

# TICA TALK

*News From the Toronto Island Community Association Executive*

## *Committee Updates*

### **COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS**

***Nina Nakajima***

#### **On-Line Islanders' Business Directory**

An Islanders' Business Directory is being introduced to [www.torontoisland.org](http://www.torontoisland.org). The purpose is to give the community a resource and to offer a place to promote the businesses of those living on Ward's and Algonquin.

If you have a business you would like to be included, please e-mail Baye Hunter at [bayehunter@rogers.com](mailto:bayehunter@rogers.com). Please include your name, the business name, a very brief description (e.g. contractor) and the website to which you would like it linked (optional). There is no fee for the listing and the link.

If you would like your business's web page to be *hosted by* rather than simply linked to [www.torontoisland.org](http://www.torontoisland.org), this can be done for a fee of \$50 per year. This fee will help to pay for the website hosting charges which the Trust pays for. If you would like the Community Communications Committee to design and create a web page(s) to be hosted here, an additional setup fee will apply. To be fair, those whose web pages we currently host will also be charged the same \$50 per year fee. If you are one of these people and would prefer your page to not be hosted here anymore, please contact me at [nina.nakajima@utoronto.ca](mailto:nina.nakajima@utoronto.ca).

If you have any questions please e-mail [nina.nakajima@utoronto.ca](mailto:nina.nakajima@utoronto.ca).

### **STEWARDSHIP**

***Kiloran McRae***

#### **New Playground**

The new playground will be installed this spring, if all goes according to schedule. It has two main components: the Spaceball, a fantastic spherical climbing apparatus designed for 5-12 year olds and a boat structure for 2-5 year olds. Both are set on a state-of-the-art recycled rubber surface. The equipment will be surrounded by hard surface in a figure 8 track for trikes and bikes, with paved access from Cibola. Stewart Adams, the architect, has done a thoughtful reworking of the existing layout and, with help from the ever-accommodating Warren Hoselton, there will even be a small hill, made from sand salvaged from the site. The basketball court is to be resurfaced and painted with lines for ball hockey and basketball, plus hopscotch and more. There will be new backboards, hoops and nets. Our thanks to the island playground users who offered their invaluable advice and to Warren and Stewart for listening and making it happen.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

***Adam Zhelka***

#### **Ferry Service Update**

The Transportation Committee has been active in trying to resolve some of the issues that surfaced during this past winter. The closing of the Back Gate on the city side to Community access and egress was the most noticeable item although several other issues have emerged and

### **Important Dates**

Community Meeting: Monday, April 30, 7:30pm at the WIA  
Spring Newsletter deadline: Friday, May 4 (send material to [Peter.Dean@sympatico.ca](mailto:Peter.Dean@sympatico.ca))

*April 18, 2007*

other long-standing items revived. A Community meeting was held on February 27 where attempts were made to sort through the issues and develop strategies to resolve them.

Specific items (improvements) noted for resolution are

- . New Security Measures for City Dock
- . Back Gate Restrictions eased
- . Electronic Payment Options for tickets and passes
- . Ferry Service Revenue Data
- . Improved Sunday Morning Service
- . Vehicle Tracking or Management
- . Delivery Improvements for Community
- . City Dock Infrastructure Improvements
- . Promotion & Ridership Development for Ferry Service and Islands

Also highlighted at the Community Meeting was the management style in place at the Ferry Dock which many have criticized as being more in line with the old 'Metro' days. It was pointed out that decisions which allow no room for compromise have made our daily commute unnecessarily hard on both ourselves, and the ferry staff who must enforce 'the rules'.

We have recently met with Neil Zaph (Director of Parks & Forestry - which includes the Ferry Service) as well as Councillor Pam McConnell to outline all of these concerns and to propose solutions.

Although an official response to our concerns will not be available for a week or so, discussion did reveal that City staff have been adamant that new Security Improvements will not mean individual bag and cooler searches, metal detectors or other extreme measures for regular travel. Large crowds will still need to be carried and the City recognizes the need to continue to do so quickly, efficiently and, at our urging, politely. We have also stressed the need for a more rational system of dealing with Island Deliveries so as to avoid long delays or cancelled trips. Dedicated Island delivery days, reserved trips etc have been suggested to deal with this. Better promotion of the Island as a downtown year-round destination for both tourists and residents alike was also discussed, although it was noted that this will only work if the whole ferry experience is enjoyable. Better communications, improved service, renewed dock facilities and contented staff will be key to this.

