

# TICA TALK

*News From the Toronto Island Community Association Executive*

## *Committee Updates*

### **BREAK-INS**

***Fran Ford and Adam Zhelka***  
***Community Policing Liaisons***

As many of you may already know, there has been a rash of vandalism and theft in our community since the winter. During spring break, the church van was stolen and driven to Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts (GPCA) and a break-in occurred. At that time, alcohol was stolen. On another occasion, someone broke into a tenant's room at GPCA while she was sleeping and stole her computer.

The AIA has had several incidents of theft and vandalism. The Montessori office was broken into and attempts were made to mess with the computer and there was an obvious search for money. As well, the DVD player was stolen with a DVD in the machine of a child at the school. On all occasions, alcohol was stolen from the liquor lock-up.

In the spring, the Canoe Club's support boat was taken from the lagoon location and gasoline was stolen from the lock-up. Midsummer, the QCYC Junior Club experienced the same, and gasoline was taken as well. An incident of serious vandalism occurred at the RCYC Junior Club on July 17. Graffiti was spray-painted on the building, boat parts were stolen, and several of their sailing dinghies were punctured and inflated buoyancy tanks were slashed. This was problematic as the kids were to attend a regatta that weekend with these boats.

The Island Public School was vandalized on the night of Aug 26, sometime after 10:30pm. The building was spray-painted with graffiti, some of it targeting a particular teacher. Eight roof vents were destroyed and a fire was set in one of the large recycling bins at the receiving doors. The front of the building had to be power washed and repainted. Repairs to the rest of the building are ongoing. Fingerprints were taken at this scene, as well as at the GPCA, AIA, QCYC, and RCYC.

Picnic tables have been torched on the beach (gasoline was used to start some of these fires) and on one occasion, the police were called. Several times this summer, the Parks van has been broken in to and items were stolen.

Incidents within the community have also occurred, in particular the old hobby of bike theft continues (some bikes were recently fished out of the Gap) as well as rumours of the odd house theft.

Members of TICA and concerned parents and community members have met to develop short and long term strategies around these issues. One item that has come from these meetings is that entire community needs to be far more proactive to deal with this and that any such incidents should be reported to both the police and the neighbourhood so that we all know what is going on. Our wish is that all parents and youth (and ultimately the entire community) be involved in this process as these incidents affect us all, not just the immediate victims. Anyone who has specific concerns or ideas on this matter is invited to join the process. TICA will continue to communicate future occurrences to the community but we sincerely hope that such reports will be few and far between. The police are continuing to investigate past incidents and we will update everyone of future meetings and initiatives as they develop.

### **CENTRE ISLAND BEACH GULL DETERRENT SYSTEM**

***Adam Zhelka***

City Works and Parks officials met with Island residents recently to present plans for a new "Gull Deterrent" system to be constructed at Centre Island Beach. Centre Beach has consistently had higher e-coli levels than either Ward's or Hanlan's beaches and has consequently been closed to swimming more often. Analysis of the

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water has apparently indicated that much of the e-coli found at Centre Beach is "non-human" and is in fact from seagull droppings. As a result, City Works is proposing to build an elaborate structure of tall poles and overhead cables and wires to deter local gulls from hanging around the beach area. It is hoped that fewer gulls will lead to less poop and cleaner lake water.

Although everyone was pleased at attempts to clean the beaches, the response from those attending was generally not supportive of this particular plan. Concerns noted were aesthetics, high cost (\$300,000 to \$800,000), ongoing maintenance costs (to be handed off to Island Parks), poor design (possible ice build up), lack of prior consultation (plans already prepared and project tendered), lack of information (Centre vs. Ward's vs. Hanlan's beaches) and possible injuries to birds (gulls and other species). It was clear that this plan was definitely favoured by the staff present and they pointed to other similar installations which have provided the desired results.

The specifics of Centre Beach also were discussed at length, in particular the long rock breakwall just off shore of the beach. It was felt by the residents attending

that many other factors could be contributing to the high e-coli counts and that these were not being addressed by the overhead net installation. These included the shallow water of the beach area, the warmer water there and the lack of water circulation due to the rock wall (a perfect breeding pond). As well, the very presence of the wall provides ample perching opportunities for gulls just off shore. The idea of improving lake water circulation along the beach was suggested by several different methods.

Ultimately nothing was firmly decided at the meeting. The various concerns have been noted as well as a list of possible solutions other than the gull net. What will happen is unknown at this time although we were promised that another meeting would be held prior to a final decision being made and any work commencing.

## *Toronto Islands Residential Community Trust Matters*

**Marilyn Nazar, Trust Administrator**

### **UNPAID LEVIES**

If you are in arrears with your annual levy payments, please give me a call to arrange a payment schedule. If you are uncertain what you owe (or if you owe anything), also give me a call and I can let you know. Invoices for the 2006/07 levy payments are due to go out October 1, 2006. They will again be \$235.00 including GST.

### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

The Trust thanks Ruth Melady and Lynnette Coy for their years of service to the Toronto Islands Residential Community Trust Board. They have now stepped down and we welcome Geoffrey Gladdy and Allister Walsh of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing who have kindly volunteered to take over for them.

Tom Gutfreund, Braham Kapal, Geoffrey Gladdy, and Allister Walsh from the Ministry and Island representatives Ellen Allen (Chair) and Pam Mazza were all appointed as of July 29, 2006. Of course, TICA continues to lobby the government for a more representative Board. In the meantime, if you want to attend a board meeting, just contact me for information on the next meeting date and location.

### **TICA REPRESENTATIVES**

Just so you don't forget who your TICA representatives are, they are as follows: Ellen Allen (co-chair), Adam Zhelka (co-chair), Pam Mazza (vice-chair, external liaison), Fran Ford (treasurer), Gaye Jackson (secretary), Glen Newbury, Nina Nakajima, Jane Davidson-Neville, Kiloran McRae, and Mary Middleton.

### **COMMUNITY MEETING**

Mark Sunday, October 29th on your calendars for the next community meeting. It will take place at the AIA from 3:00 to 5:30 pm. More information and an agenda will follow.