

Riverside South Community Association

2020-21 Year-End Reports

The mandate of the RSCA:

- Develop and foster community spirit
- Protect and enhance the quality of life throughout the community
- Promote organized community endeavours
- Keep residents informed of actions that could affect the community

Ongoing pandemic restrictions saw some of our usual events/programs cancelled this past year but we held some modified activities in their place.

Year in Review:

- Outdoor Rinks
- Toy Mountain Drive
- Holiday Light Tour
- Spring Clean Up - planned and then cancelled due to restrictions
- Student Bursaries
- Canada Day - cancelled due to restrictions
- Labour Day Weekend Fireworks
- Community Garage Sale
- AGM

Treasurer:

See 2020-21 Financial Statement

Communications:

The RSCA communication platforms include a website, newsletter, Facebook page, Facebook group, Twitter account, and Instagram account. Using these platforms during the past year, the RSCA Communications Director:

Promoted RSCA activities: see the Year-in-Review section

Posted articles/bulletins regarding:

- Outdoor Rink conditions
- Coyote information
- Who to call and when to make reports to Police and Bylaw

Shared:

- Engage Ottawa opportunities that involved or affected Riverside South
- LRT updates and construction notices
- City of Ottawa reminders and events
- News and information from Ottawa Public Health, Ottawa Police, Ottawa Bylaw, Ottawa Parks & Rec, and the Ottawa Safety Council

Events:

Like so many other things, Covid significantly affected the events of the RSCA in the last year. While the Christmas events were put on hold, Toy Mountain was deeply appreciative of the toy drive we hosted in the Moncion's YIG parking lot, sponsored by Rachel Hammer, Royal LePage Team Realty, and delivered by Parkview Moving. Once again, our wonderful neighbours showed their true generous nature and demonstrated tremendous Christmas Spirit!

We had to cancel our flagship Canada Day event for the second year in a row, but the easing of restrictions allowed us to host a Labour Day weekend fireworks display, sponsored by Urbandale, Richcraft and HN Homes, which was enjoyed throughout the Neighbourhood.

We hope to safely get back to the events that are enjoyed by so many in Riverside South in the near future.

Local Businesses & Sponsorship: vacant position since July due to Filipe moving from the area. The portfolio had been quiet due to pandemic restrictions.

Volunteers:

Toy Mountain Drive

- The Drive was a very successful event, with all factors considered: from volunteer turnout to donations and how the event overall went.
- Plenty of volunteers showed up, more than we even required. Very grateful for the community coming out in such times. It was the first time we had organized a significant number of volunteers since the pandemic started; its success was a great testament to our capabilities and adaptiveness.
- Showed that meaningful in-person events can be held even during the pandemic. Gave insight into how to run future events with similar conditions.

Spring Clean Up

- While unfortunately cancelled, the number of volunteers registered in the very brief time the event was planning was great to see. The event was lining up to be a great success had it been able to carry through.
- Certainly not ideal to cancel an event in such a manner, with such a short gap between asking for volunteers to have to cancel the event. Ultimately, it's simply a consequence of the world situation that was unavoidable other than educated guesses on upcoming public health policy.
- The conversation of "could public health restrictions change before the event" is always centre stage when we talk about hosting new events. The Spring Clean-Up was the one that we believed we could do and were wrong.

Labour Day Weekend Fireworks

- Not able to attend the event myself due to work, so all information I have is second hand.

- Many last-minute volunteer cancellations — understandable given the world situation and something to plan more for in future events as it surprised us this time.
- I was pleased to hear the event was still an overall success — any activity/event that we can successfully run during these times is of service to the community.

General Volunteering Situation

- Volunteer registrations still come in through the form at a solid pace. There is no reason to think we are running low on volunteers — evidence being consistent signups to events, responsiveness to communications and form submittals.
- The back-end systems were re-vamped a while ago; it is now easy to communicate with our extensive list of volunteers and edit the list as needed. SignUpGenius is a great tool.
- Future volunteering events are very hard to predict as we don't plan as far in the future as we might have pre-pandemic. Spring Clean-Up is an example of why. Whenever there is a potential need for volunteers, I am always happy to send out an email asking for help.

Outdoor Rinks:

RSCA volunteers created and maintained ice at 5 locations last year — puddle pads at Nimiq and Mountain Meadows parks; boarded rinks at Boothfield and Summerhill parks; and a boarded rink and puddle pad at Spratt Park.

Openings and Closures:

- Boothfield opened on Dec. 17
- Spratt puddle rink opened on Dec. 19
- Both Boothfield & Spratt rinks closed due to mild temps on Dec. 21 and completely melted by Dec. 26.
- Spratt, Boothfield, and Nimiq ice sheets were all open on Dec. 31
- Summerhill and Mountain Meadows opened on Jan. 9.
- There were several 1–2-day closures for all the rinks due to mild temperatures throughout the season.
- Summerhill and Mountain Meadows closed for the season on March 2, and the others all closed a few days later.

Skaters not respecting rink closed signs and caution tape remained an issue and resulted in more hours needed for the ice crews to reopen the rinks. Hockey on the puddle rinks was a problem again last season. The RSCA Rink Coordinator will be asking the City Parks & Recreation Department to post more visible and durable signs at the three puddle rinks for the 2021-22 season.

The search for new leads for Spratt and Mountain Meadows and volunteer recruitment for the five crews will begin in early November. If you would like to sign up now, send an email to icerinks@riversidesouth.org.