



Kingsmount-Bell Park

2025 in review

The Kingsmount-Bell Park (K-BP) Community Action Network (CAN) completed its fifth full year of operation in 2025.

Executive

Co-Chairs: Michael Penwarden and Paul Haynes

Treasurer: Paddy Buchanan

Secretary: Alice Haasdyk

Director-at-large: Anthony Norwell

Communications: Karen Haynes and Paul Haynes

The team met several times throughout the year to discuss projects and plan general meetings.

General Meetings

Four general meetings were held: February 8, May 10, September 13, and November 8. All four were in person at St Peter's United Church. All meetings were held on a Saturday from 11:00 - 1:00. The final general meeting of the year included a community lunch which was attended by almost 40 community members of all ages - teenagers to older adults. Average attendance was 25 - 30 participants at each meeting. Volunteers Approx. 30; Estimated # of volunteer hours 620

Committees

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

Community Engagement Committee:

Volunteers: Maria Gorski, Anna Maria Marcuccio, Tony Norwell and Paul Haynes

The Public Relations Committee changed its name and focus to community engagement to target new members (subscribers).

The committee developed a general newsletter for distribution at events and to select residential areas. The Sudbury Market at York Street permitted the CAN to maintain a presence at the Thursday market. Volunteers shared space with Las Churras owner and Argentinian food vendor Melisa Valenzi.

Volunteers maintained a presence at the market for 13 weeks. Thank you to Michael Penwarden, Paul Haynes, Pat Falter, Ruby Boileau and Mel Bo.

A tent was purchased to accommodate future opportunities in 2026.

Actions:

- Continue with presence at the market summer 2026.

Heritage Committee:

Volunteers: Ruby Boileau, Mel B, Fern Bourque, Josie Calabrese, Demetra Christakos, Maria Gorski, Paul Haynes, Anna Maria Marcuccio, Luigi Santoro, Warren Shlote, Mary Perry

The Heritage Committee advocates for the conservation, education, and promotion of the built and cultural heritage of the Kingsmount-Bell Park area and beyond.

Heritage Week in Greater Sudbury

In January, the Mayor's office responded favourably to a request from the Heritage Committee of the Kingsmount-Bell Park Community Action Network to proclaim the week of February 17-23 Heritage Week in Greater Sudbury. The official proclamation was read by the Mayor in the lobby of Tom Davies Square, Wednesday, February 19 at 2:00 pm. A Heritage walk through downtown, from Tom Davies Square to the Public Library on Mackenzie, followed.

Heritage Walks

In 2025, the committee hosted four heritage events, including a Heritage Cruise aboard the William Ramsey in September. An additional three events were held in conjunction with Rainbow Routes Association: Walk-the-Bell-Gift, January Hike Club to Mountain/Dead Man's Canyon, and a downtown Jane's Walk. The combined walks attracted more than 250 people.

Heritage walks

February 19 Heritage Week - Tom Davies Square to Library; May 3 Downtown Jane's Walk; May 25 Heritage Walk-McNaughton; June 22 Dubois Survey; July 20 President's House; August 24 General Hospital; September 28 William Ramsey Tour Boat

Save Bell Mansion

The future of Bell Mansion remained at the top of the committee's agenda. With the imminent sale of Bell Mansion by Laurentian University, a sub-committee was formed to create and distribute a petition to Save Bell Mansion. Councilor Al Sizer agreed to represent our petition. An estimated 850 electronic (emails) and 165 paper signatures were submitted to the City Council meeting of July 15, 2025.

100th Anniversary of Bell Park

The Heritage Committee received confirmation that Parks and Recreation Services will be taking the lead on planning any recognition of Bell Park's 100th Year Anniversary in 2026. Kingsmount-Bell Park Historical Society

Actions:

- Continue to host Heritage walks in the community
- Reach out to stakeholders of the Bell Park Anniversary (Bell Park Advisory Panel, event organizers and the Kingsmount Bell Park CAN) to share details and discuss any opportunities to participate.

Kingsmount-Bell Park Historical Society

- Establish the Kingsmount-Bell Park Historical Society: Given the City of Greater Sudbury's recent decision to transition away from the CAN (Community Action Network) model, the Heritage Committee of the Kingsmount-Bell Park CAN intends to register with the new Community Registry/Affiliate Program as the Kingsmount-Bell Park Historical Society (working name), a non-profit, volunteer-based group. The focus of the new entity would be to recognize and honour the people, places, and events that have shaped the history of Kingsmount-Bell Park; and conceive and support projects that will help protect our heritage and ensure that it is preserved for future generations.

