

Directors' Report to the Membership

Annual General Meeting — May 27, 2026

On behalf of the Board, I'm pleased to share this year's Directors' Report.

This has been a meaningful year at the Centre. It has been busy, sometimes challenging, and full of reminders of how much people care about this place. Families came here for camp, childcare, recreation, fitness, events, and connection. Community members showed up with ideas, concerns, support, and strong opinions, as they should when a place matters to them.

This year, the Board had to hold both sides of that reality: listening carefully to the community in front of us, while also making decisions that protect the Centre's future. Some of that work was easy to see, like the pavilion, disc golf, fitness centre upgrades, and playground planning. Some of it happened through governance, leadership transition, financial oversight, and harder conversations about what the Centre needs to stay healthy.

Investing in spaces our community can use

One of the most visible parts of the year was the investment in spaces people can use for years to come.

The new pavilion is now complete. The Board supported this project using Community Integration Funds, and it is a lasting addition to the Centre grounds. It gives the community a covered outdoor space for markets, community events, private gatherings, and everyday connection. It is practical, useful, and built for long-term community use.

We also added a disc golf course to the Centre grounds using Prospect Road Recreation Association grant funds. The course was up and running, and we saw strong early interest, with 50 games played in the first week alone. Some baskets were temporarily removed or moved while the pavilion was being built, and in the coming months, the course will be placed into its permanent location.

Even with that temporary disruption, the purpose of the project is clear: to create a free, accessible, all-ages recreation option that gets people outside and makes better use of the property.



The fitness centre also saw important investment, with new equipment added to refresh the space and improve the experience for members. A stronger fitness space supports health and wellness close to home, gives current members a better experience, and helps make the Centre more attractive to new users.

Supporting community use and programming

The Centre continued to be well used by families, children, and community members of all ages this year.

We expanded our summer camp program last year and had more than 60 children attending daily. That level of participation shows how much families rely on local programming and how important it is to keep these programs strong.

The Centre was also well used in other ways. Pickleball continues to bring people into the Centre regularly for recreation, routine, and connection. Trivia nights were also a hit, giving people another reason to gather, socialize, and enjoy the Centre in a different way. Community dances added to that same sense of activity and connection.

Together, these activities bring people through the doors regularly and keep the Centre part of daily community life.

That level of use is exactly why strong systems matter. Programs like summer camp, childcare, recreation, fitness, and community events need clear registration processes, consistent payment practices, appropriate rates, and responsible planning.

Summer camp is one example. When payment is not collected until the week of camp, late cancellations can leave spots empty that we are unable to refill. Families miss opportunities, and the Centre absorbs the loss. Moving to deposits and earlier payment timelines is a practical response to that issue.

We also made changes to some fee schedules and billing practices, including childcare and fitness centre rates. Changes like that affect real families, routines, and expectations, and the Board takes that seriously. At the same time, those decisions are part of making sure the Centre can keep offering the programming and services people count on.

Keeping community voice and control close to home

The Board also worked to make sure the community had a voice in decisions about spaces people use every day.

When HRM came to us about an upcoming playground build, we made sure community voice was part of the process. That does not typically happen, and it was important to us that the people who use the space had a role in shaping it.

Field maintenance was another important decision this year. When the previous organization overseeing that work was no longer able to continue, ROC had a choice: leave the future of those fields up to someone else, or step in and keep that responsibility within the community.

We chose to take it on.

By managing field maintenance, ROC helps keep local oversight and care connected to the people who use the space. We will continue that work again this coming year.

Strengthening leadership and operations

This year included a significant leadership transition.

Transitions are rarely simple, and this one required steadiness from many people. I want to recognize our Team Leads, who stepped up during a genuinely difficult period and helped keep the Centre running when it mattered most. I also want to thank HRM for their support through that transition.

The Board also used this transition as an opportunity to reset the Facility Manager role. We were not simply filling a vacancy. We were clarifying what the Centre needs from its day-to-day leader: strong operations, clear communication, reliable follow-through, and accountability across programming, staffing, facility use, and financial management.

The Board's role is not to manage every detail of the Centre. Our role is to make sure the right structure, expectations, and oversight are in place so the Centre can run well.

Governance and stewardship

Behind the scenes, the Board continued strengthening its own governance and oversight.

That included reviewing policies, clarifying committee structures, confirming Board roles, and continuing recruitment for new directors. That work matters because Board decisions shape what the Centre can do, what it can afford, and how well it is prepared for the future.

We also continued to use the three-year Action Plan as a guide, while adjusting as the Centre's needs and realities changed.

We also continued working with HRM on facility needs, capital planning, and shared responsibilities, while advocating for the needs of the facility and the community it serves.

Financial sustainability

Financially, this was a challenging year. We ended the year \$67K under budget. Denis will speak to the financial details in the Treasurer's Report, but from the Board's perspective, there were two key factors: childcare revenue came in lower than budgeted after fee schedules and discounts were not applied as originally intended, and some grant funding included in the budget was not received within the year.

The point of naming this is to be clear about what happened and what the Board learned from it. This year reinforced the importance of strong oversight, clear processes, and making decisions early when risks emerge. It also reinforced the importance of having the right leadership and systems in place.

At the same time, the Centre cannot run on goodwill alone. It needs care, commitment, and community spirit, but it also needs discipline, structure, and responsible financial decisions. That responsibility guided the Board's decisions this year, and it will continue to guide us.

Closing

As I complete my third year as Chair, I am proud of the work this Board has done to move the Centre forward.

This was a year of real progress and real responsibility. We invested in spaces people can use, supported high-demand programming, protected community voice and local stewardship, worked through a difficult transition, strengthened governance, and made decisions aimed at protecting the Centre's future.



Some decisions this year were hard. They were also necessary. The Board's role is to make these decisions thoughtfully, clearly, and in service of the community.

This Centre is a gift to the community: a place to gather, play, learn, move, celebrate, and connect. But places like this do not stay healthy by accident. They require thoughtful planning, clear priorities, responsible financial decisions, and people who are willing to show up constructively.

I care deeply about this Centre, and I want it to be here, healthy and strong, for the people who rely on it now and for those who will rely on it in the years ahead.

My thanks to every director who gave their time, judgment, and care to this work, and to every staff member, volunteer, HRM partner, and community member who continued to show up through a demanding year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Tanner

Chair, Resource Opportunities Centre