



MANOTICK CULTURE PARKS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION (MCPRA) 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Capital Project Initiatives

Centennial Park Enhancement Project

Phase 1, the basketball courts and outdoor rink, were completed in 2021 and have been both a welcomed asset and extremely well used in 2022. Phase 2, including the new Skateboard Park and Pump Track facilities are moving forward. A [public consultation](#) meeting was held in April 2022, when several preliminary concepts were presented. Since that time, the Project Team has been working to refine the design and prepare the tender. It's anticipated that the tender will be released in January 2023. MCPRA is still targeting to have construction completed in 2023.



Given current market conditions and recent City project bids, there is concern that the bids may come in over budget. Should this occur, we will need to revisit the design to assess cost-saving measures.

The Project Team includes – Sarah Marsh, Fotenn Planning & Design, Bill Gurney, New Line Skateparks, Mike Russett and Sandra Pilgrim, City of Ottawa, and four MCPRA Board members – Jon Mack, Mike O'Neil, Pat O'Leary and Anne Robinson.

Centennial Park Pathway Network Planning (Active Transportation Fund)

Under the Government of Canada's Active Transportation Fund (ATF), MCPRA received a planning grant to examine enhancements and extensions to the existing pathway network in Centennial Park. The project will study enhancements and extensions to the current Centennial Park pathway network to and within the park, to increase walkability and to improve accessibility. Although awarded in 2022 the planning will take place in spring 2023. A Request for Proposal will be issued in January with completion by May 2023. During the process various sports and community groups, and residents, will be consulted to ensure the needs of the community are met. Another application for putting the plan into action will happen in 2024.

Ongoing Recreation Programs

The Walking Group

The Walking group is held at the multi-purpose room in the Manotick Community Centre. This Group is led by a certified Senior Fitness Instructor and provides a safe area for stretching and walking during the winter months. A member of the MCPRA Board manages the administration of the group.

The Program ran from February to May 2022 and 2 sessions in the fall 2022, one from mid-September to mid-November, the second, by request of the participants, from Mid-November to Mid-December.

The next session is planned for January 16 until April, 2023.

The goal is fitness and socialization for those who need a safe surface for physical activity during inclement weather. The fee to participants is to cover the cost of the instructor as the walking group is a source of profit to the MCPRA.

Friday Night Family Skate Time

Rob Smart and Chris Veh and other volunteers introduced a Friday Night Family Skate in 2022 at Centennial Park Outdoor Rink, complete with hot chocolate, music, and movies. There are plans to continue these events in 2023. Watch for a schedule posted at the Centennial rink.

Chic Time in the 'Tick

Chic Time did not occur in 2022 due to Covid, but MCPRA is gearing up for its return in 2023.

Sports Club Program

Rob Smart introduced a summer evening sports and recreation program for kids aged 7-9 and 10-12, located at the basketball courts at Centennial Park. Watch for 2023 program details.

Park Activities

2022 Manotick Outdoor Rink (ODR) Maintenance

The MCPRA is responsible for maintenance of the City's two ODRs in Manotick at Centennial and McLean Parks. We recently signed a renewal contract for 2023-2025 with the City for ODR maintenance.

Despite the COVID constraints of 2022, our volunteer crews were able to provide almost two months of rink usage in January-February 2022. Our crews are dedicated volunteers led by Tom Hollinger (Centennial) and Jay Purcell (McLean). We provide maintenance of the boarded rinks, but also maintain the puddle rinks and pathways in the vicinity of the ODRs.

This fall the volunteers took the time and significant effort to paint the Centennial ODR boards white. It took multiple coats but the results are exceptional.

This season's ODR preparations have been challenging due to weather issues and lack of enough snow to make a good base ice. We expect to open all our outdoor rinks by January 20th.

If residents are interested in assisting with ODR maintenance, they can contact Mike O'Neil via email at manotick.mike@gmail.com or

Tom Hollinger at manotick.odr@gmail.com



Park Activities

Spring Clean Up

Spring clean-up and mulching took place with the help of several groups of volunteers in the various parks in Manotick. Loads of mulch arrived at all of the sites courtesy of City Operations.

Centennial Park had the largest group of volunteers helped primarily by the Chris Veh and Rob Smart families who did a clean-up, mulching, and unwrapped the protectors from the base of many small trees. The garden at the gateway to Centennial Park was also attended to over the spring and summer by Vivian Mitchell, Kim Paquette, and Anne and Ron Robinson.

There was an attempt to get a work crew together to mulch and clean-up McLean Park through the North Island Facebook page. However, Alan Menzel-Jones and Tom were the only volunteers that day and they mulching all the younger trees in the park and did a clean-up.

Bracken's Field drew a larger group of volunteers to mulch and clean up. Thanks to Jon Maybury, Sean Kerklaan and children William, Timothy, Tessa and Abigail, Anne, Ron, Tom, and Vivian. Lots of mulch was distributed and newspaper was used as a weed retardant around the base of trees under the mulch as was done in other parks.



A cleanup, gardening and mulching of the path to the back channel was done at West River Park by Anne, Ron, Tom, Vivian. Vivian tended the garden area over the summer and has plans for further developing a garden of native plants to complete the corner.

