

## VCA President's Report – Ardeth Staz

### Annual General Meeting

April 19, 2023



We are so excited to have our first in-person AGM since pre-COVID! However, we seem to have gotten used to having Zoom meetings – almost half of our survey respondents said they preferred meeting via Zoom!

Since I took over this role last May as interim President, the VCA has been very busy! The Executive and Committees have new members – Carol Perrin joined us as Vice President in the summer, Ann Hill began as Recording Officer a few months ago and the Social Committee is a completely new group after the retirements (and hard work) of many past members.

The VCA celebrated its 20th Anniversary with cake and ice cream treats in July – and **we are planning a celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Village this summer.**

Here are some highlights from my past year as President:

1. **Little Libraries** – these continue to be very active. It is always helpful if new books are added to keep the collection rotating. Magazines should not be placed in the libraries. Please remember the libraries are not for posting flyers (except on approval of the Executive).
2. **Lighting on the Pathway** - the land use agreement between the Town and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority was finally approved by Council in January. This allows the Town to now proceed with the installation of the lighting between Brock Street and the ravine, with Brookfield's support.
3. **Community Day** – we held our first Community Day in May, 2022 at the Community Centre. We were able to showcase many of our Loyalty Partners as well as local services such as Fire and Recycling. We hope to hold this event every 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
4. **Liz Hawley Memorial Stone** – thanks to Mona Babin who has guided this process in consultation with the Hawley family and using

donations from Village residents. The stone has been installed in the parkette at the end of Samuel and Elizabeth, and was inscribed in early April.

5. **Meeting with new Lord Mayor** – after his election, I met with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa to bring to his attention some of the issues and wishes of The Village residents. He was very pleased to learn more about our activities and organization, and asked that I continue to keep him informed.
6. **Welcoming the new Medical Centre** – just after their official opening, I took a letter of welcome to the Centre (along with some Valentine's Day chocolates) to introduce the VCA to this group.
7. **Environmental/Community Activities** – over the past year, the VCA has organized a community clean-up, tree planting and a culling of invasive garlic mustard plants with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA). It is rewarding to walk through the Ravine and see the new trees growing. Unfortunately, the garlic mustard is too – more events will be planned for this spring and summer!
8. **Survey of residents** – we were very pleased to have so many responses to our survey and thankful for the many thoughtful comments and suggestions we received. This information will be very useful in guiding the new Executive in their endeavours over the next few years.

Thanks to all of you for supporting the VCA by being a member and participating in our activities throughout the year! A big thank you to all of you who volunteer for Executive and committees, and as helpers at events.

I look forward to seeing many of you in The Village over the next year!