



St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

Held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Hosted on the Zoom Videoconferencing Platform

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome, Land Acknowledgement
- NORC Innovation Centre – Melissa Chang
- Market Square Story – Malcolm Martini and Ray David
- BIA Update – Robyn Posner
- Community Updates

SLNA Board Members Nancy Fung and Loretta Allen welcomed over 50 community members and Delegates to the July 31, 2024 SLNA Community Meeting.

Loretta opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement. Making note that we are all treaty people; many of us have come here as settlers, as immigrants, or involuntarily as part of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Loretta noted that August 1st, 2024 marks 190 years since the Slavery Abolition Act took effect across the Commonwealth, confirming Canada as a free territory. This led to the establishment of what we know as the Underground Railroad.

From 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 31 until 1:00 a.m., Thursday, August 1, 2024, the TTC, in partnership with the Blackhurst Cultural Centre, will host its annual Underground Freedom Train Ride to commemorate Emancipation Day. Details can be found [here](#).

NORC Innovation Centre – Melissa Chang

Co-Director of the NORC Innovation Centre, Melissa Chang, gave a presentation on the work the Centre is doing to support the establishment and continued success of NORCs - Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities.

Melissa shared that more older adults are moving to urban centers and also choosing to live in high rises. A lot of work to date has looked at some high rise buildings. But the Centre has also started working with individuals and community groups to support establishing neighborhood or community based NORCs, rather than building specific.

The Innovation Centre has established a Do-It-Yourself guide, which is posted online (link below). The guide provides tips on how to get started with some of the early work around creating a social network within a building. There is now a series of NORC Talks, where the Centre covers a range of topics, such as connecting with different service agencies, intergenerational community building, and how to be a good advocate.

Discussion:

Discussion focused on how to get involved and leverage the resources of the NORC Innovation Centre. Melissa encouraged SLNA membership to email or visit the NORC Innovation Centre website to receive information on upcoming NORC Talks, and access the Do-It-Yourself Guide.

Links:

- [NORC Innovation Centre Presentation](#)
- [NORC Innovation Centre Website](#)
- [NORC Innovation Centre Email](#)
- [NORC Ambassadors Do-It-Yourself Guide](#)

Market Square Story – Malcolm Martini and Ray David

Malcolm and Ray spoke about a book project they have been working on for the past several years to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Market Square residence. They sought out to share the uniqueness of this project, and how it came to be built in a then unpopulated part of Toronto.

A copy of the book will be donated to the City of Toronto Archives, as they were a major resource in the development of the book. Malcolm and Ray are looking into whether the book can be made available through the Toronto Public Library. Anyone interested in purchasing the book is encouraged to reach Malcolm and Ray via email at themarketsquarestory@gmail.com.

Links:

- [The Market Square Story Presentation](#)
- [The Market Square Story Email](#)

BIA Update – Robyn Posner

Robyn shared updates on upcoming events being held by the Old Town Toronto BIA (formerly the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA) in August, including 3 more concerts in St. James Park, the Feast of St. Lawrence, and lunchtime music in Berczy Park, Berczy Beats, as well as cultural and busker events on Market Street, next to the St. Lawrence Market. Details on these events and more can be found on the [Old Town Toronto BIA Website](#).

Discussion:

Robyn shared that a survey was being completed to gauge residents' and visitors' feedback on the events being offered by the Old Town Toronto BIA. Robyn encouraged everyone to provide

their thoughts if approached by someone offering a survey. The survey can also be completed by scanning a QR code located around the events.

Links:

- [Old Town Toronto Website](#)

Community Updates

Toronto Public Library - Seniors' Health and Wellness Fair

Donna Patterson attended the TPL Seniors' Health and Wellness Fair on July 24th. In spite of the rain, over 100 community members attended the fair. There were a number of tables for organizations who offer services to support seniors, links are shared below. The Library is hoping to do another event in the future, but no date is set at this time.

- [Dixon Hall](#)
- [McMaster Optimal Aging Portal](#)
- [TMU's programs for 50+](#)
- [Health Commons Solutions Lab from Mt. Sinai Health - Supports for Seniors Health and Wellness in Downtown East](#) (copies available at the St Lawrence Library)
- [Dancing with Parkinsons](#) (free weekly virtual classes)
- [Woodgreen Community Services](#)

New Toronto Island Park Master Plan

The Master Plan for Toronto Island Park has been in development for over four years, and was approved by City Council on July 25th. The Master Plan can now move to the next stage of implementation.

Waste Reduction Group

1. Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy: On May 23, 2024, City Council adopted the [Update on Stage 2 of the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy](#), which included amendments to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 702, Single-Use and Takeaway Items (the "Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw") which supports the City's aim to reduce single-use and takeaway item waste. These recent updates to the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw included:
 - Effective May 25, 2024
 - *Delivery Exemption for Single-Use Paper Shopping Bag Ask-First/By-Request* - Retail business establishment are not required to adhere to the Ask-First/By-Request requirement for their customers if they want a single-use paper shopping bag and their purchase is being delivered by the business or a third-party delivery service.
 - *Beverage Cup Definition Clarification* – Definition of "Beverage Cup" was amended to clarify that a cup may also include a lid.
 - Effective September 1, 2024

- *Post Acceptance of Reusable Beverage Cup Notice* - Retail business establishments that sell or provide beverages in single-use beverage cups are required to post signage that they accept reusable beverage cups.
- Effective January 1, 2025
 - *Restricted Events Required to Ask-First/By-Request* – Retail business establishments located at restricted events will be required to adhere to the Ask-First/By-Request requirement for their customers before providing a single-use accessory food items and single-use paper shopping bags.
- 2. [Councillor Malik \(Ward 10\) Community Environment Day](#): September 8th from 10-2.
- 3. [Re-Market](#): On October 9th and 10th, the SLNA Waste Reduction Group is holding its 11th REmarket, a two-day event for the collection of unwanted items:
 - A totally free market (FreeMarket) will also be held on October 9. Guests can donate and/or take items for free (not for commercial resale). Bring your own bag.
 - On October 10, Repair Café Toronto will be fixing clothing, jewellery, computers, home electronics, small appliances, housewares, and toys, while CultureLink Bike Hub will be doing small bike repairs and safety checks.
 - Volunteers needed! If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to: reduce@slna.ca

[Ontario Line Construction Update](#)

Metrolinx has planned construction underway later this month to support the construction of a new bridge and subway portal in the Don Yard, adjacent to the Distillery District.

[SLNA Gardening Committee](#)

We are always looking for volunteers! If interested, please reach out to slna@slna.ca.

Follow Up

A question was asked regarding any updates on North Market opening date. An update will be provided at the next Community meeting in September.