

**SLNA DELEGATES MEETING**  
**November 30, 2005**  
**OWN CO-OP, 115 The Esplanade**

**Executive Members in Attendance:**

President: Cam Miller, King George Square V  
V.P. Internal: Ronny Yaron, Woodsworth Co-op V  
V.P. External: Frank Burns, Longboat Residents Association, V  
Treasurer: Paul Smith, St Lawrence on the Park, V  
At Large: Joan Campbell, Market Square V  
At Large: Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

**In Attendance:**

Leo Agosto, Marketview Co-op V  
Sherill Baker, David B. Archer V  
Randy Bath, 15 Scadding V  
Patricia Bear Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op V  
Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op V  
Lynn Cooper, OWN V  
Terry Eitel, OYT V  
Ana Harriott, Market Square V  
Stig Harvor, La Place St. Laurent V  
Aurie Hensman, 160 Frederick St.V  
Marcus Little, The Wellington V  
Frank McLean, Twenty Five The Esplanade V  
Susan McLeod, Market Square V  
George Millbrandt, Longboat Residents  
Assoc. V  
Ron Monteith, Woodsworth Co-op V  
Cynthia Nevins, Windmill Line Co-op V  
Dan O'Leary, 15 Scadding V  
Anna Lee Orr, David B. Archer Co-op V  
Sherri Russell, F.A.N. V  
Karen Serwonka, David B. Archer V  
Sandra Walker, Windmill Line Co-op V  
Judith Willmott, The Bentley V

Arlyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

Erwin Jimenez, St Lawrence Resident, G

Frank Clarke, Bill Graham's Office

Shawn Bassin, George Smitherman's Office  
Sukhpaul Tut, George Smitherman's Office

**With Regrets:**

Alice Briesmaster, New Times Square 2 V  
Samantha Hewit, Space Condos V  
Ewa Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op V  
Loralie Olinyk, Harmony Co-op V

**ACRONYMS:**

BIA: Business Improvement Area  
CMHC: Canadian Mortgage and Housing  
Corporation  
CPLC: Community Police Liaison  
Committee  
HRSDC: Human Resources and Skills  
Development Canada  
OMB: Ontario Municipal Board  
PSB: Police Services Board

Michelle Buckley, Councillor McConnell's Office

James Honeyman, St Lawrence CRC

Randal Monroe, Superintendent 51 Division

Troy Ford, Park Ambassador

Bob Kemp, 51 Division CPCL

Edward Nixon, St Lawrence Neighbourhood Resident

Tim Rourke, 15 Scadding G

Sandie De Freitas, PAL

Michael Shapcott, NDP Candidate, Toronto Centre

SLCRA: St. Lawrence Condo Ratepayers Association

SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre

TIACAC: Toronto Island Airport Community Advisory Committee

TCHC: Toronto Community Housing Corporation

TWRC: Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Committee

### **1. Welcome & Round Robin**

Cam Miller called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. He introduced himself as President and he chaired the meeting. A round table of introductions was conducted. An attendance sheet was passed around.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair made the following amendments:

- insert new item #5 "Comings and Goings" before the Safety Presentation
- insert new item #9 "New Business" before Adjournment for announcements

*Motion: to approve the Agenda as amended.*

*Moved by: Aurie Hensman*

*Seconded by: Patricia Bearclaw*

**CARRIED**

### **3. Approval of September 28, 2005 Minutes**

Cam Miller pointed out that the agenda heading should read "Approval of October 26, 2005 Minutes."

*Motion: to approve the October 26, 2005 minutes as presented.*

*Moved by: Joan Campbell*

*Seconded by: Frank Touby*

**CARRIED**

### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Stig Harvour asked for a response from George Smitherman's office for two items on page 6 of September's minutes. Sukhpaul Tut announced that he is replacing Shawn Bassin as George Smitherman's representative at SLNA meetings. He will email to the SLNA his findings on the two matters: a summary of recommendations for reform of the Ontario Municipal Board produced by the Housing Ministry and an update on the Toronto Port Authority in light of recent developments. Frank Clarke stated that he has taken back to Bill Graham's Office concerns expressed by community members at a meeting last week for plans to expand the Toronto Island Airport to increase capacity from 30,000 to 600,000 passengers by 2011.

