



Winter 2022 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 & supports environmentally responsible culture, parks & recreation community projects & services in Manotick.

McLean Park & Centennial Park Outdoor Rinks

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.

MCPRA receives funding from the City of Ottawa to operate these rinks. Both locations have a board rink and a puddle rink.



The program is coordinated by longtime community volunteer, Mike O’Neil (yes, of Mike O’Neil Arena fame). But it’s the on-the-ground efforts that make the system work. Jason Purcell has led the McLean rink for the past 4 years and has a good core group that share the load, with 2 or 3 people working each night around 10 p.m. to shovel, flood and clean up. Similarly, Tom Hollinger has led the Centennial team for the last 4 years. The two teams share equipment and trade secrets, and are looking forward to a first-time rival hockey spar ... prefacing a late night flood, maybe followed by pizza and a pop!

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

Centennial Park – led by Tom Hollinger, includes Curtis Fillier, Mark Brown, Steve West, Evan Hilborn, Graeme Hollinger, Pat Hilborn. There are numerous others that help as required and when available.

During these COVID times, the outdoor rinks have been well used by many local residents. A big thanks and community kudos to the ODR volunteers! Many thanks to the [Manotick Messenger](#) for publishing a feature article about the volunteers.

Friday Night Family Skate

MCPRA Board member, Rob Smart, is coordinating a regular Friday Night Family Skate, 5-7 p.m. at Centennial Park. This activity will proceed as soon as COVID restrictions are lifted.

To lend a helping hand with the Friday Night Skate, contact Rob at:
RobertSmart@cunet.carleton.ca

MCPRA Annual General Meeting

The MCPRA Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Participation in the AGM open to anyone and is free but, if interested, becoming a member of the Board of Directors requires payment of an annual membership fee of \$10 per person or \$20 per family. For a membership, contact Jon Mack at:
mcpra.treasurer@gmail.com.

Many Thanks to the Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association Board

A lot of work is done around the board room table, whether real or virtual, and projects would not move forward without the commitment and 'elbow grease' of the MCPRA Board.

Our gratitude to the 2021-22 MCPRA Board for their community service:

Vice President	Mike O'Neil	
Treasurer	Jon Mack	
Secretary	Sue Hale	
Directors-at-Large	Laura Glasper	Rob Smart
	Gord MacGregor	Erin O'Connor
	Derek Storie	Tom Plant

2021 in Review

The next few items highlight some of the accomplishments of the past pandemic year.

Centennial Park Enhancement Project

What Is It?

An initiative led by MCPRA to enhance the northeast corner of Centennial Park, including the skateboard, outdoor rink/basketball, and gateway areas. This is a \$1M+ project.

Where Is It?

Centennial Park (5572 Dr. Leach Drive) is Manotick's primary active recreational park and community

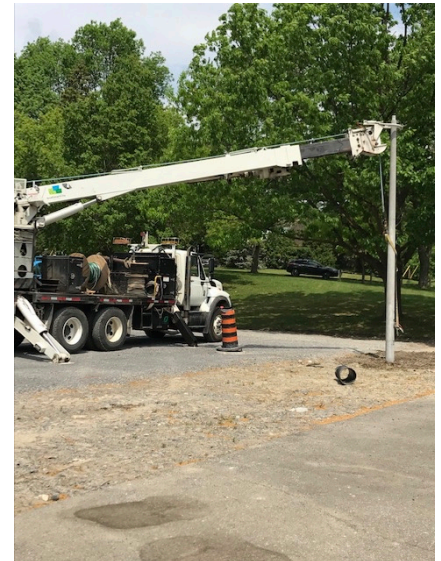


gathering place. This 7 hectare (17+ acres) backdrop to the Mike O'Neil Arena and Manotick Community Centre currently includes facilities for tennis, pickleball, soccer, softball, outdoor skating, skateboarding, sledding (Manotick Mountain), along with a play structure and outdoor pavilion.

What Has Been Done to Date?

After an extensive community consultation, a [Concept Design](#) for Centennial Park was completed in early 2019. Most agreed that the priority project for the Park would be the enhancement of the 'entrance', including the skateboard, outdoor rink and gateway areas.

In June, 2020, Ottawa City Council approved the commemorative naming of the gateway area for Centennial Park as the David Arntfield Recreation Area in memory of local resident and active community volunteer Dave Arntfield.



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 done by Fotenn Planning + Design.

Construction for Phase 1 got underway in late September 2020 with the removal of the outdoor rink boards, re-grading, new granular for the basketball/outdoor rink area, de-commissioning and removal of the old light poles, design of new outdoor rink lighting to meet current City standards, and installation of the basketball base plates.



The paving for the new basketball courts, installation of lights, basketball infrastructure, and tree planting was finally done in fall 2021. The line painting and some asphalt mitigation will be finished in early 2022.

MCPRA worked in partnership with the City of Ottawa, Fotenn Planning + Design, McKee Electrical, and the Tomlinson Foundation.

Many thanks to the Tomlinson Foundation for their generous donation of in-kind work on Phase 1 and for kick-starting and managing the construction.



