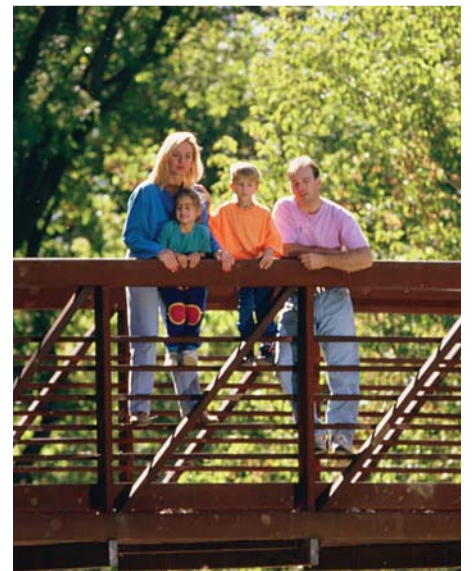




THE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS FOR

Liveable Communities 2007



OSHAWA

Oshawa is a liveable community because of our creative citizens, committed community leaders, Council and staff who are dedicated to civic beautification, conserving the environment, protecting our heritage and raising the quality of life for residents.

Our community is rich in heritage, yet remains on the leading edge. We honour our past, embrace our present and anticipate a bright future. Oshawa's Community Strategic Plan guides us and ensures that we are a vibrant, strong and progressive, green and sustainable, and a caring and responsive community.

We are working together towards one common goal – a liveable community for present and future generations.

*From left.
Local resident enjoys a swim at one of Oshawa's nine pools. (2005)
Approximately 20 pavilions participate in the annual Fiesta Week multicultural celebration. (2006)
The eight veterans' groups of Oshawa took part in the dedication and unveiling ceremony of the Memorial Wall. (2006)*

With a growing population of 152,000, Oshawa is the largest municipality in Durham Region and a provincially recognized urban centre. The City extends north from Lake Ontario, through an established urban area, to rural farmlands and the natural landscape of the Oak Ridges Moraine (one of the most significant glacial landforms in southern Ontario).

Agriculture is an important part of Oshawa's economy with 5,500 hectares of farmland. Residents can purchase local farm fresh produce, and our top agricultural industries include dairy, cattle and grain. Our rural lands are also home to the renowned Windfields Farm, a full-service boarding and breeding farm with a 70-year history. A world record 48 champions and 360 stake winners have been bred in the name of E.P. Taylor and Windfields Farm, including Northern Dancer, Canada's first Kentucky Derby winner.

Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area is expected to be a leader in gross domestic product growth through to 2011 (Conference Board of Canada). We also have the second highest median income in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2007) and in 2007 we were ranked as one of Canada's top 25 places to live by *MoneySense*, Canada's leading personal finance magazine.

Oshawa is a full-service community, boasting a range of employment opportunities and housing options, access to first-class cultural and recreational facilities, numerous parks and open spaces and leading-edge social and health services.

Known as the eastern gateway to Toronto, Oshawa is located just 45 minutes from downtown Toronto. Our transportation network includes the Oshawa harbour, a full-service commercial airport, direct highway access, CN/CP rail services, commuter train and bus services.



Climate Information

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Daily Average (°C)	-7	-6	-1	6	12	17	20	19	15	10	4	-4
Average Monthly Precipitation (mm)	45	45	57	63	65	69	77	84	74	62	70	65

(Based on Environment Canada data 1978-2005)

Oshawa's Roots

Oshawa began as a trading post. In the early 18th century, the Mississauga Indian Tribe, part of the Ojibwa Nation, would carry bundles of fur to where the Oshawa Harbour is now located. In 1750, the French built a post near the mouth of the Oshawa Creek, which became the trading headquarters between the French and the Mississauga Indians. In 1842, two visiting Indians suggested the Indian name "Oshawa," meaning "that point at the crossing of the stream where the canoe was exchanged for the trail." In 1850, Oshawa was incorporated as a village, in 1879, a town and in 1924, Oshawa was elevated to city status.

Diversified Economy

Oshawa's economy is founded on an established industrial base. The Pedlar Metal Roofing Company in 1861 and the McLaughlin Carriage Company in 1876 both became the largest of their kind in the British Empire. Robert McLaughlin began automobile production in Oshawa in 1907, which became General Motors of Canada Limited in 1918.

