



ANNUAL REPORTS 2011

Community Environment Day – L. Allen

Not only was our last Community Environment Day scheduled on a very inconvenient early Thursday evening, it was also a very dark and rainy evening. However, we had plenty of bodies out braving the elements, mulching many of our neighborhood's trees.

Mayor's Clean-Up Day – S. Kavanagh

Thanks again to all the volunteers who helped; again, we continue to adopt the bed at Sherbourne and The Esplanade. Special thanks to Shaun Pearen, Debra Corey, Judy Gingrich, and Dianne Forsyth.

Gardening Committee – Dan O'Leary

The SLNA is an active organiser, facilitator and supporter of community gardening in our neighbourhood. The gardens vary from the more 'formal', such as the Princess Park Children's Garden (which is part of the City of Toronto children's garden network) to the informal such as the Princess Street "strip garden". Gardens are maintained on public land (such as the new planters on Britain Street and the latest efforts in Princess Park) or on 'private' (though publicly accessible) space such as the West Jarvis Community Garden. The SLNA Gardening Co-ordinator works with local groups to identify and reclaim "orphan spaces" and with the City to ensure our neighbourhood parks are well maintained and that our neighbourhood is about 40 in 2011, and we try to work with other local organisations such as the local St Lawrence BIA, property owners, tenants groups and the schools. Not only do our gardening efforts help to beautify our neighbourhood, they also help build up a sense of community.

For the first time ever we've been asked to help create a memorial garden at Market lane PS this spring.

.Heritage Conservation District Study – Suzanne Kavanagh

Michael Cruikshank Joan Campbell This committee has been working for over six years to support the committee that formulated the Urban Design Guidelines. The good news is that on February 16, 2012 the Planning and Growth Management Committee approved the terms of reference and have since gone to Council for approval. We also sent a letter requesting we be first and have since then been interviewed by university students writing papers.

Waterfront Marathon Neighbourhood Challenge – S. Kavanagh

The SLNA signed up for its third year and reclaimed first place!

- 1) **One** great team
- 2) **Two** great bands
- 3) **Three** years of cheering gave us first place back!

For three years, we have organized the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Cheering Section of the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. Every year seems to grow and runners always remember our balloons and our bells. As well, TFSS remembers our donations; to date we have raised over \$36,000.

Canada Day – Loretta Allen*

We had no need for tents and umbrellas at this year's Canada Day festivities – had the great fortune of occurring on an incredibly beautiful and sunny Canada Day! After picking up many passersby on our neighbourhood parade, led by piper, Marc Lesley, we settled in at Market Lane Park for a day of music, food, and fun. There was fun for all ages, with music provided by Farrucas and Yvon Duguay, children's' activities by Parent Services and much more! A big thanks also goes out to our local representatives, MP Bob Rae, MPP Glen Murray and City Councillor Pam McConnell.

Treasurer's Report – John Wichelow*

At the end of 2011, the Association continues to be in strong financial health.

We again won first prize in the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon – \$6,000 - although this figure shows as an Account Receivable as funds were not received until March 2012.

Membership revenue slightly exceeded budget and we hope to see this trend continue through 2012 with further efforts to bring more buildings into the Association.

Development Committee – Debra Corey

Debra Corey (Chair)	Joan Campbell	Sylvia Pellman	Stig Harvour
Monica Tang	James Bar	Robert Sherrin	Elizabeth Sisam
Cherrill Baker	David Crawford	Suzanne Kavanagh	

This past year the Development Committee has had continued discussions on various projects. Examples are: renovation of the Sun Building, 5-7 The Esplanade, improvements to Frederick and George Streets, First Parliament Site, Sherbourne Street bike lane proposals. Newer projects discussed included 154 Front Street (Greyhound bus site) – this will be ongoing, 40 Scott St, GO transit (Lower Jarvis), 25 Ontario St, North Market, Front Street improvements. We know the coming year will include the ongoing but, additional projects such as: Staples location, Sobeys/Acura, 60 Colborne, and 71-95 King Street E. As well, some fine-tuning was done on the SLNA Development Guidelines.

President's Report - Suzanne Kavanagh

Another amazing year for the SLNA. The Development Committee is strong, active, and once again going to OMB starting April 10th. The web site is copied by other neighbourhood associations. We are working with the BIA and other groups on 1812 commemorations. We are 30 years old and will be placing trees and benches around the neighbourhood to celebrate. Canada Day was another success and an active committee is planning again for this year. The marathon is something that is such fun and anyone can help, runners always come back to thank us for the darn bells and crazy balloons. It is a sign they are almost done!

We are fortunate to work with so many community partners: St. Lawrence Market Complex, the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA, and the Bulletin. We have been able to fund raise and support the local soccer teams as well as the nutrition programs at the neighbourhood schools. We have been enlightened, inspired, and challenged by great guest speakers. Please join me in congratulating our volunteers who help make this neighbourhood one of the best. Many thanks for allowing me to serve on this Board for the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association. Many thanks to the Board of Directors and all the volunteers who support the SLNA.

