

# Swansea Outlook

Volume 32 - Number 2

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

May, 2005

## EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Please note that Executive meetings are public and held normally on the third Tuesday of each month, excluding July and August. There may be seating limitations, so contact the Executive before you come to a meeting.

Your executive as of the date of this letter: Peter Chant - Past-President; Louis Gris, President; Nick Singh and P. Keefe - Vice-presidents; L. Gris Membership; - John Meijer - Treasurer; M. Hudson - Secretary; Directors: R. Braun, Ritvars Bregzis, A. Cotic, G. Dubauskas, E. Gaigalas, F. Labelle, Pat Reavy, William (Bill) Roberts, B. Schulman and S. Wilkinson.

The Executive needs volunteers to help with various duties and to hold office after the next AGM. Persons interested should contact the President and, if they wish, attend at our executive meetings to get an understanding of what is involved. Please note that the secretarial position is being rotated among the directors from meeting to meeting. Volunteers for the post will be most welcome and forwarded to the Nominating committee.

At the Annual General Meeting there will be elections. Nominations will be happily received by the Nominating Committee. Please contact the Louis Gris at 416-766-2792 for more information..

## SWANSEA TOWN HALL

The work is ongoing to complete the storage and activity room at the ravine level.

In February at the Annual General Meeting for the election of directors to fill vacancies on the Swansea Town Hall Association and in turn the Swansea Town Hall's Board of Management, Louis Gris was elected as a Community Representative and Bill Roberts was appointed as SARA's representative to the Board.

There are still openings on the Board. It involves roughly 5 hours of volunteer time a month. The Board meets normally on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:15 P.M. to approximately 9:45 P.M. The Association needs persons who are willing to participate in the operation of the Town Hall. In particular but not necessary would be persons with skill sets in the areas of budget/book keeping, fund raising, business management or building operations. Please call 416-769-3162 or L. GRIS.

## GARDINER LAKESHORE TASKFORCE

The Task Force has remained in limbo since the Mayor's office agreed to review its decision to not renew The Task Force's mandate. As yet the Mayor's office has failed to comment one way or the other.

**HIGH PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE** -- We continue to send a representative to this body.

**JOY OIL STATION.** SARA continues to watch the situation.

**MEOW CLUB** -- We continue to monitor the matter. As of yet no development has gone forward despite the approvals of the project by the Ontario Municipal Board.

**COMMUNITY POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE.** We are looking for a new representative to attend on behalf of SARA.

## MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership for 2005 now, if necessary.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FEES FOR 2005:

Single membership standard \$12.00 senior \$10.00

Family membership standard \$14.00 senior \$12.00

Business membership \$20.00

Note: Senior is anyone 60 plus

Please contact L. GRIS at 416 - 766 - 2792 to renew. Membership inquiries may also be sent to Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association, c/o Swansea Town Hall, Box 103, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6S 3H9.

**HUMBER RIVER PEDESTRIAN/CYCLING TRAILS.** By the time of SARA's Annual General Meeting, we will examine the paths to see if the work has been completed as promised by the City.

**STELCO** – The new owners applied to the Committee of Adjustment for certain specific variances which SARA was aware of. SARA did not object to the variances being sought based on what was requested and the fact the new owners had taken into consideration our concerns. For further information contact F. Labelle.

SARA, SARG and RARG continue to be concerned over when the day care which was to be located in the first phase will come into being.

**1947 BLOOR STREET WEST.** It is our understanding that problems persist in regard to the site; however, construction has started.

**THE DARK HORSE.** It appears that it is in contravention of the requirement to have a sound proof barrier. SARA to date has met one road block after another in trying to find out how the license came to be issued. Nick Singh is trying to get answers.

**CITY PLAN.** SARA has filed its own appeal separate from that of CORRA (Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations in Toronto) but remains part of a coalition of ratepayer groups appealing the official plan. Most recently SARA supported CORRA in its request for better maps. As yet the improved maps have not been produced. It is expected that the modified Swansea Secondary Plan will be before the Ontario Municipal Board for approval in June, 2005.

**BLOOR WEST VISIONING STUDY.** SARA sent two representatives (Nick Singh and William Roberts) to the steering committee. A final version of the report has been prepared and by the time of the SARA AGM will be a public document.

**MUNICIPAL SHELTERS.** SARA is monitoring the matter.

**TRAFFIC CALMING.** We continue to follow this matter.

**OUR WEB SITE** can be viewed at [www.swansearatepayers.ca](http://www.swansearatepayers.ca).

## ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD HEARINGS

SARA continues to be involved in the City-wide appeal of the New Official Plan, scheduled to commence in June.

## HUMBER CINEMA

SARA continues to monitor the matter. SARA remains concerned about the impacts of the proposal on its adjacent neighbours and as a precedent. It should be noted the draft report of the Visioning Study does contain policies that would apply to the area that includes this site.

