



# The SLNA Messenger

News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

May/June 2004

No. 5

## New Executive Elected at the Annual General Meeting

At the SLNA's AGM in March, the delegates elected the following to the Executive for 2004/5:

**President—Cam Miller** (two-years)

**V.P. External—Frank Burns** (one year)

**V.P. Internal—Ronny Yaron** (two years)

**Treasurer—Nancy Sheppard** (one year)

**At Large—Frank McLean** (two years) and **Paul Smith** (one year).

They joined **Joan Campbell** (**At Large**), elected last year for a two-year term. **Nancy Sheppard** also agreed to act as **Corporate Secretary**



*Left to right: Back row, Paul Smith, Cam Miller, Frank McLean, Frank Burns; Front row: Joan Campbell, Ronny Yaron, Nancy Sheppard*

for a month, pending the selection of someone to fill the position.

The new SLNA president, **Cam Miller**, was a Trade Commissioner in the Canadian Foreign Service for 28 years. Cam served in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Italy, Chile, Jamaica, Australia and California. Since moving to Toronto in 1996 he has worked on political campaigns at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. He is interested in a number of environmental issues, and is a director of the WindShare Co-operative.

## Membership Matters—Toronto Community Housing Alive and Well in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood

*Editor's note: The Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) came into being on January 1, 2002, through the integration of the Metro Toronto Housing Corporation and Toronto Housing Company Inc. At the time of the development of the St Lawrence neighbourhood, it was known as the City of Toronto Non-Profit Housing Corporation, commonly called CityHome. Under this name, it was a key component of the new neighbourhood from the beginning. The TCHC actively encourages membership of its housing units in the SLNA.*

Toronto Community Housing in the St Lawrence area is more extensive than many are aware. In 2003 the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) decided to re-map and update the Community Housing Units in St Lawrence, so as to merge them into

a more effective working group. The St Lawrence group now includes two Queens Quay TCH units: Bishop Tutu and Queens Quay West. This change has brought the total of community housing—town house units in TCHC Community Housing Unit 11 (CHU 11) to ten.

The approximately 14,000 TCHC CHU11 tenants are very much involved in the goings on in the broader St Lawrence area. Each building unit has a Tenant Representative. In addition to meeting monthly to discuss issues of common concern such as health, safety and security, we attend training programmes that cover topics from Tenant Rep responsibilities to learning how to assist

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## Gala 2004 a Resounding Success

On Friday April 23, the St Lawrence Hall was the setting for the SLNA's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala—the best yet, in the view of the 200 or so guests who attended this major event dedicated to **“Celebrating Volunteerism and Supporting Youth.”** In the presence of our elected representatives from the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government, a number of individuals and businesses were honoured for their outstanding contribution of time and money to the St Lawrence neighbourhood during the year.

We are pleased to report that the evening raised approximately \$12,000, of which \$5,000 was generated by the Silent Auction, a popular feature of the occasion. The proceeds will be used to support Youth programs and to encourage volunteering in St Lawrence.

Special thanks to the many generous sponsors and donors who made this event possible, to volunteer Gala co-chairs **Georgette Harris, Aurie Hensman** and **Edward Nixon**, and to the many other volunteers who helped to make the evening a truly enjoyable one.

## St. James Park 19th Century Garden Redevelopment Plans

At its February meeting, the SLNA was given a preview of planned improvements to the Victorian Garden in St. James Park. Thanks to a bequest from the Heron and Stephenson families, the City has been able to hire a landscape architect and expert in heritage gardens, Wendy Shearer of Guelph, to develop a proposal for a thorough renovation.

The City plans to restore and repair existing features, improve the park's maintenance infrastructure, enhance the public's safety and enjoyment, introduce new features that reinforce the garden's

19<sup>th</sup> century character and supply interpretative signage. The project has been assisted by an Advisory Committee that consisted of representatives from St. James Cathedral, the St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association and the Garden Club of Toronto, to whose generous donation in 1980 we owe the present-day 19<sup>th</sup> Century Garden.

Lovers of the garden as it is now will be happy to hear that the new scheme will retain the fountain as its the centerpiece and also the flagstone walkways. The formal flower beds will be renewed with

fresh soil and plants and reconfigured to better represent the Victorian style of strict symmetry. Perimeter beds will represent other 19<sup>th</sup> century garden styles. Discreet, vandal proof interpretative signage is also planned. In keeping with the City's environmental initiatives, water savings are expected through the installation of a recirculation system in the fountain and a computer-regulated irrigation system.

Construction will begin in Fall 2004 and we can look forward to enjoying the fruits of these efforts in Spring 2005.

## CPLC Spells Safe Communities

One of the organizations working hard behind the scenes to improve safety in the city is the **Community Police Liaison Committee** or **CPLC**. Since the 1990s each police division has had a CPLC, made up of representatives of community churches, business associations, community centres, neighbourhood associations and the police. The aims of the CPLCs are to bring about a closer relationship between the community and the police and to help identify and resolve local policing issues.

Due to boundary overlaps, until now the SLNA has belonged to the CPLCs of both 51 Division and 52 Division. When the new police station at Parliament and Front Streets opens on June 1, however, 51 Division's west

boundary will be extended to Yonge St., thus putting our entire community within 51 Division.

Dealing with a single division will make it easier to address issues across the St Lawrence neighbourhood. It is also welcome news for our association, as 51 Division's CPLC is currently ably chaired by the SLNA's representative on it, **Bob Kemp**.

The CPLC holds monthly meetings where divisional concerns are tabled and addressed. In addition, it sponsors popular events such as the annual Kid's Day 911 Fair and organizes occasional public forums. The CPLC thus affects the lives of all those who live or work in our community.

*Dwight Peters*

## Police Numbers to note:

**In Emergencies: 911**

**To report all other crime: 416-808-2222**

**To contact the SLNA's 51 Division CPLC representative: 416-368-2794**

## Membership Matters

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new tenants and citizens adjust to their new homes. We are currently planning several orientation sessions for new tenants/new citizens—young and old.

Plans are also in the works to select two TCH tenants to sit on the TCHC Board of Directors. Each CHU will recommend two representatives for consideration as nominees by Toronto City Council. The two tenants representatives that Council selects will be a welcome added voice for tenants in the affairs of the TCHC.

We, the TCH CHU 11 representatives, welcome new occupants to the St Lawrence area and hope they will "Get Involved" to help our neighbourhood flourish.

**Joyce Endo**, 55 The Esplanade (TCHC CHU 11 Tenant Representative)

*NB This article is part of a continuing series on SLNA members. Issue 2 of the SLNA Messenger (May/June 2003) featured The Bentley, a condominium that had just joined our association. The Co-op Story was told by a resident of New Hibret in Issue 3 (Fall 2003). Back issues of this newsletter are archived on the SLNA's website:*

[www.slna.ca](http://www.slna.ca).

## Call for Volunteers!

**Interested in helping to plan and organize Festival 2004?**

If you are able to volunteer your time over the summer to work on this annual neighbourhood event (tentatively scheduled for September), please call **Ronny Yaron** at **416-366-6162**.

Unless we begin work **NOW**, the festival will not happen this year. So do act promptly. We're counting on **YOU!**