

An Association is Born!

VB Permanent Residents Form New Association

On November 2 2016, close to 90 permanent residents of the RM of Victoria Beach gathered at the new Community Centre to form an association that would represent the interests of this growing demographic.

Seven residents stepped forward to assume positions of the first Interim Board to represent the permanent residents of the RM of VB and to get the ball rolling in forming our new Association.

A key outcome of the November meeting was a list of issues and concerns of the assembled residents. Several lists were captured and passed on to the Interim Board to be organized into a consolidated list.

A copy of the list appears in this newsletter.

Since that inaugural meeting, the Interim Board has met on a bi-weekly basis, usually scheduled to occur within a week after each Council meeting.

A standing agenda item at each meeting is a report from Council meetings.

The Interim Board has been fortunate to have our Chair, Graham Randle, attend most meetings.

Not only has Graham been a wealth of information in his reporting to the Interim Board, but he has also acted as a proponent for the Association, calling for more transparency from Council in their dealings with municipal matters.

Another important deliverable of the Interim Board was the creation of a Constitution and By-laws for the Association. Dennis Muldrew and his Committee have done a great job of creating and delivering a final draft, which will be finalized by the Board and offered for acceptance at the May Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Meet Your Interim Board



At the inaugural meeting held November 2 2016, the following people stood for positions to create an interim Board of Directors of the Victoria Beach Permanent Residents Association –

Graham Randle
(Chair)

Michelle Carlson
(Co-chair)

Mike Bartmanovich
(Secretary/Treasurer)

Sandy Gessler
(Director)

Dennis Muldrew
(Constitution Committee)

Steve Boyd
(Director)

Tom Farrell
(Director)

A new Board will be elected at the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 3rd.

Introducing the East Beaches Community Welcome Project

Earlier this year, a small group of community leaders held a preliminary meeting to assess interest in a Community Welcome project for new residents. Longtime residents may recall the Welcome Wagon here in Victoria Beach some years ago – the Community Welcome is quite similar.

The group began looking at a possible scope of operation for a Community Welcome:

- The overall purpose or goal of a welcome strategy;
- The catchment area for the project;
- Need for standing committee to take responsibility for the project, with appropriate community representatives;
- The kinds of activities that might be employed and materials needed for new-comer information package.

The consensus among the group was that a “Community Welcome” strategy would have several positive benefits to provide to new residents, including:

- Locations of basic services and resources;
- Contact information for services;
- Localized maps of the catchment area;
- Information on social events, community amenities, and recreational activities.

The goal of a Community Welcome strategy is not only to welcome new residents and families, but to encourage a stronger sense of community and inclusiveness among all residents old and new. By doing so, everyone will have a better sense of belonging and connection with neighbors, whether right next door or down the highway.

The group concluded that the Community Welcome’s catchment area would include all the East Beaches from Gull Lake north up to, and including Victoria Beach. Newcomers would be identified partly by real estate agents working in those areas, partly through word of mouth and through advertising via posters in shops and other businesses. An information package will be developed with helpful information for new residents. The idea of an annual welcome social event was also considered.

The Committee needs representatives from each of the East Beaches as well as regular participation from local realtors. Anyone wishing to join the committee should contact Chairperson Sandy Gessler Cooley at sandy.gessler@gmail.com. We welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have.

Victoria Beach Council Shoreline and Beach Advisory Committee Update

The Committee consists of the following members:

- Gord Buchanan – Oversight and liaison to Council
- Jennifer Engbrecht & Tamie Archer – VB Cottagers Association
- Ron Hampton & Nelson Hastman – Homesteaders
- Peter Garagan – Lake Front Cottagers Association
- Pat Hoyer – Albert Beach Cottagers Association
- Doug Peterson – Sancliffs/Sunrise/East shore
- Michelle Carlson – Permanent Residents
- Wisam Razaq – SETC (Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee)

Committees will sit for a 1-year term, meeting approximately every 3 weeks. To date, two meetings have been held.

Plan of Action:

1. **A recommended set of standard drawings outlining the preferred methods to mitigate shoreline erosion and, the preferred method**

This has been agreed upon among the Committee, taking into consideration that all aspects of concerns will be met regarding shoreline erosion

2. **A recommended area to pilot a standard drawing.**

The recommended area using the Baird Report as a tool to identify the area has been determined & agreed among the representatives.

