RE:LOCATION

SPRING 2025

DURHAM REGION RELOCATION GUIDE

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Ad Placeholder

From sold out shows to starry nights

DurhamTourism.ca

Photo courtesy of the Biltmore Theatre, Oshawa.

Durham Tourism

WELCOME TO DURHAM REGION

Durham Region is an exciting place to be. It's one of the fastest-growing communities in Ontario. Home to 770,000 residents across its eight municipalities, Durham is a region with momentum.

For people who want to buy a home, start or grow a business or get a top-notch post-secondary education, Durham has so much to offer. There's plenty to do, plenty to see and the area provides a quality of life that is second to none, seamlessly blending urban excitement, scenic waterfronts and country charm. Our 14 downtowns are lined with local businesses, owned by creative entrepreneurs who make our communities vibrant. When venturing off the beaten path of our downtowns, you will find some of the best farmland in Ontario. Durham's local food movement is connected to hundreds of farmers and producers who supply kitchens across the region. You'll also find the rolling countryside, conservation areas and more than 350 kilometres of trails that offer a beautiful landscape for year-round recreation. Our housing options are as diverse as our landscapes. Whether you're looking for a traditional family home, a modern apartment or condominium, a charming townhouse or a rural property, you'll find it here. For those with an entrepreneurial spirit, innovation is in our DNA. Every day, smart, talented and ambitious people bring fresh insights to their education, work and communities to solve global challenges. This shines bright at our three post-secondary institutions, which offer programs to develop a talent pipeline with the agility to meet today's workforce demands, across all sectors.

We are proud of the rich diversity of our communities. We are home to a beautiful mosaic of identities, people who represent diverse backgrounds, abilities, religions, ages and so much more, that make Durham a welcoming place to call home. All of this — and more — make Durham an ideal place to put down roots. We take pride in the high quality of life that our residents, business owners and other stakeholders enjoy.

We are thrilled to welcome you to our scenic lakeshore community and wish you all the best as you embark on this exciting new chapter.

John Henry
Regional Chair and CEO, the Regional Municipality of Durham

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DURHAM REGION RELOCATION GUIDE

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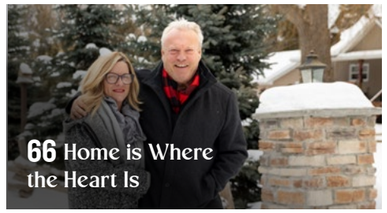
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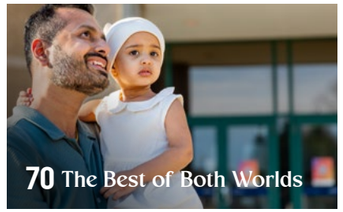
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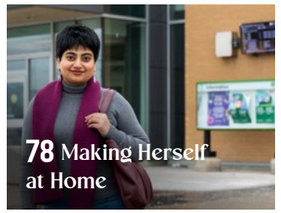
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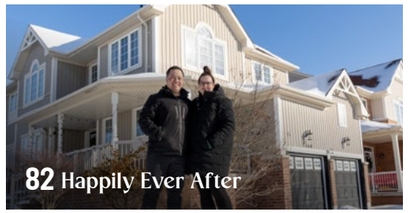
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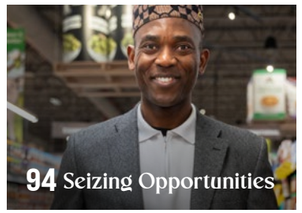
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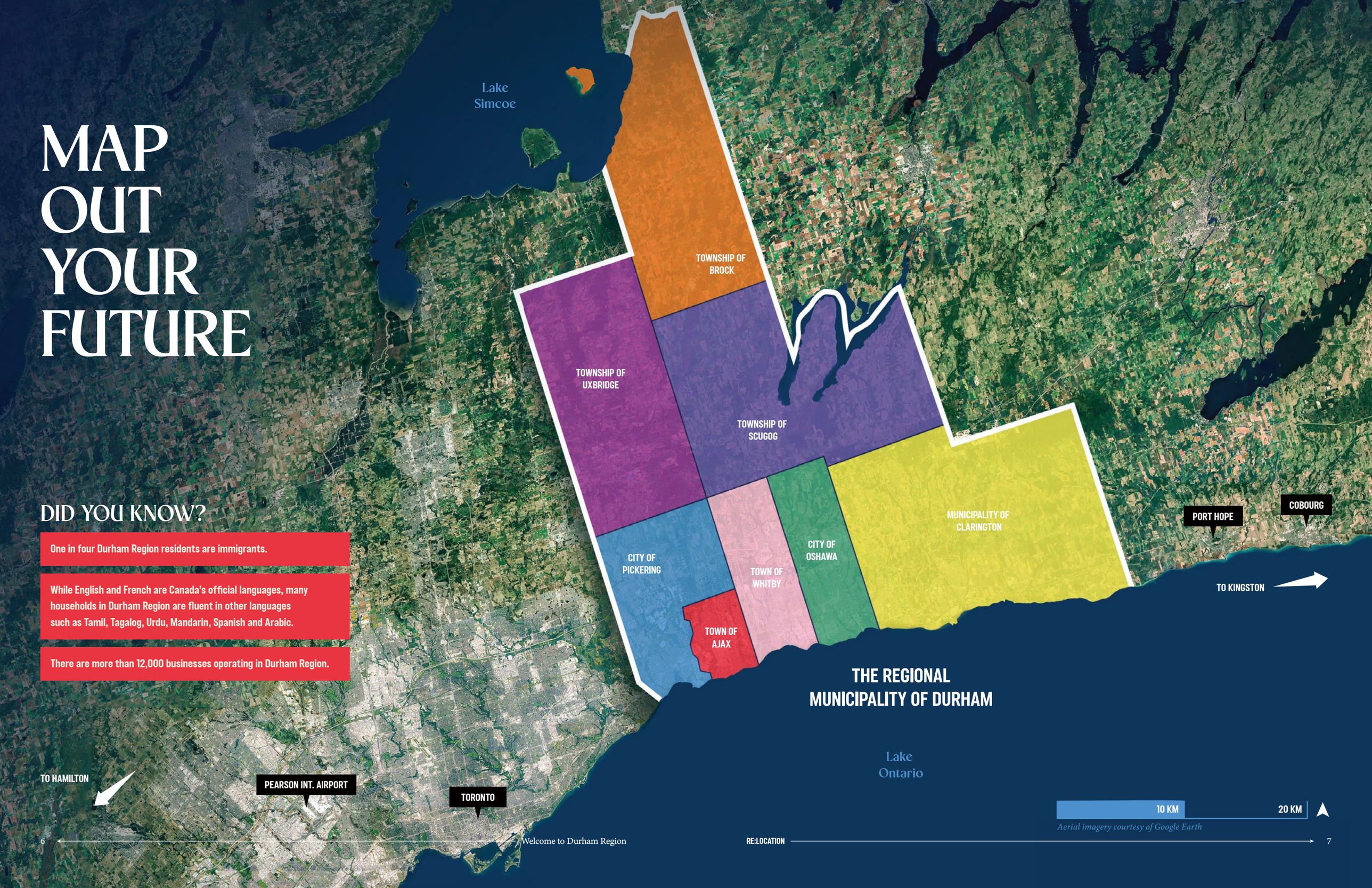
MAP OUT YOUR FUTURE

DID YOU KNOW?

One in four Durham Region residents are immigrants.

While English and French are Canada's official languages, many households in Durham Region are fluent in other languages such as Tamil, Tagalog, Urdu, Mandarin, Spanish and Arabic.

There are more than 12,000 businesses operating in Durham Region.



Aerial imagery courtesy of Google Earth

SMALL TOWN CHARM

BIG CITY CULTURE

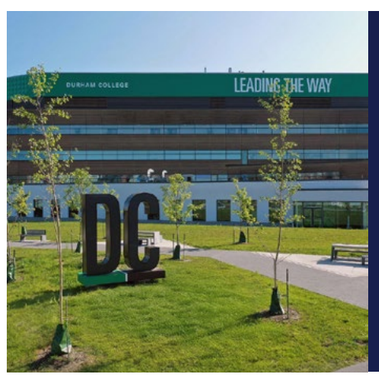
What if you could experience a more relaxed pace of life — less hustle and bustle, less traffic, more green space, more personality, a greater sense of community — while also enjoying the culture, amenities and opportunities that come with living in a major urban centre? You'd probably say you would have the best of both worlds, right? We totally agree.

That's what's up in Durham Region. We hear it all the time from people who are from the area and those who have relocated to one of our eight municipalities — not only do they appreciate a quieter atmosphere, tighter community and a calmer vibe, but they also relish in the arts, culture and entertainment that's synonymous with living in the big city. In Durham, you'll find we prioritize culture and offer diverse experiences most people associate with living in capital cities — from museums, art galleries, live music, heritage sites and theatres to festivals, orchestras and even our own international film festival, you'll be surprised by the offerings available to you when you make the region home. →

DRIFF screening, photo courtesy of DRIFF

ON THE BIG SCREEN

Love a good flick? So do we. Of course, everyone's familiar with the world-renowned Toronto International Film Festival, but they're not the only game in town. In fact, the Durham Region International Film Festival (affectionately dubbed DRIFF), launched as a non-profit in 2017, has grown into a three-day festival held every October that delights film buffs across the region. "DRIFF celebrates the power of cinema to connect, inspire and entertain through the support of many wonderful volunteers, sponsors and partners," says Eileen Kennedy, Durham Region's film commissioner and DRIFF's audience, events and marketing committee chair. "The festival captivates audiences with a variety of extraordinary films by both local talents and international filmmakers, including thought-provoking documentaries like *Atomic Reaction,* daring animations, heartwarming family dramas like *Suze* and edge-of-your-seat thrillers." Held at three venues in the region, including the Biltmore Theatre in Oshawa, the festival is a vibrant cultural event that provides cinephiles with red-carpet photo opportunities, lots of local food and educational interactive workshops that dig deep into the world of filmmaking — there have been workshops on everything from music and sound design to special effects. "We offer affordable tickets for everyone to enjoy the art of film through a robust program right in their very own community. As a not-for-profit film festival rooted in communities in Durham, DRIFF engages a diverse network of audiences, filmmakers and collaborators to promote film as a form of creative expression and a catalyst for community building," says Eileen. And who knows? A movie you see at DRIFF might end up screening at TIFF someday. *driff.ca*



Did You Know?

Durham Region is home to four of the province's top post-secondary institutions: Ontario Tech University (known for its stellar engineering program), Durham College (known for its research facilities), Trent University Durham GTA (known for innovation) and Queen's Lakeridge Family Medicine Program (a first-in-Canada program designed to address the province's shortage of general practitioners). Every semester, students from diverse backgrounds and cultures come together, making these universities and colleges a welcome place for all who enrol.

Durham College North Campus, photo courtesy of Durham College

LOUD, PROUD, LOCAL

You've got to love a place where anyone — and we do mean anyone, regardless of race, gender, age, sexual preference, etc. — can come together and party. That's Club 717, a social club that's proudly served Durham Region and its 2SLGBTQI+ community for more than 35 years. What began as a venue to hold monthly dances in the '80s was incorporated into the Durham Alliance Association Social Club in 1990. Its current location has been the cornerstone of the community since it relocated 30 years ago. "While the club has always been a safer space for community, it has evolved significantly over the years. Club 717 is unique because it's entirely run by volunteers and we strive to make it not just a club, but a welcoming hub for the 2SLGBTQI+ community and its allies where everyone feels at home," says Jason Allman, president of Club 717. "For those who are new to Durham Region, we offer a variety of events, including karaoke on Thirsty Thursdays, drag shows on Fridays and euchre nights on Social Sundays. These events offer a relaxing way to connect," he says. And if you've been to similar clubs in big cities, you'll quickly note how different Club 717 is when you walk through the door — it's a super positive space where you can meet new people, unwind and just be yourself. (Win, win, win.)

Besides the party atmosphere, Club 717 is home to Durham Alliance Outreach, a charitable branch dedicated to supporting the community through programs like the DAO Pantry, Durham Region's only 2SLGBTQI+ food bank. "We've served more than 12,600 clients, providing vital support to those in need. The integration of community service and social connection makes Club 717 truly unique," says Jason. "So, whether you're looking for entertainment, connection or meaningful ways to give back, we've got something for everyone." *717 Wilson Road South, Oshawa. club717.com*

Q&A

We asked Krista Licsi, the director of Oshawa Tourism for the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, to tell us about Convergence Music and Art Festival, one of the city's hottest — and most unique — events.

Q: What's Convergence all about and why is it so unique?

A: The Convergence Music and Art Festival (held the third weekend of September) is something you won't find anywhere else — it's a true reflection of Oshawa's creative spirit and sense of community. It brings together live music, interactive art, extreme sports and cultural showcases in a way that feels authentic and completely unique to the city. What makes Convergence so special is how it celebrates Oshawa's authenticity. Whether you're wandering through Nerd Alley checking out comic books, board games and cosplay, watching pro-skateboarders or roller derby skaters in action, taking in live music at one of the free outdoor stages or celebrating at one of the ticketed after-parties, there's something for everyone to connect with. What's more, the festival does an incredible job of reflecting Oshawa's diversity, making sure everyone feels welcome and represented. From the Black Artist Collective and Ishkode – Indigenous Artists showcasing their work to Street Momo or Bao Mama cooking up delicious eats, Convergence is intentional about creating a space for all communities to come together.

Q: Walk us through the event — there are a bunch of different zones at the festival. What can people new to Durham Region expect when they visit?

A: First, there are unique market experiences. Convergence features vibrant markets that showcase Oshawa's unique makers. In Nerd Alley, fans of comics, gaming and cosplay can explore the Oshawa Comic Book Show, interactive cosplay meetups and a Ghostbusters installation complete with live Ghostbusters and a towering 30-foot inflatable Stay Puft Marshmallow Man. Meanwhile, the Punk Rock Flea Market delivers an authentic, DIY vibe, with vendors offering vintage band tees, hand-screened posters, zines and local art. The Extreme Sports Zone draws thrill-seekers with live professional wrestling, roller derby demos and high-energy skateboarding demonstrations. We have three live music stages that showcase a dynamic mix of popular Canadian artists and Oshawa's rising local stars. From indie rock and folk to electronic sets, the stages come alive with performances that highlight both established talent and emerging acts from the Durham Region. Then there's the Art Zone, which transforms forgotten spaces into stunning art exhibits, giving people a chance to see local and emerging artists in action. And Street Food Alley brings people together over exceptional food and features a mix of local restaurants, cultural pavilions and members of the Oshawa Folk Arts Council, and Durham Region-based food trucks. Past participants have included Philthy Phillies, Zombie Cones, Street Momo, Club Carib, Berry Hill Food Co. and many more. Add in family activities and pop-up shops from more than 80 vendors, and the festival becomes a full day of discovery and celebration.

Convergence isn't just another event — it's a can't-miss event that brings Oshawa's vibrant music, art and culture scene to life, and it offers a chance for residents and visitors to experience Oshawa at its best. It highlights everything that makes the city so vibrant and unique while building a sense of pride and belonging that lasts long after the day ends. *convergenceoshawa.com*

Thomas Burton, Artistic Director. Photo by Ian MacCready

SING YOUR HEART OUT

WHAT RESOUND Choir

WHO Sue Rawlinson, president

WHERE Oshawa

What we do: Our mandates revolve around excellence in choral performance and meaningful community outreach. Immigration continues to be a significant catalyst for growth in Durham Region, accounting for nearly two-thirds of population growth in the last five years. To continue to be relevant to the changing demographics around us, we strive to connect with those in our work, play and home communities who share diverse perspectives. Since music is a powerful and rich story-telling medium, connecting through song allows us to broaden our understanding of those coming from different cultures, traditions and life experiences; and we believe this makes us all better neighbours.

