

Village Community Association

President's Report

October 19, 2022 – VCA General Meeting



Report by Ardeth Staz

To all members of The Village Community Association and residents of The Village.

With Mona Babin's increased role at the NOTL Museum and her resignation as President of the VCA, I took on this role as interim President in May 2022. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with all committee leads to get a deeper sense of their work and what their hopes are for the future of The Village and the VCA. With COVID subsiding, it has almost seemed like a normal summer albeit our continued use of masks on occasions when it is wise! At our April AGM, we heard and have followed the advice of our special guest and Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hirji and yet many of us have still succumbed to this virus! Fortunately for most, symptoms have been mild.

Executive Board Members:

With Mona's departure and my move into the President's role, we were happy to welcome **Carol Perrin to the role of Vice President**. Carol has quickly stepped up to continue our work in dealing with our coyote issue and has become a very valuable member of the Executive, contributing her knowledge of The Village as she has lived here for several years. Thanks also to **Sue Henry in Communications** for her continued efforts to keep us connected through the newsletters and website, to **Joe Allevato our Treasurer**, for keeping our books balanced, to **Judy Huntington-Mckay in Membership** for her amazing efforts in organizing the Membership Ambassadors who welcome new residents and have increased VCA membership dramatically. Thanks to **Heidi Brown for representing the Social Committee** at Executive. Your support as I take on this new role has been greatly appreciated!

We have enjoyed a busy summer with events in The Village. Here are some highlights:

Social Events:

Sunset Social - The Social Committee held an evening of food, fun and music in June at the Barrelhead at Pillitteri Winery. It was so enjoyable to chat with neighbours who we had not really seen for months and months!

20th Anniversary Celebration - In August, we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the VCA with cake and ice cream treats in the Dietsch parkette - it was a lovely summer night!

Golf Tournament Dinner - In September, rainy weather resulted in the Golf Tournament becoming a 2 part event – dinner with door prizes on September 8.

Golf Tournament - Golf and beverages on September 28 in the clubhouse with players and prizes. Lots of good fun!

Many thanks to Heidi Brown and the Social Committee, and special thanks to Mary Taylor for planning this event twice!

Porch Decorating Contest - On Thanksgiving weekend, we awarded prizes for the most colourful porch, the best wreath and the best Thanksgiving/Fall themed porch as part one of the fall porch decorating contest - The Village is certainly beautiful at this time of year!

Other Events:

In April, the VCA held a **Community Day at the NOTL Community Centre, hosting 16 of our loyalty partners and local service providers** with the goal of engaging and informing residents. The event was attended by over 100 of our Village residents and feedback from both residents and vendor participants was very positive. A 'passport' was used to ensure

visitors would visit each vendor/participant - this resulted in prizes from vendor/participants being awarded to seven residents.

In late winter, we were faced with unwelcome visitors to our community, the **coyotes!** Residents became fearful for their dogs and for themselves, as coyotes seemed to roam our streets far too often. **The VCA formed a Task Force under the leadership of Mona Babin, and co-ordinated with Coyote Watch Canada and the Town to educate us** on what to do if faced with a coyote encounter and how we can collectively deter coyotes from visiting our streets. Fortunately, our efforts have been successful - **Carol Perrin will continue to lead these efforts** so that we can safely co-exist with these wild animals.

Mona Babin continues to work with the Hawley family to plan the establishment of a memorial for Liz Hawley - Mona reports "We have been working with the Hawley family and local suppliers to design the best memorial for Liz Hawley. A rock will be purchased and installed in Dietsch Park this fall.

In the spring of 2023, Kirkpatrick Stoneworks will engrave it on site. Based on the estimates we have received to date, we hope to be able to also donate \$1,000 to Liz's preferred charity, Rising Angels."

Caring for our Community:

Residents participated in several events in the spring that helped make our local environment better and cleaner. A **Community clean-up was held in April** resulting in several bags of litter being picked up and us realizing that our neighbourhood is very clean! Thanks goes to those who pick up litter regularly and to all of us for not littering!

Several residents participated in **tree planting in the Ravine**, organized by the NPCA. A walk in the Ravine these days indicates these trees are growing well. More trees will be planted next spring. A **cull of an invasive species in the Ravine** - garlic mustard - was done in May. This was a big job and will need to be continued next spring. Thanks to residents who participated in all of these activities.

Thanks to everyone for supporting activities in The Village and continuing to make our community a great place to live!