



2023 Annual Report for the Annual General Meeting of the Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association held virtually on January 22, 7 p.m. 2024

Manotick Culture, Parks, & Recreation Association (MCPRA) is a non-profit, incorporated, volunteer organization that leads and supports environmentally responsible culture, parks and recreation community projects and services in Manotick.

Introduction

The following is a brief summary of Manotick Culture, Parks, and Recreation Association's (MCPRA) projects, programs, administrative and planning-related activities during 2023.

The 2023 MCPRA Board included:

Co-Presidents – Anne Robinson and Wendy Eberwein

Vice President - Mike O'Neil

Treasurer - Jon Mack

Secretary - Sue Hale

Directors-at-Large - Robin Wisener, Alexa Ives, Darlene Donnelly, Pat O'Leary, Rob Smart, Tom Plant.

Annual Financial Report and Statements

MCPRA continues to be in a good financial position.

MCPRA ended 2022/2023 with assets of approximately \$217K. However, much of this amount has been committed and will be expensed in 2023/2024. We ended 2022/2023 with approximately \$30K of uncommitted funds.

- \$150K is on account with the City of Ottawa for expenses associated with Centennial Park Phase 2 (most of this amount is expected to be needed and only a small portion, if any, will be returned to MCPRA).
- \$50K was received from the Federal Government in advance for a study of the pathway network in Centennial Park. A contract valued at approximately \$28K has been awarded and any unused funds (approximately \$22K) will be returned to the Federal Government.

Financial Statements for 2022/2023 were completed by Jim Stewart on 23 November 2023 and have been posted on the MCPRA website.

Welcome Councillor David Brown

The Fall 2022 elections resulted in Councillor David Brown being elected as Ward 21's representative. MCPRA established regular monthly meetings with Councillor Brown, generally attended by Anne Robinson, Mike O'Neil and Alexa Ives. These meetings provide an ongoing opportunity to update and

communicate with Councillor Brown and seek his support or direction as/ when needed. He has been especially helpful on the Centennial Park Phase 2, electric BBQ, insurance, and tree planting files. MCPRA looks forward to further collaboration and communication with Councillor Brown.

MCPRA PROJECT SUMMARY

Tree Planting Hilltop Park

After months of planning, 200 trees including hackberry, basswood, red oak, sugar maple, serviceberry, white pine, staghorn sumac and nannyberry, were planted on May 25th at Hilltop Park, which runs from Long Island Road, up to the pond area on Hilltop Drive.



MCPRA first approached the City in 2019 to naturalize this Hilltop Park area – a remnant park parcel with little active recreation potential. Finally getting approval in Fall 2022 to plant a portion of the site, MCPRA crafted an action plan.

Tom Plant, MCPRA Parks Committee Chair and a retired teacher, approached the Environment Clubs from both Manotick Public School and St. Leonard’s Catholic School to assist with the planting. Councillor David Brown was fully supportive and the immediate neighbours provided input and endorsement.

On the day of the planting, the City supplied the trees, mulch, shovels and did a demonstration on how to properly plant a tree. Many thanks to staffers Laura Wood and her capable assistant, Morgan.

Snacks and welcomed refreshments were provided by the local business community – cookies from 692 Café, juice from McDonough’s Independent, and large beverage dispensers from Manotick Home Hardware. Thank you to these supportive local businesses.

With climate change, MCPRA plans to continue its tree planting efforts in Spring 2024 in conjunction with the City of Ottawa. As a follow up to the Hilltop Park planting, MCPRA will try to add to our future tree canopy at the Goddard/Potter and Whitewood Park sites over the next two years. Thanks to Tom Plant, Parks Committee Chair and members Robin Wisener, Viv Mitchell and Anne Robinson.

Centennial Park Enhancement Project

This initiative is an enhancement of the northeast corner of Centennial Park, including the outdoor rink/basketball facility, skateboard, pump track and gateway areas, commemoratively named the *David Arntfield Recreation Area*. This is a \$1.2M+ project.

