



The SLNA Messenger

News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

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St. Lawrence Neighbourhood: Toronto's first green community?

Snapshot: September 2014.

The St. Lawrence neighbourhood is widely recognized as Toronto's first green community. Children play on tree-lined sidewalks; the streets are busy with bicycles, rollerbladers and high-efficiency vehicles. The Market is bursting at the seams with farmers who sell locally-produced and organic product and shoppers who come from all over Toronto to purchase these goods. The sun gleams off the solar hot water panels found on every roof.

Sounds like a dream? Maybe—but one that will become reality.

The SLNA will soon be launching a pioneering and ambitious project whose goal is to transform our neighbourhood into a truly sustainable community: one that meets its current needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. A project of this magnitude will take several years to achieve and will engage residents, businesses and schools, as well as all levels

of government.

The sustainable community project is founded on three mutually supporting bases—Environment, Community and Economy. The goal is to create a healthier and more conservation-minded community while fostering a vibrant and thriving local economy. In other words, we will create a community where residents will be proud to live and where business will prosper, all the while ensuring the integrity of our local environment.

The project will create grassroots programs focusing on, among others, composting and community green-scaping. It will include a significant educational component, engaging schools and members of the community, and will advocate for changes to public policy and by-laws that embrace and encourage community sustainability.

The SLNA has partnered with Eneract to plan and implement this project. Eneract is a growing and dynamic non-

profit organization with 16 years of experience in delivering effective and innovative programs in the Toronto area. Eneract's programs include the very successful *Smart Steps, Simple Solutions* program (www.smartliving.ca) and the community economic development project dubbed *Green Convergence*. For more information on Eneract please visit www.eneract.org.

This project will serve the major objectives of the SLNA, which include enhancing the quality of life in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood; encouraging change and development beneficial to all our residents and businesses; fostering a sense of community; and undertaking projects that require, or benefit from, community support to serve overall community purposes.

A sustainable community will make our neighbourhood healthier, more vibrant and stronger, for the good of us all.

Cam Miller, President, SLNA

Some Festival 2004 Highlights—Crombie Park, September 18



Above—
Left : Fishing!

Centre: Bingo in the
SAS Tent

Right: Sidewalk Sale—
Community Tables

Below—
Far left: The BBQ
team

Left: Music at the
International Food
Fair

Photos by Alan Seymour

Making Summer Fun for Kids and Youth

Summer can be a great time for our neighbourhood's children and youth and the SLNA has once again done its part to make sure it is. The SLNA has been a long-time supporter of summer activities that give children in the St. Lawrence community opportunities to have fun, learn new skills and sometimes just get out of town for a time.

This summer, the SLNA was pleased to be able to support three key programs run through the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre. The longest running of these was the *Summer Sports League*, which is made up of Soccer and

T-Ball leagues for children aged 3 to 12 years. The SLNA's sponsorship of six teams helped make this year's league the biggest yet and benefited more kids than ever.

The SLNA also once again gave its support to the *Aquatic Youth Leadership Program*, which provided 11 neighbourhood youth with free lifeguard training in the Spring. The trainees were then linked up with lifeguard jobs during the summer. This great program gives our neighbourhood youth valuable training and employment—and an opportunity to escape the "McJob" syndrome.

Getting out of town for a while is something many young people in our community just don't have the chance to do. That's where the *Youth Leadership Camping* program comes in. Supported by the SLNA, this program in 2004 gave 60 youth the opportunity to go camping in Ontario Provincial Parks and spend some valuable time in the great outdoors.

The SLNA is proud to support children and youth in our community and looks forward to another great summer in 2005.

Dwight Peters

Membership Matters: The Longboat Residents Association

The first residents moved into the freehold townhouses on Longboat in April 1981. By that fall of that year, Longboat Ave, Princess St, Aiken Pl., Portneuf Ct and Douville Ct were occupied—and facing their first crisis. The builder had collapsed the company and the City was passing the cost of the sewers on to the owners. A lien was placed on the properties, with each townhouse assessed \$22,000. The first order of business for the newly-formed Longboat Residents Association, with P.J. Nicholson leading the charge, was to collect \$1,000 from every resident in order to hire a lawyer to represent us. It took many years but we proved that you can fight City Hall and win!

Not only have our membership fees become lower (\$20.00 per year), the Longboat Association now concentrates mostly on keeping the area clean and safe. We plant flowers in the common

areas, paint the lampposts, advocate for the residents when needed and participate in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association.

Longboat resident PJ Nicholson was one of the founding members of the SLNA and was very active on the committee that spearheaded the building of the community centre. Over the last 23 years many other Longboat delegates have served on the SLNA Executive, including PJ Nicholson, Cory Nicholson, David Gunter, Francis Omouri, Alan Seymour and Frank Burns, and all have worked hard for the SLNA.

The Longboat Residents Association members are enthusiastic about being in the St. Lawrence area and take pride in their homes and neighbourhood. We also are aware of the significance of our street names: Princess Street is one of Old Town Toronto's original streets; Longboat Avenue was named after Tom

Longboat, the long distance runner; Portneuf Court was named after the man who in 1750 oversaw the building of Fort Toronto; Douville Court was named after the famous fur trader who established the first European trading post; and Aiken Place, I believe, was named after William Maxwell Aiken, better known as Lord Beaverbrook.

Many of the original residents still live here and their children have grown up in the area. We are now seeing new families move in and new babies being born. It's good to be part of such a vital, exciting and beautiful neighbourhood.

Lorna Ekblad
Longboat Residents Association

Editors note: This article is part of a series on different types of housing units that are members of the SLNA. Earlier issues of *The SLNA Messenger* are archived at www.slna.ca.

SLNA Executive 2004–2005

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For the latest news from the St Lawrence Neighbourhood, minutes of SLNA Delegates meetings, and back issues of *The SLNA Messenger*, visit our website:

www.slna.ca

Just ahead.....

- **Tuesday October 5—
SEDERI Job and Career Fair, North St. Lawrence Market, 11 am to 6 pm.**
- **Tuesday October 5—
Sustainability Framework Public Forum, Champagne Ballroom, Novotel Hotel, 45 The Esplanade, 7 to 9:30 pm.**
- **Wednesday October 29—
SLNA Monthly Delegates Meeting, North St. Lawrence Market, 7 to 9 pm.**