## **5. "Comings and Goings"**

The Chair announced the following:

- Joan Campbell has resigned editorship of the newsletter, having served for three years. Cam Miller asked Delegates for a successor, in time to publish the next newsletter by the end of February. Delegates applauded Joan for her contribution.
- The Executive Committee has appointed Connie Yang as Chair of the Executive Citizens' Steering Committee.
- The Executive Committee has asked Frank Burns to rejoin the Executive as interim VP-Internal until the March 2006 elections.
- Cam Miller announced with regrets that Michelle Buckley is moving on and will no longer represent Councillor Pam McConnell's office at SLNA meetings: "Michelle has proved a charming and effective person, a delight to deal with—all of us echo those comments—a terrific resource for us." Delegates applauded, and Cam presented Michelle with a bouquet. Michelle responded: "You guys work, you really do. It's such a pleasure to see how a functional proactive group works. I'll miss you so much."

## **6. Safety Presentation — Barbara Bell**

### **Crime & Safety Focus: Putting the SLNA to Work**

#### **1. Introduction – Barbara Bell, Moderator**

Barbara Bell reviewed the goals of this session:

- 1) To review criminal activity in the SLN and prioritize our needs as a community
- 2) To tailor the SLNA's relationship with 51 Division to focus specifically on the SLN
- 3) To determine how the SLNA can effect changes in Canada's Criminal Code

Barbara Bell asked Delegates to fill in Crime & Safety Surveys and return them to her via the SLNA.

#### **2. 51 Division TPS – Superintendent Randal Monroe**

Barbara Bell welcomed Superintendent Randal Monroe of 51 Division. He referred Delegates to a series of maps of recent SLN crime statistics, from which Regent Park statistics have been removed to make the data more meaningful to this neighbourhood.

Superintendent Monroe explained that until recently the police were operating on an antiquated system, a 60/40 staffing model based almost wholly on police responses by car to radio calls (60% response to radio calls versus 40% proactive patrols). Downtown Toronto is very pedestrian, with a lot of tourists; more officers on foot patrol and bike patrol are appropriate. In the suburbs all calls have to be answered by car. As a result, officers were constantly reallocated from downtown to the suburbs.

Under the new system, staff allocation is determined by demographics provided by Statistics Canada. Per capita, 51 Division has the highest number of arrests in the city and now we'll be rewarded for that with improved staffing. 51 Division makes more drug and prostitution arrests than any other Division in the city, about 30% of the total citywide. That is now being factored in too.

Superintendent Monroe reported on a scheduled infusion of new officers into 51 Division. "By the end of next year we will have an extra 48 officers in 51 Division." Delegates applauded. For the most part the new officers will be not supervisors or investigators but officers involved in direct community policing. In April 2006 two officers will be assigned specifically to the SLN, a labour-intensive service which has not been possible before now due to lack of staff. They will provide the continuity needed in the community. They will get to know the neighbourhood well and work with community members on a concerted plan to deal with larger problems. Officers will be carefully selected, not rookies who do not have on-street experience. In addition to these foot patrol police, there will continue to be bicycle patrols. When the assigned officers are not on duty, the ongoing concerns and initiatives will be addressed by a larger corp of officers on duty, "without being a slave to the radio." This model is more proactive, not based on crisis intervention but on problem solving.

Insofar as the SLNA's participation in neighbourhood safety and security, Superintendent Monroe recommended staying with the current model, the CPLC, by which members of the community meet regularly with members of 51 Division and other affected parties to address concerns. "That model is starting to bear some real tangible results." Secondly, he suggested that "It might be appropriate to get some of my principles who involved in crime prevention to talk about areas of concern" at meetings of community groups.

Superintendent Monroe explained that drugs, particularly crack cocaine, drives a lot of the crime in downtown Toronto. Dealing with addicts by arresting them is not viable. 51 Division has a team of professionals including a specially trained officer and a psychiatric nurse from St. Michael's Hospital to intervene directly in crisis situations with people in public areas who under the influence of drugs.

Barbara Bell thanked Superintendent Monroe for his presentation.

