



VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Many of you grew up believing that the sight of a robin while temperatures were cool and snow was still on the ground was a promise that Spring was just around the corner. Last week I was greeted not once but three times by flocks of very fat looking robins feasting on the fruit of the ornamental pear trees on the boulevards of Jordan and Norton Streets. A quick search on Google revealed that although many robins do migrate south every fall, if there is ample food, preferably fruit, some robins will stick around year round. Makes sense but I'm still hanging on to the promise of Spring.

Village Christmas Party

Our annual Village Christmas Party, held on Friday, December 11th was a great success. Eighty-five Village residents gathered at Addison Hall for an evening of delicious food and a chance to celebrate the season with friends and neighbours.

The gourmet chefs of "Foodies Anonymous" prepared a mouth watering array of gourmet appetizers, cheeses and charcuterie throughout the evening. The flowing chocolate fountain with a selection of fruits for dipping provided the perfect "sweet ending!" By the end of the evening, the wine bottles had been drained and there was a definite festive spirit in the air!

The Social Committee would like to thank all those who attended this event. This is the type of support which keeps the community spirit alive and well in The Village. Naturally, we also want to thank the Social Committee for all their hard work which made the evening such a perfect way to start the Christmas season.

The Village Parks at Christmas

Once again The Village was the "must see" place to go in Niagara-on-the-Lake this Christmas. A big thank you to Dana Branscombe and Dale DesIslets for their amazing organizational skills. Not only did they ensure that everything was in tip top shape before the volunteers decorated the light posts or trees assigned to them but they ensured that any malfunctions were dealt with promptly even though Dana was out of the country. Thank you to everyone who participated. Although it definitely is warmer than last year some of the deer families may hang around a little longer if the rebar cannot be pulled from the ground.

Parking

The streets in Phase 3 of The Village have now been assumed by the Town and as a result you will notice that "no parking" signs have been erected on one side of Blackbird, Brock, Jordan and Norton Streets. Since our roadways are a little narrower than recommended, to allow easy access by emergency vehicles, especially when we are

contending with snow, no parking on one side of the street is necessary. This became quite evident last winter when cars parked on both side of the street after a snow fall forced an ambulance to use the laneway to access the person needing emergency treatment.

While we are on the subject of parking please remember the town by-laws which state:

Do not park a vehicle

- *within 10m (33ft) of an intersection or 3m (10ft) of a fire hydrant*
- *on an inner boulevard*
- *in front of or within 1.3m (5ft) of a laneway or driveway or a curb-cut*
- *on either side of a roadway so as to obstruct a vehicle in the use of any laneway or driveway*
- *for the purpose of displaying such vehicle for sale or lease*
- *for the purpose of servicing or repairing a vehicle except for emergency*
- *between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on all regional roads*
- ***for a period of time exceeding 12 hours.***

These regulations are for our safety. Please respect them.

Laneways

At about the same time that “no parking” signs were being erected, the “stop” signs in laneways in Phase 3 were being taken down by the Town. In their place were signs placed by the Laneway Condomium Corporation signifying that the laneways were private property. Please do not use the laneways to take short cuts but use the main roads of The Village. As always remember to exercise caution when backing out of your garage or driving in the laneways.

Good Neighbours

Remember to shovel your walk after a snow fall and if you are going away for extended periods of time please make arrangements for someone to do it for you. Make sure that your front porch and steps are also cleared of snow and your papers are taken in. Don't advertise you are away. Both the Town Crier and Niagara Advance can cancel delivery of their papers if asked. Call 905-468-3283 for Niagara Advance or 905-688-9202 for Town Crier.

By the way, thank you to the many dog walkers who routinely toss the papers from the street, boulevard or sidewalk onto front porches every week.

A concerned neighbour recently shared information about a salesman from Green Planet claiming to represent Enbridge and wanting to inspect his water heater. In that case the person wanted to sell the home owner another hot water heater but he had no calling card and offered no telephone number. This is often another way to check out what homes are unoccupied or check for valuables so be cautious.

Garbage

It has been another windy winter and garbage has been flying around the neighbourhood every Monday morning. Please weigh down your recycling. If your boxes are too full, put the excess in another box or a clear bag. Stack your recycling boxes to ensure that items are not being blown away.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE UP TO?

We are pleased to promote events that our members are involved in. Here is one you won't want to miss:

Shaw Guild Garden Tour (Alan Walker) The 11th annual tour being held on June 4th will reveal eight outstanding secret gardens in the lovely Old Town area of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Master gardeners will be on site at each garden to answer your questions. Tickets are \$25.

Order your tickets at 1-800-511-7429 or online at shawfest.com/gardentour

What's Happening in Town

Friday Documentary & Saturday Film Series at the Shaw Festival

February 19 - Bravo Winter 2016

Feb 28 - Icebreaker's Comedy Festival

NOTL Home Show

Saturday, March 5 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 4, 10 am-4 pm - *Shaw Guild Garden Tour* (see above)

Your VCA Executive:

Bill Smelser, President
Dave Antaya, Vice President
Moyra McEachern, Treasurer
Judy McHattie, Recording Officer
Laura Jeffrey, Corresponding Officer

Contact the VCA Executive at notlvillagenews@gmail.com

Check out our website at www.thevillagenotl.ca