



St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

Held on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Hosted on the Zoom Videoconferencing Platform

SLNA President Stewart Linton welcomed 76 community members and Delegates to the November 2022 SLNA Community Meeting. The 2023 SLNA Budget was circulated to Delegates a few weeks ago and approval of the budget was moved by Suzanne Kavanagh and seconded by Ian Morrison, there were no objections. The Motion was Carried.

Councillor Ausma Malik – Ward 10 – Spadina-Fort York

President Linton introduced our first speaker of the evening and added that her election to Council in the most recent election was a landmark victory in a few different ways and it is our pleasure to have her represent a part of our neighbourhood.

Ausma mentioned that today is Day 12 of her new job and she was happy to report that there was a solid transition to the new office. Ausma used to represent the downtown communities as a school board trustee and feels that having this experience under her belt will be helpful to the challenges waiting for her. She lives and works in the west-side of the Ward, and her former work place was the Atkinson Foundation where she was the Director of Advocacy and Organizing. Many people have asked her why she chose to represent the City as a Councillor and she feels that her love for the City and the power of local democracy and representation that our City urgently needs is partly due to her parents immigrating to Toronto 50 years ago, and that commitment to the City was also one of their proudest choices.

Ausma is happy to report that there will be ongoing continuity from the team from the previous Ward office which will be very helpful in making sure that our biggest challenges in this neighbourhood around transit, housing, parks and public spaces, around the future of our waterfront and the Island Airport, will be handled as efficiently as possible. Ausma just arrived from her first in-person consultation around the Toronto Island Masterplan, a really important priority. She has also had a briefing about the island ferry replacement issue, another very important issue to make sure that we have better access and continued use of our green spaces in this City. Another important issue is the revitalization of David Crombie Park.

Another challenge is the conversation about Ontario Place, and she has had many conversations with community members in this regard. You may have heard that a development application went in on Friday from the Province around the future of Ontario Place. Another piece we are closely watching is around transit and the management of the construction of the Ontario Line and the impact on our community, our ward bears the brunt of most of the construction work in this regard. The priorities regarding housing in our community are particularly important, the majority of the individuals in this community are renters.

One of the items raised with her is the St. Lawrence Library and the planning around that, as well as the First Parliament site. There are a number of projects around our cycling and road infrastructure ensuring that there are no further road tragedies in our neighbourhood. Another important item to talk about is the future of our island airport, the tripartite agreement is coming to an end in 2033, it is important to put the pieces together right now to have a democratic and transparent process to determine the future of the site.

Last week was the first Council meeting which also entails committee assignments, and Ausma is on the Planning and Housing Committee, the Board of Health, as well as on the Audit Committee, amongst other responsibilities.

A member of the audience raised the matter of regulations around cycling, and Ausma responded that the first priority for everyone is following the rules of the road, whatever mode of transportation is used. Please contact either the SLNA or the Councillor's office if you are aware of a specific intersection or danger spot in our community that requires attention. Another question pertained to a Recycling Depot in the neighbourhood which Councillor Malik will follow up on. Bill 39 was also mentioned, and this Bill enhances Bill 3, the Strong Mayors bill, to a level which actually undermines our democratic principles. The bill states that the Mayor would only require one third of Council to pass bylaw changes, that means only 8 votes on a 26 votes Council, which is clearly unacceptable. The Bill right now is in front of Committee and deputations started on November 30 and are ongoing.

Councillor Ausma Malik can be reached at councillor_malik@toronto.ca or at 416-392-4044.

St. Lawrence Market Street Debrief – Al Smith, BIA Executive Director

Market Street is one of the earliest main roads in Old Toronto. Beginning in 1803, Market Street connected the Harbour of Old Toronto to the town centre. Among its numerous incarnations, dating back to the 1800's, Market Street once housed the Armory Hotel which eventually became a home for World War II wounded veterans, the Old Fish Market restaurant, RCMP horse stables, a fruit warehouse, an autobody shop and the LCBO's Vintage Wine Cellar. Market Street was completed in 2014. The BIA, the City and the Developer (Woodbridge) worked together in financing and planning the street. One of the first events on Market Street was The Feast of St. Lawrence in 2016, highlighting the food and cuisine in the neighbourhood. Following a Friday night Dinner under the Stars on Front Street, Market Street was closed to vehicular traffic and declared for pedestrians only, with music, entertainment, and major market vendors' participation. From 2016 to 2019 it grew to over 20,000 visitors on the Saturday. With a break for Covid in 2020 and 2021 it restarted in 2022.

