



2025 Annual Report for the Annual Meeting of the Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association to be held virtually on January 19, 2026 at 7PM

Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association (MCPRA) is a nonprofit, 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 projects, programs, administrative and planning-related activities during 2025.

2025 Board of Directors and Executive

The 2025 MCPRA Board included:

Mike O'Neil - President
Vacant - Vice President
Jon Mack - Treasurer
Sue Hale - Secretary
Alexa Ives
Darlene Donnelly
Wendy Eberwein
Rob Smart
Daniel Pereira
Jay Purcell
Anthony Schofield
Lisa Brettingham
Bonnie Campbell
Don Morris
Navdeep Kaur

Annual Financial Report and Statements

MCPRA continues to be in a good financial position.

MCPRA ended 2024/2025 (30 September 2025) with assets of approximately \$152K; however, a portion of this amount is reserved for the purchase and installation of an eBBQ in Centennial Park (if and when a supplier can be identified). We ended 2024/2025 with approximately \$125K of uncommitted funds. Primarily, funds were used for finalizing Centennial Park and other ongoing expenses.

In addition, \$150K remains 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 very small portion, if any, will be returned to MCPRA). Despite ongoing prompts, we continue to await an accounting from the City for Centennial Park Phase 2 (Official Opening July 4, 2024).

Financial Statements for 2024/2025 were completed by Jim Stewart on 17 October 2025 and have been posted on the MCPRA website.

Insurance

Ongoing insurance matters were resolved in 2024/2025.

In 2025 the City of Ottawa finalized its revised Community Partners Insurance Program (CPIP). MCPRA qualified under the revised CPIP guidelines and thereby obtained City-funded Commercial General Liability insurance (\$5M) for 2025/2026.

Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance is not part of CPIP and so MCPRA obtained D&O insurance (\$1M) for 2025/2026 through Marsh at a cost of \$780.

Outdoor rink activities are not covered under the CPIP Commercial General Liability coverage but rather third-party liability coverage is provided via the City's integrated insurance program. Injuries to the volunteers themselves

are not included under this integrate insurance coverage so instead the City provides limited Accidental Death and Disability insurance (\$50K) to the outdoor rink volunteers themselves through a City-funded Accidental Death and Disability policy (the same approach as last year).

Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA)

A revised MCPRA Bylaw was approved by MCPRA members at a Special Members Meeting on 21 October 2024 and has been posted on the MCPRA website.

Certain changes to our bylaw necessitate changes to our Letters Patent (now referred to as Articles of Incorporation). This will be undertaken in 2026.

Thanks to Councillor David Brown and Staff

Since his election as Councillor for Ward 21 (Rideau-Jock) in Fall 2022, Councillor David Brown has been a strong advocate of the MCPRA and its project initiatives / activities!

MCPRA continues to have regular monthly virtual meetings with Councillor Brown, generally attended by Mike O'Neil, Bonnie Campbell, Alexa Ives, Anthony Schofield, Daniel Periera, Jon Mack and Wendy Eberwein. These meetings provide an ongoing opportunity to update and communicate with Councillor Brown and seek his support or direction as / when needed. He has once again been especially helpful on the Water Access Improvement, Electric BBQ, and Mahogany Landing Active Transportation (AT) Study projects!

MCPRA looks forward to further collaboration and communication with Councillor Brown and his staff throughout 2026.

MCPRA PROJECT SUMMARY

Tree Planting / Maintenance - Hilltop Park

Lisa Brettingham and Don Morris took over from Tom Plant as leads for the MCPRA Parks Committee starting in the Spring of 2025.



The saplings planted at Hilltop Park have done extremely well so far. We met with the City representative in the Fall to discuss future plantings; some of the older trees on Brackens Field need attention and will be replaced as well as some failing young trees along the road at Anne Robinson Park. The intention is to replace failing trees with diverse native tree species that will be salt tolerant. We hope to have a further community planting session at Hilltop this year as we await the City's plan. We are also planning to plant diverse larger caliper trees at Whitewood Park; this site was also identified as an area for future seedling planting.

Centennial Park Arena Gardens

The Centennial Park Arena Gardens have been tended regularly throughout 2025. Volunteers have weeded and mulched the gardens with families from the Manotick Public School, members of the Arntfield family as well as several others (Anne and Ron Robinson, Kim Paquette, Vivian Mitchell). Unfortunately, some of the original plants have not survived from the original planting in 2023, especially the junipers that were not fans of the packed ice, snow and salt from the pathways. The Manotick Public School group replanted that area with native perennials and in the Fall planted 200 daffodil bulbs. Hosta plants were also added to the garden bed near the Arena entrance.

Electric BBQ

As background information, this amenity for Centennial Park was requested by the Arntfield family based on their vacation travel several years ago to Australia where electric BBQs are available for public use in many parks throughout the country.

