

Plant Pool Recreation Association

Annual General Report

October 25, 2016

The PPRA was established in 1997 and was instrumental in spearheading a campaign to keep the Plant Pool open. The community mobilized and as a result the new Plant Pool was built to the tune of \$8 million and today it receives over 500,000 visitors per year. Since then – some 19 years, the PPRA has become a registered charity (2008) with a mandate to increase recreational opportunities within our neighbourhood especially for children and youth. In 2017, we will be celebrating 20 years of service to the community. With a Board membership of 9 dedicated individuals, the PPRA continues to deliver on its core activities.

With a \$4,6000 grant from the City, we operated the Skating rink and indoor room where skaters can borrow skates, hockey nets and sticks as well as put on their skates in a warm setting. The skating rink was open for more days than the Canal, despite significant weather fluctuations that required frequent rebuilding of the rink. We stayed open for a week longer than the official close date of the City rinks. Most evenings, the skating rink was populated with groups playing hockey. During the day, notably after school, we did not have a lot of kids. We hope to improve this in 2017 by making the indoor room more available and to add signage notifying the public that it is open.

Swim voucher program (\$2,500 grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa) pays for the public swim fees for children and youth who would not otherwise access the public swims. From October 2015 to October 2, 2016, some 1,339 swim vouchers were distributed to five community organizations, with the largest number of vouchers (856 or 68%) provided to the Rochester Heights Community House.

School Swim Lesson program Thanks to funds from Elisabeth Arnold Plant Pool fund we enable Cambridge School to have a series of spring lessons and this fall it has been expanded to St. Anthony's School.

Women Alive a fitness program for women on limited means, but also a recreational opportunity for the community. Our fundraising through Yoga Delicious was a tremendous success raising \$1500 in February.

10,000 Steps/Basketball tournament in conjunction with National Fitness Day, first Saturday in the month of June, we held our second annual combined event, which provides for a community recreational opportunity for everyone. Although there were fewer participants in 10,000 steps, for those who participated, the event is very much appreciated. The basketball tournament was heavily subscribed, in fact, a person noted that we should hold more tournaments. Again, adding signage on the outside of the Plant Pool would help in increasing the profile of this event. In 2017, we have applied for a grant under the Canada 150 celebrations to add a historical component to the 10,000 steps event.

Summer Drop-in Park Program for 10-15 year olds . This year, we received a \$10,000 grant from Ontario government along with a \$1,000 grant from Royal Bank. A pin pong table was donated by Steve Lambruschini of “Steve’s Table Tennis Club”. The summer drop-in program provides a free recreational opportunity weekdays during July and August for 10-15 year old in the community. The program was fortunate to acquire two experienced and capable full time staff. The program was also supported by local high school students and a rotation of 6 City of Ottawa camp counsellors. This allowed for camp counsellors to accompany youth when they went swimming. Over the course of eight weeks, 269 swim vouchers were used by summer drop in camp participants. Also, two sports clinics were held by guest coaches on cricket and soccer. Most popular activities were basketball, ping pong, foosball , cards and swimming. A total of 86 youth participated in the program, with an age range from 7 to 17 years. A daily range of 15 to 30 youth attended the program. Although male participation continues to outnumber female participation, the addition of a female camp counsellor and targeted advertisement helped to attract a core group of female participants who attended the camp regularly.

Plant Pool gardens. PPRA oversees 7 gardens at the Plant Pool and this summer added and 8th, the rose beds located in front of the parking lot. In the spring, Martha Musgrove, former PPRA president, held a plant sale which raised some \$1000. The PPRA also received a grant for \$1500 for the purchase of mulch and fertilizer. This grant was obtained in partnership with the Recreation Association of Hintonburg (RAH).

Soccer and Basketball Programs. PPRA supported the Recreation Association of Hintonburg soccer and basketball programs for those children and youth who would not otherwise be able to participate in these activities.

Annual Dessert Party, a annual community gathering in support of PPRA activities raised \$1800 in September 2016. A great partnership was established with the Parkdale United Church Orchestra who provided musical entertainment. The event was well attended, and included the participation of representatives from the three levels of government, namely, MPP for Ottawa Centre, Minister Yasir Naqvi, MP for Ottawa Centre, Minister Catherine McKenna, and Ottawa City Councillor for Kitchissippi Ward, Jeff Leiper.

Although, a separate Financial Statement will be presented as part of the AGM, in 2015/16, the PPRA is proud to have raised \$5964.10 through fundraising events and donations ; \$5000 through Grants; and \$4893 through rink contract.

In 2017-18, in addition to maintaining the above-noted core activities, three priorities to be pursued:

- 1) Increase the visibility of PPRA activities through the purchase of two signs and increased social media presence;
- 2) Increase in partnerships with other community organizations. The cross promotion with the RAH on both our social media for our programs is working well. Partnerships with the Parkdale Food Bank and the Parkdale United Church Orchestra will be pursued. With regards to the later, a concert of Canadian music is being organized as part of the 150 Canada celebrations.
- 3) Increase of PPRA Board membership to 12.

