

Swansea Outlook

Volume 35 – Number 1

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

April, 2008

(<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; K. Lawson - Treasurer; D. Fleming - Secretary; John Meijer - Membership Chair; Directors: G. Dubauskas, E. Gaigalas, C. Korda, H. McCullough, 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 7:30pm, June 18 - The 2008 AGM will be held on Wednesday June 18, 7:30pm in the Rousseau Room at the Swansea Town Hall. Councillor Cliff Jenkins will speak on Planning and other issues.

SWANSEA AREA RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 18, 2008
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: Councillor Cliff Jenkins, Toronto City Councillor, Ward 25 Don Valley East will speak on planning matters and other issues of importance to Toronto ratepayers

SWANSEA TOWN HALL The Town Hall AGM was held on Feb 26, 2008. Elections were held, with current candidates standing for re-election. SARA is encouraging people to join the Town Hall Association, to gain a voice in matters of Management.

J.T. BONHAM RESIDENCES BOARD Interested persons to be SARA rep on this board should contact SARA.

JOYCO OIL STATION Renovations appear underway at the former Joy Oil Station.

MEMBERSHIP Our membership year is January to December and this newsletter has the membership form on the reverse side. We hope you will renew your membership for 2008.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FEES (unchanged) FOR 2008:

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.

WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN –SARA attended meetings at City Hall Nov 26 and Dec 11, as well as a meeting of the Parkdale High Park Community Advisory Council. The PHPCAC took a survey that they would like to present to the planner. The Argonaut Rowing Club has expressed interest that the breakwater is kept for rowing. The city and its consultants are looking for a community advisory council (cyclists, canoeists, naturalists, etc.). Also, there was a Public Open House on Apr 3 at the Swansea Town Hall, which SARA attended.

CORRA SARA supported CORRA in its efforts to ensure that the section 37 guidelines would retain the objective standards set out in the Official Plan policies that SARA and CORRA fought for in the New Official Plan. In addition, the guidelines ensure that local councillors would be consulted early in the process. That section 37 monies are not in lieu of good planning and cannot be used to justify a bad proposal. In addition we, along with CORRA, fought to ensure that there is a process in place for the community to be involved in identifying needs against which section 37 monies should be applied. This can happen before any applications have been received or once an application was received.

LOCAL MATTERS - Decision Making Transferred to Planning and Growth? Applications of "city-wide" interest were proposed to go before the Planning and Growth Committee/Chief Planner. SARA was concerned about loss of local control and accountability, however, in the end City Council approved the Planning and Growth Management Committee's recommendation to keep local matters local. 90% of the original proposal was approved.

HIGH PARK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

www.HighPark.org – see website. A SARA representative attends their meetings. The stairs to Bloor Street from the top of Wendigo Way are to be re-built and are included in 2008 city budget.

HIGH PARK OFF LEASH DOG ZONES Off leash dog areas are under review. Several options are being considered, and SARA has sent in recommendations that residents adjacent to any new satellite dog areas be surveyed for their opinion. Refer to the HPCAC website for further information if interested.

DARK HORSE (LIQUOR LICENSE) A Hearing of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission on the Dark Horse license is scheduled to take place during the day on May 6th at the Four Seasons Lakeshore. SARA is trying to have the meeting rescheduled to the evening.

TRAFFIC STUDIES SARA is seeking a review of traffic in the whole of Swansea and surrounding area, partly in conjunction with any improvements to the area surrounding the South Kingsway ramps.

21 OLD Mill City Council approved a 10-story condo site plan for the upper parking lot across from Old Mill. SARA is concerned about this environmentally sensitive area; loss of open space and natural areas, and implications for development in Swansea. Section 37 monies are to be allocated to improve areas to the south of the Old Mill.

2007 FUNDRAISER at VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE

SARA's fundraiser event, the "Night Watch" by Lucille Fletcher, was held Thurs, Nov, 15 2007 at the Village Playhouse. We raised over \$700 net, selling 75 tickets. Thanks to all who came out to support us.

SWANSEA MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Please remember if we do not use our local library, we risk losing it, particularly in these times of budget constraint.

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.

TORONTO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY – are

preparing a Humber river watershed plan. There is erosion along banks of Humber. On Nov 21, a meeting was held at Swansea Town Hall. There are problems due to stormwater runoff, i.e pollution (detergents and chemicals, salt etc.) It is a heritage river! This review will also affect the Western Beaches plan.

THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

SARA continues to monitor its operation. Some recent matters: 250 Ellis – opposed by SARA but approved by CoA.

3/6 Windermere – minor changes went to Committee of Adjustment and were approved. SARA reviewed them, and we were unopposed.

41 Brule Crescent. - SARA supported the neighbours who opposed the variance application, which went before the OMB on Oct 3. Many of the issues are the same as with 296 Riverside Drive. OMB ruled in favour of applicant, with additional condition that they build in accordance with plans filed.

14, 16, 18 Mossom – The proposal is for five detached. SARA met with the community and then entered into negotiations with the applicant to ensure concerns were addressed. A resolution was reached which was approved by the Committee of Adjustment.

35 Beresford – Parking pad approved, curb will be cut. SARA is not able to get any information from city or councillor on this possibly non-conforming parking pad.

86 Deforest – a variance application was granted at the Dec 6 public hearing of CoA, comprising eight variances including a GFA request for 1.73 density, plus height and setback variances. SARA had opposed the application in support of adjacent neighbours, and appeared in support of those neighbours and against the applicant at the OMB on April 4th. No further news.

SWANSEA REC CENTRE/RENNIE PARK The annual Octoberfest Dance was cancelled this year due to poor pre-sales, but a Mardi Gras "Better Late than Never" was held April 12 as a fundraiser. New Year's eve in Rennie Park skating rink was a big success, with an

early nine o'clock countdown for families.

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

Adopt-A-Block is a free and voluntary activity whereby individual Swansea residents make a commitment to walk along a particular street (which need not be their home street), picking up litter, sorting it and putting it out for collection with household garbage. There is no specified time of day or frequency. Rather, this is an ongoing exercise, done privately by citizens who want to keep their adopted blocks as litter-free as possible and who prefer to light the proverbial candle, rather than to curse the darkness --one piece of litter at a time. SARA has accepted sponsorship of the City's pilot program. Our streetscapes are in need of continuous attention to the problem of litter. We need many more registrants. Please sign up today by phoning Mary at (416) 769-5050, or by writing on your membership renewal form the first and second choice of the street(s) you wish to adopt. We will phone to confirm your registration.

SOUTH KINGSWAY RAMPS

There were some parties interested in reconsidering options, however no alternatives are in the works, to SARA's knowledge.

All the best, and we are looking forward to seeing you at the AGM!

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

SARA 2008 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