



St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

Held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Hosted on the Zoom Videoconferencing Platform

SLNA President Stewart Linton welcomed 55 community members and Delegates to the May 31, 2023 SLNA Community Meeting.

Councillor Ausma Malik – Ward 10 Update

Councillor Malik joined us at one of our Community Meetings about six months ago, and it is time for updates on a number of items. So much has happened, and Councillor Malik, on behalf of her team, expressed her respect and appreciation for the work of the SLNA in its engagement and commitment to the issues that matter. A city that is liveable and affordable is something we all aspire to.

Ontario Place – her priority has been a robust and transparent process when it comes to the development application. Hundreds of people attended the first round of the city's consultation process in April, which was available in person and virtually. In April they were also able to hold off an expedited land exchange being demanded by the Province for city lands at Ontario Place and that was a really tremendous win. Thanks to my colleagues, thanks to all the advocacy work that was done by neighbourhood groups and groups such as Ontario Place For All, which allowed us to use all of the tools that we have to hold our ground and assuring that there is a public green future for Ontario Place and that all decisions made are in the public interest. We have seen reckless moves from the Province to distract from the substance of the issues that have been raised around the development application, such as the Science Centre

and possible deals with entertainment operators that have not followed a clear process and have raised a number of very serious concerns around what the implications might be. The City has now asked for changes to the proposal based on their assessment and the public feedback. We just received a summary of the public feedback from April which will be posted on the website shortly. Late May and early June was an expected timeframe for another meeting to be able to show expected changes from the City of Toronto side and how Infrastructure Ontario and Therma were responding. We received information that the City has passed on their feedback but there was no indication that the Public Meeting will be occurring. We want to keep public engagement at the centre of our approach to Ontario Place when it comes to this development application.

You may have heard that this past weekend public access to the West Island was closed off with no notice or publication, disrupting use of this really precious park and public space. We have been in close touch with the Ministry of Infrastructure and were given commitment that pedestrian access to the West Island would not be disrupted as the Ministry began their site servicing, so we have been very persistent in trying to get answers from the Ministry of Infrastructure. There was a one-line response that we will be getting an update on this issue. You may have heard that Ontario For All is planning an action on Sunday at noon. We have to make sure that we are taking a stand on this unacceptable action. With the mayoral race in full swing this is really an important time for advocacy in all areas, including our precious green spaces and their future.

Ontario Line. You may know that together with Councillors Moise and Fletcher we created the Ontario Line Subcommittee earlier this year as part of Toronto and East York Community Council and I was elected Chair of that subcommittee. In our first meeting we heard from a number of residents from many communities in that area, including requests relating to construction, traffic management, community benefits and time-line guarantees. The reports are currently coming back to the appropriate committees, we just saw the first round of reports at Toronto and East York Community Council. We will be reconvening the subcommittee when all the reports are released and looking to make sure that we are meeting the mandate of the committee which was creating a set of clear recommendations and best practices which we will be forwarding to Metrolinx and the Ontario government as the construction on the Ontario Line is getting underway this summer. This is a very important accountability mechanism for us at the City and for our community. We have a clear expectation of what we need to see from Metrolinx. We are hoping for approval of the set of guidelines hopefully in July by City Council, the last meeting before the summer recess.

Quick updates on local issues – thank you for your participation in the Community Environment Day, our office was distributing packages of seeds native to Ontario at David Crombie Park, answering many questions about revitalization. The City of Toronto completed the Masterplan documentation finalized in February 2022 which included public and stakeholder consultation

and input. We received an update from staff that David Crombie Park revitalization is moving forward and staff are planning for community engagement in the final concept design to be completed this year. There will be community pop-ups in July and August in this regard. There will be additional public engagement events for the fall, September and December, and then bidding, tender and construction is planned to begin in Spring of 2024.

The St. Lawrence library is also one of the issues that has come up. The new library is planned for the temporary North Market site. We can't just limit the use of our precious public land to one area. Other options identified were affordable housing and other options for community infrastructure. That review has come pretty much to completion and the results will be brought to a meeting with the SLNA for discussion and to talk about a path forward and we have met with the Development Committee in that regard.

Esplanade – Mill Street Bike Lane. In the Spring of 2021 City Council approved a bi-directional cycle track on the South side from Yonge Street to Bayview Ave., and later the tracks were installed on the South side from Sherbourne to Bayview. In 2022 staff gathered to track pattern usage to make determinations about the adjustments that were going to be needed in the installation. In the upcoming plans, including the construction of the cycling trail North of Parliament Square Park are about creating a separation between pedestrians and cyclists and replacing the paint at Mill Street and Cherry Street intersection with coloured pavers to enhance durability and compliance.

