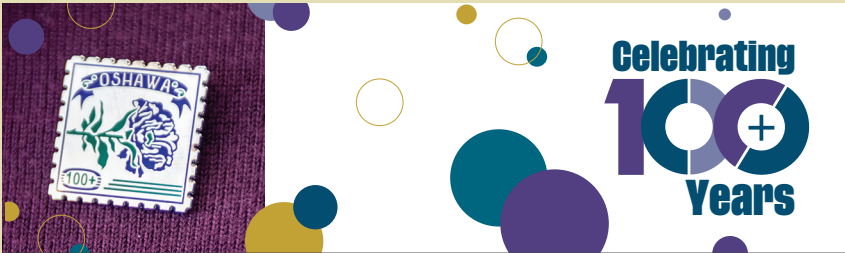


2024 Culture Update

Achievements & Highlights



Oshawa's Centennial

On March 8, 2024, the City of Oshawa celebrated its 100th anniversary as a City. To mark this special occasion, we celebrated all year with an expanded program of events, event enhancements, activities and commemorative projects.

Centennial Celebrations

Centennial activities included new and expanded festivals and events, environmental sustainability events and workshops, new public artwork and numerous commemorative activities. The City offered a unique Community Centennial Grant program, created a one-time post-secondary award offering and sponsored the 100th adoption at Oshawa Animal Services. Commemorative activities included the creation of a centennial publication and collectable centennial pin (*Send Flowers* by Chrrie, above), commemorative banners featuring historical images and the addition of centennial signs on the City's Welcome to Oshawa signs.

Festivals and Events

Every year, the City organizes and supports a wide range of events that promote community engagement, demonstrate our cultural vibrancy and foster civic pride.

2024 City-run Events

2024 City-run events included an Official 100+ Anniversary Celebration on March 8, Doors Open, Public Art in Oshawa, Peony Festival, Indigenous Cultural Celebration, Canada Day, Events in the Park, Kars on King, ARTBLOCK at Convergence, Culture Days, Bright and Merry Market, Oshawa Celebrates and more!

Event Highlights

100+ Anniversary Celebration

Community members gathered at the historic Regent Theatre for a celebration of Oshawa. The event included presentations by Club Carib, Durham Shoestring Performers, Nimkii and The Niniis, O'Neill Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Ontario Philharmonic Orchestra, Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, Oshawa Folk Arts Council, Oshawa Little Theatre, Oshawa Museum and Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame. Past Culture Counts Award winners Dani Crosby, Meaghan Claire Kehoe, Diana Nadia Lawryshyn and Leequette Santiago documented the event which was also broadcast on Rogers TV.

Indigenous Cultural Celebration

While the City of Oshawa is celebrating 100 years as a corporation, it is important to recognize that the history of Oshawa long surpasses this milestone. The family-friendly Indigenous Cultural Celebration at Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park honoured the Indigenous stewards and rights holders of this land and featured presentations and interactive workshops led by various First Nations, Inuit and Métis presenters.



Events in the Park

Events in the Park is a free, family-friendly event held in Oshawa throughout the summer. To celebrate the centennial year, the program was enhanced with events at Memorial Park every Tuesday and at Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park each Thursday.

ARTBLOCK at Convergence

In partnership with The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, the City produced ARTBLOCK, an art-centered zone at Oshawa Tourism's Convergence Music & Art Festival 2024. ARTBLOCK showcased the incredible talents of local artists, featured an exhibition in the former Oshawa GO Bus Terminal titled "Points of Connection" and offered hands-on public activities.

Sign up for the Events & Culture newsletter:
oshawa.ca/Subscribe

oshawa.ca/Culture
905-436-3311
culturecounts@oshawa.ca



If this information is required in an accessible format please contact Service Oshawa at 905-436-3311 or email service@oshawa.ca

Public Art

The City of Oshawa is proud to have a Public Art Master Plan which guides the ongoing implementation of the City's public art program. It outlines a vision statement for public art in Oshawa: "Oshawa will be a community where Public Art is innovative, diverse, and accessible to create vibrant public spaces and meaningful connections."

