



St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

Held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Hosted on the Zoom Videoconferencing Platform

SLNA President Stewart Linton welcomed over 70 community members and delegates to the May 2022 SLNA Community Meeting.

Do Your Part – all the latest information about Waste Reduction: Hana Omar and Alex Christison, City of Toronto, 3Rs Ambassador Program

Waste Terminology

Waste: is a blanket term for anything considered useless, worthless, or considered to be in excess of what is needed. Different types of solid waste that the City of Toronto collects: garbage, recycling, organics, household hazardous waste, yard waste, oversized items, such as furniture and appliances, and electronics.

Garbage: waste that cannot be re-used, recycled or repurposed and is ultimately disposed of, usually in a landfill or incinerator (i.e. burned).

Waste Diversion: Waste that is diverted or prevented from being disposed of (e.g. via landfill or incineration). Examples of diversion programs include Blue Bin Recycling and Green Bin Organics.

Residential Waste Collected: the city collects a wide range of residential waste and residents are required to separate their waste into the following areas: Green Bin (organics), Blue Bin (recycling), Garbage, Yard Waste, Oversized Items, Electronic Waste and Household Hazardous Waste (Toxic Taxi). For single family homes Garbage and recycling are collected on alternate weeks, along with oversize items, organic items are collected every week and removal of hazardous waste can be arranged for through calling Toxic Taxi.

The City collects waste from 400,000 multi-residential units (apartments, condos, co-ops); 7,500 non-residential customers, (small businesses, schools, charities, religious institutions and City facilities) as well as from 462,000 single residential (houses, apartments above businesses) – a total of 870,000 residential and non-residential customers.

The city also collects from approx. 10,000 **street** litter/recycling bins, 10,000 **park** garbage and recycling bins (and Green Bins in all dog off-leash areas in parks), and 1,000 **event** bins (e.g. filled during street festivals).

What happens to the waste once garbage is collected? For the time being it is going to Green Lane Landfill, a public city-owned and operated landfill, located South of London, Ontario. The landfill was first built in the late Seventies but the city purchased and expanded it in the late 2000s. Rather than a “dump” this is a modern sanitary landfill that involves a number of technical pieces of technology that allow it to mediate any potential environmental harms and also utilizes the space to its fullest.

What happens to the recycling that the City collects? A recycling truck will take multiple trips to pick up recycling, deliver it to one of the transfer stations (located in 7 different locations), and from there it will be collected by a larger tractor trailer and brought to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). There is initial manual sorting before it goes on to mechanical sorting to avoid any hazards. 87% of the recycling is processed within North America, much of it in Ontario, and only 13% goes outside North America, primarily paper and cardboard, no glass or metal and only 1% of plastics. From there it goes to End Markets, e.g. paper mills and steel mills, and then on to Manufacturers who will use materials for products/packaging. The next step is Retailers and ultimately Consumers who will ultimately deposit the products in the Recycling Bin.

What happens to Organics that the City collects? Organic waste would be food waste and other biodegradable waste that is then made into compost. The collection truck brings it to the transfer station and then it goes to one of two organics processing facilities, one at Disco Rod and one at Dufferin. The Disco Road one has a slightly newer processing system but both achieve similar results. Pre-processing involves the material going through a Hydropulper at Disco Road and at Dufferin it is called a Hydropress. It then goes to the Anaerobic digestion

tank, a big vacuum tank, where bio solids mixed with yard waste the City collects lead to the compost ultimately being used in parks and gardens.

Turning Waste Into Renewable Natural Gas

The other product that comes from this process is biogas. Currently the Dufferin facility is doing this process, the Disco Road one is in the process of adding this and in the future it is anticipated for Green Lane as well. When organic waste is produced and then collection occurs it is brought first to pre-processing where anaerobic digestion occurs. This can be upgraded into renewable natural gas by making a blended product with natural gas.

2021 Residential Waste Managed (In Tonnes)

761,120 tonnes of total waste break down into:

- 48% garbage
- 19% Green Bin (Organics)
- 12% Blue Bin (Recycling)
- 11% Yard Waste/Christmas Trees
- 10% Other Diversion Programs

2021 Residential Waste Diversion

Diversion rate is the percentage of waste diverted or prevented from disposal (e.g. landfill)

- 63% Single Family Residential
- 26% Multi-Residential
- 52% Total Residential

What contributes to Blue Bin (Recycling) Contamination – Learn what does NOT go into your Blue Bin

- Food and Organic Waste – food scraps, pet waste, diapers, eggshells and expired leftovers
- Containers with Food – peanut butter jars, takeout containers and squeeze bottles
Please leave the lid on any containers, that way other items do not get contaminated
- Clothing and Textiles – all clothing items, shoes, blankets, towels and curtains
- All Black Plastic – packaging, garbage bags and VHS tapes
- Coffee Cups – hot drinks cups and black plastic lids