You can reach the Ward 10 team at Councillor_malik@toronto.ca Sign up for the newsletter at ausmamalik.ca

Audience member Mary McDonald reiterated the difficulties of dedicated dual cycling lanes, starting right at Yonge St. with the first condo reporting problems with emptying garbage cans which require to be lifted up, followed by the drycleaners with regular pick-up and delivery trucks, next to Postal Station A, a very busy pick-up and delivery point, and then 25 The Esplanade, a condo building with 1,200 residents, many elderly, where the stop sign in front of it is often ignored. Then of course there is the newly reconstituted Novotel Hotel (it served as a homeless shelter until early in the year) which is right next to 25 The Esplanade with regular ongoing car traffic. And of course at Jarvis there are the St. Lawrence Market vendors which have to get in and out of the loading docks.

Councillor Malik thanked Mary for her input and will take it back for further discussion.

President Linton reintroduced Bushra Mir, one of the Constituency and Planning Advisors in Ward 10, who had joined us at the Community Meeting last year, together with Councillor Malik.

PASAN – Community Support Resources – Chance Cordon, Community Care Program Coordinator

With the change back to hotel operations from the shelter status at 45 The Esplanade there is less presence of community safety teams in the neighbourhood. Chance introduced himself to the SLNA Board and may have some suggestions for resources that might alleviate this situation and help with harm reduction.

PASAN is a community-based prisoner health and harm reduction organization that provides support, education and advocacy to prisoners and ex-prisoners across Canada. It was formed in 1991 as a grassroots response to HIV in the Canadian prison system.

We strive to provide community development, education and support to prisoners and ex-prisoners provincially in Ontario and federally regarding HIV, Hepatitis C and around whole health and harm reduction. We do our work inside prisons as well as out in the community. Today, PASAN is the only community-based organization in Canada exclusively providing HIV and HCV prevention education and support services to prisoners, ex-prisoners, at-risk populations and their families.

The Harm Reduction Community Project aims to create a safer community in the downtown East area through safe collection and disposal of discarded harm-reduction supplies, including needles and other sharps. The project offers low-barrier employment opportunities to folks with various lived experience and aims to challenge stigma and foster safety and inclusion in the downtown East community through engagement, responding to community requests for safe disposal, community training and collecting feedback.

Chance showed a map that explains the other organizations that work with PASAN, which is the leading organization, covers the South-Eastern quadrant of the downtown East which includes the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association. Regent Park Health Community Centre, Street Health and Dixon Park all work in conjunction with PASAN in order to make the community project happen. On the map shown you will see that there are small dots, and those are our identified hot spots where we often find a lot of discarded harm reduction supplies. Harm Reduction Services include Syringe Access, Syringe Disposal, Safer Drug Use, Naloxone, Medication Assisted Treatment, Supervised Consumption Services, Drop-In Centres, Pharmacy Access, and Referral and Linkage.

What is PPE? Personal Protective Equipment is required to protect you from injuries. Recommended PPE for handling sharps: Puncture-resistant or nitrile gloves (optional); tongs (with silicone tips); closed-toe footwear; biohazardous waste containers (sharps containers).

Here is an example of what can happen through sharps injuries: A Sharps injury could result in the transmission of bloodborne pathogens such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV); Hepatitis B (HBV); Hepatitis C (HCV) and STBBI's. Should it happen it's very important to wash it, you should be carrying alcohol swabs with you, cover it with bandages or gauze and immediately go to a hospital to receive PreP.

If you find such items on the street, please take a picture and send it to us.

Chance's email is communitycare@pasan.org

Stewart Linton suggests that if anyone in your building could benefit from having more knowledge and information about this kind of harm-reduction, please get in touch with Chance who would be happy to provide further information and take advantage of this resource.