How it works: We are an auditioned soprano, alto, tenor and bass choir for both younger and older adults representing diverse origins, cultures, music and life experience. We perform beautiful and moving classical choral works, enlivened with a touch of contemporary choral repertoire, to present an uplifting and compelling concert experience to a broad audience. Our choir performs three concerts a year, often including brand-new commissions by talented Canadian composers, large-scale choral masterwork concerts with orchestra and community-oriented performances featuring the work of local student songwriters. We also have partnerships with front-line service organizations to help generate awareness and support for their work on issues that are important to the community. When it comes down to it, we love music and we have a lot of fun singing beautiful music together.

How to join: Get in touch with RESOUND via email (resoundmembership@gmail.com). Auditions are held by appointment in September, January and June with the artistic director, Thomas Burton. You can also arrange to attend a live rehearsal to get a feel for what we're all about.

My favourite performances: There are two — one is "Songs My Mother Taught Me" in 2023, an exploration of the relationship that evolves between mother and daughter over time. The other is "That Lonesome Road," which segued into spoken readings by choir members sharing stories and experiences. We partnered with Ontario Shores Foundation for Mental Health for this concert to raise awareness of the supports and services they offer to Durham residents living with mental health challenges. *resoundchoir.ca*

COME TOGETHER

These annual festivals are the perfect places to meet new people and get immersed in Durham Region's vibrant arts, culture and music scene.

MAY

Artfest (Pickering)

JUNE

Springtide Music Festival (Uxbridge)
Fiesta Week (Oshawa)

JULY

Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation Powwow (Scugog Island)
Home Sweet Home Festival (Whitby)

SEPTEMBER

Convergence Music and Art Festival (Oshawa)
Winding Roads Music Festival (Port Perry)

OCTOBER

Durham Region International Film Festival

SHOW YOUR PRIDE

Pride Durham is all about ensuring our 2SLGBTQI+ community feels comfortable and safe to celebrate and be proud of who they are. Get in touch with the organization at pridedurham.ca, and don't miss our annual Pride Festival every June. #DurhamPride #LoveIsLove

A TALE OF TWO THEATRES

The Regent and the Roxy are two of Durham Region's most iconic theatres. Here's what you should know about these cultural institutions.

Photo courtesy of Ontario Tech University

The Regent
50 King Street East, Oshawa
regenttheatre.ca

- Concerts: Canadian bands and tribute shows
- Ontario Philharmonic performances
- Classic Movie Night runs the first Thursday of every month
- Comedy and events
- Ontario Tech University film screenings

The Roxy
46 Brock Street West, Uxbridge
roxytheatres.com

- Full-service, first-run movies
- Roxy Art Film Club (for interested movie buffs who enjoy screenings of alternative flicks)
- Venue for private parties and events
- Short Film Festivals in September and October
- Movies, Martinis and Manicures Ladies' Nights and Oscar Night at the Roxy

Marco Parisotto and Ontario Philharmonic, Koerner Hall
Photo courtesy of Ontario Philharmonic

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

WHAT Ontario Philharmonic

WHO Laura Vaillancourt, executive director

WHERE Oshawa

What we do: To understand the community we call home, we must develop and nurture cultural assets that are supported by the community and offer programming for the community. Ontario Philharmonic (OP) provides high-level professional performances of the great classics, contemporary music, as well as pop symphonic works to the large community of Durham. OP's major emphasis is on removing barriers for children, youth and seniors, increasing their participation in their community's cultural programming. OP is truly one of Durham Region's most valued cultural assets.

What new residents should know: OP is a symphony orchestra that is beloved by its community, regularly taking on exciting and ambitious programming meant to thrill its audience. It is the only professional orchestra between Toronto and Kingston. As with all professional ensembles in classical music, musicians take part in a competitive audition process to become members of the group.

My favourite performances: OP programs some impressive works, often surpassing that of a big-city orchestra, as described by many OP concertgoers. Each performance becomes a favourite because I am deeply moved by the music and interpretations, and I always learn something about world history, world humanity and local talent. Ultimately, I experience the performances through the lens of the youngest in our audience, knowing that these experiences are building rare and treasured family memories for them and even catapulting them into a career path, influenced by these works that penetrate the soul and open a fantastic world of imagination and creativity. *ontariophil.ca*

STATE OF THE ART

Art has always been a major part of the region's culture, and Station Gallery — which was started by a group of local art lovers in 1967 — is a testament to that. The gallery, located in the historic Whitby Junction Station, is a community arts hub with four main spaces, including the Jill Dyall Community Gallery. (The other three spaces feature group collections and single artists.) Aside from the art exhibitions, there are a bunch of classes, workshops, special events and performances throughout the year, including art talks, live music, paint nights and Family Funday, a drop-in event for families who want to get creative together. *1450 Henry Street, Whitby. stationgallery.ca*

Live music at Station Gallery. Photo courtesy of Durham Tourism

PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY

Durham College has committed to student success since it opened its doors in 1967, and in the nearly 60 years since, it has done just as much for the Region — supporting the community and local businesses — as it has for its scholars.

Photo by Durham College

Debbie McKee Demczyk has seen a lot of growth in the 18 years she's been at Durham College (DC). As DC's Associate Vice-President of Innovation and Research who oversees Corporate Training Services and the Office of Research Services, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ORSIE), she's not only had a front-row seat to the college's advancement over the years, but she's played a role in connecting the school and its students with opportunities across the region. "Our world is changing so quickly, and we know that if you're not involved, you could miss out. We are solving complex problems and challenges, and our applied research hubs, staff and graduates strengthen Durham Region. We all benefit from the talented teams and the work that's done here," she says.

That's the thing about colleges and universities — they're more than centres of innovation and knowledge, and their work isn't confined to classrooms. Durham College is the backbone of Durham Region, and the staff and students who make up its centres and hubs are a significant part of fostering economic development, supporting local businesses and engaging with the community. "Durham College is the only college in the region, and employees and students feel an important connection to our community. We offer more than 140 programs, delivering quality learning experiences to students as we prepare them to graduate and be job ready. That's our core business, but we connect with our community in many ways people might not think about," says Bonnie St. George, DC's Vice-President, People, Equity and External Relations.

Dedication to Community

DC is known for education, so it makes sense the college prioritizes working with Durham's school boards to deliver its School-College-Work initiative. "This program enables at-risk secondary school students to take a college course that can be used as both a high-school and college credit," says St. George. "We also help people get jobs at our four Community Employment Services centres, which offer various services from resumé and interview workshops to job search support and job fairs. DC's Hired Career Portal gives employers an avenue to reach students and graduates."

Beyond education, DC invests in supporting the wellbeing of both students and residents. For example, the Barrett Centre of Innovation in Sustainable Urban Agriculture allows the community to learn about farming in urban areas and how to grow their own food at home, while DC's Campus Health and Wellness Centre has a full suite of medical services available to staff and students. "The Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre (CRWC) offers memberships, which allow access to our gyms, an elevated walking and running track, the FLEX fitness centre and exercise classes. We also offer affordable dental cleanings to the public through our Dental Clinic," says St. George. "And for something more unique, community members can visit our teaching-inspired, award-winning field-to-fork restaurant, Bistro '67, or attend an exciting varsity game at the CRWC. They can even come to the college for a bit of pampering at the DC Spa."

Unparalleled Innovation

There are five innovation hubs that make up ORSIE's Applied Research division, and McKee Demczyk says the focus of each is to solve challenges for area businesses and community organizations. The three tech-focused centres — the AI Hub, Centre for Cybersecurity Innovation and Mixed Reality Capture Studio (MRC Studio) — help organizations advance when it comes to tech-related issues. "So, whether you're a health-care provider, a manufacturer, an insurance company, you name it, and you're wondering how artificial intelligence can serve you better, the AI Hub can help," she says. "Then there's the MRC Studio, where the team combines motion capture, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR), and they're really honing in on creating virtual training simulations." An example is the team's work with Oshawa Fire — the MRC Studio built an environment using a VR headset that combines multiple technologies to put firefighters in a virtual burning house, surrounded by smoke and alarms. "They have to make their way through to rescue people. They wanted a low-cost, safe way to provide training to their firefighters and what we developed evolved from there."

The other two centres — the Centre for Craft Brewing Innovation (CCBI) and the Social Impact Hub — are equally impressive in their work and in the many ways they benefit the community and local economy. Take the CCBI, a microbrewery at the Whitby campus. "We have all the brewing equipment you'd see in any craft brewery, just on a smaller scale. So, we can brew beer, low-alcohol beer, kombucha, hard lemonade — any kind of fermented beverage," she says. "If a company wants to come up with a new flavour profile or they want to try a different kind of hop or grain, that kind of experimentation is exactly what we do."

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about ORSIE is the team and the ways they've helped local businesses. "We have full-time researchers and the students who work on projects are paid, so they're taking what they're learning in our classrooms and working with experts. Their resumés are outstanding. We've often had the opportunity to hire those students ourselves, so then they become project leads. It's really rewarding to see the students grow with us," says McKee Demczyk. And when it comes to collaborating with companies, ORSIE's team has made a huge impact. "We address real-world problems. As an economic development strategy, we're here to help companies grow and be successful, build new products, tap new markets and grow their workforce. We don't even keep any intellectual property — we turn it over to the client," she says. "It strengthens Durham Region to have all this talent here. And for companies that are thinking →

Photos by Durham College

about moving to the area, knowing that DC is on the cutting edge and we're cranking out grads who have real-world experience — either working on a research project with a company or being in a co-op program — shows they're skilled and ready to take on any challenge."

Cultivating Partnerships

"The value of our community partnerships lies in the power of collaboration, the pooling of resources and the ability to create positive, lasting change in the region and drive our economy forward," says St. George. "We interact with businesses from across the region through field placements, co-ops, practicums and other work-integrated learning (WIL) experiences — we have more than 2,455 WIL partners. Employers benefit from the skills students are building in their programs and, in turn, our students get valuable networking and critical hands-on opportunities." DC has cultivated relationships with a long list of partners, including chambers of commerce, Lakeridge Health, Ontario Power Generation, Cyber Security Canada, General Motors Canada, Ontario Tech University and all levels of government. "By working together, we can tackle larger, more complex problems than we could address individually. These combined efforts have led to greater social, economic and environmental impacts in our region."

Want to learn more about Durham College and its work in the community?

Visit durhamcollege.ca

PITCH IN AND LEND A HAND

We can't think of a better way to immerse yourself in a community than volunteering for a cause that will support your new neighbours. Helping others helps you integrate into the region and is the perfect way to dive into a new culture. Volunteering makes a world of difference — not only will you help cultivate your bond with your new home, but you'll also play a key role in building a culture of service, which you'll soon see is a pretty cool part of what makes Durham Region so great.

New to the area and not sure where to start? No worries. Think about the causes and groups you're most passionate about — maybe you want to mentor a teenager or buddy up with a senior, or maybe you're all about cleaning up the environment, cheering up patients in the hospital, doing your part to fight food scarcity or helping with community development. No matter your interests, there's a like-minded organization in the region that could really use your time, energy, skills and help. Here are just a few ideas off the top to get you started.

1 Want to help others gain more independence in their own homes? Volunteer with Community Care Durham

This organization offers people 16 and older (along with their caregivers) support services that give them independence and better their quality of life. Services include help with health and wellness, Meals on Wheels, transportation, outdoor seasonal support, assisted living and caregiver relief for those who need it most. *communitycaredurham.on.ca*

2 Want to help build a strong generation of girls? Volunteer with Girls Inc. Durham

Operating in more than 350 cities across North America, Girls Inc. is the longest-running girls' leadership program that empowers girls to embrace their diversity, recognize their strengths, and gain the knowledge and skills to effect positive change in their lives. Girls Inc. gives girls ages six to 18 the tools to become leaders who will change the world. *girlsinc-durham.org*

3 Want to make sure your community is fed? Volunteer with We Grow Food

Partnering with the Durham District School Board, We Grow Food has urban gardens all over the region. It started to combat food insecurity in Oshawa, but there are now more than 85 gardens that feed the community and teach residents about living sustainably. *wegrowfood490377067.wordpress.com*

4 Want to take care of four-legged pals (and cuddle puppies)? Volunteer with Humane Society of Durham Region

The Humane Society of Durham Region provides care and shelter for cats, dogs and pocket pets while they wait for their forever homes. Volunteers can help with housekeeping, transportation and community outreach. And yes, there are positions available for those who want to play with pups. *hsdr.org*

5 Want to help protect your local environment? Volunteer with Friends of Second Marsh

Second Marsh is one of the largest remaining urban wetlands in the Greater Toronto Area — its 137 hectares are located in southeast Oshawa adjacent to McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve and Darlington Provincial Park. Friends of Second Marsh is a registered charity dedicated to encouraging the protection and appreciation of Second Marsh, other Great Lakes wetlands, our natural heritage system and to promoting a healthy environment through education, communication, developing partnerships and fostering connections with all sectors of the community. Volunteering includes community events such as clean-up days and invasive plant management and restoration. *secondmarsh.ca*

6 Want to make a difference in the lives of children and youth with physical, communication and developmental needs? Volunteer with Grandview Kids

Grandview Kids — founded in 1953 — is an independently operated not-for-profit organization and the only children's treatment centre in Durham Region. The centre provides specialized programs, outpatient clinical treatment and support to thousands of children and youth with physical, communication and developmental needs and their families. Volunteers offer invaluable support with therapy and recreation programs and special events, and they serve as greeters for clients at the centre's sites. *grandviewkids.ca/volunteer* R:

FROM LAND TO LAKE

For those who are outdoorsy — or folks who just crave more time basking in the sunshine and taking in their surroundings — we've got good news: Durham Region is literally filled with green spaces and access to nature. With more than 350 kilometres of recreational trails, 23 conservation areas, provincial parks, wildlife reserves, dozens of parks and playgrounds, and a waterfront trail that stretches around the Great Lakes, there are plenty of opportunities to unwind in the great outdoors.

So why live and play near the lake and green spaces, anyway? Great question. Durham residents who live along the shores of Lake Ontario or Lake Scugog, near the harbours and ports, or those who are just a short drive from conservation areas say they enjoy a slew of benefits — think more physical activity, improved sleep, an abundance of fresh air and better mental health. There's certainly a lot to be said for spending your days near wide-open spaces.

