

## **2025 EXECUTIVE REPORT**

### **MAPLE GROVE PARK DOG OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**

This past year has been a good year for the MGPDOA with positive community events and clean up days.

We have continued our partnership with local businesses including Cindy Little of Right Choice Realty who helps us with the purchase of bags for the dispensers; Happy Tails who helps with the cost of our Porta Potty; Pet Valu in Sage Creek and on Meadowood who give new and renewing members a dog wash coupon, with a value that exceeds the cost of their membership and Debbie Todd who shared some of the proceeds from her Christmas dog ornaments.

We had a spring clean up day in April and many members helped with poo pickup before it all melted in the warm weather. We again held a fall PAW TY on October 4 and due to good weather, we had a great turnout of members and park visitors. We were able to renew many members and also gained some new ones. We currently have 98 dog park members. Attendees also took advantage of BBQ hot dogs and entered for the lovely prizes at the silent auction. The board would like to thank the local business who assisted with this event such as: Thrive Pet Foods who provide our hot dogs and buns, Pet Valu and also Global Pet Foods. All of these companies have been long term supporters of the park association.

Although the new park shelter was basically finished last fall it was officially opened at the Paw-ty by City of Winnipeg councillors Janice Lukes and Marcus Chambers with help from current board members and past president Kathy Bell. Unfortunately, the solar lights that were promised have not yet been installed, but we are hoping for next spring or early summer.

The park has lost so many trees due to old age and Dutch Elm Disease. We were therefore delighted that the City planted new trees at the front of the park. They have been well fenced off, to protect them from the dogs and other animals. Hopefully we will see more plantings in future.

We have had some issues with our web page and member communications that has left emails without a response. We apologize for this and are working on a solution with some outside assistance. We are hoping that this will also bring down the cost of our site and improve service going forward.

We also had some difficulty with our Credit Union as Casera was bought out by Access and we had problems with receiving and making payments. This now seems to be straightened out.

The board has used Facebook and Instagram to keep members informed not only on park activities such as construction, Dutch elm tree cutting and insect spraying, but also community pet related events. We have provided articles on pet and animal behaviour that may be of

interest to our members. We have been blessed to have an excellent photographer on our board that takes pictures of many of our animals enjoying the park.

Parking continues to be an issue when all of the park users have events on at the same time and we have had meetings with the other park stakeholders about this. The MODS people have been excellent to work with as they direct people to stay out of our little lot and often put a volunteer at the entrance to keep non-dog people out. Alas, the other clubs have not been able to do this and on a busy day it can be hard to find a spot on the road. We also try to warn our members ahead of time about upcoming events, so they can choose to go elsewhere with their dogs.

We survived the mega construction of the St. Mary's Road - Perimeter Highway interchange and generally this has made it easier to get in and out of the park. There are still some issues getting out at the lights on St. Mary's, when an event finishes and everyone leaves at the same time but overall, most people have found it to be a significant improvement.

We have one board member Lorne Volk, who has worked tirelessly to keep our trails open and battle the ever-expanding burdock that leads to nasty burrs on many dogs. He hopes that there will be less growing up next spring.

We have sadly had some of our members leave the board this year and we are going to miss them. These include our former president and secretary Nihar Kaushal, Kathy Bell, our most recent president, Cindy Little who was membership director, Carley Rogers who was both special events and vice president, as well as members at large Andrew Kleinsasser and Shane Nestruck. They have all been of immense help to the board and we sincerely thank them for their work. We did gain one new member, Michael Smith who has been working with us for a few months. Janice Claeys continues to be our treasurer and also helps out with secretarial duties. Cathy Swiderek is both vice President and Membership Director. This leaves us with rather a small board and we welcome interested park users to join us. Even as a member at large you can provide us with assistance, and help with decision making. If you are interested, please contact the board via the website contact page or send us a message on Facebook for more information

We all love Maple Grove Park and most of us feel it is the best dog park in the city. We enjoy working to keep it as clean and as safe as possible for the dogs and their owners.

Heather Hartry, President  
Cathy Swiderek, Vice President  
Maple Grove Park Dog Owners' Association