



St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

Held on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Hosted on the Zoom Videoconferencing Platform

SLNA President Stewart Linton welcomed community members and delegates to the July 2022 SLNA Community Meeting. In order to devote most of our time to community issues during the community meetings Stewart suggested that the most efficient and quick way to deal with questions pertaining to a community member's specific building is for the SLNA to respond by email – please leave your email address in the chat, and if necessary, a further detailed discussion can be arranged that way.

The presentation of our first presenter, Sinead Canavan, Project Director – Issues Management, from SSHA (Shelter, Support & Housing Administration) – City of Toronto - Challenges of Housing and Homelessness – The Big Picture

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) is the service manager for the homelessness service system in Toronto. The Division directly operates and also funds community agencies that deliver:

- emergency shelter and support programs
- street outreach
- 24-hour respite and drop-in programs

The Division's top priority is to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have access to temporary accommodation when they need it, as well as wrap-around and housing-focused supports to help ensure homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring. To do that, the Division

works with community partners and stakeholders to deliver person-centered, outcome-focused services to help improve the overall well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness and help them find and keep stable housing.

Sinead reported that they have had a number of conversations with the community about the 45 The Esplanade site, and as a result a staff report was put forward around the plans of honouring the lease termination date for April 2023, and this was accepted by the City. Tom Davidson confirmed that the development application made for the 45 the Esplanade site was not accepted at this point, and a public meeting in this regard will not be held until early 2023. We have made progress and moved things along in this area and I here is the update in this regard. There are more than 2,000 people staying in the shelter hotels across the city, and ceasing to operate in a very short time frame would present a challenge. The ultimate goal, of course, is to move individuals into permanent housing.

Current status of the COVID-19 Shelter Transition and Relocation Plan

- Staff are implementing the COVID-19 Shelter Transition and Relocation Plan as outlined in the report adopted by Council in April (EC28.9)
- To date, two temporary sites (195 Princes' Blvd and 1684 Queen St W) have been decommissioned in 2022; efforts on confirming the remaining three are underway.
- We are monitoring all temporary sites at elevated risk of decommissioning in 2022 and establishing site specific transition plans for each of the programs to be decommissioned, in partnership with site operators, and are working to move service users into housing wherever possible.
- Successfully decommissioning temporary COVID sites is reliant on a number of different exit pathways, including to private and supportive housing (direct movement), and to vacancies at other non-congregate bedded programs created from exits to housing at those sites (indirect movement). The intent is to avoid movement from temporary non-congregate sites to congregate sites in the base shelter system
- Any site decommissioning plans rely heavily on being able to move people into housing.
- Although many pandemic measures in the broader community have lifted, public health guidelines in high-risk congregate settings – like emergency shelters – have not changed and physical distancing remains in effect.

Next Steps

- The City has completed an engagement process with temporary site operators, service providers, and people staying at temporary sites, to inform the development of the transition and relocation plan. The results will be shared publically in late August.
- This engagement report will inform ongoing planning for sites to be decommissioned this year, and subsequent phases of the COVID-19 Shelter Transition and Relocation Plan in 2023.
- We will continue to engage with our Service Advisory Committee, comprising key stakeholders in the COVID-19 Transition.
- We are reviewing options to potentially revise the personal space standards to respond to the ongoing high demand for shelter space, while maintaining safety in the shelter system through ongoing IPAC measures.

- Work to decommission up to three remaining sites continues
- The City has implemented agreements to provide temporary accommodation and related supports for approximately 750 refugee claimants outside of the base City's emergency shelter system.
- We are working to open a refugee response site at 3 Park Home Avenue, providing an additional 250 rooms to support refugee claimants.
- Key indicators are being monitored to measure shelter demand and progress in implementing the transition plan throughout 2022. We will report back to Economic and Community Development Committee in the first quarter of 2023 with an update on phase 1 of the Shelter Transition and Relocation Plan and next steps for phase 2 of the plan in 2023.

Q: How many hotels and rooms are currently being used by the city and how many are occupied?

- There are currently 25 hotels sites operating as temporary emergency shelters providing temporary shelter to approximately 2,800 individuals, and this accounts for approximately 36% of the total shelter system occupancy.