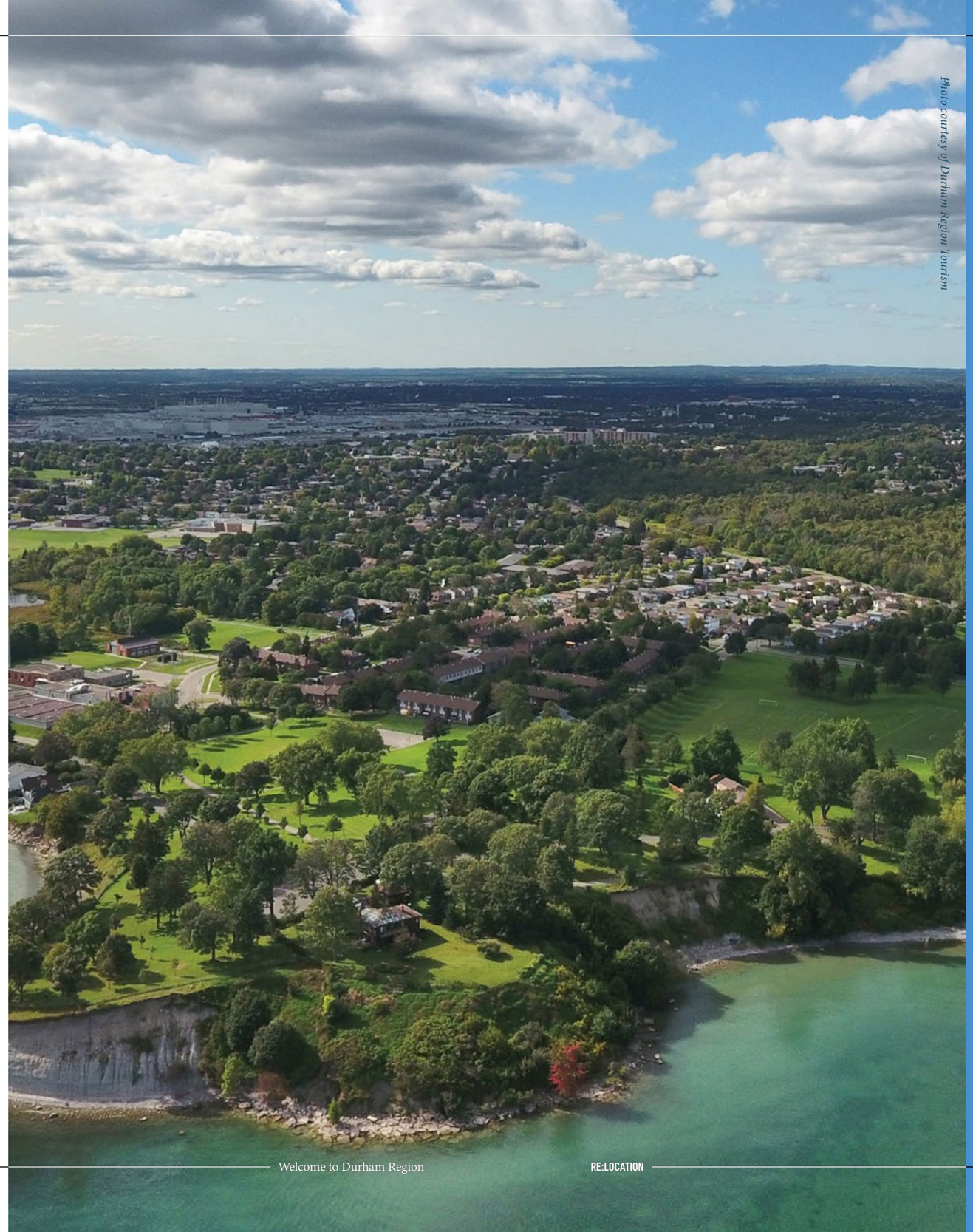


Photo courtesy of Durham Region Tourism

LAKE LIFE

The Great Lakes Waterfront Trail stretches more than 3,600 kilometres and connects 170 communities, including Durham Region. Here are some of the highlights in the area.

Pickering Waterfront Trail

- 13 kilometres; 9 kilometres of off-road trail and 4 kilometres of trail along residential roads
- Divided into three sections: First Nations Trail, Monarch Trail and Peak Trail
- Incredible views from the pedestrian bridge crossing the Rouge River and Petticoat Creek
- Boardwalk across sand beach from Liverpool Road at Millennium Square through Beachfront Park to Alex Robertson Park
- Public restrooms at Dunmoore Park, Beachfront Park and Kinsmen

Ajax Waterfront Trail

- 7 kilometres
- Off-road, multiuse; best for walkers and cyclists
- Concessions and public washrooms in Rotary Park at Duffins Creek and Carruthers Marsh Pavillion

Whitby Waterfront Trail

- 13 kilometres
- Lookouts connected to the Waterfront Trail through Lynde Shores Conservation Area, connecting two provincial wetlands
- Amenities at Port Whitby Marina's Clubhouse; seasonal access through Port Whitby Marina
- Beaches at Lake Park and Heydenshore Kiwanis Park

Oshawa Waterfront Trail

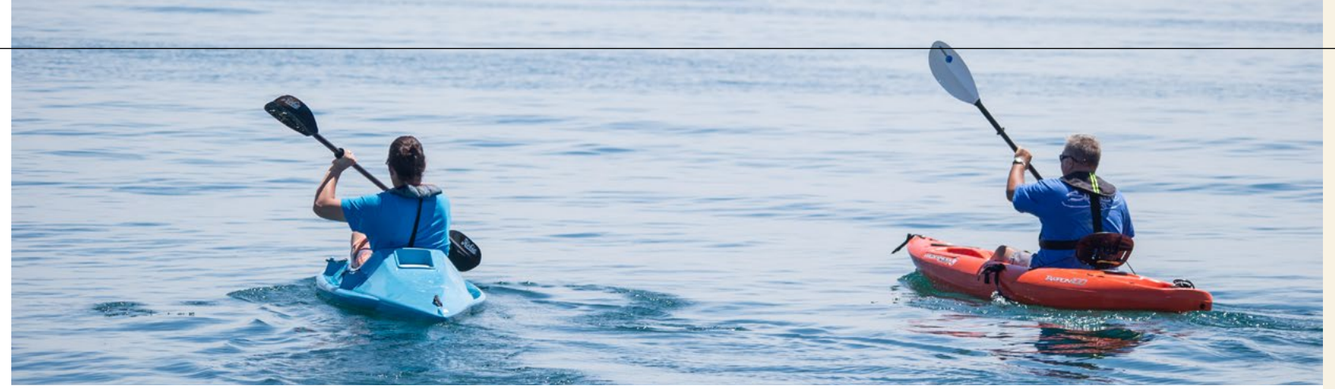
- 11 kilometres
- 9 waterfront parks, including Lakeview Park
- Home to the Second Marsh, the biggest remaining coastal wetland between Niagara and Presqu'ile Provincial Park
- Beside the McLaughlin Wildlife Reserve
- Beaches, concessions and public washrooms dot the trail →

TESTING THE WATERS

For Lorraine Kane, the co-owner of Riverview Kayaking based in Seagrave, living on the water had been a lifelong dream. Born and raised in Toronto, Lorraine moved to Durham Region in 1988 — first relocating to Oshawa, then moving east to Courtice and Hampton before landing in Port Perry. "When I first moved to Oshawa, I'd heard about this quaint little town just north of me. I first fell in love with Port Perry because of all the unique shops along Queen Street, and I was pleasantly surprised by the number of great restaurants in such a small town. I most enjoyed sitting down by the lake enjoying ice cream while watching my children play in the park," she says. Five years ago, that dream to live on the water was realized when the family moved to Seagrave, just north of Port Perry. "We bought a house on the Nonquon River, part of Lake Scugog, which I think is one of the area's best-kept secrets. The water is extremely calm and fairly shallow. While kayaking on the river, I was thrilled to see the local wildlife. On a paddle, you can see blue herons, painted turtles sunning on logs, beavers, otters, ducks, geese and even cows that come into the water to cool off on hot summer days," she says.

When everyone was stuck at home during the pandemic, Lorraine, a teacher, had an idea — she found herself thinking of ways to get other people out on the river. "I thought it was exactly what people needed — to get out in nature and enjoy all that the river had to offer. After a couple of weeks, I decided to buy four kayaks and I placed an advertisement in our local *Port Perry Bulletin*. For me, it was about wellness — I would daydream that one day our home would be a wellness centre where people would come and disconnect from all the stresses in their lives and rejuvenate through a variety of holistic experiences."

That was the inception of Riverview Kayaking. "I offered beginner's kayaking tours where I was able to put my teaching skills and 20 years of kayaking experience into practice. We begin on the shore, where I introduce the basics and water safety. When they're comfortable, they get into the water and we take a tour along the river," she says. Today, Lorraine has a fleet of 20 kayaks, she's expanded to offer Reiki, head massage and reflexology, and she's planning to bring other experts in for guests. "I would ultimately love to put a couple of cabins down at the water and offer overnight accommodations, but that's down the road. For now, we're continuing to grow." *riverviewkayaking.ca*



Bottom left: Fishing on Lake Scugog at sunset. Top left: Kayaking on Lake Ontario. Photos courtesy of the Region of Durham.

OPEN SPACES

Hail from a humming metropolis and need some fresh air and a serene place to slow down? Durham Region's conservation areas and forests are ideal for getting active, taking a quiet moment and spending time reconnecting with nature. Clarington's Enniskillen is on the south slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine and features more than five kilometres of deciduous forest, wetlands and a cedar swamp. Hike, bike, visit the pollinator garden and birdwatch in the summer, and snowshoe and cross-country ski in the snowy months. Half an hour away, in Goodwood, you can immerse yourself in Durham Regional Forest, nearly 600 hectares at the top of the Moraine. With more than 16 kilometres of marked trails, the forest is ideal for mountain biking and horseback riding. Drive 30 minutes south and explore Lynde Shores Conservation Area in Whitby — families with little ones love the stroller-friendly Chickadee Trail. If you want to explore a provincial park, Darlington in Bowmanville offers camping, picnic areas, trails and a sandy beach on Lake Ontario.

DOCK TALK

Three family-friendly waterfront spots to spend the day.

1/ Pickering Nautical Village

Head down to Pickering's waterfront and you'll feel like you're in a nautical-themed world. You'll find this super-popular area busy in the warm months — it's dotted with pretty cafés, shops and restaurants. Take a stroll along the waterfront, hang out in Millennium Square, take the kids to the splashpad, play a game of beach volleyball, kayak Frenchman's Bay and watch the boats come into the marina.

2/ Beaverton Harbour

The Township of Brock is the smallmouth bass capital of Canada, and Beaverton Harbour is the perfect spot to fish, enjoy water sports, picnic or relax on the beach. Walk along the pier, eat at the restaurant and take the kids to the splashpad. Ice fishing is popular in the winter (there are local ice hut operators that take groups out onto Lake Simcoe to experience this cold-weather activity), as are snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

3/ Port of Newcastle

This full-service marina is the perfect place to hang out and watch the boats go by. There are canoes and paddleboats if you want to get active on the water or book a fishing charter and see what you can catch. Hungry? The Brig has pints and a menu full of delicious eats (we've heard a lot about the toasted western). There are a bunch of events to take part in during the summer months, so keep an eye out for notices around town.

Q&A

We asked Travis Johnson, sales and marketing manager of Whitby's Town Brewery, about this popular hotspot and its waterfront beer garden.

Q: Town Brewery and Town Pump House are huge draws, especially in the summer. What do they offer?
A: Since 2017 we've been on a mission to strengthen our community through good work and good times. Our focus has never faltered on making the best possible beers we can. In addition to making quality liquids, we focus on providing fulfilling and memorable experiences through collaborations, special events and working with community groups and charitable causes. Our brewery and taproom is near Port Whitby Marina, and in 2023, we opened the Town Pump House just down the road as a pop-up waterfront beer garden. We offer a wide range of food items in our taproom, specializing in pizza and tacos, as well as a full lineup of Town Brewery beers, house-made cocktails and wine.

Town Pump House. Photo from Town Brewery

Q: Lakeside living is such a highlight in Durham Region. What do you want people new to the area to know about Town Pump House and the experience of hanging out by the lake so close to home?
A: This really is one of the best places to visit in Durham Region, where you can eat and drink with friends and family right beside the shores of Lake Ontario. The location is situated inside and around the bones of what was the old Pump House for the Town of Whitby at 269 Water Street, which has been kept alive by the town as a heritage site with beautiful old brick walls. We believe more people should use the Whitby lakefront — it's a beautiful spot and the addition of the Town Pump House has made it an even better place to hang out! We encourage people of all ages to bring their friends, their kids and their dogs out to check it out. *1632 Charles Street, Whitby. townbrewery.ca*

OUT OF OFFICE

Got a day off or planning for the weekend? Look no further. If you live in Durham Region, consider playing here, too — choose from a long list of fun things to do and activities that will keep everyone in your household entertained. Enjoy fishing? Brock Township is the smallmouth bass capital of Canada. (Turn to page 108 to read more about the area.) Want to tour the local breweries and cideries? Check. (Go to page 46.) Kids like going for bike rides when it's warm? Want to hit the slopes in winter? Durham Region is full of trails and there are three ski resorts to visit. (Yep, flip to page 40.) There's also a slew of beaches, golf courses, three casinos, spas and lots of shopping to fill your days. We simply don't have the space to share it all here, but we've included a handful of cool things to add to your calendar next time you're planning a day out.

Hello,
I am currently out of the office exploring Durham Region. I'll be replying to messages when I return from golfing 18 holes at Deer Creek, shopping downtown Bowmanville and relaxing at Thermëa. Have a great week!

SHOP AROUND

Here's your call to action: Support your local main street! The Downtowns of Durham shops are where you'll find hundreds of business owners, makers, restaurants and other cool storefronts to check out. There are obviously too many to print, but *downtownsofdurham.ca* features most of the places you should stop in at — like Another Spin Records in Oshawa, Blue Heron Books in Uxbridge, Words on Wood in Whitby and Niolar African Store in Ajax — when you're in each municipality. Here are three awesome spots to get you started.

1/ BEAN & BASKET

A small artisan shop dedicated to locally made goods and ethically sourced products from the region and around the world, plus amazing coffee, Bean & Basket has become a community gathering place. Owner and manager Michelle Macnamara told us why her space is so important to the region.

Photo from Bean & Basket, Instagram

Q: What can folks find at Bean & Basket?
A: We feature products from more than 35 small businesses across the region and the Greater Toronto Area and focus on championing sustainable goods (like homemade candles, jewelry, artisanal coffee), local artists, authors and junior entrepreneurs. What makes the shop truly special is the connection it fosters. Shoppers love knowing they're supporting local creators and hearing the unique stories behind each product.

Q: Why is it so important to shop locally and sustainably?
A: Shopping locally and sustainably isn't just a trend — it's a way to strengthen the community while supporting a healthier, more mindful way of living and fosters a sense of place and belonging. It's also about economic impact (money stays in the local economy, which benefits everyone) and connection — people love knowing who made the product they're buying.

Q: DIY workshops are hot right now. What do you offer?
A: At Bean & Basket, our workshops range from soy candle-making sessions to meaningful gatherings focused on healing and connection. For example, we've hosted collage-making workshops where participants reflect, create and connect with others in a guided setting. These workshops have been embraced with open arms because they offer more than a hands-on experience — they create moments where people can slow down, connect intentionally and rediscover joy in simple, creative acts. Participants leave feeling refreshed, inspired and often with new friendships. *62 Old Kingston Road, Ajax. @beanandbasket.coffeebar*

2/ JUSTIN BARRY OPTICAL

Justin Barry Optical has been a mainstay on Bowmanville's King Street for 30 years — people come from near and far to get outfitted in the most spectacular specs. Justin and his team are all about serving the community and want nothing more than for you to walk out of the store looking good and seeing better. Here's what Justin told us about life and business in Bowmanville. (Psst! Tell him we sent you.)

Q: What do you love most about being a business owner in Durham?
A: The people! We have great customers. The vibe in Bowmanville is relaxed and we really enjoy that. Durham Region is growing, so this is definitely becoming the place to be in Ontario. We're grateful to showcase what we do to a new audience.

Q: Fabulous people, fabulous frames — what else makes you unique?
A: What makes us unique is how much we care. We take the time to pick out frames for our clients. We don't care about what everyone else is doing or wearing, and we don't care about name brands. What we do care about is that our frames make your face look great.

Q: What do you want people new to the region to know about you guys?
A: We would like people to know that we carry brands that you might not have heard about. We travel the world finding unique and personality-boosting glasses that showcase who you really are. We are extremely passionate about what we do here, we love our customers and we truly love our community. *13 King Street West, Bowmanville. jboptical.ca* →

3/ WITH GRACE MARKETPLACE

Dana Jackson moved to Pickering from the Beaches in Toronto and brought with her a desire to connect through good vibes, accessibility, nature and "hip" things to do. So, she opened With Grace Marketplace not only to offer alcohol-free options, but to build a community of enthusiastic people across Durham looking for new, healthier, fun ways to connect and grow. Dana told us all about this new adventure.

