

Oshawa

History of Oshawa

In the early 1800s, the Oshawa Harbour, situated at the mouth of the Oshawa Creek, was an important First Nations trading route. By 1842, European settlers had formed a community here, and a post office was established. The post office was given the First Nations name “Oshawa”, which translated means, “that point at the crossing of the stream where the canoe was exchanged for the trail”. Oshawa was incorporated as a Village in 1850, then a Town in 1854, and finally a City in 1994.

Over the years, Oshawa has been the home of some of Canada’s most celebrated national icons: For starters, the McLaughlin Motor Car Company, the forerunner to General Motors of Canada began in Oshawa. This company was founded by Robert Samuel McLaughlin who built a magnificent home called Parkwood Estate, which is located in downtown Oshawa, at 2750 Simcoe Street North. Parkwood Estate is now a public museum. This 55 room mansion was featured on A & E’s “American Castles”, and is designated as a national historic site.

Another Oshawa landmark is the 1500 acre Windfields Farm, which was founded by the legendary Canadian industrialist, developer, and philanthropist E. P. Taylor. Windfields Farm is located in Oshawa’s predominantly rural north end. Windfields Farm was the home of Kentucky Derby winner Northern Dancer. This farm has bred more thoroughbred stakes winners than any other equine operation in the world!

Oshawa is very proud of its illustrious Ontario Major Junior Hockey League franchise, the Oshawa Generals. The Oshawa Generals were founded in 1937, and have won four Memorial Cup championships. Their alumni includes the likes of hockey legends, Bobby Orr, and Eric Lindros.

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Lifestyle in Oshawa

Downtown Oshawa's gentrified shopping district situated at King and Simcoe Streets, features a series of colourful wall murals, pretty floral planters and cast-iron street lamps. This shopping area hosts a Farmers Market at the Queen's Market Square, located at the corner of Richmond and William Streets. Vendors at the market sell farm fresh produce, crafts, and antiques. This market is open every Saturday from spring until fall.

Oshawa Centre, located at 419 King Street West, is one of the largest shopping centres in the Greater Toronto Area. This shopping centre has recently undergone a major renovation. It features over 200 shops and services and is anchored by: The Bay, Sears, and Zellers. In the north part of Oshawa you will find numerous suburban style shopping plazas that feature a myriad of franchise stores and restaurants.

Recreation in Oshawa

Oshawa's largest sports venue is the Civic Auditorium Complex. This multifaceted sports and recreation facility is comprised of the Civic Fields, the Civic Dome, Centennial Pool, and the Civic Auditorium. This Auditorium is the home of the Oshawa Generals hockey team.

Canlan Ice Sports Oshawa is Durham Region's very popular Sports Complex with a Sports Store, full service restaurant, 2 NHL sized ice surfaces and 4 championship Beach Volleyball Courts.

Durham Family YMCA situated in downtown Oshawa at 99 Mary Street North, has a 25 metre pool, a gymnasium, an indoor track, cardio and weight rooms, and squash courts. Oshawa has beautiful waterfront parks, and a trail system that explores this city's vast conservation areas. Oshawa's trails are popular with cyclists and joggers.

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Arts in Oshawa

Oshawa has a large number of excellent museums including: the Canadian Automotive Museum at 99 Simcoe Street South, Oshawa Aeronautical Military and Industrial Museum at 1000 Stevenson Road North, Oshawa Community Museum and Archives at 1450 Simcoe Street South, Parkwood Estate and Gardens at 270 Simcoe Street North, and the Robert McLaughlin Gallery at 72 Queen Street.

Music and the arts flourish in Oshawa which is home to the Oshawa- Durham Symphony Orchestra, the Durham Shoestring Performers, and the Oshawa Little Theatre. Outdoor performances are sometimes held at the W A McLaughlin Bandshell in Memorial Park and the Jubilee Pavilion – one of Canada's oldest ballroom dance floors – located at Lakeview Park.

Oshawa celebrates its multiculturalism every year with Fiesta Week, which is held during the third week in June, and is kicked off with a three day festival held at Lakeview Park, overlooking Lake Ontario. A midway, crafters village, children's village, beach activities, and fireworks are all part of the festivities. The highlight of Fiesta Week is the Fiesta Parade which includes over 20 different cultural groups and 2,000 participants.

Transportation in Oshawa

The Oshawa Transit Commission operates regular municipal bus routes throughout the city. The Oshawa Go Train Station located at Bloor Street and Thornton Road operates weekday service. The train ride to downtown Toronto's Union Station takes approximately one hour.

Highway 401, runs east-west across the south end of Oshawa. The drive to the Toronto City limits takes approximately 30 minutes