



VCA President's Report

Annual General Meeting

April 17, 2024

It has been another busy year for the VCA and its committees.

The Social Committee in particular has been very active planning an event for us almost every month, some of which have been quite unique! The Executive enjoyed the many preparations for the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of The Village which involved not only planning the event but also collecting information and pictures, and commissioning the writing of our history.

The survey we conducted in March and the follow up discussions and decision-making gave us a sense of direction, and it seems that we have been able to accomplish many little tasks as a result.

I would like to thank members of the Executive for devoting their time, ideas and energy on behalf of Village residents. Thanks also goes to the many committee leads and members who make The Village a beautiful and friendly place to live.

Here are some highlights from my past year as President:

1. Follow up to March Survey results

Executive met several times to consider the results, comments and suggestions. We determined which items were within our mandate, which ones would be priorities over the next year and when and how we would take action. We were pleased to provide updates through the website including those items which we researched and found they were not possible eg. Wrapping our hydro boxes with artwork, placing picnic tables in the park at Macdonell/Norton. We were successful in working with the Town to share a process that residents who wish to do so can purchase and place a memorial bench in The Village, and to get limited parking signs around the mailbox area on Perez.

2. Trimming along the Pathway to the Ravine

On snowy winter days and windy spring and summer days, the evergreens bowed so low when snow-covered and became so overgrown with vines that the pathway was almost impassable at times. I was able to get the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to spend a day trimming and weeding, the result being a much more presentable passageway. The Town continues to work towards finishing low bollard lighting on this stretch of pathway.

3. Showcase of Loyalty Partners

We have expanded our list of Loyalty Partners and are planning to showcase most of these at an event on April 24 at the Community Centre. Some partners will be doing a presentation or demonstration in addition to having a booth or table. We hope this event will strengthen residents' awareness of these business's services and products, and extend further our Shop Local mindset. We hope you will plan to attend and support our partners!

4. Archive Review

In view of the 25th Anniversary of The Village and the recent 20th Anniversary of the VCA, I took the time to review the minute books which have been kept since the VCA's inception in 2002. This proved to be a very enlightening and entertaining activity – it was interesting to understand how previous executives laid a foundation to that current issues are easily dealt with. Now the focus for the Executive can be on further developing the sense of community and strengthening our relationship with the Town. Work done in the past to establish the flowerbeds and the parkettes with the Town means that we are recognized by the Town for our work on beautification – they know who we are and they know we will work with them on bigger issues as well. The Architectural Codes have long been important in preserving what we have all bought into – concepts of Urban Design were well understood by early residents and perhaps have become something we take for granted. It was also amazing to me how many of you who have lived in The Village for many years have given of your time and energy over those years!

Carol Perrin and I have also reviewed the 2016 Forward Planning document, produced by a committee of residents and intended to provide a path forward for the VCA at that time. It is very rewarding

to see the many issues raised in that report that have already been accomplished.

Thank you to all of you for your support of the VCA Executive – we thank you for your feedback from time to time on the job we are doing! Your support through your membership in the VCA means we can continue to make The Village a welcoming beautiful place to live throughout the seasons.

I look forward to seeing you in The Village and at events over the next year!

Ardeth Staz
President,
Village Community Association