After considerable research, effort and lengthy consultations, a Maintenance Agreement and a Consent to Enter Agreement were signed with the City in 2024 and 2025 respectively. However, after finalization of the agreements, it was found that the anticipated eBBQ supplier would no longer sell units into North America, and despite our best efforts we have

been unable to identify another eBBQ supplier willing to sell into North America. As a result, the eBBQ initiative is on hold until a supplier can be identified.

Centennial Park Pathways Project

With funding from the federal government's Active Transportation Fund (ATF), MCPRA contracted a landscape architecture (LA) company to develop a detailed report outlining pathway improvements and proposed recommendations, associated budget estimates and pathway priorities that was forwarded to the City of Ottawa Parks Planning and Operations groups in early 2025.

With the City of Ottawa's current revenues / expenditures issues, park pathways are not a major priority for them at this time so we will need to secure additional grant support from provincial / federal sources to proceed with pathways remediation in Centennial Park. Board decisions will need to be made in 2026 regarding next steps for this project. Many thanks to Alexa Ives, Darlene Donnelly and Jon Mack for their work to date on this pathways project.

Water Access Improvements (WAI) Project

After establishing a WAI Committee and working Sub-Committee in August 2024 to initiate the project, develop a project plan, approve a geographical project boundary, and identify almost 30 potential WAI sites, the working group identified 12 prioritized sites before the end of 2024.

After approval of the 12 sites by the WAI Committee in early 2025, the WAI sub-committee undertook site visits in the Spring of 2025 and finally proposed to proceed with eight (8) prioritized WAI sites based on the approved evaluation criteria and potential safety / amenity improvements.

The remainder of 2025 involved the following project activities:

- Establishment of WAI Project Manager and Project Leaders (2)

- Site visits with the other WAI project partners (City of Ottawa, RVCA and Parks Canada) to review proposed WAI site improvements and get their feedback / concerns.
- Ongoing updates to WAI Cost Estimates table for all proposed site amenities that will be used to develop budget estimates for each site.
- Site-specific surveys distributed to residents living in the immediate areas of each site leading to constructive feedback on proposed improvements and existing issues / concerns.
- Meetings with residents of 2-3 sites to further collaborate on the existing issues and identify proposed solutions.
- Community-wide survey to establish overall priorities for water access improvements that will further benefit Manotick residents.
- Development of proposed site Concept Plans by Sub-Committee members based on latest residential / community feedback surveys.
- Public meeting in late October hosted by MCPRA to present WAI project goals, survey results, concept plans and project's next steps.
- Final modifications to the site Concept Plans based on public meeting feedback leading to review / approval by the other project partners (i.e. City of Ottawa, RVCA and Parks Canada).

Our expected project activities for 2026 include:

- Identification of those sites requiring Detailed Design (DD) plans by the City of Ottawa Parks Planning group.
- Obtaining requirements / quotations for DD plans.
- Collaborating with Councillor Brown, his staff and the City project leads for the Rideau Valley Drive Active Transportation (i.e. walking, cycling, etc.) study from Century Road to Eastman Drive.
- Working with Councillor Brown and his staff to gain City approvals / installation of site entrance / park amenity improvements (i.e. No Parking signs, bollards / P-gates, End-of-Life bench replacements, garbage receptacles, etc.) for WAI sites.
- Research of municipal / provincial / federal grants to prepare grant applications that will provide additional monies for WAI improvements at the 8 prioritized sites.
- Ongoing updates to the Cost Estimates table based on supplier pricing changes for proposed WAI amenities / installation.

- Ongoing updates to the proposed budget for each WAI site based on site-specific decisions and Request For Quotation (RFQ) results.
- Ongoing assessment of sites that can be completed in 2026 or need to be deferred to 2027 due to funding availability.
- Ongoing oversight for City's road / entrance site improvements.

Thanks to the superb fundraising work of the MCPRA's 'Chic Time in the Tick' Committee over the past five+ years, we have accumulated significant funds to undertake the design / construction phases of this project. We are also hoping to be successful with our 2026 grant application(s) in order to double our project budget.

For further information on the WAI project, please visit the MCPRA website at www.mcpra.org and look under Current Projects.

PLANNING RELATED ACTIVITIES

Stinson Property / Orchard Hollow Park

In June 2025, the City of Ottawa approved the Plan of Subdivision from Uniform Developments to build 100+ new higher density homes on their lands at the corner of Rideau Valley Drive and Bankfield Road. MCPRA Board members will continue to work with City Parks Planning and Uniform Developments to ensure that proposed new parks / pathways that are part of this subdivision plan provide safety for all Manotick residents. Of special interest to the MCPRA are the lands located on the back channel that could be developed as a passive park provided safe active transportation (i.e. walking, bicycling, etc.) access from Rideau Valley Drive can be built.

