

# Swansea Outlook

Volume 32 - Number 3  
August, 2005

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

## 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 M. Hudson - Vice-presidents; L. Gris Membership; - John Meijer - Treasurer (and web-master); C. Korda - Secretary; Directors: G. Dubauskas, D. Flemming, E. Gaigalas, B. Jermyn, K. Lawson, F. Labelle, Pat Reavy, William (Bill) Roberts, B. Schulman and S. Wilkinson.

The Executive needs volunteers to help with various duties. Persons interested should contact the President and, if they wish, attend our executive meetings to get an understanding of what is involved.

## SWANSEA TOWN HALL

The work has not been completed for the storage room and on the grounds (especially north of the building). The activity room at the ravine level is in operation. The final steps are presently tied up over disputes as to the work that needs to be done and who will pay for it.

There are still openings on the Board of Management of the Swansea Town Hall. 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 also needs volunteers.

In addition the City is reviewing the structure of all the Boards of Management across the City. It is important that local control and involvement be kept in any new system.

## 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 and it is now been almost two years. The assumption is that the Mayor's office through omission has allowed this route for direct citizen involvement in waterfront planning to die without public debate.

**HIGH PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE** -- We continue to monitor this body.

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

**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 applicable.

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: A Senior is anyone 60 plus.

Please contact L. GRIS at 416 - 766 - 2792 to renew. Membership inquiries may 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.** We continue to monitor 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 if and when (?) the day care will come into being.

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

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

**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 and the City has agreed to improve the maps. The modified Swansea Secondary Plan was before the Ontario Municipal Board and approved in June, 2005.

**BLOOR WEST VISIONING STUDY.** SARA sent Nick Singh and William Roberts to the steering committee, now called the Bloor West Urban Design Study. The final version of the report has been prepared and a formal sign-off is occurring at this time.

**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. The hearing started in June and is scheduled to continue from September through to the end of October.

### **HUMBER CINEMA**

.There was a community meeting held in late June. 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 Urban Design Study does contain policies that would apply to this site. The real test is whether the City is interested in ensuring development in the Village will be supportive of and compatible with their surroundings and proper planning will be carried out or will it take money in the form of Section 37 Bonus monies and not fight for our area's amenities and low rise character?

While SARA has not taken a final position on the proposal we have stated that the Bloor West Urban Study, including the tests set out in it for this area should be the minimum bar by which anything is tested, and the limits set out in that study are the maximums. The present proposal does not appear to even minimally meet these standards.

The present proposal is ten stories, has a density of 6.5 times coverage and does not contain sufficient parking for the proposed uses. There are access issues amongst other matters. It is expected that there will be a further meeting in September before the matter goes to the Community Council in the fall.

### **SWANSEA/SOUTHPORT PLAZA**

It appears that Loblaws and the Developer had discussions which have resulted in Loblaws withdrawing from the site. This is most unfortunate since it will negatively impact on the many residents living around the plaza.

The question is, "Where is the City?". Surely something could have been done to ensure that a resolution between Georgian Homes and Loblaws that would have kept the store in the community, rather than ignoring the impacts that will now occur.

As you are aware both the Site Specific By-law and Official Plan Amendment 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 requested the section 37 agreement from the City and found it silent on certain key points..

### **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:	.....Closed
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:	.....Closed .....
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 now that the Runnymede Library is opened Swansea's hours were reduced; however, the Friends of Swansea Library were hoping that more hours would be available after the Runnymede Library re-opened. We need to use the Library or lose it.

### **THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT**

SARA is greatly concerned over the operation of the Committee. The doctrine of natural justice seems to no longer apply to those who object. The Committee appears to have a systemic bias. As an example the committee allows applicants to see the letters in support and objection but will not allow objectors to see those letters. This favours applicants while hog-tying objectors and is a serious breach of the law of the land, and which appears to be condoned by City Hall for some unknown reason.

*9 Worthington Crescent.* SARA supported an adjacent neighbour's concerns at a prior hearing, where the Committee granted the application on conditions despite our concerns that the applicant would have to come back. Interestingly enough the applicant did come back asking for a gross floor variance amongst other matters which SARA had queried but the Committee had ignored. As a result of discussions between the adjacent owner and applicant; the applicant made changes which brought the building into closer compliance with the by-laws and reduced the impact on the neighbours. Based on that settlement SARA did not object.

*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. The Committee of Adjustment approved the variances. The neighbours then appealed the decision; but later withdrew the appeal.

*51 Worthington Crescent.* SARA supported the owners of 53 who had concerns over the closeness of the house addition to their chimney. A settlement was reached and so SARA did not press its objection.

**HUMBERGATE** SARA continues to monitor this matter.

### **"ADOPT A BLOCK" and the "CLEAN CITY CAMPAIGN"**

SARA has become involved with the City of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Trade in the "Clean City Campaign". We have agreed to take part in a pilot project for the "Adopt a Block" programme.

The concept behind the programme is that individuals (in the case of SARA, members and/or their family and neighbours) will sign up to adopt their block or part of 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. It is also open to have specific clean-up plans for ravines and parks within Adopt-a-Block; however, SARA believes it is important for members to take ownership of the streets surrounding them.

Too many of us curse the litter and demand that someone else solve the problem rather than picking up one piece of litter. By demonstrating to others that we want clean streets it is hoped they will follow our example.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year there was not a Federal election but it did come close to interrupting our meeting. Unfortunately our guest speaker SARMITE BULTE, M.P. was not able to speak due to a sudden emergency. We hope all is well and pass on our best wishes to her.

Several members were elected to the Board of the Directors

who had not previously served. Ritvars Bregzis stepped down after several years' service. Most recently he spearheaded a report to the Mayor on community involvement. His advice will be missed. Interestingly enough and parallel to our letter, there is a committee chaired by Councillor John Filion who is the Chair of Planning & Transportation which is trying to reach the same route. SARA is monitoring the matter, and intends to participate.

### **SOUTH KINGSWAY RAMPS**

For those of you who may not be aware there is a proposal to permanently close the two lower ramps that connect the Queensway Eastbound lanes to South Kingsway North and South bound.

A further meeting is scheduled for 21 September, 2005 to review various options including the status quo.

The one proposal is to put lights about 200 feet east of the South Kingsway bridge with an access road running across the Queensway up to South Kingsway. That access road will have lights to cross the Queensway but not have lights when it connects with South Kingsway and the access at South Kingsway will change from the Yield and slight flying right from the ramp to a T-intersection and a stop sign. We have serious concerns because those intersections are "F" (i.e. failure) at the present levels of traffic.

Hope you are enjoying the summer!

William (Bill) Roberts: Editor

Louis Gris & John Meijer: Advisory Committee