### **3. CPLC – Aurie Hensman**

Aurie Hensman, SLNA representative at CPLC meetings, explained that representatives from 33 associations meet at CPLC meetings, so that individual representatives have little time for input. Drugs are a major concern for all the groups. Councillor Kyle Rae, guest

speaker at a recent CPLC meeting, promoted the Toronto Drug Strategy. Aurie recommended that Delegates read the document online, or that they read a summary of recommendations that she distributed. On November 22, the Toronto Finance Committee approved all 66 recommendations. The strategy must be approved by all three levels of government. The last level of government will make its determination in December. Aurie stated, "Some of the recommendations are totally ridiculous," including references to alcohol, and free kits for crack cocaine users. Councillor Rae advised the CPLC that he had informed all CPLCs of this Strategy at an early stage, but acknowledged that somehow 51 and 52 Divisions were omitted. Those are the two divisions that carry the majority of drug problems and are probably where unwanted clinics will be located. Now, late in the process, Councillor Rae is asking for input from communities. Aurie asked that Delegates send feedback to her or to the CPLC, which she will compile and forward to him.

**4. BIA – George Milbrandt**

George Milbrandt, co-Chair of the SLMN-BIA, reported that from business owners' viewpoint, the number one issue is vagrancy, as that is an impediment to commerce. He described three considerations:

- 1) Mental health issues: Many vagrants have addictions or mental health problems. Under a different era they would be in care. There is a Provincial onus to help them.
- 2) Police presence: The BIA looks forward to the increase in police presence, so that businesses will not have to hire security firms. Community policing is one way to discourage unsocial and uncivil behaviour.
- 3) Federal law: Right now police say they have no means to control vagrants, they are arrested one day and released the next. The Federal government needs to give police the tools to take vagrants off the street and hold them somewhere.

**5. Parks Department – Troy Ford, Park Ambassador**

Barbara Bell welcomed Troy Ford, one of two Ambassadors from the municipal Department of Parks, Forestry, and Recreation (Troy is responsible for the area east of Yonge, the other Ambassador for west of Yonge). He described his responsibilities as helping homeless people who are not aware of shelter services. His Manager, Lucy Stern, in conjunction with the community, worked to set up his position as a way to reduce her office being inundated by "action slips" from Councillors receiving calls from citizens. Troy Ford's position worked out so well that the second Ambassador was recently hired. Since 2003 homeless encampments are largely nonexistent due to action by Council. Under the "Streets to Homes" initiative, the homeless are offered not merely shelter but actual housing. So far the City has housed about 500 individuals. Troy Ford does community night walks and parks safety audits. The community gives him input on such matters as where to install better lighting or where to do pruning for safety.

Barbara Bell thanked Troy Ford for his presentation.

**6. Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale – Michelle Buckley, for Pam McConnell, Councillor**

Michelle Buckley gave regrets from Pam McConnell, who was still in Ottawa at the time of this meeting. At Michelle's recommendation, Barbara Bell and Cam Miller agreed to

hold a follow-up meeting with Pam McConnell's office in January on the findings from tonight's meeting regarding actions that the City might take to improve safety and security in the SLN.

Michelle reported the following:

- City Council is committed to hiring up to 250 more officers, and deploying them in community response rather than administration.
- Pam McConnell's office in conjunction with the Police Services Board has established summer youth employment for 50 youths. Funds are allocated as seed money to bring youth, police and community groups together. Community groups might be eligible to apply. The program involves matching funds and is available over the next five years.
- At a recent Community Council, Pam McConnell succeeded in reinstating Neighbourhood Watch and Vertical Watch, volunteer neighbourhood safety programs for low-rise residences and high-rise residences. The City can provide signage and information for residences wanting to set up that program in their buildings.
- The Community Safety Secretariat has been set up as a Division within the City. It works with groups in absolute crisis to develop a strategy, and has a lot of capacity and resources. Michelle suggested that the SLNA might consider meeting with them to discuss what would be pillars of a safe community.

