

**SHERIDAN HOMELANDS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (SHORA)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013**

Date: December 5th 2013, 7 pm

Location: St. Francis of Assisi Church (basement)

Attendees: Board members Charles Thornton, Gina Vergilio, Anne Culpeper, Denise Gilliland, Shirley Secor, Tim Tibbs, Lina Tasca, and approximately 50 residents

Absent: Board members Else Grech, Pieter Kool, Teresa Martin-Grier, Andrew Tamburello

MINUTES

The 2013 SHORA Annual Meeting opened with the singing of our National Anthem.

Shora President, Charles Thornton, welcomed and introduced the first guest speaker, Councillor Pat Mullin.

Pat introduced Gavin Longmuir, Manager, Forestry and Jessica McEachern – experts on ash trees, and Michael Foley, Bylaw Officer, from the City of Mississauga.

Following are the topics discussed by Pat Mullin.

- Development – In recent years there has been very little new development in Sheridan Homelands. A proponent has come forward for some development on Leanne Blvd. and Erin Mills Parkway Plaza land. The land has not been purchased and right now they are doing discovery to see what the city may or may not support. They talked about a medical building for the site, as well as some residential on Leanne, with the office component on Erin Mills. If the land is purchased and a proposal is submitted, a public meeting will be held.
- Several public meetings have been held regarding a new development for a 4-6 storey apartment along Lakeshore proposed by VanDyk Development. Final approval/disapproval will be some time in January.
- Satellite has already been approved by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).
- Presentations have been made to Queen's Park for OMB reform. Many want OMB dissolved, but that will not happen. If it is reformed, hopefully the reform will say that if we have an official plan approved by the city, that OMB will have regard for it. Right now we are being subjected to intensification that cannot be supported by our infrastructure.
- The City of Mississauga is using Thorn Lodge Park (and several others throughout the city) as a pilot project with regard to play-in-the-park. The initiative supports the city's strategic plans to build complete neighbourhoods. Our parks are currently under-utilized. Anyone wanting more information is asked to email Pat Mullin's office.
- Concerns have been raised about lack of road repairs on Thorn Lodge Drive. Proposal will be submitted in the 2014 budget to have repairs done on Thorn Lodge as well as some adjacent streets.
- Sheridan Park Research Park – the original group that wanted a new vision and new plans for the park has left, and the City of Mississauga is undertaking the master plan for Sheridan Park Research – how do you beautify; how do you make it more walkable; how do you change

some of the uses, etc. Public meetings will be held at the appropriate time. This park has a lot of potential.

- Garbage and recycling pick-up will be going to bi-weekly in 2016. Organics will continue with weekly pick-up.
- Storm water financing implementation plan – 2008 had a horrific impact in Mississauga, with many areas flooded. Residents must be educated on things that can be done to reduce the impact of flooding. i.e. low-impact development, rain gardens, rain barrels, disconnecting downspouts, etc. will all help alleviate flooding. This will probably be implemented in 2016-2017. Information will be distributed as it comes available. Rate will be based on individual house and amount of hard surface.
- Secondary units (basement apartments) will be a right in January 2014. The Province has mandated that every municipality must provide for them. They must be licensed, and must meet property standards code. ‘Absentee landlords’ is a big issue. Bylaw may have to be amended in future.
- Minister Bradley met with a group from Miranet, and our area regarding air quality. A committee had been formed to implement recommendations, but nothing has been done due to no funding and no support. MP Charles Sousa has requested Ministry of Environment for assistance.
- Vacant, boarded up houses – a bylaw has been implemented stating if you have an abandoned building, or one in disarray, you will have six months to get the building back into shape. If the owner does not do it, the city will, and the owner will be billed.
- Restoration is currently being done in the Rattray Marsh.

A question and answer period followed. Most questions related to the above topics.

- An email was sent to Shora regarding the proposed ten million dollar grant to UTM (one million per year for ten years). Why is the city proposing this when UTM is quite capable of raising funds? Pat advised that this had been debated in Council when the budget was being discussed. If anyone is opposed to this grant, she suggested they write a letter to the Mayor.
- Another email was received wanting to know why, for the third year running, City Councillors approved a 2% pay increase for themselves. Pat advised City Councillors have not received a pay increase in four years. A 2% pay increase was given to non-union staff last year. She has no idea what will be approved for next year. Budget approval will be next week.

Charles introduced the Shora Board. Before proceeding with agenda topics, Charles thanked Dianne Fleming from Viva Mississauga Retirement Community for providing the food for the AGM.

