



# Kingsmount-Bell Park CAN

Ward 10 • Kingsmount-Bell Park Community Action Network

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Visit: [www.ward10can.com](http://www.ward10can.com)

## Annual Report 2024

### Treasurers Report

Community Action Network	Kingsmount - Bell Park				
CAN Chair	Michael Penwarden				
Phone/Email	705-690-8001 mpenwarden@fibreop.ca				
Treasurer	Michael Penwarden				
Phone/Email	705-690-8001 mpenwarden@fibreop.ca				
Grant Carry Over from 2023					\$ 608.56
2024 Grant					\$ 2,500.00
<b>Total Grant Funds for 2024</b>					<b>\$ 3,108.56</b>
<b>Expenses</b> (please list on Expenditure Details tab)					
Office Supplies/Meeting Expenses					\$ 1,111.63
Promotion					\$ 2,152.37
Projects					\$ -
Projects					\$ -
Events					\$ -
Events					\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>					<b>\$ 3,264.00</b>
2024 Grant Funds less Eligible Expenses					\$ (155.44)
Approved Carry Over for 2025					\$ -
<b>Eligible Grant for 2025</b>					<b>\$ 2,500.00</b>

# Committees

The Strategic Planning sessions held in October 2023 resulted in the formation of several committees:

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## **Heritage Committee:**

- Ruby Boileau, Mel B, Josie Calabrese, Demetra Christakos, Paul Haynes, Warren Shlote
- The Heritage Committee advocates for the conservation, education, and promotion of the built and cultural heritage in the Kingsmount-Bell Park area.
- In 2024, the committee staged 10 heritage walks, including Wall-the-Bell-Gift in conjunction with Rainbow Routes Association. The heritage walks attracted more than 150 people.
- The future of Bell Mansion remains at the top of the committee's agenda. Laurentian University has stated that it will not be responsible for restoring the Bell Mansion and intends to sell the former Museum and Arts Centre in March 2025.

## **Action:**

- Maintain dialogue with city council and provide public support regarding the future use of Bell Mansion.
  - Continue monthly heritage walks
  - Explore ways to further promote heritage e.g. street sign toppers, plaques, etc.
  - Explore fundraising opportunities
  - Promote the 100th anniversary of Bell Park (2026).
  - Long term: Build a case for establishing a heritage conservation district in selective areas.
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## **Public Relations (Community Engagement):**

Anna Maria Marcuccio, Maria Gorski, Tony Norwell, Karen Haynes, Paul Haynes

The PR committee is developing a promotional handout to inform residents and newcomers about the CAN, and municipal, community and downtown services. The digital piece will be posted on the website, ward10can.com. The handout will be used at CAN events, open houses, and for select residential drops.

The committee met with the Downtown BIA to open channels of communication between the two organizations.

It is also prepared to align itself with the Heritage Committee in its efforts to fundraise to support various heritage projects.

## **Action:**

- Exploring new avenues for community engagement
  - Continue to update and expand content for flyer
  - Research costs and best practices and associated costs for prospective CAN special events e.g. heritage open houses
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## **Trees and Community Gardens:**

Chris Hendsbee, Katie Hahn, Christine Caveen, Tony Norwell, Mike Penwarden, Gillian Schell

In October, the Kingsmount-Bell Park CAN purchased a limited number of trees suitable for planting in residential front yards. The goal of the Free Tree Pilot Project is to help contribute to the tree canopy and to further enhance the walkability of our neighbourhoods. By November, 13 new trees were added to the Kingsmount-Bell Park area.

## **Action:**

- Identify opportunities and challenges and determine sustainability of pilot project.
- Explore new funding opportunities to repeat the project for 2025.

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**Traffic:** The Traffic committee was not active in 2024.

**Action:** There is renewed interest in exploring stop signs at the Riverside-Winchester intersection to promote vehicular and pedestrian safety and general traffic calming on Riverside Drive.

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**Trails and Natural Parkland:**

St Nicholas Greenspace: Janet Lanteigne, Liam McGill, Alice Haasdyk, Gary Austin, Paul Haynes  
The St Nicholas Greenspace subcommittee met in April, June and October to discuss plans for the area. Known as the Mountain and Dead Man's Canyon, the combined area is our largest natural parkland and has the potential to be enjoyed by many more area residents.

Erik Barr, retired Geologist/Volunteer trailmaker with LLCA, was invited to explore the green space and offer his thoughts regarding the area's natural features and existing trail network. He identified points of interest and provided several maps locating all existing trails in the designated area. His findings confirm the need to reduce the impact on the environment and simplify the trail system for the benefit of users as well as bylaw and emergency services.

**Action:**

Continue working with CGS staff to establish a formal trailhead off the St Nicholas Connector.  
In 2024, rainfalls have washed out a portion of the St. Nicholas Connector, the path that connects Wembley Dr. with McNaughton St.

The path is an important connection between the Kingsmount and Beaton/York Street neighbourhoods, as well as the main access to the natural parkland.

Calls to 311 and discussions with staff have determined that the path is not a maintained trail.

There is an issue with the original construction and purpose of the path. Shelley Warushka, staff, confirmed that there is a waterline beneath the existing pathway which is likely how the pathway originally came to be.

**Next steps:** parties will need to build a case to make it a maintained path.

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**York Street Playground:**

Ashley Hurley, Denise Renaud, Kevin Despot, Katie Hahn, Christine Caveen

**Action:** Continue improvements to playground and pollinator garden.

**Looking ahead:**

New volunteers have stepped forward to fill vacancies on the board. We welcome Paddy Buchanan, Treasurer; Alice Haasdyk, Secretary; and Tony Norwell, Director at Large. Michael Penwarden and Paul Haynes will Co-Chair in 2025.

Depending on the outcome of the CAN review, the executive will plan for elections in the next 12 months.

The Kingsmount-Bell Park CAN will continue to work with City staff to advance priorities established in its planning initiatives, as well as take advantage of new opportunities as they present themselves.