The tone at the meetings was certainly positive and it

seemed our points were heard. For now, however, the status quo continues although we will definitely be following up with the City staff on these issues and continue to push for better relations, respect and service. As well, we have also approached the Toronto Waterfront Development Corporation (TWRC) to get Community involvement in any changes to waterfront immediately adjacent to (and maybe including) the City docks. Although many improvements will be years in the making, we hope to have some definite progress to report on at the Community Meeting later this Spring (or sooner if possible).

On a final note, despite the recent hassles, the Transportation Committee did send a letter of thanks on behalf of TICA and the Island Community. In it we thanked both the Ferry and Island Park staff for their efforts at keeping us mobile this winter. Despite the heavy ice, reduced staffing, TTC's refusal to provide a second bus and an aging boat, we were able to keep our Airport travel time down to literally a few hours for the entire winter. Well done!

## **WATERFRONT ISSUES**

***Pam Mazza***

### **Waterfront Activity**

May 1: Adam Vaughn will be talking about the controversial Front St. Extension and other waterfront issues at the Harbourfront Community Centre, May 1, 7-9. This is hosted by WaterfrontAction, a community-based organization of which TICA is a member.

Adam is a very active councilor, having replaced Olivia Chow, and is making some real headway on waterfront issues. It will be a very interesting evening.

### **CommunityAIR Update**

***Friday Night Rallies***

We continue to have our regular Friday night rallies from 5-7 and would encourage as many of you as possible to come to the foot of Bathurst and show your support.

The purpose of the rallies are three-fold. Firstly, they show our ongoing determination to close the Island airport by encouraging people to boycott the airline. The Port Authority personnel have to show up every Friday night to monitor our very peaceful and rather fun-loving presence, so it inconveniences them and shows them that

we have not gone away.

Secondly, they are a way for us to get our message out to would-be flyers that there are better ways to get to Ottawa and Montreal that are environmentally more sustainable, and that flying from the airport is having a significantly negative impact on the local neighbourhood. Circling buses and taxis and cars (often empty) have necessitated the presence of a crossing guard for the schools and the community centre.

Thirdly, the rallies provide a way for us to monitor the business. We keep a tab on numbers of vehicles and passengers coming and going. Consensus seems to be that numbers have increased, but not significantly. Quite a few young people with backpacks, rather than business people, seem to be flying Friday nights. This tells us that we need to get our message out to the student population.

#### *The Court Case*

We have a meeting date with the Port Authority and their lawyers on April 18. All the initiative to settle this has come from us, and it is hoped that an agreement can be made. We will let you know the outcome.

As with all court cases, and as the Port Authority know only too well, the financial costs of fighting this would be exorbitant, and a settlement is in our best interests. It is a huge financial drain on a resource-less organization, CAIR, and they have lots of taxpayers' dollars at their disposal. As I am sure was their intent, we are spending both too much money and time that we can ill afford. Currently, our legal bills have reached approximately \$15,000, and that is using a sympathetic law firm which is giving us a discounted rate!

#### *Flyers and Fundraising*

We are getting 10,000 more flyers printed, which is an information brochure for the public at large. Anyone interested in helping distribute this should get in touch with Bill Freeman.

Fundraising: We need to do more, unfortunately. Some ideas are in the works, and members of the Island Babes with Books bookclub are donating their time and culinary expertise once again. The progressive dinner was recently auctioned off and \$1400 was paid for the event. Fantastic.

If anyone has ideas, or would like to join the Fundraising Committee, please call either Fran Ford (-1014) or myself (-0996).

#### **Other Waterfront News**

(excerpted from Councillor McConnell's e-Newsletter)

*Celebrate the Don Watershed - Annual Paddle the Don*  
Celebrate the Don River watershed and a successful paddle at the Paddle the Don take-out site (located at the northwest corner of Villiers Street and Don Roadway in the Port Lands) on Sunday May 6 for a post-paddle party and Harbour tour. A ceremony with announcements about the revitalization of the Lower Don, as well as the release of the 2006 Don Watershed Progress Report, will begin at 12:30 pm.

