



**Vankleek Hill & District Historical Society/  
Société historique régionale de Vankleek Hill**

95 Main Street East P.O. Box 537 Vankleek Hill ON KoB 1R0

[www.vankleek.ca](http://www.vankleek.ca) [www.vankleekhillstories.ca](http://www.vankleekhillstories.ca)

FB : Vankleek Hill Museum FB : Vintage Vankleek Hill

**HOPE 225 (Vankleek Hill in 2022)**

**February 24, 2021**

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Attending by Zoom Virtual Platform**

Valerie Allen - Vankleek Hill and District Historical Society

Debbie Hall - Vankleek Hill and District Historical Society

Louise Sproule - The Review / BMA / Higginson Tower / Home Tours

Aartje den Boer - Farmers Market

Daryl Waite - Horticultural Society

Christiane Falardeau Picard - Eglise St. - Gregoire

ian Hepburn - Vankleek Hill Music Festival

Ken Duff - Porchfest

Mary Fraser - Knox Presbyterian Church

Troy Carkner - Councilor (Vankleek Hill)

Peter Barton - - Councilor (Vankleek Hill)

Naomi Mahon - St. John Anglican Church

Norman McCrimmon - St. John Anglican Church

Lorie Turpin - Arbor Gallery

Linda Bennett - Vankleek Hill Nature Society

Darryl Beck - Pleasant Corners Public School

Mary Higginson - Vankleek Hill Horticultural Society

Claire Diamond - Eglise St. - Gregoire

Ann MacDonnell - Women's Institute

Evelyn Bernique - Vankleek Hill Fair Board

J. Denis Seguin (Host) - Vankleek Hill and District Historical Society

**Regrets received from:**

Samme Putzel - Excellent Events and Creative Centre

Laura Cross - Beau's October Fest

**Meeting Notes # 1 - February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action by</b>	<b>Due by</b>
1.1	<b>Welcome:</b> Denis welcomed everyone to the meeting and was happy to see so many familiar faces, when so many of us are relegated to our homes due to the COVID 19 pandemic.	Record	
1.2	<b>Agenda + Goal of the meeting:</b> Denis had previously circulated the agenda in both French and English and expanded on the goal for this evening.	Record	
1.3	<b>Housekeeping:</b> Denis explained that this meeting being held on the free Zoom platform allows us about 40 minutes and that he would like to introduce the message and then open up the floor afterwards for general deliberations if time permits	Record	
1.4	<p><b>The Message:</b> Generally speaking, and if not across the board most of us are bored of the extreme routine we are in. We have very little reason to get dressed up to go out and we must face the fact that 2021 will be another year of social distancing protocol.</p> <p>With so much of our routines eroded and most of the events which allowed us to gather in our community cancelled in 2020 and maybe not being held in 2021, I started to search for something to give me HOPE.</p> <p>I figured that 2022 was safer to plan.</p> <p>Needing something to keep my mind active and to work towards it dawned on me that 2022 was in fact 25 years since we celebrated the bicentennial of Vankleek Hill.</p> <p>I had discovered <b>HOPE 225</b>.</p>	Record	

1.5	<p><b>Remembering 1997:</b> Many on this call remembered our celebrations and some of the lasting projects which resulted from a survey we launched to the Village. Then Reeve Gary Barton and Councilor J. Denis Seguin co-chaired the Bi-centennial celebrations. A committee was formed, and we went forward.</p> <p>When we issued the survey asking our citizens what ‘memorials’...Higginson Tower Restoration, a museum, planting trees and a community supper. Today I can confirm that we delivered on all these things.</p> <p>We had a Community supper on the slab of the arena with the late Dave Smith from Ottawa (The place next door), a photo of our Town’s people taken at the Fair Grounds with our Fire Department Trucks in the background. We got hundreds of Canadian flags for our citizens and made house wall plaques which can still be seen on various homes in town.</p>	Record	
1.6	<p><b>Theming your event (low cost) + schedule:</b></p> <p>The theme is “<b>HOPE 225</b>” which can be paired to any event in recognition of our community and its 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It can be as simple as dedicating a special church service to the anniversary and putting it on your banner.</p> <p>The reason for <b>low cost</b> is that we are as organization mostly non-profit or of little profit and we can all benefit from each other. Louise mentioned that the Home Tours as an example involve church lunches and several other organizations, so we shoulder each other, and all reap the benefits in one event.</p> <p><u>We are not asking anyone to spend hard earn dollars. It is completely at the discretion of each organization.</u></p> <p>As to <b>schedule</b> we all know it use to be hard to fit in our events between other events in Vankleek Hill.</p>	Record	

	<p>As they say “there is always something happening in Vankleek Hill” (I miss that).</p> <p>Some things are more entrenched and have been held at the same time year after year (e.g. May Show, Agricultural Fair).</p> <p>So of course, we want to make sure we are keeping track and giving all a chance to have their event or to combine events when appropriate. Working together to benefit all.</p>		
1.7	<p><b>Next meeting:</b></p> <p>By the show of hands it was evident that we want to pursue this further and all agreed to meet again in about 1 months’ time (end of March) +/-.</p> <p>We also agreed that each organization could come back in one month with their early proposals for events after consulting with their boards, elders etc.</p>	<p>Denis will issue next invite.</p> <p><b>Each group to come back with a report and share ideas.</b></p>	<p>End of March 2021</p>
1.8	<p><b>Post Meeting:</b></p> <p>Denis will mail out two additional documents after the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Events at a Town Celebration</li> <li>• Champlain Community Events list 2020 (filtered to Vankleek Hill).</li> </ul>	<p>Denis sent this by e-mail on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021</p> <p>Record</p>	
1.9	<p><b>Floor opened for general deliberations + Q/A:</b></p>	<p>Record</p>	
1.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Christmas Home Tour in July</b> - why not!</li> <li>• Porch Fest in 2021 OK - but we really hope that a <b>HOPE 225 Porchfest</b> can be a special event in 2022.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>		

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Please advise of any corrections to the meeting notes by e-mailing: [denis.seguin@hok.com](mailto:denis.seguin@hok.com)

J. Denis Seguin, President  
Vankleek Hill and District Historical Society (Museum)

## **The next meeting:**

- Group updates on what they might have as an event - come with your ideas.
- Touching Base (how often and by which means)?
- Committee forming?
- Meeting Notes?
- Schedule tracker person? (traditional ones or new ones - let's not have 2 events in one weekend).
- Missing groups - who have we forgotten?

## **Staying in touch:**

You can contact:

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