

Swansea Outlook

Volume 36 – Number 1

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

May, 2009

(<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. Due to seating limitations, please contact the Executive before attending

Your executive as of the date of this letter: Louis Gris - Past-President; Nick Singh, President; Vacant - Vice-presidents; K. Lawson - Treasurer; D. Fleming - Secretary; John Meijer - Membership Chair; Directors: G. Dubauskas, E. Gaigalas, I. MacIsaac, William (Bill) Roberts, 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – The 2009 AGM will be held on Wednesday June 3, 7:30pm in the Rousseau Room at the Swansea Town Hall. We are seeking to round out a slate of Directors for election to the Executive. If you are interested in joining our Executive please contact us to put your name forward. David Crombie will be our guest speaker at the AGM.

SWANSEA AREA RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 3, 2009
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: David Crombie

"Swansea from Suburban Village to Urban Neighbourhood"

MEMBERSHIP Our membership year 2009 runs from January to December. We hope you will renew your membership for 2009.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FEES (unchanged) FOR 2009:

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 to renew. Membership forms may also be sent to Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association, c/o Swansea Town Hall, Box 103, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6S 3H9.

WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN – SARA attended public meetings on December 4th and February 19th to learn about, and comment on the waterfront master plan. The plan is wide ranging - some elements include a new breakwater, moving Lakeshore Boulevard further north

to be adjacent the Gardner (thereby enlarging the contiguous parkland), improved pedestrian and bicycle routes through existing underpasses, "sectioned" park areas, etc...

TTC plans are uncertain at the time; however a light rail/streetcar line may parallel Lakeshore Blvd on the south side of the Gardiner.

There will be breakwater improvements, including a "curtain" at Sunnyside to help keep the water clean. Existing pathways along the waterfront may be reconfigured, separating faster moving wheeled traffic from slower walkers. One goal would be to improve the continuity of waterfront path access, however there are some difficult "pinch points" which would need to be addressed (the Legion, Blvd Club).

There is also a possibility of closing the Colborne Lodge underpass under the Gardiner, and narrowing the Windermere and Ellis vehicular underpasses while improving bicycle and pedestrian routes under the Gardiner at these points. SARA has concerns related to traffic flow and the impact of these changes. No traffic studies have been presented on the impacts of these changes north of the Queensway. SARA sent a letter to the Planning Alliance asking for a delay of these measures until traffic studies are completed.

BLOOR STREET HUMBER BRIDGE REPAIR

The bridge over the Humber river near Old Mill is scheduled for rehabilitation work over the next 18 months (July '09 to Dec '10). This work will restore and preserve the structural integrity, and prolong the service life of the bridge. There will be lane reductions to facilitate the work during the project. New decorative bridge lighting, landscape improvements, and staircase rehabilitation are also planned.

SWANSEA TOWN HALL

Feb 24 was the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Hall Association. There was a constitution proposal voted on (amending the Objects, the relationship of the association to the Board of Management, title of Chief Officer), and the election of Officers. There were three new members elected to the Board, and one new advisor.

Also, May 23/24 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Town Hall! Check the Town Hall for events celebrating this milestone.

SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON – SARA and our partner organizations ran a successful cheering stand and fundraiser at the 2008 STWM. Our cheering stand won an Honourable Mention in the neighborhood competition. We raised over \$1000 for SARA from this event. The Swansea Group sponsored four neighborhood "champions" to run the race, with John Meijer placing 30th overall. All are to be congratulated! We hope to repeat again this year. The year's race will be held Sunday, September 27, 2009.

2500/2490 BLOOR STREET WEST (HUMBERSIDE MOTORS) – Tridel has submitted a development rezoning application to the City. Details are available at www.2500Bloor.ca/documents.php. Check the submission package links for all the information. In essence, they are seeking two podium towers, with a two-storey podium street-side and two towers rising to 13 and 16 storey's, each setback from the street. These are higher than all (except one) of the preliminary proposals

reviewed by the community at SARA's input session held last fall. However, the towers occupy smaller footprints. There are pros and cons to the application proposal, and the public should be given further input since there was a strong bias against height coming from the responses SARA heard at its public meeting. SARA has concerns about traffic flows (among others) and hired a traffic expert for consultation. We are also in touch with other community groups (World19, BWVRA, Bloor-Jane) to study the development.

SWANSEA REC CENTRE / RENNIE PARK

The environment assessment for replacement of the sanitary sewer running through Rennie Park has been completed. Some disturbance of the park by construction activity will occur during the sewer replacement. The wooden sandbox pavilion will be relocated, one of the tennis courts may be temporarily closed, however most playground equipment will be unaffected.

CORRA / FoNTRA – OFFICIAL PLAN

Complete Applications OPA 21 and its Delegation By-law were approved by Council, with no objections. The amendment is now in force. Official Plan Amendment 38 dealing with Section 37 funding of heritage conservation studies was appealed by Builders Association.

SWANSEA MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – Circulation numbers are increasing! Be aware that 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.

THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT - Some recent matters...

22 Mayfield - proposed teardown to replace with new 2.5 story dwelling (0.83 GFA). SARA supported the opposing neighbours, and the application was deferred at Committee of Adjustment.

30 Palisades – SARA met with the owners and objected. Adjacent neighbours were in support. Two of three variances were granted, with conditions. GFA approved at 0.77 x lot size in .35 zone.

Windermere by the Lake - more height, density went to C of A. 8000 sq.m more (7%), and 1-2 stories more for each tower was sought. SARA was not opposed provided these variances were the final set being sought and the adjacent ratepayer group did not object.

6 Durie Six variances were sought, mostly minor. SARA had some concerns re: the second floor deck. We met with the applicant and, subject to conditions concerning the second floor balcony, did not oppose. The owners eliminated the second floor balcony at the CoA and the plans were approved.

79 Deforest - doubling of deck, no setback. SARA objected, application denied.

3 Harcroft – applicant sought 1.03 GFA in a 0.35 zone. SARA attended at the C of A. Many neighbours complained at CoA, application was deferred.

72 Beresford - 0.93 GFA in 0.60 zone sought; 0.3 side setback versus 0.9 required; SARA opposed, however a negotiated settlement approved the planned variances.

SIGN BY-LAW HARMONIZATION SARA has been involved in public consultations to harmonize the multiple sign by-laws resulting from amalgamation.

21 OLD MILL ROAD - SARA attended meeting early March, and learned that community groups are raising money to oppose the proposed 10- storey condominium on the banks of the Humber. SARA will possibly contribute if an action plan is in place (for fundraising and use of the funds, etc).

RUNNYMEDE BUS ROUTE SARA was at the well-attended meeting on Wednesday, March 11. The problems concern noise and speed of buses on the route, and possible passing issues with buses mounting the curb. Councillor Saundercook outlined 4 potential solutions - i) TTC to slow buses; ii) paint lines on road; iii) move parking to west side; iv) new route - Kennedy/Runnymede split, or down Windermere? (note the TTC is opposed to the route change option) SARA feels slowing the buses to be the most desirable approach, and also that community consultation should be sought prior to any change in route. SARA suggested a move to quieter buses (diesel vs. hybrid) on that route would help. SARA sent a letter sent to the Councillor and the TTC to this effect.

SOUTHPORT PLAZA

All tenants are out. As far as we know, the plaza is still slated to be torn down, however there are no signs of any development yet.

SOUTH KINGSWAY RAMPS

Work on the ramps is in progress. The westbound ramp, signage, the traffic light, and ramp off the Gardiner are still to be completed

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

SARA 2009 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