



# The SLNA Messenger

News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

March 2003

No. 1

## Introducing The Messenger

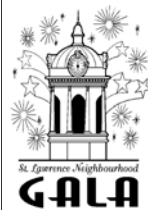
This is the first issue of *The SLNA Messenger*. The primary aim of our newsletter is to keep the membership in touch with their association. We plan to publish three times a year with news on what the SLNA has done, is doing and plans to do. Let us know what you think of *The SLNA Messenger*—and if you are willing to help! We need volunteers to write, edit, produce and distribute this newsletter. Just leave a message for me at the SLNA office. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Joan Campbell, Editor*

## An SLNA Update: Redeveloping the St. Lawrence Farmers Market

In January 1999, the City of Toronto's Corporate Services Department asked the SLNA to consider the redevelopment of the North Market with a view to addressing a number of concerns: underutilization and underperformance, building safety and maintenance, parking and loading, and lack of Heritage character and use. Six months later, a subcommittee of the SLNA, the St. Lawrence Community & Farmers North Market Redevelopment Initiative (NMI), began to look at ways to replace the existing structure with a multipurpose market building that is self-sustaining and compatible with the Heritage buildings around it.

City staff provided support and direction to the SLNA, but at the same time



The SLNA invites you to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Gala where we will celebrate our community, honour our volunteers and raise funds for the SLNA Youth Programs.

**Friday, March 14, 8:00 PM**

**St. Lawrence Hall**

**157 King Street East**

### EVENING HIGHLIGHTS

Gourmet Buffet by Biagio's  
Silent Auction – Dancing – Cash Bar  
*Volunteer Awards Ceremony*

### ENTERTAINMENT BY

*Tory Cassis  
& the Saturday Night Function*

**History Presentations  
by Bruce Bell**

**Tickets - \$20 - Available At**

**Toronto Dollar Booth,  
St. Lawrence Market South  
Domain Home Furnishings,  
163 King Street East**

**Community Recreation Centre,  
230 The Esplanade**

*We welcome everyone over the age of 18*

made it clear that no decisions about redevelopment could be taken unless the Committee was able to demonstrate strong stakeholder support and present a convincing business case.

To this end, the NMI set up a steering committee, the Ambassadors, with representatives from an array of stakeholders including the St. Lawrence BIA, St. Lawrence Market Complex, North Market Farmers Association, York Heritage Properties, St. Lawrence Works, South Market Merchants and Citizens for the Old Town. Stakeholder meetings and presentations to interested

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday March 26 – 7 PM**  
**North Market 92 Front St. E.**  
Elections to the new Executive  
City Councillor's Update  
**A reception will follow the AGM.**

## SLNA Executive

*Acting Pres.* Edward Nixon  
*V.P. Internal.* Georgette Harris  
*V.P. External* Cam Miller  
*Treasurer* Nancy Sheppard  
*Secretary* Alice Briesmaster  
*At Large:* Bob Kemp, Hugh-Francis Burns, Joan Campbell

local residents and to condominium, neighbourhood and business associations kept the community informed and provided feedback at every step of the way.

In November 2000, with financial support from the South East Downtown Economic Redevelopment Initiative (SEDERI), the NMI commissioned a feasibility study and a design concept report. In November 2001, Spears and Associates Inc. completed the feasibility study and in April 2002 B + H Architects presented their Concept Design Report. Currently, both of these reports are being discussed with community representatives, including the North Market Farmers Association.

The NMI is now entering the next, two-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## We're on the Web

**The SLNA's own Website is now under construction—  
www.slna.ca**

**We hope you will visit, read and comment.**

## CALLING ALL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!

The SLNA'S Festival 2003 will be held June 13-14. You will be surprised to know that this event is run entirely by volunteers. Here is your chance to have fun and help make this year's Festival a success, while meeting new people.

We need volunteers on both days to BBQ, serve food & beverages, set up and tear down tables and signage, help decorate the Esplanade, monitor games, and lend a hand on Friday with Seniors' Day.

To volunteer, or for more information, please leave a message for the SLNA Festival Volunteer Coordinator at 416-392-1347. Our Volunteer Coordinator will contact you to discuss how you can be part of our Festival team.

## Achievements of the Year: Great things the SLNA did in 2002

**Building community** The SLNA's annual June Picnic/Festival was attended by over 5,000 people. Undeterred by the rain, neighbours of all ages joined in the fun and \$6,200 was raised for SLNA projects.

**Raised \$18,800 for SLNA & community youth projects**, with \$13,800 coming from the March 2002 Gala, and \$5,000 from the Film Industry, facilitated by Councillor Pam McConnell. These projects include an aquatics leadership program, a nutrition program and summer programming.

**Working with others** SLNA representatives actively supported the South East Downtown Economic Redevelopment Initiative (SEDERI), the Citizens for the Old Town, the North Farmers' Market Redevelopment Initiative, the

St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (CRC) and Circles of Support. The SLNA also cooperated with neighbouring residents' associations on issues of mutual concern.

**Improving area parks** Due to SLNA efforts, \$119,000 was allocated by the City Parks Department to enhance safety in Crombie, Market Lane and St. James parks.

**Increasing security** Liaison with the police in 51 and 52 Division resulted in a more accountable police force, an increased security presence and a decreased crime rate in our neighbourhood.

**Ensured that our political representatives listen to the community:** The SLNA takes an active role in liaising

with and seeking the constructive support Councillor Pam McConnell, MPP George Smitherman, and MP Bill Graham to address community issues. Each level of government is represented at SLNA meetings.

**Raising awareness and influencing the future of our city** The SLNA addressed many current planning issues important to residents of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. These included schemes for expanding the Toronto Island Airport, revitalizing the Waterfront, dealing with the Gardiner Expressway, upgrading the Hummingbird Centre, renovating Union Station, reforming Healthcare and securing the future of the First Parliament site.

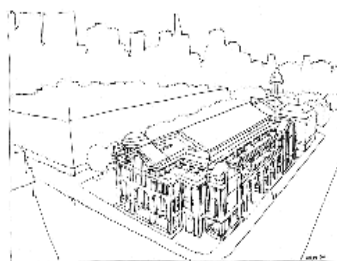
*Alice Briesmaster*

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pronged phase of its campaign. First, the staff in Corporate Services will study the proposal and give its opinion. Secondly, the NMI will mount a fundraising campaign to raise around \$500,000 over the next three years.

By obtaining matching grants from various agencies, it should be possible to reduce the principle sufficiently to permit the building of a North Market that will both conform to the zoning guidelines and maintain an appropriate scale relative to its neighbours.

*Hugh-Francis Burns*



*St. Lawrence Market North Redevelopment*

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**B-H**  
architects

### Note these dates!

**March 12** Waterfront Plan Meeting, 7 PM, St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King St. East

**March 14** St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Gala, 8 PM at St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King St. East

**March 26** Annual General Meeting & Reception, 7 PM, North Market 92 Front St. East

**April 30** SLNA General Meeting, 7 PM, North Market 92 Front St. E.

**June 13-14** Festival 2003, Crombie Park, Sherbourne & The Esplanade