New this year will be a free cruise around the eastern Inner Harbour aboard the Island Princess. The tour will also provide a duck's-eye view of river conditions within the Project Area identified in TWRC's International Design Competition, and will offer a vision of the potential for this area over the coming years. Three cruises are planned with boarding times at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. Space on the boat is limited and registration is required.

#### *Bike Lanes Approved for Yonge Street*

New bike lanes running along Yonge St. from Queens Quay up to Front St. will enhance access to the lake and provide another piece in the revitalization of the waterfront. Community Council has approved bike lanes on the west side of Yonge from Front St. to the lake, and on the east side from the Esplanade to the lake. Work on the project, which goes to city council for approval later this month will begin in summer, pending design approval, and be finished later this year.

Having bicycles and pedestrians along this iconic street sends an important message that this is the most important street in our city, that this is a street we want everyone to enjoy. This is a city of walkers and bikers, and that's exactly what we want our waterfront to be.

The bike lanes will compliment the Yonge St. promenade plan, a 1.2 million dollar initiative that has begun to create a continuous streetscape down to the waterfront.

We are also looking forward to a report on bicycle lanes for Bay St. in the next couple of months. Stay tuned!

# Toronto Islands Residential Community Trust Matters

## **Marty Crowder, Administrator**

After being the cover "girl" for the Island Newsletter, I shouldn't need any more introductions but just in case you missed me I would like to tell everyone how much I enjoy sharing the island with all of you. Marilyn left at the end of January and I started at the beginning of February. I have already experienced being ferried to Hanlan's, a week of no heat at the office and sending out renewals for the Purchasers List. My feet are truly wet. I have also experienced warm welcomes and islanders generosity. I would especially like to thank all who helped me get my flat tire repaired and got me back on my bicycle in record time.

## **COMMUNITY MEETING**

The community meeting will take place on the evening of Monday, April 30 at 7:30 at the WIA. On the agenda are the 2007/08 budget, TICA elections, and a presentation still to be confirmed. Please call the office if you are interested in joining the TICA executive.

## **HOUSE SALES**

As of March 16, 2007 the last of the three house sales begun at the end of last year closed. It was a long process but our new island neighbours are Mary Margaret Crapper at 7 Ojibway, Daniel Hall at 3 Wyandot and Ian Rankin at 21 Sixth Street.

## **PURCHASERS LIST**

Background: Stemming from a heated discussion at a community meeting in late 2006, Connie Clement offered

to undertake a review of the policies and procedures related to the purchasers list.

To date, there has been a purpose statement and an offer to hear from/meet with interested individuals in the last newsletter. Connie met with the Trust Administrator and they reviewed some documentation. Several islanders have already approached her to discuss this issue. Connie will report formally in April.

## **BUDGET**

The finance committee has nearly completed the budget process and will be presenting the 2007-2008 budget at the next Trust Board meeting. There is a big increase in the tree maintenance line but most of the expenses have only experienced a small increase. The budget will be presented at the community meeting on April 30.

## **PURCHASERS LIST RENEWAL**

The deadline for renewing your position on the Purchasers List was March 31, 2007. It has kept both the postal carrier and myself occupied. Special thanks to Enid Cridland and Anne Broecker for their companionship and training in how to handle the renewals. We promise that we will not forget to include the return address next year.

## **LEVY PAYMENTS**

There are still nearly 60 islanders who have not made their levy payments. Interest is adding up. Reminders were sent out in mid-March and telephone calls will be next.

# Community Messages

## **SOLAR REPORT**

### **Barry Lipton**

To all Islanders who are interested in the solar initiative, TISol (Toronto Island Solar):

The next meeting of TISol will be held on April 29 at the AIA from 2 - 5 PM. I have been to two meetings about solar initiatives in Toronto and Ontario. We have had one meeting of the steering group and had a member of the

Downtown West Solar Energy Project speak to us.

The tentative agenda will be

- 1 Setting up a more formal organization
- 2 An update of the meetings that I have attended and the information that I have received about solar projects in Toronto and Ontario
- 3 Cost effective alternatives to solar panels
- 4 Tentative speakers Ed Hale, Solar Share; Tim Grant, Downtown West Solar Energy Project
- 5 Next Steps