Canvassing:

- Membership is up slightly from last year.
- As we do not have sufficient canvassers for the entire community, next year we will be including membership forms and envelopes in the Sheridan Times so people can complete the form and mail in their membership fee.
- The top four canvassers for this year were Harry Gregg, Heidi Goldberg, Candice Lemieux, and Linda Cerisano.
- Charles thanked and named all the volunteers.
- Ideally we would like to have a canvasser per street. This person would act as rep for the street.

Sheridan Times:

- Sheridan Times is a great success. It is revenue neutral – i.e. advertising pays for all the costs involved in producing the magazine. Denise has been the editor for the past two issues, and Pieter Kool is the ‘advertising’ manager. Denise and Pieter are doing an excellent job.

Christmas Lights:

- This year’s Christmas Lights competition will be judged by Mona Ankisetty.
- Again this year, there will not be cash prizes for the winners. As last year, a donation of \$500 will be made to the Deacon’s Cupboard. This amount is co-sponsored by Wendy Walker and Karen Burns and Shora.

Shakespeare In The Park:

- The 2013 production was ‘As You Like It’. Over 350 people attended over the two evenings.
- The 2014 production will be ‘Romeo and Juliette’.

Skating Rink:

- Last year we had many problems with the weather, and too few volunteers.
- We will not be making a skating rink this year, unless sufficient volunteers come forward.

Website:

- Our website is up and running (Shora.ca), but we need a volunteer to maintain it.
- Our goal for 2014 is to update our data base and membership.

Garage Sale:

- We’re looking at the possibility of a community garage sale in May or June. Sherwood Forest has one each May and it is always a great success.

Shora Board:

- Two members resigned earlier this year – Steve Youdowich and Rawle Balkaran.
- Our new Treasurer is Else Grech, CA, Professor at Ryerson. Else replaced Gerry Pageau who passed away in April 2013.
- All Board members will be returning with the exception of Gina Vergilio, Teresa Martin-Grier and Andrew Tamburello. Thank you for all your help. A special thank you to Gina for all her work in re-doing and re-tooling the website and the bylaws, and her efforts in organizing the canvassing.

Election of Board Members:

- Gina introduced a motion to re-elect the Board Members (Charles Thornton as President; Pieter Kool, Vice-President; Else Grech, Treasurer; Lina Tasca, Secretary; Anne Culpeper, Denise Gilliland, Shirley Secor, and Tim Tibbs).
- Motion was seconded by Harry Gregg.
- From a show of hands, just about everyone was in favour.
- Volunteers are required, not necessarily for the Board, but to help out in general – canvassing, website, garage sale, Christmas lights, etc.

Dianne Fleming, Viva Mississauga Retirement Community, provided a brief outline of ‘who they are; what they are; and what they offer.’

- Viva Mississauga is located at Thomas and Winston Churchill and has been open for two years. There are several locations in Ontario.
- It is an all-inclusive retirement rental for those age 55 plus.
- 75% is independent living; 25% assisted living.
- Accommodation sizes vary and come with a kitchenette (fridge, microwave, but no stove).
- Informative brochures were available at the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Charles reviewed the report in Else’s absence (overhead projection).
- Year-end has been changed from August 31st to December 31st.

Gina read a letter received from Stella Ambler, MP for Mississauga South.

- Stella apologized for being unable to attend the AGM as she is in Ottawa, but thanked Shora for reading her letter at the meeting.
- She thanked residents for the important work being done to promote a safe and healthy community, and by encouraging children to become self-reliant citizens through decades of supporting Scouts and Guides.
- She is grateful for the work to promote community pride through garden contests in the summer, and the annual Christmas Lights contest.
- Update on important issues:
 - Telecommunications towers are a great concern to many Mississauga South residents. She has met with a local group, Citizens for Safe Technology, when the group was in Ottawa to make a presentation on safety regulations which govern the towers. Stella will continue to work with this group to ensure our voices are heard, and work toward a solution that takes into account the best research available and respects the quality of life of everyone affected.
 - Development of Port Credit marina lands – The Canada Lands proposal for the site is unacceptable. She will not support the proposal as presented, but will work with Canada Lands and local community groups to create a community centerpiece that is possible.
 - Rattray Marsh – Credit Valley Conservation Authority received federal funding for phase one of the Rattray Marsh Restoration Project. The Conservation Authority will be applying for further funding under phase two.
 - Infrastructure investments – has been working with the city to identify projects that need funding, like the West Acres Pool in the east end of the riding. Federal Government has funded renovations in all swimming pools in South Mississauga through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund.
 - Do not hesitate to contact Stella on any issues of Federal concern.

