Annual General Meeting
14:00 EDT, Saturday, April 22, 2023
by Zoom Videoconference

1. **WELCOME**

Jane Fawcett, President, called the meeting to order at 14:01 EDT. She thanked the Executive and various club volunteers. She welcomed all members in attendance and thanked them for their participation.

There were 18 people in attendance.

Board Members in Attendance:
Jane Fawcett, President
Benoît Pinsonneault, Vice President
Jacinthe Mallon, Volunteer Coordinator
Karen Venema, Secretary
Kathy Luten, Communications
Marg Dempsey, Publicity Coordinator
Marion Boom, Trails Coordinator
Michelle Demers, Treasurer
Pat Deroche, Membership Coordinator

2. **AGENDA**

Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Kathy Luten and seconded by Benoit Pinsonneault that the circulated agenda be adopted as presented.
…. **Motion Carried**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES OF 23 APRIL 2022**

It was moved by Margaret Dempsey and seconded by Pat Deroche, that the minutes of the AGM held on April 23, 2022 be approved.

…. **Motion Carried**

4. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

The following reports were submitted and published on the Ottawa Voyageurs website in advance of the meeting. Each report is linked below. Any questions asked at the meeting appear in these minutes.

a) President, Jane Fawcett

Report – http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%204%20a%20President%27s%20Report.pdf

Vice President – Benoît Pinsonneault

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%204%20b%20Vice-President%20Report.pdf

b) Trails Coordinator, Marion Boom

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%204%20c%20Trails%20Report.pdf

Publicity Coordinator, Marg Dempsey

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%204%20d%20Publicity.pdf

c) Communications Coordinator, Kathy Luten

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%204%20e%20Communications%20Coordinator%20Report.pdf

d) Membership Coordinator, Pat Deroche

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%204%20f%20Membership.pdf

2023 Membership Fees Motion:

Membership fees were last raised in 2014 and the club continues to be financially stable. Therefore, the current executive proposes a freeze on membership dues for 2024. As a result, the cost of a family membership (2 voting members) remains at $30.00 and the Individual membership remains at $15.00

Pat Deroche moved and Jacinthe Mallon seconded the motion that the Ottawa Voyageurs Membership fees will remain unchanged at $15/Single and $30/family for 2024.

…. **Motion Carried**

e) Volunteer Coordinator, Jacinthe Mallon

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%204%20g%20Volunteer%20Report.pdf

f) Secretary Report, Karen Venema

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%204%20h%20Secretary%20Report.pdf

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT, Michelle Demers**

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%205%20Treasurer%60s%20Report.pdf

a) 2022 Financial Statements:

It was moved by Michelle Demers and seconded by Benoît Pinsonneault that the financial report for 2022 be accepted.

…. **Motion Carried**.

b) Approval of 2024 Budget: The 2023 budget was approved by the membership at the AGM held last April. It was moved by Michelle Demers and seconded by Marion Boom that the 2024 budget be approved as presented.

…. **Motion Carried**.

6. **CASTOR COMMITTEE**

Report - http://ottawa-voyageurs.wdfiles.com/local--files/2023-agm/Agenda%206%20Castor%20Committee%20Coordinator%20Report.pdf

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) Message from the CVF ON Director, Karen Venema

Plans are in full swing for the first ever bus trip offered by the Walking and Volkssport Association of Ontario. The trip will take us to 6 Ontario cities, for 7 walks over 4 days from May 23-26, 2023. This bus trip is a trial for next year when we hope to offer both Pre-Festival and Post-Festival trips.

Speaking of the CVF Walking Festival which will be held in Kingston next year in May 2024, we are encouraging out-of-province registrants to fly into Ottawa the weekend before to participate in the Ottawa Voyageurs Tulip Festival walks. On Tuesday morning, following the end of the Tulip Festival there will be a 3-day, 2-night, bus trip of Eastern Ontario, on the way to the Kingston Walking Festival. Following the Festival, a 5-day bus trip to Southern Ontario is being planned.

Information about the Kingston Walking Festival and pre and post festival bus trips will be posted on the CVF website on the festivals page in June. The Walking and Volkssport Association of Ontario will also be hosting the festival bus trips. If anyone would be interested in learning more and helping on the committee that is organizing these trips, please contact me. Many of the jobs are not difficult but many hands make light work!

