



The SLNA Messenger

News from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

May/June 2005

No. 8

Introducing.....

At its Annual Meeting on March 30, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association chose its Executive for 2005/6. Elected were:

VP External—**Robert Prowse** (2 years)

Treasurer—**Paul Smith** (2 years)

Secretary—**Samantha Hewit** (2 years)

At Large—**Joan Campbell** (2 years)

At large—**Connie Yang** (2 years)

At Large—**Richard Haldane** (1 year)

President **Cam Miller** and VP Internal **Ronny Yaron** will continue on until the completion of their terms next March.

Four of those elected are serving on the SLNA Executive for the first time.

Richard Haldane has lived at 25 Henry Lane Terrace for three years. An Employment Counsellor, Youth Programs Consultant and Manager, his interests include youth program development, family, and community unity. Richard would like to bring to the

SLNA his over nine years' experience working with youth. He particularly enjoys coaching and playing basketball, football and travel.

After only four months at Space Lofts on Richmond Street, **Samantha Hewit** has fallen in love with St. Lawrence and its unique mix of people. A real estate agent,



Left to right: **Richard Haldane, Robert Prowse, Samantha Hewit, Connie Yang**

Samantha joined the SLNA because she finds it important to keep her clients informed of neighbourhood issues and developments. In her spare time she visits friends and family, takes courses, reads, exercises and watches movies.

Robert Prowse, a documentary filmmaker, is currently part of the documentary unit at TVOntario's Studio2. His media career has ranged from Senior Arts Producer at CBC Radio's Morningside, to being part of the team that created the first Communication Arts Program for women in the Arabian Gulf. In addition to urban design and architecture, Robert's passions include gourmet food and Canadian history—a combination that led him to buy a unit at Space Lofts in the historic St. Lawrence neighbourhood.

Born in Shanghai and educated in Hong Kong, **Connie Yang** has lived in Belgium and the U.S. as well as in Canada, her home since 1967. She has managed a fashion boutique, partnered in a food business, sold real estate, worked at a university press in California and done general accounting for six

Toronto hospitals. Since retiring, she has been an energetic volunteer, for seven years at Princess Margaret Hospital. Connie lives in OWN Housing Co-op and is an active member of the Older Women's Network and Circles of Support. Her hobbies are painting, music and travel.

Celebrating St. Lawrence's 25th

On Friday September 16 and Saturday September 17 of this year we will be "**Celebrating our past and greening our future**"—with David Crombie as patron of the festivities.

Mayor of Toronto in the 1970s, David Crombie played a key role in making St. Lawrence happen, and Crombie Park—the city-owned complex and the park along The Esplanade—is named after him.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood has won international recognition as a suc-

cessful experiment in urban design. Characterized by medium density development, a broad mix of land uses and dwelling types, and a great diversity of residents, in the quarter century since its beginning, it has become a liveable community with much to celebrate. Today, it is part of a thriving and rapidly developing part of Toronto's downtown that includes the St. Lawrence Market and the Old Town of York.

Looking ahead, the **Sustainable St. Lawrence** initiative will create opportunities for all who live and work here to make our community greener and more environmentally friendly.

A **Silver Gala** in the St. Lawrence Hall on Friday evening will kick off the September celebrations. Presided over by David Crombie, the Gala will provide an occasion to honour those instrumental in developing the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood and those who have made memorable contributions to our community over the past year. There will be exhibits, a fabulous silent auction and delicious food. On Saturday, a **Street Festival** along The Esplanade will offer a variety of activities for people of all ages, ending with a **Teen Dance** in the Community Recreation Centre on Saturday night.

Come September, **let's all celebrate!**

Trillium funding for “Sustainable St. Lawrence”

I am happy to announce that the SLNA, in collaboration with Eneract (www.eneract.org), has been awarded an 18-month \$113,400 grant by the Ontario Trillium Foundation for our Sustainable St. Lawrence project. The Trillium funding enables us to launch the project and gives us the chance to transform our neighbourhood.

