

Swansea Outlook

Volume 34 – Number 2

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

May, 2007

(<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. 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.

A new Executive year is upon us shortly, with the holding of our:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 7:30pm, May 29 - The 2007 AGM will be held on Tuesday May 29, 7:30pm in the Rousseau Room at the Swansea Town Hall. Michael McClelland from E.R.A. Architects Inc. will speak about Heritage Designations.

SWANSEA AREA RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 29, 2007
at the
SWANSEA TOWN HALL
(95 Lavinia Avenue)
ROUSSEAU ROOM
7:30 P.M.

AGENDA

(7:30-8:00pm)
General Business

(8:00-9:00pm)

Speaker: Mr. Michael McClelland of E.R.A. Architects Inc. will speak about heritage designations, what they are and how a designation could apply to Swansea

SWANSEA TOWN HALL It is anticipated that there will be further amendments to the Constitution to bring it into line with City of Toronto documents. The Constitution was amended so that approximately half the Board will be elected every year, for two year terms. Those Directors appointed by certain groups will serve at the pleasure of those groups with a maximum period of four years. The Board of Directors of the Swansea Town Hall Association are reviewing the role that the Association should have in regard to fund raising and other matters beyond the election of the Board of Directors who are nominees to the Board of Management (which is appointed by the City

of Toronto through the applicable community council). In addition, the Board of Management is considering whether it will directly do programming rather than being only a facilitator for community groups and non-profit groups. SARA is monitoring the discussions since they may reflect a shift in how the Town Hall has previously operated.

JOYCO OIL STATION SARA is pleased that the former Joy Oil Station building will undergo renovation and has finally been moved to a new location - on the south side of Lakeshore Boulevard just west of the intersection with Ellis Avenue. This will preserve part of the history of Swansea, and will once again provide a use for the building as either a concession stand and/or information centre. The building had been split into two sections and was moved on two separate Sundays in April – the 14th and the 28th - when the required road closures were least disruptive. See <http://www.toronto.ca> for more information.

MEMBERSHIP Thanks to all renewing members! - and a reminder to those still to renew, our membership year is January to December and we hope you will 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 The settlement of housing related matters was adopted by the Ontario Municipal Board in April.

BLOOR WEST URBAN DESIGN STUDY SARA has been in contact with Community Planning about getting this study upgraded, and to find out the best approach to preserving the character of Swansea.

TRAFFIC STUDIES SARA has been in touch with Councillor Saundercook regarding a possible traffic study for Swansea, but nothing concrete to report at this time.

2007 FUNDRAISER at VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE

Once again SARA will team up with the VILLAGE PLAYERS in an evening of fun and entertainment while at the same time helping to raise funds for the benefit of the SWANSEA residents we represent. Please support us in this worthwhile event. This year's play is "Night Watch" by Lucille Fletcher – a murder mystery: *"Ellen Wheeler, a rich widow, is recovering from a nervous breakdown. One day, while staring out the window, she witnesses a murder. But does anybody believe her?"* To be held Thursday, November 15, 2007. Tickets are only \$16, and available from the SARA Executive. Buy two and bring a friend!

SWANSEA MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Library usage was down slightly from last year, but up from two years ago. This is positive news for the Library. Please remember if we do not use it we will lose it.

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

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

THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

SARA continues to monitor its operation. Here are some current matters:

296 Riverside – the OMB Hearing will resume June 11. SARA supports the neighbours in opposition, and is Party to the Hearing.

356 Windermere – Requested a temporary 6 by 9 brick shed for stroller storage to be built on the west property line. The neighbour adjacent opposed the construction at Committee of Adjustment, and SARA sent in a letter indicating that if the shelter is to be temporary that it should be built as a temporary structure and not out of brick which would imply that it was permanent. In addition it was being located adjacent to an existing neighbour's house. SARA recommended that there be a community meeting if the matter could not be resolved. In the end, an agreement was reached between the parties.

50 Beresford – A GFA increase and north side setback variance were turned down at CoA. SARA had opposed. No appeal was filed, and the deadline has passed.

93 Coe Hill Drive – a variance application to eliminate basement parking units to be replaced with nine additional dwelling units, and move parking into a new front yard parking area went before the Committee. SARA sent in a letter of objection and the Committee deferred the application directing the applicant to consult with appropriate City officials and with the Swansea Area Ratepayers.

44 Lavinia – an application went in to demolish the existing dwelling and build a new two story house with integrated below grade garage. SARA opposed the height, setback, and garage variances, but the application was partially approved, that is all variances - *with the exception of the below grade garage* - were approved.

79 Deforest – SARA is looking into the permit issuance in this case, to ensure the building has met required by-laws.

35 Beresford – a parking pad application has gone in, to which SARA is opposed given the loss of green space and the potential impact on permit parking in the immediate area.. We are contacting neighbours who will be polled, and are also in discussion with Councillor Saundercook.

COMMUNITY POLICE LIASON A meeting was held at 11 Division on May 8, 2007 with a European police force in attendance to talk about community policing.

SWANSEA REC CENTRE/RENNIE PARK The annual Rennie Park garage sale will take place May 26th, and tables can be rented for \$30. See you there!

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

SARA continues to promote the pilot project "Adopt-a-block", whereby residents take initiative to help keep their locale free of unsightly litter, and improve the beauty of Swansea. SARA will have a display poster detailing our efforts at the May 26 Rennie Park garage sale and at our Annual General Meeting.

STORM WATER PROJECT

Grading and planting to finish up the storm water project are ongoing and should be completed sometime this summer.

SOUTHPORT PLAZA No news at this time.

SOUTH KINGSWAY RAMPS

There will be a Public Meeting on the South Kingsway ramps at some date in early June that is yet to be finalized. Keep an eye out for a notice to be posted at the Town Hall in advance.

Enjoy your summer!

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 Chair, 16 The Palisades, Toronto ON M6S 2W8