

Swansea Outlook

Volume 39 – Number 2

Newsletter of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

October, 2012

(<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, kindly 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: Gared Daniel, E. Gaigalas, I. Mclsaac, William (Bill) Roberts, E. Elson, S. Wilkinson, and Brian O'Rourke

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 2012 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, June 18, 7:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Swansea Town Hall. **TTC Chair Karen Stintz** spoke on issues facing the Toronto Transit Commission, and the link between public transportation and neighbourhood development.

JOAN ORETO Sadly, Joan Oreto, former SARA Treasurer and a long time Executive Member, passed away peacefully on Sep 1, 2012. The funeral was held at Turner and Porter on Bloor Street West.

MEMBERSHIP If you haven't already, please renew your membership now for 2012.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FEES for 2012 (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, M6S 3H9.

SWANSEA TOWN HALL Memberships for the Town Hall Association are always available at the Town Hall for only \$2/year!

NEW CITY PLANNER SARA sent a congratulatory letter to the new city planner, Jennifer Keesmat, with whom we have dealt in past on a number of development issues including the Bloor West Village Urban Design Study.

SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON –SARA, along with our partner organizations (the Royal Canadian Legion, Swansea Branch 46, and the Swansea Town Hall), participated in our neighbourhood cheering section on Lakeshore Blvd. near Sunnyside Pavilion on Oct 14. Early rain showers did not dampen the enthusiasm of the cheering group, who were much appreciated by all the runners and walkers!

2500/2490 BLOOR STREET WEST (HUMBERSIDE MOTORS) – We are monitoring the ongoing development of these sites.

SARA FUNDRAISER NOV 2012 AT THE VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE

Tickets are now available for SARA's annual fundraiser: the preview night of the Village Playhouse production of "Dangerous Obsession" by N.J. Crisp. To be held on Thursday Nov 8, 2012, with tickets at \$16 available from any SARA Executive member. 416-769-1891.

CORRA – SARA continues to participate at CORRA, with the current items of concern being zoning by-laws and heritage policies (and the 5 year review of the Official Plan).

WEST END RATEPAYER GROUPS

The west end ratepayer groups are investigating designating areas within Bloor West and Swansea as heritage conservation districts. The Councillor is supportive of the initiative; however the process is a long one which requires agreement from several groups. Anyone willing to help or who has expertise please contact us at <http://www.swansearatepayers.ca>.

ZONING BY-LAW HARMONIZATION / OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

The new draft City wide zoning bylaw was released June 18. Public consultations continue and SARA is involved. SARA sent in a letter of concern over the conversion of R1S to Ru2 zoning designation. The Official Plan five year review is in progress and SARA is monitoring.

SWANSEA MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – Please continue to visit our Library! With our support, the usage of the Library keeps growing; this only helps to protect this community resource. Spread the word; there are children's programs and you can order your books for convenient pick up at our branch.

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.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT/ PLANNING MATTERS – SARA continues to monitor all minor variance applications in Swansea which go before the Committee of Adjustment. This is to ensure their appropriateness and desirability for the neighbourhood and community. Below are some recent applications of interest:

96 Durie – This application for a covered front porch, front balcony, rear deck, increased 1st fl height, and a 1 storey rear addition, plus a complete 2nd storey addition over existing and new rear addition was approved at Committee of Adjustment and appealed by a neighbour to the OMB Jul 24. The appeal was denied, and the application granted.

223 Riverside Drive – The application was modified somewhat to alleviate concerns of the adjacent neighbour. The development is proceeding.

154 Windermere – scheduled to be heard at OMB for Oct 24, this matter has been adjourned for settlement discussions between the City and the applicant.

24 Kennedy: An addition was approved by C of A at 0.83 GFA in a 0.6 zone. No appeal was undertaken, to SARA's knowledge.

89 Runnymede: Approved, with landscaped open space at 4.7% in a 30% zone.

21 Dacre This application is to be heard Nov 1. SARA heard from the adjacent neighbours who are concerned with the mature trees which will be sacrificed to the construction. The new dwelling is to incorporate a below grade garage, among many other variances, for GFA, setback, etc.

2 Brule Terrace – This application will be heard Nov 1. It is for an addition triggering primarily setback variances and a small GFA allowance. SARA is investigating.

22 Dacre – This application will be heard Nov 1. The new dwelling is to incorporate a below grade garage, which is not permitted. SARA is investigating.

1990, and 2114-30, Bloor Street West

Northdrive Investments is the developer for both of these properties. 1990 Bloor (Parkview Gardens) is planned at 12 stories and 131 units, while 2114-30 Bloor is slated for 10 stories and 110 units. There were two separate public consultations in June over these proposals, however it appear the applicant will proceed to OMB for 1990, even before a decision has been made on the application. It is believed neither the Councillor nor City staff is supportive.

SOUTHPORT PLAZA

SARA has been working with the South Kingsway Neighbourhood Committee. The development application was passed at Etobicoke York community council on Oct 10 with the support of our local Councillor. The application is for 558 units in two towers or 26 and 29 stories, with 2,203 sq. metres of commercial space (shops and offices), and 16 three story townhouses incorporating live/work space. Issues of height, density and traffic remain, along with the adequacy of the bylaw. SARA is concerned, and has supported the surrounding community in its opposition to the proposal.

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

SARA 2012 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

