

HOLIDAY DECORATING COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 19, 2023 VCA AGM

COMMITTEE CHAIR: Dale DesIslets



2022-2023 Review

- The most notable element of this year's decorating season-which probably benefitted our volunteer teams more than anyone else-was the milder weather and overall lack of snow, which made set-up and tear-down easier (and happier) events.
- Of course, nature is never completely kind, and the day scheduled to distribute the materials in mid-November also brought a wet blizzard, so we commend the few teams who set up immediately on what turned out to be the worst day all season....EXCEPT for the evening a few weeks later that was scheduled for the lighting event and stroll to the parks-which brought heavy rain. Thanks to the Social group for a hasty pivot to consolidate the treat tables to Deitsch Park. With that and the rain there was not much incentive to stroll but we hope you took the opportunity to do so over the season.
- We noticed (and heard your comments) that a few of the sleigh "gift box" decorations were getting a bit "tired", so last fall we renovated; removing the original 4 or 5 and adding 30 new ones to make the sleigh look more presentable for Santa. The plan before next season is to upgrade the swags that hang from the lampposts and are also a bit worn. We have inventory materials to do this.
- This year, we offered a challenge to residents to join our decorating effort and light up their own properties, and we are happy to see that many accepted. It would be great to secure our reputation as the brightest, warmest neighbourhood in NOTL. Plan now for next year!
- As always we are heartened by the many people who make a point of stopping and cheering our teams on as the decorations go up. Everyone offers kind words and encouragement, including residents (who seem a bit jealous) from the older section of Garrison and surrounding streets toward Lakeshore, as well as Old Town friends.

- I always say that during the holidays, our neighbourhood is the Town's best advertisement-showcasing the spirit of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The stretch of our lights, sleigh, and reindeer all along Niagara Stone Road by The Village is a great introduction to the town throughout the season.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without the interest, contribution and dedication of many of your neighbours, and it is important that they are recognized here.

This season's volunteers are:

Joe Allevato	Jim Filyer	Ardeth and Rick Staz
John Anderson	Warren Fraser	Lyn and Gordon Stratford
Dave Antaya	Ron Klein	Reinier van der Wagen
Dana Branscombe	Craig Kozak	Diane and Alan Walker
Karen Brown	Jeanette & Bruce Murdoch	Jim Wallace
Mike Carruthers	Danny Pehar	
Frank Coster	Doug Phibbs	
Dave Hill	Roy Sampson	
Rob Fahlman		

My apologies to anyone I missed.

Thanks also to every resident who contacted us to report lights out or other issues with any of the decorations. Keep it up. You are part of our volunteer team too, and we appreciate your help.