

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event)



Applicant Information	
Organization	Rotary Club of Gananoque 1000 Islands Family Ribfest
Contact Name	Jason Page
Title	Chair Ribfest 2026, Director of Membership Rotary Club of Gananoque
Address	180 Old River Rd, Mallorytown, On, K0E 1R0
Phone #	(905) 518-1235
Email	info@1000IslandsFamilyRibfest.ca
Event Website	www.1000islandsfamilyribfest.ca
Event Information	
Event Name	1000 Islands Family Ribfest
Event Dates	Friday June 26 (11am-11pm), Saturday June 27 11am-11pm), and Sunday June 28th (11 am - 9 pm)
Event Organizer Name	Jason Page
Event Organizer Phone #	(905) 518-1235
Event Organizer Email	info@1000IslandsFamilyRibfest.ca
Funding Amount Requested	\$18,000

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event) Continued



Please provide a description of event (300 words).

If there is not enough space, please answer the question on a separate page.

In 2026, the 1000 Islands Family Ribfest celebrates 20 years of serving the Town of Gananoque. The three-day festival will commence on Friday June 26 with Opening Ceremonies that include speeches by local dignitaries and a celebration of Indigenous culture followed by music from 11am - 11pm. Saturday June 27 will be a full day of music, children's activities and family competitions, and an array of skilled artisans and vendors will showcased from 11am - 11pm. The festival will conclude Sunday June 28 following a continuation of the previous day's events that will run from 11 am - 8 pm, gates closing at 9 pm.

Our headline attraction will be four Ribfest vendors specializing in grilled pork ribs and chicken served with signature sauces and classic sides. They will compete in Gananoque for the Ribfest Awards of Best Sauce, Best Chicken and Best Ribs based on public vote. The champion grillers will be complimented by food and beverage vendors offering fan favourite desserts, diverse meal options, and alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments. Vendors and entertainers from within a 50km radius will have the opportunity to showcase their local businesses, live music talent, and skilled artisan goods. Ribfest is an event the entire family and community can enjoy with activities for all ages including an entertaining kids zone.

The 1000 Islands Family Ribfest will charge an admission fee of \$4. Live music performances will take place on stage under the tent from 1:00 - 11:00 pm throughout the event with emphasis on local talent, Canadian themed music, featuring a range of genres and periods. Singers, storytellers and high profile acts will grace the main stage in the evening to draw in visitors from areas throughout Leeds & Grenville and those touring from Quebec, the Northern US states, and Ontario including larger centres like Toronto and Ottawa. Many visitors from abroad will be in Canada for the FIFA World Cup on Friday and may extend visits following the game. We will strive to attract this demographic as well.

Ribfest has something for everyone:

Indigenous cultural performance will reflect our region's traditional identity. A line dancing workshop will take place for long-standing fans and newcomers. Children's programs and activities will include inflatables, family-oriented games with prizes, fun shows, face painting, music, dancing and crafts. The Great 1000 Islands Ducky Drop will take place by helicopter on Saturday at 2:00 pm June 28. Engaging community demonstrations and activities will be made by the Gananoque Police Services and the Gananoque Fire Department. On Sunday a non-denominational worship service will take place that will be followed by a free pancake breakfast at 9:00 am hosted by the Gananoque Food Bank. Throughout the festival the Rotary Craft Fair will showcase 25-30 vendors.

Our service clubs continue to face an ongoing challenge: costs continue to rise while funds raised for charitable projects are decreasing. We are working diligently to revitalize our festival by enhancing activities. By increasing family-friendly competitions and expanding cultural representation we hope to build this festival for future years of success. Without grants our event would cease to exist. We are a tourist and community event, but we are also our town's largest charitable fundraiser. For both the Rotary Club of Gananoque and the Lions Club of Gananoque, the funds from this event enables us to support many of the charitable needs in our community while also supporting our greater community through international aid initiatives.

Additional items to be attached to the application:

- List of Board of Directors or Event Organizing Committee including emails and phone numbers
- Full Schedule of Events
- Detailed Event Budget/Financial Plan
- Please provide 2 letters of support from organizations and partners that support the project.
- The Town of Gananoque reserves the right to ask for copies of receipts validating expense claims.

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event) Continued



If there is not enough space, please answer the questions below on a separate page.

1. Has this event been hosted before? If yes, when and where?

Rotary Club of Gananoque and the Lions Club of Gananoque partner each year to create the 1000 Islands Family Ribfest as a marquis community event. The event was originally held in the Town Hall Park and Ball Diamond and was relocated to the Lou Jefferies Arena. This event has grown from a simple Craft Fair to a regionally recognized family Ribfest with live music, great entertainment, food and non-food vendors and children's activities - an event that continues to serve our community. 2026 marks our 20th Anniversary.

