

First VBPRA Annual General Meeting Held Meeting Well Attended by VB Permanent Residents

Extra chairs and tables were hurriedly pulled out and set up as attendance for the first AGM on May 3rd swelled prior to the 7:00 pm start. It was great to see many new faces in addition those who had attended our inaugural meeting back in November 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chair Graham Randle, who welcomed attendees and introduced members of the Interim Board –

Graham Randle – Chair and lead advocate for residents at RM of VB Council meetings

Michelle Carlson – Vice-Chair and key organizer of the AGM

Steve Boyd – Director responsible for Web and proponent for RM signage

Dennis Muldrew – Director and member of the Constitution and By-Law Committee

Sandy Gessler-Cooley – Director and Chair of the

Community Welcome initiative and responsible for VBPRA presentations to Council

Tom Farrell – Director and instrumental in the creation of the VBPRA

Mike Bartmanovich – Secretary/Treasurer and responsible for VBPRA Communications

Following Board introductions, Secretary/Treasurer Mike Bartmanovich recapped some of the key activities of the Board since November 2016, including –

- The creation of a consolidated Issue/Action List from residents at the November 2016 meeting
- Regularly attending RM Council meetings and getting Council to agree to more transparency
- Establishing a new website (VBPRA.CA) and Facebook page (VBPRA) to better keep residents informed
- Establishing an Association Constitution and By-laws through committee
- Planning for first AGM and for first election of a new Board

Meet Your New Board

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Some new faces joined the Board following the May AGM, and we Thank outgoing Board members Graham Randle and Tom Farrell for their contributions to the VBPRA –

Michelle Carlson
(President)

Mike Bartmanovich
(Secretary)

Dennis Muldrew
(Treasurer)

Sandy Gessler-Cooley
(Member-at-large)

Steve Boyd
(Member-at-large)

Ted Le Baron
(Member-at-large)

Siegfried Kraft
(Member-at-Large)

Newsletter July 2017

News and Views of Interest to Permanent Residents of Victoria Beach

- Initiating a Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) for the RM of Victoria Beach

Dennis Muldrew then introduced members of the Constitution and By-Law Committee (Dennis, Don Green, Al Rear, and Bruce Morrison), who were thanked and commended for their work.

Mike Bartmanovich gave a brief Financial Report, indicating expenses of about \$408 to date since November 2016. No Fiscal Year will be recognized for this year, but all financials will be accrued until March 31 2018, which will be the end of our fiscal year.

An interim Financial Report is in the works.

The election of a new Board completed the formal part of the agenda. Three Board members were elected by acclamation – Michelle Carlson (President), Dennis Muldrew (Treasurer), and Mike Bartmanovich (Secretary).

Five nominees stood for election to four Board Member-at-large positions. Elected were Steve Boyd,

Sandy Gessler-Cooley, Ted LeBaron, and Siegfried Kraft.

A big Thank You to Margaret and Terry for your help with the balloting!

Finally, the floor was open to VBPRRA members for a Q & A with the newly elected Board.

It was resolved that future AGMs would be held the second Monday of May each year going forward.

Your newly elected Board thanks you for your support. We look forward to working with all our members.

The VBPRRA Board will meet monthly and at any other time as required.

The Board can be reached via email at info@vbpra.ca or by mail at Box 303, Victoria Beach R0E 2C0.

New Citizens On Patrol Program (COPP) to Commence in Victoria Beach

Close to 30 permanent residents have signed up to participate in our Citizens on Patrol Program!

Our first meeting will be held Wednesday July 19th from 7-8 pm at the Community Centre.

Tracy Douglass, the Provincial Coordinator for COPP, will be giving an overview of what the program is all about, and how communities get involved.

This first meeting will be followed by a 2-hour training session on July 26th.

Neighbouring RMs are already participating, and we're very excited to be bringing this program to Victoria Beach!

If you missed the sign-up sheet at the AGM and are interested in learning more, contact Mike Bartmanovich at Mike@vbpra.ca.

*Got a Story to Share
about Victoria Beach?*



We want to hear about the history of our favourite place! Email us at Info@vbpra.ca!