There are currently 27 Ontario Director walks between Cornwall and Niagara-on-the-Lake. All of the routes will be posted on the CVF website shortly. There will be an on-line Registration Form and Waiver to complete. This will make it easier for anyone who wishes, to download the Ontario PT routes before travelling. Having the routes on-line also saves me quite a lot of work. Once the walk(s) are completed, the signed Registration Form / Waiver and payment is forwarded electronically. Electronic stamps are then sent which also saves time and money. Full information will be sent to all Volkssport club members as soon as the PT routes have been posted on the CVF website. New for this year are routes in Belleville, Cobourg, Toronto High Park / Humber Bay Shores and Toronto Island. I'm open to suggestions for new Ontario Permanent Trails for upcoming years.

Just a note that the Perth routes will now be available on-line only. Café Bean has changed owners and they do not want to keep the walk box at the coffee shop any longer. I will send an email message out to that affect shortly.
The CVF (Canadian Volkssport Federation) has approved a new logo and marketing material to highlight what we do best. You will start to see the Canada's Walking Club logo

on t-shirts, hats and on electronic information, going forward. A survey will be launched to see if our Canadian membership would like to see the CVF rebranded permanently as Canada's Walking Club or to use it only as a byline and for advertising with the CVF remaining the name of our organization. If you are interested in participating in the survey, look for the invitation coming later this year.

b) OVO Lifetime Membership – Benoit Pinsonneault introduced Perry Crowder who is the recipient of this year's Lifetime Membership.

Pierrette Crowder, also known as Perry, is not an extravagant person, she does not like to be in photos but she performs at her best in the shadows. She joined the Rockcliffe Rovers Volksmarch Club in 1994 when she was posted to Ottawa from Victoria, BC. At the request of Hélène Viel, Perry assumed the position of membership coordinator for the Club until the amalgamation of the Volkssport Orléans Club and the Rockcliffe Rovers which became the Ottawa Voyageurs Walking Club (OVO) on February 12, 2002 at their first AGM. At OVO, she served as Treasurer, replacing Steve McPhee in 2013 until the end of 2015.

For several years, she participated with me in the establishment of a spring walk called "Discover Eastern ON and Discover Western QC" alternately.
It was the same for the fall walk in Gatineau Park, called "Fall Rhapsody". Usually, we were four volunteers to organize this walk and Perry was always there. This also implied an outdoor picnic or inside a small cottage with Tim Hortons coffee, brought by Pierrette.

Another activity, where Perry has been involved, was in the "More Days Walk/Cycle" event, from the time I took charge of this activity in 2012 until August 2022. This event was spread over a whole weekend. The trails were pre-checked by bicycle with a chasing vehicle as well as during the event while meeting the walking participants at checkpoints every 5K.

Finally, Perry is still the president of the social chapter of our walking club, the "Castor Committee". This Committee was responsible for the meal and the activity of the AGM when it took place in person as well as the activity in Gatineau Park, including the Petrie Island Walk's BBQ and the club's Christmas dinner: starting by the choice of a restaurant, the preparation of a gift basket and the 50/50 draw. Finally, Perry distributes to the members of the Club, any cards of speedy recovery and sympathy according to the circumstances and the information she is given.

c) Message from the IVV Vice President, Graham Fawcett

There was an historic Olympiad hosted in San Antonio, Texas this past February, the first time an IVV Olympiad was held in North America. There were 1,100 in attendance from around the world. The event was exceptionally well organized and was a world-class event. The organizing committee was a dream team of talented individuals. The next Olympiad will be held in Tampere, Finland in 2025

For the past 3 years Graham has been involved in developing a strategic plan for the IVV. The first recommendations will move forward in June, then subsequent recommendations will be presented at the next IVV Congress in March.

The next IVV Congress will be held in Canberra, Australia in 2024.

9. NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

There were no elections this year. All Executive members are returning for another term.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Jane Fawcett adjourned the meeting at 14:38 pm.

Karen Venema Secretary	Jane Fawcett President