SLNA 40th Anniversary Community Collaboration Project: Suzanne Kavanagh, Isorine Marc

Just know that there may still be some unrecovered Love Letters in our community space, ready to be unveiled. The next event will be happening June 21 – a party in the afternoon. The next event will be a Commemorative Mural. Appropriate space was found on the North side of the Esplanade between the Community Rec Centre and Market Lane School. On the other side of this wall is the Rec Centre pool. Isorine Marc from Jamii has been commissioning an artist, Darwin Peters, an indigenous artist, who will be flying in around June 13/14. They went on a fundraising mission and found four partners – the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA, Jamii, and EMBLEM Development. Additional sponsors supporting Jamii are Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, Rama Gaming House and the City of Toronto. Isorine is in constant communication with the artist providing feedback as to the final mural composition. The theme of this mural is around healing and I would like you to think about what this means not to you – not necessarily words but pictures and images. Isorine has already presented at the schools to make sure the students participate. So it has been a true cooperation. Suzanne had a conversation with a developer to be sure that the wall is ready for painting, and we would also like to see chairs placed in the area so we can view the mural at leisure. Suzanne showed the picture of a medicine wheel. June 21 is National Indigenous Day and the mural will be unveiled. In the evening, around 6 – 8, we will have some entertainment and honouring the indigenous community and we will actually see the full mural piece, Darwin's work. Please send us your comments.

Jamii – 2022 in Review – Isorine Marc

You all know that Jamii is your Neighbourhood's Arts Organization – on a mission to enhance togetherness within the communities we engage! Our agenda:

- The Esplanade's New Mural – Community Consultation and Unveiling
- Home for Jamii – a Hub for the Community
- Recurring Programs at the Jamii Hub
- The Jamii Hub – Space for the Public
- Past and Future Events
- Get involved!

As we already mentioned, the Mural artist is Darwin Peters, a self-taught indigenous artist from Pikangikum First Nation, a community located in Northern Ontario. The mural is a commissioned work and will therefore be very much his own style of painting. Darwin is the lead artist of this work, supported by two local artists as well as two local youths, so altogether they have seven days to paint the mural – hopefully the weather will be good. The mural is not yet fully designed, at this point there are elements. The theme of the mural – medicine and healing - was developed by Darwin and other artists from Pikangikum First Nations and we will have two photographers present. So the question is – when you feel down what is it to need or do to get back on your feet and feel better. Isorine asked the audience to identify what healing means to you, and there were many diverse responses. As an example, for Isorine “healing” is also family and love. Others cited water. Many people also cited friendship as a very important element. Another question is “how would you represent e.g. the element of nature on a mural”.

June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, will be the day we unveil the mural. We will have singing and drumming by indigenous artists, storytelling, and we will unveil a photo exhibition by Morning Star, also an artist from Pikangikum First Nation.

Many of you already know that Jamii now has a home, located right at the corner of Berkeley and The Esplanade, at 264 The Esplanade. The space contains the following:

- Office and Meeting Space
- Workshops – jamii.ca/register
- Events – jamii.ca/when
- Conversational Gatherings
- A Space for the Community

We have received a grant from Canada Council for the Arts and are able to use the space for a year and a half.

We have taken full advantage of having the space available with our diverse programming:

- Older Adults Workshops – piloted last year - which happen every Wednesday from 10 until 1 - jami.ca/olderadultsworkshops
- Every Wednesday morning there are Movement and Art Workshops
- This year's pilot program is for boys and we have been slowly building relationships LAINI – Boys of The Esplanade. This is a space and a hub for them to grow leadership and artistic skills.

And here is how we are planning to open the space for the public:

- Creating a sustainable place for all
- Priorities
- For-Profit Companies (if space is available, e.g. for a holiday party) full cost
- Non-Profit Organizations (discounted)
- Equity-seeking Groups within the community (special rate)
- info@jami.ca

Past and Future Events – all events are outdoor events

- Gardens of Influence – this is an opportunity for community members to cooperate with the artists we engage as far as programming is concerned. Svaha came out of those discussions, and community members expressed an interest in learning about different dance styles. They also wanted to do bunting and there is a bunting station, so this is a very effective way to find out what is of interest to community members. Two further workshops were suggested, a music workshop and a workshop on indigeneity.
- The new mural unveiling
- Svaha – a performance by Nova Dance
- National Indigenous Peoples Day jami.ca/indigenous
- Walk with Amal Toronto luminatofestival.com/amal

Get Involved!

- Attend an event in David Crombie Park and the Jamii Hub!
- Join workshops and create together! Bring a neighbour or a friend!
- Become an influencer of your own community!
- Share on social media and tag us! @jamiiesplanade

- Subscribe! jamii.ca/subscribe
- Become a Volunteer! Jamii Ambassadors (iris@jamii.ca)

Suzanna Kavanagh – Shoreline Interpretation Project

As you know, the shoreline moves over time. At this point, working with Heritage Toronto and fundraising as we go along, we are trying to delineate where the shoreline was so we can determine where eventual plaques should go and what they should say. We are starting those meetings now and down the road we will have to do some further fundraising, plaques are very expensive.