Q: Why Pickering?
A: In January 2024, I was walking my dog by Pickering's waterfront and a "For Lease" sign caught my attention. At the time I was working in Toronto and wishing to do more in my recovery circles where I sponsored other sober women and provided resources to treatment facilities. I wanted to do more to help anyone questioning their relationship with alcohol. I saw that sign and thought, you know what would be nice... And the idea of With Grace as a safe space where people could find all kinds of alcohol-free alternatives from around the world and enjoy mixology and flavour while being able to talk openly and honestly about health and wellness was born. Since then, I've been building Durham Region's premier alcohol-free bottle shop.

Q: What do you want people new to the region to know about With Grace?
A: With Grace is built on the foundation of letting go of old ideas. We want to make sober options and plant-based pairings more accessible to all. It's a judgment-free space where people can try mindful alternatives with open, curious minds and without pressure. We're the only space dedicated to providing alcohol-free alternatives for all types of palates, preferences and events.

Q: What do you love about having your business in Durham?
A: The people. I get to meet people from across the region each day. Always having access to both city and country and nature nearby is simply the best!
622 Liverpool Road, Pickering. withgracemarketplace.com

Photo from Gather, Instagram

Karen Vella started Gather more than 30 years ago and not only has it become a favourite for locals in Bowmanville, but people from all over the province flock to the store to shop Karen's unique, curated collection of handpicked women's and baby clothes and accessories, bath and body products, items for the home and hand-crafted chocolates, jams, syrups and more. Her store is all about good vibes, and it's hard to leave without a happy feeling and a green bag full of goodies. "I have a huge love for local and Canadian-made and I love supporting local small businesses. From carrying maker items in our shop to being one of the first businesses in our area to host maker markets inside our store, I'm so happy to have helped promote so many artisans and see them grow into stores of their own," says Karen. "Shop local has never been a trend for me — it's always been a feel-good thing that makes me happy."
51 King Street East, Bowmanville. gatherthegoodthings.ca

HIT THE LINKS

A view over a creek approaching the green at Oshawa Golf and Country Club. Photo courtesy of Oshawa GC. ▸

There are more than a dozen golf clubs in the region, giving golf aficionados plenty of options when they're looking to book a tee time. Whether you play at Wooden Sticks, Wyndance, Hawthorne Valley, Pebblestone or one of the courses below, we hope you get many eagles and avoid the sand traps.

1/ ROYAL ASHBURN GOLF CLUB

Opening in the spring of 1962 (it was Whitby Golf Club back then), the Royal Ashburn Golf Club in Whitby has greatly contributed to the local golfing community and events scene. The semi-private 18-hole course (there's public play and exclusive memberships for folks who seek an elevated experience) is renowned for its exceptional grounds, as a venue for special events, its Performance Centre (where folks can learn the sport or enhance their skills) and the Farm & Founder Restaurant + Bar. Locals looking for a fun staycation or businesses hosting corporate retreats can stay at its on-site cottages, and Stay & Spa packages are now available, thanks to its recent partnership with nearby Thermëa spa village. "As a family-owned business, Royal Ashburn Golf Club has always prioritized the best interests of its customers. This dedication ensures that every experience at the club meets the highest standards of service, delivering nothing short of a royal experience," says Josie Naccarato, the club's digital media and marketing manager. "The club is genuinely committed to supporting the growth and success of the community and will continue to evolve alongside it." *995 Myrtle Road West, Ashburn. royalashburngolfclub.com*

2/ DEER CREEK GOLF CLUB

Deer Creek Golf Club opened in 1989 with two 18-hole courses, but it expanded in the 1990s with the Practice and Performance Centre (P&PC), which added an executive nine-hole course. Today, there are 54 holes open to the public (there are seasonal memberships for those interested) between the South, North and P&PC Courses — all offering stunning scenery, open water and mature trees. There are also four modern event spaces, a restaurant, state-of-the-art golf simulators (for public play from January to April) and six outdoor heated dining domes (you can book dinner there from November to March). "We're deeply committed to giving back to our community through our charitable foundation, Deer Creek Cares. We always strive to provide an exceptional experience for our community," says Lauren Russell, Deer Creek's marketing manager. *2700 Audley Road, Ajax. mydeercreek.com*

3/ OSHAWA GOLF & CURLING CLUB

Among the oldest golf clubs in Canada, Oshawa Golf & Curling Club has been around since 1906. Brad Franklin, the club's director of operations, says the facility has stood the test of time in the community, and it's a vibrant part of the lives of those who patronize it all year. "With demands on time becoming the norm, slipping away to hit a bucket of balls is one of the great charms of belonging to a private club. Our range, with its bent grass tee deck, chipping and putting greens, allows you to work on your game at your leisure, something that's not always common at historic golf facilities," he says. When the outdoor golf season wraps, there are indoor simulators where members can play courses from around the world. The on-site dining facilities are ideal for family dinners or drinks with fellow players after a round. In addition to its world-class golf, Oshawa G&CC is home to a six-sheet curling rink. "Whether you're an established curler or new to the sport, or a junior trying the game for the first time, Oshawa G&CC is a community of members connected by their passion for sport." *160 Alexandra Street, Oshawa. oshawagolf.com*

TAKE A BREATHER

The largest thermal spa in Ontario, Thermëa spa village is the perfect place to visit when you need to relax and focus on your wellness. Rachel Tanner, Thermëa's marketing and community relations manager, told us about the region's newest gem.

Q: Thermëa is the newest hotspot in the region. Why is it such a wonderful place for folks to visit when they're out of the office, after work or on weekends?
A: It absolutely is! Whether you have a full day or only a few hours, our spa village provides an escape from our daily lives with the opportunity to focus on your wellbeing. Curious about all the buzz with cold plunging? There is something to it. Our artisans will explain what a full thermal cycle looks like and the many health benefits of this ancient practice.

Q: What makes Thermëa such a unique experience — this isn't about simply going to the spa for a treatment and leaving right after. And what makes it so unique to the region?
A: Thermëa spa village speaks to so many people as it's a local wellness haven where you can leave your troubles behind and indulge in nature. Our guests come to the spa for many different reasons, whether it's to reconnect with family or friends, spend the day with a partner or take a day to unwind. Not only do we offer the widest selection of experiences dedicated to the wellbeing of body and mind, such as saunas, steam rooms, hot baths and cold plunges to name a few, but we want all our guests to feel that when they've left from a day at our spa village, they have a renewed sense of wellness.

Q: What do you want people new to Durham Region to know about the spa?
A: Come and experience a day for yourself, right in your backyard! A mini getaway is so close to home — you can experience the many unique offerings we have. Enjoy the largest event sauna in North America, the feeling of weightlessness in our saltwater floatation pool and various body care and massage treatments to enhance your wellness experience. *4015 Cochrane Street, Whitby. thermea.com*

Photo courtesy of Thermëa spa village

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Home to a wide range of motorsport events and a thrilling racing lineup, Bowmanville's Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (CTMP) might be off the beaten track (pun intended) for some, but for those who feel the need for speed, it's a place where families can take in the sights and sounds of real car racing in their own backyard. As the leading and largest racing and automotive performance facility in Ontario (and Canada), CTMP's history is unmatched — the facility opened in 1961, and it hosted the country's first Formula 1 race and IndyCar race. "The list of racing legends who have competed here reads like a 'who's who' of motorsport royalty, including Stirling Moss, Gilles Villeneuve, Richard Petty, Jackie Stewart, Mario Andretti and A.J. Foyt," says Jerry Priddle, a consultant for CTMP. With three professional-grade racetracks — the Grand Prix Circuit (which hosts major events), the Driver Development Track (a multipurpose testing facility) and the Karting Centre (designed to develop the next generation of Canadian racing drivers) — the facility features the most diverse racing schedule in the province. "Each of our five major event weekends offer fans something different on track, featuring everything from sophisticated, ultra-high-tech prototype sports cars to thundering GT racers, NASCAR stock cars, open-wheel formula cars and motorcycles, to beautifully restored vintage race cars spanning six-plus decades of motor racing," he says.

> **"THERE ARE A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS FOR YOU TO DRIVE YOUR OWN PERFORMANCE VEHICLE ON OUR RACING CIRCUITS OR HAVE VEHICLES PROVIDED"**

The coolest thing about CTMP might just be the off-track action. The paddock — home to the race teams when they're not racing around the track — features a slew of activities. "There are kids' games, high-tech simulators and other interactive experiences. Plus, you can shop the vendors in the CTMP Marketplace, and get up-close access to the cool, colourful cars, crews, drivers and special driver autograph sessions in the team paddock," says Jerry. There's a real focus on family-friendly entertainment, with concerts and fireworks on Victoria Day and Labour Day long weekends. Families often bring their own food and drinks, enjoying barbecues, tailgate parties and picnics, or there's the Trackside Grill and several concession stands and food trucks on the grounds.

Jerry says apart from the paddock, there are playgrounds, trails and riding areas where kids can take their mountain bikes. "Camping has also become a big part of the CTMP experience. The park's 900 acres can accommodate everything from tents and pop-up trailers to large RVs. Plus, there are full-service washrooms and showers on-site," he says.

Photo from Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, Facebook.

New to the region, into racing and wondering how you can get in on the action? "There are a variety of programs for you to drive your own performance vehicle on our racing circuits or have vehicles provided, all in supervised lapping or driver-training sessions. Track days are organized for both cars and motorcycles, with packages to suit most high-performance driver needs and desires," Jerry says. For example, the Ron Fellows Driving Experience — a program designed by CTMP co-owner and hall-of-fame race driver Ron Fellows — operates from May to October and includes classroom instruction, a product performance presentation and on-track coaching in a controlled environment. "It's an exhilarating driving experience featuring race-track-developed models from Camaro and the Corvette C8," he says. "The experience is always engaging and exciting." *3233 Concession Road, #10, Bowmanville. canadiantiremotorsportpark.com*

WATERFRONTS AT WORK

Photo by Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority

If you don't know about the Port of Oshawa, part of the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority, it's time to read up on how this incredible gateway supports Durham Region's economy and environment, and why its partners and businesses are so proud to call it their home base.

Those who live lakeside often talk about the perks — being by the water connects you with a host of activities and trails, you're surrounded by beautiful views, there's lots of wildlife and being by the lake is really good for your health. Oshawa's waterfront offers all this and more. In fact, there's always something exciting going on down by the lake.

> **"HOPA'S MISSION IS TO CREATE SPACE FOR INDUSTRY TO THRIVE. OUR INTEGRATED PORT NETWORK OF MULTIMODAL HUBS GIVES BUSINESSES ROOM TO GROW AND STRENGTHENS ONTARIO'S SUPPLY CHAINS"**

The Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA Ports) operates deep-water ports and marine facilities in Oshawa, Hamilton and the Niagara Region, handling more than 670 vessels carrying more than 11 million metric tons of cargo each year, as well as providing storage for a range of essential commodities. Connecting North America's largest consumer markets, the Port of Oshawa (on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, which is covered under the Williams Treaties) handles cargo to and from Durham Region, all while prioritizing sustainability and investing in infrastructure. "HOPA's mission is to create space for industry to thrive. Our integrated port network of multimodal hubs gives businesses room to grow and strengthens Ontario's supply chains," says Larissa Fenn, the Vice-President of Corporate Affairs for HOPA Ports. "The Port of Oshawa is Durham Region's gateway to the world, handling more than 500 vessels carrying more than three million metric tons of cargo over the past decade. It's one of 18 major Canadian ports deemed vital to Canada's domestic and international trade. Plus, it offers a unique opportunity for visitors to see vessels arriving and departing." The Port supports key economic sectors, including construction and manufacturing, handling steel, cement and other aggregates, and cargo services (agricultural, steel and break bulk, project cargo and bulk materials — the Port's stevedoring partner is QSL). HOPA also offers space for warehousing, dry and bulk facilities, as well as vacant land for development. The Port is home to 12 Port users and partners.

When it comes down to it, HOPA's mandate is to support goods movement and economic development through the long-term management and stewardship of its Port of Oshawa lands, and that's exactly what it does.

RECENT EXPANSION

Agri-food represents 31 per cent of total cargo volume, and HOPA's recent investment in a new grain silo is a huge benefit to farmers in Durham Region and the eastern Greater Toronto Area. The newly expanded terminal offers 20,000 metric tons of storage capacity and features a vessel loading rate of up to 12,000 metric tons per day, ensuring fast and efficient grain loading and deliveries. "We're thrilled by the positive feedback from farmers on the Port of Oshawa's expanded grain terminal — a clear sign we're strengthening Canadian agricultural supply chains with the right infrastructure," says Fenn.

VITAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH BUSINESSES

With 480 metres of dock wall, 2,000 square metres of warehouse space and 32,000 square metres of open storage space, the Port is ideal for businesses looking for multimodal-served industrial space. Already home to about a dozen businesses, the area boasts plenty of indoor areas for storing products and commodities, as well as liquid and dry bulk, and coveted vacant land with marine, rail and highway access. "The Port of Oshawa, and HOPA Ports more broadly, has customers in the agri-food and food processing, construction materials and manufacturing sectors, and our customers want to be part of a community of industrial users," says Fenn.

The Miller Group/Colas Canada — a leader in the construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure, and a major supplier of construction materials and aggregates — has been a tenant at the Port of Oshawa for more than 20 years. "Operating from the Port of Oshawa has been a very positive experience for us. The facilities are top-notch, and this strategic location has allowed us to efficiently manage our expectations," says Randy Murphy, the company's Manager, Transportation & Logistics. "During our time here, we've developed a strong, collaborative relationship with HOPA — the service we've consistently received has been outstanding, and we've truly valued the professionalism, support and responsiveness of the HOPA team. Beyond that, the relationships we've built over the years have proven to be invaluable, not just for our business, but for fostering a sense of community within the Port. We're proud to be part of this thriving hub."

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

In its projects and day-to-day operations, HOPA prioritizes protecting and enhancing air and water quality, and promotes biodiversity with its pollinator corridor and tree-planting programs and focuses on waste reduction and energy efficiency. HOPA works closely with community organizations, including the Friends of Second Marsh, to protect and enhance the natural environment alongside the port lands. *hopaports.ca*

Photo by Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority

BARN DOORS OPEN

Coming to the region from a metropolitan area? You'll certainly find big-city life here, too. But mere minutes from the cities are quaint rural spots dotted with farms, many that welcome the public. From crops and flowers to cattle and apple orchards, we promise you'll find a new appreciation for all things farm life in Durham Region.

Photo courtesy of Lavender-Blu

While people who move to Durham Region find plenty of shops, restaurants, entertainment venues, festivals and events to keep them busy, there's much to be said for heading out to the more rural areas — minutes away from the urban centres — where working farms of all types are in abundance. Sure, there are countless reasons to visit local farms, but when you have so many close to home, you'll quickly find it becomes an outing that interests the whole family. Dozens of farms, including Blackstock Berries in Blackstock, Algoma Orchards in Newcastle and Watson Farms in Bowmanville, offer pick-your-own produce. If you're the type who prefers strolling through fields of fresh flowers, we've got you — Vive Lavender Farm in Sunderland, the Sunflower Farm in Beaverton, River Ridge Farm Flowers in Uxbridge and Lavender-Blu in Seagrave are must-visits. Looking for fluffy farm animals? (Us, too!) Head to Willowtree Farm in Port Perry or Kavanaugh Farms in Bowmanville. When October rolls around and the kids are ready to get scary with jack-o'-lanterns, pick your own pumpkin at Knox's Pumpkin Farm in Hampton, Forsythe Family Farm in Uxbridge and Pingle's Farm Market in Hampton. And hey, no matter which experience you're after, don't forget to thank your local Durham Region farmer.