2. Who is your target market/audience?

Our target audience is regional tourists and local families. Visitors tend to stay overnight and spend more money in our community when drawn in by an event. Last year we welcomed over 8,000 from a radius of over 150 km. Local visitors came from Kingston, Brockville, Napanee, Belleville, Cornwall, Kemptville, Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. We also had visitors from Quebec City, Niagara Falls and New York. Our event attracts visitors who stay to enjoy all three days of Ribfest as well as other local activities such as camping, touring the islands, outdoor recreation, and live theatre. Each year people return and this year, our 20th, will be our biggest celebration to date

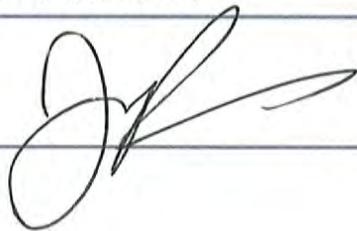
3. Estimated # of tourists/visitors your event will attract to Gananoque (from 40+km away)

Total visitors to Ribfest in 2023 were 10,970, 2024 it was 9,017 and 2025 was 8,540. Attendance decreases have been largely due to inclement weather and a difficult economy. Our attendance increased on the Friday and Saturday from previous years, but Sunday has struggled over the last 2 years. We are working diligently to revitalize our festival with new and engaging family competitions and events. We also aim to increase local visitors due to decreased travel to the USA.

4. How and where will the event be advertised/marketed?

Our event will be advertised and marketed: online through our website, via a new YouTube channel, and on social media platforms; in regional event magazines; through local print, television and radio placements and engagements; and through promotional handouts (rack cards). In 2024 our festival did a full re-branding. An attractive new website with easy site navigation was developed that included improved search engine placement with Google. Social media visibility on Facebook and Instagram was expanded and a sizzle reel (video) was created for event promotion. Our multimedia advertising continues to develop to reach an even greater demographic. Special focus is being placed on short videos, reels and stories. We will improve attendance tracking by offering prize incentives for visitors to share their home city in 2026 for targeting in 2027. Our festival partners with the Thousand Islands Accommodation Partners (TIAP) for collaborative advertising support.

You agree that the information provide in this application is accurate. This is an application for funding and does not guarantee funding approval. Should the TAP and Council approve funding to your event, a funding agreement outlining the details of the funding and any associated recognition will be signed by both the Town of Gananoque and the organization receiving the funding.

Date: 13 Feb 2026 Title: Chair Ribfest
Name: Jason Page Signature: 

Completed application (with all requested attachments) to be submitted to:

Attention: Tourism Advisory Panel

30 King St. East, Gananoque, ON K7G 1E9

Phone: 613-382-2149 ext. 1125

Email: businesscoordinator@gananoque.ca

1000 Island Family Ribfest: Proposed Budget 2026

Revenue	Budget 2026	Actual	Comments	Reconciliation	Variance
Ribbers	\$ 16,000		Vendors		
Sponsors	\$ 15,000		Sponsorship		
Vendors	\$ 10,000		Vendors		
Duck	\$ 7,500		Raffle		
Beer	\$ 30,000		Beer Tent		
50/50	\$ 5,000		Raffle		
Donations			Sponsorship		
Gate	\$ 15,000		General		
Grants			Grants TAP, TIAP		
ATM Commission			Facilities		
Raffle			Raffle		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 98,500	\$0.00			-98500

Expense	Budget 2026	Actual	Comments	Reconciliation	Variance
Advertising	\$ 8,000		Advertising		
Beer	\$ 13,000		Beer Tent		
Duck	\$ 1,000		Raffles		
Entertainment	\$ 12,000		Entertainment		
Bank	\$ 400		Treasurer		
Insurance	\$ 5,000		Insurance		
Licenses	\$ 1,000		Facilities & Beer Tent		
Sound	\$ 9,000		Facilities		
Rentals	\$ 6,000		Facilities		
Rent of field	\$ 2,500		Facilities		
Sanitation	\$ 5,500		Facilities		
Security	\$ 5,000		Facilities		
Electrical	\$ 8,000		Facilities		
Signage	\$ 400		Advertising		
Safety	\$ 1,200		General		
Misc	\$ 1,200		General		
Grant Writing	\$ 400		General		
Events	\$ 5,000		Entertainment		
Canada Day	\$ -		General		
Fence	\$ 2,000		Facilities		
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 86,600	\$0.00			
Net Profit	\$ 11,900	\$0.00	Shared with Rotary and Lions		#VALUE!

