

## SLNA DELEGATES MEETING April 26, 2006

### Executive Members in Attendance:

President and Chair: Paul Smith, St. Lawrence on the Park V

V.P. Internal: Diane Hollingsworth, Windmill Line Co-op

V.P. External: Frank Burns, Longboat Residents Association

Secretary: Joan Campbell, Market Square V

Treasurer: Bruno Leps, Market Square, V

At Large: Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

At Large: Ronny Yaron, Woodsworth Co-op

### In Attendance:

Randy Bath, Crombie Park V

Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op V

Cherril Baker, David B. Archer Co-Op V

Elisabeth Ecker, St Lawrence on the Park V

Terry Eitel, Old York Tower V

Norman Hart, P.A.L. V

Stig Horvour , La Place Saint-Laurent V

Aurie Hensman, 160 Frederick St. V

Ewa Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op V

Catherine Limbertie, One Church Street V

Marcus Little, The Wellington V

Frank McLean, Twenty Five The Esplanade V

George Millbrandt, Longboat Residents Assoc. V

Cam Miller, King George Square V

Ron Monteith, Woodsworth Co-op V

Dan O'Leary, Fifteen Scadding TCHC V

Annalee Orr, David B. Archer Co-op V

David Sangraille, La Place Saint-Laurent V

Catherine West, One Church Street V

Ruth Williams, One Church Street V

### With Regrets:

Samantha Hewit

At Large: Wally Simpson, Crombie Park V

### Guests:

Bob Kemp, Chair of the Community Police Liaison  
Sgt. Dan McDermott., 51 Division Superintendent

Sandie De Freitas, COMMFFEST, c/o PAL

Ben Marans, smartliving St. Lawrence

Tom Davidson, Councillor McConnell's Office

Blake Webb, MPP George Smitherman's Office

Ann Turner, St. Lawrence Seniors Club

Jean Horn, St. Lawrence Seniors Club

Sean Meagher, Public Interest/TCHC

Claire McAdams, One Church Street

Anita McMaster, Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood

Pam Warrington, St. Lawrence Community Centre

Tricia Green, St. Lawrence Co-op Day Care

Channa Verbian, 311 Richmond St. E.

Arlyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

### ACRONYMS:

BIA: Business Improvement Area

CMHC: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

CPLC: Community Police Liaison Committee

HRSDC: Human Resources and Skills Development

LEEDS: Leading Environmental and Energy Design

OMB: Ontario Municipal Board

PSB: Police Services Board

SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre

SLSL: smartliving St. Lawrence

TIACAC: Toronto Island Airport Community Advisory

TCHC: Toronto Community Housing Corporation

V = Voting Delegate, N = Non-Voting Delegate, TWRC: Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Committee  
G = Guest

### 1. Registration and Refreshments

### 2. Welcome by President Paul Smith and Approval of the Agenda

Paul Smith called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and welcomed everyone. He introduced himself as President and he chaired the meeting. He suggested that rather than conducting a round table of introductions at future meetings, several Delegates might give brief presentations on their buildings.

*Motion: to approve the Agenda as presented.*

*Moved by: Barbara Bell*

*Seconded by: Cherril Baker*

**CARRIED**

### 3. Introduction of Members of the 2006 Executive

Paul Smith introduced the new Executive, elected at the April 2006 AGM, noting that Diane Hollingsworth has been appointed the new VP-Internal. Diane Hollingsworth asked Delegates to pick up her business card before the end of tonight's meeting,

and schedule a meeting with her at their buildings. She will bring evaluation forms to the next Delegates meeting, so that Delegates can propose items for future agendas and can comment on how meetings are conducted.

### 4. Approval of February 22, 2006 Minutes

Paul Smith noted that the March Delegates meeting was combined with the AGM so minutes for that meeting cannot be approved until the next AGM.

Amendments to the minutes of February 22:

- Page 7, #11d: Funding for Senior Centre, last paragraph: Replace the second and last sentences with "Dorothy Creaser has organized a seniors' centre within the SLCRC. The room is shared with youth, but seniors have first access to it, Mon-Fri from 8:30-4:00 and have furnished it. It is currently being used mainly on

Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 based on demand. An organization is donating a library for the new seniors' centre once the centre is up."

