



What Happened at the AGM

The downstairs room at the Grange was full and the mood was enthusiastic. Guests included Councillor Katie Mahoney, Mickey Frost – Director of Enforcement and Douglas Meghan – Compliance and Licensing Enforcement, both of the City of Mississauga; Inspector Steve Dolan – Criminal Investigation Bureau, 11 Div., Cst. Rebecca McCue and Cst. Caroline Smith (Community Liaison) all of Peel Region Police. The police and enforcement officers were there to discuss problems with some of the students living in the townhomes.



President Alina Zogla opened the meeting shortly after 7 pm by welcoming and introducing our guests. Alina then introduced the current Board and quickly reviewed the history of our organization. Her president's report highlighted the activities and projects of the past year:

- New initiatives, bulk soil purchase, garage sale, BBQ
- Lodging houses – all 3 converted back to single family use
- Townhouses – ongoing problems with student behavior²
- Upgrades to park area & NW corner Redstart & Dundas¹
- Neighbourhood Watch – proposal to reinstate³
- MIRANET – Strategic Plan & Reorganization
- Website – Upgrades and our own hosting service

Three of the above items were then expanded upon.

1. Bob Alden reported on the upgrades to the SJH Park area and the NW corner at Redstart & Dundas. Bob began by thanking our many "ratepayer" volunteers who had provided many hours of labour to pull weeds, dig out roots, trim trees and shrubs and plant over a hundred new shrubs in our SJH park area. He also acknowledged city staff Andy Wickens (Manager P&F), Jessika Corkum-Gorrill, John D'Ovido and Brent Reid who provided key assistance and support. In the park area Jessika provided all the shrubs and

John arranged for roto-tilling and grass seeding. At the Redstart & Dundas corner Brent arranged for bed expansion, new soil and planting in the future.

2. Tom Zakrzewski reviewed the ongoing problems with a small but significant number of UTM students who live in the townhomes at 3061 SJH. He also reported on discussions with city enforcement staff, region police and UTM officials. He introduced a new Noise Complaint Information form and reported on a recent meeting at city hall which involved police, enforcement, UTM staff and townhome management. Tom was assisted by Benoit Arsenault who has indicated his wish to rejoin the Board.
3. Benoit Arsenault spoke briefly about reinstating a Neighbourhood Watch program – which had been previously described in our July 2011 newsletter. A vote was taken and the decision made to proceed. Benoit will be leading this initiative and will be contacting ratepayers.

Alina announced a Q&A session to be followed by a 10 minute break. Most of the questions were directed to our police and enforcement guests.

During the break our guests left and the business portion of the AGM followed;

- The 2010 AGM minutes were approved.
- Treasurer Lorne McDonald distributed a statement of income and expenditures for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and presented a comparison of the 2010-2011 actual expenditures and the proposed budget for 2011-2012. These documents were discussed and subsequently received as presented.
- The upcoming budget having been agreed upon, Lorne then made a motion that the 2011-2012 SJHRA membership fee be established at \$25. The motion carried unanimously.
- Outgoing president Alina Zogala acted as the nominating committee having stated that she had served two terms and would not be continuing as president. She indicated that of the 2010-2011 board, Tom Zakrzewski, Michael Spicer, Bob Alden, Craig Finlayson, Anita Cianciolo, Jeff & Heather Roberts were willing to continue. The following association members indicate their willingness to serve; Benoit Arsenault, Molly Hutchison, Andy Harvey and Patrick Collin. The AGM approved these continuing and new members of the Board for 2011-2012, noting that Alina Zogala will continue on the board as Past President.

There being no further business, the AGM was adjourned at 9 pm.

From Our Membership Chair

Thanks to all new and renewing members that signed up at the October SJHRA Annual General Meeting. The opportunity to join SJHRA is open and we welcome and need your support; **the fee will remain at \$25.**

As a member, you are part of a collective voice that is heard at City Council. Ongoing dialogue with our local councilor, other city & municipal departments and organizations (including By-law Enforcement, Public Works, Police and MIRANET) is also actively sought. You will be kept informed with all important and timely neighbourhood news with regular newsletters posted on our web-site. This past year, our association focused its efforts on such key activities as:

- Planted and beautified the **Sir John's Homestead Park** in conjunction with the City (located at the intersection of SJH and Solitaire court)
- Improved the **north entrance gardens** at Redstart and Dundas streets
- Actively engaged with the City, By-law, Police, and UTM to seek a **permanent solution** to the noise from student renters at 3061 SJH
- Organized the inaugural, annual SJHRA community **garage sale**
- Participated in the **August BBQ** in conjunction with Grange Fest

In addition to continuing the work listed above, this year, we'd like to have our neighbourhood be a member of **Neighbourhood Watch** to help sustain our safe community and discourage crime and vandalism.