In 2021 a pilot project was launched to close Market Street to pedestrians for two summer 4-day weekends in August. In the summer of 2021 Covid was still somewhat of a concern. As Toronto recovered from the pandemic, new ways were sought to connect, heal and rebuild as people were looking for opportunities to enjoy their favourite spots and outdoor spaces while our businesses looked for new ways to attract traffic. I Heart Market Street saw the street closed for two consecutive weekends in August. Live musical pop-up performances entertained people who strolled the strip, dined out or brought picnics using the free-for-all picnic tables. A survey was promoted on social media, through e-mail, websites and local organizations, on-site posters and on tables. BIA members and the public were invited to complete the survey which received 2166 responses. 93.5% of those respondents supported a full summer closure of Market Street in 2022. In the summer of 2022 Market Street was closed and declared for pedestrian traffic only. This move created a hunger for shared outdoor spaces and created a proposition that turned those spaces into our outdoor living rooms. After the initial pilot project in 2021 we were able to obtain City Council approval for a lengthier road closure in 2022. As approval went to Council in April the turn-around time for the street closure was quite short. A Market Street Placemaking Committee was struck, including residents, stakeholders from surrounding operations such as the Market, SLNA, City staff and our Councillor. Placemaking has become a much larger integral initiative within the City. We have identified public needs to create more public space. This is an opportunity to facilitate such an initiative. With Covid ravishing our communities over the past 2 years or so, innovation is the key to bring back our economy. There has been more focus on pedestrianization and a whole host of cycle tracks have popped up indicating that people are looking for alternatives in getting around. As for closing the street we have seen how successful the Mayor's Active TO programs have been in getting people out to walk and cycle the streets, e.g. Lakeshore became a popular spot as a walking and cycling experience. These initiatives do not have to be attached to events

and festivals as time and time we have seen that there is a hunger for further public spaces for use within the City.

Market Street augments the cachet of the market and is a draw for those with families, particularly for those with young children with strollers and seniors. Creating new shopping patterns are essential. This is a forward-looking alternative in sharing our spaces in safety with visitors and entire families as they make use of these spaces.

A cursory look at cities across the world shows the popularity of pedestrianized streets, some for decades and others fairly recently, such as Montreal and Vancouver. In Vancouver there is a movement to create pop-up plazas so people can gather outside. The iconic and historic St. Lawrence Market and the heritage buildings on the West side of the street augment Market Street. Residents, the business community and tourists were all invited to enjoy this new space. Both ends of Market Street were closed with proper traffic barriers and beautified with planters as well as new signage. The BIA worked to address cleaning needs as well as addressing accessibility issues. It was also noted that the street needed something to create visual impact and the Café TO colourful umbrellas provided inspiration in this regard as well as providing shade. Long-term aspirations include overhead decorations or lights. We opted for Tuesday to Friday lunch and Wednesday to Friday dinner. As the market is already busy on weekends we did not program it, however, the St. Lawrence Market itself did offer extra programming on Sundays. We worked at mitigating any noise concerns and posted opening hours.

Here are the results of our survey that we presented during the summer:

- How do you feel about the concept of pedestrianized streets in Toronto? 90% approved.
- The idea of Market Street being pedestrianized June to October? Strong approval rate as well.
- Market Street being pedestrianized all year round? A little over 80%.
- How satisfied are you with the entertainment and activities? 40% very satisfied, 30% satisfied.
- How satisfied are you with the amount of entertainment? Well received as well.
- Types of entertainment: Music by far the most popular, followed by buskers, children's activities and booking demonstrations.

We invited local business representatives to comment on the impact:

- 43% positive/very positive, a larger percentage for neutral, but 43% of businesses indicating positive is a good result.

