

Swansea Outlook

Volume 34 – Number 1

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

February, 2007

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, 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 continues to seek 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 Town Hall AGM will be held on the evening of Feb 27. The Town Hall Board of Management is looking for volunteers. Meetings are once a month with sub-committee meetings in between as necessary.

Some work from the ravine expansion remains outstanding (plantings, interlocking block, bike racks) and will be completed in the spring.

JOYCO OIL STATION. Money has been approved by the City to relocate/renovate the Joyco Oil station to south of the Lakeshore.

MEMBERSHIP Our membership year is January to December, so a new membership year is upon us. Please consider renewing your membership for 2007. On the reverse is a membership form you may use.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FEES FOR 2007:

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.

CITY PLAN. SARA, through CORRA, (Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations) has supported William Roberts (CORRA's lawyer) and George Belza (development consultant) in their work to rectify problems and improve Toronto's new Official Plan. They have achieved a wide range of improvements to the OP, among them: Safeguards on the intrusion of mega-buildings into neighbourhoods, additional neighbourhood protections (edge development, Avenues, etc.), clarity of Official Plan maps, protection for existing parks, improved payments from developers to neighbourhoods affected by large developments. The Plan and Sec 37 policy discussions were approved in October. The Housing settlement has also been reached,

and deferred for approval to an OMB Hearing in either March or April.

BLOOR WEST URBAN DESIGN STUDY. 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 Alcohol and Gaming Commission approved a negotiated settlement between the community and the owners at a Hearing Jan 18. Nick Singh of SARA spearheaded the community involvement and helped bring about changes to the original conditions that should help mitigate any negative impact. The changes of primary concern to the community dealt with use and capacity of the rooftop patio and control of disturbances in the parking lot by rear-door attendees. Contact SARA for all the new conditions.

TRAFFIC STUDIES – SARA is looking into whether there should be a community-wide traffic study undertaken for the Swansea area.

HUMBER CINEMA We continue to monitor the development.

SWANSEA/SOUTHPORT PLAZA

SARA opposed the latest variance application at the Committee of Adjustment and the application was indeed turned down. As there was no appeal filed at the OMB, it appears that the development will go ahead under the approved plans. The CIBC branch is closing. SARA will approach Councillor Bill Saundercook to determine what plans are in place for the Commercial component. We hope to see the return of a postal outlet, and perhaps a small grocery. Residential units will go on sale, however commercial space is required to go in first. Residential digging probably will probably be the first visible sign of development. The Georgian Group is developing the site. Number of units and timing of development will likely depend on market factors.

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 AND FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

We continue to keep an eye on the Library, and encourage any feedback on improvements. 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.

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

Friends of Library contact: G. Dubauskas at 416 - 762 -6413.

Also, SARA has been advocating for a better selection of books at Library. We have encouraged the Library to take a survey of groups using the Town Hall, regarding materials they think should be in the Library.

THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

SARA continues to monitor its operation.

296 Riverside – Application declined by CoA, however the applicant appealed to OMB. SARA supports the neighbours in opposition, and will seek Party status at the OMB Hearing on March 8th and 9th.

43 St. Olaves Rd. – No opposition, but SARA argued for proposal to be built substantially in accordance with the submitted plans. Approved with this condition.

202 South Kingsway - Plans were put before the Committee of Adjustment for site severance and renovation/construction of two homes. SARA reviewed the plans, and did not oppose the severance provided the development proceeds in substantial accordance to plan.

COMMUNITY POLICE LIASON SARA is involved with this committee and attended a Community Info night held Jan 18, 2007. The next meeting will be at the Town Hall on March 6, 7:00pm.

CORRA/FONTRA SARA attended the Jan 23 meeting of the Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Association (CORRA) and the Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations (FONTRA). Bill Roberts spoke on Sec. 37 and neighbourhood issues of the new Official Plan.

SWANSEA RECREATION CENTRE/RENNIE PARK SARA was looking into noise complaints over the hockey rink, but the situation seems to have improved. The Rennie Park community garage sale is scheduled for May 26, and tables can be rented for \$30.

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

CITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES SARA has placed 19 boxes of past SARA files with the City of Toronto archives. Any former Executive members who have material that they feel should be archived should make arrangements for SARA to receive the material. Contact the SARA Executive if pickup is required.

"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. We will have a poster board describing the project at the Feb. 27 AGM for the Town Hall.

STORM WATER PROJECT/FISH HABITAT RESTORATION

The Storm Water project work is largely complete, and now the City plans a fish habitat restoration project in Grenadier Pond. The Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority plans to create 21 underwater bass spawning shoals with rocks, boulders and logs off the east shore. The work is intended to have minimal impact on pond and shore. The work is to begin late spring 07, just after ice breaks and before major spawning in May/June. The work is to last about 2 weeks. There will be a Public Meeting at The Howard Park Tennis Club located on the West Side of Parkside Dr. at the first lights south of Bloor St. and the first lights north of Howard Park Ave. This is scheduled for Wed. Feb. 28th from 6:30 – 7.15 pm.

STELCO – Some minor changes to the towers on west site are to go before the Committee of Adjustment (CoA) - move buildings slightly south, add 500m amenity space - but nothing appears objectionable at the moment, subject to a final report on the variances from planning staff. SARA does not plan to object, for the time being. This will possibly come before the CoA in February or March.

SOUTH KINGSWAY RAMPS

There was a delay in scheduled events due to archeological investigations around the site. SARA is monitoring this issue.

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

SARA 2007 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