

Swansea Outlook

Volume 33 – Number 3

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

September, 2006

OUR WEB SITE is <http://www.swansearatepayers.ca>.

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: Louis Gris - Past-President; Nick Singh, President; Vacant - Vice-presidents; John Meijer Membership Chair; John Meijer - Treasurer; D. Fleming - Secretary; Directors: G. Dubauskas, E. Gaigalas, C. Korda, K. Lawson, H. McCullough, B. Jermyn, William (Bill) Roberts, B. Schulman, B. Steele 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. This fall season presents a good opportunity for those wishing to become involved with the new Board.

SWANSEA TOWN HALL

Some work has been done on the grounds, and a plan is in place however, additional plantings may have to be held off until the Spring.

JOYCO OIL STATION. SARA continues to watch the situation, and it now appears the City is prepared to allow the structures to decay, through inaction. There's an opportunity here to provide suggestions for use of the site and building which will restore the structures and provide some type of service or amenity for the benefit of our community.

MEMBERSHIP If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership for 2006. On the reverse is a membership form you may use. If you have renewed, we thank you.

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 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.

THE DARK HORSE. SARA referred the matter to the Ombudsman of Ontario, who declined involvement.

CITY PLAN. SARA had filed an appeal, and the Swansea Secondary Plan has received approval. CORRA, with SARA's support, is before the Ontario Municipal Board on many issues.

BLOOR WEST URBAN DESIGN STUDY. Nick Singh and William Roberts were on the steering committee and continue to monitor the study's impact. SARA continues to push that the study be recognized

by the City Planning Department as a blueprint for development in Bloor West Village.

BILLY BOB'S/THE FAN The owners have applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGC) to rescind all previously set conditions under which they are operating. Needless to say, the community is very concerned given the increased nuisance that will ensue. The Public Hearing on this request will be held at the AGC, at Yonge and Sheppard, during the day on September 21.

HUMBER CINEMA Sadly, the 10-story proposal that went before City Council on April 25 was approved. It appears that a planning staff report in support of the developer, plus the possibility of arguing against that report at the OMB, convinced enough Councillors to support the development. Councillor Saundercook voted against the proposal.

To recap, the approved proposal is ten stories, has a density of 6.5 times coverage and does not contain sufficient parking for the proposed uses. Council did require some minor concessions, among them the inclusion of a "green roof".

SWANSEA/SOUTHPORT PLAZA

The owner went to the Committee of Adjustment to reduce parking requirements due to its decision to reduce the size of the commercial space to the minimum required in the Official Plan, and to increase the residential density.

SARA opposed the application on the grounds that there should be full public participation, given the nature of the changes and that the proposal did not meet the four tests. The Committee adjourned the application to allow community consultation. A Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sales Office at the Plaza.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT / CITY GOVERNANCE

SARA remains concerned as to how the Act will maintain local community input and control, when the Act appears to centralize power at City Hall.

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.

THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

SARA continues to monitor its operation.

31 The Palisades: The Committee of Adjustment (COA) approved the application with condition that the house be built with substantial compliance with the plans. Further, pressure from SARA and the neighbours resulted in the applicant conceding one of the variances during the Hearing (side yard setback).

32 Ellis Park Road: Despite objections from neighbours and from SARA, the Committee approved the application, resulting in a .56 density directly adjacent High Park!

MESSAGE PARLOURS SARA continues to monitor this issue.

QUEENS PASTA Proposed changes to the patio at Queens Pasta were denied.

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

SARA is participating in the pilot project for the "Adopt a Block" campaign. We are looking for volunteers to participate in this initiative to cleanup and beautify our community. Contact the Executive or visit our website if you are interested.

STORM WATER PROJECT

SARA met with representatives of the City, engineering firm, landscape/ecology firm, High Park Advisory Committee and contractors to get an update on the storm water management plan for the ponds and streams flowing into and out of Grenadier Pond. Improvements are being made to allow naturalized catchment areas at the north ends of Catfish Pond (West Pond) and Grenadier Pond, as well as at the south end of Grenadier Pond to catch the water from Ellis before it enters the Grenadier Pond and further catchments are being constructed near the mouth of the Humber and north of Lakeshore Blvd. between Colbourne Lodge Rd. and Ellis Ave. It is hoped this will improve the water quality of the two ponds and behind the western beaches break walls. The City hopes to complete the work this Fall but depending on the time construction finishes, plantings may have to be held off until the Spring. While there are impacts on habitat the Ministry of the Environment and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority have signed off given the improvements being made to upgrade both ponds and the City's undertaking to do additional work elsewhere in Grenadier Pond.

ALL-CANDIDATES MEETINGS

Sara is sponsoring an all-candidates meeting, for the upcoming November municipal election, to be held at the Town Hall on October 4th, 8:00pm. Meanwhile, a list of all-candidates meetings for the Provincial By-Election is presented in the sidebar notice.

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

SARA has become involved providing input to western waterfront development issues, such as the Palais Royale median parking lot recently approved by City Council. We are committed to ensuring continued and improved public access to the western waterfront and will promote community interests in that regard.

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 Public Meeting on the plans was postponed until fall, with no date yet set.

William (Bill) Roberts / John Meijer: Editors
Nick Singh: Advisory Committee

List of ALL CANDIDATE'S MEETINGS

for the Provincial By-Election Sep 14

Wednesday, September 6th 7:30PM - Runnymede United Church, 432 Runnymede Road (west side of Runnymede Road north of Bloor West opposite Runnymede Public School) - sponsored by the Bloor West Village Residents Association

Friday, September 8th 7:00PM - 20 West Lodge Avenue (east of Lansdowne Avenue and north of Queen Street West) - sponsored by the Parkdale Liberty Economic Development Corporation, the Parkdale Residents Association and the Roncesvalles-Macdonell Residents' Association. [This was originally to be held on the 5th].

Sunday, September 10th 2:00PM - Swansea Town Hall Community Centre, 95 Lavinia Avenue (between Morningside Avenue and Deforest Road) - sponsored by the Toronto Debating Society

Monday, September 11th 8:00PM - Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Secondary, 1515 Bloor Street West (at Dundas Street West) - sponsored by Trustee Irene Atkinson and Trustee Barbara Poplowski

Tuesday, September 12th 7:30PM - Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Secondary, 1515 Bloor Street West (at Dundas Street West) - sponsored by the Sunnyside Community Association

Wednesday, September 13th [NEW] a phone-in on "Goldhawk Live" from 9:00PM to 10:00PM - Rogers Television on cable channels 10 and 63 - please tune-in and phone-in!

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

()

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