



## Winter 2020 Quarterly Newsletter

### Manotick Culture, Parks & Recreation Association

[www.mcpra.org](http://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

Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association (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. McLean Park has a 'board rink' and a puddle rink. Centennial Park does as well, but this year with construction on site, Centennial Park is hoping to have a partially boarded rink and a puddle rink.



*Pending Mother Nature's cooperation both sites will be fully operational as soon as we get a good snow base and overnight temperatures dip below freezing.*

Many thanks to our rink volunteers including Tom Hollinger, Pat Hilborn, Steve West, Jay Purcell, Ian Olthof, Gord MacGregor, Alex Thurston, Carl Mertz, Brent Porteous, Tom Plant and Mike O'Neil.

Helping hands are always needed, so if you can shovel, run a snowblower, or hold a hose to flood the ice, contact: [manotick.ODR@gmail.com](mailto:manotick.ODR@gmail.com)

## MCPRA Annual General Meeting

The MCPRA Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. MCPRA is a non-profit, incorporated, volunteer organization that leads and supports environmentally responsible culture, parks and recreation community projects and services in Manotick.

To participate in this meeting, payment of an annual membership fee of \$10 per person or \$20 per family is needed. For a membership, contact Jon Mack at: [mcpra.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mcpra.treasurer@gmail.com).

If you are interested in a Board position with MCPRA contact Anne Robinson - 613-692-3934 or [anne@annerobinson.ca](mailto:anne@annerobinson.ca). The AGM agenda will be posted on the MCPRA website: [www.mcpra.org](http://www.mcpra.org)

## 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 close to 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.



### Who Is Involved?

Representatives from the following groups sit on the Centennial Park Working Group chaired by the MCPRA:

- Kiwanis Club of Manotick
- Ottawa South Basketball Association
- Youth of Manotick Association (YOMA)
- Ottawa Skateboard Association
- Manotick Village and Community Association (MVCA)
- City of Ottawa, Parks and Facility Planning Services

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.

### **What Has Been Done to Date?**

In July 2020 the [Final Design](#) for Phase 1, including a lit seasonal outdoor rink combined with a basketball court and related landscaping, was done by Fotenn Planning + Design. Phase 2 including the skate/ bike park has been deferred to 2021, pending funding.

Construction for Phase 1 got underway in late September 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.

While it was hoped that the paving for the new basketball courts would be done before year end, the completion has been pushed to Spring 2021 as the 4 light standards could not be delivered until 2021. MCPRA is working 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 overseeing construction.



### **Commemorative Naming of the David Arntfield Recreation Area**

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. Dave died in a tragic accident in October 2019. Dave was always actively involved in playing / organizing various sporting activities and was the architect of the fundraising strategies for the Manotick Community Center expansion from 2014-2018. In particular, Dave was responsible for approaching our Federal MP in 2015 to seek infrastructure funding for the arena expansion project. Without these federal monies, the expansion project might never have been done.



## **Funding Progress to Date**

In March 2019, MCPRA submitted a Community Partnership grant application to the City of Ottawa. In November 2019, City Council awarded \$125,000 toward Phase 1 of the Centennial Park Enhancement Project, with the community to match these funds.

To date, the project (including Phases 1 & 2) has benefitted from a \$25,000 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Manotick, \$20,000 raised from Chic Time in the 'Tick 2019 and committed funds from the Dave Arntfield Memorial Fund. In addition, in-kind services of more than \$100,000 have been contributed from the Tomlinson Foundation and matched by the City of Ottawa. Community fundraising continues!

With the goal of leveraging the City and community's investment, MCPRA also applied for an Infrastructure Canada grant for Phases 1 & 2. This application requires both provincial and federal approval; MCPRA hopes to hear soon whether this application was successful.

## **The Manotick Walking Club**

With COVID, this walking opportunity at the Manotick Community Centre has been deferred until the City's facilities and programming are open to the public. The Walking Club is now being coordinated by the City of Ottawa, not MCPRA. For more information, contact Gord MacGregor at 613-580-2424 ext. 30330.

Many thanks to Rod Corbett and Viv Mitchell who coordinated this program over the past year.

## **Bicycle Racks Around the Village**

Many thanks to Gord MacGregor who coordinated with the Manotick and Village Community Association and the Manotick BIA to purchase 10 new bicycle racks placed around the Village.

MCPRA sponsored two bike racks – one at Mahogany Landing and one at West River Park.



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

Many thanks to the City of Ottawa for the new West River Park sign and fencing at West River Park.

