



## Annual General Report, October 2, 2018

### *21 years of service to the community*

**In Memory of Audrey Brewster.** This year we lost a very valued member, Audrey Brewster, a passionate community volunteer, who died peacefully at the home she shared with her loving life partner and best friend of 31 years, Sean Darcy. (Sean was also a past president of the PPRA.) For the last ten years' most of Audrey's volunteer efforts were focussed at the Plant Recreation Centre (PRC). It was at the PRC (and at the Jack Purcell Community Centre) that Audrey coordinated and instructed the Women Alive Program- a program she helped to implement and develop. Women Alive is a city-wide program that promotes health for women on a limited income. Audrey would hold an annual *Yogalicious chocolate yoga fundraiser* to provide for free fitness memberships over the summer when the Women Alive Program is inactive. She was instrumental in the Plant Pool Recreation Centre having a web presence ([www.plantpool.org](http://www.plantpool.org)), including a Facebook and Twitter account. This web presence was critical for the PPRA in order to have greater outreach and secure funding for its activities. These are just some of the highlights of her work as a passionate volunteer. In memory of Audrey and to continue her support of the Women Alive Program, Sean established the Audrey Brewster Memorial Fund. At the end of her life Audrey hoped that she had left behind more good than bad. Audrey was the quintessential example of how one individual can make a difference in so many peoples' lives. We will miss her dearly. The PPRA has received permission to install a plaque at the Plant Centre in memory of Audrey and other past volunteers of the PPRA.

**National Health and Fitness Day, Saturday June 2, 2018.** This year's event was a tremendous success, with over 150 people participating in free activities from *Yoga in the Park*, to basketball and soccer tournaments, to enjoying offerings in food tent. Admission to the Plant Recreation Centre was also free for the entire day.

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

With funding from the Ontario government, Royal Bank of Canada and the PPRA, the 21<sup>th</sup> edition of the PPRA Free Summer Drop-in program welcomed 10 to 15 year old youth from July 3 to August 24, noon to 5pm. The drop-in program received on average of 15 to 20 youths per day. Boys outnumbered girls (roughly 6:4). The favourite camp activities were: ping pong, card games, basketball, foosball and swimming. Some (**Ida to provide**) swim passes were utilized by the PPRA camp. Two coaching sessions Jijitsu and table tennis were arranged. The PPRA hired 4 students to oversee the camp and depending on the experience and level, paid between \$15 and \$18 an hour. A special thanks to Kayley Wright, head camp councillor, for her leadership and to Drew Moynaham, Yasmin Hersi and Amie Bah.

**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. Last winter, through a partnership with the Preston Street BIA, we are able to host DiscoSkate (February 9 and 10) that attracted more than 500 participants over the two-day event. We were also able to host the Odawa Native Friendship Centre's youth hockey clinics.

**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 (Ida to provide) swim vouchers were distributed to five community organizations, with the largest number of vouchers provided to (Ida to provide)

**Plant Pool gardens.** PPRA oversees 8 gardens at the Plant Pool, including the rose beds located in front of parking lot. It was a very hot summer but thanks to PPRA founding member, Ida Henderson, the gardens were well looked after.

**Soccer and Basketball Programs.** PPRA is now a strategic partner with Canadian Tire's Jumpstart Program. With this funding, soccer and basketball programs for children and youth are held in local schools including Connaught, Devonshire, St. Anthony's and Notre Dame High School. PPRA members Lorrie Marlow and Suzanne Monette are responsible for these programs.

**Annual Dessert Party,** the 20th annual community gathering in support of PPRA activities raised \$2183 (at time of report) on September 22, 2018. Despite the lack of electricity due to ravages of a tornado that hit the Ottawa region on September 21, the event was well attended. Special thanks to the Parkdale United Church Orchestra who provided musical entertainment.