Phase 2: The Skateboard and Gateway Area

MCPRA and the City of Ottawa have hosted four different stakeholder sessions to garner input from potential users. Based on this input, the following principles were put forward to guide the design of the skateboard area:

1. Appeal to all ages and skill levels, with an emphasis on intermediate, *not* elite levels
2. Meet multi-needs of the community e.g. skate board, scooters, bicycles
3. Take advantage of the elevations/ strengths of the site
4. Consider “Flow” – for safety; try not to include too many components
5. Integrate the skateboard/bike design into the broader park features e.g. pathways
6. Incorporate aesthetically pleasing design – especially for adjacent neighbours
7. Consider adjacent materials so that these materials support the skate park design
8. Work within maximum *all-inclusive* budget; budget permitting, consider concrete, with a lesser budget a concrete/asphalt combo
9. Do a custom design – not a template from another community
10. Protect the tree canopy and green edge of the site as valued by the community.

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 develop the design for the areas outside the skateboard portion, which will be designed by [New Line](#) a company based in British Columbia, with offices in Toronto, Calgary, Florida and California.

With the significant input to date, Fotenn and New Line will be bringing forward a Preliminary Design in February 2022, seeking final input/feedback from stakeholders and the community. Subsequently, the design will be finalized and tendered. The target is to go to construction in the summer of 2022. It’s a tight schedule, but everyone is optimistic that Phase 2 will be completed by late fall of this year.

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.

All donors will be recognized on site through a specially designed donor feature.



The Manotick Walking Group

With COVID, this indoor walking opportunity at the Manotick Community Centre was postponed in January 2022, after a very successful fall session. Led by instructor Pat DeClerq, the program is hoping to re-commence in February when City restrictions are lifted. For more information, contact Darlene Donnelly at: 613-769-8378.

West River Park (northwest corner of Bridge & West River) - the Duck Park

MCPRA cares for this park – putting down wood chips, keeping the site clean, and retaining the park in its natural state. It's a popular fishing spot and place to feed the ducks in the winter. If you plan to feed the ducks this winter, they like seeds, grains, small berries, nuts, corn, or grapes... *not* bread as bread makes them sick.

Long Island Park Interpretive Panels

In October 2020, three interpretive panels (installed by the MCPRA in 2014) disappeared from Long Island Park. Despite searches in the nearby treed areas and also in the river, these panels were never found.

With the assistance of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, MCPRA replaced these panels in the summer 2021. Many thanks to Keith Ritchie for his creative assistance with the new installation.



Tree Planting in the Village

Several MCPRA members met with City staff from the Forest Management Branch to assess a number of locations where additional trees could be planted in 2022. Meanwhile, the 2021 plantings included additional trees at both Centennial Park and Ivy & Gordon Scharf Park.

David Bartlett Park

A new fence has gone up in David Bartlett Park, post watermain construction. This fence divides the park into 'on-leash' and 'off-leash' areas. The off-leash area is north of the east-west fence. In addition, the parking lot was expanded so that visitors would not park on nearby streets.

Sidewalk Extension to Mahogany Landing

Thanks to the City of Ottawa, this summer saw the retrofit and extension of the sidewalk from Currier Street to Mahogany Landing – a link that MCPRA previously advocated for. Thanks also to Manotick United Church where surplus parking was kindly made available to Mahogany Landing users.

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

MCPRA submitted a lengthy response to the Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

In the end, the [Master Plan](#) was endorsed by Committee and Council in September 2021.

Looking Ahead to 2022

Centennial Park Phase 2

The completion of the skateboard park and gateway area of Centennial Park will be MCPRA's key priority for 2022.

Mud Creek Pathway

MCPRA will be working with City staff and Councilor Moffatt's office to design a pathway along the west side of Mud Creek, from Mud Creek Park to the pedestrian bridge to the south. This area is fully owned by the City and the path will form a safe, off-street link for children and families wanting to navigate over to either Ivy & Gordon Scharf Park or Centennial Park.

MCPRA Insurance

The cost of MCPRA's insurance has escalated in the past year from \$400+ to almost \$2,000. Some groups historically have their insurance covered by the City; unfortunately, MCPRA was not one of the groups grand-fathered in. This issue was raised at a Community and Protective Services meeting in 2021 and staff are to report back with options in 2022. Kate Porter, CBC, provided [further coverage](#) of this important issue.

Park Clean-Ups

In the spring, MCPRA volunteers will undertake their annual park clean-ups at West River, Centennial Park Gateway Garden, and Mahogany Landing. If you or your family care to lend a helping hand, contact Tom Plant at (613) 692-1818.

Chic Time in the 'Tick:

Chic Time in the 'Tick is a major fundraising event organized by MCPRA in support of local recreation / environmental initiatives. The 2020 and 2021 events were cancelled due to COVID. MCPRA is hopeful for a 2022 event. Stay Tuned!! If you're interested in working with the organizing team, contact Alexa Ives aaives@rogers.com

From Anne Robinson, President