LAVENDER HAZE

We all know lavender grows like, well, a weed in France's Provence region and in Tuscany, Italy, but this plant has become an important part of Durham Region's farm culture. Blooming mid-June to late July in Ontario, lavender — that pretty purple flower used for fragrance, flavour and healing purposes — grows at a handful of farms in the region (Christel Lake Lavender Farm, Lakeview Lavender Farms, Pingle's Farm Market, Gray Silo Lavender Farm, Vive Lavender Farm and Lavender-Blu), and it's become a destination for people who want to stroll through the fields, taking in the relaxing scents while tapping into those Zen feelings.

Mila Haynos is the proprietor of Lavender-Blu in Seagrave. She runs the small family business (opened in 2007), which encompasses a three-acre eco farm, a lavender garden with more than 3,500 lavender plants and a lavender artisan studio that features more than 80 handcrafted lavender products. "This lovely purple plant has been radiating positive energy globally for centuries. It's this timeless optimism that's associated with lavender that fuelled my interest to become a lavender farmer and artisan," says Mila. "There's a palpable world-wide appreciation and celebration of the plant's versatility for its multitude of artisanal, medicinal, culinary and horticultural avenues. We try to cultivate calm — that's our motto — by restoring a healthy ecosystem that invites wildlife, native plant species and a plethora of insects to share the space in harmony with visitors." When you visit, you'll find lots of plants, natural meadows, reforestation projects, insect hotels, bat houses, bird houses and bird feeders. "Our lavender is planted as a garden, not in the form of a monoculture. Visitors can sit among the lavender, harvest their own bundles for culinary, crafting or decorative purposes, and experience many interesting hands-on workshops that take place outdoors amidst the lavender," she says. "Our self-guided eco garden tour takes visitors on a small stroll through →

12 stations of our lavender farm where they are able to interact in fun ways and learn about the rich diversity of our farm and about the versatility of the plant."

> **"VISITORS CAN SIT AMONG THE LAVENDER, HARVEST THEIR OWN BUNDLES FOR CULINARY, CRAFTING OR DECORATIVE PURPOSES, AND EXPERIENCE MANY INTERESTING HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS THAT TAKE PLACE OUTDOORS"**

Mila says Lavender-Blu is not only committed to beautifying the region, but there's a focus on educating locals and visitors via on-farm tours and workshops (aimed at artists, horticulturalists, photographers, seniors and homeschoolers), community activities on the importance of lavender and creating unique artisanal products — she's one of many artisans in Durham Region who develop cool products on tucked-away farms in charming little studios. While the garden is a backdrop for yoga classes, micro-weddings, photo shoots and private events, Mila also sells essential oils, creamed lavender honey, lavender sachets, relaxing pillow sprays and culinary lavender. "Its calming hue, relaxing and balanced essential oil properties and its exotic flavour have for centuries contributed to an improved quality of life for many people," says Mila. "I'm thrilled to continue this journey today." *2375 Bank Road, Seagrave. lavender-blu.com*

Q&A

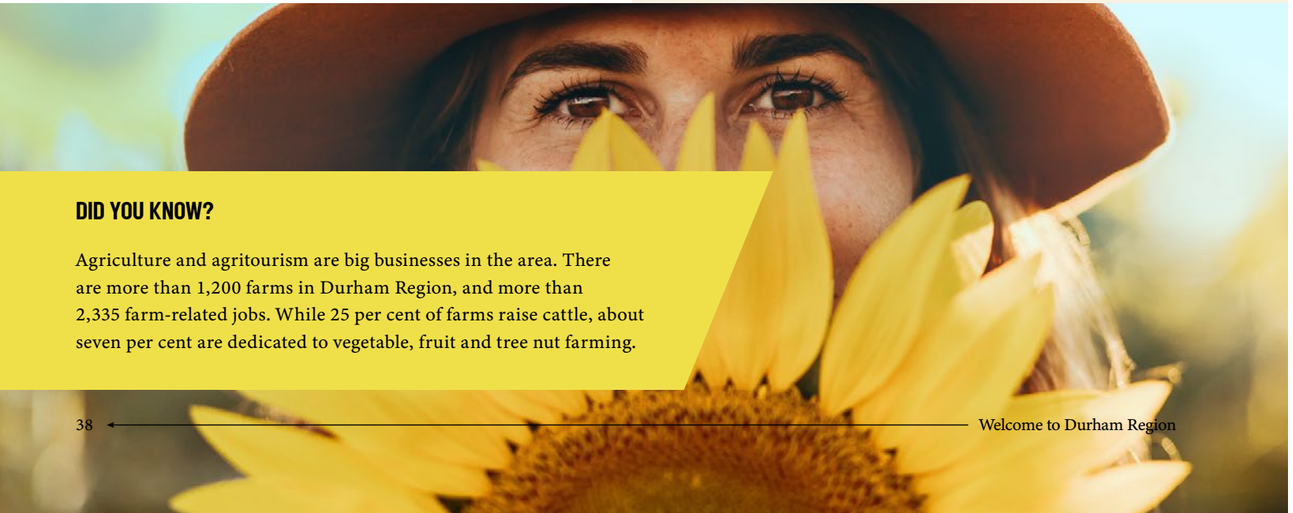
We asked Urusla Kressibucher, owner, CEO and farmer of the Sunflower Farm in Beaverton about the farm's history and why these sunny yellow blooms are so hot right now.

Q: Tell us about the Sunflower Farm's history.
A: The Sunflower Farm opened in the summer of 2020, and it's known as Canada's first sunflower-shaped trail, which goes through more than 200,000 blooming sunflowers. Every year we welcome visitors from across the country and abroad, and we offer photo ops and unique events throughout the field so everyone can get the perfect photo with their friends and family.

Q: Why are sunflower fields so popular these days?
A: It's the beauty of bright yellow flowers multiplied by thousands. It's quite breathtaking when viewing a field full of flowers all facing toward you. We offer experiences in the fields of sunflowers, including live music at sunset, market vendors, floral workshops, antique car shows and more. I'm looking forward to offering more unique experiences at the farm, from planting season to the sunflower birdseed harvest.

Q: What should people new to Durham Region know about the farm, and what makes it so different from others in the area?
A: It's more than just visiting a farm, and it's more than just a field full of flowers. The Sunflower Farm began in a season where loved ones, families and friends were only able to reconnect outdoors due to the pandemic. We now offer a wide variety of events and workshops to bring something new for everyone to experience, and visitors can connect with farmers like me. My hope is for visitors to feel connected to farming, and to learn how sunflowers are planted and harvested. *24430 Side road 17, Beaverton. thesunflowerfarm.ca @thesunflowerfarm*

Photo courtesy of The Sunflower Farm



DID YOU KNOW?

Agriculture and agritourism are big businesses in the area. There are more than 1,200 farms in Durham Region, and more than 2,335 farm-related jobs. While 25 per cent of farms raise cattle, about seven per cent are dedicated to vegetable, fruit and tree nut farming.

Fresh strawberries at Brooks Farms.

ACRES OF AMUSEMENT

At Brooks Farms, they say the best kind of fun is farm fun, and they know what they're talking about — this place has been an operating farm for more than 150 years, back when Edward Brooks relocated to Uxbridge from England, settled in Mount Albert and started raising cattle and growing wheat, corn, barley, potatoes and turnips. Today, the farm is run by Paul and Kelly Brooks, fifth-generation owners, and there's a ton to experience when you visit. "We start the beginning of the year in March with our maple syrup season — maple syrup is a huge part of the Brooks Farms business, and we love to not only be able to make liquid gold right here from our farm but invite families to come and tour our facility to learn about this Canadian tradition," says Madison Banham, the farm's event manager. Easter festivities follow, and when summer starts, so does the pick-your-own season — the farm has plentiful strawberries, raspberries and currants. Come fall, apples and pumpkins take over the grounds. "Our fall festival is one of our busiest times of the year — it's when Paul does pumpkin cannon shows, there are pig races, entertainment and so much more. Plus, it's always fun getting lost in the corn maze," she says.

If you don't love picking your own produce (we know, it's not for everyone), the farm market is always stocked with locally grown, in-season fruit and veggies, and other goodies — think fudge, fresh jams and jellies, banana bread and gourmet doughnuts. (Allow us to recommend their signature maple muffins.) "Whatever we don't make on-site is made by hard-working local businesses. Whether it's Staites Honey just down the street from us, or Grattons Greatest — an amazing neighbour that makes the best hot sauce we've ever had — the market is sure to give you a taste of local flavours.

It's true — every farm has unique charm and character, but what's special about Brooks is the team. "When you visit, you're not just supporting a Durham-based business — you're meeting an incredibly hard-working group of people who consider themselves family. We truly enjoy getting to know everyone who comes through the Brooks Farms gate," says Madison. "We pride ourselves on creating an agritourism destination for families, and we love to educate Ontarians on where their food comes from. Ontario farmers are so important to the growth of our province, and we want you to learn what goes into being a farmer while enjoying yourself at the same time." *122 Ashworth Road, Mount Albert. brooksfarms.com*

TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Grab some reusable bags and head to these 10 Durham Region-based farmers' markets to stock up on fresh local fruit and veggies. Trust us — everything tastes better when it's grown minutes away from home. (Most open seasonally, May to October.)

1. Uxbridge Farmers' Market *uxbridgefarmersmarket.ca*
2. Port Perry Lakefront Farmers' Market, *portperryfarmersmarket.ca*
3. Bowmanville Farmers' Market *bowmanvillefarmersmarket.ca*
4. Orono Farmers' Market *@oronofarmersmarket2023*
5. Clarington Farmers' Market *@claringtonfarmersmarket*
6. Oshawa Centre Farmers' Market, *oshawacentre.com*
7. North Oshawa Farmers' Market *northoshawafarmersmarket.ca*
8. Whitby Farmers' Market *whitbyfarmersmarket.ca*
9. Brooklin Farmers' Market *whitbyfarmersmarket.ca*
10. Pickering City Centre Farmers' Market, *pickering.ca*

POP A WHEELIE, DO AN OLLIE

Jump on your bike, step into your skis and take advantage of Durham Region's terrain.

Ask folks who cycle in the warmer months and ski in the winter, and you're bound to find there's a long list of similarities between the two. These sports are pretty hardcore — they require mental concentration and focus, they work the same muscle groups (think glutes, quads, hamstrings and core), they have similar technique (steep descents and cornering) and there's really no better place in the Greater Toronto Area to hit the trails and the slopes than in Durham Region.

Whether you prefer more leisurely routes and bunny slopes, or you're into rocky terrain and black diamond trails, you'll find your fill of cycling and skiing adventures in the area. If you're an avid cyclist or just want to explore the region on two wheels, join the Durham Cycling Club or the Durham Mountain Biking Association, check out the Oshawa BMX Park, take your bike to the Uxbridge Pump Track or ride around more than a dozen recreational loops — there are 350 kilometres of trails to discover. Come winter, skiers of all levels can grab their gear and head to three ski and snowboarding destinations — Brimacombe, Dagmar Ski Resort and Lakeridge Ski Resort — or get in touch with the Nordic Ski Club when you feel like a cross-country trek. (Come from a part of the world that doesn't experience snow? You probably won't be a fan of shovelling, but cold-weather sports are cool, in more ways than one.) So, here's to fun on two wheels, two skis and plenty of blue-sky days ahead.

Photo courtesy of Danny Bor

TEAM ALL-TERRAIN

"WHETHER YOU'RE NEW TO RIDING OR A SEASONED CROSS-COUNTRY RACER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR COMMUNITY, AND YOU'LL FIND OTHER RIDERS JUST LIKE YOU"

Formed in 2005 by a group of mountain bike enthusiasts and volunteers who dedicated time and talent to building and maintaining trails in the Durham Regional Forest, the Durham Mountain Biking Association's (DMBA) motto is simple — they aim to "Build, Ride, Respect" when it comes to caring for the more than 200 kilometres of trails and supporting their fellow cyclists. "We build sustainable, multiuse trails for all users and we respect these are a shared resource for everyone to enjoy — we even have a winter trail-grooming program for year-round availability. Our club has built and maintains the largest trail system in southern Ontario and there are trails here to suit every rider," says Dan Little, DMBA's director of marketing and communications. "We're an inclusive club and we're dedicated to cycling advocacy. Whether you're new to riding or a seasoned cross-country racer, you're welcome to join our community, and you'll find other riders just like you." Dan says the group is family friendly, with about half of memberships coming from families who enjoy riding together. The DMBA runs a busy seasonal roster of events perfect for both beginners and those who are more comfortable on two wheels. DemoFest sees the association working with bike shop sponsors to give riders the opportunity to try new bikes from renowned manufacturers so folks can take them on the trails they're familiar with.

Skills sessions and group rides are big draws, with Monday evenings booked for ladies' rides, Wednesdays for open club rides and Saturday mornings for beginners. On Fat Bike Day there's a winter ride, and the family events are always well attended — Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day and Pancakes in the Forest are cool events for kids of all ages.

"Durham Region is a fantastic cycling destination because of the variety of our trails. We have flowy, curvy, single-track, broad double-track boulevards under picturesque canopies of old-growth trees, epic rail-trails, challenging climbs, rock gardens and log features. A great ride is here for every rider. After that epic ride, just a quick jaunt away you can find a cold pint or cider, and a wood-fired pizza calling your name," Dan says. *durhammountainbiking.ca*

DID YOU KNOW?

All funds collected through DMBA's memberships are put back into building and maintaining the area's trails and hosting exciting events. Plus, the association is focused on giving back to the community, and always participate in environmental clean-up efforts, like the annual Earth Day garbage collection on Concession 7.

MUST-VISIT: TRAIL HUB

Uxbridge's Trail Hub was opened in 2021 to offer people in the Greater Toronto Area direct access to more than 240 kilometres of trails to stroll, hike, bike and enjoy snow activities. The drivers of Trail Hub are sustainability, community, well-being and making nature available to anyone craving fresh air, sunshine and getting active outdoors. Prepare for picturesque vistas, scenic forest canopies, sprawling woodlands and dozens of trails perfect for everyone from new bikers to experienced shredders. When you're looking for an activity off your bike, try playing Trail Hub's disc golf course, then grab a bite at the Handlebar Grill or Nest (see page 55). *722 Chalk Lake Road, Uxbridge. trailhub.ca*

PUT THE HAMMER DOWN

Photo courtesy of the Region of Durham

WHAT Cycle Life

WHO Will Prentice, Cycle Life's marketing and IT manager

WHERE 1050 Brock Road South, Unit 1, Pickering

What they do. If it involves a bicycle, Cycle Life is all in. Their goal is simple — they want you to love cycling as much as they do. This local family-run business, owned by Elie and Janie Riviere, has more than 40 years in the bicycle industry and its team is passionate about all things cycling, from road and mountain biking to commuting and racing. As one of the highest-rated bike shops in Durham Region, Cycle Life regularly receives five-star reviews from customers and has been recognized consistently as a diamond winner of the Reader's Choice Award for Best Bike Shop. "We're very grateful for the loyalty of our customers and their recognition of our staff. And we're very proud of the staff we have assembled — each is a passionate cyclist who is here to help you get the right bike and right gear. If you love riding or want to learn more about cycling, come see us and we'll help you find the right bike and accessories that meet your needs," says Will.

