

Rink operator wins Good Neighbour Award

Glabar Park resident Curtis Thorne is the recipient of a 2025 Good Neighbour Award for his tremendous dedication and service to this community. The award is given by Member of Provincial Parliament Chandra Pasma, to express appreciation on behalf of the Province of Ontario for thoughtful neighbours who live in Ottawa West–Nepean and make the riding a better place.

Curtis has been a pillar of Glabar Park for many years, investing a great deal of his time in maintaining and operating the outdoor rink at Kingsmere Park. He has worked tirelessly to build, shovel, edge and flood the ice surfaces season after season. As a board member for the Alliance, he also ran

point on multiple Winter and Summer Fun Days, booking wagon rides, carnival games and fire truck visits.

Most notably, Curtis was the operator of Kingsmere Park rink from 2022 to 2025—an incredibly demanding role that had him out multiple nights a week in frigid temperatures, while also handling communications with the City’s recreation department, and coordinating maintenance and supervision volunteers. This is a completely volunteer position, which means the many hours he’s devoted to the rink were in addition to his full-time job and time with his family.

Curtis brightens the days of his neighbours when

Save the date

Community Garage Sale

Saturday, May 31st at 8am
Households across Bay Ward, including Glabar Park, will be holding sales on the same day. For a list of participating neighbourhoods, or to add your sale to the map, go to: www.woodpark.ca/2025-community-garage-sale

Summer Fun Day

Saturday, August 9
Kingsmere Park
2074 Benjamin Ave
Time TBD

Annual General Meeting of the Alliance

Fall 2025

Please check www.glabarpark.ca closer to the dates for more information.

they need it most—in the cold, dark Canadian winters. This well-deserved award is just one way to show him how valued he is by others in his community. Congratulations, Curtis!



A rink on the brink: a message from the board of your Glabar Park Community Alliance



Board members, pictured here with Bay Ward Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, serve up hot dogs, drinks, and other treats at Winter Fun Day in Kingsmere Park on January 25, 2025.

“Alright Glabarhood, time for a heart to heart...” These were the opening words to a post on this neighbourhood’s Facebook group by Kingsmere Park rink coordinator Curtis Thorne back in January. Curtis is, like everyone working on the rink, a volunteer and one of your neighbours.

The City of Ottawa gives the Alliance some funds in exchange for running the rink, but no City staff are hands-on operating the rink through the winter. They set up the lights and boards, but that’s it. Everything else is up to us, the residents. We do not have a commercial contractor running it for us—that business model has collapsed, and nobody is willing to do it

for the money the City provides. Having fewer than a handful of volunteers doing the lion’s share of the work is not sustainable. Moreover, Curtis’s three-year term as rink operator has now ended, and no one has come forward to fill the position.

Here is what the board can do:

1. Earmark Alliance funds to pay contractors to clear the ice surfaces following heavy snowfalls, freeing up maintenance volunteers to focus on flooding.
2. Divide the rink operator position into two roles: a lead on rink building and maintenance, and a lead on administrative duties (communicating with the City, recruiting/scheduling volunteers). This would

create less work for a single volunteer and widen the net of possible candidates for each role.

3. Advertise for volunteers widely—especially to supervise the fieldhouse on the weekends, when many families use the rink.

Here is what you can do:

1. Learn about the rink and share this information with your neighbours (page 2).

2. Review the roles at the rink and give serious consideration to how you can help (page 3).

3. Get on the volunteer list for next season by emailing kingsmererink@gmail.com.

In a time when civic engagement seems to exist more in online forums, gathering spaces like the rink are so important to the social fabric of a community. We are so grateful to everyone who has given their time to the rink – especially Curtis, who was recognized this year with a Good Neighbour Award (page 4).

We can adjust roles to some degree, and definitely coach people through what needs to be done. **But ultimately, if we don’t get more volunteers, there will be no rink for the 2025-2026 season.**

Please contact us if you’re willing to help in any way—we can also be reached at glabarparkca@gmail.com.

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



DID YOU KNOW?

10 quick facts about your community rink

»» Kingsmere Park rink has two ice surfaces—a boarded hockey rink and a puddle rink for pleasure skating.

»» Along with most outdoor rinks in Ottawa, the ice surfaces at Kingsmere Park are built and maintained 100% by volunteers.

»» The number of skating days in a season is not just weather-dependent: it hinges on how often volunteers are available to flood the ice surfaces, open the field house and count skaters.

»» The City of Ottawa provides boards, lights and nets, and gives a stipend to the Alliance to operate the rink throughout the season. However, that money has not been enough to replace rink volunteers with a paid contractor.

»» The money the Alliance gets from the City pays for the purchase and upkeep of important rink maintenance equipment, such as edgers, snowblowers, shovels and hoses. This money is also used to fund Winter and Summer Fun Days at Kingsmere Park, keeping activities like wagon rides

and yard games free for all residents to enjoy.

»» Volunteering doesn't have to be a big commitment—just 1 or 2 hours a week! No experience is necessary. Current volunteers will show you what to do and be reachable for questions after you start.

»» Volunteers can sign up for a shift as a household, and share the season among parents, kids or roommates.

»» Students who volunteer at the rink in any capacity get community service hours.

»» Send an email to glabarparkca@gmail.com with any suggestions you may have for increasing volunteer participation at the rink.

»» To volunteer for the 2025-26 season, contact kingsmererink@gmail.com



Skaters help clear the ice surfaces at Kingsmere Park rink during a light snowfall on January 25.

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ROYAL LEPAGE
Performance

There are many ways to help at the rink—which works best for you?

Rink coordinator (administration)
This season-long role involves communicating with the City, recruiting volunteers and scheduling shifts. No knowledge of ice building or rink maintenance is required—this work could even be done remotely.
Supervision team
Supervisors keep the fieldhouse open so that skaters have a place to change and use the washroom. They also count the number of skaters they see during their shift. No need to skate if you don't want to – bring a book and keep warm indoors.
Ice-building team
Multiple volunteers are needed right at the beginning of the season when the weather is favourable to building the rink's base ice. The work involves packing down snow with sleds or other tools, and then flooding regularly for 10-14 days.
Maintenance team
Volunteers work in the evenings after skating closes to smooth and flood the ice. This can be also be done during the day, depending on snowfall or other weather conditions.
Can't commit to a shift? You can still help!
Before starting or ending your skate, grab a shovel and clear any snow dusting the ice surfaces. And always respect the signage: don't walk across the rink when it's closed.

RINK RECAP
2024-25 season
by the numbers

December 21, 2024 to
March 3, 2025

Rink opens and closes
(compared to last
season's run of
Jan. 15 to Feb. 25)

60

Days the rink was open
for skating
(up from 27 last season)

33

Longest consecutive run
of skating days
(Jan. 4 to Feb. 5)

1422

Number of skaters logged
during "open hours"

Stay connected

To keep up on the latest community news, bookmark the Alliance website:
www.glabarpark.ca.

To participate in any of the Alliance's monthly meetings, send an email to
glabarparkca@gmail.com.

Here is the 2024/2025 Board of Directors: Trent Gray-Donald (President), Rebecca Spence (Vice-President), Angela Prescott (Secretary), Steve Aubry (Treasurer), Dale Taylor, Gordon Robinson, Holly Bair-Marshall, Holly Hampson, Janice Vriend, Sara Lee and Susan Fortin.

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