St. Lawrence Market B.I.A. – S. Kavanagh

This year has been busy for the BIA. I try to attend meetings as often as possible but this year was off as the meetings were held at the same time we were attending city hall deputing for other items concerning the SLNA. We are grateful to have a strong supportive relationship with the BIA. They support our marathon efforts and invite to many committees for input such as Waterfront Toronto Sewer, 8-80 Cities gardens to name a few.

East Bayfront/Parkside/West Don lands Update – Robert Sherrin

The West Don Lands Committee has met on the last Monday of each month over the past year and has been mainly concerned with the development of the West Don Lands in preparation for the Pan-American Games in 2015. There have been a number of presentations throughout the year by representatives of Waterfront Toronto to explain the progress and the decisions made to date. The Committee has been delighted to follow the progress of the development of River Park and Underpass Park that are being built out at the moment. Plans are proceeding apace for the build-out of the accommodations for the athletes that will eventually be turned into condos for sale at market value and at subsidized rates for lower income families. The concern of the Committee centers around construction traffic, noise, pollution, the training of otherwise unemployed young people from the neighbourhood for the construction jobs that are materializing, and other items relating to such a large project.

The Committee has also received presentations from the Hines group regarding the planned development for East Bayfront. Concerns there are to insure that the development is as liveable as possible and still gives access to the waterfront for other people in the city.

Then there are a number of smaller projects that are also on their radar such as the proposed hotel and condo for the Distillery District, the LRT plans for Cherry Street, and the development of Front Street as it comes to the West Don Lands.

St. Lawrence Community Centre Advisory Committee – Doug Maybank

Here are just some of the things we have done and are doing:

- We have initiated and participated -- hands on -- in projects such as painting, repairs, and cleaning.
- We initiated and co-coordinated many social events such as the children's December festival party, indoor garage sale, pancake breakfasts, craft sale, and cooking class.
- We are working with Market Lane Public School to resolve issues with our shared use agreement.
- Produced a thorough, seventeen page "Priorities for Accessibility Upgrades" report.
- We are dealing with major physical plant issues, building structural problems, pigeon determent, and accessibility.

We thank SLNA for its support, (moral, participatory, and financial), over the years.

We have a vision of the Centre as being the "Heart of the Community".

BIA Parks Committee – Cherril Baker and David Crawford

In early 2012, the St Lawrence Market Business Improvement Area (BIA) received a grant from 8-80 Cities to help plan changes to Berczy Park. The BIA has asked two SLNA representatives to join their Parks Committee, which is overseeing this project.

8-80 Cities (<http://www.8-80cities.org/>) is a recognized non-profit who have received some funding from the Ontario Government and there are two current projects in Toronto and several in other parts of Ontario. The other project in Toronto is to improve O'Keefe Lane and St. Enoch's Square in Ward 27

On February 27, the BIA and 8-80 Cities organized an evening presentation "Make a Place for People" at which the urbanist Jay Walljasper made a very Useful and interesting presentation. More presentations are planned over the next few months.

Due to local interest, because the two parks are close together and because the planning should look at the broader neighbourhood needs, the BIA are now hoping to be able to contribute funds to allow 8-80 Cities to expand this project to cover both the needs and opportunities for Berczy Park and St James' Park. The funding should be clarified shortly.

It must be noted that this grant/project is to encourage and facilitate neighbourhood involvement and the funds will also be used to engage a world-renowned urban design architect to draw up plans based on this input. The project will not actually do any "concrete" work but it will deliver a plan that can be implemented as City funds and Section 37 funds become available; some implementation funding has already been identified.

The consultation process is just starting and the project should conclude in late 2012 or early 2013, the SLNA will be kept informed.

Community Policing – Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel

Our SLNA represented at 51 Division CPLC for many years and valued its representatives and delegates who in return make sure our best interests are met. For example since last year we have raised our concern with regards to loitering, intimidation, pan handlings, and drug issues on the corridor of The Esplanade, Frederic St among others. Also thefts, break and enters including assaults are in decline.

The delegates attend a meeting once a month and voice if there is any problem on their building or areas. If the SLNA has any concern it presents its concern to the Division and they will always delegate someone to take care of our issues in most cases.

North St Lawrence Market Initiative – Alan Seymour

The project is still in the pre-design stage. The current time schedule still stands as follows.

- 1) Move and set up interim Farmers and Antique Market on parking lot bound by Esplanade/Market/Wilton/Jarvis streets by August/ September 2013.
- 2) Start to take down existing North Market building in October 2013.
- 3) Construction of New North Market and Courts currently scheduled to start in November 2013 and scheduled for completion in late 2015.
- 4) Occupancy slated for Court House in spring 2016. Market back by late 2015.

Budgets have been approved and allocated. All contracts are signed or in the process of being signed for demolition and construction.

Waterfront Toronto Stakeholder Advisory Committee – Portlands – S. Kavanagh

The mandate of the SAC is to provide a forum for feedback, guidance and advice to the Project Team at key points during the public consultation process. This was the first of several Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings that will take place between February and May of 2012. Please visit the project website (portlandsconsultation.ca) for more information. We have met three times and by now, you will see the public meetings have been announced for early April.