Drawings will be drawn up to address pilot project that the committee believes ultimately addresses all concerns regarding erosion that affects municipal property, private property and beach access. The drawings/plan will be sent to SETC to confirm all areas are met, and then sent to council for stamped approval and work on implementing.

The Committee believes that erosion issues can be addressed using one or more of the four following techniques, as outlined in the Baird Report:

- Gentle Slope: reducing the steepness of the slope
- Drainage: to direct and control overland runoff
- Vegetation: Using top soil, grass and willows, low lying shrubs
- Toes: Low structures of rock placed along the water's edge of a shoreline.

The intent is to have a pilot project location and the standard drawing completed by June to present to council for approval. Upon approval by Council, it is with hope that moving forward a budget is determined and put in place, and the development of a check list/set of guidelines to be followed for all future shoreline projects.

Want to know more about the Baird Report? The document is available at the following address – [http://cms.rmofvictoriabeach.ca/Editor/images/Documents/RMVB%20Shoreline%20Management%20Plan_Final_Reduced%20\(1\).pdf](http://cms.rmofvictoriabeach.ca/Editor/images/Documents/RMVB%20Shoreline%20Management%20Plan_Final_Reduced%20(1).pdf)

New VBPR Website under development *Design ongoing*

Work is currently underway to develop our Association's new website. We look forward to using the website as the fastest way to get information of interest out to Association members.

There's not much to see at the moment as we are just finalizing the look and feel, but we will be announcing the 'grand opening' of the site in the coming weeks.

Some of the content we are planning for the website include the Constitution and By-laws of the Association, news and updates from other associations, the Community Welcome project, Shoreline Advisory Committee, Citizens on patrol, and other initiatives of interest to our Association members.

The Issues and Actions list found at the end of this newsletter will also be hosted on the site, and we will keep the list updated with new, current, and resolved issues.

VBPR Constitution and By-laws in Final Draft *Final versions to be presented for Acceptance at May 3rd AGM*

The Interim Board of the VBPR wish to thank members of the Constitution subcommittee for their work on the development of the Association's Constitution and By-laws. At the February 13th Board meeting, Dennis Muldrew presented a final draft of the new Constitution and By-laws to the Board for review.

A final version of these documents will be presented for adoption by Association members at our Annual General Meeting on May 3rd.

Again, our thanks for a great job to the members of the subcommittee!

Announcing the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Your Night to Come Out and Make a Difference!

Mark the evening of Wednesday May 3rd at 7:00 pm in your calendar, and plan to attend the Victoria Beach Permanent Residents Association's first Annual General Meeting at the Victoria Beach Community Centre.

It has been several months since our first meeting back in November, and a lot has happened in that time! The Interim Board has been working on the new Constitution, regularly attending Council meetings and advocating for permanent residents, and communicating residents' concerns to Council, Government, and municipal associations.

Two of the action items raised by residents back in November were the questions of Association membership and voting rights. The Interim Board feels that any resident eligible to vote in Manitoba who considers themselves to be a 'permanent resident' of the RM should have a right to voting membership in the Association.

To facilitate identifying voting members, membership cards will be available to purchase at the AGM. A nominal fee of \$5 per membership (\$10 per family) has been determined appropriate by the Interim Board. The membership fees will be used to cover the operational costs of the Association, including postage, membership card production, printing consumables, rental of space for holding the AGM, and other costs.

Your interim Board has pledged to act with fiscal transparency and will ensure that wording in the Constitution enforces transparency from future elected Boards.

A bulletin will be sent out to all members on our contact list in April with a full Agenda for the AGM, as well as a call for nominations for all Board positions which will be up for election.

Contact us at info@vbpra.ca if you need more information.

Citizens On Patrol Program (COPP) for RMVB

A Call for Residents Interested in Volunteering

Several residents at last November's inaugural meeting of the Association voiced an interest of starting a neighbourhood watch-like program within the RM.

The Interim Board has been in contact with the Provincial Coordinator for the Citizens on Patrol Program to establish a COPP here in Victoria Beach.

COPP is a provincial initiative sponsored by MPI, the Government of Manitoba, RCMP, and municipal police forces. A volunteer group from the community receives training and equipment, as well as the opportunity to interact with other COPP communities on how to most effectively use the program.

The permanent resident population base of VB puts us in a good position to establish our own program, and once up and going, our volunteer base could be expanded to include seasonal residents as well – the more eyes the better!