There are two options for joining our neighbourhood association:

During November and December please drop your fee (in an envelope along with your name and address) in the mailbox at 3086 Sir John's Homestead (Attn: Anita Cianciolo) or 3248 SJH (Attn: Craig Finlayson). A membership form (optional) is available on our web-site. **Please make cheques payable to: Sir John Homestead Ratepayer Association Inc.**

Our door-to-door membership drive will start in November. At this time, we will also be seeking endorsement from our neighbours on becoming a member of the Neighbourhood Watch Program.

Join today!

Anita Cianciolo

From our Past President

As some of you are probably aware, I have stepped down as President of our Association and now hold the position of Past President. It has been an eventful and successful journey that we embarked upon a few years ago. I thank each and every one of you, for your help and support. Without your support we could not have accomplished all that we did.

Most importantly, we returned our neighbourhood to a quiet family friendly community that we have enjoyed for many years. Yes, we still have issues with the Townhomes but even these issues are well on their way to being resolved. Our community has built many bridges and connections to the greater community known as Mississauga and under the direction of our new President, Michael Spicer, we will continue to strengthen them to our advantage and to that of Mississauga. As a member of the Board, I will continue to remain approachable at all times and issues and concerns that members feel should be brought to the attention of the Board and Community can be referred to me. I will in turn table them at Board Meetings and give them voice as necessary. A special "Thank You" to the past Board that has served so ably with me. I could not have done my part without you. Alina Zogala

From our New President

For those who don't know me, let me introduce myself. This marks my third year on the Board of Directors. I was the SJHRA MIRANET representative in 2009-10 and then Secretary in 2010-11. My family and I have lived in this neighbourhood since 1999.

We have a unique and comfortable place to call home in Sir John's Homestead, where young families live beside original residents who moved into the neighbourhood in the late 1970's. It will be the Board's objective to continue to carry out programs and activities to enhance our neighbourhood. We plan to build on the efforts of the past few years, introduce new ideas and build relationships with our elected officials, police services, City By-law enforcement and all our neighbours.

If anyone has a question or has a suggestion that should be considered by the Board, I encourage you to contact me or any member of the Board.

Thank you for allowing me to represent our neighbourhood.

Michael Spicer

Green Space Update

NW corner of Redstart and Dundas: A mixture of tulips and crocuses were planted on Nov. 8 so we should have a nice colourful display next spring, and the new shrubs should be planted next May.

SJH Park: The new seed has grown well and we now have nice new grass that replaces the tall weeds that bothered many of us. The next steps will take place next spring - to clean out and plant more new shrubs to complete the establishment of a transition area between the regularly mowed grass area and the naturalized area along the water course. We had planned to put down a lot more wood chips to restrict weeds around the new shrubs but the grass seeding happened so we had to wait to avoid damaging the new grass. We will ask the city for more wood chips next spring. And, of course, we will rely on the superb volunteer efforts of many of our ratepayers to complete this project - so look for our call for volunteers after winter has come and gone.

Townhouse Update

As you may know, for the last three years, the SJH Ratepayer Association has been dealing with student behaviour issues associated with UTM students renting detached houses and

townhouse units located in our community. The efforts of our Association triggered the passage by the City of its lodging house by-law, along with the accompanying licensing requirements. The success of this effort is demonstrated by the fact that all three of the student lodging houses that were located in our community have since reverted back to family residences.

However, the new lodging house by-law only applies to detached houses, and as a result, we have had to take a different approach in dealing with concerns relating to the townhouse complex. Generally, these concerns have to do with the noise and other disruptive behaviours of the student tenants of some of the townhouse units and their guests, as well as the appearance and poor repair of the townhouse complex. It should be pointed out that many of the student tenants are not a problem, and are just as concerned about the unacceptable behaviour of their neighbours as we are.