- The next question referred to local access, and there is a lot of local access within 1 km.
- Age range: There are a lot of layered age demographics, ranging from 65+ at the top, closely followed by 35-65, 45-54, 35-44 and 25-34.
- How many people visited Market Street with you? This is something we can target in future years, “visited with 1 other” was at the top.
- Who did you visit Market Street with? Family on top, then Friends, Children and Other.
- People were relatively satisfied with seating.
- Food availability from inside the Market? Extremely important.
- Importance of street vendors outside the market? Yes, very important.
- Satisfied with take-out options? Yes for over 60%.
- What mode of transportation do you use to get to the market? Walking way at the top.
- If you drive, where do you park: Street parking or nearby parking garage.
- How often do you come to Market Street? “A few times a week” was the highest percentage.
- Which days of the week: Saturday on top, then Sundays and Fridays about equal, followed by the other week days.
- Time of day: Midday (10-2), on top, followed by both morning (before 11) and afternoon (2-5) at the same percentage, and lastly evening (after 5).
- How has the pedestrianization impacted you and how often do you visit the area? 63% responded “more often than before”, just over 30% indicated “same as before”.
- How often do you make purchases at St. Lawrence Market or nearby businesses/restaurants? Over 50% indicated that they purchase more, which is a great economic indicator.
- General impact of the Market Street pedestrianization in the area? A very large percentage of people indicated positive.

Clearly a very positive result. We are looking forward to enhancing and diversify this initiative and several ideas will be investigated for next year. There is a requirement for an emergency lane which we would have to follow if we pedestrianize the street.

Robyn Posner, Director of Marketing, BIA – BIA Winter Activities

Some of the events the BIA did this year:

- A clean-up of St. James Park in April
- The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebration, which was a collaboration with Bruce Bell, the SLNA, St. James Cathedral and the First Canadian Post Office to celebrate the late Queen Elizabeth’s 70th anniversary as Queen
- Our artisans and re-enactors were back out

- The BIA sponsored the Creating Toronto in 2022 Walking Tour with Heritage Toronto
- We were part of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Celebration of Community
- Market Street – covered by Al Smith previously
- 9 concerts in St. James Park at the Pavilion
- 106 concerts on Market Street at the stage
- 8 concerts in Berczy Park in July as part of Berczy Beats
- 8 Feasts of St. Lawrence concerts
- This Earth of Majesty – performances held in St. James Park in August which turned out to be a more user-friendly spot than Berczy Park where performances were held previously
- Feast of St. Lawrence – a curated Picnic on Market Street in collaboration with five restaurants which was very successful
- Free Active classes in St. James
- Old Town Toronto Pumpkin Parade – really well attended, with 5 schools attending, the BIA purchased and delivered over 200 pumpkins to be decorated by the kids.
- Cavalcade of Lights is upcoming and will be held this weekend on Saturday.
- Also upcoming is a collaboration with The Friends of St. James Park, A Holiday Sing Along in St. James Park which will be held Saturday, December 17, from 2 – 3:30, in the Michael Comstock Pavilion in St. James Park.

We hope you are all following us on Social Media. Last year we launched a semi-monthly Instagram Giveaway. Each month three winners receive a \$100 gift card to the OTT business of their choice, paid for by the BIA. Members are encouraged to share these posts with their followers, and remind them to shop local.

We support another newsletter event, Where To Support Local, in order to support our businesses. Each business submission becomes its own entry in the newsletter/blog which is emailed out to all subscribers, both the public and other BIA members.

We also posted a Patio Guide. It focuses on the areas they are located in and also mentions “Top Three Menu Items” in order to draw attention to a specific aspect of the restaurant. We also featured a google map in order to easily find the restaurant.

Robyn responded to a query from the audience regarding noise level during the Cavalcade of Lights that they always have a noise permit, stay within the parameters indicated, and always end early.

Stewart Linton presented a **November 29 News Release** on behalf of Leslie Lester (St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts) jointly from TO Live and Create TO:

In January 2020, City Council re-imagined STLC to create a cultural ecosystem where renewed cultural spaces, innovative spaces and cultural spaces will combine into a dynamic cultural and civic hub; anchor Front Street cultural corridor.

In October 2022, first stage of international design for this re-imagination competition began.

In November 29, 2022 – shortlist for the finalists announced:

- Brook McIlroy/Trahan Architects/Hood Design Studio
- Diamond Schmitt Architects/Smoke Architecture/MVVA
- Hariri Pontarini Architects/Tawaw Architecture Collective/Smoke Architecture/SLA
- RDHA/Mecanoo/Two Row Architect/NAK Design Strategies
- Zeidler Architecture/Diller Scofidio + Renfro/Two Row Architect/Plant Architect

Each of them includes an indigenous design firm, which was part of the objective. The five consortia/groups/teams will be asked to go away in the next four months and come up with new designs for the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts.

The design component will be judged by a jury of leaders in the fields of planning, urban design, architecture, indigenous design and landscape Architecture.