Newsletter July 2017

News and Views of Interest to Permanent Residents of Victoria Beach

VBPRA Council Meeting Highlights

We continue to ensure that one or two of our Board members attend each Council meeting and raise issues of particular concern to permanent residents at **VB**. Matters raised recently include:

Issue: Overgrown road sides and intersections create health and safety risks. VBPRA request regular scheduled road side mowing and trimming of branches overhanging intersections;

Council response: concerns acknowledged and noted.

Issue: Overgrown public paths in most PR 504 communities. Some paths have disappeared altogether. VBPRA requested reestablishment of these paths and regular maintenance schedule of trimming and mowing;

Council response: concerns acknowledged and noted

Issue: Garbage bags falling onto roadways from car roofs. VBPRA suggested posting reminder signs at strategic

spots, featuring a brief text and outline of a car with trash bag;

Council response: concerns acknowledged and noted.

Issue: Stairs to beaches in disrepair, in some cases left unrepaired for several years creating a hazard and frustration among both PRs and cottagers. VBPRA requests a regular monitoring and maintenance schedule;

Council response: concerns acknowledged and noted. Council agreed to consider designating \$10,000 to cover costs of repairing stairs at the Sand Cliffs. Councilors Buchanan and Mc Morris agreed to join VBPRA Board members for a tour of beach access sites at the Sand Cliffs and the Hampton neighborhood.

Issue: Spring road maintenance, some roads are graded and dust retardant applied while some smaller roads receive no treatment. VBPRA asked for response from Public Works on how they determine which roads get attention. Permanent residents are here fulltime and would appreciate equal road maintenance.

Council response: concerns acknowledged and noted

Issue: 504 boat launch. Long standing problems with the boat launch were raised by local residents and VBPRA (I.e. Tractors in the water leaking oil, people urinating on neighboring properties, parking issues, and garbage left on the beaches. We need creative solutions – E.g. “portapotties”, garbage cans, fencing to separate launch area from adjacent private property, signs restricting leaving vehicles in the water, and asking people to respect private property.

If you have ideas send to VBPRA and we will bring them forward.

Council response: concerns acknowledged and noted.

Issue: Review of the RM’s last Financial Statement revealed that Council spent about \$42,000 for Legal Fees.

The VBPRA Board members asked for a breakdown on where the \$42,000 was spent.

Council response: On advice from legal counsel, no specifics would be disclosed to residents.

VBPRA Board Members Tour Beach Access With Reeve and Councilors

On July 6th, VBPRA Board members and some permanent residents met with Councilors Penny McMorris and Gord Buchanan to tour beach accesses to the Sand Cliff area and Hampton Road.

We were pleased to have Reeve Brian Hodgson join us as well.

The purpose of the walking tour was to highlight the neglected state of many of the pathways that wend their way throughout the area, as well as to focus on the current state of access to some of our beaches – namely the Sand Cliffs and Hampton Road.

New access to the beach by the Sand Cliffs in the form of a Nature Trail has been proposed, and Councilors seemed very keen on the idea. This would go a long way in negating the recurring problems experienced in the

past with stairs, as well as offer a way to the beach that would reduce traffic on the Sand Cliffs themselves.

The VBPRA Board has committed to work with Council to make this idea a reality sooner than later.

The stairs to the beach on Hampton Road remain usable (with care taken), but one more season without proper maintenance will probably render them unusable.

VBPRA Board members stressed the need for regular inspection and maintenance to all beach accesses, and asked for assurances that all beach accesses are a part of scheduled inspections.

Forget Anything?

So many of us pack so carefully for the trip home after a great weekend.

The last thing we usually do is bag all the garbage, and then plan to 'drive the garbage' to the bin.

Too many times this garbage ends up flying off the roof and onto our roads or into our ditches.

Remember to 'Hit the Bin' before you 'Hit the Road'!

Recreation and Entertainment Announcements

Summer Winds Family Music Festival Coming Up July 21 & 22

This is our very own summer music festival!

Features include: great music of course with headliners The Watchmen, lots of kids activities with a bike decorating contest and parade. For information and online tickets go to

www.summerwindsmusic.com

Tickets also available at businesses throughout the beach!

Thank you to residents, businesses and cottagers for your continued support.

Summer Winds is looking to fill Chair positions, including Secretary, Kids Zone, and Marketing. If you wish to be a day volunteer for a couple of hours or are interested in any of the chair positions, go to the web page listed in this article.