The Oshawa General Motors truck assembly plant will be the first in Canada to produce hybrid vehicles in 2008, with the new two-mode Hybrid Chevrolet Silverado and Hybrid GMC Sierra.

Over the past two decades, Oshawa has increasingly diversified and attracted clean, high-tech industry and research investment, especially with the addition of Canada's newest and most innovative university, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE

Attention to detail, civic pride and high quality standards have directly resulted in Oshawa's winning combination of built and natural environments.

The protection of natural heritage and ecologically important sites has always been a priority for the City. Investments in urban parks, celebrating our history and our network of accessible trails, improve the quality of life for all residents.

Civic Pride

Civic Beautification

The first comprehensive plan to improve the City's overall landscape image was approved by Council more than two decades ago. Since then, thanks to the hard work and dedication of community groups, staff and Council, we have gained provincial and international recognition.

Oshawa took top honours at the Communities in Bloom (CIB) national level in 1999, 2002 and 2003, and was an international CIB winner in 2004. We also won CIB gateway awards in 2002 and 2003. Oshawa now mentors other municipalities who are new to the CIB program.

The City collaborates with the private sector to ensure that landscaping is an integral component of any new project.

The City's Official Plan and comprehensive zoning by-law encourage sustainable, natural environments. Landscape guidelines, in effect for over 23 years, ensure environmentally sensitive urban design is a priority. The 5% parkland dedication required with new development continues to add to the city's current parkland and open space inventory of 921 hectares.

The City's Vision 2000: City Centre Plan and the Downtown Streetscape Implementation Plan have enhanced our downtown core, including over 550 hanging floral baskets and contemporary street furniture. Downtown businesses are also encouraged to apply for the Façade Improvement Loan Program.

The Garden of the Unforgotten

In 2003, the City invested \$1 million to restore Memorial Park first built in 1920. In 2006, collaboration between the City, Veterans Affairs Canada and eight different war veterans groups restored the area surrounding the Cenotaph in Memorial Park. A Memorial Wall was installed to honour Oshawa's war veterans and the gardens were enhanced to include accessible pathways, seating and lighting.

Urban Forestry

The City's Forestry Services oversees more than 26,000 urban street trees and over 150,000 trees in urban woodlots, parks and open spaces. The City's Forestry Business Plan, approved in 2005, ensures the growth and protection of our urban forest. More than 1,000 new trees are planted annually to maintain the forest canopy.

A new footbridge opened at the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens in October 2006. The bridge was built through a partnership with the Rotary Clubs and the City. (2006)





Memorial Park located in downtown Oshawa is home to many events including free concerts in the park at the McLaughlin band shell. (2004)

Preserving Open Spaces

In 2004, the City purchased Cedar Valley and Harmony Valley parks to preserve public spaces. These natural open spaces total 70 hectares in size.

Oshawa's first off-leash dog area opened in early 2007 at Harmony Valley with the support of the local community group ODOGS. Over 10 hectares, the dog-park is one of the largest in Ontario.

Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens

Nestled along the Oshawa Creek, Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens (OVBG) is home to a heritage peony garden with more than 360 different cultivars – the largest contemporary collection in North America. OVBG also features an outstanding water feature garden as well as numerous floral displays.

In June 2006, the Oshawa Garden Club, in partnership with the City, funded an art-deco style gazebo, commemorating the Club's 75th anniversary. In the fall 2006, Rotary Clubs joined the City in the opening of a new footbridge.

Recreation through the Landscape

Residents and visitors enjoy 22 kilometres of paved bicycle and wheelchair accessible recreation trails that meander through natural areas of the city. Expanding Oshawa's trails is on-going. Recently the City developed an unused railway line running through the urban core into the Michael Starr Trail.

Kilometres of trails converge at Lakeview Park, the City's 28-hectare park located on the waterfront. The waterfront features the Pumphouse Marsh, Second Marsh, the McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve, sports fields, a sand beach and boardwalk. Residents enjoy free outdoor movies in the summer, the award-winning Canada Day Festival and other events. The historic Jubilee Pavilion, established in 1927, has been renovated to its original state and hosts conferences, events and weddings.