About cycling in Durham Region. "Durham Forest, Dagmar North, Walker Woods, Three Rocks offer challenges to mountain bikers of all skill levels," Will says. Gravel and adventure riders have myriad gravel roads and trails throughout the area, including the Trans Canada Trail. "Plus, Oshawa is building a great bike park, with trails, pump tracks and more. Uxbridge has a phenomenal pump track. Most cities in Durham have many multiuse trails and paths to avoid riding on the busy city streets. There are also quite a few cycling clubs, cycling events and even races. Outside of the traditional cycling destinations, we have a plethora of great little coffee shops and restaurants, breweries and pubs and other destinations that are cycling friendly."

> "ROAD RIDERS EMBRACE OUR QUIET COUNTRY ROADS WITH THEIR CHALLENGING HILLS, AS WELL AS THE GREAT LAKES WATERFRONT TRAIL AND THE GREENBELT CYCLING ROUTE, WHICH PASS THROUGH DURHAM"

About doing business in Durham Region. "Durham Region is a cycling hub. It's one of the few municipalities that has something for every type of cyclist. Durham is right beside the big city but without the congestion and hustle of Toronto. In only a few minutes, you can get out of the concrete jungle and into nature," he says. *cyclelife.bike*

HAVE AN EPIC SNOW DAY

When the topography of what is now Uxbridge's Lakeridge Ski Resort was too difficult for the lumber industry and farmers to conduct business back in the area's early days, local farmers found another use for the land. Skiing was becoming popular in the 1930s and the Toronto Ski Club was on the hunt for an accessible location that would provide a greater challenge for members. By the end of the decade, those farmers leased about 400 acres to the Toronto Ski Club. Members used to get to the area via train, then were taken to the clubhouse on horse-drawn sleighs driven by the farmers.

That's where Lakeridge Ski Resort stands today, in the scenic Oak Ridges Moraine, and it boasts some of the busiest ski hills in the region. "We're a winter playground that promotes physical and mental health, fosters social connections and celebrates Canadian identity," says Jennifer Osborne, director of indoor operations for Lakeridge Resort Ltd. Folks flock to Lakeridge to hit the slopes — there are 22 runs for skiers and snowboarders spread across 70 acres and a variety of trails suitable for all levels. There are two dedicated terrain parks, a snow-cross run and a separate snow-tubing park, as well as three chairlifts (including a high-speed detachable chairlift with a six-seat capacity). It's definitely a great way to spend a snowy day. *790 Chalk Lake Road, Uxbridge. ski-lakeridge.com*

FIRST TRACKS

We asked Caroline Yli-Luoma, president and owner of Dagmar Ski Resort Ltd., about the resort, the ski experience and the much-enjoyed après-ski.

Q: Skiing and outdoor winter sports are Canadian pastimes so many of us enjoy. Dagmar is a resort and snow school and there's a chalet on-site (who doesn't love après-ski?). Tell us about it.
A: Dagmar started in the 1960s with family and friends who spent the winters sliding the slopes. As time progressed, so did the eventual growth of a family affair to include extended families. Now we have the pleasure of our customers treating these hills as their home hill. Since Dagmar's inception, we have had engagements, marriages, second and third generations sharing their love of this incredible location and their passion for winter.

The resort is nestled in the Oak Ridges Moraine, minutes from charming towns and the city lights of Toronto, making us a convenient option for day trips or quick getaways without the long travel times. The resort features 20 diverse runs with the largest terrain parks in the region, boasting more than 60 features spread across four progression parks from beginner →

to expert. We have four chairlifts and two magic carpets that allow for easy access across the slopes. Our unique rental department features the only ski-out experience in Ontario — we are a fully stocked rental so customers can come in, get outfitted, then ski right out the doors to the bunny hill.

family-friendly destination, welcoming visitors of all ages. Skiing and snowboarding lessons are available for children ages three and older. If you're visiting us for the first time, know that our process is straightforward and easy to follow. All you need to bring is your winter clothing, and we'll provide the necessary

"FOR THAT PERFECT APRÈS-SKI (OR FOR THOSE WHO DON'T SKI), WE HAVE A CHARMING 17,000-SQUARE-FOOT CHALET WHERE GUESTS CAN COSY UP IN THE LOUNGE SURROUNDED BY PANORAMIC VIEWS OVERLOOKING THE SLOPES"

Left: Dgamar Resort. Opposite page: U14 Brimacombe Racing athlete Calvin Lyver at Brimacombe

For that perfect après-ski (or for those who don't ski), we have a charming 17,000-square-foot chalet where guests can cosy up in the lounge surrounded by panoramic views and watch family and friends through large windows overlooking the slopes. There are homemade meals in the cafeteria — our poutine is famous, and no, we can't share our special spices! — and delightful aperitifs, local craft beers and mulled wines in the licensed lounge.

Q: Why is a place like yours so important for the community, and what are the benefits of having a place where we can make the most of Canadian winters?
A: This is one of the few sports that facilitates family participation — it's an excellent way to reduce screen time and encourage physical activity among children. Sliding (known as skiing or snowboarding) is an exhilarating experience that can be enjoyed solo or with others, and it caters to diverse preferences. Our location allows us to maintain snow quality and conditions by a dedicated team of snowmakers and groomers who create excellent skiing conditions throughout the season.

Q: What do you want people new to Durham Region to know about the resort?
A: You'll find Dagmar becomes a winter wonderland with our snowmaking facilities and an amazing outdoor crew that makes magic. No snow in your backyard? We have it! We're a

equipment, including helmets. Our instructors are friendly, approachable and dedicated to helping you learn. Skiing and snowboarding can be enjoyed by people of all ages, and it's often easier to learn than you might expect. We suggest starting with a one-hour lesson to get you going. You're welcome to visit us to get familiar with our facilities. There's free parking and easy access to the chalet. *1220 Lake Ridge Road, Uxbridge. skidagmar.com*

GET OUTFITTED

New to the region (and to the sport) and need equipment and apparel before you hit the slopes? Find it all at one of Durham's top shops.

- **Scotties Skate & Snow:** *319 Brock Street South, Whitby. scottiesshop.com*
- **Switch Skate & Snow:** *161 Harwood Avenue North, Ajax. switchnow.ca*
- **Mountain Warehouse:** *419 King Street West, Oshawa. mountainwarehouse.com*
- **Slopeside Skis & Boards at the Brim:** *4098 Regional Road 9, Orono. slopeside.brimacombe.ca*

GET IN THE RACE

Most people know Brimacombe as one of the best places to ski in Durham Region, but here's what makes this place super cool — it's home to the Brimacombe Racing Club (BRC), a non-profit alpine ski race club for kids to young adults (ages seven to 20). For more than 40 years, Brimacombe Racing has given skiers the skills and confidence they need to pursue recreational and competitive racing, and the program (part of Alpine Ontario) has developed hundreds of talented, award-winning skiers and racers, thanks to a team of certified coaches and dedicated volunteers. Racers who sign up enjoy pre-season training camps, a Christmas camp, weekly training sessions, race days, team parties and a banquet to cap off the season. The age-appropriate programs allow all skiers to excel in technique and other competencies — the youngest skiers of the bunch (in the U8 division) have fun while developing optimal motor skills and learning about team building, while the focus is on athletic performance and competition for the U19/21s. "Brimacombe feels like a second home to me in the winter. I'm in my seventh year of racing and we have a highly competitive group of athletes who come out of our club — it's awesome," says Calvin, a U16 racer. "Aside from great food in the chalet and great terrain to train on, being part of Brimacombe Racing has provided me with opportunities to become a better skier, travel to really cool places and make fantastic friends."

New to the area and not sure if your kids are snow bunnies? Check out Brimacombe Ski Resort's March Break camps, or if your young skiers are ready for speed, sign them up for BRC's three-day March Break Intro to Racing Program and let them learn what racing is all about. *4098 Regional Road 9, Orono. brimacomberacing.ca, brimacombe.ca*

LOCAL LIBATIONS

There's something to be said about enjoying locally made drinks with family and friends, and Durham Region is the place to do it. There are more than a dozen breweries to discover throughout the region — from 5 Paddles Brewing in Whitby and Chronicle Brewing Company in Bowmanville, to Oshawa's All or Nothing Brewhouse and Banter & Co. Brewing in Brooklin — as well as a handful of cideries and wineries (including Archibald's Orchard & Estate Winery and 1840 Farmhouse & Vineyard), plus one distillery. The thing is, it's not just about the beer, cider, wine and spirits these makers create — it's about the meeting spaces they've cultivated that allow folks to come together. In fact, we'd be willing to argue the best thing about these destinations isn't what's on tap, but rather the feeling of belonging and community they instil (or distil... or both).

ALL TRAILS LEAD HERE

The locals in Uxbridge know The Second Wedge Brewing Co. as a bike-friendly place to grab a beer and a pizza after a long ride through the area's trails, but the brewery was once an "odd-duck building" beside a heritage railway on a quiet street that didn't draw much traffic. Uxbridge residents Joanne Richter and Rob Garrard — the couple who co-founded and own The Second Wedge — opened the place in 2015, and besides wanting to share everything they loved about beer with their town, they had a mission. "We were big trail users and we wanted to draw other trail users into downtown Uxbridge to boost tourism, so a group of us spent several months transforming this place into a cool space with a gorgeous beer garden beside a creek," says Joanne. "Our beer and hospitality quickly grew a following in town, and we started connecting with the local cyclist groups, the music scene, the art scene, etc., and it started to snowball. Now we're known as a community hub.

"WE STARTED CONNECTING WITH THE LOCAL CYCLIST GROUPS, THE MUSIC SCENE, THE ART SCENE, ETC., AND IT STARTED TO SNOWBALL. NOW WE'RE KNOWN AS A COMMUNITY HUB"

There's a huge variety of beers on tap and in the retail fridge, including lots of cool seasonal products. Joanne says she and the team are big fans of simple, well-made beers without too many bells and whistles. "People love our year-round core beers — 3 Rocks, a deeply satisfying IPA; Elgin Blonde, a fresh and crisp blonde beer; Monday Night Piper, a smooth malty Scottish-style ale; and Rain Maker, a roasty porter. I instinctively order Monday Night Piper after hosting trivia each week — it just hits right," she says. If you visit The Second Wedge in the winter, you're in for a cosy spot where you can enjoy flights, board games, tunes and live music on Sunday afternoons. There are often other local brands featured, including a guest cider tap from Banjo Cider, hot sauce from Hurt Berry Farms, and bean-to-bar chocolate from DesBarres Chocolate. This spring, following a brand-new kitchen build, the brewery welcomed the launch of Foundry Kitchen, operated by chef Steve Lovisa and Meaghan O'Hara, offering year-round farm-to-table fare to pair with their beer. "The summer heats up with the Uxbridge Farmers' Market, which operates every Sunday right in our parking lot and all up and down the street, and live Sunday music outside. We're in a town crisscrossed by trails, so we welcome a lot of trail users after a walk or ride," she says.

So many people enjoy hanging out at breweries, and Joanne thinks it really comes down to the atmosphere. "Breweries are all unique and offer their own distinct vibe — it's exactly why we wanted to make sure our town had a great one," she says. "We also have fantastic art on our walls, which we rotate every six weeks, featuring a different local artist. We book live music with a focus on original songwriting and musical artistry. Our beer garden really has to be experienced — it feels really secluded and serene, but it's just steps away from the main street." Those who are new to the area can find The Second Wedge beer at the liquor store, but going to the brewery is an experience. "Uxbridge is a great place to spend a day — it's full of amazing shops and restaurants with a huge selection of well-kept trails. And as our tagline says, 'all trails lead here.'" *14 Victoria Street, Uxbridge. thesecondwedge.ca*

Photography courtesy of The Second Wedge Brewing Co.

Q&A

We asked Lori Feddema, owner of Slabtown Cider Co., about her cidery's history, its awesome offerings and what makes it such a hip destination in Uxbridge.

Q: How long has Slabtown Cider Co. been around and where does the name come from?
A: Slabtown Cider Co. was founded in 2017 as a family-run farm, cidery and orchard. Our property is 90 acres of historic fields that we've worked hard to restore, and today, it's home to one of Canada's largest collections of heirloom cider apple varieties.
The name Slabtown comes from the history of the area. Back in the late 1800s, the hamlet of Siloam was nicknamed "Slab Town" because of the lumber mill that left piles of wood slabs around. We transplanted old heritage apple trees from the historic Siloam Orchards to our property and chose the name Slabtown to honour the town's history.

Q: You have quite a selection of ciders, plus the on-site eatery. What can newcomers to Slabtown expect?
A: Our ciders are made in small batches and packed with personality. We love experimenting with unique flavours and adding a modern flair to traditional cider-making methods. We have a line of core ciders available throughout the year, including our flagship Founder's Dry and our bestseller, Pineapple Mimosa. We also feature a rotating selection of seasonal ciders, like our Peach Bellini, available exclusively during Niagara's peach season. More recently, we've expanded our offerings to include craft beer, bringing the same care and creativity to brewing as we do to our ciders.

Beyond our cider and beer, we wanted Slabtown to be a place where people could come and stay for awhile. That's why we opened a full-service eatery with a spacious outdoor patio that's dog-friendly and hosts live music on the weekends. We also grow seasonal vegetables on-site to incorporate into our farm-to-table menu and support local artisans by featuring their products inside the eatery and our store.

Q: Here's a tough one: What's your current favourite cider
A: My current favourite is Founder's Zero, which is essentially our base cider, which has no added sugar. It's a bone-dry cider that really lets the crisp apple flavour shine. What I love most about our cider lineup is the variety. We offer everything from bone-dry to semi-sweet ciders, ensuring something to suit every palate, no matter your preference for sweetness.

Photography courtesy of Slabtown Cider Co.

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU

Uxbridge is known as the Trail Capital of Canada, so it makes sense the town put together a beer and cider trail for those looking for something to do on a Saturday afternoon. (Tip: Take turns being a designated driver!) Start with brunch at Urban Pantry, then head to Second Wedge Brewing Co. for hand-crafted ales before ending up at Slabtown Cider Co., where you can have a drink and order something delicious from the menu. There are trails, restaurants, shops and the popular farm trail along the way, so pop in and enjoy all that Uxbridge has to offer.

Q: What do you want people new to Durham Region to know about you?
A: We want people new to the Durham Region to know that Slabtown is more than just a place to grab a drink. It's a destination that highlights the best of what this area has to offer. We're proud to be part of this community, and our goal is to bring a unique experience to every guest. We offer something for everyone and are open all year. For us, Slabtown is all about creating a space where people can connect, experience great food and drink and feel a sense of community. We're so proud of what we've built here and can't wait to share it with more people. *4559 Concession Road 6, Uxbridge. slabtowncider.com*

Photos by Old Flame Brewing Co.

TWO FOR ONE

What do the owners of a brewery do when they're super dedicated to their community and want to expand their business? They open a cidery, of course.

That's what the folks behind Port Perry's Old Flame Brewing Co. did when they acquired Two Blokes Cider in Seagrave. "Old Flame specializes in crafting quality German-inspired lagers. We hold the title of being Canada's most-awarded craft lager brewery, a title we're proud to hold but one that adds a weight of responsibility to continue crafting products with a tremendous level of care," says Aidan Doak, the general manager responsible for both brands.

