



## **ST. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting**

**Held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.,**

**Hosted on the Zoom Videoconferencing Platform**

SLNA President Stewart Linton welcomed the participants and invited the 59 community members present to briefly introduce themselves.

### **Waterfront Toronto – Vision for Parliament Street slip; Impact on new Quayside development process.**

Pina Mallozi, Vice-President, Design, gave a very comprehensive presentation on new developments, starting with the Parliament Slip vision, a recently announced initiative for transforming the Parliament Slip into a marine hub with improved access to the waterfront. This initiative has been included in all the plans surrounding the waterfront for many years, going back to the Central Waterfront Secondary Plan, the foundational document which was completed in 2001, and it was referenced as an inner harbour special space. In 2005 Waterfront Toronto completed the East Bay Front Precinct Plan which also showed a vision for the Parliament Slip area, animating the slip with a collection of floating wetlands. South of Queen's Quay there would be a public gathering space. The Parliament Slip also featured in the Keating Channel Precinct Plan which was approved in 2010, and in the 2020 Marine Use Strategy it was identified as a potential marine node.

### **New Neighbourhood Community Officer Program**

Staff Sergeant Todd Gowan presented the Neighbourhood Officer Program in the Waterfront area. Sergeant Henry Dyck brings a lot of experience to the 51 Division Neighbourhood Officer

Program and the program has been broadened due to the successes it has had, resulting in a realignment of neighbourhoods. The “Waterfront Community” runs from Yonge (Church) to the Don River, and from Queen (King) to the lake. It comprises Church-Wellesley Village, St. Jamestown/Cabbagetown, Yonge/Dundas, Moss Park and Regent Park and includes the following neighbourhoods:

- St. Lawrence
- Distillery
- Corktown
- East Waterfront
- King-Parliament (West Don Lands)

Henry Dyck is the Neighbourhood Community Officer Program Sargeant and he informed us that he originally started with a force of only two officers in a very small geographical area and he now has officers in six neighbourhoods which allows for real connections to be made in regards to serving these areas. The name of “Waterfront Community” simply comes from the City of Toronto, and they want to be sure to serve all the micro-neighbourhoods within that particular area.

Building trust within the communities and finding out how best to serve each unique area is one of their priorities. It will hopefully allow them to deal with the more persistent issues, the “quality of life” issues which will make the neighbourhoods better. They are acting as advocates between the neighbourhood and other agencies in the city to make a resilient community. Community safety is their highest priority, to make the neighbourhood a better and safer place. The officers will never leave your neighbourhood, they only work in your neighbourhood, and they own the problems in that neighbourhood. They are part of your community. There should be a perfect synergy between community engagement and enforcing the law. There are four officers, with two officers working as a team for 11 hours a day, 7 days a week, with varying hours depending on the community needs.

We then heard from Dave Smith, one of the new Waterfront Officers, who is a 20 year veteran of the Police Service, starting in 33 Division for 7 years, then transferring to 51 Division where he worked in the community response unit and also as a Planner. Dave is very much looking forward to meeting everyone.

In answer to questions, all Neighbourhood Officers receive specialized training for their position, including mediation training presented through the University of Windsor, as well as de-escalation training, a very robust training program.

For non-emergency purposes there is a really good way of reaching all the officers at the same time, through an email to [waterfront@torontopolice.on.ca](mailto:waterfront@torontopolice.on.ca). The email gets automatically forwarded to all neighbourhood officers.

**Wellington Street streetscape Update, presented by Mark van Elsberg from the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA.**

Mark introduced himself as the BIA Streetscape Coordinator. He worked for the City as well as in Urban Design. Wellington was part of the BIA Masterplan, and we are always holding the designers to the Masterplan as a fundamental principle. The BIA wants to use all the tools the city has recently developed to help the BIA's work on all aspects of improving our neighbourhood. The BIA worked on Berczy Park and Scott Street in 2016. Wellington is one piece of a number of projects the BIA has been working on. People were disappointed that we lost the trees on the South side of Wellington. Colborne Street is being redesigned to be like Market Street in order to support the heritage buildings on the South side and the Google headquarters on the North side. It will become an amazing two-sided restaurant street. We are working on pedestrianizing Leader Lane.

Wellington Street – A number of years ago the BIA submitted a plan to the city to also incorporate streetscape improvements and we were informed by Hydro that there was infrastructure there from 1938. The TTC said they would defer their track work, and everybody was working together to make sure the street would eventually be “done right”. The whole idea was to take out two vehicle lanes so the sidewalks are widened and taking steps to upgrade the aging below-grade essential infrastructure to avoid future emergency repairs and therefore the destruction of Streetscape investment. When this is finished the new infrastructure will last another 100 years. All the crosswalks will line up, street furniture, benches and bike parking will be added, heritage lighting will be updated, tree canopy will be increased and there will be a reduction in the number of poles and overhead wires, as well as raising sidewalks.

**The next SLNA Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**