



# The SLNA Messenger

News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

May/June 2003

No. 2

## Notice of Street Closures for Festival 2003

The Esplanade will not be closed for this year's SLNA Festival, which runs June 13–14. However, the following street closures will occur on **Saturday, June 14:**

—Frederick Street (between The Esplanade and Wilton) will be closed from 7:00 AM to 11:30 PM.

—Wilton Street (between George Street South and Frederick Street) will be closed from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

## AGM Report

The AGM, on March 26, 2003, heard reports from the retiring President, Edward Nixon and other members of the outgoing Executive, before electing next year's Executive. After the AGM, delegates enjoyed refreshments provided by the St. Lawrence Market Complex.

**Minutes of SLNA meetings are posted on the SLNA Website ([www.slna.ca](http://www.slna.ca)). Check the Website regularly for more SLNA news!**

## SLNA Executive 2003–4

*President Nancy Sheppard*

*V.P. Internal Georgette Harris*

*V.P. External Cam Miller*

*Treasurer Hugh-Francis Burns*

*Secretary Sandy Sellars*

*At Large Joan Campbell, Mohammed Hoque*

*Past President Edward Nixon*

## Celebrate The Beginning of Summer at the SLNA's Festival 2003!

The SLNA Festival has always been a memorable event for our community. Twenty-three years ago, it started out as a small community picnic that drew fewer than 100 people. Last year, more than 5,000 attended. As we grew, so did the sponsorships and donations from local businesses. In the beginning, most of the support came from area building developers and the St. Lawrence Market. During the past decade these have been joined by Loblaws Queen's Quay, Dominion Front Street Market, St. Lawrence BIA, Kiwanis, Downtown ACURA, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Hot House Café, Gabby's and other neighbourhood restaurants.

This year's festival, to be held on **Friday, June 13** and **Saturday, June 14** along The Esplanade from Jarvis to Sherbourne, will have a number of special features. **June 13** is dedicated to Seniors and Youth. Seniors' events start at noon and the Youth Dance kicks off at 8:30 pm. **June 14** will be a time to shop at the Street Sale, play in the Kiddie's Korner, meet animals at the Petting Zoo, join in the Volleyball Tournament, enjoy the sound of music while you munch on fresh strawberries and quench your thirst with a glass of ice tea in the main tent. Adults will also be able to enjoy beverages at a Beer Garden sponsored by Mill Street Brewery.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered and supported the SLNA Festival over the years. **We look forward to your help again this year. To volunteer call 416-392-1347.**

The SLNA Festival Committee hopes you will be able to join us June 13–14 to celebrate our neighbourhood, meet with one another—and have FUN!

*Helen Marangos, Executive Director, Festival 2003 Committee*

## Membership Matters

A warm welcome to our newest member building—**The Bentley**, a condominium complex that includes 55 Lombard Street and 80 Adelaide Street East.

The SLNA has successfully represented the best interests of the St. Lawrence community since 1982. With the rapid growth and development of this popular neighbourhood, the association now speaks for a population of almost 25,000 residents in the area from Yonge Street

in the west to Parliament Street in the east and from Queen Street south to the railroad right of way. Our current voting membership is made up of 12 condos, 11 co-ops and 8 other housing groups. If you know of buildings within our boundaries that are not yet members of the SLNA, please invite them to join or contact me.

*Georgette Harris, Membership Committee Chair*

## Recent SLNA accomplishments

### —Temporary 504 King bus

The SLNA played a major role in persuading the TTC to provide a bus replacement service from Queen and Broadview to Union Station, via Eastern Avenue and Front Street during track construction work on King Street. You are urged to use this 15-minute service, which will run until July 6.

### —Park improvements

Last year, a Safety Audit of Crombie Park, St. James Park and Market Lane Park led to the allocation of \$119,000 for much-needed repairs and safety-related improvements to these neighbourhood parks. Look out for the results in the coming weeks and months!

