

Hello Victoria By The Sea Community Members,

Spring has definitely sprung in our little village! I am so happy to see the snow gone, the beautiful spring flowers coming to bloom, the boats setting out to fish and our amazing local businesses opening for the season. Such an exciting time of growth and a feeling of things coming alive. This past month has been a busy one for everyone, as I see people out working on their yards. Council too has seen a busy month.

First, I will start with an update related to Mayor Rubin, as he has indicated his return to the role in person as planned for July 1, 2023. We welcome you back to the role Martin! More importantly, to you and Leslie-Ann, we are happy to welcome you back to Victoria when you are ready.

The by-election for the role of Councillor for our Municipality will soon be here. I encourage everyone to vote. We as Council are excited to welcome a new member to the team.

As we start to see the businesses in our village open, I welcome everyone to support our local community members as for some, they start another successful business season. We are so lucky to have the businesses we do in our village. Support local!

We are making gains related to many important Municipal agenda items. Although at times it may seem that things are taking time (they usually do), I want to assure everyone that our team (all Municipal staff and Council) work daily at moving things forward. This includes the water/sewer generator quotes, the Causeway repair planning, Boardwalk posts repairs, Official Plan, Emergency Preparedness Plan, as well as the possible acquisition or long term lease of what is now the Provincial Park along the Causeway. We have requested funding for summer employees/students to work with our Municipality helping with Maintenance (possibly adding two additional student positions to help with maintenance projects). We have applied and been granted funding from the Province related to a "Beach Grant", allowing us to acquire funds to help with the maintenance, restoration, repair, etc of our Beach Areas. It is not a lot of money but every little bit counts, thus us ensuring we are aware of funds available and applying for all grants applicable to our needs. We are working with the Victoria Business Association and some local business owners to ensure Municipal Buildings are generating funds through rental agreements, in order to sustain these buildings ("Welcome Center", Community Hall, Victoria School, Lighthouse, etc.). These are just some of the both larger and smaller tasks at hand that we are working on to help our Community.

As most likely are aware, we had some development begin on Ravis Beach Lane this past month. I want to ensure all residents are aware of the facts related to this development as I know there has been some concerns raised since the development began. There is an approved Development Permit which was approved in 2022 and allows development to occur subject to certain conditions. The developer has voluntarily ceased building at this time, and is working with the Municipality to clarify concerns and ensure all relevant permits required are in place and that their conditions have been satisfied. What I have learned through this process is that there will never be a time when we can all be happy with any one decision. I wish that was the case, but it never will be. What some like/support, others don't, and visa versa. This is nothing new, it is in fact life. However, as the acting Mayor, I do want to hear concerns of residents and want to assure you all that I take these concerns very seriously. Likewise, comments of support are welcomed! I know some thought myself as Mayor, or Council, should have stopped the build immediately because of concerns. I want to have an opportunity to say that it is in the best interest of the Municipality to not respond to such concerns irrationally, quickly and without all the information to

justify the actions. Gathering all of the information and making informed decisions allows our Municipality to function well, without the risk of incurring significant legal costs. This is something we have learned in the past (unfortunately learned the hard way) which we did not want to see happen again in this case, thus our Team gathering information, while hearing the concerns, and ensuring the safety of our community. It is important for policies and procedures to be followed, created if needed, and explained when needed. Please know, we as a Team have put a lot of time and effort into this particular concern, which is ongoing at this time, and are working to ensure all policies and procedures are followed.

I also want to take this time to welcome all new and potentially new residents to our Community. Victoria by the Sea is a place like no other. Our Community values the true treasure we have in our Village and want to both maintain the heritage that has been created while also welcoming growth and development to allow us to be sustainable for many generations to come. Please know, everyone is welcome in our Community and we look forward to showing our potential new residents just how amazing our Village is.

As with the nicer weather, we are starting to see our streets come to life with visitors, which is likely only to get busier over the next few months. I remind everyone to be cautious when using our streets and roads in any capacity. This includes the use of the wharf for fishing, boating, swimming, etc. Stay safe all!

Thank you for taking the time to read through my update. I look forward to seeing many of you out and about as the weather continues to be nicer and we can enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

Shelley Trainor