upon a motion by Bill Roberts, seconded by George Dubauskas and carried.

**Membership Report:** John Meijer presented the report. The report was accepted upon a motion by David Fleming, seconded by Ian McIsaac and carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Meijer presented the report. The report was accepted upon a motion by Louis Gris, seconded by Kate Lawson and carried.

**President's Report:** Nick Singh began by welcoming all present to the 2007 Annual General Meeting. He thanked the current executive for all of their hard work over the past year. Nick described the many matters that SARA has been involved with over the last year: sending SARA files to Toronto Archives, ongoing participation in the Southport Plaza and Humber Odeon Developments, Committee of Adjustment matters, Bylaw compliance, Billy Bob's/The Fan,

City of Toronto Act and meeting with local elected officials. He explained that SARA has also been involved in helping shape the City of Toronto Act. Nick talked about future issues that SARA will be dealing. The South Kingsway Ramps reconstruction project was initiated by the City. Although the City recognizes that it work well, and the community agrees, it keeps coming back. There will be a community meeting in June. Also in June the Waterfront Master Plan will be initiated. Monies have been allocated for the project that will encompass the waterfront from Marilyn Bell Park to the Humber. Nick explained that membership building is a priority for SARA, and introduced Chris Korda to describe one way that SARA is trying to get our name out in the community; The Adopt-A-Block program.

**Adopt-A-Block:** Chris Korda presented the Adopt-A-Block program, part of the City of Toronto's Clean City Campaign. See explained that SARA has participated in the program over the last year, and that the program is designed to encourage individuals to keep our streets litter free. She explained that it is an ongoing exercise to pick up litter, and dispose of it on your time, daily, weekly, or monthly, on your time, any time. Chris presented a sign up list and encouraged all to sign up and participate. A participant of the meeting spoke up and suggested that the program is fine, but that efforts should be directed at litter generators. He suggested that SARA take up the issue to get the generators of garbage, and the City to clean up the garbage. Pat Tracey suggested that an inventory of garbage collected could help target the generators of litter.

**Election of the Board of Directors for 2006-2007:** The slate of nominations for the 2006-2007 SARA Executive and Board was presented as:

President: Nick Singh; Treasurer: Kate Lawson; Secretary: David Fleming; Membership: John Meijer; Directors: Bill Roberts, Sybil Wilkinson, Kate Lawson, David Fleming, George Dubauskas, Chris Korda, Heather McCulloch, Bill Steele, Ed Gaigalas, Past President: Louis Gris

There was a call for further nominations, following which a motion was made by Bill Roberts that the nominations are closed and the slate of directors be elected

to serve as the Executive and Board for 2007-2008. The motion was seconded by David Fleming and carried.

Bill Roberts motioned that the executive is able to fill vacancies of any offices or board of directors until the next AGM. The motion was seconded by John Meijer and carried.

**Guest Speaker Michael McClelland:** Michael McClelland of E.R.A. Architects Inc. was introduced to speak about the City of Toronto Heritage Designations. People mostly recognize Heritage Designation as the Distillery District, the ROM, AGO, and others, but over the last 10 years, neighborhoods, specifically mature neighborhoods have been involved. The Toronto Official Plan does not tell us how change occurs, but what is allowed, and what processes are to be followed. It is a blunt instrument. The Ontario Heritage Act allows the character of a neighborhood to be described and development to match the character. The City is not happy, as it requires work, although it is the community that sets the guidelines. Designations can be directed to very small areas, down to the street level, such a Lyle Street, or larger areas like North and South Rosedale or Cabbagetown. The process to acquire a designation requires documentation and research from public participation and evaluation of heritage attributes. It works on and requires public support, and must have a reason to exist. A lesser type of designation is a Cultural Landscape. Once either a Heritage Designation or Cultural Landscape is in place, they have the same strength as a Bylaw, and must be enforced by the City via Heritage Planners, and ratepayer consultation. The process can take as little as four months, but typically takes a year or more as the entire community must be consulted, meeting scheduled, and thinking time allotted. Small areas can cost up to \$7000; Larger areas \$20000. Rosedale and Cabbagetown each cost approximately \$40000. Section 37 monies have been used to help finance the cost for certain areas. In the US, studies show designations improve property values, but there are no long term studies for either Canada or Toronto.

**Adjournment:** After Michael McClelland's presentation, Nick Singh introduced MPP Peggy Nash and then adjourned the meeting on a motion by Bill Roberts, seconded by George Dubauskas.