## SLNA Delegates Meetings

The SLNA often invites to its monthly meetings speakers on topics of current interest to the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. In January, representatives of the Union-Pearson group presented their proposal for refurbishing Union Station and in March Dan Brambilla, CEO of the Hummingbird Centre, outlined his ideas for keeping the Centre viable after the Opera and Ballet move out in 2006. Held on the last Wednesday of every month, *these meetings are open to all!*

## Circles of Support

I still remember the SLNA's positive response when I presented the Circles of Support initiative to the delegates two years ago. Since then, the two SLNA representatives who joined our project committee have helped us tremendously as we moved from the stage of conception to concrete action. For those unfamiliar with our work, here is a brief recap of the programs already in place, about to be launched and under active consideration.

Circles of Support grew out of a belief that healthy families build healthy communities and that strengthening the

## Gala 2003

The SLNA's Third Annual St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Gala on March 14 was an outstanding success.



The 300 guests enjoyed a wonderful evening in the historic St. Lawrence Hall while raising over \$9,000 for youth programs.

The evening featured entertainment by singer Karen Manion and pianist Dennis Keldie, the swing music of Tory Cassis and the Saturday Night Function, history presentations by Bruce Bell, a mid-evening buffet by Biagio Ristorante and an extensive silent auction featuring over \$10,000 worth of items. If you weren't there you missed a great evening with excellent value! With the generous support of sponsors and SLNA volunteers, tickets for the special fundraiser were only \$20.

A key part of the event was the annual SLNA Volunteer Awards Ceremony to honour people who have donated their time to make our neighbourhood a better place to live, work and raise a family. The SLNA gave Volunteer Recognition Awards to **Dorothy Creaser, Marcia Douglas, Lawrence Hawke and Ian Waldron**. Special Recognition

Awards went to **Susan Bellan, Hugh-Francis Burns, Chuck Cameron and Michael Comstock**, while the new Award of Merit for making an exemplary contribution to both the SLNA and the broader community was presented to **Alan Seymour**. The Volunteer of the Year Award went to **Mel Shipman** (see *Circles of Support*, below).

The SLNA has a long-standing commitment to youth, based on needs-analysis, public forums and direct consultation with young people in the community. To date we have raised \$23,000 in Gala proceeds to support youth projects. This year's Gala proceeds will fund Phases 2 & 3 of the SLNA Youth Aquatics Leadership Training Program. Begun last year in partnership with the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (SLCRC), this program trains young people—at no cost—to become fully qualified lifeguards who will find employment with the City of Toronto. Gala money will also finance the SLCRC's new Summer Leadership Program and an SLCRC-run out-of-town Summer Camping Program that focuses on training for leadership; and it will contribute to local school-based nutrition programs and summer sports activities.

*Georgette Harris, Gala Chair*

capacity of parents and children to cope with life's challenges will reinforce St. Lawrence's reputation as a model area in which to live and work. To realize this vision, we have begun a series of **parenting and life-skills classes** at Market Lane Public School, run by staff of the Family Service Association of Toronto, and **English-as-a-Second-Language classes** for new immigrants at the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (SLCRC) that are led by two wonderful community volunteers. We are also working with Parent Resources to set up an **Early Years/Family Resource Centre** at 222 The Esplanade. If all goes well, we should be operational early next year. Meanwhile, over the summer months, Parent Resources will be launching a number of new programs in our neighbourhood.

About six months ago, Circles of Support brought together representatives from the co-ops and rental buildings in the vicinity to look at what could be done to adapt the empty City-owned retail space along the south side of The Esplanade (between Market and Church) to community use. One of the ideas that quickly surfaced was to establish a **Seniors' Centre** as a satellite division of the SLCRC at 115 The Esplanade. Our municipal councillor, Pam McConnell, was very supportive but alerted us to the fact that the City intends to house administrative services in the entire 15,000 square feet of available space. At present the parties concerned are meeting to discuss a possible compromise that will make the Seniors' Centre a reality.

*Mel Shipman, SLNA Volunteer of the Year*