The City of Oshawa's numerous beautification areas include gateway signs, seasonal landscapes and xeriscaped traffic islands. These areas, located at intersection and high traffic areas throughout the city, greet residents and welcome visitors to the community. (2004)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

OVBG Task Force

The Oshawa Valley Botanical Garden (OVBG) Master Plan – approved by Council in 2001 – was the result of a request from the Oshawa Garden Club who wanted to enhance the existing public garden space. The OVBG Task Force was formed in 2004 and is comprised of local community organizations, service clubs and residents. The group fundraises and promotes public awareness of the gardens.

Oshawa Garden Club

This volunteer organization of approximately 300 members promotes gardening within the community. The Club has supported many beautification and landmark projects throughout its history and assists the City in delivering community programs such as Communities in Bloom.



HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Oshawa values its built and natural heritage. The community works together with Heritage Oshawa, Oshawa Folks Arts Council and several stewardship groups to preserve and promote our rich heritage.

Recognizing Our Heritage

Heritage Policy

In following with the Ontario Heritage Act and the City's Official Plan, the City designates properties and buildings which are of cultural heritage value or interest. Heritage Oshawa prepares and maintains an inventory of heritage properties and promotes public awareness of heritage conservation.

Veteran Recognition

In addition to Memorial Park and war museums, 35 veterans' names from World War I, II and the Korean War have been assigned to various streets throughout the city.

Canadian Automotive Museum

The Canadian Automotive Museum showcases the history and development of the automobile. More than 70 vehicles dating from the 1890s to the 1980s are on display in an authentic 1920s car dealership.

Art Gallery

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery was founded in 1967 by Ewart McLaughlin and his painter wife, Margaret Alexandra Luke. Luke is linked to the beginnings of abstract painting in Canada and was a founding member of Painters Eleven. The Gallery's collection consists of more than

6,800 works of art. The Thomas Bouckley Collection captures the photo history of Oshawa and Durham Region.

Military Heritage

Canada's largest collection of operational military equipment is showcased at two museums and demonstrates the sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers in the Boer War and both World Wars. Oshawa is also home to the legendary Camp X, the World War II Spy Training Facility. Camp X inspired the creation of the James Bond character.

Preserved Heritage Properties

Union Cemetery

Established in 1837, the 12-hectare cemetery is rich in architecture and history. The mausoleum, built in 1924, is an impressive structure containing 310 crypts.

Parkwood Estate

Once home to Colonel R.S. McLaughlin, founder of General Motors of Canada, Parkwood is a 55-room estate built in 1917. The building and contents remain as they were in the 1920s. Parkwood recently completed a \$2-million landscape conservation project to rejuvenate and preserve the architectural and horticultural features of the gardens and grounds.

Covering 123 hectares, Second Marsh is the largest remaining urban wetland in the Greater Toronto Area and is a provincially significant area of natural and scientific interest. Over 4,000 residents participate annually in environmental programs at the marsh. (2002)





The city has 19 murals which reflect Oshawa's rich history. The On the Lake Mural illustrates the Argyle passenger/freight steamer that docked at the Oshawa harbour in the early 1900s. (2001)

Oshawa Community Museum

The Oshawa Community Museum provides a historical perspective of Oshawa's early inhabitants and is comprised of three historically designated mid-19th century homes at Lakeview Park.

Second Marsh

The preservation and restoration of Second Marsh – a 123-hectare coastal wetland – is one of the most significant examples of Oshawa's dedication to natural heritage. This dynamic ecosystem supports a diverse wildlife community with over 380 plant and 305 bird species, and numerous mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish. It is accessible through 12 kilometres of trails. Almost two decades ago, a committee representing more than 26 groups including the City and Friends of Second

Marsh, developed a management plan to explore land use and rehabilitation of the Marsh. This successful collaboration resulted in the planting of more than 10,000 native and aquatic plants and the natural removal of invasive species. In 2002, Ducks Unlimited Canada completed a \$1-million restoration project to improve wetland functions. Monitoring is carried out by Environment Canada and by the local conservation authority. Planning for a \$7-million Great Lakes Wetlands Centre is underway. The 1,700-square-metre facility will be built in partnership with Friends of Second Marsh, General Motors of Canada and the City.

The Parkwood mansion and gardens are often featured in films (Chicago and X-Men), television (Canadian Gardening Television and A&E's America's Castles) commercials, documentaries and news features. (2000)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Friends of Second Marsh

In the early 1970s, when harbour expansion threatened the existence of Second Marsh, 11 local environment groups created the Second Marsh Defence Association. This group later became Friends of Second Marsh. With the City's assistance, the Friends manage the marsh and provide wetland education to the community. In 1993, the committee received \$1.3 million from Environment Canada's Great Lakes Cleanup Fund for the restoration of the marsh and the development of walking trails, in partnership with the City and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Friends of Second Marsh have received numerous awards for preserving wetland habitats.



ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE PRACTICES

Oshawa is a leader in environmentally sensitive practices and sustainable management of the environment. Oshawa residents pioneered curbside recycling in Durham, and we currently boast a 57% diversion rate through our three-stream integrated waste management program. Always on the look-out for innovative practices, the City is on the leading edge when it comes to energy conservation, brownfield redevelopment, eliminating pesticides, naturalization and working with community partners on environmental public education initiatives.

Keeping Our City Green

Recycling and Waste Management

Oshawa has participated in the Blue Box recycling program since the late 1980s. In July 2006, Oshawa implemented a three-stream integrated waste management program that included the Green Bin, which allows for the recycling of items such as all food waste. The program initiated weekly Blue Box and Green Bin pick-up and bi-weekly garbage pick-up with a four bag limit, resulting to date in a diversion of 500 tractor trailer loads of waste destined to a U.S. landfill. In April 2007, the City launched a zero waste initiative to eliminate all garbage from City Hall, resulting in a 90% diversion rate.

Improving Air Quality

The City's diesel-powered vehicles and equipment are fueled by biodiesel that reduces vehicle emissions by up to 27%. In 2006, an anti-idling by-law was passed and two hybrid vehicles were acquired, with eight more to be purchased.

Naturalization Areas

In 1987, City Council approved a Naturalization Policy that has set standards for the protection, enhancement and development of all natural areas in Oshawa. In addition, the City has protected sensitive areas by limiting access to designated pathways, preventing the spread of

invasive and non-native species and establishing green corridors that enable safe wildlife movement.

Pesticide Free

In 2002, Oshawa introduced the Pest Management Program (PMP) with a goal to reduce and eliminate the cosmetic use of pesticides and promote natural lawn care. The PMP received international exposure in 2006 when presented at the Georgia Turf Grass Conference. The City is currently working with the Ontario Parks Association on creating an integrated pest management accreditation model for municipalities.

Energy Management Retrofits

The City has taken bold steps to reduce its energy use. Major energy improvements and electrical retrofits made to City Hall and other City buildings will reduce greenhouse gases by 3,900 tonnes of carbon dioxide and cut energy costs by 50%, resulting in an annual savings of about \$500,000.

Traffic Lighting and Signals

In 2002, the City changed its lighting standards to "full cut-off" lighting to reduce glare and light trespass and eliminate light pollution. In 2007, the City began a program to convert its traffic signals from incandescent lamps to LED technology, which will result in an 80% energy reduction.

Oshawa's trails run throughout the city and link green spaces and parks. The Oshawa Creek Trail provides residents with the opportunity to step outside and escape into nature. (2006)





The University of Ontario Institute of Technology is well-known for its leading-edge laptop-based learning environment and state-of-the-art buildings. The university's library is designed by the award-winning firm of Diamond and Schmitt Architects Inc. (2006)

Brownfields Community Improvement Plan

In December 2005, the City adopted the Brownfields Community Improvement Plan to encourage the rehabilitation and reuse of lands that have been contaminated or abandoned. Built on brownfield sites are the General Motors Centre, YMCA, Carriage House (seniors retirement home) and the Durham Consolidated Courthouse.

Water Management

Storm water ponds have been incorporated into all new subdivisions since the 1980s. The ponds preserve groundwater, protect water quality, maintain aquatic life conditions and reduce flood damage potential. The Water Course Improvement Program was approved in the 1980s.

University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)

As Canada's first laptop based university, UOIT has an international reputation for leading-edge research and development. UOIT is the only Canadian university to offer honours degrees in Automotive Engineering and Nuclear Engineering. UOIT also features:

- A future 2.4 megawatt Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant;
- Innovative hydrogen technology research;
- The Ontario Power Generation

Engineering Building, which includes a systems lab with solar, wind, hydrogen and fuel-cell technology;

- A geothermal heating and cooling system - the second largest in North America - which will save 40% of heating and 16% of cooling energy resources;
- Green rooftops for water recycling.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA)

CLOCA was established in 1958 to promote the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources. It is an important partner in the protection and enhancement of watershed areas in Oshawa. Community programs include the Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival, Fishing Day, Children's Groundwater Festival and Clean Water Land Stewardship Program.

