

# Newsletter



## Meet Your Village Commission Randall O'Malley, Vice-Chair

Randy was first elected to the Chester Village Commission in 2022 and re-elected in 2025. He participates in planning and emergency services matters.

Before retirement, Randy was your neighbourhood pharmacist for 38 years.

### ***What inspired you to run for election?***

The Village was responsible for the Chester Volunteer Fire Department. I've always been interested in making sure the department was looked after with consideration for the volunteers' needs.

### **What is your proudest moment on the Village Commission so far?**

Getting the Fire Department off on its own [with the creation of the Chester Fire Services Committee]. They independently deal with their own highly technical matters and make their own decisions. I was happy to get that over the line.

*Photo: Randy O'Malley is pictured with one of the Village Commission's decorative holiday wreaths.*

## Zoé Vallé Memorial Library Frequently Asked Questions

*The Chester Village Commission will fully implement the requirements of the 1928 Warranty Deed to operate a community library and civic centre.*

### **Will the Zoé Vallé (ZVML) remain as a Library?**

YES!!! The Library will not only continue to exist in its original configuration of the front two rooms on the ground floor, but will be expanded to include more areas of the building.

We hope to re-open in May/June, once repairs to the building have been completed and the librarians have finished cataloguing the books. It's going to be great!

### **Is South Shore Public Libraries involved?**

YES. SSPL is partnering with the Village to provide Zoé Vallé patrons with access to library network resources from across the region and province as a satellite branch.

Professional SSPL librarians will lead library operations, and will also train volunteers and Village staff.

### **Will volunteers and programming suggestions be welcome?**

ABSOLUTELY! Volunteers and community suggestions will be solicited and welcomed.

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## Library FAQ ...continued

### **Will we offer community programming?**

YES. We are planning a Saturday morning children's reading and activity program with SSPL, and we look forward to continuing children's art workshops. Book clubs and authors' readings are also being planned.

### **Will we offer free internet access and availability for folks to print?**

YES. We will install internet in the building for Village and Library staff and will have public Wi-Fi available. There will also be 1-2 public computer stations available from the start.

### **Will groups and associations be able to use the space for meetings?**

YES. The Library's facilities will be available for meetings and events. We look forward to continuing the long tradition of providing a welcoming community resource and gathering place. Stay tuned for an online booking calendar.

### **Are Village of Chester offices moving to the building?**

YES, the Commission's two permanent staff will occupy non-library space. The Clerk/Treasurer will occupy one room on the second floor. Our Admin Assistant will be on the ground floor, so that she can assist library patrons when needed.

Having our staff in the building enables regular and longer opening hours... and provides funding for the building and grounds.



*Above: The Lighthouse Tower in the garden of the Zoé Vallé Memorial Library.*

*Photo: John A Carter via Trip Advisor, 2019*

### **Is it odd to house a library and other offices in the same building?**

NO, not at all. In Canada, many public libraries are supported in part or in whole by municipal/local governments and it is very common to occupy the same building.

### **Can a Village Commission run a library?**

YES. Part XVIII "Villages" of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), Section 423(1)(t), explicitly gives villages this power. Villages can also take over services previously provided by a municipality.

### **Can you explain the finances in a nutshell?**

The Village will bring the money we now pay in rent of \$20,000/year and utilities of approx. \$12,000/year to support the ZVML's building and grounds, so those costs will no longer come out of the Endowment Fund. This is a big advantage of the Village assuming guardianship.

Library and Village Commission funds and bank accounts will be kept entirely separate. The Endowment Fund itself will be secured in an investment account to provide better protection of the capital and better returns.

This means that the Endowment Fund can be dedicated to supporting new and exciting library and civic activities.

### **Questions? Ask us!**

[www.villageofchesterns.ca/zoe-valle-memorial-library](http://www.villageofchesterns.ca/zoe-valle-memorial-library)

## Community Grants

The Village Commission will be disbursing its annual grants to community organizations for 2026 public events next month. It's exciting to see what's coming to the Village!

## **Contacts - Village Commission**

*NEW office location:*

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