- move Frank Burns from "With Regrets" to "In Attendance."

## 5. Update from 51 Division

At Paul Smith's request, Bob Kemp, Chair of the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) introduced Sergeant Dan McDermott. Paul noted that the SLNA Executive are considering asking the police to give the same presentation of their new mandate at the May Delegates meeting that they had given at a recent CPLC meeting.

Sergeant Dan McDermott reported that Chief Blair has increased staff and equipment at 51 Division, to provide more police presence in the community. Another ten new officers will be arriving in May. Each area of 51 Division has a contact officer assigned. The SLN can contact Sergeant McDermott at his direct line, (416) 808-5119.

High priority crime in the SLN includes auto break-ins and thefts, panhandlers, two commercial break-and-enters on Yonge Street, and issues with drugs sold at the SLCRC. Officers are investigating.

Barbara Bell, who attended the CPLC meeting Monday night, pointed out that there are drug problems at the library and on Scadding Avenue, and that some staff at the SLCRC are reportedly not being co-operative with police. Diane Hollingsworth, who works at the SLCRC, responded that the police are meeting with staff members, to work as a team to address drug dealing. She added that because the drug dealers know they have been tracked into the

***Motion: to approve the February 22, 2006 minutes as amended.***

***Moved by: Cherril Baker***

***Seconded by: Terry Eitel***

***CARRIED***

SLCRC they have moved out of the community, at least for now. Ron Monteith added that the SLCRC Advisory Committee will discuss the matter next week. Delegates discussed withholding the SLNA's donation to the SLCRC, but decided that that would adversely affect children's sports rather than the non-cooperative staff or drug dealers.

***Motion: that we do not withhold funds from the Community Centre.***

***Moved by: Cherril Baker***

***Seconded by: Diane Hollingsworth***

***CARRIED***

In response to Elizabeth Ecker, Sergeant McDermott stated that he does not know whether the police have solved the car shooting on Scadding Avenue or the pedestrian shootings on George Street.

Sergeant McDermott told Delegates that if they see any suspicious activity, call the police. Community members are the police's eyes and ears. Call 911 for an emergency, call (416) 808-2222 for suspicious behaviour, and call Sergeant McDermott directly at (416) 808-5119 for ongoing problems such as vagrants. He can have a patrol car regularly patrol the area.

Catherine Limbertie suggested inviting the head person from SLCRC to the SLNA to speak to the concerns about drug dealing at

the SLCRA and SLCRA staff not co-operating with police.

Paul Smith thanked Sergeant Dan McDermott for his presentation. Sergeant McDermott left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

## 6. City Update from Pam McConnell's Office (Councillor) — Tom Davidson

Paul Smith welcomed Tom Davidson. Tom described how his role in the City Councillor's office interacts with the SLNA, on three levels:

1) helping people with basic services that the City should provide to everyone. Tom is currently looking into noisy garbage pickup near the Wellington Condominium, a petition for traffic calming in the laneway behind Market Lane School, burned out street lights (referred to Toronto Hydro who are responsible for street lights), replacement of garbage bins on Front Street in a style approved by the BIA, graffiti at the basketball court in David Crombie Park and THCSC, and a better system for fining developers who cause construction noise outside of permitted hours.

2) helping the community with bigger picture matters, such as

a) development issues. The SLNA has a sophisticated Development Committee that is looking into how to shape change in the neighbourhood and preserve the best parts, particularly heritage. In instances of full rezoning, where the developer wants height or density beyond what is allowed, there is a lot of opportunity for community input. Councillor McConnell's office is looking into making sure that big scale development is not allowed a streamlined process through the Committee of Adjustments.

b) larger community improvement projects. The City is cleaning up, painting

and lighting the underpasses on Jarvis and Sherbourne, as their disrepair was making them a security problem. The City plans to make the underpasses into more friendly gateways, through a mural project by a local artist with a local theme based on the Market or waterfront. The City facilitates major events such as Buskerfest and Woofstock, making them less disruptive to the neighbourhood while still successful as colourful events.