**7. George Smitherman's Office, Toronto Centre Rosedale** – Shawn Bassin

Sukhpaul Tut, the new representative from George Smitherman's office, will send by email to the SLNA a response to Delegates' questions documented in the September minutes, and any useful information that George Smitherman's office can provide on neighbourhood safety and security issues.

**8. Office of the Hon. Bill Graham, M.P. (Toronto Centre)** – Frank Clarke

Frank Clarke reported the following:

- Bill C53, the Act pertaining to proceeds of crime and drugs, recently passed. People convicted of drug trafficking and other drug-related crimes will now need to prove that their resources and property were not achieved as proceeds of crime. Bill C49, a crackdown on trafficking, was given royal assent as well.
- In response to gun violence this summer and ongoing drug dealing problems, legislation has been introduced to preclude conditional sentencing for people convicted of violent offences, as a more severe deterrent. The mandatory minimum sentence for illegal use of guns has doubled from one to two years imprisonment. A new offence has been added to the Criminal Code for break and enter with intent to steal a firearm, or for robbery with theft of a firearm.
- Because of the recent non-confidence vote resulting in a January election, all this legislation will need to be reintroduced. If the current government is returned to power, it is committed to reintroduce it.
- In caucus, Bill Graham has pushed for tougher sentencing but also for solutions to deal with the social roots of crime, particularly for troubled youth.
- More funding has been allocated for a National Crime Prevention Centre. An additional \$90 million has been designated for locally based community crime prevention, to stop

crime before it starts. Nearly \$2 million more has been designated for a youth employment strategy. \$50 million is set aside for a guns and violence prevention fund aimed to divert youth from gun violence and get them into job training, school and other constructive activities.

- Individual Impact Statements are currently recognized in court. An individual can appear in court and present his/her story, and the judge must take that into consideration for sentencing. As yet, the impact of a crime on a community is not taken into consideration for sentencing. Bill Graham's office looked into this matter in 2003 in conjunction with the CPLC and is willing to revisit the initiative of "Community Impact Statements."

#### **9. Questions and Comments from the SLNA Delegates**

Frank McLean pointed out that community members have complained that sentencing is ineffective and judges' behavior is at times questionable. Frank Clarke will investigate who is responsible for supervising the judges to ensure that their behaviour is appropriate. He will email his findings to the SLNA, to be forwarded to Barbara Bell.

Ron Monteith asked who would receive the proceeds of crime. Frank Clarke responded that that is up to the courts to decide. No level of government will decide where confiscated moneys will be spent. Perhaps it could go to victim restitution. He will investigate this matter further and report back to the SLNA.

Delegates vacated the building for the duration of a fire alarm which took place from 8:20-8:29 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:29 pm.

Cam Miller asked for volunteers to join the Elections Committee, to canvas buildings in the neighbourhood and set up a slate of candidates for elections in March 2006.

Aurie Hensman asked whether a national drug strategy is in the works. Frank Clarke responded that "hodgepodge efforts" are taking place throughout the country but that that was possible. Guidelines through Health Canada were set up for safe injection sites in downtown Vancouver's east side. Statistical results on its effectiveness are still pending. There can be no other such sites without broad based community support and support at all three levels of government, as well as support from the police. When this debate arose in Toronto in 2003, the business and residential communities, Bill Graham, George Smitherman, and Pam McConnell all said they would not support it.

Erwin Jimenez stated that immigrants to Canada do not receive access to resources available to other Canadians, and suggested that disaffected people have a significant impact on increased crime levels. Employment opportunities will help minimize crime amongst youth. Frank Clarke responded that the Immigration Minister recently announced \$9 million to improve the immigration system as a whole and to provide funding for programs for immigrants to improve their skills more quickly.

Stig Harvour reminded Delegates that the SLNA must be concerned not only about criminals and the law but also root causes of crime. One root cause in the last ten years has been that government revenues have been drastically slashed through tax cuts and we now face an election with promises of more tax cuts. When the government budget shrinks, services shrink. In order to fight crime, we have to provide a stable and safe environment where people can have opportunities and feel they are part of the larger society. Tax cuts have created a situation where we are breeding violence and crime. The government must have enough money for programs to create a stable and safe society. Delegates applauded.