Trees and Community Gardens Committee

Volunteers: Michael Penwarden, Chris Hendsbee, Tony Norwell, Paul Haynes, Ted Djaferis, Gillian Schell

Street Trees Program

The goal of the program is to help contribute to the tree canopy and to further enhance the walkability of our neighbourhoods by providing trees at a low cost (\$50/tree - delivered and planted) for private property owners and supporting with expertise and assistance in planting trees. The Street Tree Program conforms to Street Tree Policies for the City of Greater Sudbury. The Street Trees program purchased and planted 12 trees again this year. A total budget of approximately \$1800 was supplemented by a \$500 donation from A&M Remediation courtesy of Manager Chris Hendsbee. Another \$650 was collected from homeowners resulting in a net cost to the CAN of \$650. By comparison, the Free Tree pilot program cost \$2200 in 2024.

Community Gardens

The CAN worked with St Peter's Church to support the Riverdale Riverdale Community Garden (St. Peter's United Church). All produce was donated to Sudbury Food Bank, Safe Harbour House and the Elgin Street Mission. Excess produce was used to make muffins and canned goods that support St Peter's outreach to those experiencing homelessness and precarious housing.

Actions:

- Explore new funding opportunities to repeat the project for 2026.
- St Peter's Church and the Riverdale Garden committee are exploring potential for expanding the garden into city property adjacent to the current location.

Trails and Natural Parkland Committee

Volunteers: Liam McGill, Janet Lanteigne, Alice Haasdyk, Gary Austin, Paul Haynes

The Committee continues to look for solutions to repair the erosion along the St Nicholas path that connects Wembley to McNaughton. As per Shelley Walushka, Manager, Community Initiatives and Partnerships, Parks and Recreation Services Division, the connector pathway is not currently maintained by the City and is not an official trail and therefore does not have signage/wayfinding or waste receptacles etc. Given there is a waterline beneath the existing pathway it is accessed from time to time but not maintained for the purposes of public use or promoted as a throughway/pathway. In order to have this connector trail maintained and signage, waste receptacles etc. added, funding would be required for initial work and ongoing operating and servicing. This is not currently in the city budget and would require a business case or another funding source, in addition a review from our Infrastructure, Parks, and Accessibility teams to establish a service level to maintain as per standards for road-to-road connectors such as this. If the Community Action Network, or other groups would like to do general clean-up activities and maintenance such as garbage clean-up, pruning, light brushing and disposing of weeds or other undesirable plant materials from ground surfaces that is fine to do, and continue doing.

Actions:

- Determine the best approach going forward, potentially to make repairs and maintain the path independent of the city.

York Street Playground Committee

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

The York Street Playground Pollinator Garden printed and installed trilingual informational signs that were installed spring 2025. A community event and reveal of signage occurred during Pollinator week on Saturday, June 21.

Actions:

- Continue improvements to the playground and pollinator garden.

Urban Mobility Committee

Volunteers: Adam Brown, John, Chris

The focus of the committee is to optimize safety for all traffic: walking, cycling, public transport, vehicles. Urban Mobility aims to be true stewards of the community; working alongside departments and committees of the city to provide a livable walkable KBPCAN.

The committee has prioritized the following issues to address in the next year: illegal parking that prevents safe walking and cycling along Riverside and Worthington, illegal parking along York and excessive speeds along York.

Urban mobility recently joined forces with Strong Towns Sudbury, a grass roots group working to make positive changes within the city. The committee has also been in conversation with city staffers regarding initiatives to influence city policy planning that aligns with the goal of Urban Mobility.

Actions:

- Continue to work with City staff to advance priorities established in its planning initiatives and take advantage of new opportunities as they present themselves.
- As the city transitions away from the CAN model, the Urban Mobility committee is dedicated to supporting individuals and groups in the neighbourhood to organize community-led projects and access alternate grant systems like the existing Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) Fund. To better aid in this transition, the Urban Mobility Committee is pursuing partnerships with other agencies and groups.
- Discuss with CGS planning committee how zoning influences density and sprawl and how we can shift from single use low density to multiple use mixed density, the role of public transportation to help reduce sprawl and car dependence, and other initiatives that can encourage increased urban density.