Phase 1: The Outdoor Rink and Basketball Courts

In July 2020, the [Final Design](#) for Phase 1, including a lit seasonal outdoor rink combined with basketball courts and related landscaping, was finalized. Construction for Phase 1 got underway in late September 2020 and was completed in 2022. MCPRA worked in partnership with the City of Ottawa, Fotenn Planning + Design, McKee Electrical, and the Tomlinson Foundation.

Phase 2: The Skateboard Park, Pump Track and Gateway Area

Phase 2 includes replacing the skateboard park and construction of a new pump track facility. [A 'pump track' is an asphalt track with various banked curves and elevations that can be used by 'all wheels' including bicycles, skateboards and scooters.] The facilities are 'small town' scale, designed to appeal to both the beginner and those with some experience, but not intended for the 'expert'.

Why build both a skateboard and pump track facility? While looking at various options and visiting other local sites, such as Carleton Place and Perth, it was observed that there were a greater number of young girls using the pump track and the track was popular for any child who had a bicycle. In other words, the pump track offered greater access and use.

Phase 2 is being led by the City of Ottawa, in collaboration with MCPRA. In January 2022, the City contracted the services of Fotenn Planning + Design to manage the project and design the areas beyond the skateboard portion, which was designed by [New Line](#). After stakeholder consultation and design development, the final Phase 2 design was completed in November 2022; tendered in February 2023; and awarded to an Ottawa firm, Prestige Design and Construction, in May 2023.

The perimeter safety fencing went up on July 24th 2023 and the old equipment, signage, asphalt and some topsoil were quickly removed. The drainage work began in early August with the installation of the underground drains and weepers connecting to the existing stormwater system.

By the Fall, the pump track was substantially finished with the asphalt track complete and the softscape/grass area ready to sprout in the Spring. City staff advised MCPRA on November 15th that it was too risky, with the cooler weather, to proceed with the concrete pour for the skateboard area as the quality of the surface could be negatively impacted by the lower than ideal temperatures.

While disappointed, MCPRA also wanted to ensure that the community has a quality facility that can be enjoyed for many years.

MCPRA is grateful for the efforts of the Ottawa firm Prestige Design and Construction who worked diligently over 2023 to get the work completed. The weekly progress was posted on the MCPRA website: <https://www.mcpra.org/skateboard-park>.

A revised 2024 schedule was received from Prestige on November 29. Moving forward, the following final details will be coordinated with the City including the railing, bench, donor signage, partnership agreement and tax receipts, and 'David Arntfield Recreation Area' commemorative plaque. The Official Opening is scheduled for July 4, 2024.



Centennial Park Arena Gardens

In October 2023 a team of volunteers including Tom Plant, Parks Committee Chair, Kathy Arntfield, Kim Paquette, Viv Mitchell, Anne and Ron Robinson, Pat O’Leary, Mike O’Neil, Michele Heney, and Alan, Hannah, William and Samuel Gordon weeded and loaded topsoil, provided by the City, on the Arena Gardens (mural wall, entrance garden, north and northwest gardens) around the perimeter of the Arena.

In November the MCPRA board approved the contracting of Artistic Landscape Design to design the these perimeter gardens and finalize the beautification of the David Arntfield Recreation Area. The design plans, cost estimates, and possible sources of material were received in early January from Artistic. The Arena Garden planting is planned for spring 2024, prior to the Official Opening.

Electric BBQ

Originally considered part of Centennial Park Phase 2, the City deemed the E-BBQ needed to be a separate project, under a different Project Manager. After considerable research, effort, a lengthy back and forth, and formal petition to staff, several meetings were held with staff and Councillor Brown. As a result, the City is finalizing a Consent to Enter Agreement so that MCPRA can proceed with the purchase and installation of the E-BBQ and a Maintenance Agreement for MCPRA’s on-going maintenance and operation of the E-BBQ.

Project Funding

The Centennial Park Enhancement Project is being funded from multiple sources including the federal, provincial and municipal governments, private donations and local fundraising. These collective, in-kind and financial contributions have made this project feasible. Major donors will be recognized on site through a specially designed donor plaque.

