

Swansea Outlook

Volume 31 - Number 1
January, 2004

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.

MUNICIPAL ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING

The meeting was well attended and all the councillor candidates were present. Due to the difficulties in having the mayoralty candidates attend, it was decided by the steering committee that this year the meeting would be for the city councillor candidates only.

As you are aware our former local councillor David Miller was elected as Mayor and Bill Saundercook was elected as our new local councillor. Congratulations to them both, and we hope that continued cooperation will be the hallmark of this new council. Councillor Saundercook attended our December SARA Executive meeting.

GARDINER LAKESHORE TASKFORCE

SARA continues to monitor this committee's work. Bill Roberts was reappointed by SARA as our delegate and F. Labelle was appointed as our back-up. In January the new Council will decide if the Taskforce will be re-appointed and at that time confirm its membership. We will keep you informed.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Now is the time to renew - if you haven't already. Please use the membership application on the reverse of this newsletter to renew your membership for 2004 now.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2004:

Single membership	\$10.00
Family membership	\$12.00
Business membership	\$14.00

Please contact L. GRIS at 416 - 766 - 2792 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.

HIGH PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- We continue to monitor this body.

8 SOUTH KINGSWAY PETRO CANADA STATION -- Ron Braun continues to work on this matter. One of the outstanding issues is that cars continue to make left turns from the southern entrance which is a prohibited turn; however, the prohibition is not prohibited by a City by-law and as such is not enforceable by the Police. As a consequence

Ron is pursuing with our new Councillor the possibility of having the prohibition enforced by a City by-law.

STELCO -- The most recent Committee of Adjustment application was opposed by SARG (Swansea Area Ratepayers Group), SARA and RARG (Ripley Area Residents Group) for being excessive and requiring community input. The Committee of Adjustment concurred and refused the applications. The applicant has appealed to the OMB. It should be noted that the applicant is seeking an additional 7 stories to make the Eastern point tower 30 stories rather than the agreed to 23 stories. SARA held a community meeting to get input. The community members asked SARA to oppose the application; however, SARA needs money to do so. Please consider it costs money to appear before the Board even where professionals reduce their fees to assist us. One of our executive members felt so strongly that they contributed \$1,000.00 to the fight. We need all the local residents to find some money to help us to fund the fight.

JOY OIL STATION. SARA continues to watch the situation. We have been advised by the City that the building will be moved back for a use as yet not decided on. It is unfortunate that the City fails to consider that the most appropriate use for an historic gas station is as a gas station. Go figure.

MEOW CLUB -- F. Labelle appeared on behalf of SARG, SARA and RARG because given the monies spent fighting 34 Southport St. - Swansea Plaza we could not afford to hire a lawyer and planner to fight the application. In addition the City showed little if any desire to protect the waterfront. By all accounts F. Labelle did a solid job of pointing out the threat and problems posed by the proposal. We continue to monitor the matter.

COMMUNITY POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE. Bill Haines has stepped down as our representative on this committee due to health reasons. We hope Bill will be better and thank him for his work.

HUMBER RIVER PEDESTRIAN/CYCLING TRAILS. We continue to monitor this matter as well. Marianne Fenner, along with other SARA executive members met with the City to review the area and suggest changes to the design.

1947 BLOOR STREET WEST. It is our understanding that problems persist in regard to the site.

THE FAN/BILLY BOB'S/WEDGE. The owners of the Fan won their roof top patio at the Alcohol and Gaming Commission. SARA is monitoring the matter. It is our understanding that the City appealed the decision. We are trying to confirm this.

THE DARK HORSE. We continue to monitor this matter.

CITY PLAN. SARA has filed its own appeal separate from that of CORRA (Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations in Toronto) but remains part of a coalition of ratepayer groups appealing the official plan. Bill Roberts and F. Labelle were authorized to negotiate with the City, and it appears that we may have a settlement in regard to the secondary plan which maintains for the moment the previous wording and protection for the buildings surrounding the plaza, introduction of view corridor protections, and increased protection for neighborhoods. City Council must confirm the settlement.

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 as 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 once Runnymede Library is closed for renovations Swansea's hours will be extended; however, the Friends of Swansea Library are pressing for more hours while the Runnymede Library is closed and has requested SARA's support. SARA has agreed to support the request by writing the Library Board.

MUNICIPAL SHELTERS. SARA is monitoring the matter.

TRAFFIC CALMING. We continue to follow this matter.

OUR WEB SITE continues to be developed. You can view our site at www.swanseratepayers.ca.

SWANSEA/SOUTHPORT PLAZA

SARG, SARA and RARG appeared at the Ontario Municipal Board in opposition to the application. Two days into the hearing the City indicated that with a minor change in the application and Section 37 monies it would be able to support the application. Needless to say the applicant reduced the height of the building by one storey and created two shoulders that were two stories lower, reducing the building to an 18 storey building with two 16 storey shoulders. SARA, SARG and RARG did not agree and continued to fight; and as a result significant redesign of the commercial building and roads will be required along with improved buffering, site design and water monitoring to protect adjacent buildings.

Also the by-law will have to be drafted to ensure a minimum amount of commercial and phasing so that the residential can not be built without the commercial being built first. We continue to monitor the matter. Special thanks should go to F. Labelle who coordinated the activity and our experts who helped us – Tom Denes (traffic), Bill Hollo (planner), Robert Leech (Hydrology) and David Oleson (Architect). Bill Roberts acted as our lawyer.

HUMBER BAY TREATMENT PLANT

Ron Braun is monitoring this issue. One of the concerns is that at some point the plant will no longer be able to support the approved development in Swansea and Etobicoke.

EXECUTIVE CHANGES

Due to an increased work load V. Masnyk had to step down as President. L. Gris has agreed to step in for the remainder of her term as President. This has created a vacancy that will be filled in the 2004. Thanks to Victoria for all her hard work in the past.

HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE HOLIDAYS.

William (Bill) Roberts: Editor
Louis Gris & John Meijer: Advisory Committee

SARA 2004 Membership Application Form

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

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

Please indicate if:

- New Member Renewing Member

Please note that memberships are for a one year term

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 Louis Gris,
Membership Chair, 84 Mayfield Avenue, Toronto ON M6S 1K8