3) handling high level policy matters. Councillor McConnell's office is engaged in committee work and Pam McConnell is on the Police Services Board and oversees items approved at City Council. Projects include encouraging developers to consult with the community from the start rather than in later stages of developments, having developers distribute notices to all residents in and not just to the management office of large buildings, re-examining the mandate of the Committee of Adjustments, and developing a sign/postering by-law to differentiate commercial posters from community posters.

Councillor Pam McConnell's Environment Day will take place on Thursday, May 4, in Lower Sherbourne Park, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm.

Paul Smith thanked Tom Davidson for his report.

## 7. Provincial Update from George Smitherman's Office (MPP) — Blake Webb

Paul Smith welcomed Blake Webb. Blake introduced himself as having at one time worked at Councillor McConnell's office. He reported that he is taking over from Kaarlo Hiiback as Co-ordinator of Community Outreach, and that this is his first week. Cheryl Penman is the new Director of George Smitherman's Community Office. Blake acknowledged problems with consistency of community staffing.

Aurie Hensman asked Blake to give an update at the May Delegates meeting on the progress of a task force (that reports to George Smitherman) to investigate methadone clinics in the province.

Paul Smith will review past minutes of Delegates meetings with Blake so that Blake can follow-up on questions by

Delegates for which no answers have yet been provided. Blake can email responses to Paul.

Ron Monteith asked that George Smitherman's office send an updated list of staff to the SLNA whenever there is a new change, for distribution to Delegates.

In response to Joan Campbell, Blake reported that the website will soon be back online.

Blake stated that he will try to make sure that a representative from George Smitherman's office attends every Delegates meeting.

Paul Smith thanked Blake Webb for his report.

## 8. Federal Update from Bill Graham's Office (MP)

No representative was present.

## 9. Development — Frank Burns

Frank Burns reported:

**288 King East:** A failure. This development is unique in its massiveness on the site. The Committee of Adjustment was not responsive to the SLNA's appeal. There is a slight possibility for a bit of change at the site plan review stage.

**275 King East:** A triumph. The SLNA's Development Committee appeared before the Committee of Adjustment, and its argument swayed the vote 4-1. Frank noted, "You can't bank on that precedent, but it did impress the Planning Department."

**Goodwill Site:** Another success. At a recent Open House Paul Smith and Cam Miller had a chance to say a few words.

Cam reiterated once again the importance of LEEDS criteria for buildings in the neighbourhood.

**Gross Machinery Site:** Developers want to build a Shoppers Drug Mart on the site, currently a parking lot on Jarvis south of The Esplanade. There is a vague possibility that if The SLNA defeats them at the Committee of Adjustment they might be willing to talk about a more urban solution.

**North Market:** A traffic study is being circulated amongst City staff. Construction might begin soon.

**Five Corners:** A success. The development, on the west side of Church

Street between Front and The Esplanade, has been reduced from 32 storeys to 11, and is now spread out in a SLN style. Delegates applauded.

#### **10. Canada Day — Connie Yang**

Connie Yang reported on the upcoming Canada Day Celebration. Paul Smith explained that Connie has been grandmothering this project for about eight years, and that this year's event will be even bigger and better.

Connie invited Delegates to attend the celebration on July 1. There will be a Picnic at Berczy Park (west side of the Flatiron building) with live entertainment and a DJ, and possibly a parade. If there is a parade, it will start at 10:30 am. The picnic will start at 12:30.

There is a meeting every week on the Community Improvement Plan, and a public meeting will probably be scheduled for late spring.

Connie explained that it is important to celebrate Canada Day every year to bring a patriotic spirit to the young, to new immigrants and to new Canadians, to integrate them into our society, to proclaim that "this city and this country are ours."

Connie distributed a sheet for volunteers to sign up.

Paul Smith added that the SLNA has applied for a federal government grant from the Heritage Department for this project. Results will be known at the end of May or beginning of June.

#### **11. St. Lawrence Neighbourhood and Regent Park — Sean Meagher of *PublicInterest***

Paul Smith welcomed Sean Meagher. Sean explained that Regent Park is undergoing redevelopment, and that its 2,000 subsidized rent-geared-to-income (RGI) units will be torn down and replaced in the next 12 years or so with 2,000+ RGI units and an additional 3,500 market units (condos, rental apartments, and possibly co-ops).

