Secretary Report for the 2023 AGM

Since the pandemic all of our meetings take place on the second Monday of each month using the Zoom on-line platform. This has proven to be an efficient way to conduct our meetings. What also helps is that Executive members send their report to everyone in advance which allows for the meetings to go very smoothly, and I can begin the minutes before the meeting starts.

The minutes of the 2022 AGM are attached for approval by the membership at this year's AGM. There were no outstanding items to bring forward to this year's meeting.

I want to highlight some of the decisions made by your club Executive in the past year.

- Decided to return to the pre-pandemic practice of walkers signing the Registration Sheet and Waiver before the walk. Since we keep track of the annual attendance and revenue generated for each PT this habit makes it easier for the Walk Box Holder, the Trails Coordinator, and the Treasurer to compile those annual statistics.
- Offered our support for the Maple Leaf March, hopefully a new IML event for Canada. Until this event is certified by the IML, it is an IVV event, sponsored by the Ontario Director. In 2023, our club provided volunteers for the checkpoints, and we encouraged our members to participate in the 3-day event. This event will continue annually on the 2nd weekend of October.
- Nominated Perry Crowder for a Life Membership. Nominated Darlene Blight in 2024.
- Ordered new club shirts in wick-away blue. We hope that club members will wear these at our special events and at the Kingston Walking Festival.
- Returned to publishing the Voyageur Newsletter on a quarterly basis.
- Moved the walk boxes for two start points that were closing. The PT 268 walk box which had been at Sports 4 was moved to the Shoppers Drug Mart nearby on Bank St. The PT 195 walk box which was stored at the Hill Butcher Shop in the Beacon Hill Shopping Mall has moved to the Shoppers Drug Mart in the same mall.
- Made decisions about club social events at the Vanier Sugar Shack on June 24; our Canada Day picnic on July 1st in Rockcliffe Park and the Club's 36th Birthday Party at Petrie Island in September. To cap off the year we organized a Club Christmas Dinner on Nov. 26 at Pilos Restaurant.
- Decided to hold an in-person AGM in April 2024. Since this timing coincides with National Volunteer Week we decided to recognize and honour our volunteers at that AGM.
- Our club was asked to donate items to the silent auction at the Kingston Walking Festival. The club will donate a quilt being made by Michelle Demers as well as some beautiful pieces of art donated by Benoit, and Michelle.

- Created and organized a new event in Metcalfe which was attended by 47 members.
- Agreed to a suggestion from the CVF Board of Directors to link the Ottawa Voyageurs Tulip Festival event with the Kingston Walking Festival with the idea of having a bus trip after our Tulip Festival to explore Eastern Ontario on the way to Kingston.
- Agreed to work with the Military Families Resource Centre and promote our upcoming events to their membership.
- Formed a committee to look after the Wednesday Snowshoe outings and Hikes which will be led by Carole Robichaud, one of our newer members.
- Decided to order club pins as small gifts of appreciation for our volunteers.
- Decided to change the fee for both PTs and EVENTS to $1 for all OVO members.

Submitted by,
Karen Venema, OVO Secretary