

Annual General Meeting / Assemblée générale annuelle

21 sept 2016

Bearbrook Centre

President's report / Rapport du Président

Gary Larocque

- Good evening, bonsoir, and welcome to the VCA AGM.
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- I wish to take a few moments to run down the activities that your association has been involved with over the past year.
- We have held monthly meetings where as a team, we have reviewed issues, projects, concerns and priorities of interest for the village.
- Each member has had numerous one-on-one meetings with residents, our elected representatives, potential entrepreneurs and City officials to determine what else can be done to improve our village.
- Over the year, we have been involved with;
 - The Remembrance Day ceremony
 - Cenotaph maintenance
 - Rink management
 - Market Mobile activities
 - Canada Day celebrations
 - Vars centennial celebrations
 - St-Guillaume parish centennial celebrations
 - Casandra Park design
 - Alcide Trudeau Park construction proposal
 - Bearbrook Centre renovations
 - Key agent for both centres
 - Summer youth program
 - St-Guillaume school play structures

- Potential train line to the City core
- Potential walking trail through the village
- Community garden maintenance
- Christmas tree lighting

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- Obviously, we did not do all of this alone. While we have many friends throughout the community, our main partners have been Councillor Blais, his staff and City officials, the school and most of all, the Optimist Club members.
 - The biggest challenge, finding volunteers. We do notice that not only the VCA but the Optimist Club and parish organizations are having more and more trouble finding community members to help out. The solution is not that obvious and we all need help in finding ways to increase community participation.

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- On the financial side, a quick look at the financial statement shows that the VCA is in good financial health. We had decided to slip our savings under different categories for better management and planning exercises. The VCA receives very limited funding other than from the City for specific activities like the rink and key agent. Over the years, while we have sponsored community activities and acquired some items for our youth program for instance, we have still managed to have some \$22,000 in the bank.
 - We are in good business standing with Corporations Canada as well as with Revenue Canada.

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- We now have a new board of directors. The next year will be as important for the village as we leap into the 150th Canada celebrations. We will be working very closely with our partners to ensure that our rural community takes an active part in these celebrations.