

Swansea Outlook

Volume 33 - Number 1
January, 2006

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 & John Meijer Membership Co-Chairs; John Meijer - Treasurer; 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 help understand what is involved.

SWANSEA TOWN HALL

The work has not all been completed for the storage room and on the grounds (especially north of the building). However, much of the work has been completed by the bonding company and it is expected that the shoring on the north end should be completed by the end of January or sooner - which will allow the grounds to be fully restored in the Spring. Trees have been ordered for the southern end of the front.

There are still openings on the Board of Management of the Swansea Town Hall. There should be an Annual General Meeting in February to fill vacancies. If you are interested in volunteering contact any of Louis Gris, John Meijer or Bill Roberts. Bill Roberts can be contacted at 416-769-3162. It involves roughly five 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. As part of that process a Special Meeting of the Association agreed to expand the boundary of the catchment area slightly to the north and south. On the north the boundary will be the south side of the Subway Cut, and the southern boundary will be the water's edge. The western boundary remains the mid point of the Humber River and on the east the projection north and south of the mid point of Wendigo Creek.

The City has put the matter on partial hold while it waits to see how the City of Toronto Act will affect its powers. It still remains important that local control and involvement be kept in any new system.

GARDINER LAKESHORE TASKFORCE

It is unfortunate that given the debate over the Gardner that the Mayor's Office has chosen to allow the only effective citizen's body to wither and die, thereby reducing any informed debate.

HIGH PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- We continue to monitor.

JOY OIL STATION. SARA continues to watch the situation;

however we have been advised that the supportive housing will not be built. That leaves the historic "Joy Oil Station" at risk. The Station should be restored to its original uses if the City has no other plans. More importantly there is a concern that the lands could be sold to a private developer as happened to the east. If the City were creative, a better design could occur that would make that corner bike and pedestrian friendly while also generating income.

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

MEMBERSHIP It's January! Please renew your membership for 2006. On the reverse is a membership form you may use.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FEES FOR 2006:

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) 236-0481 or John Meijer at (416) 604-3766 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 - We continue to monitor the matter. At this time no further applications have been made to the Committee of Adjustment or the City for further changes. For further information contact F. Labelle.

SARA, SARG and RARG continue to be concerned if and when (?) the day care will come into being.

THE DARK HORSE. It is as it was. All government levels continue to say there were no irregularities; however the present and former councillors continue to state they did not approve a sound proof barrier while the Alcohol & Gaming insists the condition was met. As previously indicated, SARA, through Nick Singh, will now be forced to go a different route to get answers.

CITY PLAN. SARA has filed its own appeal and the Swansea Secondary Plan has been contingently approved. CORRA, with SARA's support, is before the Ontario Municipal Board. In January the Board will be considering McDonald's appeal to the Official Plan. McDonald's is seeking to have the official plan explicitly allow drive-throughs in areas such as the Bloor West Village. SARA is sending a witness to provide evidence in opposition to McDonald's. CORRA, through its lawyer William Roberts, and allied with George Belza (who acts for a coalition of North York ratepayer groups) has negotiated changes to the Official Plan that strengthen the policies which ensure good planning, in particular as they relate to stability of neighbourhoods.

BLOOR WEST VISIONING STUDY. Nick Singh and William Roberts were on the steering committee and continue to monitor the matter. SARA has some concern that the Odeon Humber site is going to the Community Council in January or February and

that it appears the City is considering a ten-storey building thereby breaching the study not only in spirit but in its actual thought process thereby negating the whole reason for consulting the community in the first place.

MUNICIPAL SHELTERS. SARA is monitoring the matter.

TRAFFIC CALMING. We continue to follow this matter.

OUR WEB SITE is at <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 in January 2006.

HUMBER CINEMA

As previously discussed it appears that City is inclined to allow a building even greater than that expected by the Bloor West Urban Design Study. If a ten-story building is permitted there; then the entire Bloor West Village is put at risk.

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 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.

SWANSEA/SOUTHPORT PLAZA

With each passing month another tenant leaves. At the end of December 2005 the Dry Cleaners will be gone. The question remains, "Where is the City?". Surely the City should be doing more to ensure that the seniors and other residents are not abandoned.

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 be made available after the Runnymede Library re-opened. We need to use the Library or lose it.

THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

SARA continues to monitor its operation.

85 South Kingsway. SARA supported the appellant neighbours of 85 South Kingsway at the Ontario Municipal Board. The issue was whether the intent of the by-law requiring a five-

year gap between building additions and then second floors above the addition. Further there is an issue of the loss of low end of market housing. The OMB approved the appeal and dismissed the variance application.

286 Ellis Avenue. SARA has concerns that a building permit was apparently issued that did not comply with the Ontario Municipal Board decision. SARA continues to press the matter with the City.

HUMBERGATE SARA continues to monitor this matter.

FUNDRAISER It was successful and everyone who attended the play enjoyed it. Hope to see you there next year.

MASSAGE PARLOURS

SARA appeared through Bill Roberts to support stronger controls over "illegal body rubs" pretending to be "holistic centres/spas". The City has adopted controls affecting the hours and requiring holistic spas to have only licensed attendants. Attendants must now belong to one of several approved non-profit bona fide associations. SARA continues to monitor this issue.

QUEENS PASTA

SARA will appear in support of the community to ensure that previously imposed conditions are not removed.

"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 volunteered to be the pilot project for the "Adopt a Block" campaign; however, since the summer there has been little contact. It would appear the Clean City Initiative has dropped the concept of actively encouraging neighbourhoods to help pick up litter.

ALL CANDIDATES' MEETING

SARA held an all candidate's meeting on the 4th of January, 2006.

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. It is our understanding that an environmental assessment must be done.

William (Bill) Roberts: Editor

Louis Gris & John Meijer: Advisory Committee

SARA 2006 Membership Application Form

Yes, I want to renew/join SARA as a:

- Individual Membership \$12.00 / \$10.00 Senior
 Family Membership \$14.00 / \$12.00 Senior
 Business/Organization \$20.00

Please indicate if:

- New Member Renewing Member

Please note that memberships are for a one year term: January->December

Name

Company/Organization

Address

Suite/Apt/Unit Number

City

Province Postal Code

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Area Code Telephone Number

Email Address

Yes, I want to get involved and help with:

- Membership Committee
- Chair
- Special Events Board of Director
- Fundraising Community

Liaison

- Web Content Media Relations
- Other – specify

Payment:

Please make your cheque payable to the:
Swansea Area Ratepayers Association
Please send this completed form along with your cheque to:
Swansea Area Ratepayers Association, c/o John Meijer,
Membership Co-Chair, 16 The Palisades, Toronto ON M6S 2W8