Old Flame Brewing Co. stands in the Historic Downtown of Port Perry. "I have a unique perspective on the brewery's history, because I watched my father, Jack, the founder and owner of Old Flame, research, plan, imagine and dream the business from his home office in Newmarket for years," says Aidan. "Port Perry was our pit stop on our way to the cottage every weekend in the summertime. On yet another drive through Port Perry, my parents noticed the LCBO building was up for sale, and I remember hearing them contemplate pivoting and moving their idea from Newmarket to Port Perry," he says. "When we tore the stucco off the walls, we began discovering the old brick, the charred beams from historic fires and the true serendipity of this new chapter. It got the town excited for a 'third space' to go, outside of home and work." With more breweries, cideries and the like popping up these days, Aidan says what makes Old Flame relevant today is their team's dedication to making high-quality products and offering visitors cool experiences in inspiring spaces. "We truly want people to step through our front door and immediately feel a sense of belonging and connectedness. We want every person who spends time in the brewery to be fully immersed in the atmosphere and engaged with the people around them. As much as we want to craft award-winning beer, we really want to provide the opportunity for people to create memories." For Aidan, it's important for people new to the region to feel at home at Old Flame. "We are your second living room. Our taproom is the place where you can go to get out of the house, take a break from work and connect with others."

In 2023, Old Flame Brewing Co. acquired Two Blokes Cider, a craft cidery seven minutes away in nearby Seagrave that's also known for award-winning products. The two companies' commitment to community and growing the Township of Scugog made the union a no-brainer. "Two Blokes Cider has the benefit of an incredible outdoor space with an outdoor stage, fire pits, lawn games, sandboxes and even a skating rink in the winter — it's truly a family-friendly place," says Aidan, whose current favourites are Old Flame's Raven (a black lager) and Two Blokes' new premium cider, Angel Share. "And in the summer, we partner with the Town Trolley to bring people back and forth from Two Blokes to Old Flame — our community loves it!"

> **"WE ARE YOUR SECOND LIVING ROOM. OUR TAPROOM IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN GO TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS"**

For those who are new to the area, a visit to Old Flame Brewing Co. or Two Blokes Cider is a great way to discover Port Perry and Scugog. "We're not in the business of holding people all day — our staff is trained to guide guests to their next destination in the area, whether that's Two Blokes Cider, the Port Cheese Company, Marwan's Global Bistro, the Nutty Chocolatier and countless other great experiences in town," says Richard Park, the company's president. "Port Perry is the heart and soul of Durham Region, and we're the guardians of original human connection — we build breweries, cideries and 'third spaces' for people to come together, put their phones down and create memories worth remembering." *Old Flame Brewing Co., 135 Perry Street, Port Perry. oldflamebrewingco.ca; Two Blokes Cider, 21300 Simcoe Street, Seagrave. twoblokes.ca*

Aidan Doak, general manager of Old Flame Brewing Co. and Two Blokes Cider

MUST-VISIT: ARCHIBALD'S ORCHARD & ESTATE WINERY

Photography courtesy of Central Counties Tourism

Since planting their orchard in 1967, the Archibald family have not only made their nearly 10,000 trees available for pick-your-own apple picking, but they've also perfected their apple wine recipes. With more than a dozen wines to choose from (Canadian Maple Wine, Caramel Apple Wine and Honey Crisp Wine are favourites), there's something for every wine connoisseur. Not into wine? There are a bunch of ciders and mocktails to try. (Sparkling Non-Alcoholic Apple Cider, anyone?) *6275 Liberty Street North, Bowmanville. archibaldswinery.com*

YES, CHEF!

We tried to count our favourite places to eat in the region, but no dice — there are truly too many to count; and frankly, there are even more chefs and culinary experts doing amazing things when it comes to food and drink. Locals revere so many hotspots, including The Yardbird, 12welve Bistro & Tapwerks, Butchie's and Casa Verde (look for the little green house in Pickering Village). Looking for a cool culinary experience? The Food Truck Corral, the Chef in the Bush at Pingle's and Bistro '67 are not to be missed. Let's just put it this way — we hope you're hungry, because there's an absolute ton to enjoy in Durham Region.

HOT STUFF

Ana Stevens, co-founder of Oshawa-based Pepper North Artisan Foods, on her very cool (well, hot) sauce company.

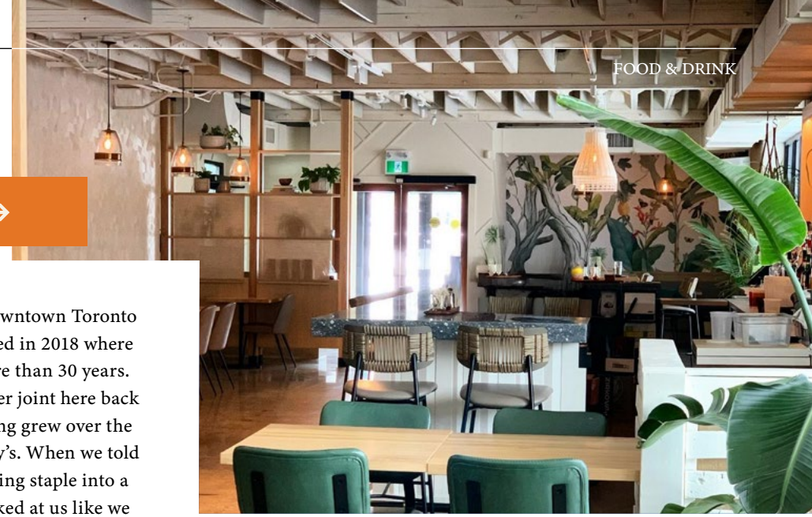
On her origins. I was born in Nicaragua and immigrated to Canada in 1988 at the age of four. I grew up in Toronto and moved to Mississauga after meeting my husband, Drew, in 2008. In 2016, we moved to Oshawa to be closer to my husband's family and to have more space for our growing family and hot-pepper gardens.

On Pepper North Artisan Foods' backstory. Pepper North began in 2013 with Drew's passion for growing hot peppers. We noticed a gap in the market for rare and extremely hot-pepper seeds, so we began harvesting and drying our pepper seeds, created a website and began offering varieties to the Canadian market never seen before. By 2015, we were growing so many peppers that we had to find a use for the actual peppers themselves, not just the seeds. Drew began experimenting in the kitchen and came up with a few recipes that received rave reviews from friends and family. We decided to test our new sauces in the market and registered with a local farmer's market to see what customers thought. We rented a church kitchen to produce our sauces and sourced local suppliers for our ingredients. At the end of the market season, we had so many people asking where they could buy our sauces during the off-season that we began approaching local retailers. Within a year, we had our products sold in delis, meat shops and boutique retailers. We then approached Sobeys, and we're now in all Ontario locations. Today our hot sauces can be found in more than 1,500 stores across the country.

Drew and Ana Stevens, owners of Pepper North

On Durham's culinary scene. We have seen a nice change in the culinary scene in Durham Region over the 10 years we have lived here. The influences from other cultures can be seen emerging in the area, and more interesting dining options have increased significantly. *peppernorth.com*

MI CASA, SU CASA



Locals know they don't have to head to downtown Toronto to get really good Mexican. Chúuk opened in 2018 where the iconic restaurant Massey's stood for more than 30 years. "My grandfather Angelo first opened a burger joint here back when Highway 2 was a dirt road. As Pickering grew over the years, my father, Don, evolved it into Massey's. When we told friends and family we were turning a Pickering staple into a contemporary Mexican restaurant, they looked at us like we were crazy," says Chúuk's owner, Chris Argiro. "We've found ourselves serving a lot of guests who have moved to Durham Region from Toronto and what they get here is a downtown-style dining experience. We've done the research and studied some of the best cocktail bars and Mexican restaurants in North America. We brought everything we learned home and are so happy to share it with our neighbours in Durham."

In such a diverse region, it's important to bring in food from all cultures. While Chris says the team has taken creative liberties with the menu, their goal when opening was to contribute positively to the hospitality and creative culture of the area. And while some of what they do isn't common practice in Mexico ("the world would be a boring place if we were all cookie-cutter versions of the same thing," says Chris), there's plenty of authenticity to celebrate. "One of our proudest accomplishments has been sourcing and importing heirloom corn grown by family farms in Oaxaca, Mexico. We grind this corn in our kitchen with a stone wheel to make masa for fresh tortillas daily. We've had some guests who grew up in Mexico who describe our tortillas as tasting like home — that's the best compliment we could ever ask for," he says. "Our focus is on every single detail of our guests' experience. Good food isn't enough, neither is just having good margaritas. Great food, beverages, atmosphere and, most importantly, hospitality are what separates us."

Between the always-fresh guacamole, ceviche and street corn, the selection of tacos and large plates, and cocktails that rival any big-city lounge, there's lots to love about this restaurant. (Hot tip: Book a reservation on Fridays and Saturdays — it gets busy!) "We're here as owners every day to ensure our guests are well taken care of. We've heard a lot of guests over the years describe Chúuk as upscale without being stuffy. We love that — it speaks to our family's progression over the last 60 years running restaurants at this location," says Chris. "We've grown and progressed with the times, but a large part of who we are hasn't changed since my grandfather was flipping burgers here in the 1960s. We're here to serve people, and we love every minute of it." *774 Liverpool Road, Pickering. chuuk.ca*

FROM SCRATCH

Evelyn Pocock, the owner and baker at Underground Bake Shop in Beaverton, moved to Durham Region after the pandemic hit. Here's what she told us about her relocation, her business and what she loves most about her new home.

On Underground Bake Shop's inception. I've always loved cooking and during the pandemic, without the ability to host, be hosted or go out, I resurrected and practiced some of the age-old techniques of cooking and baking in my then basement apartment. It was a wonderful way to pass the time. Over the coming months, I taught myself recipe after recipe, technique after technique of from-scratch, borderline homesteading that brought me so much joy and fulfilment. And that took its natural progression into baking. I began packing treats and leaving them on the doorsteps of my friends and neighbours. Then I started selling baked goods out of the house to neighbours and people I knew and eventually through word of mouth to people who lived locally. That's the real genesis of Underground Bake Shop.

On choosing Beaverton. I left my job in the city in May 2021, moved to Beaverton and opened the doors to my shop in August. It was a no-brainer. Growing up in Toronto but with a cottage on Lake Simcoe in Beaverton, I've always felt at home in this town. It may not have been where I worked or went to school, but it was mine all the same — it was the backdrop to my weekends, summer and winter holidays, and always a refreshing change to my life in Toronto. ➔

On doing business here. Durham is just fantastic. The region is kind, people are considerate, the townships have a great sense of community and it's just such a wonderful place to be. Locals and regulars know we bake fresh every day — our commitment to freshness outranks our commitment to overconsumption which is, in our eyes, a beautiful thing. Everything we put out is baked fresh that day, with our own hands, using real food and real ingredients. The Love Child has always been an absolute crowd favourite and bestseller — it's a cross between a croissant and a muffin. Our chocolate-chip cookies and blueberry muffins are both incredible, if I do say so myself.

On where she hangs out. My favourite spots are all over the area. I love The Second Wedge Brewing Co. in Uxbridge. I am also a huge fan of Willowtree Farm and Old Flame Brewing Co., both in Port Perry. I like Shirley's Country Clutter in Beaverton, and I could just go on. There are so many small businesses, so much community involvement and so many opportunities — I'm constantly so grateful to live here. *425 Mara Road, Beaverton. undergroundbakeshop.ca*

Q&A

Known for his cooking classes and dinners and his dedication to using only the highest-quality locally sourced ingredients, Oshawa-based chef Alex Page has been creating elevated dishes for more than a decade. When he's not teaching free live cooking classes on social media, he's teaching farm-to-table tourism at Durham College and appears on TV as a guest expert and the host of *The Roaming Chef*, where he travels around Durham Region farms and cooks what's growing.

Q: Have you always lived in Durham Region?
A: I was born and raised in Oshawa; four generations of my family have lived here and I absolutely love this city!

Q: Locally sourced, high-quality ingredients are super important to you — what's it like being a chef in Durham when it comes to local ingredients? What do you enjoy sourcing from the region?
A: If you consider yourself a foodie and high-quality local ingredients are important to you, Durham is one of the best places you can be. As a chef, I am so grateful to live in a community with such a rich agricultural history. There's an abundance of amazing local farms and, more importantly, there are incredible families who work them. Some of the ingredients that I think of when I think of home here are apples, cider, honey, eggs, fruit wine, pumpkins and squash, lavender, chilies and hot sauce, maple syrup, strawberries, garlic scapes,

Left: Photo courtesy of Underground Bake Shop. Right: Photo courtesy of Alex Page.

fresh Jersey milk — the list is endless. One of the most attractive aspects of being located here in Durham is having access to these farm-fresh ingredients year-round. There's almost always a local farm market that's open daily within driving distance. Some of my favourite farms, markets and producers are Pingle's, Banjo Cider, Villa Vida Loca, Archibald's Orchard & Estate Winery, Applewood Farm, Tindall Farm & Market, Linton's Farm Market, Gray Silo Lavender Farm, Hurt Berry Farm, Sargent Family Dairy — I could go on all day!

Q: Tell us about the culinary scene in Durham Region — what do you love about it?
A: I think Durham has a very diverse culinary scene that provides myriad food experiences. We offer fine dining, casual barbecue joints and food trucks, on-farm dining, pick-your-own food experiences, exceptional ciders, fruit wines, beers, and a wide range of incredible ethnic cuisines and markets. I personally love the unique blend of city life and country life. In one day, you can travel around this region sourcing really great ingredients for your fridge and pantry, stop for a cold crisp cider under a willow tree beside a barn, and in the evening, you can go out for dinner in one of our great cities or towns. What more could you want?

Q: What are some of your favourite hotspots in the region?
A: I feel like there are too many to name! But if I have to, here are some of my favourite foodie destinations: The Springwood, the Rustic Board, Market at 70 King, Town Brewery, Lowlands Fire Foods, Ayothaya Thai Kitchen, El Gourmet, Lloyd's Lunchbox, Kareza Café, 1840 Farmhouse & Vineyard and BOND|ST Snack Bar. *chefalexpage.com*

TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL: BISTRO '67

Where: Durham College's award-winning W. Galen Weston Centre for Food
What: Operated by the talented staff and students in Durham College's renowned culinary program, Bistro '67 brings together and celebrates local agriculture, sustainability, community and education. Students (the next generation of culinary and hospitality professionals) experience everything that comes with operating a working kitchen in a busy restaurant — they hone their culinary skills, conceptualize dishes for the menu, practise on different stations and learn the importance of cultivating an atmosphere that values teamwork. Meanwhile, diners get an authentic and unforgettable field-to-fork experience filled with produce grown at the college, Ontario meats and dairy, local craft beers and spirits, chef Raul Sojo's sourdough and a rotating student-inspired feature. The restaurant holds a Feast ON designation for its dedication to using local food and drink. You can also take products and prepared foods home from the on-site retail store, Pantry. *1604 Champlain Avenue, Whitby. bistro67.ca*

BUON APPETITO

We think it's pretty safe to say Italian is the most popular cuisine in the world, but don't take it from us — countless worldwide surveys have all come to the same conclusion. So, we consider ourselves lucky to have a super-authentic Italian restaurant in the region. Family owned and operated and a mainstay in downtown Oshawa, Avanti Trattoria offers a genuine Italian dining experience — regulars say it's like eating at your nonna's place, with its bright, cosy and welcoming atmosphere and generous portions of your favourite Italian fare. Go for the arancini or antipasto misto to start, you can't go wrong with the fettucini alla vodka or carbonara, and the scallopini, Canadese pizza and eggplant parmigiana are out of this world. Don't leave without an espresso and tiramisu. Thank us later. *17 King Street East, Oshawa. avantifood.com*

DELECTABLE DESTINATION

Nest is a farm-to-table restaurant at Trail Hub, an oasis for outdoor enthusiasts that sits on more than 140 acres of private forests bordering conservation land. While the hub offers mountain bike trails, walking paths, event space and a premium bike shop, it's Nest that's become a hotspot for foodies across the Greater Toronto Area. "It's more than just a restaurant — it's an experience. We partner with local suppliers to source fresh, seasonal ingredients that showcase the best of Ontario," says Rick Batty, Trail Hub's owner. Led by chef Jordan Richardson, Nest features curated tasting menus and is committed to quality, sustainability and supporting local farmers. As a Feast ON-certified restaurant, the menu is filled with a selection of seasonal salads, scrumptious shareables (think local sourdough, mushrooms, brie and heirloom carrots) and delectable mains and handhelds. "The stunning views from the dining room and our new lounge, paired with warm hospitality and artisanal cocktails, make Nest a destination in itself and attract diners from across the region," Rick says. *722 Chalk Lake Road, Uxbridge. trailhub.ca*

STAR STRUCK AND WELL FED

A Port Perry institution, the Piano Inn & Café has been open for 24 years and owner Christy Stone-Curry has been at the helm since the beginning. One of the coolest things about the property? It's appeared in many series and films, including Hallmark TV movies, Amazon Original's *Reacher,* Netflix's *Hemlock Grove* and HBO's *People of Earth.* "It's funny — you can have lunch in the restaurant, and you never know if you're going to bump into Adam Sandler, Patrick Dempsey or Andi McDowell. It's actually happened many times," she says. *217 Queen Street, Port Perry. pianocafe.ca*

NOTHING A TRAFALGAR GIRL CAN'T HANDLE

A school for girls in Grades 4 to 12, Whitby's Trafalgar Castle School has a long history of challenging minds, strengthening voices and nurturing hearts.