Green Power

The Oshawa Centre is one of 13 shopping centres across the province that uses green power to meet 30% of its electricity requirements.

Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. (OPUC)

In collaboration with the Oshawa Libraries, OPUC has initiated a Watt Reader Lending Program where residents borrow a watt reader to determine how much energy their appliances are consuming.

Residential curbside collection of the three-stream Integrated Waste Management Program. (2007)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

G.L. Roberts High School

G.L. Roberts, a school of 780 students, is located by the Pumphouse Marsh, the Oshawa Creek and the Waterfront Trail along Lake Ontario. Its location has helped to establish an award-winning environmental studies program that includes a Certificate of Environmental Studies. Their environmental courses are unique from other courses offered provincially. School environmental activities include Earth Week, Groundwater Festival, watershed management and the provincial Envirothon Challenge. In 2006, the school received the Durham Region Environmental Partnership Award.



COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

The City partners with community groups, organizations and the private sector to foster collaboration in the planning, development and management of the community. The City prides itself on incorporating public values, which empowers residents and builds a liveable community. Moving forward together we will continue to deliver key programs and services to meet the needs of all residents.

Involving Our Community Building Industry Liaison Team (BILT)

BILT includes representatives from developers, builders and City staff. It provides a municipal forum that promotes sustainable development and enhances the environment.

PITCH-IN

In 1999, the first annual PITCH-IN program to clean up the community began with 4,000 volunteers. It has grown to more than 17,000 participants in spring 2007.

Winterlights

For the past two years, the City has received a five-star rating in the National Winterlights Program for the community's involvement in winter beautification initiatives.

Downtown Action Committee (DAC)

DAC was formed in 1993 with the goal of revitalizing the downtown and strengthening partnerships. Accomplishments include the Downtown Mural project consisting of 19 murals, a Farmers Market and a variety of community events.

Downtown Oshawa Board of Management (DOBOM)

Funded by over 200 businesses, the DOBOM was formed in 1974. Its mission is beautification programs, special events and marketing to promote an engaging downtown.

Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC)

Planning is underway for the establishment of OEAC. This volunteer committee will focus on the protection and conservation of our natural and built environments. The group will provide advice to Council, develop environmental strategies and offer public education. In addition, the City has hired an Environmental Coordinator.

Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC)

The City has been an active participant in DEAC since its inception in 2000. This group of volunteers provides expert advice and direction to the Region on planning issues that impact the environment.

The Community Strategic Plan identified the downtown as a priority and as a result, many community stakeholder meetings have taken place to gather input into the Downtown Master Plan. (2006)





In 2007, 216 community groups contributed over 34,000 volunteer hours as part of PITCH-IN to clean up 269 sites. Fifty-nine schools recruited 15,059 student volunteers, including Eastdale Collegiate High School who had over 1,600 students participate. (2007)

Durham Strategic Energy Alliance (DSEA)

DSEA, a non-profit organization in partnership with the City, strives to address the challenges of clean affordable energy solutions and the advancement of new energy initiatives.

Durham Region Field Naturalists (DRFN)

DRFN, in partnership with the City, developed the City's second butterfly garden in 2004. DRFN, formerly known as Oshawa Naturalists Club, was founded in 1955 and has grown from a membership of 40 to over 100. The group raises awareness of local flora and fauna and fosters natural resources preservation.

Stream Side Restoration

Since 1974, the Durham Board of Education, Friends of Second Marsh, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority and the City have been promoting stream side restoration throughout Oshawa's creek systems. Watershed plans were developed in the 1990s and restoration continues.

Oshawa Central Council of Neighbourhood Associations (OCCNA)

The OCCNA is a volunteer organization comprised of 16 neighbourhood associations with the purpose of co-ordinating and facilitating leisure opportunities for residents.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres (OSCC)

The OSCC are non-profit, multi-purpose community facilities for adults 55+. Three branches provide programs and services for independent living, recreation and advocacy. A strong volunteer network assists with programs and services. In 2006, more than 400 volunteers provided over 44,000 hours of support and 100,000 seniors participated in recreation programs. To ensure active participation, transportation and meals are provided.



The Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres and 10 community partners launched the Ready, Set, Action! Program that includes garden, heritage and nature walks. (2006)

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Oshawa's community has long been passionate about healthy living. The Civic Auditorium opened in 1967, featuring two public swimming pools, health club rooms and an ice rink for the Oshawa Generals Hockey Club. The construction of new and the modernization of existing recreation facilities was City Council's highest priority from 2005 - 2007. This \$123-million capital investment called 'Amazing Spaces,' demonstrates a commitment to healthy and active lifestyles. The community also supported additions to Oshawa's world-class health care facilities over the past two years, including the opening of a new cancer centre.

The Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee is very active in the community and annually prepares an Accessibility Plan in consultation with various stakeholders which addresses a broad spectrum of accessibility needs. (2004)

An Active Community

Legends Centre

Opened in 2006, this 18,600-square-metre facility features four National Hockey League (NHL) sized ice rinks, a swimming pool with a two-storey waterslide, fitness centre, gymnasium and a variety of activity rooms. It is home to a seniors' centre and a library.

Legends won a 2006 Canadian Institute of Steel Construction Ontario Design Award and a local accessibility award from Participation House.

South Oshawa Community Centre

This recreation facility opened in 2006 and features a swimming pool with beach entry and waterslide, fitness centre, aerobics and dance studio, and a teaching kitchen. The 4,200-square-metre facility also houses the City's first youth room run by an all-youth committee.

General Motors Centre

Opened in November 2006, the GM Centre is Durham Region's premier sports and entertainment complex and is attracting visitors from across Canada for events, concerts and hockey games. The building has numerous accessibility features,

including two NHL-sized ice pads, and is home to the Oshawa Generals Hockey Club and the Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame. The GM Centre has implemented a no waste system; all generated waste is sorted for recycling and reuse, and all food waste is recovered for livestock feed.

Campus Ice Centre

Located at UOIT, the Centre features two ice rinks and a restaurant. Built in partnership with the City, the Centre is shared by both students and community residents.

Conant Complex

The City is redeveloping the former Conant Public School into a multi-use facility. It will house the Dr. Bryce A. Brown Wellness Centre, the Oshawa Community Health Centre and a fourth branch of the Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres.

Arts and Culture

Oshawa offers a diverse range of creative experiences for its residents. Some examples include: the Oshawa Durham Symphony Orchestra, Durham Philharmonic Choir, Oshawa Little Theatre, Driftwood Theatre Group, Durham Shoestring Performers and Arts Resource Centre.





The Junior A Oshawa Generals Hockey Club is an active community contributor and its players serve as youth role models visiting schools and hospitals and participating in fundraising events. Public school groups are also featured at home games by singing Canada's national anthem. (2006)

Festivals and Community Events

Oshawa hosts 42 annual special events, including the Earth Day Festival, Canada Day Festival, Peony Festival, Canadian Aviation Expo, Autofest and the Jazz & Blues Festival.

A Healthy Community Health Care

Lakeridge Health Oshawa, a state-of-the-art hospital, is one of the largest integrated hospital systems in Ontario. The recent expansion initiative includes the R.S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre, which opened in May 2007.

Physician Recruitment

The City has collaborated with the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce to establish a Physician Recruitment Task Force, which has recruited and relocated 28

family physicians to Oshawa from January 2005 to present. Oshawa boasts several medical clinics including the Oshawa Clinic, the largest private practice in Canada.

An Integrated Community Accessibility for All

Since 2003, the City of Oshawa and the Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee have partnered together to improve the quality of life for all citizens. They have been instrumental in four community projects: Let Them Be Kids, an Accessibility Plan, the City's Facility Design Standards and Recreation Access Membership Program (RAMP). Launched in 2006, RAMP offers residents with permanent disabilities reduced fees to access facilities and programs.

The Fiesta Week Parade in downtown Oshawa kicks off the week-long multicultural celebration every June. Approximately 30 ethnic floats and 10 marching bands entertain thousands of spectators, concluding with an outdoor concert at the Memorial Park band shell. (2004)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Oshawa Folk Arts Council (OFAC)

The OFAC was formed in 1961 by a small group of volunteers to promote Oshawa's ethnic diversity and foster goodwill through multicultural festivals and concerts. In 1973, the City and OFAC partnered to host Fanfare Week during the Ontario Summer Games. The following year the OFAC took over the week-long event and renamed it Fiesta Week. The OFAC today organizes the annual festival which includes cultural entertainment and ethnic cuisine at various pavilions across the city, attracting over 50,000 people each year.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Oshawa has demonstrated that it is a passionate and involved community in its commitment to landscape enhancement, heritage preservation, environmental best practices, community involvement, quality lifestyles and future initiatives. The City and its partners will continue to implement the community's priorities in delivering efficient and effective programs and services.

