



The Hidden Gem

Southland Park

December 2023

Your 2023/24 Board of Directors

Over the last few months, two members of the Executive stepped down so we were looking to fill those positions at the community BBQ. We are fortunate and grateful that new members have joined the team!

Thank you to Tanya Vincent and to Duana Joubert for their energy and enthusiasm towards making our neighbourhood better. Tanya served as Treasurer and Duana was most particularly involved with organizing our community events. You are both missed—thank goodness our neighbourhood is quite small so we can still run into each other in the community!

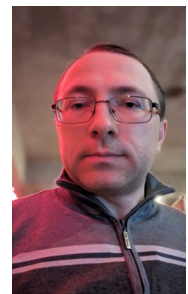
We are also grateful to Michelle Friesen for continuing on as President of the SPRA. While she had hoped to take on a lesser role on the board, we are glad she's continuing in this leadership role. Big shoes to fill in the future!

Don Blasko and Adriana Suver are continuing on in their respective roles as Vice-President and Secretary.

A huge welcome to our two new members: Jason Friesen as Treasurer and Serhii Zautkin as Member-at-large. New members always add fresh perspectives and ideas and our meetings have so far buzzed with excitement about what we can do for our community.

Here's a brief introduction of our new members:

Serhii: I am a father of three, and my wife and I moved to this neighbourhood in the spring of 2020. I work as a software developer at FarmersEdge and volunteer on the Board of Skate Winnipeg. I joined the Association to contribute towards maintaining the neighbourhood's quiet charm, while also thoughtfully integrating modern improvements for the betterment of our community.



Jason: I moved into Southland Park with my family in 2022. My wife and I have really enjoyed our time in this community so far and are looking forward to raising our children here. I work in the accounting industry and am happy to be able to serve on the SPRA executive committee as the treasurer. When I have free time I like reading a good book or playing my bass.



Executive Committee

PRESIDENT
Michelle Friesen

VICE PRESIDENT
Don Blasko

TREASURER
Jason Friesen

SECRETARY
Adriana Suver

MEMBER AT LARGE
Serhii Zautkin

Mission Statement

To enhance and represent our neighbourhood by engaging residents and addressing their concerns; and to work with representatives to enrich our community.

SPRA email: southlandparkinfo@gmail.com

www.southlandpark.ca

Facebook: Southland Park - The Hidden Gem

Nextdoor Southland Park

CN SYMINGTON YARD NOISE by Gerry Labossiere and Don Blasko

As previously mentioned we have been in mediation with CN and Transport Canada for the past year and half . Our last meeting was on the 16th of November, 2023. As there is a Non Disclosure order signed by all parties in this mediation process we are unable to advise the residents of specific details. We can say that CN is giving the perception that they are motivated to reduce the noise volume and has/ is exploring a number of potential solutions.

SPRA has sent emails this November to Daniel Blaikie MP Elwood-Transcona, Dan Vandal MP St. Boniface-St.Vital and Renee Cable MLA Southdale requesting their assistance in resolving the CN excessive noise situation. SPRA also met with Russ Wyatt COW counselor-Transcona who recommended we contact Daniel Blaikie.

We also have to keep in mind that there may come a time where we have exhausted the mediation process. Should the mediation end with no suitable conclusion, our next step will be adjudication.

We do not want to wait until the last minute to prepare for adjudication. There are numerous tasks that have to be accomplished in order to present a strong case.

To demonstrate how this disturbing noise is affecting each of us we ask that each resident submit an impact letter. The letter should include the following.

1. Name, address and contact information (phone number, email address).
2. How long you have lived in the area.
3. How has this CN noise affected your enjoyment of your property and mental wellbeing, examples:
 - a) unable to use your yard or deck comfortably.
 - b) unable to have your windows open.
 - c) having to use sound equipment to compensate for the CN noise.
 - d) are/have to receive medical attention to deal with the noise.
 - e) the noise is penetrating the walls of your home, waking you up at night.
 - f) are/have contemplated moving.
 - g) embarrassed to have company over as the noise is so disturbing.
 - h) know of someone who has moved due to the noise . If possible provide their names, previous address and contact info.

