



VCA Fall Meeting

*Wednesday, October 16, 2018 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
The Old Winery, 2228 Niagara Stone Road, NOTL*

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Four members short of a quorum. **Motion** to be proposed at the April 2020 AGM to ratify decisions made tonight.
3. **Motion** to accept proposed changes to agenda approved. Motion passed
4. **Motion** to accept minutes from meeting of October 16, 2018 Motion passed.
5. **Executive reports**
 - a. **Finance** - Ron McKenzie
 - i. We should finish the fiscal year with a small surplus
 - ii. The golf event generated a surplus of \$1,011.23. A portion of this will be used to pay for some of the fall event expenses
 - iii. **Motion** to accept 2019-2020 budget approved. Motion passed
 - iv. **Motion** to confirm Jim Wallace as Reviewer of 2019-2020 financial statements approved. Motion passed
 - b. **Communications** - Sue Henry via Mona Babin
 - i. Newsletters: 300 subscribers, 80% open rate, 2-3 newsletters each month
 - ii. Content: VCA updates, meeting info, social events, The Village developments, NOTL announcements
 - iii. Website www.thevillagenotl.ca: updated regularly, promotion of social events, loyalty partner info, pictures of events, link to several NOTL calendars for events
6. **Committee reports**
 - a. **Social**
 - i. **Members:** Heidi Brown, Marg Churchill, Cindy Durdan, Judy Huntington-Mackay, Cathy Saytar and Mary Taylor
 - ii. **Volunteers:** Colette Knox, Luba and Warren Fraser, Debbie Chewerda, Tina Clement, Merion Clement, Rita Skelton, Fran and John Anderson, and Sue Henry photographer
 - iii. **2019 Activities**
 1. May 25 - **Garage sale** - special thanks to Colette Knox
 2. June 20 - **Sunset Social** - over 70 people participated. Held in the big market tent, Village Centre, with music by John Kossup. Thanks for special efforts by Luba and Warren Fraser, and Tina Clement

3. September 4 - **Golf tournament** – 62 golfers and 31 extra participants for dinner. Thanks to Dave and Erna Antaya, Mary Taylor, Chris Mori, Merion and Tina Clement, Rita Skelton, Luba Fraser, John & Fran Anderson, and Sue Henry.
 4. November 14 - **Farewell Fall, Hello Holidays** – Dinner dance at The Old Winery. Cindy and Judy are chairing the committee. – 97 tickets sold.
 5. November 24 - **Tree lighting ceremony** – Will take place after sundown. Volunteers asked to bake a dozen cookies. Sing along. Cider & cookies – **Please bring your own cup**
 6. A **survey** will be sent in 2020 for social event options.
 7. **Save the date!** Golf Tournament September 9, 2020
- b. **Membership** - Randy Churchill
- i. **RECORD** 137 VCA member households, including **25 new members**
 - ii. **NEW** loyalty partner: **Fantastik Home Services** 10% discount Simone Dubois
- c. **Gardening**- Randy Churchill – THANK YOU to the 19 dedicated volunteers throughout season. Recent clean-up of gardens and also mulching of mailbox areas.
- d. **Lights** – Dale DesIslets
- i. **Sunday, November 24:** Holiday lighting in Dietsch Park at dusk (4:30 -5:00 approx) Rain, shine or snow
 - ii. Decorations will be lit every evening from dusk to midnight until mid-January
 - iii. **Monday, December 23:** Lumière candles will be lit along park pathways for the evening only. Rain-date: December 24. See VCA newsletters for updates
 - iv. **We need volunteers**
 1. To help existing teams with set up (mid-November), stringing lights on trees and garlands on lampposts, and tear down (mid-January)
 2. Everyone can help: to keep our displays looking wonderful throughout the season, contact me if you see any lights out or missing in your area
 3. Email: vcadecorteam@gmail.com. Donations appreciated
- e. **The Village Round Table** - Mike Siverns, Chair
- i. Committee: Rob and Dee Fahlman, Lisa Bruce Rahbarian, Luba Fraser, Jennifer Siverns, Russ Garrard, Bill Smelser, Phil Loforti
 - ii. Forum to discuss issues, solve common problems.
 - iii. Meets two or three times a year to discuss issues and investigate economies of scale or efficiencies which can be achieved by working together.
 - iv. Developing contact list of tradespeople and other useful numbers.
 - v. Wish to participate? email Mike Siverns at mikesiverns@hotmail.com
- f. **VCA awards:** The VCA Board of Directors introduced the VCA recognition award. The award will be given to a person or a group that has gone over and above their expected responsibilities to foster a harmonious community, service residents of The Village, or provide a stronger voice for The Village residents within the municipality. We presented 2 awards at the meeting.
- i. **RANDY CHURCHILL**
Randy has been managing The Village garden upkeep for 2 years. He meticulously communicates with every volunteer to advise them of their commitment and responsibilities. In addition, he has added the two super mailbox areas to the work list and, with the help of his team, has kept those

areas neat and clean. He has an excellent relationship with the town's parks and recreation department, who works collaboratively with Randy to ensure all parts of The Village are in tip top shape.