Creating Our Tomorrow Oshawa Community Strategic Plan

In September 2004, Council launched a year-long process to develop the City's future vision. The first Community Strategic Plan (CSP) was approved by Council in 2005. This umbrella document guides all our strategic and business plans.

The Plan's vision statement describes Oshawa 15-20 years from now. The vision is that Oshawa will be:

A vibrant, strong and progressive community known for its vital downtown and waterfront, diverse economy, educational facilities, thriving neighbourhoods, arts and culture and recreational opportunities.

A green and sustainable community known for its environmental features, parklands, rural/urban balance, and leadership in smart growth management, environmental protection and transportation systems.

A caring and responsive community known for its community health and safety, accessibility, community cooperation and involvement, affordability, and accountability to its citizens.

Corporate Business Plan, 2007-2010

The Plan advances and implements the three goals of the CSP and Council's objectives for its four-year term of office. It is a roadmap of how Oshawa sets and communicates its priorities.

Strategic Financial Plan (SFP), 2005-2009

The SFP is a multi-year blueprint that provides a framework for making major financial decisions and ensures a focus on financial sustainability and accountability.

Economic Development Strategy

In 2001, City staff and community business leaders developed and implemented an Economic Development Strategy.

The Strategy is currently being updated to reflect existing and future business and community needs.

Downtown Oshawa

The 2005 Downtown Oshawa Action Plan addresses the downtown's revitalization. A Downtown Master Plan is under development and will address land use, urban design, parking and private sector incentives.

The Auxiliary of Lakeridge Health Oshawa donated the Healing Garden to R.S. McLaughlin Cancer Centre. It is a place of peace and tranquility for patients and their families. The Healing Hands fountain is constructed of large blocks that support three larger than life arms in which water flows from hand to hand. (2007)





The City's scenic, natural hamlets of Columbus and Raglan are surrounded by rich agricultural lands. Oshawa is comprised of 43% rural lands. (1999)

Parks, Recreation & Culture Strategy - Vision 2020

Eight strategic goals guide the actions of Council and staff in the provision of parks, recreation and culture services and facilities for the next 15 years.

Waterfront Master Plan

The City is preparing a master plan to maximize Oshawa's waterfront potential in collaboration with the Harbour Commission, Transport Canada and the public.

Oak Ridges Moraine Protection

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a significant natural feature that covers 2,490 hectares across northern Oshawa. Recently, the Provincial government passed the Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act to preserve this natural landform from development. The City's Official Plan recognizes the Moraine as natural open space and as a groundwater recharge area.

Oshawa's Future

We will continue to embrace partnerships with all levels of government, local organizations and the private sector to ensure a vibrant, sustainable and liveable community for everyone. We are looking forward to many other initiatives, including a Tourism Strategy and Environmental Master Plan.

The South Oshawa Community Centre, the City's newest recreation facility, is located adjacent to G.L. Roberts High School. The City and the high school collaborate together to offer unique youth programming. (2007)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Leaders Round Table (CLRT)

The CLRT was formed in 2004 to support the development of the City's first Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The CLRT represents a broad cross-section of community interests in Oshawa and meets annually to track the progress of CSP implementation.

Youth Advisory Committee

Oshawa's first Youth Advisory Committee is a voice for youth in the community. The committee acts as an information link with the community and City staff to provide input and advice on program planning, plan special events and raise funds for special projects.





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Front Cover Photos

Top: Three hundred and fifty Grade 3 and 4 students from 12 schools across Oshawa painted tiles depicting their favourite physical activities. All tiles are on display at the Legends Centre. (2006)

Middle: The Parkwood Mansion was designed by architects Darling and Pearson who are renowned for their outstanding influence on Canadian institutional architecture. The team also designed the University of Toronto, Royal Ontario Museum and the tower of the Centre Block of Parliament. (2007)

Bottom: A local family enjoys one of Oshawa's many trails that travel through the city down to the lake. (1999)