To become a volunteer, you will first have to go through a criminal background check. Because this is a provincially sponsored program, there is no charge for the background checks.

Our COPP group would work cooperatively with our local police, RCMP, and local security companies.

If you are interested in becoming a COPP volunteer, contact Mike Bartmanovich by email at mike@vbpra.ca for more information. Once we have our volunteers, the Provincial COPP Coordinator will come out to Victoria Beach to conduct an information session.

We hope to hear from you!

Introducing the Communities of Victoria Beach-Wanasing Beach *Stories of our communities (with Thanks to Graham Randle)*

Did you know that Wanasing Beach almost never became a reality?

The idea of incorporating a beach development along part of the western shoreline of Traverse Bay came about as a result of a small number of Pine Falls residents (within the Abitibi management group) deciding in the mid 50's that they'd like to start a 'hobby company'.

The group's first hobby idea was to purchase the old steam-powered tug boat (S.S. Granite Rock) that was then used in towing barges of pulpwood from cutting areas along Lake Winnipeg to the mill in Pine Falls.

Fortunately, this idea was abandoned, as the Granite Rock (built 1913) didn't last much longer in service. Had the tug lasted, the next idea would have never been hatched.

The genesis of Wanasing Beach came about when the failure of boom logs in the Winnipeg Rive below the mill in Pine Falls resulted in the release of many cords of wood downstream into Traverse Bay. In tracking down the 'missing' wood, Ed Randle came across a privately-owned stretch of beach on the west shore of Victoria Beach between Albert Beach and the Sand Cliffs.

Ed and his partners (Charlie Miller, Tom Fortier and Bill Harrison) purchased the property and proceeded to develop it as a cottage area. Roads were built, public wells dug, and lots were surveyed. Ed's friends, Sam and John Ateah, were very supportive in dealing with logistic and municipal issues to be addressed.

The 'Wanasing Beach Resort Town Planning Scheme' was enacted by the Manitoba Municipal and Public Utility Board (PUB) on August 6, 1957 and incorporated into the RM of Victoria Beach by By-Law No. 575.

Originally called Wanissising (Saulteaux for 'pretty place'), the PUB elected to shorten the name to Wanasing, presumably for reasons of clerical simplification. Use of the native language was however retained for some street names, including Wabanong, Kinwa, and Mitik.

There were 24 lots provided for in the original plan, subsequently increased to 68 lots on successive plan approvals, which also provided for public lanes and public preserve (park) areas. Initially, lakefront lots sold for \$750, and back lots for \$500.

The lots sold briskly and cottage developments soon followed, started by the Brisley family, three of the original four partners, and Jack & Joanne Johnson.

In 1986, the Wanasing Beach Cottage Owner's Association was formed, and continues to represent the interests and concerns of both seasonal and permanent resident property owners.

Do you know the history of your community or have interesting stories/recollections about any community in VB? Email them to info@vbpra.ca – we would love to share them in future newsletters!

Permanent Residents' Issues & Concerns

Consolidated List Created From November 2 2016 Input

Well over 80 issues and concerns were collected from residents at our inaugural meeting held on November 2 2016. Once they were all put together, duplications were removed, and the list was then reviewed by the Interim Board to discuss actions to be taken.

The following is the final list of Issues and Concerns as well as the actions taken to date:

Issues Recorded at Inaugural Meeting Nov 2 2016 (Some editing for duplication was applied)	Interim Board Action Taken / To Be Taken
1. Start a Neighbourhood Watch with permanent residents	A Board member is actively pursuing a 'Citizens On Patrol' program and we will have news about this soon.
2. Membership benefits	Membership benefits are being defined and will be described over the next months leading up to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2017.
3. Membership recognition - card or car decal or nothing but fee receipt.	A membership card will be available to all wishing to become Association members at the AGM in May.
4. Frequency of meetings/access to members in an informal way	Board typically meets every Monday following Council meetings / send email to info@vbpra.ca for information from the Board.