Ivy and Gordon Scharf Park was mulched and debris picked up by the Ives Family; Mahogany Landing was cleaned up and mulched by the Robinson Family.

Working with Local Schools

A new teacher at Manotick Public School, Elizabeth LeCain, expressed an interest this fall in using West River Park as an environmental education site. Tom met with her to walk the park and discuss the possible directions that such a project might go. Elizabeth was to present some of the ideas to her administration/OCDSB and get back to MCPRA about the viability of such a project.

MCPRA initiated discussions with the City to have additional tree planting at three local park sites: Long Island Drive, Potter/Goddard and Whitewood. Our proposal suggested involving the two elementary schools in the project so that an environmental education and a community volunteerism component could be a part of the initiative. One park would be selected over each of the next 3 years. The City was receptive and the Forestry Branch is drafting a design for 2023.

MCPRA liaised with the Ottawa Field Naturalist Club to undertake an inventory of flora and fauna in the area between Mud Creek Park and the pedestrian bridge to the south, on the west side of Mud Creek. The results will be posted on www.inaturalist.org/observations/owenclarkin over the winter.



Administrative Activities

Insurance

Insurance matters required much attention throughout the second half of 2022.

Commercial General Liability Insurance

Since amalgamation of the City of Ottawa, from an insurance perspective, there have been two categories of Community Associations within the City of Ottawa. Those Community Associations in existence prior to amalgamation were “grandfathered” and have their premiums for third party Commercial General Liability Insurance paid by the City. Newer Community Associations are not grandfathered and so must pay their premiums for Commercial General Liability Insurance themselves. MCPRA falls into the latter group and so we pay the premiums (\$973 in 2022).

The current two-category approach has been a source of concern for several years, with the previous Council directing City staff to develop an alternative(s) and report back to Council. City staff did not follow Council direction and did not consult with the Community Associations during the development of their recommendation nor once the Community Associations were made aware of the recommendation despite multiple requests. The recommendation, which would see the City paying the premiums for those Community Associations that “have a direct written contractual relationship with the City”, is perhaps acceptable but there were many unknowns and unanswered questions that City staff refused to address with the Community Associations. The Community Associations successfully lobbied their councillors so that at the 8 June 2022 Council Meeting, Council deferred the item and directed staff to consult with the Community Associations and report back to Council in September. However, given the fall municipal election, City staff decided not to proceed with consultations with the Community Associations but rather to wait for direction from the new council. The Community Associations are now waiting for the new Council to provide direction to City staff and presumably for consultations with the Community Associations to occur.

Directors and Officers Insurance

MCPRA also carries Directors and Officers Insurance (for coverage for abuse, harassment, neglect, omissions, etc) and pay the premiums (\$780).

Outdoor Rink Insurance

Leading up to the outdoor rink season, City staff provided an “Overview of Insurance Coverage”. While City staff indicated no changes had been made to the insurance this year and the summary reflected the insurance that had been in place for many years, the summary identified three “exclusions” that were surprising and problematic to the rink operators.

Of most concern was notice that the rink volunteers would not be covered in the event of injuries to themselves (they are covered in the event of claims from third parties). This was very troubling and, after the Community Associations engaged their Councillors, City staff changed their position and provided limited Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage to the rink operators.

There was also concern about no coverage when the Community Associations used (vs maintained) the rinks (e.g., winter carnivals, hockey, etc). Community Associations need to advise the City of their rink

usage and the City will provide third party coverage (coverage for hockey remains unclear). Organizers of the event, vs third party participants in the event, are not covered for injuries to themselves.

The third exclusion was respect to loss of equipment (e.g. snowblowers) owned by the rink operators. MCPRA has accepted this risk and has chosen to not purchase Property Insurance.

We continue to await detailed wording of the insurance coverage. Rink Leads and their teams have been advised of the insurance coverage situation and have decided to continue to provide their volunteer services.

Finances

MCPRA remained in a good financial position throughout 2022.

At the end of 2022 MCPRA had \$13K in the bank, \$150K on account with the City of Ottawa to be used for Centennial Park Phase 2, and \$16K owing from the City to MCPRA from 50:50 cost sharing of consultant fees for Centennial Park Phase 1.

MCPRA also received approval for a \$50K grant from the Federal Government's Active Transportation Fund (ATF) for a study of improvements to the pathway network within Centennial Park.

Financial Statements for fiscal year 2021-2022 (year ending 30 September) were finalized by Jim Stewart on 16 November 2022. Revenues were \$7,102 and expenditures were \$7,731 resulting in an excess of expenditures over revenues of \$629. Our assets were \$163,727, liabilities were \$7,407 and equity was \$163,727. While we ended the year with significant equity, the majority of this amount is committed to Centennial Park Phase 2.

Community Liaison

MCPRA partners or participates in other community activities including Shiverfest, Dickinson Days, and usually a Taste of Manotick.

Moving Forward: 2023 Priorities

- ⇒ Centennial Park Skateboard Park and Pump Track Construction
- ⇒ ATF Centennial Park Pathway Planning
- ⇒ Mud Creek Pathway Restoration (North Section)
- ⇒ On-going Recreation Programs, Events, Park, Outdoor Rink and Pathway Activities