## SWANSEA/SOUTHPORT PLAZA

As you are aware there was an Ontario Municipal Board hearing which approved the project with a reduction of height and changes in regard to the road network, parking and pedestrian issues. The Site Specific By-law and Official Plan Amendment have been approved by the OMB. Both require there be a commercial component before the residential component is started. In addition the commercial must continue after the residential is in operation. We have requested but not received the section 37 agreement from the City.

## SWANSEA MEMORIAL LIBRARY

We continue to keep an eye on the Library. Please remember if we do not use it we will lose it. Remember it is a living memory to the Village of Swansea soldiers who served in the First World War – the 22 who did not come back and the 150 who did.

Also do not forget you can arrange for any movie, book or any other library material to be delivered to the Swansea branch for pickup.

## NEW LIBRARY HOURS ARE:

Monday:	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 &.....1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
Tuesday:	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 & (*) 1:00 - 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday:	.....1:00 - 8:00 P.M.
Thursday:	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 & (*) 1:00 - 6:00 P.M.
Friday:	.....2:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Saturday:	10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Sunday:	Closed

(\*) closed for lunch from 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. Tuesday & Thursday  
Please contact G. Dubauskas at 416 - 762 -6413.

Please note because the Runnymede Library is closed for renovations Swansea's hours were extended; however, the Friends of Swansea Library were hoping for more hours while the Runnymede Library is closed. Once the Runnymede Library reopens the Library Board will review Swansea's operation.

## COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

286 Ellis Ave. The neighbour who appealed the decision of the Committee asked for SARA's support. SARA provided advice to assist the appellant-neighbour. It is our understanding that a mediation hearing was held that resulted in a settlement acceptable to the neighbour. We have been unable to get a copy of the decision.

9 Worthington Crescent. SARA supported an adjacent neighbour's concern that the survey provided the Committee was out of date and in fact the property was considerably smaller than the survey indicated. The Committee granted the application on conditions, including among others the provision of an accurate up-to-date survey.

47 St. Olaves. SARA supported the neighbours who opposed the application to allow a variance beyond those granted by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) at a prior hearing. Two members of the Committee of Adjustment agreed that the additional variance was excessive given what was previously provided and two did not see a problem. The Chair stated since this was going to go to the OMB at any rate, and it did not matter what he decided, and then approved the request by the applicants.

The Neighbours have appealed to the Board. Councillor Saundercook has indicated he is supporting their concerns.

169 South Kingsway. SARA was concerned that the variances individually and collectively were excessive. The Committee of Adjustment agreed and refused the application.

SARA is now raising concerns over the fact that discrepancies are appearing in surveys and other materials being supplied to the Committee of Adjustment which are only caught by neighbours or in certain cases under cross-examination at the Ontario Municipal Board. It appears the lack of accuracy is not raising red flags at City Hall, yet the whole process turns on the notice of public meeting being based on accurate facts.

## HUMBERGATE

SARA was contacted by Office for Urbanism, the planning firm that did the visioning study for Bloor West in regard to a potential study extending from the Mimico Creek to High Park (Ellis Ave.), from the Lake up to line approximately 100m north of and perpendicular to the Queensway.

## TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE "CLEAN CITY CAMPAIGN"

SARA has indicated an interest in becoming involved with one of the City of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Trade "Clean City Campaign" initiatives. Some are run by the City such as the 20 Minute Makeover Day on Friday April 22, Mayor's Clean Up Day on Saturday April 23, 2005.

The Board of Trade and the City are exploring a new programme -- "Adopt a Block". SARA has expressed interest and a planning session has been held between SARA, Board of Trade, the City, and Scouts Canada for a possible pilot Adopt A Block Programme in Swansea - among other areas.

The concept behind the programme is that groups or individuals (in the case of SARA, members and/or their family, will sign up to adopt their block. More than one person can adopt the same block or part of a block. The adopter will be expected to pick up litter from the block in their area, e.g. coffee cups, candy wrappers etc. that they see as they travel around their area. More details will follow. We hope members and their friends and family will sign up to make the City cleaner. We will provide more information as the plans progress.

### TAKE NOTICE:

### SWANSEA AREA RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held 7:30 P.M. on the 24th of MAY, 2005  
SWANSEA TOWN HALL

### DRAFT AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes
3. President's Report
4. Other Reports
5. Election of Officers

GUEST SPEAKER: SARMITE BULTE. M.P....topic to be announced

Our members may remember that last year Sarmite Bulte, M.P. graciously stepped down as our guest speaker so that an All Candidates' Night could be held. SARA therefore extended the invitation to her to speak this year. Hopefully we will not be faced with a Federal Election happening at the same time as we are holding our AGM.

SEE YOU AT THE AGM,  
William (Bill) Roberts: Editor  
Louis Gris & John Meijer: Advisory Committee