



Village Community Association

President's Report

October 18, 2023 General Meeting

Prepared by Ardeth Staz

It has been a pleasure to work with a full Executive since our April AGM! We have accomplished a lot and have also enjoyed several gatherings within The Village since then – it seems that now that COVID has subsided, things have gotten quite busy! Congratulations to our membership chair, Judy Huntington-McKay and her Ambassadors who exceeded their membership goal and welcomed several new residents to The Village! This revenue makes it possible for us to maintain the cost of our fees, keep the (Christmas) lights on and keep those flowers blooming!

Here are some highlights from the past few months

1. Social Events

The Social Committee held a Sunset Social at Pillitteri's in May – this was well attended and the food and music were enjoyed by all. There was even some dancing! July saw us celebrating the 25th Anniversary of The Village, with the Lord Mayor among the special guests in attendance. We were able to acknowledge the setting of the Liz Hawley Memorial Stone and present a significant donation to Liz's favourite charity, Rising Angels. Author and Village resident Nigel Napier-Andrews wrote a history of The Village which is posted on our website along with many pictures mostly from the albums of first resident Shirley Harmer. In late August, the golf tournament and dinner were held on a day without rain! Stay tuned for our next events!

2. Review of Resident Survey Comments and Suggestions

Executive has spent considerable time reviewing the many suggestions put forward in responses to our March survey, determining which ones

are within our mandate, establishing priorities and taking action. We will be publishing information about task completion in our newsletters and website - some of these you will see in The Village. We may need to call upon Village residents to help accomplish some of these tasks - we hope some of you will step forward when we need you!

3. Safety in The Village

Much to our dismay, there has been a car stolen from one of our laneways, some unfriendly visitors have tried to open cars at night and an internet scam impacting several residents. As a result, I have been in touch with resident Danny Pehar (our speaker on cyber safety at the April AGM) and our friendly police contact, Constable Michael Malachowsky (who is our guest speaker at the GM) for advice. We published several reminders, one of which is to be sure to leave outdoor lights on overnight, another is to be sure to report any incidents. We investigated Neighbourhood Watch but advice was to make sure a 'network' is in place among residents. Our newsletters reach all but 19 homes in The Village so we are looking to connect with everyone to ensure we have a means of providing information to all. Constable Mike reminds us that we still live in a very safe neighbourhood!

Danny was helpful in providing reminders of the information about passwords and what to do if you get 'hacked', which we posted in a newsletter.

We also thought it wise to formalize the ways in which we collect, handle and destroy your personal information, collected for membership, event or meeting registration - we have developed a protocol based on the FOI/POP (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy) legislation. This protocol will be signed by any VCA Executive or committee member who deals with information.

4. Partnerships

In the spring, I met with Marilyn Rickard who works with the food bank at Newark Neighbours to explore how we might be able to help, beyond collecting food items at our gatherings. Due to increased cost of food, they are always looking for food donations and with the

increased space at their new site in Virgil, they can take more donations of clothing and household goods.

In the summer, I met with Weston Miller, new chair of the Chatauqua Residents Association. Although our issues are somewhat different, we agreed that it was good to establish a relationship in case future collaboration seemed relevant.

None of the work done by the VCA would get done if it was not for the wonderful volunteers on Executive, Membership, Social Committee, Holiday Lighting or Gardening who give of their time, energy and ideas. On that note, we held a Volunteer Appreciation Event on September 25 to thank everyone for their efforts.

Last but not least, thanks go to the residents of The Village and the members of the VCA who support our work, attend our events and shop locally at our Loyalty Partners' businesses. All of this makes my role as President enjoyable and rewarding! I look forward to seeing you in our community and at events over the next few months!

Ardeth Staz, VCA President