PublicInterest was hired to interview members of successful mixed income communities so that the new social dynamic of Regent Park will be as successful. Sean noted that SLN is particularly renowned as a successful mixed income community. He is seeking volunteers for 15 minute interviews next week or the following week. The attendance list was re-circulated so that people could state if they were interested in participating.

In response to Ronny Yaron, Sean explained that RGI people currently living in Regent Park whose buildings are being demolished are being relocated to other RGI units of their choice in the city, and have a right to return to Regent Park into new units.

In response to Joan Campbell, Sean explained that PublicInterest does public policy development and community development work in Toronto. It works in neighbourhoods facing distress and helps residents develop strategies to make their neighbourhood work better. PublicInterest is technically a for-profit organization but it spends all its profits coming up with new projects!

In response to Ron Monteith, Sean said the plan is to mix the housing so that there is both RGI and market housing in every block and every building. He explained that residents want a “granularity of mix.”

Sean added that one apartment tower near the skating rink was declared a heritage building, so will stay. All the other buildings are coming down.

Cherril Baker asked the purpose/results of a focus group on Regent Park held at the SLCRC two years ago. Sean explained that that focus group had discussed plans to shape the neighbourhood, and that this discussion now pertains to the social plan.

Paul Smith thanked Sean Meagher for his report. Delegates applauded.

## 12. Community Fund — Ronny Yaron and 2006 Grant Recipients

Ronny Yaron brought cheques for presentation to recipients of grants from the SLNA’s 2006 Community Fund. She invited representatives to speak from all five organizations that are receiving grants:

### **Seniors Club**

Jean Horn explained that the Seniors’ Club, located at the SLCRC, was once called Synergetic Adults. Recent club events include dancing, games, professional storytellers, a foot specialist, stories of concentration camp life and stories from other areas of the world, investment specialists, even an undertaker to explain “the best deal.” Dorothy Creaser was formerly co-ordinator of the group. Now the seniors are running the Club as a team. Jean received the cheque with thanks. “We won’t do something wild with it,” she said. “We hope to plan an educational and recreational bus tour beyond the borders of the SLN.”

### **CommFest: Community Film Festival**

Sandie de Freitas thanked the SLNA for its support of CommFest’s educational program. CommFest’s mandate is to bring communities together using the powerful language of film. Last year CommFest took place at PAL in September. This year local businesses will offer free screening of films, including the Golden Griddle and

Rainbow Cinema. The festival will take place Sept 28-Oct 1. CommFest includes a Youth Education Program. Seven teens 15-19 years old and still in high school will learn filmmaking from the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto. They will make 3-4 minute films that will be screened at the festival. The teens will also participate as volunteers at the festival. Sandie explained that it is very difficult to gain access into filmmaking unless a person has some credits. This will open the door for the teens. A representative from CommFest sponsor LIFT then spoke. LIFT is an independent film co-op with 600 active members, located at King/Dufferin.

### **St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (SLCRC) Summer Sports League**

Soccer coach Pam Warrington spoke. Every year the SLNA sponsors the SLCRC’s summer sports league. It is one of the last community-based sports leagues in Toronto and is run by about 200 volunteers. Pam passed around photos from last year’s event. She introduced a coach and a child from this year’s event, who sported uniforms purchased with funding from the SLNA. The program has in the past registered 600 children from ages 3-12 at \$35 each for a 14-week program. “Without this grant money we couldn’t run this program,” Pam said. The sports take

place at the end of Parliament Park, just past Berkeley Square. The coach present asked Delegates to pass the word that dog walkers not use the park area allocated to the sports program, for hygienic reasons.

### **St. Lawrence Co-operative Daycare (SLCD)**

Tricia Green, a member of the Board of Directors, thanked the SLNA for the grant. She explained that the Daycare has three sites in the neighbourhood, for infants and toddlers 0-2 ½, for preschoolers 2-4, and for children 4-10. The grant will fund a Parenting Resources Workshop conducted in partnership with the Gerrard Resource Centre.

