



The SLNA Messenger

News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

Fall 2003

No. 3

Keeping our neighbourhood safe

Over the summer, the SLNA

- ⇒ initiated **safety walks** in our area parks, in cooperation with police officers from 51 and 52 Division, to identify trouble spots and find ways to address them
- ⇒ distributed a **list of police numbers** to call when help is needed
- ⇒ worked to **lessen traffic hazards** in the Market neighbourhood
- ⇒ gathered information on the **Vertical Watch program** that may be appropriate for some of our members

What you can do

The police need our help if they are to do their job properly. If you see anything that causes you concern, here again are the numbers to call:

- ⇒ **911—Emergencies ONLY**
- ⇒ **Police General Number—416-808-2222**
- ⇒ **Direct line of Inspector Kinsman—416-808-5112**
- ⇒ **Crime Stoppers—416-222-TIPS (8477) or 1-800-222-8477**

SLNA Executive 2003–2004

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, Dwight Peters

SLCRC and SLNA—The first ten years of a neighbourhood partnership

This year the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (SLCRC) entered its second decade of service to our community. It's hard to believe that not so long ago the Centre consisted of a single portable at the corner of Parliament and The Esplanade. Since then, with a little help from its friends, it has grown to become a vital presence in St. Lawrence—a full service facility offering infants to seniors an outlet for positive lifestyle activities, recreation and socialization. Where else will you find line-dancers mingling with weightlifters or young people rubbing elbows with seniors?

From the beginning, the SLNA has been one of those friends. SLNA support started with the initial door-to-door petition drive championed by such dedicated residents as Nancy Campbell and P. J. Nicholson. Once the Centre was up and running, the SLNA made raising funds for its youth programming a priority.

SLNA financial assistance has helped the Centre to open a Youth Lounge, giving our young people a safe place of their own for recreation or just plain hanging out. The SLNA-supported Aquatic Leadership Program, initiated in 2002, provides youth with lifeguard training and develops valuable life skills while creating opportunities for employment. And this summer, four groups were taken camping. As well, keeping up with the needs of a dynamic community, the SLNA has now added seniors programs to its funding priority list.

The first decade has been an exiting one for the Community Centre and the SLNA has played an important role every step of the way. As the next 10 years unfold, residents of our neighbourhood will continue to benefit from this inspiring partnership.

Dwight Peters

Want to Save Money on Your Energy Bills?

Energy prices will rise soon. If you want to learn how to save on your electricity and natural gas bills, the SLNA has a workshop just for you. **Ravi Mark Singh** of **EnerACT**, the **Energy Action Council of Toronto**, will be presenting a

SmartLiving Workshop
Tuesday October 7th at 7:00 p.m.
St. Lawrence North Market.

Whether you're a member of a co-op, an apartment renter or the owner of a condo unit, you'll learn how to lower your energy bills and make your home more comfortable as you help to improve air quality for all of us. **Everyone is welcome**, and the workshop is **free**. For more info, and to reserve your seat for the workshop, please contact **Cam Miller** at **416-203-8966** or **miller.cameron@rogers.com**

Festival Report

Question: What is the difference between a good festival and a great festival?

Answer: People, planning, number of volunteers and sponsorship (not necessarily in that order).

A special THANK YOU to the Festival Committee and the many volunteers who helped with Festival 2003. Together, the Festival Committee and event volunteers donated over 2,630 hours!

A special THANK YOU also to the many sponsors of the Festival: St. Lawrence Market, Kiwanis, Gabby's Restaurant, Downtown Acura, Toronto Community Housing Co, Rainbow Cinema, Mills Street Brewery, Loblaws Queens Quay, Dominion Front Street Market, Budget Car & Truck Rental, Rabba Fine Foods, Tadpole Productions, Pizza Nova, Whitehouse Meats, Bill Graham MP, George Smitherman MPP. And a special THANK YOU to the Thirteenth Step, Coppertone and T-Bone Experience, for volunteering their time to provide entertainment at our Festival.

SLNA Festival 2004 will mark our 25th anniversary and we would like it to be the most memorable event yet! BUT we need your help. We require innovative people with ideas, some skills and a willingness to devote time and energy to the tasks at hand. The Festival 2004 team could also use someone to provide the youth perspective. If you are a secondary student, remember that joining the Festival Committee is an excellent way to get in those volunteer hours required for your high school diploma while helping us organize the Festival's youth events.

The SLNA hopes to have a Festival 2004 Committee in place by October. NOW is your time to get involved to help make SLNA's Festival 2004 a raving success! Call 416-368-2794 today to join the Festival Committee.

*Helen Marangos, Executive Director,
Festival 2003 Committee*

Membership Matters—The Co-op Story

Co-ops have always been an important part of the SLNA, which was formed in 1982 to represent the then-new St. Lawrence neighbourhood. The first co-operatives to join the SLNA opened in the 1970s. The most recent, New Hibret on Market Street, is only six years old.

Despite the large role co-ops play in our neighbourhood, many who live in other types of housing do not know how co-ops work. There are many kinds of cooperatives in Ontario—food co-ops, co-op day-cares, credit unions, worker co-ops and housing co-ops. Any group of people can form a cooperative. The members operate the cooperative, which in turn provides a service to them, usually on a non-profit basis.

From the outside, a housing co-op looks like the other homes in the neighbourhood. It can be a new apartment building, a row of townhouses or a charming old triplex. What makes it different is not bricks and mortar, but the way its residents share the responsibilities and control of their homes.

The people who live in a cooperative become its members. Every year they elect a board of directors from among themselves to manage the co-op's business. Every member has one vote. Because all are residents, they have a direct interest in ensuring that their housing remains well-managed and affordable.

Each of the ten-odd co-ops in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood has a unique history. The one in which I live, New Hibret, was built by three groups: the Ethiopian Association of Toronto, Victoria Street Co-op and New Vision. Its name means Unity or Togetherness in Ethiopian (Amharic). Most of New Hibret's 141 units are occupied by

families. Volunteer members help to organize parties for the children and carry out other fun projects like the neighbours' night out and the successful fifth anniversary party held last year.

There are many advantages to co-op living. People pay to join a co-op and so have an ownership stake in it. As owners, co-op members have security of tenure. This means that you can live in your home for as long as you wish, so long as you follow the rules (by-laws) of the co-op and pay your housing charge (rent). You also have a say in decisions that affect your home. At the same time, because you and your neighbours own your homes in common, you enjoy the benefits that come from being part of the co-op community.

Housing cooperatives are made up of all kinds of people, with different backgrounds and incomes and special needs. As a co-op's members work together to meet their wants, they develop a spirit of community that can contribute greatly to the vitality of the wider neighbourhood.

Mohammed Hoque

Note these dates!

- Oct. 7 EnerACT SmartLiving Workshop, North Market
- Oct. 23 St. Lawrence Recreation Centre AGM, 7 pm
- Oct. 28 St. Lawrence Centre Forum: Ward 28 All Candidates Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Dec. 13 St. Lawrence Recreation Centre Open House

Gala 2004

The 2004 Gala Committee is seeking a volunteer to support the role of Gala Organizer. If you are a leader and want to share your event organization skills with the SLNA, contact Georgette Harris at 416-815-0675 for more information. You'll find that giving to your community is a very worthwhile experience.

Minutes of the monthly SLNA meetings are posted on the SLNA Website (www.slna.ca). Check the Website regularly for more SLNA news!