The SLNA Messenger
News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

February/March 2004   **No. 4**

Calling all Delegates!

Mark the evening of March 31st in your calendars! This is the night the SLNA will hold its **Annual General Meeting.**

Several important things happen at the SLNA AGM, including a presentation of the Financial Statements for 2003 and a decision on what Membership Fees to charge for 2004. The main event, however, is the election to the Executive. **The positions that will be open to election this year are: President, VP–Internal,** **Secretary and one At-Large position**. If you have any questions about the positions and what they entail, please contact the SLNA Office and someone will get back to you.

A quorum is critical in order to hold the AGM. All Delegates are urged to attend!

Nancy Sheppard, President

P. J. Nicholson Remembered

The late P. J. Nicholson, a past Chair of the SLNA and long time community advocate, was honoured at the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre's 10th Anniversary Open House on December 13. The lobby of the Centre has been dedicated as the "P. J. Nicholson Lobby." Back in 1992, Mr. Nicholson led a group of community residents eager to have the Recreation Centre built. Going door to door to collect signatures, they then worked tirelessly with City officials to achieve their goal. Since its founding, the Recreation Centre has been an integral part of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood.

SEDERI and SLNA: A Fruitful Connection

Founded in 1999, the South East Downtown Economic Redevelopment Initiative (SEDERI), to which the SLNA belongs, will receive over $240,000 in funding for 2004 from Human Resources Canada (HRDC) and $19,000 from the City of Toronto's Small Business & Community Support Program. The funding will support Phase 1 of SEDERI's Old Town Labour Market Connections project, which will initially operate out of the SLNA's office in the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre. SEDERI is also making one of their staff people available to the SLNA for up to one day per week for three months, beginning February 1. Georgette Harris, VP–Internal, will be the SLNA– SEDERI liaison for this staff person.

The SLNA, a member of SEDERI since 2000, played a key role in the development of SEDERI's *Old Town Toronto Revitalization Action Plan.*

Endorsed by City Council and launched to the public in 2002, the *Action Plan*

TTC Plans for the Future

A TTC Public Forum sponsored by the SLNA took place on February 3 in the St. Lawrence North Market. Bill Dawson, the TTC's Superintendent, Route and System Planning, gave an overview slide presentation that touched on several points we had asked him to treat. The TTC also solicited the forum's opinion on two possible changes in our immediate area:

- Putting a bus-only roadway through from The Esplanade and Berkeley to Parliament and Mill, in order to save the detour up to Front.

- Moving the bus service running east of Union Station from The Esplanade to Front Street.

Response to the first proposal was mixed.

On the second, the consensus of the participants was that the present service was preferable.

All agreed that "big picture" issues affecting the downtown and the waterfront should be the subject of future discussions.

Cam Miller, VP–External

SEDERI *(Continued from page 1)*

cited the SLNA's Youth Programs as a key contribution to the revitalization of the Old Town area. In 2003, the SLNA took part in the SEDERI-led Old Town Street Sign project, funded by the City of Toronto, which saw new decorative street signs installed in the various "neighbourhoods" that make up Old Town Toronto. The SLNA has also supported the efforts of SEDERI and Citizens for the Old Town to have the First Parliament Buildings site brought into public ownership and transformed into a major heritage site.

In 2004 SEDERI plans to research local employment patterns and, together with local businesses, social service agencies, residents and other key stakeholders, to explore what more can be done to help our shelter-resident population get back to work. In addition, it will seek ways to initiate a revival and expansion of employment in the local tourism sector.

In partnership with City of Toronto Parks & Recreation, SEDERI will also be organizing youth employment workshops for young people in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood, Moss Park and Corktown.

Edward Nixon, Executive Director, SEDERI

Volunteers Needed for SLNA Committees!

Although the official delegates from member housing groups do a great deal of the SLNA's work, the Association depends heavily on additional volunteers from the community for its effectiveness. Indeed, every year over 300 residents contribute their time and energy to make our neighbourhood flourish. Here is a brief description of the SLNA committees that are currently seeking volunteers:

- **Gala** - Organizes the SLNA's chief annual fundraiser

- **Community Festival -** Plans and oversees the festivities connected with the June SLNA picnic and festival

- **Communications -** Uses various means (newsletter, brochure, website, display board, flyers, etc.) to communicate with SLNA members

and to publicize the SLNA

- **Development -** Works with area planners and developers to ensure that new developments projected for St. Lawrence fit in and contribute to the well-being of the neighbourhood.

To get involved, please contact the SLNA's office. If you leave your name and phone number, someone will get in touch with you to discuss where you can best put your skills to work.

Volunteering with the SLNA is a good way to make new friends while serving your community. Let's all pitch in to make St. Lawrence an even greater place to live!

Joan Campbell

Photos wanted!

Please send us your favourite photographs of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood for inclusion in the SLNA's new photographic archive.

Selected photos will be used in SLNA publicity materials and in displays at community events **starting with the SLNA picnic in June**.

So get out your cameras and plan to get your best shots to us in the next few months!

Pictures that you submit should indicate when and where the shot was taken and be clearly marked with your name and phone number. You can drop them off at the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (marked for the attention of the SLNA) or mail them to us at the address on this newsletter.

Traffic Action Update

In December, a gridlock blitz at the corner of King and Jarvis caught 170 drivers illegally blocking the intersection. The blitz was run by volunteers of the SLNA's Traffic Committee in cooperation with 52 Division Police. Information recorded by the volunteers has been forwarded to 52 Division who will issue warnings to all drivers.

This four-day action was the first in a planned series of SLNA initiatives to increase traffic safety in our neighbourhood. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at slna@bellnet.ca or by phone at (416) 368-2794.

Dwight Peters

Note these dates

March 31
    SLNA Annual General Meeting

April 1
    Customer Appreciation Night,
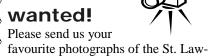   St. Lawrence Market

April 23
    SLNA Gala

SLNA on the WEB

Remember to check our website regularly for more SLNA news! Back issues of The SLNA Messenger and minutes of monthly SLNA meetings are among the many interesting things you will find at www.slna.ca.

SLNA Executive 2003–2004
President Nancy Sheppard
V.P. Internal Georgette Harris
V.P. External Cam Miller
Treasurer Hugh-Francis Burns
Secretary Pam Gierman
At Large Joan Campbell,
    Mohammed Hoque,
    Dwight Peters