The SLCD operates in partnership with Circles of Support (CoC). Chair Mel Shipman explained that CoC's mandate is to strengthen the social support system for young families in the SLN. When CoC asked the SLCD how it might be of support, the SLCD said "We do a terrific job with our kids, we do very little with the parents." CoC decided to strengthen the linkage between the experiences the children have during their time at the daycare centre and their experiences within their own family. CoC found an expert in parenting skills to give 8-10 sessions in the fall. Children will have activities in the daycare while parents attend workshops,

### **13. Other Business**

a) Ben Marans, smartliving St. Lawrence Update

Ben Marans introduced himself as Project Co-ordinator for smartliving St. Lawrence (SLSL), a program co-sponsored by the SLNA and EnerAct, an environmental sustainability program.

food provided. They hope this pioneer program can be extended to other communities in years to come.

### **Homework Club at 1 Church Street**

Ruth Williams introduced Claire McAdams. Both are mothers in residence at 1 Church Street. Ruth applied for a grant to support a homework club begun by Claire, which has grown into the St. Lawrence Intergenerational Focus Group. The group is a homework club and more. Claire does a tremendous job of organizing activities for children. They put on a show for Black History Month. A Mother's Day Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, May 14, with entertainment by children. Kids' natural talents are fostered: opera singing, dance, poetry reading, musical instruments, etc. Claire has learned that if children perform, parents will show up! Ruth and Claire introduced two children, who performed, Leroy on the trombone, and then Claire's daughter Aisha on a drum.

Ronny Yaron closed these ceremonies by saying that our neighbourhood is all the richer for supporting these community groups. Money given was raised from the Festival and Gala last year. Paul Smith added that these groups will produce success stories that will enable the SLNA's new Finance Committee to generate more fundraising.

SLSL fosters three principles: a healthy community, a green community, and an economically vibrant community. To that end, SLSL works with local residents, tenants, and community organizations to do a variety of grassroots programs in the neighborhood.

Activities include:



- a resource guide to be delivered to all 63 condos, co-ops and social housing units in the neighbourhood, describing how to have a greener building and how to save energy
- meetings with residential Boards to discuss ways to lower energy bills
- working with the SLCRC on:
  - 1) a career mentorship program to help kids with resume writing and interview skills, encouraging professionals to speak to kids and teach them what it is like to have a particular career
  - 2) a Seniors Club's walking tour, in May sponsoring a historical tour of neighbourhood, and in June a tree tour to learn about green spaces in the community
  - 3) a proposal for renewable energy installation, equipment on the SLCRC's rooftop that will use solar-thermal energy to heat the pool
- working with businesses in the neighbourhood, including the St. Lawrence Market Tenants Association and BIA. Offering the program Cool Shops, where an expert teaches businesses how to save money by lowering energy bills.
- promoting car sharing in the community through a deal negotiated with AutoShare. Anyone interested in signing up can get a 50% discount off membership. There are four cars available in the SLN.
- Bike Week: people are invited to bring their bikes in to the SLCRC for a hands-on bike maintenance workshop.

Ben explained that SLSL wants to get its programs out to the community through SLNA's listserv, and give community members an opportunity to learn, help out, and participate. SLSL wants to be a resource hub for community volunteer opportunities. Volunteers are encouraged to join. A newsletter is available through the SLNA's website. Further information is available at [www.smartliving.ca](http://www.smartliving.ca).

SLSL is funded by the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and Trillium Fund for up to three years, renewable. The program hopes to work here long-term and expand to Regent Park and the waterfront.

Paul Smith thanked Ben Marans for his presentation. Delegates applauded

b) SAS Building on King Street  
Paul Smith reported that the SAS Building has donated \$45,000 to upgrade Crombie Park and Parliament Street Park.

c) Jane Jacobs  
Catherine Limbertie, attending her first meeting as a Delegate, asked that Delegates pause for a moment to acknowledge Jane Jacobs, a founder of this neighbourhood, who recently passed away. Catherine asked that Delegates acknowledge "all she has done that makes all that we do now so vibrant." Delegates applauded.

## 14. Adjournment

Paul Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm.

The SLNA acknowledges the St. Lawrence Market Complex for sponsoring this evening's refreshments, and OWN Co-op for hosting tonight's meeting.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at 7:00 pm.

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**Joan Campbell, Corporate Secretary**

**Paul Smith, President**