Led by Benoit Arsenault, we have had two very productive meetings at City Hall with our Councilor Katie Mahoney, along with senior officials from the Peel Police, the City By-Law office, UTM, as well as representatives from townhouse management. Following the first meeting, the situation improved considerably. This can be attributed to the fact that the police are now making frequent patrols of the area. Also, townhouse management has communicated with its tenants in order that they understand the impact of bad behaviour on the community, as well as the outcome of continued unacceptable behaviour. UTM has taken steps to communicate the problem to the wider student population. The By-Laws office has issued a property standards order, dealing mostly with townhouse maintenance issues.

Prior to the second City Hall meeting, the By-Laws office also received a number of written noise complaints from SJH residents, and has concluded that, based on these complaints, there are sufficient grounds to lay charges. They encourage our residents to continue filing complaints on the prescribed form whenever the occasion arises. You can help us by doing so, and forwarding the completed form to Benoit, who is coordinating our efforts in this regard. The form can be found on the SJH website.

Although things have improved a lot, there are still problems. What we have developed so far are excellent lines of communication with officials who can make a difference, and are committed to doing so. What we need is a lasting solution that will survive the turnover of students each year. All of us who have been working on this problem are confident that we will get there.

Tom Zakrzewski
VP SJHRA

Parking Update

Some ratepayers have complained about UTM students parking for free on our roads while they attend classes instead of paying for parking at UTM. In some areas this has caused unsafe congestion. In our March issue (#2.3) we reported on the results of a survey your Board conducted. Since this issue was raised again at our recent AGM, we want to remind you to look at that article and suggest that the only practical plan of action is for groups of neighbours along a contiguous stretch of road to (1) discuss and agree, and (2) request the city to install "no parking" signs along that stretch of road. This is

exactly what the folks on Solitaire Court did and they appear to be satisfied with the result.

Website Update

We have contracted for our own web hosting, made a few technical upgrades and rearranged some content for easier navigation. We have also added a new "photo tour" of our neighbourhood – linked from our opening paragraph. In time we will add photos of the many trails nearby. If you have any photos you would like to contribute, please send them to webmaster@sjhra.ca

Neighbourhood Watch Update

Neighbourhood Watch (NBW) is a national program designed to unify residents to develop a sense of community spirit through a continued awareness for the safety and security of all residents, homes and properties. The program was launched in Canada in 1982 to help reduce neighbourhood crimes such as break and enter, theft of auto, theft from auto and property damage. Today, issues are not limited to crime prevention. Neighbourhood Watch provides a venue for residents of a community to form friendships and build stronger communities. Knowing one's neighbour enables identification of strangers or potential problems. The Sir John's Homestead Ratepayer Association voted at the last Annual General Meeting to enter our community into the NBW program. The program is offered at no cost from the City of Mississauga and a minimum of 50% of our ratepayers are required to sign up. We would recommend each household to register by providing to the canvassers your name, phone number and email address on a form provided for that purpose.

Should you have any questions regarding our participation to the NBW program, don't hesitate to go through the brochure provided during the canvassing period. Feel free to contact your primary watch member for additional information.

Benoit Arsenault

Primary watch member (416) 873-9051

Please be welcoming! You will be receiving a visit from a member of the SJHRA Board shortly. This board member will be asking you to (a) join our association or renew your membership, and (b) sign up as a participant to the Neighbourhood Watch program.

SJHRA Board of Directors 2011-2012

President	Michael Spicer - 3086 RD
Past President	Alina Zogala - 3236 SJH
Vice President	Tom Zakrzewski - 3049 SJH
Secretary	Molly Hutchison – 3219 SJH
Treasurer	Andy Harvey – 3205 SJH
Membership	Anita Cianciolo - 3086 SJH
Webmaster/Editor	Bob Alden - 3159 SJH
Neighbourhood Watch	Benoit Arsenault – 3106 RD
MIRANET Liaison	Craig Finlayson - 3248 SJH
Director-at-large	Jeff & Heather Roberts - 3079 RD
Director-at-large	Patrick Colin – 1807 SC