The Plan of Subdivision for new townhouses on Antochi Lane adjacent to Orchard Hollow Park and fronting the Rideau River was also approved in June 2025. As part of this subdivision plan, a new Orchard Hollow Park entrance and park pathways were approved. MCPRA will continue to work with City Parks Planning and local residents in that area to ensure proper planning / installation of these new park amenities.

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 of Ottawa originally released its updated Part 1 Transportation Master Plan, (TMP) along with a project list in early 2023.

The development of Part 2 – a Capital Infrastructure Plan for proposed transit, road and network investment was approved in July, 2023.

MCPRA continues to work with Councillor Brown and his staff to ensure:

- recreational pathway gaps / connections are being addressed;
- future Manotick recreational pathway initiatives are being prioritized;
- recreational pathway connections to nearby villages / communities continue to be assessed;
- collaboration with the Manotick Village and Community Association (MVCA) continues so that we are aligned on village parks, pathways & street parking within the village and especially in the vicinity of water access sites.

Barney McCarney Landing, Hilltop Park, and Long Island Sidewalk

Construction on the Secondary Watermain Link was completed in April 2025, running from David Bartlett Park, along Bravar Drive and Long Island Road to Van Vliet Road where it was connected to an underwater river crossing from Barney McCarney Landing to Antochi Drive to hook up with the existing watermain along Rideau Valley Drive. This project also included construction of a new sidewalk in 2024 along Long Island Road on the Manotick Public School side from Bridge Street to Riverside Crescent (south entrance) that also saw a new crosswalk installed.

Both Barney McCarney Landing and Hilltop Park were reinstated at the conclusion of the construction in the Spring of 2025.

Barney McCarney Landing upgrades included installation of a P-gate at the site entrance along with a new pathway to the back channel and a new park bench. As a result, any WAI improvements to this site are limited.

Hilltop Park along Long Island Drive was successfully reinstated and the seedlings planted in 2023 were mostly unaffected by the construction. The original Hilltop Park planting plan can be viewed at:

https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/CP598_Mar2023_BarnyMcCarney09_en.pdf

ON-GOING PROGRAMS

2024-25 McLean Park, Mahogany Estates, and Centennial Park Outdoor Rinks



MCPRA now operates three outdoor rinks (ODRs) in Manotick! One is located in Hillside Gardens at McLean Park; the second is at Centennial Park adjacent to the Mike O'Neil Arena and the newest addition (as of November 2025) is the Mahogany ODR located at Col Roland Ashman Park just off Bridgeport Avenue.

Jay Purcell leads the McLean Park team; Tom Hollinger heads up the Centennial Park group and Brad Marples is the Mahogany Team Lead. Jay is leading the administrative responsibilities for ODR maintenance activities as we continue to work with City of Ottawa Seasonal Recreation staff to ensure that we have annual monies, insurance, and safe rink structures each season.

2024-25 was a very good year with favorable weather conditions resulting in a season that started in mid-December and ended in Mid March. After having to cancel the Timbits annual hockey game in 2024 due to very mild temperatures, we were able to help facilitate the game in February 2025 thanks to more favorable conditions and the volunteer efforts of Tom Hollinger (and his ODR crew), Jay Purcell and Mike O'Neil.

Thanks to Jay Purcell (MCPRA Board ODR Maintenance Lead) and the following dedicated ODR community volunteers who have contributed their time in 2024-2025:

McLean Park Volunteers (led by Jay Purcell) – Brian Little, Finley Little, Brad Markham, Ian Olthof, Sean Reid and Gord McGregor.

Centennial Park Volunteers (led by Tom Hollinger) – Don Raizenne, Mark Brown, Steve West, Evan Hilborn, Graeme Hollinger, Pat Hilborn, Bryan Dalrymple, Mike and Nico Bouris.

Mahogany Park Volunteers (led by Brad Marples) – Laurie Boschman, Dustin Mantha, Marc Anchor, David Lalonde, Tom Buckley, Mark Coldham, Brian Rathwell, Zachary King and Kris Robillard.



Chic Time in the 'Tick'

Chic Time in the 'Tick' 2025 returned to the Manotick Curling Rink on **Friday May 23, 2025** with a 'Bond Girls' theme. This was another major MCPRA fundraising event with the over \$25K in funds raised once again directed to improving public water access to the Rideau River / Back Channel in and around Manotick Village.

Many thanks to the 2025 Chic Time organizing team led by Darlene Donnelly that also included: Alexa Ives, Sue Hale, Wendy Eberwein, Tara Lanouette, Sue Kennedy, Holly Moore, Julia Forbes, Emily Watson, Anne Hyer, Michelle Donaldson-Rouleau, Mel McDonald, Teri Croucher and Uzma Khan.

