



## **Annual General Report, November 7, 2017**

In 2017, the PPRA celebrated 20 years of service to the community. With a Board membership of 9 dedicated individuals, the PPRA continues to deliver on its core activities.

### **Summer Drop-in Park Program for 10-15 year olds**

With funding from the Ontario government, Royal Bank of Canada and the PPRA, the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the PPRA Free Summer Drop-in program welcomed 10 to 15 year old youth from July 4 to August 25, noon to 5pm. The drop-in program received on average of 15 to 20 youths per day. Many youth returned day after day, some arriving as early as 10:30. Boys outnumbered girls (roughly 6:4) but this is better representation from girls than previous years. The favourite camp activities were: ping pong, card games, basketball, foosball and running games like tag and hide and seek. Many also took advantage of free swim passes in the afternoon. Some 337 swim passes were utilized by the PPRA camp. Three coaching sessions (swimming, table tennis and soccer) were arranged. The PPRA hired 4 students to oversee the camp and depending on the experience and level, were paid between \$15 and \$20 an hour. PPRA members Suzanne Nash, Catherine Vandelinde, Carol Sissons, Ida Henderson and Meghan MacDonnell worked on this 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the PPRA summer program. A special thanks to Absobeha Adamu, head camp councillor, for his leadership. We wish him well in his engineering studies at Carleton University.

**With a grant from the City, PPRA 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. It made for a very challenging year given the significant weather fluctuations and heavy snowfall. We are very grateful to Kendra McLellan for leading this initiative.

**Swim voucher program** (\$2,500 grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa) pays for the public swim fees for children and youth who probably would not otherwise access the public swims. Some 1501 swim vouchers were distributed to five community organizations, with the largest number of vouchers (1004 or 66.89%) provided to the Rochester Heights Community House.

**School Swim Lesson program** Thanks to funds from Elisabeth Arnold Plant Pool fund we enable Cambridge School and St. Anthony's school to have a series of swimming lessons.

**Women Alive** a fitness program for women on limited means. The PPRA will hold a fundraiser in February/March 2018. Audrey Brewster is the PPRA lead on this initiative. Audrey is also the PPRA web master.

### **Celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday in our Community**

On Friday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. the Parkdale United Church Orchestra presented a celebration of Canadian composers in honor of Canada's 150 Birthday in the Booth Room at the Plant Recreation Centre. Admission was set at a low fee of \$5 or by donation. Many thanks to Liane Luton, President of the Parkdale Orchestra, who lead on the event.

**On June 3, 2017 a special National Health and Fitness Day** was held to celebrate Canada 150. The annual 10,000 steps challenge was broaden to include a historical component at each station. Also part of the celebration were soccer and basketball tournaments. Five neighbourhood businesses helped PPRA serve more delicious food than the budget would otherwise have allowed- Indian Express, Vietnamese Noodle House, Extreme Pizza, Kaashi Foods, and Shiraz Market. Cakes are always a final highlight of a birthday party. This particular cake cutting was made even more memorable because Senator Nancy Greene Raine took time on National Health and Fitness Day to join in cutting the cake. Senator Greene spearheaded the initiative to make the first Saturday of the month of June – National Health and Fitness Day. Thank you to our two City Councillors, Catherine McKenney and Jeff Leiper for also taking part in the activities. Funding for the event was provided by the City of Ottawa, Ottawa 2017, and CIBC. Dr. Carol Sissons, founding member of the PPRA and current Treasurer, led this tremendously successful event with PPRA members pitching in.

**Plant Pool gardens.** PPRA oversees 8 gardens at the Plant Pool, including the rose beds located in front of parking lot. Thankfully, it was a rainy summer which helped with the maintenance of the gardens. PPRA founding member, Ida Henderson, is master gardener.

**Soccer and Basketball Programs.** PPRA supports the Recreation Association of Hintonburg soccer and basketball programs for children and youth who would not otherwise be able to participate in these activities. These programs take place in local schools including Connaught, Devonshire, St. Anthony's and Notre Dame High School. Funding is provided by Canadian Tire's JumpStart Program. PPRA members Lorrie Marlow and Suzanne Monette are responsible for these programs.

**Annual Dessert Party,** a annual community gathering in support of PPRA activities raised \$1860 on September 23, 2017. The Parkdale United Church Orchestra provided musical entertainment. The event was well attended, and included the participation of Mayor Watson and Councillors Catherine McKenna and Jeff Leiper, respectively representing Ottawa Centre and Kitchissippi Ward. All PPRA members contributed to the success of this initiative.

***Interested in giving back to your community?***

***Why not join the PPRA volunteers?***

**[www.plantpool.org](http://www.plantpool.org)**

