



2023 Winter Quarterly Newsletter Manotick Culture, Parks & Recreation Association

www.mcpra.org

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.

The Perfect Christmas Gift: A Chic Time in the 'Tick Ticket

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 directed to improving river access in and around Manotick Village.



Order your ticket today or gather your friends and get a table of 8:

<https://www.mcpra.org/chic-time-in-the-tick>

Many thanks to the 2024 Chic Time organizing team including:

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

MCPRA Project Lead: Darlene Donnelly dardon956@gmail.com / 613-769-8378

Annual General Meeting

MCPRA's Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on **Monday, January 22, 7 p.m.**

For membership details, financial statements, and AGM information go to:

<https://www.mcpra.org/aboutus-1>

To participate in this meeting and for a zoom link, please contact:

Anne Robinson anne@annerobinson.ca /613-692-3934

McLean Park and Centennial Park Outdoor Rink

With 'winter and snow' just around the corner...we're prepping for the 'outdoor rink' season!

MCPRA operates both outdoor rinks 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.

Given the skateboard park construction adjacent to the basketball courts, the 'puddle rink' at Centennial Park will be re-located to the infield of Diamond #1 for this season.

Also, there are plans underway for the 'Friday Night Family Skate' to return. Join your neighbours and enjoy skating under the stars with music and hot chocolate. For more information or to lend a hand, contact **Rob Smart at: RobertSmart@Cunet.Carleton.Ca**

Every year outdoor rink volunteers are needed and welcomed. If you'd like to join this team who work quietly in the background to provide an extraordinary community service, contact: manotick.ODR@gmail.com

MCPRA Project Lead: Mike O'Neil manotick.mike@gmail.com

Manotick Indoor Walking Group

The Walking Group is an active and fun program led by instructor Pat DeClerq, retired nurse and certified fitness instructor. The program includes light warm-up and cool-down exercises, Nordic pole instruction (if desired), and indoor walking. The winter program will start in early January 2024. For details, check

<https://www.mcpra.org/manotickwalkinggroup>

MCPRA Project Lead: Darlene Donnelly at dardon956@gmail.com / 613-769-8378.

Construction Put on Hold at Centennial Park

City staff advised MCPRA on November 15 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 wants to ensure the community has a quality facility that can be enjoyed for many years. Most times it's best to cooperate with Mother Nature.

MCPRA is grateful for the efforts of the Ottawa firm Prestige Design and Construction who worked diligently over the last few months to get the work completed. You can view the weekly progress posted on the MCPRA website: <https://www.mcpa.org/skateboard-park>.

The pump track is substantially finished with the asphalt track complete and the softscape/grass area ready to sprout in the spring.

Over the winter a few final details will be coordinated including the railing, bench, donor signage and 'David Arntfield Recreation Area' commemorative plaque.

The Official Opening will be held summer 2024.



Participants have been waiting patiently to test their wheels on this new amenity and everyone is working hard to have this happen for Summer 2024!

This project has been feasible through the contributions of the federal, provincial, and municipal governments and the generosity of many businesses, non-profits, and individuals.

MCPRA Project Lead: Anne Robinson at anne@annerobinson.ca / 613-692-3934.

Centennial Park Pathways Project

With funding from the federal government's Active Transportation Fund, 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 6. 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 is anticipated in December 2023 and will be posted on the MCPRA website and presented to the City. MCPRA's next steps will be to review the priorities and explore funding opportunities for implementation.

MCPRA Project Lead: Alexa Ives aaives@rogers.com

Transportation Master Plan

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 Sub-Committee including Alexa Ives, Kyle Cuthbert, Janet Perry and Robin Wisener, to provide input to Part 2 of the TMP. This group has been working 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 connect with several other rural groups focused on recreational pathways and finalize its submission to the City of Ottawa in early 2024.

MCPRA Project Lead: Anne Robinson anne@annerobinson.ca / 613-692-3934

Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)

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

MCPRA Lead: Jon Mack treasurer.mcpra@gmail.com / 613-692-8191

Tree Planting 2024

The MCPRA plans to continue its tree planting program in spring 2024 in conjunction with the City of Ottawa. As a follow up to this year's Hilltop Park planting, MCPRA will be looking at adding to our future tree canopy at the Goddard/Potter and Whitewood Park sites over the next two years. These plantings are done based on the community's wishes and in collaboration with the City of Ottawa's Forestry and Recreation Planning Branches. We encourage community input into this process - so please contact Tom Plant with suggestions or questions about these projects.

As always, we will be looking for spring cleanup volunteers in May, so please add your name to our volunteer list if you are able to help us with any of our projects. Volunteer hours for high school students can be credited.

MCPRA Project Lead: Tom Plant tomplant54@gmail.com /613-692-1818

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.

MCPRA Project Lead: Anne Robinson anne@annerobinson.ca /613-692-3934

Insurance

In 2001, during amalgamation, council approved an approach whereby 124 community groups would be "grand-fathered" and have their insurance premiums paid for by the new City. This program, currently called the Community Partners Insurance Program (CPIP), is inherently unfair to other community groups, including MCPRA, who must pay for insurance themselves despite undertaking community activities benefiting the community.

In 2022 staff recommended changes to the program. With the election of the new council, staff returned to committee in November 2023, recommending that the program be discontinued, and the funds transferred to the City's Community Funding Framework where all community groups would be eligible to apply for event funding under which insurance premiums would be an allowable cost. This recommendation, developed without meaningful input from the community groups, was rejected at committee, with councillors instructing staff to engage with community groups and return to committee in February 2024.

MCPRA continues to work with other community groups to develop an approach that will be fair and equitable to all community groups and be affordable by the City.

MCPRA Lead: Jon Mack treasurer.mcpra@gmail.com / 613-692-8191

Season's Best Wishes

On behalf of Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association I'd like to wish you and yours a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. We look forward to continuing to cultivate and provide culture, parks and recreations projects and services in the Village in 2024.

Best,

Anne Robinson, Co-President