

VCA General Meeting – October 16, 2024



President's Report

It has been a busy six months in The Village since my last report! Several houses have been sold so we are happy to welcome several new residents - thanks goes to Judy and her Ambassadors for delivering their welcome packages and messages. Their warm greetings go a long way to ensuring the continuation of our community spirit! Congratulations to Judy and the Ambassadors, as well as to current members of the VCA, for encouraging residents to join (or rejoin) the VCA – membership fees ensure that the things we enjoy the most in The Village (e.g. holiday lights, flowers, little libraries) continue.

Thanks to the Social Committee for providing us with many and varied ways to keep connected and have some fun together! Thanks to Nancy Bailey for her past leadership on this committee and thanks to Lindy van der Wagen for stepping into the leadership role.

And lastly, thanks to the VCA Executive members for their time, effort, ideas and hard questions that keep me hopping!

Here are some of my activities as your President:

1. Loyalty Partners

With the assistance of Mona Babin and Carol Perrin, we held a successful Loyalty Partner Showcase of many of our partners on April 24. The addition of presentations or demonstrations was a new element and well received by both participants and partners. Their donations of door prizes were appreciated especially by winners!

We also partnered with **Music Niagara** over the summer months to showcase their events by inviting residents to enter draws to win tickets to attend some of their events. Those winners provided positive feedback on Music Niagara performances and enhanced communication about Music Niagara.

2. Safety in The Village

We were able to get permanent **No Parking signs** installed on Perez, ensuring that residents can park close to the mailboxes when they drive up to pick up their mail. From time to time, trees fall across the pathway in the **Ravine** – when I am aware of this, I contact the NPCA to ask for their assistance. This spring, I did a walk through with our NPCA contact to discuss on going trimming and maintenance issues.

Lighting on the pathway to the Ravine has yet to be completed – another change in Town staff seems to have again slowed this project down. This continues to be on the VCA list of concerns.

I have communicated with the Lord Mayor to make sure the VCA is involved in the **Town's speed limit review** when their community input occurs. The VCA had done a thorough review including data collection in the past on Niven, Brock and Garrison Village Drive, and so I have watched with interest the actions in Chatauqua and now in St. Davids regarding lowering speed limits.

3. Reviews

With the 'fresh eyes' of our new Recording Officer, Susan Wery, we reviewed the **VCA ByLaws and Constitution**. We determined that only minor changes are needed and these will be presented at the AGM in April. Thanks goes to Susan for lending her expertise to this review!

Carol Perrin and I met with Mike and Jennifer Siverns to review **the mandate of the Round Table**. As you see in Mike's report, the RT's role has shifted somewhat as the VCA Executive's role has increased, so this discussion seemed timely. In addition, resident leaders of the Condo Boards have also connected with me and with Mike to see if there are any relevant connections that could be made. This review is ongoing.

With the assistance of Judy Huntington-Mckay and Sue Henry, we have **reviewed our Loyalty Partner protocol**. We have determined that we have enough partners in number and diversity to serve the needs of our residents at this time.

4. Communication with John and Adam Hawley

We are all excited that construction has finally begun in the Business Centre, but we are also curious to know what the grocery store will be and what the hotel is going to look like. I contact John and Adam monthly to request updates, and when they have any, these are quickly published in the newsletter.

5. Memorial Benches in The Village

We are happy that several residents took the opportunity we outlined in the late winter and have worked with the Town to get a memorial bench installed. Notable to date are the 3 new plaques (and bench clean-up) in Dietsch Park done by three of our Pioneer residents. They held a quiet toast once these were installed! Thanks goes to the Town (J.B. Hopkins) for working closely with these residents to make this happen. More benches will soon appear in other parts of The Village for us to enjoy!

Given that the VCA is in a good financial position, the Executive would like to **propose that a memorial bench for the VCA** be purchase and installed. If we get support at the General Meeting from those attending, we will proceed to a general membership vote, as required in our Bylaws when spending this amount of money.

Submitted by Ardeth Staz