Issues Recorded at Inaugural Meeting Nov 2 2016 (Some editing for duplication was applied)	Interim Board Action Taken / To Be Taken
5. Permission to use email list for “newsworthy” information of public interest (i.e. Upcoming Health Meeting Update with guest speaker-Sat. Nov 26 at Senior Scene)	The VBPRA email list will only be used for the distribution of VBPRA business. Any other use of the email list for “newsworthy” information will be vetted through the Board before being sent out. The VBPRA email list will NOT be shared with other parties.
6. Process for handling complaints & issues from members	Send an email to feedback@vbpra.ca and a member of the Board will get back to you. This Issues List will be maintained on an ongoing basis.
7. Reporting back on issues dealt with	The VBPRA website and newsletters will keep all members informed about the work we do on your behalf.
8. Need to provide I.D. for consideration of issues	This will be dealt with at the first VBPRA Annual General Meeting where the constitution will be voted on for adoption.
9. Surveying members before action or representation	We have tabled this pending an elected Board at the May 2017 AGM.
10. Reminder that Mr. Esau, Albert Beach, offered to review our financial recording.	We have tabled this pending an elected Board at the May 2017 AGM.
11. Have Reports added to the Minutes on the website; i.e. Municipal, Police, Medical, etc.	We are currently looking at several sources of information of interest to include on the website.
12. Ask CEO to send notices that are published on the website to also be emailed to the email list they have created	Our newsletter will be sent out via email on a quarterly basis to start. Any notices that require being sent out sooner than the next newsletter will be emailed out in a timely manner.
13. Develop a better method of letting the residents know how they can access the summer doctor, the store, the bakery, and the church	We are working diligently on a website that will provide more pertinent information that permanent residents need.
14. Don't want division between permanent & cottagers: work with each other	We will work with all associations for the benefit of all.
15. Lobbying to act on our needs, issues and concerns	A member of our Board attends all VB Council meetings to represent VBPRA members. The Board welcomes and relies on input from Association members.
16. Advocate for all constituents equally and fairly	We will work with everyone for the benefit of all.
17. Communication needs to be transparent	The Board strongly agrees with this and will communicate VPRA business accordingly, via the website, newsletters, and emails.

Issues Recorded at Inaugural Meeting Nov 2 2016 (Some editing for duplication was applied)	Interim Board Action Taken / To Be Taken
18. Need to establish 2-way communication system – so members can bring forward concerns and association executive can report to membership of association	VBPRA maintains an ever-growing email list of permanent residents. Info@vbpra.ca and Feedback@vbpra.ca can be used by the membership to email the Board. The Board's mailing address is - Box 303 Victoria Beach MB R0E 2C0
19. Determine and prioritize permanent residents' issues	The list created from the Nov 2 2016 inaugural meeting is a working document
20. AGM & further meetings as required as issues are raised	Date for the first AGM was set for: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, 2017
21. Membership fees - single/family rates. Determine how much we need to run the Association.	The Board feels that a nominal of \$5 per membership (to a maximum of \$10 per family) will cover costs of operating the Association.
22. Encourage youth participation	Tabled. The Board feels that while important, this issue would require a different committee to identify the types of training required and the method of implementation.
23. look at how to bring more young people into the area as permanent residents	Tabled. The Board feels that while important, this issue would require a different committee and mandate.
24. look at what services to make more appealing to young people (better internet, etc.)	Tabled. The Board feels that while important, this issue would require a different committee and mandate.
25. Need to encourage local residents to get more training	Tabled. The Board feels that while important, this issue would require a different committee and mandate, including what specific types of training would be required and how to implement.
26. Encourage a sense of community	The Board expects that this will be a positive outcome of all the work the VBPRA does.
27. Unite the community	The Board expects that this will be a positive outcome of all the work the VBPRA does.
28. Connect with other associations via emails-newsletters	The Board is actively seeking relationships with several other associations.
29. Respecting concerns of each area	We will work with everyone for the benefit of all.
30. Representing each zone in the organizing committee's map	We will work with everyone for the benefit of all.
31. Find ways to get participation in organizations by the younger generations (30-50 yr. olds)	Tabled. The Board feels that while important, this issue would require a different committee and mandate.
32. work with council to find funding to be able to train local young people	Tabled. The Board feels that while important, this issue would require a different committee and mandate.
33. Year-round speed limit of 70 Km/hr.	The Board is currently determining where best to direct this issue.