To learn more about why these items don't belong in recycling visit toronto.ca/recycleright

These items all go into the GARBAGE:

- Paper takeout boxes lined with wax/plastic, even if compostable
- Blister packs
- Foil-lined paper/wraps, cardboard
- Wrappers
- Medical waste (place in bag and into garbage)
- Tissues, napkins, paper towels if soiled with chemicals. Otherwise place in Green Bin

Plastic Bags and Wraps Sorting

- **Place in Blue Bin:** soft and stretchy plastics, such as grocery bags, produce/bulk bags/ some frozen food bags, overwrap (separated from cardboard), milk bags
- **Place in Garbage:** rigid/crinkly produce, cereal, cookie, cracker, pasta bags and liners, as well as food and bubble wrap

Why is Sorting Waste so Complicated?

Ever-changing and complex packaging:

- Glass to plastic bottles – change from heavy to lighter materials
- Coffee pots to individual cups – transition from reusable to disposable products
- Reading newspapers to reading on-line news – reduction of newspapers in the blue bin
- Baby food in glass to plastic pouches – creation of more packing that is harder to recycle
- Another reason why packaging gets complicated is the wide variety of packing being used for the same product – the example given was for coffee creamers – same product but often requiring different recycling processes based on their brand
- Labelling can be confusing/misleading as well – e.g. a Moebius loop could indicate that the product is recyclable, contains recyclable content, or both.

Main factors that determine whether the City accepts an item for recycling in its Diversion Programs:

- Economics! Can the item be sold? Is there demand and a long-term sustainable market for the material? E.g., different types of plastic have different types of market values that fluctuate over time.
- Can the item be efficiently and cost-effectively sorted and processed? So the question is, do we have the machinery and infrastructure to process this? Those will be the determining factors

The Importance of Recycling Right. 30% of what's put in the Blue Bin does not belong there. Contamination of the Blue Bin can cause the following:

- Cause workplace injury
- Damage equipment
- Increase processing costs to sort out contaminants
- Reduce revenue from rejected loads
- Ruin otherwise good recyclables

Long-Term Waste Management Strategy

- Road map in Toronto for waste management over the next 30 – 50 years
- Approved by City Council in 2016
- Goal of diverting 70% of waste from landfill by 2026
- Aspirational goal to move towards a circular economy and zero waste future

- **REDUCE** - prevent waste generation where possible, conserve resources
- **REUSE** - reuse waste for their original or new purposes
- **RECYCLE** - turn waste into a new substance or product (includes recycling)
- **RECOVER** – recover energy from waste (includes green bin processing)
- **RESIDUAL DISPOSAL** – disposal of residual waste

Please contact our presenters if you have further questions:

Alexander Christison – Stakeholder and Community Outreach, Solid Waste Management Services: AlexanderChristison@Toronto.ca 416-395-0350

Hana Omar – Stakeholder and Community Outreach, Solid Waste Management Services: HanaOmar@Toronto.ca 416-397-0620

Useful tool: Toronto Waste Wizard.

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/recycling-organics-garbage/waste-wizard/>

Both Alex and Hana can also be reached at 3Rs@toronto.ca

Sgt. Henry Dyck – 51 Division – Community Policing

Sgt. Dyck acknowledges that the increase in the number of mischiefs in our neighbourhood is probably in all of our minds. In doing some data analysis for a 90 day period within the neighbourhood he reported 22 mischief offences reported to the Police as well as 8 break-and-enters. That is high for the neighbourhood and high for the Division as a whole. That was concerning to us, Sgt. Dyck reported, obviously it is not palatable for the business neighbourhood as a whole to have their frontages broken into on a regular and repetitive basis. In trying to help them we have been putting some extra work into trying to investigate those matters. For the last week now we have had some additional people working in the area – and they are working at night – every night they have had an arrest, and we have also been working on the previous incidents that have already been reported and were able to get 6 arrests. Since that date I did the analysis we have been able to get 5 or 6 more. It is not one person that is responsible for all of these mischiefs, but frequently individuals have not just committed one, they have committed more over the course of a period of time. We are trying our best in terms of trying to mitigate in keeping the crimes from happening, and of course are also talking to the businesses to advise what they can do in terms of crime prevention tools.