New 2024 Public Art Projects

Stay True by Jon Colwell (below) is an autobiographical mural symbolizing his creative journey as an Indigenous artist at a pivotal moment of self-representation. This work can be viewed at the South Oshawa Community Centre.



One Fish Two Fish by Meaghan Claire Kehoe evokes childhood nostalgia through playful abstraction. It invites viewers to reconnect with the joy and innocence of childhood, celebrating imagination and creativity. This work can be viewed at Northview Community Centre.

Turning the Wheel by Dani Crosby (left) was commissioned at the site of the former John Borlase Warren Flour Mill and reflects the history and legacy of the historic mill and its relationship to the Oshawa Creek. This work can be viewed on the McMillan Parkade, located at 110 King St. W.

How Many Hearts? Community Art Project

To commemorate the City's centennial, members of the public were invited to participate in the creation of a community-based art project. The *How Many Hearts?* project brought Oshawa's community together in love and creativity, uniting more than 300 unique art pieces into a vibrant hanging mural artwork celebrating the City's centenary. This artwork was created in collaboration with the LivingRoom Community Art Studio and Oshawa community members.



Art and Culture in the Hall

Art and Culture in the Hall, located at City Hall outside City Council chambers, is an exhibition program that celebrates local heritage and artistic talent. In 2024, exhibits were presented by the Oshawa Museum, Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame, Brain Injury Association of Durham, and by local artists Shay Conroy, Tracy Davidson, Parul Kanda and Marissa Sweet, who produced exhibitions that celebrate Oshawa's people, places and milestones.



Oshawa Culture Counts Awards

The Oshawa Culture Counts Awards celebrate and honour the creative and cultural achievements of the community. In 2024 the City recognized:

- **Professional Artist Award:**
Amy Shackleton
- **Emerging Artist Award:**
Emily Rocha and Kalista Wilson
- **Innovation and Creation Champion Award:**
Oshawa Tourism



TeachingCity
Oshawa

TeachingCity

TeachingCity brings together the City of Oshawa and its education and research partners – Durham College, Ontario Tech University, Trent University Durham GTA and the University of Toronto's Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering. The 2023/2024 arts and culture projects included:

Trailblazing Women: In honour of International Women's Day and the celebration of Oshawa's centennial, Durham College Journalism students created story maps spotlighting Oshawa's trailblazing women both past and present.

Centennial Public Art Project: Fine Arts students from Durham College were invited to submit proposals for a temporary public art project commemorating Oshawa's centennial by creating artwork that considers local history and culture. Artworks were installed in windows downtown.



Event Awards

The City of Oshawa is thrilled to announce that Peony Festival and Kars on King were named as Top 100 Festivals and Events for 2024 by Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO). Peony Festival also received recognition as a finalist for the 2024 Ontario Tourism Awards of Excellence in the Tourism Event of the Year category.

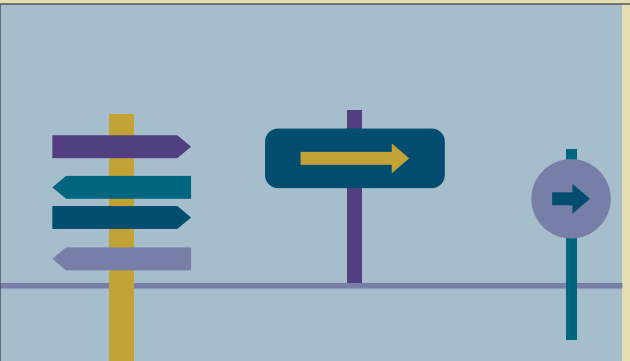


Volunteers

Thank you to the 50 volunteers who supported the City of Oshawa's events and initiatives this year!

We would also like to thank Judi Denny, who was honoured at the 2024 Festival and Events Ontario (FEO) Awards ceremony with the Volunteer of the Year Award for her significant contribution to the establishment of the Peony Festival.

If you're interested in volunteering for future programs please visit oshawa.ca/Volunteer.



Cultural Leadership

The City is proud to work collaboratively with volunteer committees that support the implementation of Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts Culture and Heritage Plan.

Thank you to all members for your support and extraordinary contribution.

- Cultural Leadership Council
- Public Art Task Force
- Community Centennial Committee