Michael Shapcott reported that he has been hosting a series of safety and security forums in the SLNA and elsewhere. Many issues that have arisen there have also been raised tonight. Federal funding for supportive housing has not been followed up on by the Minister of Housing. For youth, some requests are small and readily handled, such as providing easier access to community centres, rather than the current system of fees and permits. Some groups, such as the Coalition of African Canadians, have a comprehensive action agenda, from which the SLNA might learn tactics. They propose to hold a national summit that would engage the three levels of government, and will have a checklist of items to accomplish.

Barbara Bell reported that she suspects that panhandling on Front Street is organized and pimped. "They are turfed and organized by a supervisor that they pay off." Michelle Buckley responded that it has been known for some time that there is "pretty aggressive panhandling on that street." George Milbrandt stated that the BIA was not aware of it. Barbara Bell added that the same is happening in Cabbagetown.

Cam Miller proposed that residential buildings appoint a resident to serve a 6-month to 1-year assignment within their building and as a liaison between their building and the SLNA for security incidents.

Dan O'Leary recommended that the SLNA focus on finding help for people who become marginalized and turn to substance abuse. "We need to have a safe place [ie. housing for the homeless] to address underlying health, mental and housing issues with people who are just at the edge of a drug addiction. We need to say how we are going to invest to intervene and show we want to partner with these people and encourage them to make changes in their lives. There are low people on the pecking order and they can be threatening and intimidating but that should not stop us from doing good things toward a long-term solution." He concluded that there are 74,000 families needing housing in Toronto, and that does not include underemployed or unemployed individuals, such as single men.

Karen Serwonka reported that David B. Archer Co-op has a Safety Committee which waxes and wanes, and that some other residential buildings have a more formal structure to deal with safety issues. She noted that the concerns that people have raised about safety are legitimate but recommended that the SLNA "take a step back and ask why



these things are happening, and if as a neighbourhood and neighbourhood association we can support initiatives as part of a broader mandate over time.”

Paul Smith proposed that entryway lighting at the SLCRC be improved, perhaps through a donation by the SLNA, to make the centre more welcoming. He added that SLCRC permits have too many restrictions for youth to hold dances etc. Joan Campbell added that the SLCRC has user fees but that other nearby community centres do not and that the SLNA might push to have the SLCRC made free to use. Michelle Buckley suggested that the SLNA meet with the SLCRC’s Advisory Committee to discuss possibilities for engaging youth more effectively in the centre’s activities. On behalf of the Advisory Committee, Ron Monteith noted that they do the best that they can with the resources they have, and that community representatives are welcome to work with them to effect change. He recommended that SLNA donations to the SLCRC be designated for specific uses.

Frank McLean recommended that youth be included in any strategy to identify the needs of youth and what their vision of their life in the neighbourhood might be, as they are not represented in person at tonight’s meeting.

**10. Closing Remarks** – Barbara Bell, Moderator

Barbara Bell thanked everyone who came out this evening and brought information with them as requested. She also thanked the SLNA’s Executive Committee for allocating time at tonight’s Delegates meeting for this discussion.

**7. Development Issues** — Frank Burns

Frank Burns reported. He described the Community Improvement Plan as a 5-10 year program that provides funding for groups such as the BIA for a façade improvement program. The SLNA’s Development Committee has prioritized laneways, gateways, terminal views, and street corridors including The Esplanade, Colbourne Street, and the south end of the South Market as possible projects that could cost from \$200 to several thousand dollars to enhance. In all, \$1,500 in funding is available to the SLN. The City recommends spending it in chunks of \$200. Frank asked Delegates to consider possible small projects and report back to him so that a decision can be made by the January Delegates meeting.

The Development Committee continues to work on having the SLN designated a heritage district. It has learned that the west boundary of the SLN is not the west sidewalk of Yonge Street but the rear property line on the west side of Yonge Street.

Frank Burns described an initiative to increase notification to residents of upcoming building developments so that people have the opportunity to provide community input before construction plans are finalized and approved. Some wards, he said, have only one or two developments per year. The SLN has at least 35 buildings under development. “We want the Planning Department to give us half a clue what’s going on.”