Issues Recorded at Inaugural Meeting Nov 2 2016 (Some editing for duplication was applied)	Interim Board Action Taken / To Be Taken
34. Safety - roadway maintenance - intersections overgrown creating blind spots	The Board is currently determining where best to direct this issue.
35. Repair shoulders on 504 for family recreation safety	The Board is currently determining where best to direct this issue.
36. access to the beach – stairs	The Board has representation on the Shoreline and Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee and will advise that Committee of this issue.
37. more bike racks at Sandy Bay Beach	The Board is currently determining where best to direct this issue.
38. Benches/repair steps at east beaches	The Board is currently determining where best to direct this issue.
39. “permit only” boat launch (\$x/year (ticket revenue)	The Board has representation on the Shoreline and Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee and will advise that Committee of this issue.
40. pass to allow permanent residents to patronize “behind the gates” businesses (i.e. Free in parking lot)	Permanent residents can currently purchase a pass for parking at the gate for \$25/yr. which is a discounted rate.
41. dust abatement covering inadequate	The Board is currently determining where best to direct this issue.
42. Lack of Rec facilities outside the RTA	The Board is advised that new recreation equipment is available at the new Community Centre. More specific facility needs would be required from VBPRA members.
43. Get Hydro to put up some Christmas decorations (or plugs on the hydro polls).	The Board is currently determining where best to direct this issue.
44. Free Press just stopped delivering the daily paper to the post office for those of us who are subscribers. There is a spot on 8 th where the Gardens have a box. We are now going to Saffie’s daily. Can we get the Information Booth to receive the subscription papers?	The Info Booth is open only during the Restricted Traffic season and would not provide a permanent solution. Unfortunately, it is Canada Post that has stopped allowing the paper to be delivered to the Post Office.
45. need succession planning for fire dept., first responders, etc.	Tabled. The Board feels that while important, this issue would require a different committee and mandate.
46. Health care – need some kind of health services during the full year	Tabled. The Board feels that while important, this issue would require a different committee and mandate.
47. inequity in garbage pickup and snow removal	The Board will bring this to the attention of the VB Council for consideration.
48. recognition (visual?) of permanent residents to ensure service by default	The Board is currently looking at this issue. Some suggestions have included a civic address sign in a different colour or an attachment to current signs.
49. security – how to enhanced our police presence to maximize its effectiveness	Creation of a Citizens On Patrol program here in VB is underway.

Issues Recorded at Inaugural Meeting Nov 2 2016 (Some editing for duplication was applied)	Interim Board Action Taken / To Be Taken
50. Voting rights - all residents over 18?	In terms of voting on VBPR business, only Association members will have voting privileges.
51. Delegations to RM: Guidelines for who, how, reimbursement of costs	VBPR is represented at every Council meeting. No costs for attending are currently reimbursed.
52. Having one Board member attend each council meeting to report on issues that are discussed by not contained in the minutes	VBPR is represented at every Council meeting. The Board welcomes and relies on input from Association members.
53. How to help Council get information needed from CEO	VBPR representative is involved in every question period at Council meetings. The Board welcomes and relies on input from Association members.
54. Petition Board to adopt a standard of not having more than one "reading" of a new by-law at a meeting. Notice of intent to present a by-law would also be helpful	Council recently agreed that no readings for by-laws will be done without those by-laws first being available on the RMVB website (www.rmofvictoriabeach.ca).
55. By-laws, changes or amendments, could be printed in their entirety for public access and input.	Council recently agreed that no readings for by-laws will be done without those by-laws first being available on the RMVB website (www.rmofvictoriabeach.ca).
56. I did not see anything in the Tender for an accessible vehicle, after all the publicity this year.	There is a scooter now available for use at the gate.
57. Voice concerns to Council 12 months/year	VBPR is represented at every Council meeting. The Board welcomes and relies on input from Association members.
58. Executive to liaise with council	VBPR is represented at every Council meeting.
59. Monitoring Council Meetings	VBPR is represented at every Council meeting.
60. Bring concerns to Council	VBPR is represented at every Council meeting. The Board welcomes and relies on input from Association members.
61. Have a unified voice – Provincially and locally – to speak to Council and hopefully get a better response to issues	VBPR continues to communicate with Council and will, when required, represent the Association provincially and federally as needed.
62. Pursue grants for area (I.e. Playground for sports club)	VBPR is ready to play a role in any such pursuits.
63. Assume a 'Council Watchdog' role	VBPR is represented at every Council meeting.
64. Communicate with the Senior Scene & the Sports Club	The VBPR will work with all local groups for the benefit of Association members and others.
65. Have a rep from the Association attend Council meetings and report back to members	VBPR is represented at every Council meeting. Reports from Council meetings are given at each VBPR Board meeting.

Have another issue or concern that you don't see here? Email the VBPR at Info@vbpra.ca