

MACGREGOR PARK BULLETIN #1:

week of August 9 – 15, 2010

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR PARK?

MacGregor Park usually runs community programs throughout the year. In fall and spring, there is an all-ages Arts Drop-in Program, with arts and crafts activities, park furniture-making, and lively well-attended theatrical events. In winter, there are campfires and pageants. In summer, the wading pool provides a gathering place for children's activities: books, crafts, games and sports appeal to everyone. MacGregor can facilitate these endeavors because of the field house in the park; it accommodates all of these activities.



Cooling off at the wading pool



Fall campfire

On Sept. 9, 2009, \$134,000 was allocated through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) stimulus fund to address "state of good repair" issues in the field house. In December 2009, City Council voted to reduce or even eliminate public consultation for such projects, to move them along faster, and no consultation was planned for the MacGregor project. Park users only became aware of it because the wading pool staff noticed some people with clipboards meeting outside of the field house in August 2009.

Park users asked Ward 18 Councillor Adam Giambrone to find out what the plans were, which he did (with some difficulty). The councillor then helped set up several meetings with Planning staff. With park user input, the plans were much improved. The construction contract was awarded to Direct Construction, and construction was scheduled to begin on April 13, 2010, and to be completed by June 11.



Dress up and story book area

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR PARK?

The first phase was the building waterproofing. It was mostly finished by May 3. Then there was a long period of inactivity. Very little more was done until late June. By the opening day of the wading pool, nothing was ready. And then, as work resumed, more problems showed up:



Screen-covered windows

- **Hard-to-understand scheduling**

All the field house doors were removed long before the new doors were ready, and replaced with nailed-up boards. So washrooms were inaccessible until wading pool staff pushed for a workaround, to allow access to at least the women's washroom (not done until July 25).

Sub-contractors often say they are confused about the plans, and project supervision has been inconsistent. The city's project coordinator has left the project, and a new coordinator has been assigned.

- **Washrooms**

A urinal partition was requested from park users in the men's washroom, for privacy. The partition was put up, but it's inadequate. People can still see in from outside. There is no hot water in the building, for hand-washing or cleaning. The washroom floor drains in both washrooms are blocked.

- **Windows and window screens**

Most of the windows have been painted shut from the inside. The remaining swivel-out windows can't be opened very wide because of the custom-made screens installed of the outside of the building. So there's no way much air can circulate.

**UPDATE FROM THE
AUGUST 11 SITE-MEETING**

The Ward 18 Park supervisor and the Ward 19 Recreation supervisor asked the City's new MacGregor construction coordinator to meet with wading pool staff and park users. These are the outcomes:

- The new doors are scheduled to be installed in the week of August 16th
- The **Ward 18 Parks supervisor** will
 - seek the authority to have the screens at the front of the building removed, and to replace window panes with stronger glass.
 - seek the authority to replace the flat screens at the back of the building with the original (not flat) screens. This will let in more light and allow the windows to open.
 - consult the city plumbers to get the washroom drains unplugged
 - investigate getting a hot water tank for hand-washing.
- The **new City project coordinator** will
 - familiarize himself with the project details
 - find out what went wrong to date
 - see if the project can be completed within three weeks
 - ask his supervisor if he can bring a copy of the plans to the park.
- The wading pool staff will
 - post the plans and the schedule on the park bulletin board
 - give progress reports to their supervisor
- **Park users** will
 - collaborate with all others involved in the park project
 - publish a weekly bulletin on the MacGregor project's progress.

The aim is to reduce lost time and wasted money by having open communication among all concerned.