This is a multi-decade plan with many components. The main issue now is the Don River, managing flood protection and how all of this will be funded. Also being considered is a spillway and naturalizing the mouth of the Don River. To better understand costs the flood protection is approximately \$500 million. Over 20 years 8,000 residential units will be built.

Webmaster Report – David S. Crawford

During 2011/12 the basic website design for www.slina.ca remained the same but regular updates were prepared and a new page on “current development projects” was created – this was in response to comments that the longer Development Committee page was too comprehensive for

most people and residents wanted a “quick access” page. The revision appears to meet these needs.

Though the figures of “site activity” are quite variable and not always clear it seems from using Google Analytics that www.slina.ca is visited about 350 times each week with 90% of the visits coming from Canada. Though many of these visits are by various indexing bots there does appear to be significant use of the site and it provides the SLNA with a way to communicate with our neighbours and the wider world.

My current term as webmaster will end at the 2013 AGM (when I will have served for over 5 years). At that time it is hoped another volunteer may step forward and it may be time for a major site redesign – the current site design has been in place for almost 4 years.

East Bayfront Sanitary Sewer – Construction Liaison Committee – David S. Crawford

During the past year, the “Sewer Committee” has met over 20 times. The new sewer runs from Queen’s Quay at Lower Sherbourne to the Scott Street pumping station and runs on Queen’s Quay, Lower Jarvis and The Esplanade. Most of the discussion has focused on the work on The Esplanade, as this is a major residential area and, more importantly, a commercial strip with sidewalk boulevard cafes.

For technical reasons the (very deep) sewer excavation had to be on the north sidewalk of The Esplanade which meant that work had to be timed to minimize the disruption for the bar and restaurant owners and avoid damage to the heritage buildings.

In general, work proceeded well but it was (and is) a complex project as space was very tight and the City maps of “what was where” were not as accurate as desirable. During construction, it became apparent that the water main between Church and Scott was in worse condition than Toronto Water had initially thought and after several breaks, they contracted with Waterfront Toronto to replace it. This added time to the construction but the area from Scott to Church was cleared in time for the St Patrick’s Day celebrations.

The further complexity was that the BIA decided to use this opportunity to improve the street lighting and the general streetscape and the City now requires that trees being planted be in proper tree trenches. Redesigning the street was complex as the new design needed to satisfy the City, the merchants, the residents and to be done within budget. It appears that the final restoration work will start for the Church to Scott block in early fall and should last about 6 weeks. One “wrinkle” is that Toronto Hydro were recently refused a rate increase so have been laying-off staff – exactly the people who design and install new street lighting plans. Councillor McConnell is working to overcome this roadblock. The full length of The Esplanade should be completely restored by late 2012.

Old Town Toronto Network (OTTN) – Jacquie Williams

The Old Town Toronto Network is a quarterly gathering of the residents, business, arts and institutional groups that has been meeting since the mid-1990s. It began life as St. Lawrence Works but as the organizations attending expanded, it was reborn as Old Town Toronto Network. Through simply providing a welcoming forum and old-fashioned face-to-face social networking, the Network’s members have collaborated over the years to launch many projects: such as the

South East Downtown Economic Redevelopment Initiative, the Toronto Dollar, St. Lawrence Canada Day Celebrations, many festivals and events, and have the opportunity to inform and engage local stakeholders in each other's programs and projects. At the last quarterly meeting the Board suggested a name change, which was adapted, to **South East Downtown Network Alliance**

1. To avoid confusion now that the BIA has launched its Old Town Toronto marketing initiative
2. The network want to be inclusive of areas on our border that are developing and will have business, cultural organizations and residents, i.e. West Don Lands, East Bayfront etc.

Heritage Lighting Master Plan for Old Town Toronto – Jacquie Williams

The final report for the Old Town Toronto/Lighting Master Plan has been finalized and recommended placement of tall Victorian streetlights will be ongoing. The BIA will be involved with this placement program.

CommunityAIR – L. Allen;

Arrangements have been made for the construction of a pedestrian tunnel, running from the foot of Bathurst St. to Billy Bishop City Centre Airport on the Toronto Islands. A meeting is being held tonight at Harbourfront Centre, where the Toronto Port Authority will present its construction plan to the community.

Community Air continues to oppose the development of the island airport, citing that the area would be better used as public green space. If you would like to learn more about CommunityAir and how you can get involved, you can visit their website at: www.communityair.org

Community Improvement Plan – L. Allen

This year marks the SLNA's 30th anniversary! To acknowledge this milestone, the membership has decided to set aside some money for the purchase of commemorative trees and benches. These trees and benches, adorned with a commemorative plaque, will be placed throughout the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. If you have any location ideas, please pass your suggestions on to David Crawford, but keep in mind that we're looking for locations that wouldn't otherwise have a bench or a tree, but could really use one!

Old Town Toronto Seniors Centre – Jacquie Williams

The Old Town Toronto Seniors Centre is currently on hold. Originally, we were hoping to locate to 70 The Esplanade but this was not a viable option. Pam McConnell has recommended space in the new north market and this is probably the route we will be taking. This will not happen until approximately 2015.

Presented to the SLNA AGM. March 28, 2012.