Since we started putting this additional effort into working on this problem over this last week the numbers have been very low. Not quite at zero, but much reduced from the multiple numbers we have been dealing with on a weekly basis. We want the businesses to be successful since they are such an important part of a thriving community. A lot of the time the crimes have just been mischief rather than an attempt to steal anything. This is a costly nuisance to the business since their expenses are increasing. We have significantly reduces the number of mischiefs and the numbers of break-ins over the last week and a bit and we are going to continue working on this project over the next few weeks before re-evaluating the results again. We want to remind everybody that in addition to this latest group effort we still have 2 officers that are working 3 shifts a day, 24 hours a day, in addition to the regular community officers, and will keep that effort going for the foreseeable future.

President Stewart Linton asked for clarification of the term “Mischief”, and Sgt. Dyck responded that a rock thrown through a window or a glass door is the most common form of mischief that they see in the neighbourhood. Sgt. Dyck was not able to respond to a question about any linkage of mischief or crime to 45 The Esplanade, address linkages are not publicized. A community resident commented that the sheer visibility of police cruisers is helpful. Sgt. Dyck responded that unfortunately there is a great shortage of police cruisers at the moment and much of the proactive work is done by police officers on bikes and walking the beat. In response to another question, a paid-duty officer is an individual currently off-duty who can be requested to work for a special event, such as for example the Taste of the Danforth, and the

event host can request the presence of an off-duty police officer for that purpose, who will get paid at an overtime rate. It is in fact the City of Toronto who is paying this bill since they are the ones making the request. The “extra” officers working on the Esplanade, including on the overnight shift, are in this situation, they have already worked their regular shift and have applied to work an additional shift.

Responding to another question – if a business requests it, are police officers in a position to work with them to mitigate the damage being done to their premises, and Sgt. Dyck confirmed, as mentioned earlier, that this is indeed the case. There are always things that can be done, in responding to those calls officers will provide the owners with a number of possible choices, usually ranging from affordable to more expensive, and business owners can make their decisions in this regard. To help with crime prevention, officers are also able to do a quick audit of the location, and Sgt. Dyck highly recommends the acquisition of security cameras, the cost for this has plummeted over the last few years. Another inexpensive tool is clearly showing empty tills, there is a whole plethora of crime prevention tools. A community member who spends much of her time walking and photographing the city commented that she sees a larger number of broken and boarded windows and enquired if the numbers for these offences are up generally. Sgt. Dyck responded that the crime statistics show that the numbers in general are actually down, apart from violent crime. There are, however, a number of pockets in the city that do show upward trends in that regard, but it would be very hard to pinpoint the reasons for this.

Robyn Posner, SLMNBIA – Music and other Summer Programming

The BIA is working on bring back music to the neighbourhood in a big way. The BIA is working with a non-profit organization this year, Canada’s Music Incubator, to curate and manage bookings dedicated to provide customized and creative entrepreneurial development for artists, artist managers and industry professionals.

There will be 9 concerts of “Music in St. James Park”, at the Michael Comstock Pavillion, Thursdays from 7 – 9 pm, June 23 to August 25.

There will be 8 lunchtime concerts in Berczy Park, “Berczy Beats”, Wednesdays, from 11:30 – 1:30, July 6 to August 24.

We are bringing back the Feast of St. Lawrence, consisting of two events, Dinner under the Stars on Front Street, a 2-day event, and the Market Street portion of the event which will have 5 bands and 3 buskers.

The closure of Market Street will happen the week of June 13, and there will be lunch time performances Tuesday to Friday, dinner performances Wednesday to Friday, approx. 98 to 112 performances, all starting June 14 and running to the end of September.

Historic Re-enactors are returning on Saturdays between 12 and 3 pm. They will continue to distribute hand sanitizers and resume presenting their three tableaux (picnic in Berczy Park, Writing with Quills and Croquet in St. James). The artisans will be on Market Street on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm.

We are also partnering with Heritage Toronto as the presenting sponsor of Creating Toronto in 2022, a walking tour developed by an emerging historian. Creating Toronto introduces participants to the story by talking them on a journey, allowing them to discover the unique history and hidden gems of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood.

Our performers will participate in a celebration of the Queen's Jubilee on June 2 and the Feast of St. Lawrence.

Details of the Market Street programming starting on June 13

- Two Market 10 x 10 tents to be set up on the East side of Market Street in front of the overhang; one for food vendor/demos and one for entertainment
- Music performances Tuesday – Friday lunchtime and Thursday – Friday dinnertime
- St. Lawrence Team planning all food activations which may include Harvest Festival (September) and a specialty food festival each month
- Passive activations being pursued include Museum Booth (Fridays), Urban Sketchers, Museum of Illusions Magician, arts vendors and pop-ups by some of our theatres, Just For Laughs and Elevate conference

Free Fitness Classes in St. James Park

Friends of St. James Park have been working on setting up free fitness classes, starting with

- Boot Camp – Tuesdays, July 6, 12 and 19 at 6 pm
- NIA Dance – Tuesdays, July 26, August 2 and 9 at 6 pm
- Yoga – Tuesdays, August 16, August 23 and 30 at 6 p.m.

