

VCA SOCIAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2021-MARCH 31, 2022



<p>VCA Social Committee (SC)</p>	
<p>The goal of the VCA Social Committee is to help create a community environment that is friendly and fun, especially during the past year with the continuing COVID pandemic. We plan and execute opportunities for people to socialize and meet their Village neighbours. In the last year, COVID continued to constrain the VCA Social Committee activities to only those events which could be held outdoors with social distancing. The committee was also kept to a small number of members during this time so that planning meetings could be held safely.</p>	<p>Social Committee Members: April – October 2021: Mary Taylor, Cathy Saytar, Judy Huntington-Mackay, Cindy Durdan, Heidi Brown October 2021 – February 2022: Coleen Wallace, Cathy Saytar, Anne Robinson, Judy Huntington-Mackay, Cindy Durdan, Heidi Brown March 2022: – recruitment of new members</p> <p>In addition, we are fortunate to have ad hoc volunteers who helped with specific events. Thank you to all who participated with us in the last year.</p>
<p>Activities & Events</p>	<p>Goals and Results</p>
<p><u>Canada Day Porch Decorating Contest</u> The Social Committee invited the community to use their imaginations and creativity and show what Canada means to them. On July 1 at 3 p.m. the Judges, Vice President Ardeth Staz and Treasurer Joe Allevalo, made the rounds of The Village. Sue Henry, Communications Director and Photographer, provided the wonderful pictures for the newsletter of the event and the winners. Members of the Executive Board and the Social Committee rode around The Village on decorated bicycles to cheer on the participants. Winners received Canada themed prizes that included locally sourced items from our Loyalty Partners.</p>	<p>This 2nd special Canada Day event showed that The Village continues to have some very creative folks. Many of the houses included the recognition of Indigenous populations as a meaningful message for Canada Day and orange was included with the traditional red and white. The Judges had difficult decisions to make with the wide variety of unique displays. The Canada Day Porch Decorating Contest also had many Villagers out and about looking at the displays. In the end, five winners were selected based on decorated porches/lawns that had originality, artistic flair, historical references, reflection of Canada, visual appeal, creativity and enthusiasm.</p>
<p><u>3rd Annual VCA Golf Day</u> On Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course, the VCA SC held its 3rd annual golf day. Due to the overnight rain and wet golf course, no carts were allowed, so everyone got their exercise and walked the course. A shotgun start had the teams of 66 golfers out on the links starting at 2 pm. It took a little longer, but everyone completed the round and headed for the 9th green for the social hour and putting contest.</p>	<p>Despite the wet grass, ever changing weather, and lots of walking, the feedback from the attendees was that this was another wonderful day on the links. Even if you were not on the winning team, there were great golf gifts, treats and door prizes. The putting contest was a big hit again -- enthusiastically cheered on by The Village gallery. This was followed by a tasty BBQ dinner with 90 diners, held under the trees next to the 9th green. Thank you to all who donated their prize money and the cart fees to the memorial for Liz Hawley. The golf day was also a chance to recognize the valuable contribution of Mary Taylor, who after 10 years of contributing her talents and leadership, retired from the VCA Social Committee.</p>

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<p><u>Light Up the Village Tree Lighting & Walkabout</u> This year the VCA Social Committee added to the annual Tree Lighting event in Dietsch Park with a Walkabout social event. On November 28, 2021, Light up the Village included hospitality stations for an outdoor Pot Luck held in the parks on Norton, Garrison Village and Brock streets. Bins were provided for donations to the Newark Neighbours Food Bank.</p>	<p>Village residents were encouraged to put up their own lights early to add to the festive Village vibe. After the official Village Tree Lighting event, residents and their guests could stroll The Village streets and stop to sample the goodies at the hosted parks. Each hospitality station was different, with unique décor and music. Thanks to all of the volunteers who baked, cooked, and brought and items for the food bank. Newark Neighbours received an entire car load of food donations. Feedback from our Village neighbours was that this was one of the best events ever!</p>
<p><u>Electronic Greeting Cards</u> In the past year, the SC sent electronic holiday greetings via the VCA Newsletter to the residents of The Village. In February 2022, the first of these was a Valentine’s Day card.</p>	<p>The SC received wonderful feedback from the residents who “clicked” on the card and enjoyed the message.</p>

2022 Plans (subject to change & pending COVID regulations):

<p>May 31, 2022 (rain date June 7)</p>	<p>Roll Out the Barrel Sunset Social: Antipasto & Salad Bar & Live Music - \$15 per ticket (VCA Members). Pizza and beverages individual purchase.</p>	<p>Pillitteri Estate Winery – Barrelhead Outdoor Garden</p>
<p>August 1, 2022</p>	<p>Sunset Social Walkabout & Hospitality Stations Pot Luck</p>	<p>Norton, Garrison Village and Brock Street Parks</p>
<p>September 7, 2022</p>	<p>4th Annual Golf Tournament</p>	<p>Niagara-on-The-Lake Golf Club</p>
<p>October (date to be confirmed)</p>	<p>Autumn/Halloween Porch Decorating Contest</p>	<p>The Village</p>
<p>November 27 (date to be confirmed)</p>	<p>Light Up The Village Walkabout & Hospitality Stations Pot Luck</p>	<p>Norton, Garrison Village, and Brock Street parks</p>