Many thanks to the CP Enhancement Committee, who will continue their efforts until completion of this project, CP Committee Chair Anne Robinson, Jon Mack, Mike O’Neil, and Pat O’Leary.

Centennial Park Pathways Project

With funding from the federal government’s Active Transportation Fund (ATF), MCPRA contracted landscape architects Ruhland and Associates to assess potential upgrades and enhancements to the Centennial Park pathway network.

An inventory and analysis of the pathways and entrances, with detailed notes of their condition, was completed and presented at a community consultation on June 6th. A community survey followed to garner further community input. Seventeen responses were received, with the majority living within 1 km of the park and accessing it via walking or cycling.

In the Fall Ruhland and Associates provided recommendations, a budget, and proposed pathway priorities to the MCPRA Board. The final report was received in December 2023 and will be posted on the MCPRA website and presented to the City for future use. MCPRA’s next steps will be to review the priorities and explore funding opportunities for implementation. Thank you to Alexa Ives, MCPRA Pathways Committee Chair, Jon Mack, Mike O’Neil, Darlene Donnelly and Sue Hale.

PLANNING RELATED ACTIVITIES

Stinson Property

The City asked for input on the Draft Plan of Subdivision for the [Stinson Property](#) (northwest corner of Rideau Valley Drive and Bankfield Road). MCPRA provided a formal response to the City and copied the developer on September 7, 2023. MCPRA continues to value river access and safe pedestrian/cyclist connections from this subdivision to the core of the Village.

Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

The City recently released its updated Part 1 [Transportation Master Plan](#), (TMP) along with a project list. The next step is the development of Part 2 – a Capital Infrastructure Plan, including additional public engagement on proposed transit, road and network investment scenarios.

MCPRA established a TMP Committee including Alexa Ives, Kyle Cuthbert, Janet Perry, Anne Robinson, and Robin Wisener, to provide input to Part 2 of the TMP. This group worked over several months to:

- Identify the gaps in recreational pathways *within* the Village of Manotick;
- Assess recreational pathway connections *to* nearby Villages and destinations; and
- Prioritize future recreational pathway initiatives.

MCPRA met with Irene Staron and Bruce Fanjoy from the Manotick Village and Community Association (MVCA) in November to share the above. MCPRA plans to finalize its submission to the City of Ottawa in early 2024. Many thanks to the MCPRA TMP Committee.

Barney McCarney Landing and Long Island Sidewalk

The trees at the end of Van Vliet Road, known as Barney McCarney Landing, were cut in 2023. The City's Project Manager, Julie Lyons, indicated that this area had all vegetation removed in preparation for the Watermain Link that will be constructed in 2023-24, running from David Bartlett Park, along Bravar, Long Island Road to Van Vliet where it will cross the River. *"The tree clearing is required for the trenchless operation to take the watermain from one side of the river to the other. Due to the underground conditions, micro tunnelling is the preferred method, which requires a lot of space."*

The City has confirmed that the area will be reinstated at the conclusion of the construction. The planting plan can be viewed:

https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/CP598_Mar2023_BarneyMcCarney09_en.pdf

This project and construction will also include a sidewalk along Long Island Road on the Manotick Public School side, from Bridge St. to Riverside Cr. (south entrance).

Public Access to the Rideau River

MCPRA had several inquiries regarding public access to the Rideau River. In 2016, MCPRA worked with the City to create 'water access signage' and to put signs at each of the public access areas within the Village.

A list of public water access points was updated on the MCPRA website in 2023. <https://www.mcpra.org/water-access-signs-1>. Residents can also see the public rights-of-way or road allowance areas on page 65 of the [Manotick Secondary Plan](#).

Board members expressed concern that some public access areas were being blocked by private owners or being used by the homeowner for the season (thereby hindering visitors from tying up and visiting the Village). Regrettably, some of the water access signs have also been removed by unknown perpetrators.

Mahogany Landing

This site continues to be a popular destination for summer boaters, swimmers, sitters, and cyclists. A local resident, Ryan MacEachran, began a very popular Friday evening sunset (self-propelled) boat parade to the main channel and back.