We may never have a better opportunity than now to put into everyday practice what we know to be true. Eating better

and being more active will help to make us healthier. Using natural resources wisely will improve the quality of our air and water, and ensure a healthy and viable future for our children and grandchildren. And the more participation we get from those of us who live in St. Lawrence the stronger our community will be, and the more vibrant our local economy.

Specific projects in Year 1 include a stop idling campaign, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, the establishment of community gardens and tree planting. In addition we have plans to promote older adults activities, all-ages camping and nutrition education.

Sustainable St. Lawrence is not about imposing programs on any individual or the community. Nor are we re-inventing the wheel. We recognize and applaud all the good work that has been done and is being done by so many people in this community. Our objective is to work with existing programs, offering help and encouragement to make them stronger and more effective. We will also try to fill any gaps that are identified in the process.

Only if we all pitch in will we succeed in making St. Lawrence a “sustainable” community.

Cam Miller, President

Development Update

There is good news and bad news on the development front. First the good. After years of neglect, two little 19th century storefronts on King Street across from St. James Cathedral have been recycled.

Their simple Georgian elegance uncovered, these buildings now are home to modern offices and a floral business.

Both the owner and Ventin Architects deserve major kudos for the quality of this renovation and for saving another bit of our history. It’s important to remember that these kinds of seemingly insignificant

historic buildings contribute just as much to the fabric of our neighbourhood as much grander edifices such as the St. Lawrence Hall and the St. Lawrence Market. Together, they give our neighbourhood its unique sense of place.

Unfortunately that unique sense of place is under attack on other fronts. The Americans torched us in 1813. In 2005, we may be facing a second Battle of York, this time against a group of developers who appear to want to bury us in shadows. Projects currently seeking approval at 40 The Esplanade, 70 The Esplanade and the Goodwill site are all asking

for the right to build towers more than three times the height allowed under existing by-laws.

This neighbourhood is great for walking. It doesn’t have the wind tunnels and other problems associated with excessively tall buildings. Those who’ve taken a stroll along Bay Street know what I mean. Thirty years ago determined residents stopped an expressway from leveling the Annex. Let’s follow their example and stop this juggernaut of tall buildings from changing our community into a shadow of its former self.

Robert Prowse, VP External

Keeping our neighbourhood safe

St. Lawrence has the reputation of being one of Toronto’s safest neighbourhoods. With the influx of new residents and resulting higher density, however, it is of increasing importance that we work together to maintain a community where we all feel safe.

At monthly SLNA delegates’ meetings, we receive police updates and are able to

voice concerns to **Sgt. Tom Kelly** (416-808-5152), our community contact with 51 Division. Between meetings, **Bob Kemp** (bobkemp26@hotmail.com), Chair of the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) on which the SLNA is represented, keeps the lines of communication open with police.

If you see anything that causes concern, you are encouraged to call police. For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, contact Police Dispatch at

416-808-2222. More detailed information is available on the SLNA website (www.slna.ca).

The SLNA is now considering a more formalized approach to neighbourhood safety—the establishment of a “Community Safety Network” in conjunction with **Crime Concern** (formerly Neighbourhood Watch), known for its effective community-based crime prevention programs.

Alice Briesmaster

SLNA Delegates’ Meetings

Wednesday June 29—7 pm. at OWN Housing-Co-op, 115 The Esplanade

Wednesday July 27—7 pm. at OWN Housing Co-op, 115 The Esplanade. At the July meeting, the Hon. George Smitherman, MPP for Toronto Centre Rosedale, will speak and answer questions.

Come—and bring your friends.

For details on these and other neighbourhood events, be sure to check the SLNA website (www.slna.ca) regularly!

Membership Matters...

A warm welcome to the three housing groups who joined the SLNA in 2004 and 2005. We look forward to meeting your delegates at our monthly meetings and trust all the residents of your buildings will want to take an active part in furthering the SLNA’s objectives.

The SLNA now has 33 voting members. If your building is not one of them, please contact our office or send in the membership form available at www.slna.ca.