

Stay connected to your community

To keep up on the latest community news, bookmark our website, www.glabarpark.ca or reach us by email at glabarparkca@gmail.com. You can also request to join The Glabarhood group on Facebook—a place to post messages related to the neighbourhood.

Here is the 2022/2023 Board of Directors: Trent Gray-Donald (President), James Richenhaller (Vice-President), Berny Latreille (Secretary), Steve Aubry (Treasurer), Curtis Thorne, Janice Vriend, Rebecca Spence, Rocio Lopez, Sara Lee and Susan Fortin.

Toilets, tires and trellises—a great day of giveaways in Glabar Park

The Spring edition of Giveaway Day took place in Glabar Park on Saturday, May 6. After weeks of rain, residents got outside to take advantage of a favourable forecast (sunny with a high of 20 degrees Celsius) and see what their neighbours were giving away. Furniture, housewares, books, clothes and toys were among the items laid out on lawns across the neighbourhood.

in the fall. It's a great way to clean up yards, garages and crawl spaces while also reducing the amount of items going to landfills.

Last year, Giveaway Day coincided with community garage sales in the nearby neighbourhoods of Woodpark, Whitehaven and Carlingwood. Residents of Glabar Park then had the option of marking their items for sale and supervising them accordingly. Should the Alliance receive any information on the coordination of a larger, area-wide garage sale in 2023, it will be posted on the Glabarhood Facebook group and at www.glabarpark.ca.

In 2021, the Great Glabar Garage Sale changed to a Giveaway Day to reduce in-person transactions and respect physical distancing guidelines during the COVID pandemic. The change proved so popular that the Alliance has scheduled two per year ever since – one in the spring and one

The fall edition of Giveaway Day will take place Saturday, September 23, 2023.

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Clean-up crews were on Dunlevie Avenue following an ice storm in April that left residents without power for three days. STEVE AUBRY/GLABAR PARK.



Thank you to the office of Councillor Theresa Kavanagh for printing this edition.



Save the date

*For more details, please visit glabarpark.ca or the Glabarhood Facebook group closer to the date.

Summer Fun Day
Kingsmere Park
Saturday, August 12

Fall Giveaway Day
Saturday, September 23
*rain date: September 24

Annual General Meeting of the GPCA
Tuesday, October 3
at 7:30pm
Location: TBC

Greening the neighbourhood

A message from your Glabar Park Community Alliance

Another year, another extended blackout in Glabar Park.

While it was certainly heartening to hear stories of neighbours helping neighbours – streets with power running extension cords and lending generators to those without, and offers of hot beverages, warm showers and freezer space flooding the Glabarhood Facebook group – this severe weather event has again brought discussions around climate readiness to the fore.

On May 29, Bay Ward Councillor Theresa Kavanagh will host an

information session with Hydro Ottawa to discuss power outages, reactivation and emergency preparedness. Residents can register to attend on her website: www.baywardbulletin.ca.

For the Alliance's part, we are feeling the effects of climate change in our own operations: the outdoor rink at Kingsmere Park was open for only 28 skating days this winter – longer than the Rideau Canal Skateway, but still the shortest season in more than a decade. Despite the valiant efforts of our small team of rink volunteers, there's only so much that can be done when the weather doesn't cooperate.

We know that climate change is an issue important to many in Glabar Park, which is why our board directors regularly look for ways to green the Alliance's work: we've organized Giveaway Days, put together Cleaning the Capital crews, and supported residents who've flagged tree cover protection and Right of Way enforcement in local developer applications.

Glabar Park has been a cherished neighbourhood in Ottawa for many decades, and we want to see it grow and thrive sustainably for many more.

After two-year hiatus due to COVID, Winter Fun Day returns

The Alliance's annual Winter Fun Day was back in Glabar Park following two consecutive cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On January 28, 2023, music played throughout the afternoon in Kingsmere Park as residents enjoyed skating on the rink, sipping hot

coffee and cocoa, and grabbing a slice of cake. Local realtor Bill Meyer also kept the fire pit going as families warmed up, toasted marshmallows and chatted with neighbours.

This long-standing community tradition last took place on January 25, 2020.



Thanks to the direction of rink coordinator Curtis Thorne, and with support from members of the Alliance's Board of Directors and other community volunteers, Kingsmere Park played host to dozens of families and neighbours on Winter Fun Day. KEIRA THORNE/GLABAR PARK.

Outdoor rink season was sweet but short

Weather posed the greatest challenge, but a shortfall in volunteers also played a role

The community rink at Kingsmere Park was open for just 28 skating days in 2023 – down 50 per cent from last season.

In an email sent to outdoor rink operators in mid-February, Dinos Dafniotis, program coordinator with the City of Ottawa, called it the most challenging rink season in his 10 winters with the program – and by far the shortest.

“Rain, freezing rain, thaw, the most snow in the last four years and temperatures that challenged us to build

ice,” he wrote. “Hopefully this winter isn’t a reflection of what the future holds for outdoor rinks.”

While base ice building at Kingsmere Park began on December 20 and continued until Christmas Eve, an unseasonably mild stretch paused work for nearly two weeks.

When temperatures finally allowed, ice building resumed and the rinks were able to open on January 10. But then February brought record snowfalls and

more mixed precipitation to the region, which meant rink maintenance volunteers often had to clear heavy and wet snowpack before they could flood.

“In a season when the Rideau Canal Skateway was unable to open for the first time in its history, we are thankful that our outdoor rink was open and well-used for as long as it was,” said Curtis Thorne, coordinator of rink operations at Kingsmere Park. “But our rink is also 100% volunteer-run and the few volunteers

still with us for the busiest part of the season had to do some really heavy lifting – literally.”

The community rink lost the commitment of several volunteers following the start of the season and that put strain on the maintenance team. A shortfall in supervision volunteers also meant there were more instances where the field house could not be opened for skaters to change and warm up, and rink usage could not be tracked. This is a requirement of the Alliance’s agreement with the City to provide boards, lights and other rink equipment. The existing agreement is set to expire in 2024-25.

“We are truly grateful for the support of those community members who volunteer to make our rink possible,” Thorne added. “But we as a community need to do better next year to keep our rink operating.”

Those willing and able to volunteer a few hours a week next season are asked to contact kingsmererink@gmail.com.



The Kingsmere Park community rink is widely recognized for the excellent condition of its ice surface – enjoyed by at least 150-200 skaters per week in 2023. REBECCA SPENCE/GLABAR PARK.



DID YOU KNOW?

Volunteers at the Kingsmere Park community rink are unofficially—and affectionately—known as the “Rink Rats.” Residents may have seen their logo iced onto this year’s Winter Fun Day cake.

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**Rink recap 2023—
by the numbers**

28
Days that the rink was open for skating
(down from 59 in 2021)

**January 10th to
February 28th**
Rink opens and closes
(compared to last season’s run from December 24, 2021 to March 4, 2022)

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