City staff quickly addressed several cracks in the dock; a local child retrieved the bike rack that had been thrown in the River; and City staff put up ‘no parking’ signs on a portion of the west side of Main St.



Anne Robinson met with the President and Executive Director of the Manotick BIA, and a representative from Ottawa Tourism in Fall 2023. Ottawa Tourism is interested in supporting Phase 2 of the dock development. [Ottawa Tourism contributed \$15K to the original project.]

The dock continues to be a ‘multi-use’ space, enjoyed by many residents and visitors.

MCPRA ON-GOING PROGRAMS

2022-23 McLean Park and Centennial Park Outdoor Rinks

MCPRA operates both outdoor rinks (ODRs) in Manotick – one located in Hillside Gardens at McLean Park and the other at Centennial Park, adjacent to the Mike O’Neil Arena.

Jason Purcell leads the McLean Park team and Tom Hollinger heads up the Centennial Park group.



2022-23 was a tough season with weather conditions resulting in a shorter ODR season. [Note: for the first time ever, the Rideau Canal never opened.] In Rob Smart’s absence, Chris Veh assisted with a Friday Night Family Skate. MCPRA’s Shiverfest Tim Bits Hockey and Family Skate was cancelled in 2023 due to extreme cold temperatures.

Given the skateboard park construction adjacent to the basketball courts, the ‘puddle rink’ at Centennial Park was re-located to the infield of Diamond #1 for the 2023-24 season. This location was agreed to by the City and the Manotick Ball Association.

Thank you to Mike O’Neil, MCPRA Board Lead and the dedicated and outstanding ODR community volunteers:

McLean Park Volunteers (led by Jason Purcell) – Brian Little, Finley Little, Brad Markham, Jason Purcell, Ian Olthof, Gord MacGregor, Corey Moreau, Sean Reid, and Matt Moore.

Centennial Park Volunteers (led by Tom Hollinger) – Don Raizenne, Mark Brown, Steve West, Evan Hilborn, Graeme Hollinger, Pat Hilborn and John Kennedy.

Chic Time in the ‘Tick

Chic Time in the ‘Tick 2024 is returning to the Manotick Curling Rink, **Friday May 10, 2024** with an Enchanted Garden theme. This is a major MCPRA fundraising event with 2024 funds to be directed to improving river access in and around Manotick Village.



Many thanks to the 2024 Chic Time organizing team led by Darlene Donnelly and including:

Alexa Ives, Joanne Mack, Sue Hale, Sue Kennedy, Susan Goodwin, Tara Adlington, Tara Lanouette, Teri Croucher, Tracy Gates, and Wendy Eberwein.

Manotick Indoor Walking Group

The Walking Group is an active and fun program that includes light warm-up and cool-down exercises, Nordic pole instruction (if desired), and indoor walking. The Spring program attracted 25 walkers and the Fall program drew 25 registrants. This is a popular indoor exercise program for older adults recovering from hip / knee surgery or simply wanting a local, safe exercise environment. Darlene Donnelly coordinates this program on behalf of the MCPRA Board.

Manotick Outdoor Walking Group

At the request of the Manotick Library and the ‘Knitting Club’, MCPRA was approached to coordinate an Outdoor Walking Group, starting in September 2023. Wendy Eberwein, MCPRA Lead, agreed to meet with the group and coordinate various walks throughout the Village. This is a small group of 6-10 who enjoy the experience.

Park Clean-Ups

In May, MCPRA coordinated some park clean-ups and mulching at several Village sites, including:

- Centennial Park
- West River Park
- Mahogany Landing
- Long Island Park



Thanks to MCPRA Parks Chair, Tom Plant, and volunteers Robin Wisener, Viv Mitchell, Kim Paquette, Ron and Anne Robinson, Patricia Roy and others.

Dickinson Day

MCPRA had a booth on Dickinson Day, Sat., June 3rd, 2023. The booth profiled the Centennial Park design and a skateboard was purchased for a raffle. The day attracted many visitors to the Village and the MCPRA booth was well attended.