*Motion: that the SLNA encourage improvements to ensure the openness of the planning process, that the community be contacted as early in the process as possible and, that the SLNA request that all notices of statutory public meetings and community meetings be sent directly to residents of all condominiums, apartments and co-ops.*

*Moved by: Frank Burns*

*Seconded by: Cherril Baker*

*Friendly amendment by Frank Mclean: add to the end of the motion “within an appropriate radius of the proposed project.”*

*Friendly Amendment by Paul Smith: add “expanded and appropriate radius of the proposed project”*

***FINAL MOTION:*** *that the SLNA encourage improvements to ensure the openness of the planning process, that the community be contacted as early in the process as possible and, that the SLNA request that all notices of statutory public meetings and community meetings be sent directly to residents of all condominiums, apartments and co-ops within an expanded and appropriate radius of the proposed project.*

**CARRIED**

Frank Burns reported on active developments. 40 The Esplanade is coming up for site plan review. 70 The Esplanade has been appealed to the OMB. No one has seen final sketch/plan. Right now it has a tower 16 floors up from property line with a two meter setback to the back of the balconies, creating a canyon effect. 18 Lower Jarvis Street (the Gross Machinery site) is either going to the Committee of Adjustments or to be rezoned shortly. The Goodwill Site is furthest along in terms of drawings, but the Development Committee does not have permission to show the drawings to the community. In a neighbourhood with a 30-meter (ie. 10-floor) height limit, developers for the Goodwill site want to build two towers atop an 8-storey podium. The committee wants to see the podium height reduced.

***Motion: that the SLNA Development Committee be authorized to meet with the City Councillors, the City Staff, Property Owners and Site Developers and express its view as the view of SLNA Delegates with regard to the following issues: 40 The Esplanade site plan review, 53-61 Front St. E. application and OMB appeal, 18 Lower Jarvis St. rezoning or Committee of Adjustment application, the Goodwill site massing and any other development that needs a response by the SLNA before the next monthly Delegates meeting.***

***Moved by: Frank Burns***

***Seconded by: George Milbrandt***

**CARRIED**

## **8. Elections Committee – Cam Miller and Connie Yang**

Connie Yang repeated Cam Miller’s earlier request for volunteers to join the Election Committee.

## **9. New Business**

- a) All-Candidates’ Meeting

Cam Miller announced that an All-Candidates meeting is to be scheduled for the week of January 9, once all four major parties agree to a night. He encouraged all Delegates to attend.

b) Commffest Community Film Festival

Sandie de Freitas, resident of PAL, invited members of the community to participate in the next Commffest Community Film Festival. The first was held this September and another is now scheduled for next fall. The film festival addresses community concerns and cultural diversity, using film as a powerful language. See [www.commffest.com](http://www.commffest.com) or contact Sandie at [sandie@commffest.com](mailto:sandie@commffest.com).

c) Children's Book

Leo Agosto announced that he has written and is self-publishing a children's book, to be published by this Christmas. The story follows Lola and her dad as they go through the St. Lawrence Market. Leo has received an endorsement from the St. Lawrence Market, and editorial assistance from O.I.S.E., and now asked the SLNA for a donation to help cover material costs of publication in return for a citation on the Acknowledgments page. Paul Smith directed Leo to fill out an application form for the SLNA's Community Fund, once that program has been set up in January. Given the timeline for publication, the SLNA accepts that it will receive no citation. Paul also recommended that Leo approach the Old Town Toronto Promotional Alliance as his storybook ties in with their mandate and they might support it.

c) Section 37 Benefits from 40 The Esplanade

Paul Smith noted that Section 37 benefits from 40 The Esplanade includes \$50,000 for seniors' initiatives. Those funds are not yet in hand, but the project has been turned over to Connie Yang for her to administer on behalf of the Executive Committee.

## 10. Adjournment

On behalf of Delegates, Joan Campbell thanked Barbara Bell for a very interesting meeting on safety issues. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

The SLNA acknowledges the St. Lawrence Market Complex for sponsoring this evening's refreshments.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2005, at 7:00 pm.

**There is no meeting in December.**

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Samantha Hewit, Corporate Secretary

Cam Miller, Chair