Q: How many rooms were offered/occupied during the program's peak during the pandemic?

- Over the last 2 years, more than 15,000 individuals have been sheltered at the 27 temporary shelter locations.
-

Q: What type of contracts are in place for temporary shelter spaces

- [Attachment 2](#) (on page 14) of the [COVID-19 Shelter Transition and Relocation Plan](#) identifies properties and contract conditions.

Announcements stemming from the July 19 – 22 Council Meeting that may be of interest.

Housing:

<https://www.toronto.ca/news/mayor-john-tory-announces-new-affordable-supportive-housing-at-292%e2%80%91parliament-st/>

<https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-and-createto-announce-development-partners-for-first-housing-now-indigenous-led-site-for-indigenous-seniors/>

<https://www.toronto.ca/news/toronto-city-council-approves-more-than-24000-new-homes-in-july-meeting/>

Tenant Eviction Prevention Handbook:

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/966f-eviction-prevention-toolkit.pdf>

Toronto Community Crisis Service:

<https://www.toronto.ca/news/toronto-city-council-receives-progress-report-on-toronto-community-crisis-service/>

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-228790.pdf>

Ombudsman Toronto interim report on encampment prevention and enforcement:

<https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-accepts-ombudsman-torontos-recommendations-on-encampment-prevention-and-enforcement/>

Feedback on public engagement:

<https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-invites-the-public-to-provide-feedback-on-public-engagement/>

Community Updates – Stewart Linton

- **Wellington Street.** There is a schedule that has been released and will be available next week. The high level summary is that the intersection at Church Street, Church and Wellesley, is intended to be completed this week except for the final paving which will take another week. But the concrete and track work is scheduled to be completed this week.
- July 26 – August 31: For the North boulevard, to Scott Street, there will be curb construction and the following installations: street lighting, TTC poles, heritage lighting, traffic signal system, precast panels and pavers.
- All of the same work is scheduled for the South boulevard, again to Scott Street, in the time period of August 1 to September 24.
- For the section of Scott to Yonge Street, to be completed by the end of September, there will be construction of TTC tracks and the Roadway.
- The one lane of traffic that will be maintained will be moved to drive over the new tracks.
- The final big piece is Front Street, scheduled for July 26 to September 7, with curb construction, installation of street lighting, heritage lighting, traffic signal system, precast panels, pavers and construction of roadway.
- And the final piece is the stringing of the overhead streetcar wires installation, and this will happen when everything is completed.
-
- **St. Lawrence Market Hours, effective July 31**
- Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 7 pm
- Saturday 7 am – 5 pm
- Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

Laura Carlson, Manager of Public Programs, Heritage Toronto

We are back in full force and running in-person and digital programs for this year. Heritage Toronto is a charity and agency of the City of Toronto that celebrates and commemorates the City's rich heritage and the diverse stories of its people, places and events.

Through our programs, particularly our tours, we engage the public to reflect on the past – both to make sense of our present and to inform our future.

This high-level mandate reflects on our tour programming, and education and engagement are two key components in this. Our tours are back in full force after covid. Heritage Toronto dates back to the 1940's but became what we are in 2000. We feature our ongoing work to be advising the City on heritage matters and specifically planning. That is reflected through a number of our other programs and engagement tools beyond our heritage tours, including our State of Heritage reports, the last one came out in 2019. They are loosely tied to municipal elections so we are gearing up for another one which is slated to be published within the next 12 months.

We have our annual Heritage Toronto Awards and those awards celebrate the great work that is being done across the city. There is also a lot of digital work – digital tours and programming. Two of our most recent exhibits are a look into the great industrial heritage of the Dundas and Carlaw area, right around Leslieville, made in Toronto, and the other is our Sounds Like Toronto online exhibition, telling the great musical story of this city.

Our Tours program started in early June and will be running until October. On our tours this year we feature Toronto's architecture, indigenous communities, and, of course, our natural heritage. In terms of numbers – we are coming back with 20 unique tours. We like to run each of the tours multiple times to give everyone a chance to participate. Our first tour this year is the Bad Girls Tour in Liberty Village.

