



The SLNA Messenger

News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

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The recent festivities marking the **Silver-Anniversary of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood**, a residential community built on landfill south of Front Street in the 1970s, will be long remembered. Organized around the theme: **Celebrating our Past, Greening our Future**, the Silver & Green Gala on September 16 and the Community Festival on September 17 also encouraged us all to look back even further, to the beginnings of historic Old Town Toronto, as well as

forward to a future St. Lawrence transformed into a model 21st century sustainable community.

Hard work by many volunteers and the active support of several neighbourhood businesses—contributions too numerous to acknowledge individually—made the 25th anniversary celebrations a success. Several **major sponsors** deserve special recognition, however. In the lead as Platinum donors (\$7,500+) were the **Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC)** and **SAS Institute (Canada) Inc.** In addition to its cash donation, the TCHC supplied tables, chairs, BBQs and propane tanks for the Community Festival.

The two Gold sponsors (\$5,000+) were an **Anonymous** donor and **Loblaws–NoFrills–Valu-Mart–Real Canadian Superstore**. Silver sponsors (\$2,500+)

included the **Kiwanis Club of Toronto Foundation** (\$4,000 for the Kiwanis Kids Corner at the Festival); **El Dorado Rum** (\$2,500, including free samples of its rum at the Gala); the **St. Lawrence Market** (rent-free use of the St. Lawrence Hall for the Gala and printing of the banners advertising the festival) and **Rainbow Cinemas** which, among other things, gave us free promotion on its screens, \$600 towards the cost of the Festival Program and complimentary movie passes, including a one-year V.I.P. pass for two worth over \$1,000!

The net proceeds from the sponsorships, Silent Auction and other donations will go to support neighbourhood projects through the SLNA's new **Community Fund**. The process for applying to the Community Fund will be announced shortly.



smartliving
ST. LAWRENCE

Launched at the St. Lawrence Community Festival on September 17, **smartliving St. Lawrence** (sSL) is an exciting collaboration between the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) and Eneract, a registered charity that delivers innovative solutions to environmental problems and works with communities to develop a sustainable future.

The main goals of **smartliving St. Lawrence** are to create a healthier environment in this community by fostering a conservation culture, and to work with residents and businesses to further strengthen the economy of this unique neighbourhood.

Currently, we're working with community members to develop organic gardens, both in public spaces and on private balconies.

In collaboration with the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre we are also developing environmental workshops and nutrition programs. Local businesses will be asked to participate in a progressive energy conservation program geared towards saving money and lowering their impact on the environment.

As the project grows, we'll also be focusing on energy retrofits for residential buildings and a large-scale renewable energy installation in the community. In addition, we will work with the SLNA as it continues its ongoing efforts to ensure that new building in St. Lawrence benefits the community as much as the developers.

smartliving St. Lawrence is asking the tenants, homeowners, teachers, students and businesses in the neighbourhood to

cooperate in energy conservation programs and enhancements to local green spaces. We invite you to help us ensure the continued vibrancy of this community through increased volunteerism and healthy lifestyles. We encourage you to maintain a strong, local economy by supporting neighbourhood businesses.

Please visit our website at www.smartliving.ca to find out more about the program and how you can get involved.

Let's ensure that the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood remains a model community for future generations.

Welcome to **smartliving St. Lawrence**.

Welcome to a greener future!

Ben Marans, sSL Coordinator

Volunteerism Honoured at the Gala

Volunteer Recognition has always been an important feature of the Gala. This year's volunteer award recipients were introduced by Edward Nixon on behalf of a jury made up of former award winners. The **Volunteer Recognition Award** was given to **Maggie Fraser** for her work on behalf of Toronto Dollar, a St. Lawrence initiative; to **Dawn Murray**, co-ordinator of this year's Festival, who has been an active volunteer in many facets of community life, including the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre's Advisory Board, the Market Lane Public School Parent Council and Windmill Line Co-op; and to **Connie Yang**, who was the energy and inspiration behind our first ever St. Lawrence Canada Day celebrations.

Winner of the **Special Recognition Award** was **Bill Geelen** who has served the St. James Cathedral's Drop-in for the

last 12 years, helping it to grow from a modest soup kitchen on the West Porch to a multi-faceted program that serves around 200 guests every week. The



SLNA Award of Merit went to **Georgette Harris** who founded the Gala in 2001, organized it until 2004 and served for a time as the SLNA's Vice President Internal; and to **Nancy Sheppard**, co-chair of this year's Gala and president of

St. Lawrence Works. Nancy has served the SLNA as treasurer, secretary and president and has been there whenever the SLNA or the community needed her.

The final **Citizen of Old Town Toronto** award went to **Michael Cruickshank** (left). Michael, Treasurer of the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area (BIA) has proved himself a tireless advocate for good development that respects the character and heritage of this area. By action and example he has demonstrated that preserving the historic heart of our City is not only right but also makes economic sense.

The volunteers honoured this year were following in the footsteps of many others who have worked together over the past quarter century to create the friendly, healthy and vibrant St. Lawrence community of today.

Community Festival Opens with a Flourish!

The Hon. **David Crombie**, patron of the 2005 Community Festival, cuts the 25th anniversary cake after the opening ceremonies on Saturday September 17. Looking on (left to right) *Front row: Judy Goldie, Ronny Yaron, Councillor Pam McConnell, Dawn Murray.* *Back row, SLNA president Cam Miller and The Hon. George Smitherman, MPP for Toronto Centre-Rosedale.*



On the Development Front

Many of us were deeply disappointed when the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) gave the go-ahead recently to a mammoth condo development proposed for **40 The Esplanade**. Although the OMB rejected the SLNA position in opposition to the construction of two excessively high towers on this site, kudos goes to our chairman Cam Miller and to the BIA's Michael Cruickshank for the yeoman work they did in presenting our case. Essentially, the OMB accepted the City's view that significant changes must be made by the developer in order to win planning approval. Among other things, the proposed above-ground parking structure must be reduced in size and placed underground, the height of the taller tower has been cut back to match that of 25 The Esplanade, and the more easterly tower has been reduced from 16 to 15

stories. This last decision will establish a precedent for other developments now under consideration by the City's Planning Department, notably 70 The Esplanade and the former Goodwill site at Adelaide and Jarvis.

Some good news: The **Toronto Urban Design Guidelines for the St. Lawrence Focused Area** now have official status. Representatives from the SLNA played a prominent part in formulating these guidelines, meant to help staff and developers find appropriate ways to fit new development into our neighbourhood.

Following on from this, on September 1 the Toronto Preservation Board agreed to a proposal from Heritage Preservation Services for a study that will explore the feasibility of setting up a **Heritage Conservation District** (HDC) in St. Lawrence. The boundaries for phase one of the study are roughly concurrent with the area covered by the Design Guidelines, although we were able to convince the

Preservation Board to expand the area to include all of St. James Park. The HDC study will require active community participation for both fund raising and assembling information.

A final piece of good news is that **King George Properties** has begun restoring the commercial heritage structure formerly occupied by Arts on King. A large banner reads "Proudly Restoring Old Towne." Hopefully some of their neighbours on King will take notice! A City Hall initiative just might give some of them a needed nudge—the City has approved a budget for a program that will put up 50% of the cost of restoring heritage storefronts. Storeowners can get the details by contacting Pam McConnell's office.