Guest speaker, Michael Foley, Supervisor, Compliance and Licensing Enforcement, City of Mississauga:

- Michael discussed what commercial vehicles are allowed or prohibited on residential streets and properties. Basically anything larger than a pick-up truck is not allowed, unless it meets certain criteria set forth by the city. If anyone has more than one vehicle that meets criteria, only one is allowed. One exception is if a large truck (i.e. plumber) is actively doing work on the property, then that vehicle is permitted.

- Trailers and recreational vehicles may not exceed 17.1 feet or 5.2 meters or a height of 2 meters. If parked at the side of the house behind the front wall of the dwelling or in the back yard, up to a maximum of 23 feet is allowed.
- A recreational vehicle up to 23 feet in length is permitted on a residential driveway for up to 72 consecutive hours in any given month.
- Grandfathering (applies to recreational vehicles only) – Bylaw was changed in the 2007 Zoning Bylaw which now limits size. If a recreational vehicle is on a property and the property owner can demonstrate that it has been there prior to 2007 without having been moved, there is no violation.
- Enforcement – If anyone wishes to file a complaint, they are to call 3-1-1, and must provide their name, address, and the location of the vehicle they are complaining about. An inspector will visit the location. If the vehicle is there, a Notice of Contravention will be issued, allowing 24 hours to move the vehicle.
- Typically five days are allowed for an inspector to visit the location. If the owner does not comply, it is usually a six-week wait for a court order.
- As a complainant, your identity is protected.

Question and answer period followed.

- An email was received regarding school buses parking overnight on school property, buses idling early in the morning and exhaust fumes entering residential property. The city encourages school buses to be parked on school property rather than residential streets. If idling is a concern, the Idling Bylaw would come into play. At present, a vehicle is permitted to idle three minutes. If school buses are idling to clear windows on cold days, this is permitted.
- Three-hour parking is permitted on streets unless otherwise posted.
- There is a limit to the number of pets that are allowed on a property. Animal Services are responsible.

Guest Speakers, Gavin Longmuir, Forestry Manager, City of Mississauga, and Jessica McEachern, Supervisor of Woodlands and Natural Areas:

- Within the City of Mississauga, there are over 2 million trees – 50% on public property and 50% on private property.
- Gypsy Moth – This was a significant problem in 2006-2007, and still is a problem, but there is a program in place to deal with gypsy moths for years to come. Gypsy moth traps were made available at the meeting.
- Asian Longhorn Beetle – infestation has been identified in Mississauga (north-east sector). A program is in place to eradicate the problem.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – major problem in North America, with some seventy million trees affected. Informative brochures were available at the meeting.
- In nine years EAB (originally detected in Windsor), has spread drastically throughout Ontario and Quebec.
- This is a devastating issue in Mississauga, and many, many street trees are being removed. Some trees can be saved and are being treated. Unfortunately not all ash trees can be saved. Any trees that are not treatable will be removed and replaced by other trees.
- Replanting program in place ensures that different species of trees are planted to prevent canopy destruction in future.
- Multiple programs have been implemented to detect EAB.

- Structurally unsound trees throughout the city were removed on a priority basis, rather than concentrating work in specific communities.
- There are 23,000 ash trees on Mississauga streets. A plan is in place to treat and/or remove, and replace all these trees, over a ten-year period, at a cost of \$59 million.

Question and answer period followed.

- Location of replacement trees on boulevards will be determined on a site per site basis. Every effort will be made to replant in the same spot as the removed tree.
- Anyone concerned about trees planted on property easement should call 3-1-1.
- Treating, removing and replanting trees will be done on a priority basis. A tree may be removed now, but may not be replaced for a year or two.
- A red X means a tree will be removed. A green circle means the tree will be treated.
- Ash trees will be few and far between in Ontario for a long time.
- Tree branches that have been removed are put through a chipper, given to Region of Peel, and combined with green waste material collected to create compost. The process of putting the branches etc. through the chipper kills the insects and eggs, so there is very little chance of compost being infected.
- Tar spots on maple trees – this is actually a fungal infection caused by wet, cool spring conditions. It is not detrimental to trees – it is purely aesthetic.
- Standard replacement trees are 15mm in diameter. To replace a tree the same size as the one removed would be impossible, and the cost would be astronomical.
- It is illegal for residents to plant trees on the boulevards.
- For more information, visit Mississauga.ca/eab.

Charles thanked all the guest speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.