There will be a Town Hall on March 7, 2023 for the public presentation of the four competing designs at the St. Lawrence Centre.

After adjudication this will be presented to Council, along with the business case, in the second quarter of 2023.

Anthony Badame, Heritage Program Assistant, Heritage Toronto

Anthony is an Emerging Historian with Heritage Toronto. Heritage Toronto is an arms-length program of the City and through their programs they aim to build a better city by bringing people together to explore Toronto's shared past and peoples' lived experiences. Their 2022 program wrapped up in October this year. They had 20 unique tours and 15 of them were new tours, and overall they had 57 presentations, double the amount they had in 2021, and very close to the numbers they had in 2019, so they are almost back to their pre-covid numbers.

They have a variety of tour-based programs, some in-person and some digital, which means they were able to have over 10,000 people participate. Most people felt that the tours they attended were very exciting and very knowledge-based, they were really excited about learning new things about the area. 81% of people rated the tours as either good or excellent, 85%

rated their tour leader as good or excellent, 91% rated our volunteers as good or excellent, and we got a 4.3 rating out of 5 overall for our tours. There was a noticeable appreciation for the Emerging Historians program this year, which the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association helped to support, and we are very grateful for all of your contributions. We increased the size of the program to 28 Emerging Historians. 15 of the 20 unique tours presented in 2022 were developed by Emerging Historians. One of the jewels of our tour season this year was the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Tour, which goes through the old part of the city and brings the historic parts of the city to life for a lot of people. I was involved with this tour through organizing staff and volunteers and one of the wonderful things about this tour is how great it is for people not familiar with the neighbourhood. We saw a lot of people who were on vacation and saw it for the first time, and we saw a lot of individuals who were returning to it and looked at it with different eyes. We did the tour in July, August and October. The July and October versions were on Wednesday evenings which allowed for a different demographic with a lot of people coming after work during those days. We did these tours with both an audio headset and also a loudspeaker model, which again allowed for differences in participation. We had 80 participants in the three presentations, which had 8 volunteers associated with it and 24 volunteer hours.

We always like to highlight some of the things that people found exciting about the tour and one of those was the 1855 Clown Riot. There was a travelling circus that came through Toronto in 1855 and they decided that after a long day of clowning around they wanted to enjoy themselves in a brothel, have a little fun and maybe a drink. But they were not the only people there that night, there was a group of firefighters who had a reputation for violence. It is not clear what started things off, but it eventually led to quite a large battle, and the clowns won. Later on there was retaliation, of course. The enquiry after those events led to a lot of social reform.

Another one is the Great Stork Derby, one of the most unusual stories we have been able to uncover. It involves Charles Vance Millar, a Toronto lawyer, very wealthy, who died in 1926. This man clearly had a sense of humour - his will stated that people who held a pro-temperance view would be given shares in a company that produced beer, he gave a group of lawyers who hated each other a house that they had to share, but the oddest one was the section in his will that stated that he would give most of his money to the woman who had the most children after a 10 year period after his death. This created the Great Stork Derby. There were two dozen women who participated in this. Eventually there were four women with nine children each getting the title of winner and receiving \$125,000 for doing this, which in the 1930s was about \$2 million today. A community member mentioned that Heritage Toronto is one of the few charities that have actually increased their revenue over covid, and of course Heritage Toronto is open to accepting donations. All of their donations go towards their programming, especially the Emerging Historians program.

Lanrick Bennett, Executive Director of the Laneway Project – What are you doing in my alleyway?

The Laneway Project is a not-for-profit social enterprise.

- We have a hunch that laneways you've walked past, walked through and utilized have the potential to be vibrant, living spaces
- That within these living spaces they can be thriving public realms, helping to create strong neighbourhoods, communities and cities.

I am a Placemaker – that is kind of a new-fangled way of talking about people that work within the urban space. I spent some time working at The Second City as a producer, I got to visit all 100 public library sites across the city with my son, I have been working with Evergreen with future cities, and I happen to be the City's Bicycle Mayor. Tonight we had a Ghost Ride, unfortunately a 20-year old was killed at St. Claire and Yonge, and I rode with 150 cyclists up Yonge Street.