Total Increase in budget from 2025 to 2026
 Increase over what we spent in areas over budget

\$7,000.00 Estimated Attendance 6,000 people
\$3,665.00

*nds do not include BBQ Raffle as there is no history to predict
 Budget does not include Grants & Donations*

Ribfest 2026

Board of Directors

1. Chair – Jason Page (Rotary) – info@1000IslandsFamilyRibfest.ca – (905) 518-1235
2. Vice Chair – Debbie Donaldson (Lion) – liondebbie88@gmail.com (613) 453-4190
3. Secretary – Phil End (Rotary – Vote)
4. Treasurer – Vicki Clark (Lion – Vote)
5. Vendors Chairs – Kate McLean (Rotary – Vote)
6. Facilities Chair – Raymond Shea (Lion – Vote)
7. Advertising Chair – Pam Hudson (Rotary – Vote)
8. Beer Tent Chair – Tim Gregorie (Lion – Vote)
9. Entertainment Chair – Lynne Piper (Rotary - Vote)
10. Sponsorship – Gerhardt Wendt (Lion - Vote)

Event Schedule

1. Still in development. We will update as required as we finalize music acts and events.
 - a. Events we are still working on as possibilities
 - i. Indigenous Drums or dancers (very dependent on sponsors)
 - ii. Competitions
 1. Hoops Basketball Shoot competition
 2. Pickleball
 3. Trivia
 - iii. Other events
 1. Magic Show
 2. Fire Truck Obstacle Course with Gananoque Fire Department
2. Friday 26 July 2026
 - a. Open 11am to 11pm
 - b. Opening Ceremonies 5 pm
 - c. Live Music from 4pm to 11pm.
 - d. Vendors and great food all day.
 - e. Kids fun area all day. Including Fire Truck display through the event.
3. Saturday 27 July 2026
 - a. Open 11 am to 11 pm
 - b. Live Music from 1:30 pm – 7 pm
 - c. Line Dancing event 11 am - 12 pm
 - d. Salvation Army Band 12 – 1 pm
 - e. Vendors and great food all day.
 - f. Kids fun area all day.
 - g. Friendly competitions with prizes. (New to the event)
 - h. Craft Fair until 4 pm.
4. Sunday 28 July 2026
 - a. Gates open 10am – 8 pm. Park closes at 9 pm.
 - b. Live Music from 12:30 – 7 pm – DJ from 7pm to 9pm
 - c. Vendors and great food all day

- d. Kids fun area expanded
- e. Kid friendly competitions with prizes (New to the event)
- f. Best Ribs, Best Chicken, and Best Sauce event.
- g. Craft fair until 4 pm
- h. Duck Drop by helicopter 3 pm
- i. Big BBQ Raffle at end of night (New to the event)



Monday, February 9, 2026

Tourism Advisory Panel
Gananoque, Ontario

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter on behalf of the Gananoque Lions Club in support of the application for the 2026 1000 Islands Family Rib Fest to the Tourism Advisory Panel. 2026 will be the 20th anniversary of our clubs running this event.

The Lions and Rotary Clubs of Gananoque partner to bring the 1000 Islands Family Ribfest to our community.

In conclusion, the Lions Club of Gananoque is committed to assist in the planning, management and operation of the 2026 1000 Islands Family Rib Fest. We believe in supporting local tourism by attracting visitors and providing this festival for local residents of Gananoque and the surrounding area. Monies generated from the 2026 1000 Islands Family Ribfest will return to our community through each of the Lions and Rotary clubs supporting their mission to serve.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joanne Chitty
1st Vice President
Lions Club of Gananoque
613 484-2401

From: [Kenzie O'Connor](#)
To: info@1000islandsfamilyribfest.ca
Subject: Letter of support
Date: February 17, 2026 3:24:16 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Gananoque Home Hardware Building Centre & Home Furniture, we are pleased to offer our full support for this year's Gananoque Rib Fest.

As a proud family-run business rooted in the Gananoque community, we believe strongly in supporting events that bring people together and showcase the spirit, energy, and generosity of our town. Rib Fest is a fantastic community celebration, and we are excited to be part of it.

We are happy to confirm that we will be donating a BBQ to the event in support of your fundraising efforts. We hope this contribution helps make the event a continued success and adds to the excitement for attendees.

