

Swansea Outlook

Volume 36 – Number 2

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

October, 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. Maclsaac, 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 was held on Wednesday June 3, 7:30pm in the Rousseau Room at the Swansea Town Hall. Former Toronto Mayor David Crombie spoke to us on urban planning, development issues, the waterfront, and his reminiscences of Swansea. It was an entertaining and informative evening and it is unfortunate that attendance wasn't greater.

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

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FEES (unchanged):

| | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| 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, and 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6S 3H9.

WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN – A curtain to keep unclean water from the swimming area was installed and is working well at Sunnyside Beach, according to media reports.

SARA FUNDRAISER

SARA's annual fundraiser will be held Thursday November 19th, at 8:00pm at the Village Playhouse, 2190E Bloor W. Tickets are \$16 and available from the SARA Executive.



Village Players present James Yaffe's mysterious comedy thriller Cliffhanger on their stage. A college professor goes to outrageous lengths to avoid forced retirement!

BLOOR STREET HUMBER BRIDGE REPAIR

The bridge over the Humber River near Old Mill was scheduled for rehabilitation work over the 18 months from July '09 to Dec '10; however no work appears to have started perhaps due to the municipal worker strike.

SWANSEA TOWN HALL

The first meeting of the Town Hall Assoc. for this year has been held. Memberships are available at the Town Hall for only \$2/year! Everyone should join, to gain a voice in the running of the Town Hall! Norm McLeod called the first Executive meeting and other meetings have been scheduled. Please mark your calendars for the Town Hall's AGM presently scheduled for 23 February, 2010.

SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON – SARA and our partner organizations ran a successful cheering stand at the bottom of Windermere at the Lakeshore Sunday morning Sep 27th. Our group received an Honourable Mention for the effort. The Swansea Group also sponsored four neighborhood "champions" who successfully ran and walked the half marathon. Thanks to all our supporters!

2500/2490 BLOOR STREET WEST (HUMBERSIDE MOTORS) –

Tridel's current plan is still for two towers at 16 and 13 stories. There has been a Public Meeting on Oct 5, and a design charette is underway (Oct 21, 28). Public opposition was vocal and strong, particularly against the height which is uncharacteristic of Bloor West Village. Both height and traffic are two big issues of concern to SARA and the community. SARA met with Councillor Saundercook and various other community groups (Old Mill Community Assoc., Bloor West Village Resident's Assoc, World19, etc.). The Councillor is supportive of the community. Tridel needs to modify their application. As it stands it is inconsistent with important parts of the public consultation process.

SWANSEA REC CENTRE / RENNIE PARK

Construction has commenced on replacement of the sanitary sewer running through Rennie and down Ellis Avenue. The expected completion is Summer 2010.

OFF-LEASH DOG AREA - SARA has asked the City for clarity in definition of the area, and for a public and transparent process for any changes in designation..

QUESTIONABLE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES – The City is reviewing the occurrence of illicit activities at certain businesses - including spas, nightclubs, restaurants, and massage parlours. SARA noted that the City's report required all ratepayer groups to be notified of the review meeting on improper activities and their prosecution. However, neither SARA nor any other ratepayer group had been advised. We sent a rep to a City meeting on October 7th to raise this point and query the statistics. The matter will return - at the November community council meeting - where a new report with better statistics should be available. While SARA is unaware of any current problems in Swansea, we feel it important for future reference that benchmarks are established - to ensure the City is doing its job when it comes to enforcement.

QUEEN'S PASTA LIQUOR LICENSE

Queen's Pasta has applied to Alcohol and Gaming for an extension of hours for serving liquor on the patio from the current 10pm to 12 midnight. SARA is opposed given the proximity to residential housing down the side street.

CORRA / FoNTRA – ZONING BY-LAW HARMONIZATION

CORRA/FoNTRA is currently monitoring the by-law harmonization project. A staff report based upon various public meetings will go before Planning and Growth Committee November 4th. SARA is planning at a minimum to submit a letter of concern, and may attend.

SWANSEA MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – Please continue to visit our Library! We are seeing improved use, and there is an active children's program. 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...

279 Riverside Drive - The proposal for this development has been revised to keep the building within the maximum depth requirement. SARA took the position that it would not oppose the revised proposal as long as it is completed as per the revised plans. The current GFA variance is 0.39 (in a 0.35 zone). The matter will be before the Committee on the 5th of November.

Windermere by the Lake – West tower is now under construction.

3 Harcroft – applicant denied 1.03 GFA in a 0.35 zone at Committee of Adjustment. The owner appealed the COA decision to the OMB and the hearing is set for November 2nd. SARA has visited the OMB to collect materials from the file. We support the neighbours in opposition.

SIGN BY-LAW HARMONIZATION SARA has been involved in public consultations to harmonize the multiple sign by-laws resulting from amalgamation. There was supposed to be a meeting July 4, however the report was not ready. Sign by-law team was still consulting, and preparing for presentation of final reports to Standing Committee meetings in early October

21 OLD MILL ROAD - The proposed plan for the condominium development was modified to remove development from the flood plain of the Humber River. Regarding a possible legal argument (based on previous agreements governing the site) SARA believes the matter needs to be clarified with a legal opinion and the Old Mill residents should be encouraged to pursue this option.

SOUTHPORT PLAZA

All tenants are out. No news on redevelopment.

SOUTH KINGSWAY RAMPS

The city workers' strike had slowed the redevelopment. The new "T" intersection traffic lights are nearing completion. It is reported that the angle of view from a stopped vehicle at the southbound S. Kingsway and westbound Queensway is difficult because it is a backwards view and not as safe as it might be. SARA has been in contact with Councillor Saundercook's office. Unfortunately the City traffic person who was handling this matter died within the last week, at the age of 51.

On a related matter, SARA wrote a letter to the plaza owners about

the Sobey's parking lot, expressing concern on the traffic issues over there. We understand there may be an expansion of the plaza. So our timing on the point is "right on". Ian MacIsaac is handling the Sobey's driveway issue, while Bill Roberts is looking into the South Kingsway westbound ramp. We need information either confirming our concerns, or indicating there is no problem with either matter. Thanks.

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