Health Matters for Permanent Residents of Victoria Beach

Report of North Eastman Community Health Committee

On behalf of the RM of VB, Margaret Haddad attended the June 26th, 2017 meeting of the North East Community Health Committee, which includes representatives from surrounding RMs, and the Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority.

Update information was presented by Ron Van Denakker, CEO of the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, and Nancy Muller, now the Manager responsible for our area.

Health Services for this area include:

Art Thursday!

Walk or bike ride over to the VB Clubhouse for ART THURSDAY - a new program that is held in the VB Clubhouse each Thursday from 12-3 pm.

Artists who would like to teach a skill are encouraged to come out and lead a class!

Email Barb at artthursdays@shaw.ca for all the information you'll need, including classes available, how to register as a student, and how to register as a class leader.

Attendance must be confirmed by Tuesday of each week to reserve your space, and to allow artists enough time to purchase supplies.

Newsletter July 2017

News and Views of Interest to Permanent Residents of Victoria Beach

Report of North Eastman Community Health Committee (Cont'd)

full medical examinations, prescriptions, referrals, and diagnostic check-ups. For Appointments call 1-855-295-8296.

Those needing a doctor may register with Family Doctor Finder. By doing this it helps show where the need is.

If significant numbers of VB residents are using this service, a case could be made for the mobile clinic to spend a day here on a regular basis.

Pine Falls Health Complex currently has 3.2 doctors and one Primary Care Nurse. Two additional doctors are offering locum service in the clinic.

The Pine Falls Hospital has 23 beds, and a 6-bed dialysis unit which accommodates 12 patients 3 days/week. Approval has been given to accommodate up to 20 patients.

In addition, primary health care staff include a Public Health Nurse, Chronic

Disease Nurse, Registered Dietitian, Home Care Nurses, and Adult Mental Health and Wellness Facilitators.

First Nation Health Authority - Giigewigamig (pronounced Kee-gay-ga-mik) means "place of healing" in the Anishinabe (Ojibway) language.

The recently opened new clinic building includes the new Traditional Healing Center along with the Primary Health Care Centre. Diagnostics, x-ray lab remain in the main hospital building.

For more information, please go to <http://www.ierha.ca/>

Sagkeeng Health Complex currently has three Part-time Nurse Practitioners and one doctor in the Fort Alexander Medical Clinic on the Reserve.

The new Selkirk Hospital building is now operational.

Note that there is now a fee for Visitor Parking.

"If significant numbers of VB residents are using this (Family Doctor Finder) service, a case could be made for the mobile clinic to spend a day here on a regular basis."

Newsletter July 2017

News and Views of Interest to Permanent Residents of Victoria Beach

Local Services and Amenities

Summer Medical Clinic Services

Located inside the gate at 124 Birch.

Medical services are available from 9:30 to 11:30 daily except Wednesday and Friday, and each evening from 5:30 to 7:30.

Phone 204 756 6305 for information.

Senior Scene and Community Centre

Most programs continue throughout the summer months.

Visit their web sites for details.

VB Library

Everyone's favorite small but mighty library with our two favorite, friendly and excellent librarians remains open all summer (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10-2pm) for your summer reading needs. Located in the lower level of the Senior Scene.

Local Eateries

The VBPRA welcomes the new owners of the Moonlight Inn. We wish you much success and look forward to trying out your menu!

La Gouter on Saffie Road is now open for the summer, serving great food and hard-to-resist ice cream treats!

Parking at the gates

Annual parking passes are now available.

If you are visiting the medical clinic, stop at the gate Information Office for directions and a pass.

VB Neighbors Helping Neighbors

If you or someone you know at VB needs assistance with house or yard maintenance, rides for appointments or shopping, or just someone to drop in for a friendly visit – the East Beaches Resource Centre can help.

For further information call Coordinators Janet or Grace at 204-756-6471.

Meanwhile – Inside the Gate!

Looks like things are in full swing inside the gate for the thousands of cottagers who come out to join us at VB for the summer months!

Organized lessons are available from swimming to sailing, a range of sport, fitness and social activities as well as some entertainment on the Village Green (weather permitting).

Please see the Victoria Beach Herald Newsletter or the VB Cottagers website for more details.

Victoria Beach
Permanent Residents
Association (VBPRA)

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www.vbpra.ca

www.facebook.com/vbpra