



The SLNA Messenger

News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

February/March 2005

No. 7

AGM 2005

This year's Annual General Meeting of the St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association will be held on Wednesday, March 30. According to our bylaws, there are a number of matters which must be dealt with, chief of which is to elect delegates to any open Executive position. This year, there are six openings on the Executive:

- Vice President, External (2 year term)
- Secretary (1 year term)
- Treasurer (2 year term)
- two At Large positions (2 year terms)
- one At Large position (1 year term)

SLNA President Cam Miller and Vice President, Internal Ronny Yaron each have one year left in their respective terms.

Service on the Executive is one of the most important volunteer opportunities

offered by the SLNA. Between now and March 30, delegates are urged to consider standing for election to one of the available positions themselves and to persuade their neighbours to do likewise.

For more information about any of these positions or about the AGM itself, please contact the SLNA office at (416) 368-2794 or send an e-mail to slna@bellnet.ca.

Nancy Sheppard, Secretary/Treasurer

SLNA Development Committee

The SLNA Development Committee is currently facilitating three working groups that deal with development in the west end of our neighbourhood: an Urban Design Guidelines group, a Heritage Conservation District group and a St. Lawrence Community Improvement Plan group.

Urban Design Guidelines Working Group: This group has been working hard to establish Guidelines that will provide a framework for the extensive development that our neighbourhood is currently experiencing. The Guidelines are meant to be read in conjunction with the urban design policies of Toronto's Official Plan. Similar Guidelines for other areas of the city have proved useful when defending shadowing and massing criteria

in front of the Ontario Municipal Board.

The group is focusing on the area bounded by Yonge Street on the west, King Street East on the north, Jarvis Street on the east and the railway Viaduct on the south.. This area is the commercial heart of the neighbourhood and contains many significant landmarks. It is not only very important to our neighbourhood, but has citywide significance because of the Market and the St. Lawrence Hall.

The participants include the SLNA, SEDERI, the BIA, area property owners, the City's Urban Development Services (UDS) staff and other members of the community.

The Guidelines document has progressed to the point where there are several de-

tailed maps of the area. At future meetings, which are held on a regular basis, the text will be added. When the draft is complete, a public review will be scheduled. The second quarter of 2005 should see the Guidelines ready for Council.

The St. Lawrence Heritage Conservation District Working Group met once last November and will continue to meet over the next year.

St. Lawrence Community Improvement Plan group meets on an irregular basis but will have to become more active in order to get funding into the area for such purposes as streetscaping and maintenance of lighting.

Hugh-Francis Burns, Chair, Development Committee

Neighbourhood Notes

Goodwill has sold its present location at Jarvis & Adelaide to a condo developer and will relocate its retail operations from their present location to 345 Bloor Street East (Bloor & Sherbourne) on May 1. However, a donation drop-off centre will remain at 231 Richmond Street East (corner of George and Richmond Streets). For details see www.goodwill.on.ca.

You may recall that an ambitious scheme for the redevelopment of the **19th Century Garden** in St. James Park was presented at the SLNA meeting last February. At that time, we were told that work was to begin in Fall 2004 and be completed by Spring 2005. Nothing has happened yet, but you will be happy to hear that the redevelopment is slated to begin this Spring.

IT'S A GO!

After almost two years of back-and-forth, the City's Real Estate Department has finally approved the terms of a lease agreement with Parent Resources, the agency that will be operating a **family resource centre in the North Market**. A letter dated January 20th from Jorge Carvalho, market manager and a driving force behind the project, to Deborah Roth, president of the Parent Resources Board, gives us the official go-ahead. The next step is to engage a contractor for the renovations and, if all goes well, the Centre could be operational sometime in April or early May.

Initially, the family resource centre will be open three days (including Saturday) during the day and one evening per week. Daytime programming will feature supervised drop-in activities for parents and pre-school children; a toy-lending

library; and computer education for 3-5 year olds. On Saturday, as part of an agreement with Market merchants, Market customers will also have the option of leaving their pre-school children in the care of the professional agency staff while they do their Market shopping. Evening programming will focus on a mix of adult education programs and all-family events that stimulate positive parent-child interactive activities. As additional funds become available and as contracts are signed with other social agencies, these initial activities will be expanded to include a comprehensive range of programs and support and referral services for young and immigrant families in the St. Lawrence community.

Mel Shipman, Chair, Circles of Support Committee

Membership Matters

The St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association is the principal forum for raising and addressing the concerns of residents of St Lawrence—whether they live in co-ops, condos, freehold homes or city-owned and other nonprofit housing. The SLNA's effectiveness rests on the fact that it represents the wide range of housing groups that coexist in the neighbourhood. Judging from attendance at the last few monthly delegates' meetings, more people than ever are appreciating the value, of being involved in their community and of keeping informed about local issues.

As the person responsible for Membership, I together with our President, Cam Miller, have been contacting former delegates who have failed to attend recently and office managers of housing groups that have been members in the past, encouraging them to send delegates again. Our efforts have resulted in several new delegates. As well, we have been joined by residents from some newer condos and by guests who want to be informed about specific issues, such as the North Market Redevelopment Initiative. We now have delegates from three of the six Toronto

Community Housing Company buildings and are working on the others. Unfortunately, at present most member housing groups do not send the number of delegates to which they are entitled. One voting delegate is allowed for each 50 units, to a maximum of three voting delegates per group.

In 2004 SLNA membership fees were raised for first time in many years, to \$2.25 per unit with a maximum of \$275 for large housing groups. We also have non-voting associate members, such as the St. Lawrence Recreation Centre. These pay an annual fee of \$30.

For many years SLNA meetings have been held in the North Market. Unfortunately, the acoustics at the market are very poor, and we sometimes find ourselves "bumped" at the last minute for film crews or other special events. This has led to the quest for another meeting space. The Recreation Centre, where we used to meet, closes sharp at 9 pm. We have met at the Older Women's Network Co-op for the last two meetings and are open to suggestions and offers for other convenient locations.

Ronny Yaron, Vice President, Internal

**The SLNA's AGM is
Coming up—Note the
date!**

March 30, 2005

7 pm—monthly Delegates Meeting

8 :30 pm—Annual General Meeting

SLNA Executive 2004–2005

President Cam Miller

Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Sheppard

V.P. Internal Ronny Yaron

*V.P. External Hugh-Francis Burns
At Large Joan Campbell, Paul Smith*

Past President Nancy Sheppard

Communications News

The SLNA has revised its brochure. Our thanks to Ian Russell for donating the colour photos that enliven it.

If you are interested in serving on the SLNA's Communications Committee with a view to taking over as editor of the newsletter, please leave a message for me at the SLNA office and I will get back to you .

We also need a volunteer for the SLNA website (www.slna.ca). Our Webmaster, Dwight Peters, is looking for someone with technical expertise to work with him. If you have the skills, do leave a message for Dwight or me at the SLNA office: (416) 368-2794

*Joan Campbell, Member at Large
(Communications)*

SLNA on the Web

Minutes of the monthly meetings of delegates are posted on the SLNA website (www.slna.ca).

Check the website regularly for more SLNA news!