Other Events

Queen's Jubilee Presentation on June 2

- Support and presentation by our re-enactor team prior to bell ringing
- Collaboration with Bruce Bell, Toronto's first Post Office and SLM

Community Celebration July 1

- Providing ongoing sponsorship with in-kind support (tents, set-up and strike team, golf cart and trailer, speakers, microphones and microphones stands) as well as monetary contribution

Bard in Old Town Toronto

- Our Shakespeare in the Park this year will move from Berczy Park to the Pavillion in St. James Park
- The play this year will be Richard II, featuring very relevant themes about power struggles and what it means to be a leader. Set against the backdrop of St. James Cathedral and the beautiful gardens, the play will be a striking addition to our park programmes.
- Performances: Friday evenings; Saturday matinee and evening; Sunday matinee; begins August 5 until August 28.

Feast of St. Lawrence

- August 12 and 13 – dinner will be for 150 people, more details to follow.

Daniel Picheca, St. Lawrence Market – Changes at the Market and North Building Construction Update

The North Market is a 5 story building and will be occupied by 3 main tenants, with Courts Services occupying the second, third, fourth and fifth floor. Ticket wickets on 2nd floor West side, Court service staff 3rd floor, Court Rooms and Justice of the Peace offices on the fourth and fifth floors.

Corporate Real Estate Management (COT Division) will manage:

- Flexible event space with commercial kitchen on 2nd floor East side - approx.. 5,000 sft
- Main floor event space and tenant – approx. 12,500 sft
- 2nd floor Senior Centre – approx. 500 sft (will convene a group of stakeholders to develop a plan for this space)

Toronto Parking Authority – 4 storeys of underground parking – 250 parking spots

- North Market construction is well underway
- Structural steel frame work is 90% complete
- Concrete floor work 85% complete of floor area
- Glazing and Roof – Fall 2022 complete
- Mechanical and Electrical Work underway on parking levels

- Expected completion date Spring of 2023
- There have been delays due to Covid 19 and we expect delays due to current construction strike (crane operators and carpenters)

In answer to a question Daniel Picheca also reported on the laneway next to the new market, managed by Toronto Parks & Recreation. There is a project underway to redevelop that space and a consultant was hired to finalize the design for that space. To be completed in the summer or fall of 2023.

The Antique Market will close Sunday, June 5th.

Pilot Project – New Market Hours of Operations starting on Sunday, July 31st:

- **Monday – closed**
- **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – 9 am to 7 pm**
- **Saturday – 7 am to 5 pm**
- **Sunday – 10 am to 5 pm**

Adam Popper, City of Toronto, Esplanade/Mill Bike Lanes, Phase II

Adam reports the good news that they have developed a booklet which we will all receive in good course. The overall goal of Phase II: safer streets in the Distillery, West Don Lands and St. Lawrence Market neighbourhoods and make walking and biking more attractive. The Esplanade and Mill Street are two important streets in the east part of downtown Toronto. They connect people to iconic destinations like St Lawrence Market and Distillery District as well as parks as Corktown Common and David Crombie Park. Parliament Square Park is a vital pedestrian connection between the two streets. The City of Toronto is changing the way people move through and experience The Esplanade and Mill Street. We are in the Phase II Implementation Stage - Lower Sherbourne Street to Lower Jarvis Street. Adam reports that they are still waiting for Metrolinx to complete their archaeological work before getting the go-ahead to build the link between The Esplanade and Mill Street.

Stewart Linton – Community Updates

- Wellington Street. It appears to be cursed. There is some delay on the Front Street side of it for a number of reasons, we are working with the City, the BIA and the contractor to try to make it possible for the businesses that have Café TO applications on the South side of Front to be open as long as possible. The Wellington side appears

to be on track. The businesses on the North side of Wellington will unfortunately not be able to have Café TOs this summer.

- Don James who has been the SLNA representative on the Community Police Liaison Committee for many years has rendered his resignation and we wish to thank him for all of his many years of sterling service. If you are interested in taking on this role please drop us a note at slna@slna.ca
- At the SLNA AGM there was discussion of possible creating a Finance Committee to oversee the process, if you are interested in serving on such a body, again let us know at slna@slna.ca
- Toronto Outdoor Picture Show –June 23 – August 28 – 21 films, 4 locations. The film line-up will be announced on May 31. No tickets – no barriers to entry. The locations are:
Fort York – Opening Weekend June 23 – 28
Christie Pits – Sundays, July and August
Corktown Common – Thursdays in July
Bell Manor Park – Thursdays in August

The next Community Meeting will be held on June 29, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