The MCPRA Board has decided to take a break from this fundraising event for 2026 given the other volunteer groups in the village that are in need of funding (i.e Watson's Mill Manotick Inc. and others). We will also be looking for a new Project Lead from the MCPRA Board to lead this team!

Manotick Indoor Walking Group

The Walking Group is an active and fun program at the Manotick Community Centre that includes light warm-up and cool-down exercises, Nordic pole instruction (if desired), and indoor walking. The Spring 2025 program attracted 25+ walkers and the Fall program drew 25 registrants. The winter program has just begun and the group is full once again! 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.

Park Clean-Ups

In May, several Board members along with other community volunteers / families took part in the City of Ottawa Spring Clean-up program and removed garbage / tree debris from West River Drive Park, Hilltop Park, McLean Park and Brackens Field.



Dickinson Day

MCPRA again had a booth at Dickinson Day on Saturday, June 7, 2025. The booth profiled the Centennial Park Enhancements project completion along with the progress made on the public Water Access Improvements (WAI) project. The day attracted many visitors to the Village and the MCPRA booth was well attended. Many thanks to Sue Hale for coordinating the booth registration / setup / takedown, Board member time slots and overall event feedback to the MCPRA Board. There was a lot of interest in the WAI project and the proposed 12 sites at the time of the event that proved useful in

finalizing the 8 WAI sites approved for Concept Designs, additional specific site / community surveys and a Community Presentation public meeting.

Jane's Walk

MCPRA typically organizes a 'Jane's Walk' event in May but with all the other projects / program activities MCPRA volunteers were again involved with in 2025, we decided to pass on Jane's Walk for another year. If we have a Board volunteer who would organize this event, we will likely participate in 2026 if an event lead can be identified.

ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS Ward Council

The 'Ward Council' was established by Councillor Brown in 2024 and MCPRA Board member Wendy Eberwein has been the MCPRA representative for the past two years. The Ward Council met 'as required' in 2025 and included representatives from 25+ community associations and groups across Ward 21. The Council's purpose continues to be:

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

MCPRA Budget Submissions 2025 / 2026

MCPRA submitted the following requests to Councillor Brown last Fall for consideration in the 2025 budget. Clearly, 2025 was another challenging year financially for the City of Ottawa, but our modest requests to fix / remove the existing parks / recreation assets below were either actioned or planned for 2026:

- Our 2024 request to fix the drainage on the pathway by Ball Diamond #1 at Centennial Park was actioned in August of 2024 (**fixed**).

- Repair the steps to the Tighe Street dock. These steps are currently cordoned off so that there is no safe access to the water. With the new WAI project, we will expect the City to address this ongoing safety issue (**under assessment by City Parks Planning / Ops**).
- Address the drainage issue on the Centennial Park pathway (west side). This pathway is not navigable for many months of the year due to excess water / poor drainage (**under assessment by Parks Ops**).

MCPRA also supported Council's commitment to an Active Transportation 'Feasibility Study' of the Rideau Valley Drive / Manotick Main Street 'corridor' from Century Road to Bankfield Road that will address the safety needs of pedestrians / cyclists and vehicles.

As a result of the efforts of Councillor Brown and his staff (and the support of local community groups including the MCPRA), an Active Transportation (AT) study was approved by City Council in 2025 to assess pedestrian / bicycle improvements for the Rideau Valley Drive 'corridor' between Century Road and Eastman Drive. The study will also include assessment of the residential connector roads (i.e. Eastman, Potter, Antochi, Bridgeport, Orchard Hollow, Island View, Artemis Circle and other smaller roadway connections) along with the Mahogany Estates pathway currently running between Ascari Road and Potter Drive.

The goal is to have a pedestrian crossing built (similar to the Tighe Street crossing on Main Street) at the Eastman / Manotick Main Street area. This crossing will serve to slow traffic and create a safer crossing for residents from West Manotick wanting to cross to the east sidewalk of Main Street.

Furthermore, the proposed roundabout to be constructed in proximity to the Manotick Fire Hall has been replaced by a stop light solution due to lack of municipal lands to design / construct the roundabout. All proposed 'corridor' improvements will consider the safety needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

Given the importance of the AT study mentioned above to the broader community and also to our WAI project's 'safety first' priorities, we decided to postpone any further budget requests until the design / development costs associated with the AT study / WAI project are fully established.

In summary...

The MCPRA has had a very busy and productive year. As you can see, it takes a village to keep this type of association running and providing a positive impact on the community. If you're interested in taking part in any of these, or future initiatives, please reach out to the MCPRA via MCPRA.President@gmail.com or our website. Thank you.