Edward LaRusic, Advisor, Policy and Community Relations, Ward 13 - Updates

We are in the midst of asking for ideas for potential projects in a few areas of the ward in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. Following the collection of all those ideas the staff will review them for feasibility and then we will bring the community together to ask them to vote on which projects to fund. From there we will then motion through committee or council to finalize the process. The process of Participatory Budgeting looks like this:

- Submit your project ideas
- City staff review ideas for feasibility and cost analysis
- Vote to fund projects
- Improve your neighbourhood

We are looking at doing three areas of the Ward:

- **Zone 1**
 - Bay-Cloverhill
 - Church-Wellesley
 - Upper Jarvis
- **Zone 5**
 - St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
- **Zone 6**
 - Corktown
 - West Don Lands

We will be budgeting \$750,000 for each zone, i.e. \$750,000 for each neighbourhood. This money is coming from Section 37. The money needs to be used for capital expenditures, such as major long-term expenses spent on fixed assets – examples are street scape improvements and park improvements. The money cannot be used for operating expenses such as day-to-day necessary spendings such as supplies, rent and subscriptions. For example, a traffic warden in the very congested St. Lawrence Neighbourhood would be very helpful, but unfortunately such a cost is considered operating expenditures. What projects are allowed?

- Parks and Playgrounds New Playground equipment and additional lighting
- Streetscapes Street Art, Benches, Bicycle lockers
- Sports Facilities 3-on-3 basketball court, ping pong table
- Sidewalks flower planters, curb cuts
- And More We can't wait to see the next great idea!
(perhaps Shoreline Interpretation project? Or plaques?)

\$750,000 is the funding envelope, each idea will be reviewed and costed by city staff, and residents can vote for as many ideas as they wish within the total funding envelope. We are in the idea collection phase right now. Some of my colleagues and I will be in St. James Park and the Community Centre this Saturday, going through a feasibility review following the idea collection and then we will have a meeting sometime in October to vote on those ideas, followed by seeking council approval later this year.

Saturday, June 3 – Zone 5 (St. Lawrence)

St. James Park 1 – 2:30

St. Lawrence Community Centre 3 – 4:30

Saturday, June 10 – Zone 6

Corktown Commons – 1 – 2:30

Cooper Co Family YMCA – 3 – 4:30

Friday – Sunday June 23-25 Pride Booth 10 am – 7 pm

Sherwin Lau will answer any complex questions you may have at Sherwin.Lau@Toronto.ca If you wish to submit ideas please go to councillor_moise@toronto.ca

Community Park Naming Contest! There will be two new parks coming which will require a name! The first one is at Richmond Street East (245-283 Queen Street East between Sherbourne and Ontario), and the second one on King Street East (254-266 King Street East). We are asking residents as well as students in the area to seek names, and the contest is open to anyone. The timeline is completion by 2026. To learn more about the Park Renaming

Contest, and to suggest other neighbourhood improvements, please visit www.torontocentreprojects.ca or contact Edward LaRusic directly at Edward.LaRusic4@toronto.ca

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA – Old Town Toronto Summer Update – Robyn Posner

The BIA is working hard to plan an eventful summer to keep you all entertained and here are our summer events:

- I Heart Market Street
- Music in St. James Park
- Berczy Beats
- Bard in Old Town
- Feast of St. Lawrence

Market Street

- Will be closed to vehicles from next week to the end of September
- Seating, umbrellas, vendor tents and a stage will be installed (no programs planned, installation period). The Music stage will be moved to the bottom of the street and angled.
- Programs include:
 - Performances by Opera Atelier (June 11, July 9, August 13)
 - 64 musical performances (Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:30-12:30 and 5-7 pm)
 - Pride Brunch (June 18)
 - Kids/Family Activities (July 6, 20, August 3, 17 and 31)
 - Urban Sketchers Event (July 15-16)
 - Brazilian dancing and free lesson (last Friday in July and August)
 - Caribbean Festival (August 4-6 and September 2-3)
 - Garlic Festival (Sept. 24)
 - Historic Artisans
 - Feast of St. Lawrence (Aug. 11-12)

History Comes Alive

The BIA returns to partner with Heritage Toronto as the presenting sponsor of Creating Toronto in 2022, a walking tour developed by an emerging historian that introduces participants to the story of our city by taking them on a journey. Free tours will be presented Saturday, June 17,

Saturday, July 22, and Saturday, August 12 between 11 am and 2 pm, beginning from Market Street. Information is available in Heritage Toronto's catalogue.

