

Environment Committee Report for June 1, 2026 AGM:
Submitted by Christine Johnson with input from Mireille
May 22, 2026

In these first six months:

1. The Environment Director (Mireille) launched an advocacy campaign to educate our community about and defend the ecological value of the McCarthy Woods and the nature corridor which extends from the Rideau River to Sawmill Creek. This campaign sponsored two information sessions and an additional educational session about Invasive Species and Native Species. All of these sessions were very well attended. We partnered with CAFES, OSEAN, the RPCA and other environmental groups, who are now all part of a larger organized advocacy campaign.

Note from Mireille: Thank you HCCA Director of Planning (Andrei), HCCA President (Christine), Denyse, Noella, and HCCA VP (Dong) for your support in these activities especially the first Info-session. Thank you HCCA board for the \$250 contributed to this important project. *Please see the Planning report for further information about this file.*

2. We (Mireille and Andrei) created a new McCarthy Woods and Corridor booth and which caught the Mayor of Ottawa, Councillor Brockington, and Council Leiper's attention at Earth Day.

Thank you Andrei, Noella, and Denyse for hosting the booth at Earth Day, the latest info session, and/ or the Great Glebe Garage Sale

3. We adopted the Hunt Club Creek, as stewards, who will engage in clean ups and RVCA scientific monitoring activities. We held our first clean up with about ten stream watch staff and volunteers including Councillor Brockington on May 15th.

4. We (Environment Director with help from Christine and Peter) applied for \$5500 in grants to support our ongoing Pollinator Gardens throughout the community, the removal of invasive species and the replacing thereof with native species in our urban green spaces.

Note from Mireille: Thank you Christine for your input into the application and Peter for your support as Treasurer

5. We (Environment Director with Christine and Peter's support) also applied to expand and establish new pollinator patches on City lands including the applications to adopt the Archer Island Pollinator patch and the Poet's Pathway Pollinator patch.

6. We (Barb and John) supported another over \$5k grant application for a 'Stitch It, Don't Ditch It' event in 2027, that will focus on how to recycle clothing by mending or transforming it.

Thank you Barb and John for doing the work needed so we could submit applications under both streams of the CEPGP this year

7. We supported three Jane's walks in Hunt Club led by HCCA members: i) along the Rideau River and in Riverwood Park (led by Eva and Lorraine); ii) along Hunt Club Creek and into the McCarthy Meadows (led by Mireille); iii) through McCarthy Woods and into the Meadows (led by Denyse).

Thank you Christine for getting the ball rolling on this, and a huge thanks to Denyse, Eva, and Lorraine for doing the hard work of planning and leading these walks which were a huge success and attracted 75 people from across Ottawa

8. We received funds from an Invasive Species Action Fund grant for which we (Christine with some help from Mireille) applied, to start the long-term project of Buckthorn Removal in Paul Landry Park, which will start this month (May 2026).

9. The Maudlin Matilda McEwan Community Garden, as it rolls out its seventh gardening season, has a full complement of ten gardeners again this year, who have all seeded their plots already.