And any information that you feel might be relevant.

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POLICY STATEMENT

THE HIDDEN GEM is a publication of Southland Park Residents Association and is intended to educate and inform residents.

The views expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily of the Southland Park Residents Association.

The newsletter committee reserves the right to edit for clarity or fact.

The more impact letters we receive the better. The impact letters will be included with our adjudication application. We have received numerous complaints from the Southland Park residents and now it is time to act. Each of us have busy lives but we have to make time to put our concerns in writing.

The impact letter can be forwarded to southlandparkinfo@gmail.com or dropped off at Don Blasko's home at 364 Royal Mint Drive.

Keep in mind that your neighbours may not be receiving this information and if you are able please advise them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Last call for **ICE RINK!**
SPRA has all the materials but cannot provide set up and maintenance this year. Want to take this on? Let us know.



Thank you to all who beautified our community and looked after the planters. *Gorgeous!*



Dan Vandal
MP

Saint Boniface
Saint Vital

dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca
204-510-8819



**Warm wishes to Southland Park residents
for the holiday season!**

***Amitiés et souhaits chaleureux
pour la saison des fêtes!***

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended and a special thanks to those who gave their time to help out. Cooking, bouncy castle supervision, set up and take down, and more—we're so grateful. Also-Ran rocked out and the pickleball tournament was a blast!



2023 Community BBQ

Introducing MLA Renée Cable—by Adriana Suver

In early November I had the chance to sit down with our new Member of Legislative Assembly Renée Cable. We spoke about what her life experience brings to her new position and how she hopes to support the residents of Southland Park and Manitobans.

Renée has a lot of experience in service and working with people. She worked in hospitality while putting herself through her first degree, which was fittingly in Politics. After having her first child, she decided to continue her education to be able to provide the type of life that she wanted for them. She further completed a diploma in Human Resource Management and Certificate in Management from the University of Winnipeg. She then began working in an administrative and supporting role with an NDP MLA. The parts of the job she enjoyed the most were helping folks navigate the system, such as getting a health card and finding housing. Renée later became the director of the NDP Caucus Services. After having her second child, Renée worked in the private sector for several years supporting nonprofits and unions in communications, advertising and strategic planning. It was during the pandemic that Renée realized that she wanted to help make changes and sought out the nomination for the NDP. This is also when she moved into our constituency, to a home in Windsor Park.

Q: Why do you feel a move to the community was important?

A: I decided I'm going to do this right. I want people to know that I'm just as invested as they are. I know that the train tracks are annoying because I live through it and I know that the congestion of traffic coming off of Fermor or onto Lagimodière is problematic. I know there aren't enough daycare spots and that there are pockets of food insecurity in the neighborhood. Really, the needs are very diverse. I want to be able to say with authority that I understand.

Renée has canvassed for other individuals in the past but being the one in the running this time was a completely different experience for her. She was humbled by people who trusted her to tell their stories that were sometimes heartbreaking. Hearing from someone who's struggling to navigate employment assistance and housing supports, or who can't afford to pay school fees, or has to choose between insulin and heating bills – Renée found it hard not to be affected by these stories. She feels that forging these connections and being able to make a positive change is the most rewarding thing she's done in her life. Participating in a variety of activities and events has left her with a core belief that there is so much more that connects us than divides us.

Renée recognizes that the constituency is diverse. All constituents care about the same thing: they want to know that their family is going to be healthy, that their kids can get a good education. They don't want to see other people struggling. With these common threads among us, Renée wants to build connections, so that the society that our kids grow into is still civil.

On top of being a new MLA, Renée has also been named Minister of Advanced Education and Training for the Province of Manitoba. I asked her why she felt she was chosen for that position:

A: I tend to be a bridge builder. From my personal family experience I understand how much education can change the trajectory of a family and of a generation. I've been through university. I've been through continuing education. I believe so much in opening those doors of advanced education for as many people as possible. If we are serious about reconciliation and about moving forward, we need to have as many kids learning as possible. I also already have a good relationship with folks at post secondary education institutions. My human resources background has helped me build ties.