Music in St. James Park

Music returns to St. James Park this summer with a new branded look and 9 concerts staged on the new Michael Comstock Pavillion. Concert dates are June 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 17 and 24. Line-up will be posted soon on the Events calendar at www.oldtowntoronto.ca

Berczy Park

Berczy Beats returns on July 5th with lunchtime concerts every Wednesday from 11:30 – 1:30 pm during July and August.

Bard (Shakespeare) in St. James Park

This will be an experimental performance in St. James Park on Friday evenings, Saturday matinee and evenings and Sunday matinees throughout August. Audience members will be invited to join the actors and perform some of our favourite scenes of Shakespeare – the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet and Caesar's death – "Et tu, Brute?" from Julius Caesar – while being taken on a fast-paced adventure about what Shakespeare means. The play, told through the perspectives of two young women, makes the case that Shakespeare belongs to the people. Presented by Dauntless City Theatre, the production showcases many of their hallmark features – no fourth wall, gender role reversal and multi-racial casts, audience engagement, appreciation of poetry, and critical thinking in an accessible way.

Feast of St. Lawrence – August 11 – 12, 2023

The Picnic on Market Street and Market Street Celebration will be back. Picnics, created by a group of local restaurants, will be available for sale later in June with a portion of the ticket sales going to Second Harvest. Each picnic is for 2 people and will include tickets for 2 glasses of wine and cocktails. Additional drink tickets will be sold onsite at the event. Market Street remains open to the public during the event. We will be featuring Feast For Kids, with all kinds of things for children to do. Last year we sold 42 picnics and raised \$5,000 for Second Harvest and \$300 for the Ukrainian Refugee Fund. With covid problems we had to produce this with a very short turn-around – and hopefully things will be better this year.

Canada Day in St. James Park – Toby Tenenbaum

Our Canada Day celebrations will be running from 11 – 3 pm in response to requests from parents of young children so that toddlers can be taken home for their naps. Bring your own picnic, bring your own chair – we are going to have non-stop entertainment on the pavilion stage, including Ukrainian dancers, a Ugandan singer, an indigenous dancer and her father who gives a verbal interpretation on what her dance is about. We will be closing out with PAL's own Allan Cohen trio, and there will be face painting. A new feature this year is T-shirt painting for kids, and we actually have kids' sizes this year. There will be an image on the T-shirt that children can paint with fabric markers. Parents are not allowed in the tent, but there will be adult supervision. We are having a hoola hooper (apparently he brings 30 hoola hoops of different sizes!). There will be a henna artist for hand-painting. Please put July 1 on your calendar and come out to St. James Park. If you or any family members (teenagers who need volunteer hours?) wish to volunteer on Canada Day, we would very much welcome this, please email us at slna@slna.ca

Community Updates

Mayorality Election – Voting Day is June 26, 2023, 10 to 8 pm

You also have the choice of voting at advance polls from June 8 to June 13, 10 am to 7 pm

- St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre
- Wellesley Community Centre
- Canoe Landing Community Recreation Centre
- Trinity Community Recreation Centre
- Or any other advance polling location across the City

Make an informed choice.

TPSB Strategic Plan – there is an opportunity for you to comment on the Toronto Police Services Board 4- year Strategic Plan:

- Ensure the provision of adequate and effective police
- Objectives, priorities and core functions of the police service
- Performance objectives and indication of outcomes
- Interactions with youth, racialized groups, First Nation, Inuit and Metis communities, and persons who appear to have mental health conditions
- Information technology

- Resource planning
- Police facilities
- Gathering input from all internal and external stakeholders
- Community members and community agencies play a key role (provide your candid feedback on up to three priority issues)
- You will not be asked to identify yourself
- Your individual responses are confidential
- Survey must be completed in one session
- Survey will close at 11 pm on July 31, 2023

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Feedback-from-Community-Members>

Elevate will be at the next Community Meeting so we will have a chance to talk further.

JFL – September 22-24, 2023 5:00 – 10:30 pm

- Consultation with neighbouring buildings
- Smaller stage, moved West
- Sound equipment and design improvements
- “sound rooms” – noise mitigation strategy
- Hard stops
- More entrances, less visual blockage
- Acknowledge effort, not everyone is happy

A further note regarding Participatory Budgeting – the SLNA will be putting together a list of projects and we are asking for your input to contribute to the SLNA list – slna@slna.ca

One last item – apparently there is some money available to replace dead street trees – if you see one in your neighbourhood, send us the address at slna@slna.ca

The next SLNA Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 7 p.m.