Kudos also to volunteers who did a Fall clean up at West River Park, Centennial Park Gateway Garden, and Mahogany Landing; volunteers included Viv Mitchell, Jon & Joanne Mack, Sue Hale, Ron & Anne Robinson, Mike O'Neil, Michele Heaney.

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.

### Tree Planting in the Village

This Spring 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 the end, the City agreed to Spring 2021 plantings in Centennial Park and along Ann Street, as feasible.

Further, Erin O'Connor is working with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and City of Ottawa staff to explore the potential naturalization of the shoreline around Mahogany Bay.

### Long Island Park Interpretive Panels

In October, 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, nothing was found.

With the assistance of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, MCPRA has replaced these panels and will install them in Spring 2021.



### Chic Time in the 'Tick: Kickin' It Up for the Kids

*Chic Time in the 'Tick* is a major fundraising event organized by the Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association in support of local recreation / environmental initiatives.

In the past, Chic Time raised \$50,000 for Mahogany Landing and to date, the event has raised about \$20,000 toward the Centennial Park Enhancement Project.

MCPRA is hoping to host a 2021 Chic Time, pending restrictions around the pandemic. Many thanks to Laura Glasper, Emma Sharkey, and the Chic Time Committee for considerable work invested to date.  
Stay Tuned!!

## Beryl Gaffney Park Update

Beryl Gaffney (BG) Park is a 95-acre site on the back channel of the Rideau River. It is home to Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and runs to the Jock River. A Park Master Plan, completed in the late '90's by the former City of Nepean, proposed retention of the forested areas, separated bike and walking paths, a picnic area, adventure play space, river boardwalk, roof-top boat dock, and more.

At a Public Meeting on June 24, 2019, City staff proposed two immediate actions for the \$1M BG park development fund that has been growing over the past 20 years:

- Buy adjacent land to create a fenced, off-leash dog park area (adjacent to Rideau Valley Drive) - \$400,000.
- Install a traffic light and parking lot off Prince of Wales, across from Capital Memorial Gardens - \$600,000.

While the traffic light/ parking lot idea was dropped, the City acquired 3931 Rideau Valley Drive (1.695 ha in 2 parcels) on August 9, 2019, for \$374,681, with funds initially drawn from the BG park development fund. Subsequently, at the urging of MCPRA, the funds were taken from city-wide cash-in-lieu, not the BG park account.

On July 24, 2020, MCPRA became aware that the City was soliciting input on a proposed design for a fenced 1 ha (2.47 acre) off-leash dog area and a modest picnic area (60m x 25m), at an estimated cost of \$400,000-600,000. Subsequently, it was announced in the [Manotick Messenger](#) that the fenced off-leash dog area would *not* proceed.

In October 2020, MCPRA suggested that a Task Force be created (including representatives from a broad cross-section of stakeholder groups) to refresh the Master Plan and create a 10-year Park Development schedule. To date, there has been considerable interest in participation in the Task Force.

The City's website notes that while there is interest in BG Park improvements, no decisions around specific projects have been made at this time; staff will report back and seek further input in the new year.

## City of Ottawa Draft Official Plan

[The Draft Official Plan](#) has been posted for comment and you have until February 17, 2021 to provide feedback. There are a series of 'one-pagers' with feedback forms and also updated Secondary Plans, including the [Manotick Secondary Plan](#).

Council will vote on the new Official Plan in late 2021. Happy Holiday Reading!

## Recreation Opportunities in Manotick

The Manotick and Area Centre for the Arts and Wellness (MACAW) located at Manotick United Church, provides a number of virtual activities free of charge to any website viewers via their YouTube channel...including yoga classes led by Leanne Dumas, Tai Chi classes with Hiromi McPhail, a wide variety of concerts, flower arranging, and much more...

Check it out at [www.manotickmacaw.com](http://www.manotickmacaw.com).



## Mahogany Harbour Landing

Mahogany Harbour Landing is now closed for the season!

This summer was an exceptional year and Mahogany Landing was a very popular local, outdoor water venue. Many thanks to Manotick United Church for allowing parking for Mahogany visitors during this hot summer season.

The story of Mahogany was recently profiled in [Landscapes/ Paysages](#), a quarterly magazine produced by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects. The theme of the Fall issue was 'collaboration'. You can read the article on-line.



## 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.

Kudos and gratitude to the 2020-21 MCPRA Board for their community service:

Vice President	Mike O'Neil	
Treasurer	Jon Mack	
Secretary	Rod Corbett	
Directors-at-Large	Laura Glasper	Sue Hale
	Gord MacGregor	Erin O'Connor
	Derek Storie	Brock Thom

*From Anne Robinson, President*