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As part of her ministerial duties, Renée is working closely with Minister of Health Asagwara to explore training opportunities for doctors and nurses in the province. They're also considering the idea of micro-credentials to help get people into the health field. The education sector is another field of interest, as there are issues with teacher shortages. Compounding stresses of what's happening in the world and cuts have put a strain on the public education system. NDP has already re-committed to smaller class sizes for K-3 and are looking at how to support classrooms in general so that everyone can feel a good quality of life.

Renée also speaks publicly about her own mental health. Struggles need to be normalized and Renée feels that while there are roadblocks in our systems, mental health concerns can be overcome and people can experience success. She is proud to be a Manitoban and believes that we can do better.

Q: It's been about five weeks since the election how are you feeling in your new role?

A: I'm grateful that I have experience working in the system. I've worked with staff at the legislative building and I know who to ask for help. There is a lot to do and a lot to learn. Someone once said it's like drinking from a fire hose. I can't think of a better way to describe it. But I'm a lifelong learner and I have a very curious mind. I get to sit in on meetings and find out about all the great things that are already happening at post secondary institutions and get to take part in making good decisions. I have fantastic staff in the legislature already and I've already reached out to important stakeholders. I've gone to folks from Student Aid and I've been able to contact with heads of universities, colleges and faculty associations. Last week I attended 2 evenings of college graduations and an event for young women in trades. I still kind of feel like "pinch me". I'm truly a nerd about politics and I can see the path as to how we can actually bring real change. I'm excited at the prospect of having meaningful conversations about how we can make life better for average folks. I don't take it lightly at all. This is a huge privilege.

Q: What particular issues did you hear when speaking to Southland Park residents?

A: Definitely the noise train, the traffic congestion, the lack of childcare spaces. I'm glad that changes to the playground are in the works. There are also a lot of professionals who were impacted by the wage freeze legislation and hiring freezes so people are doing a job and a half now and their places of work are stressful. Inflationary pressures are being felt by everyone so the immediate sort of remedy for that is the gas tax holiday which will start in January. Schools are also issues and one of the common ones to everyone from the constituency is healthcare; whether people are waiting too long to find a family doctor, or accessibility and support for seniors. It all comes down to human resources.

And while the concerns of constituents are not all the same, it comes down to quality of life and pride in our communities. Renée understands that residents invest in their properties and communities and want to feel good about where they live.

Renée has already been involved in several of our community's events in the past 2 years and we are looking forward to continued engagement. She welcomes constituents to get in touch with her. As she looks for a centrally-located office space, residents can contact Renée at renee.cable@yourmanitoba.ca or 204-222-9038. You might also run into her as she's doing some shopping at Giant Tiger, or visiting a school, or enjoying public places in the community.

Renée concluded our meeting by saying how strongly she feels that she is right where she's supposed to be. She is grateful for the opportunity to make connections and make things better.

Thank you to the Millers for another year of loaning out the SPRA pickleball set. Can't wait till spring!



Stay safe out there!
Please keep sump pump
water off the sidewalks.



RUSS WYATT

CITY COUNCILLOR
TRANSCONA
WARD



What is an elf's
favorite candy?
Orna-mints!



Where would you find
a snowman dancing?
At a snowball!



How does Santa
take photos?
With a Pole-aroid
camera, of course.

Happy *Holidays!*

RENÉE CABLE

MLA for Southdale

204-222-9038

renee.cable@yourmanitoba.ca





JOIN THE SOUTHLAND PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

FUNDS RAISED ALLOW US TO:

- Host events for the community
- Access government grants & programs that require matching funds
- Fund area improvements
- Beautify our shared living areas

2023 Annual Association Fee: \$50

Cheques Payable to: Southland Park Residents Association Inc.
Drop off or mail to: 131 Blue Mountain Road, R2J 3Z3
e-transfer: southlandparkinfo@gmail.com
(no password required)

Working together to improve our community!

Your Support is Appreciated!

