

# 2026 VCA General Meeting

## President's Report

October 21, 2026



As the fall season settles in, it is time to reflect on what has happened in The Village over the spring and summer months, and what the VCA has accomplished.

### **Transitioning to a new treasurer, John Watson**

After many years with Joe Allevato as our treasurer, it was somewhat challenging to make the transition with our bank and insurance carrier to a new treasurer! However, that transition is now complete and we are welcoming John's ideas from his past experiences with other organizations. John will be introducing some new processes in the near future to make our operations smoother.

### **Goodbye to Councillor Wendy Cheropita**

We are thankful to Wendy for always being very supportive of the VCA and an advocate of The Village as a whole. I have met with her several times over my term as VCA President and she has always been prompt and helpful in addressing my questions and requests for service or response from Town staff. As we know, she has decided not to run in the upcoming elections – perhaps this will mean we will see her at more of our VCA events! After the election, I will be looking for a new reliable contact on council and will be seeking an introductory meeting with the new Lord Mayor.

### **"Stop, Start, Continue" Review of VCA**

I have met with each member of Executive to discuss their ideas on what the VCA might stop, start or continue doing, as well as their ideas about what the VCA should try to accomplish by April. Report coming soon!

### **Getting to know The Clayfield**

We were very happy to have been able to arrange a 'sneak peak' for Village residents before the official opening of The Clayfield Hotel – as were the

more than 190 residents who registered and visited the facilities on September 11! Feedback then and since the full opening has been very positive, and many of us have already enjoyed the bars and restaurant. Executive and Social Committee have been negotiating with the hotel for a Holiday gathering, cocktail style as per our survey of VCA members, and hope to get details and pricing to you soon.

### **Application for Neighbourhood of the Year**

Executive put together a PowerPoint presentation to describe and document how we feel we met the criteria for this initiative by the Town. As you know, Chatauqua was the winning community, so I met with President Wes Miller to see if he could share any insights. Chatauqua Residents Association was formed in 1950 so has much more history than the VCA. At that time, Wes had already started to campaign in The Village for councillor, so he was also able to share what he had been hearing are the issues of concern for Village residents. This list includes questions about what parking, traffic and congestion will look like once the Commons is fully open, speeding on Niven (which since has been monitored), seniors care in NOTL, and a desire for more access to the arts.

### **Input to the Town's Parking Study**

On behalf of the VCA, I was part of a group that met with the independent agency hired by the Town, as a first step in their process of reviewing parking issues and solutions in NOTL. I was also able to provide my perspective as an NOTL Ambassador. Community input with the Town residents as a next step has also taken place.

### **Loyalty Partners**

With the help of Carol Lake, we have added several new partners and have been able to touch base with those businesses that are already partners. We held the LP Showcase in May which brought together many of these partners at the Community Centre to chat with residents who attended. We continue to encourage everyone to Shop Local, especially in the quieter winter months.

Many thanks as always to the wonderful supportive members of Executive, and to the many volunteers (membership ambassadors, holiday lighting crews, gardeners, etc.) who are as passionate about The Village as I am, and who contribute in many ways to making The Village a fabulous community to live in!

Submitted by Ardeth Staz  
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