Within the Laneway Project We're Designed to Bridge Disciplines. We want to help unlock value, receive robust and cohesive results. We want to be able to build relationships and capacity and with our small team want to offer a full set of services where we come in to work with the community and to better understand what you are looking for in your neighbourhood, in your spaces, and hopefully from start to finish work to be able to create something within laneways, within spaces. Laneways is definitely something within our expertise, streets, public spaces in general, we enjoy and love working in those spaces. Some of the areas that we have been in. Lanrick showed several samples of his work in different parts of the city.

Stewart Linton – SLNA Letters of Advocacy

In October:

- To Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario supporting the proposed new boundaries for Toronto Centre.
- To Employment and Social Development Canada, New Horizons for Seniors Program supporting JAMIL's application for funding for "Belonging".

In November:

- To Premier Ford, Minister Clark, MPP Scott recommending striking Section 6 (Amendment to Ontario Heritage Act) from Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster Act.
- To Premier Ford, Minister Clark opposing Ontario proposal to remove land from the greenbelt to build 50,000 new homes.
- To Mayor Tory urging him to reject the powers in Bill 39, Schedule 1 allowing introduction and passing of a by-law with more than 1/3 of Council in favour

All letters are available on the SLNA website for you to read.

Stewart Linton – Community Updates

Nancy Fung – Waste Reduction Group

Nancy reported that we have now gone to three RMarket events a year, and the next one is on January 25 and 26, 2023, which gives you plenty of time to put aside the items you are not using for donation. The format will be very similar to previous ones, two days of donation, Jan. 25 and 26, and then the Free Market is going to be on the first day where you can bring in items you are not using and your neighbours may be able to use them. The second day is the Repair Café and the CultureLink Bike Hub will also be available. Our website has been updated: slna.ca/wrg-about.html. You can also contact us at that website if you wish to volunteer. You can also email us at reduce@SLNA.ca.

Elevate. The BIA and the SLNA met with the Elevate organizing team to discuss events this year and potential plans for next year and it looks like they are intending to re-imagine a festival for next year, and it certainly will respond to and acknowledge concerns that were expressed regarding noise and lack of communication. We are fairly confident that we can build a successful festival in the neighbourhood that will meet the expectations of all of us. The next meeting with them will likely be in February. From what they said, it is unlikely that there will be evening concerts as part of the 2023 festival.

Wellington Street. The terminology is “substantial completion December 19th”. There will be some overnight work this weekend at the NW corner of Yonge and Wellington to make this happen. The North sidewalk is complete all the way to Yonge Street and some of the lights are working. On the South side the curbs are poured to the end of the Flatiron building, the excavation is about halfway down close to Scott Street and the South side from Scott to Yonge is untouched. The St. Lawrence neighbourhood and in particular Wellington Street has been chosen as the pilot location for the installation of the city’s newest pedestrian seating.

51 Division – Major Crime Overview (2022 to Nov. 9)

Year to Year Changes	21/20	22YTD/21
Church Yonge Corridor	1,466/+20.5%	1,122/5.8%
Moss Park	1,010/-16.5%	761/12.1%
Waterfront/The Island	433/+51.9%	319/-20.4%
51 Division	3,818/+4.7%	2,999/-7.9%

<https://data.torontopolice.on.ca/pages/open-data>

Major Crime Summaries – YTD

Shooting	+35%
Assault	-11.8%
Auto Theft	+17.3%
B&E	-18.2%
Robbery	-2.2%
Theft Over	-9.8%

Parliament Square Bike Lane – Tree Removal

As the area is prepared for the installation of the bike lane for that stretch 11 out of the existing 30 trees will be removed because they would not survive the removal of the fence that currently separates Parliament Square Park from what used to be the parking lot.

TTC/Toronto Year of Public Art – AMBJ – A More Beautiful Journey

- XR audio on selected routes (501 Queen, 504 King, 509 Harbourfront)
- Download AMBJ app from Apple/Google – free until December 31

Holiday Food Drive

At the Berkeley Café at 262 The Esplanade – November 29 to December 20. It's being coordinated by Jasmin Linton. Canned goods, perishable food items – all to be donated to the Daily Bread Foodbank. You can either drop off (includes clothing) at the Berkeley Café or email Jasmin at Jasmin.Linton@century21.ca for pick-up.

Geotechnical Instrumentation at Moss Park

Metrolinx is installing geotechnical investigation monitoring points to facilitate the Ontario Line's future Moss Park Station from December 1 to January 20. It's at the North side of the neighbourhood, along Queen and along Sherbourne.

Next SLNA Community Meeting – January 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.