We are offering a hybrid model for our tours – our traditional loudspeaker tours, which are free, but we also offer – since covid – a tour with individual audio headsets, which are sanitized. The cost of the headsets is \$20 or you may bring your own. The response has been excellent. We are also investing in more experiential tours – cycling tours along the Martin Goodman Trail, as well as photography walks which includes expert photographic advice. And of course there is the very popular St. Lawrence Neighbourhood tour, once the Old Town of York, called Creating Toronto.

Please register on-line through <https://www.heritagetoronto.org> to allow us to keep track of the numbers.

Another very special tour this year is a discussion on the Indigenous heritage of T'karonto and Turtle Island, right by the Humber Bay Arch Bridge. This land-based educational session will be led by a critical perspective on the impact of colonialism.

Another new offering is our Rail Lands tour which is highly recommended, and chronicles how the railways transformed Toronto into a cosmopolitan city, and you can visit the Railway Museum as well as Union Station at the same time.

We are also bringing back our Little Jamaica Tour, which is co-led by an emerging historian as well as a Little Jamaica community leader.

We are working with over 60 volunteers this year, please consider becoming a volunteer in either the tour programs or the agency in general, we do welcome volunteer help. Please contact me at LauraCarlson@Toronto.ca if you are interested in participating.

The Feast of St. Lawrence returns on Friday, August 12, 6 pm to 10 pm – PICNIC on Market Street in support of Second Harvest. Please contact www.feastofstlawrence.ca

Councillor Joe Mihevc and Tom Davidson, Director, Waterfront Revitalization Initiatives, Ward 10

Public Health. Starting tomorrow children under 5 can be vaccinated at 5 locations in the City of Toronto where people can sign up. Yes, covid numbers will probably increase in the fall, and the encouragement is for individuals to get their fourth dose, it simply is extra protection.

Another public health issue Councillor Mihevc has been working on is taking the issue of small amounts of personal drug use out of the punitive criminal system and putting it into the public health area, where it belongs, suggested by best evidence.

Another project is David Crombie Park and The Esplanade. Areas of design and construction - oversight by Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Transportation Services for the City of Toronto:

There are three areas of work:

1. Within David Crombie Park, overseen by Parks, Forestry and Recreation – Led by Landscape Architect.
2. Street design, overseen by Transportation Services – Led by Engineer or other professional with expertise in active transportation design.
3. Areas, mostly in the transportation ROW, overseen by both Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Transportation Services – collaborative and multi-disciplinary.

At the end of the day it will combine The Park - Adjoining Areas Interface - Street

The project will go through all of the customary steps – the masterplan process, community consultation, the award of the design team, hopefully completed by the end of September, followed by detailed design work, preparation of construction documents throughout the 2023 year, then issuing the tender at the end of 2023, and the next three years will be the construction process itself, including a bike lane.

Re new District Library – there is currently a study on whether it should be stand-alone or have housing on top, and the new Council will have to make a decision in this regard.

Councillor Robin Buxton Potts and Felicity Campbell, Advisor, Policy and Planning, Ward 13

We are continuing to oversee the Ontario Line files and are still in active conversation with the City's Economic Development group on the future of the community space, and we are working with the First Parliament Working Committee to assure that we are doing our best to honour the First Parliament Master Plan, and we are pushing for commemorative community space. I have also been in regular communication with Metrolinx and City staff when it comes to mitigation for construction. We are starting conversations about a provincially led community development agreement, which will ensure local procurement and hiring, and that work is still underway and the negotiations will continue into the new council term.

This morning the Mayor announced two additional construction hubs to minimize the disruptions and delay in light of all the ongoing construction projects. They are located in Lakeshore East and downtown, with a coordinator for each hub. The hubs are Vision Zero measures, a really concentrated effort to improve road safety and coordinate the public right of way in areas of particularly dense construction. Still working on the details.

The Market Street closure is certainly supported by our office, and there will be two great festivals coming up, Elevate and Just For Laughs. Please continue to be cautious regarding covid risk, and masking is still a great cautionary measure.

President Linton mentioned that we are still open to individuals wishing to join the SLNA Finance Committee. Community Police Liaison Committee – please contact us if you are interested in joining as a SLNA delegate.

Next SLNA Community Meeting – September 28 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no community meeting in August.