Randy is also responsible for VCA membership. Thanks to his efforts, over 50% of our residents are now VCA members, a record number in our 20 years of existence. He achieved this by creating area captains, organizing a membership drive, and improving our loyalty program. Over the last year, Randy has brought on board: Bravo Niagara, Hypnotyc Hair Lounge, and Fantastik Home Services.

- ii. **SOCIAL COMMITTEE** (Heidi Brown, Marg Churchill, Cindy Durdan, Judy Huntington-Mackay, Cathy Saytar and Mary Taylor)

With the objective of creating events that The Village residents would like to participate in, they created a survey and sent it to ALL residents. They received over 100 responses. The team confirmed the interest per event at the annual general meeting and then started planning.

So far so good! The sunset social, the golf tournament, the fall party.... All have exceeded the projected numbers. Feedback is very positive and Villagers are thrilled to attend those customized events. Of course, the Social Committee knew they would need help, and recruited 10 volunteers to help with different responsibilities. A sign of a good leader.

- g. **The Village development update** - Adam Hawley

- i. Reminder of **Architectural Codes** registered on title to every property. Thinking of doing anything to the exterior, e.g. shingles etc.? please **email John** (john.hawley12@gmail.com) AND **Adam Hawley** (adam@thevillageniagara.com). More significant questions e.g. garden structures get passed on to The Village Architect at Quartek in St. Catharines.
- ii. **Phase 4** Perez and Rampart St. lots 3 & 4 being built on spec, one a model, the other to 'shell stage'. There are 2 storey town homes facing Perez that will be going up soon as well. Will likely release those plans and prices at the end of the year.
- iii. **Protest signs** at entrance of The Village. Disgruntled with Great Blue Resorts (a tenant above CIBC.) Town removes signs between the sidewalk and the road, but owners can remove signs on private property. Please contact bylaw officer if you see signs on the green space there that is town land.
- iv. **Village Centre** appeal by Loblaws settled in the spring. Talking with grocery companies, awaiting formal written report from the appeal. Some interest by two grocers but both expanding elsewhere at the moment.
- v. **Village Centre Plans**. Architect Duany et al. perfecting original plan to allow more of a public square area - more details possibly early new year. First thing will be to put in the roads.
- vi. Q. *When do you think a comprehensive site plan for the town approval will be ready?* A. The bones of it - main plan with roads, parking etc. should be ready by the end of the year or early in the new year. Likely won't be building all parts at once, individual buildings each need approvals. Parking established up front. Looking to provide enough parking spaces to meet future demand, which will almost certainly mean providing more than is required by zoning.

- vii. **Long term and short-term rentals** still part of planning process. Where retail won't work they will finish off the streetscape – e.g. Perez, with attractive housing to screen the parking from the road. Around the square we will be looking for café, bakery, etc. type of shops. More food options. Several retailers interested and waiting for site to be developed. Focus on having the best plan possible – much depends on the big tenant i.e. grocer.
- viii. Q. *What is meant by short term rental?* A. *Small 1 to 2-bedroom efficiency units with kitchenette, no backyard. Managed by own team and will have security. Designed for visitors staying 4-5 days to take in shows.*
- ix. Medical services are welcomed and would likely need to be on second floor.

7. Greetings from the Town Council – Wendy Cheropita

- a. Thanked VCA for invitation, highlighted Council's accomplishments, praised councillors' talents, ability to work together, and progress that has been made.
- b. **Budget items** - staff salaries are largest line item in the budget. Previous Council approved a 10% salary increase in 2018 and another 3.5% increase every year for the next 3 years. This Council is very diligent in reviewing and questioning all expenses. It is a collaborative approach with Council and staff. The goal for 2020 is to try to hold tax increase to 3% at most. Impact on the budget of significant projects like Randwood and shoreline protection. Council focused on enhancing and protecting heritage properties, and ensuring we develop quality developments for all neighbourhoods.
- c. **Official plan** – completed. Concerns around bigger developments and stopping homogenization of our community. Grateful to the Hawleys for bringing to Council's attention a former strategy called a Community Planning Permit System which forces developers to do all of the planning stages up front including design and green spaces. Council has directed staff to include this system in the Official Plan.
- d. **Strategic plan** - in the final stages. Mission and vision focused on customer excellence, smart growth, and improved communication. Working together to maintain our heritage, agriculture, well-funded tourism strategy that addresses congestion on the roads. Shift to quality rather than quantity and make sure quality of life for residents is maintained during the high tourist season.
- e. **Noise bylaws.** Public consultation - a public meeting soon. Need to make sure noise and fireworks not out of control but rather enhance our lives.
- f. There are currently 2 **parking bylaws** in NOTL, one established in the 1950's or 1960's restricting parking to 12 hours on any street, and the other an overnight parking bylaw. By law officers respond to complaints. There have been a number of complaints, made by 2 residents in the past few months, and some about 3 years ago, about cars parked primarily on Brock and Garrison Village Dr. The Town says cars on roads are a natural traffic calming measure. Glendale has a huge issue with students parking on lawns. Even though there is no designated space for overnight guests in The Village, there is lots of space on our streets. Parking not allowed on the laneways.
- g. **Mona** reported the Town did another **parking study** recently - results will be out soon. (info to be posted on VCA website)

8. Adjournment at 8:45 pm