Thank you for the work you do to organize such an incredible community event. We look forward to seeing everyone there and supporting another great Rib Fest in Gananoque

Kind regards,

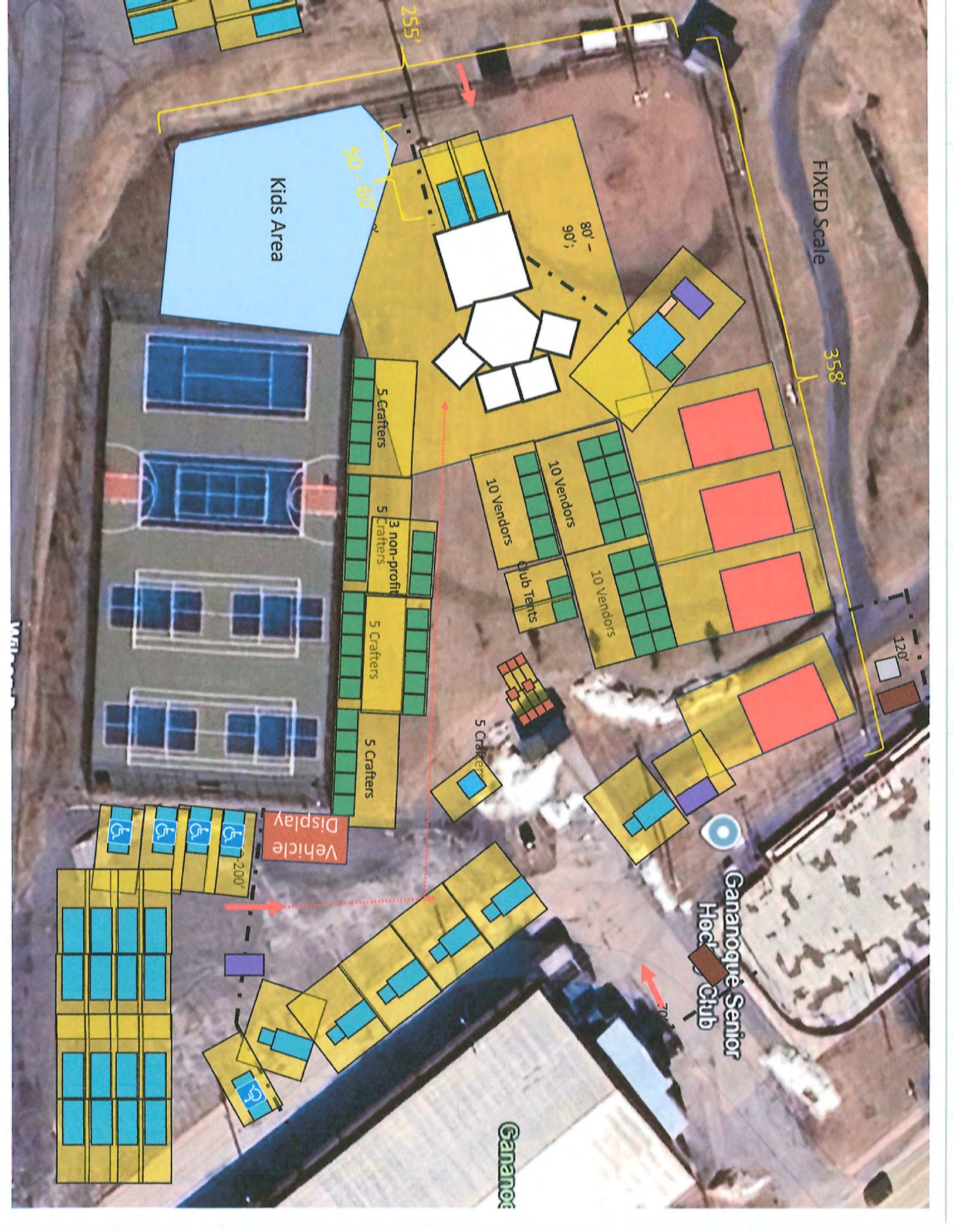
Kenzie O'Connor

Gananoque Home Hardware Building Centre
Store 1440-7
875 Stone Street North

Gananoque, Ontario

K7G 3E4

613-382-3386 (W)



FIXED Scale

358'

255'

Kids Area

50 - 60'

80' - 90'

5 Crafters

3 non-profit Crafters

5 Crafters

5 Crafters

10 Vendors

10 Vendors

Club Tents

10 Vendors

5 Crafters

Vehicle Display

200'

Gananoque Senior Hockey Club

Gananoque

120'