

President's Report – Highlights of 2023/24

Fitzroy Harbour Community Association 2024 AGM

Events

- Our year in 2023 was very busy, back up to normal hall usage after some quiet years.
- We put on community events in 2023-24 such as:
 - Spring Cleaning the Harbour
 - Harbour Days 2023
 - Halloween Party
 - Christmas Craft Market
 - Children's Christmas Party
 - New Year's Eve Party
 - Winter Carnival
 - Spring Craft Market
- These events were huge successes thanks to the volunteers who worked hard to make them happen. We continue to welcome any volunteers who are able to get involved and help out.
- We hope to offer all these events again in the upcoming year.

Programs

- Winter weather did not cooperate very much but we did have a skating season on our outdoor rink.
- We also offered the Outdoor Hockey League in the winter for youth with about 30 registrants.
- Our youth softball program for 2024 has approximately 130 registrants.
- Our drop in pickleball program continues on the outdoor rink.
- The City attempted to offer a learn to skate program on the outdoor rink but it was difficult with the weather. The City also offered exercise and yoga programs at the Hall.
- New for 2024: the FHCA is offering a day camp for local children in July and August.

Field usage

- Our sports fields were well used by rental groups in 2023. These groups included: Men's League Softball, Women's League Softball, Competitive Men's Softball, Competitive Boys' Softball, Youth House League Soccer, and Adult Soccer. The same user groups will be using the fields again in 2024.

Community Centre Projects and Acquisitions

- We made many improvements to our hall this year including the acquisition of new bar stools and tables for our deck, a major painting project and new sound baffles.
- We thank the many community association members who sponsored a bar stool, as well as the City of Ottawa Rural Community Building Grant Program which offset our costs.

Employees

- Our head groundskeeper for 2023 and 2024 is Dale Hopper. He has five part-time students who assist him with his duties.
- We also employ Simon Taylor who is our new hall maintenance employee, and Pat Antler is our hall booker.
- We also have staff for our canteen and hired six students for that role in 2024.
- We will also be hiring three students to operate our new day camp in 2024.

Communications

- We continue to try to use multiple ways to keep in touch with the community and update our membership. These include the fitzroyharbour.com website and the Fitzroy Harbour Community Association Facebook page.
- The FHCA also uses an email distribution list to over 500 recipients to send out the Peeper newsletter electronically and send updates to "Harbourites" using "MailChimp".

Scholarship

- Our 2023 winners were Gabe Brown and Conner Hopper. They both received \$500 towards post-secondary expenses.

Membership

- We appreciate those who took the time to purchase FHCA memberships. Most sales were online through our website or through sports registrations (minor softball, outdoor hockey, pickleball and Ladies' softball).
- Some residents also purchased memberships to take advantage of favourable rates when booking the hall.

Governance

- As always, we seek new executive members for the FHCA board.
- Those who do not wish to get involved on the executive can still volunteer with the FHCA by taking on activities, events or projects.
- Contact an FHCA executive member to get involved.