

VPNA FALL NEWSLETTER

October 2024



Rendering of proposed building at 169-183 Victoria Park South, photo credit: GPS Group

Victoria Park Development Committee

There's a new midrise residential development proposed for 169-183 Victoria Street South, between Park and Henry Streets. It is proposed to be an 8-storey multiple dwelling of 120 rental units, 1 and 2 bedrooms, including 24 affordable units. The developer is applying for CHMC for funding to create these affordable units. To qualify for this funding, at least 20% of units must have rents below 30% of the median total income of families and the total residential rental income must be at least 10% below its gross achievable residential income. This is good news for those seeking affordable apartments, and is something for which the Development Committee has been advocating.

An online Neighbourhood Information Meeting with City planning staff and the developer was held September 25. Some of the recommended changes made to the City Planners and the developer were to make 5% of the affordable units 3-bedrooms to ensure affordable housing options for families; equip all parking spaces with EV or EV-ready charging stations; consider solar panels and enhanced water conservations systems; select trees and plants according to their ability to withstand and mitigate the effects of climate change.



Victoria Park Working Group Update

Work on the Heritage Bridge at Jubilee Drive was completed this summer and park users welcomed renewed access to a restored Roos Island and Bandshell in July. A new concrete path and ramp provide wheelchair access, woodwork has been refurbished and painted, and new plantings all contribute to the natural beauty of the Island. Thanks to the Rotary Club for their generous donation, which made this work possible.

Also over the summer, the City created a new staging pad the David/Roland Streets weir to more easily clean out debris that accumulates there after storms. This is greatly appreciated by many park users who often expressed concern about the unsightliness and smell of that area.

The City has been working with By-law and the Police on strategies to better address the unsanctioned use of fireworks in Victoria Park on holiday weekends. They have increased the number of By-law officers on site, and police presence has also increased. Additional signage in the Park warned the public against the illegal use of fireworks, and information was sent home to local schools with the same messaging. After a two-hour traffic jam on Dill, Schneider, and David on the May 24th long weekend, there is consideration of starting the summer daytime parking ban on those streets on May 15, rather than June 15. This is a safety issue, since emergency vehicles can't get in or out under those circumstances.



David Street Porch Party and Green Walk!

Live Music by Brothers And I

In partnership with the City of Kitchener, the VPNA sponsored a Neighbours Day Porch Party, June 15th. Ideally located beside the Iron Horse Trail, we were visited by both, new neighbours who wanted to become involved; as well as guests from our surrounding area who came for the music and free barbecue.

Brothers And I provided upbeat classic rock , including, The Tragically Hip!

Thank you to all who helped support and help on our fun day.

Green Walk

Neighbours Coming Together to Help The Environment

The VPNA sponsored a Green Walk on Tuesday June 18th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.. Residents from eight addresses on Brock St. and Homewood Ave. shared environmental projects with interested neighbours. The projects included pollinator gardens, a permeable driveway and a French drain both of which absorb storm water run-off.

It was a beautiful evening and the event was enjoyed by all who participated!

If you would like to be involved in the 2nd Annual Green Walk, please contact the VPNA at info@victoriaparkna.com



Pumpkins on display at Victoria Clock Tower, 2023, photo credit VPNA

Pumpkinpalooza

Mark your calendars for our 9th Annual Pumpkinpalooza on Friday November 1 at 6:45 pm at the Victoria Park Clock Tower. This beloved event is a chance for neighbours to light up their pumpkins one last time before the City collects them at 8:00 pm for composting. Bring your family and friends for this simple but fun activity.

Join Us at VPNA's Annual General Meeting!

This is a great opportunity to gather with neighbours for food, fun, and our Annual AGM:

When? Friday November 20th , 5:30-7:30 pm

Where? Victoria Park Pavilion

Who? Victoria Park Residents

What? Free pizza, drinks, and dessert

Plus:

- Games and colouring for kids
- Trial Pursuit for everyone, plus prizes!

VPNA Year in Review and Voting for 2025 Board Members



Why Not Get Involved With The VPNA?

Get to know your neighbours and help make Victoria Park Neighbourhood an even better place to live!

How? Join our VPNA Board, a great group of 10-12 people who share their time and ideas at monthly meetings to plan events that help bring people together. We also follow what's happening in our community and comment on issues that impact us. If you want a smaller commitment, volunteer to help with one of our activities, like our Earth Day Clean Up or a Neighbourhood Porch Party. Your commitment can be flexible

For more information about how you can get involved, contact: [**info@victoriaparkna.com**](mailto:info@victoriaparkna.com)



Councillor **Debbie Chapman**
Ward 9



I hope you had a lovely summer. This fall marks the end of Council's second year of a four-year term. We have accomplished a lot; yet more can always be done. The 2025 budget will be coming forward this fall. Once posted online, I encourage you to have a look and reach out with your suggestions or concerns, whether your interest lies with such things as trails, affordable housing, or traffic calming measures. I'd also like to hear if you think certain expenses should be cut, to keep the property tax increase manageable.

I want to thank all the volunteers, neighbourhood associations and city staff who helped make downtown Kitchener and Ward 9 "destination places" this summer. Your commitment to making Kitchener a welcoming place to live does not go unnoticed.

Fall programs are well underway. Check to see if you qualify for a leisure access card at this link www.kitchener.ca/feeassistance. Some fall favourites are:

- Howloween Pooch Party – Oct 26
- Witch and Wellness Spells + Stardust – Oct 25
- Downtown Art Walk is a great way to get in some exercise and explore the hidden alleys
 - Visit kitchener.ca/walkingtours
- Christkindl on Dec 5-8, and the City's New Year's Eve celebration are year-end favourites

Don't forget to visit www.engagewr.ca/kitchener to learn about and give feedback on city initiatives, like the Victoria Park Master Plan and Kitchener 2051, a review of the City's Official Plan. Please also reach out directly to me with your comments, as your input helps me decide how I vote on issues brought to council.

With kids back at school please be reminded to slow down around school zones and give yourself a bit of extra time to ensure everyone is safe.

Contact me with your ideas or concerns at debbie.chapman@kitchener.ca or call me at 226-752-7104. I'm always happy for the opportunity to assist the residents of my ward.

Sincerely,

Councillor Debbie Chapman—Ward 9