Jane's Walk

On Sat. May 6th MCPRA organized a 'Jane's Walk' with stops at the Manotick Library, A. Y. Jackson Park, Bruce Fanjoy's passive house (opposite the Mill), Veteran's Park, and Watson's Mill. There was maximum attendance of about 25 people. Thanks to MCPRA volunteers who coordinated and planned [Jane's Walk](#) in Manotick and to MVCA and Watson's Mill volunteers who provided brief presentations at each location.



Jane's Walk is a festival of free neighbourhood walking tours started in 2008 in memory of urban planner/ activist, Jane Jacobs. MCPRA has organized and participated in at least four Jane's Walks in the past. It's an excellent way to tell local stories.

ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS

Ward Council

Councillor Brown established a 'Ward Council' and MCPRA Co-President, Wendy Eberwein, is the MCPRA representative. The Ward Council met twice in 2023 and included representatives from about 27 community associations and groups across Ward 21. The purpose of the Council is to:

- Identify challenges facing Ward 21 communities and possible solutions;
- Increase inter-organizational communication; and
- Raise matters of importance to address with City staff, at Committee and Council.

MCPRA Budget Submission 2024

MCPRA submitted the following requests to Councillor Brown for consideration in the 2024 budget. Clearly this next year will be challenging financially for the City of Ottawa, so our requests were modest. These requests were all directed at retaining an existing asset, frequented by City/Manotick residents.

1. Fix the drainage on the pathway by Ball Diamond #1 at Centennial Park – this has been a problem for at least 20 years.
2. Repair the steps to the Tighe Street dock. These steps are currently cordoned off so that there is no safe access to the water.
3. Address the drainage issue on the Centennial Park pathway (west side). This pathway is not navigable for several months of the season due to excess water and poor drainage.

MCPRA also reinforced Council's commitment to a 'Feasibility Study' of Manotick Main St., from Century Rd. to Bankfield Rd., that will address the needs of pedestrians and cyclists, along with vehicles. It is hoped that a pedestrian crossing, like the Tighe St. crossing, will be put in at the Eastman/Main St. area. This crossing will serve to slow traffic and create a safer crossing for residents from west Manotick wanting to cross to the sidewalk on the east side of Main St.

Further, it's anticipated that the round-about to be constructed in proximity to the Manotick Fire Hall, will also consider/design for the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

Insurance

Insurance matters continued to require much attention in 2022/2023.

MCPRA renewed its Commercial General Liability insurance (\$5M) and our Directors and Officers insurance (\$1M) with Intact Insurance at a cost of \$1,142. This was an improvement over the previous year's premium of \$1,754 (which was obtained via the Community Partners Insurance Program (CPIP) "Open" program as we were given only 24 hours to accept it and had not solicited other quotes in parallel).

Limited Accidental Death and Disability insurance is available to our ODR volunteers themselves (essentially the same as last 2022-23).

MCPRA continues to work as part of a Federation of Community Associations (FCA) insurance working group to reach agreement with the City on revisions to the CPIP. In May 2022, City staff proposed terminating this program (that, as established during amalgamation, sees the City provide CGL insurance for 162 community organizations) but Council rejected that recommendation.

In November 2023, staff again proposed terminating this program but Committee again rejected that recommendation. The FCA Working Group proposed revisions to the program that would see the City continue to provide CGL insurance for qualifying traditional Community Associations, and as of 18 January 2024, we continue to await proposals from City staff (the matter is to be considered at a Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting on 6 February 2024).

As MCPRA was not one of the 162 "grandfathered" organizations (MVCA is), regardless of the revised approach it is expected that MCPRA will not be negatively impacted; instead MCPRA has the possibility of having some or all of its CGL insurance paid for by the City.

Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)

Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) took effect 19 October 2021. Provincially-incorporated non-profit organizations, such as MCPRA, have until 18 October 2024 to ensure their governing documents, including their letters patent and bylaws, comply with ONCA. Jon Mack and Robin Wisener are leading MCPRA's efforts to update MCPRA's governing documents and obtain approval for the changes from the MCPRA membership.