NOTHING A TRAFALGAR GIRL CAN'T HANDLE

Discover the Trafalgar Girl advantage, sign up for our Admissions Open House, and more at trafalgarcastle.ca

A school for girls | day & boarding | grades 4–12 | Whitby, Ontario

Trafalgar Castle School
Celebrating 150 Years

trafalgarcastle.ca

In downtown Whitby sits a beautiful castle with a 150-year legacy of educating and empowering girls. That castle is Trafalgar Castle School, an independent day and boarding school for girls in Grades 4 to 12 that prides itself on preparing young women to succeed in the real world and throughout their post-secondary journey.

One of Trafalgar Castle School's greatest strengths is that it is small by design. At Trafalgar, each student is personally known by their teachers and staff throughout the Castle, and they're supported by a close-knit community and circle of care that cultivates a strong sense of belonging. "When you walk into school each day, and you are known, it changes everything," says Kate Hebdon, Deputy Head of School. "Not just a smile or wave, but an intentional connection — like stating your name or connecting with something you've done — changes everything and makes all the difference. It takes intentional practice and consistent application by our student leaders and adults to ensure that if a student misses a day at Trafalgar, they know they will be missed."

> "WITHIN THE SCHOOL'S WARM, PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY, STUDENTS ARE SURROUNDED AND EMPOWERED BY DRIVEN GIRLS AND ALUMNAE WHO EXCEL IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH, THE ARTS AND ATHLETICS"

Students at Trafalgar Castle School feel confident taking on any challenge, thinking freely, taking risks and striving for greatness because they've been given no reason to believe they can't. Within the school's warm, progressive community, students are surrounded and empowered by driven girls and alumnae who excel in science, technology, engineering, math, the arts and athletics. "When you have that, you see yourself all around you, and when you see that positive reflection all around you, you know that you can also do that," says Melissa Knight-Johnson, the Head of School. Trafalgar creates opportunities within the school for students to connect with older and younger students across grade and social landscapes, creating a strong sense of belonging. Its House system ensures students in Grades 4 to 12 are cross-pollinated into one of four Houses that collaborate and participate in spirit activities and challenges together throughout the year. The Big Sister/Little Sister mentorship program enhances a sense of belonging and community across junior and senior schools. The school's Prefects provide school-wide leadership and encourage social connectivity among students, while the Trafalgar Activity and Spirit Council leads fun activities to foster school spirit. There are also school clubs and Take Time Thursdays embedded into the school day, when students across all grades come together for student-led activities based on similar interests. And there's the all-girl advantage — when the top athlete, the smartest student in class and the robotics team captain are girls, it sends a powerful message: There's nothing a Trafalgar girl can't handle.

When it comes to academics, studies are grounded in future-ready competencies and skills that better prepare students for the real-world challenges and opportunities they'll encounter in the future. Trafalgar has developed seven future-ready competencies that permeate through the school's grades and subject areas: collaborative leaders, system thinkers and designers, creators and innovators, critical thinkers and informed decision-makers, clear and confident communicators, global citizens, self-aware and self-directed learners and unlearners. "We're teaching students that these habits, skills and knowledge are not only transferrable to any subject area, but also to life," says Laurie Kuchirka, Dean of Academics. "We did a lot of research to select Trafalgar's focus for our Future-Ready Competencies and we ensure our students have the skills they need to be successful in what we see as an exponentially changing society." Adds Knight-Johnson, "Our focus is not just on getting our students to university. They're going to get there. We're focused more on how we make sure they're ready when they leave our castle walls — not just to go to university, but to take on the world, to be comfortable, to challenge what's around them and to be supportive and kind."

Trafalgar's programs are scaffolded to ensure a progression of skills that allow its students to succeed in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) and beyond. They also provide students with developmentally appropriate challenges and experiential, hands-on learning. This learning provides students with the foundational knowledge and skills to think critically and creatively about the world around them. The school's unique Beyond the Castle program offers students the opportunity to engage in real-world learning experiences, such as hands-on STEM workshops at the University of Waterloo, activities in Canada's capital to deepen their understanding of government, chemistry and physics workshops at Toronto Metropolitan University, and networking and career workshops with Deloitte. The school's partnerships with influential organizations and institutions across Ontario enrich the academic experience. For example, Trafalgar's partnership with Durham Region's Ontario Tech University provides students with access to advanced technology, competitive coding competitions and events, specialized technology workshops and more.

The results speak for themselves. Trafalgar Castle School graduates are welcomed by post-secondary institutions in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and beyond to pursue studies in the arts and humanities, engineering, health, business and economics, to name a few. Many students secure notable scholarship awards to pursue their studies, and more than 95 per cent of Trafalgar graduates are Ontario Scholars. Trafalgar Castle School also offers Advanced Placement courses that are nationally and internationally recognized and often accepted as first-year university credits.

Rounding out the myriad ways in which Trafalgar Castle School prepares its students for the future are specialized programs, like Traf Steps, which is designed to prepare middle-school students with emotional intelligence and conflict resolution skills. "Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is rather intrinsic here at Trafalgar Castle School," says Hebdon. "We know finding one's sense of belonging and building connections requires learned skills. When students feel comfortable in an environment built on strong connections, they can learn and thrive in academics, essential life skills and overall well-being." What's more, Trafalgar's many learning supports — including its Advisor Program (dedicated activities with a faculty member that support students' well-being), Dragon's Den (extra after-school academic assistance) and High-Performing Athletes and Artists Program (offering support and flexibility for students pursuing athletics or the arts at an elite level) — are widely available and enjoyed by students.

> "WE'RE TEACHING STUDENTS THAT THESE HABITS, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ARE NOT ONLY TRANSFERRABLE TO ANY SUBJECT AREA, BUT ALSO TO LIFE"

For 150 years, Trafalgar Castle School has been shaping leaders and innovators, creating a legacy of confident, empowered women. Trafalgar girls leave with more than a diploma — they leave with a preparedness for today's dynamic world and a world yet to be imagined. *trafalgarcastle.ca*

Photo by Trafalgar Castle School

“YOU CAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE HOME. YOU CAN CARRY YOUR ROOTS WITH YOU, AND DECIDE WHERE THEY GROW”

Photo courtesy of The Region of Durham

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

Photo by Norm Reynolds

WHO Swapna Nair, 46

FROM India; moved to Ontario from Dubai

HOME Whitby

"We've been nomadic in terms of the life we led before moving to Durham Region," says Swapna Nair, who, along with her family, arrived in Canada in 2019. "I'm originally from India, I studied in London and worked there for a while. We moved to Mauritius, then to Dubai, where we spent nearly a decade. But once we had kids, we knew we wanted to move somewhere that felt more like a permanent home. That's when we came here. Living in North America was unfamiliar to us, and we moved with many feelings of uncertainty and anxiety. But we did our research and picked Ontario," she says. "It was the right choice for us."

Swapna's research didn't stop at selecting this province. When they were looking to leave Dubai, Swapna, an economist, and her husband, Vivek, a chartered accountant, knew Canada needed policy economists and financial experts, so they expected they'd be able to find work following their move. Plus, family who live in Toronto spoke highly of the country's school system and Swapna put a lot of time into researching locations that would provide her two sons, ages two and four at the time, with a diverse community where they could form bonds with peers from all over the world. "It seemed I could be comfortable in Ontario with who I am and where I come from. In my research, I found most Canadians were very welcoming and there's a good mix of ethnicities in the bigger cities and regions," she says.

> **"WE'VE BEEN NOMADIC IN TERMS OF THE LIFE WE LED BEFORE MOVING TO DURHAM REGION. BUT ONCE WE HAD KIDS, WE KNEW WE WANTED TO MOVE SOMEWHERE THAT FELT MORE LIKE A PERMANENT HOME"**

The family followed what Swapna calls "the typical immigrant trajectory" and moved to North York. The pandemic hit just after they arrived and their jobs were remote, so there was flexibility in where they'd eventually settle — North York was a temporary place near family, so they still had to decide where to put down roots. Their landlord at the time talked about Whitby, so Swapna looked into Durham Region. "I knew I needed to be near the GO Train so I could go downtown to work a couple days a week, and since my work revolves around regional economic development, I was familiar with all the regions in the province, so I'd heard of Durham. Still, it was really a blank slate — we really didn't know what life would be like in other places in Ontario outside Toronto, so I had to do my due diligence," she says, adding she now works as a senior policy adviser in Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. The couple decided on north Whitby for its proximity to good schools and the diversity in the neighbourhood. "There are people whose native tongue varies from Latin American to Indian to South-East Asian, then there are those who've lived here for generations. It's a really nice mix and exactly what I was looking for."

Iroquois Park Sports Centre, Whitby

Whitby is much more relaxed than other places the family has lived. "In the summer and when the weather is nice, it's all about the playgrounds and parks, playing baseball and we enjoy bike riding — we take our bikes to different trails and explore. We also like going to pick-your-own farms to pick strawberries, pumpkins and other produce," she says. "And in the winter when it's cold, we like Flying Squirrel trampoline park, and the Brooklin Library is one of our favourite haunts — the kids, Uday, 10, and Sidharth, 7, love to read. We also spend a lot of time sledding, and both the kids play hockey. We chose to embrace the cold here."

The way the family has adopted Canadian winters is symbolic of how Swapna, Vivek and their boys have embraced their move across the world — she says she believes in moving to a country and owning your experience and your new community. "I know I didn't grow up here, but I very much feel like I belong here. It sounds cliché, but the reason I feel connected is because I've tried hard to be part of my community in Whitby and that's important," she says, adding she joined her kids' school council to meet more neighbours and parents with similar interests, and to feel a sense of being part of a system that's supporting the community. "We are planning on staying in Whitby — there's great post-secondary education in Durham Region, if our kids choose to go there, and I can continue to take the GO Train when I commute downtown for work. We've built strong relationships here and made close friends; it's where we're going to stay. I don't think I could've made a better decision in terms of where to move my family."

FREE ADVICE

- ☐ Do your research and speak to people who live in the area.
- ☐ Choose a place based on what's most important to you — no city or town is perfect.
- ☐ Find ways to get involved to help you integrate into your new community.

MUST-VISITS

Whitby Public Library, Brooklin Branch

Libraries have always been known as community hubs where everyone's welcome, and the Brooklin Branch of Whitby Public Library is no different. This location is the perfect spot to recharge, work and connect with neighbours. *8 Vipond Road, Whitby. whitbylibrary.ca*

Hannam Park

Next to Willows Park Public School, Hannam Park is where you'll find kids in nearby neighbourhoods spending summer days and evenings with friends. There's a playground, path, a ton of green space and plenty of shade for parents watching their little ones play. *51 Samandria Avenue, Whitby.*

Iroquois Park Sports Centre

This huge complex is the largest municipally owned-and-operated multi-use recreation facility in the country. You'll find a slew of ball diamonds, arenas, a stadium, food vendors and pools in this community hub. *500 Victoria Street West, Whitby. whitby.ca*

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

WHO Cara Loncar, 63

FROM Born in Manitoba; grew up in Ontario

HOME Scugog Island

Photo by Norm Reynolds

When Cara Loncar moved to Durham Region, she didn't arrive in Ontario on a plane, she didn't need to provide documentation to immigrate, she didn't have to learn a new language and she didn't need to get a driver's licence, though she did have to change the address listed on hers. Cara had lived in the heart of Etobicoke — the west end of Toronto — for 30 years. As a senior sales manager in the food industry who had a home in a bustling city centre, she was used to constant traffic, being within walking distance to amenities on nearly every corner and having plenty of activities and attractions to keep her kids busy. Fast-forward to 2018 and Cara was a single mom who'd met a new partner. The couple had planned to live together some day, but the pandemic accelerated their relationship, and Cara relocated for love — she picked up and moved to Port Perry to be with Mark, who's lived in Durham Region for decades. "I think he has a very deep sense of this area as where he's supposed to be, and that's kept him in Scugog Island for 30 years," she says. "Now it's my home, too."

"WE LOVE GOING TO DOWNTOWN PORT PERRY — IT'S REALLY PRETTY. WHEN WE WANT TO GO OUT FOR DINNER, WE'LL GO TO OLD FLAME BREWING CO. OR PICKLES & OLIVES BISTRO"

Their acre of property is close to the Great Blue Heron Casino, and it borders the land of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation — it's surrounded by a heavily forested area and traditional hunting lands, so it makes sense Cara and Mark spend plenty of time outdoors with their Irish wolfhound in tow. "We love the outdoor lifestyle, and we're often outside with family and friends. We have a pool in our yard, and we also have a boat — it's great to go out on Lake Scugog, especially because Mark loves to fish," she says. "I also really enjoy going for walks, and there are lots of hiking trails in the area where I've seen beautiful wildlife like beavers, herons, muskrats, turtles and Arctic geese. They've also done a wonderful job on the waterfront here, so I enjoy grabbing a coffee and walking down there. There's just something about being out in nature that's so good for the soul."

Compared with Toronto, life in Port Perry is quiet and easy-going. Cara says many people retire in the area, and many have moved from the Greater Toronto Area, in part because money goes further the farther you get out of the city. Depending on the time of year, Cara and Mark spend weekends and downtime working on their property and evenings are enjoyed entertaining friends out by the pool or the fire. "We love going to downtown Port Perry — it's really pretty. When we want to go out for dinner, we'll go to Old Flame Brewing Co. or Pickles & Olives Bistro. Sometimes we'll go into Uxbridge to catch a movie at the Roxy. I also spend a lot of time at Slabtown Cider Co. — I love going there for lunch. The Piano Café & Inn is also charming, and — being from the food industry — I've heard there are chefs doing amazing things at the Nest and Pingle's," she says. "Mark is into music, and when he's not jamming with his friends, there are several spots we can go for live music and soak up the culture." Cara is also involved in charitable organizations, and currently works with Second Harvest Food Rescue, a national charitable organization that redistributes food from producers, retailers and manufacturers that would otherwise go to waste. "There are many groups in the area that need help. Organizations like the Port Perry Lions Club and places like Camille's Closet, which is a thrift shop that raises money for our hospital foundation, are great places to volunteer," she says.

Above: Patio in downtown Port Perry. Right: Tap room at Old Flame Brewing Co.

While it's taken Cara time to get used to living in a more rural area of Durham Region and notes the ways it differs from living in a humming city, she's quick to mention her city-to-town move wasn't as arduous as the experiences had by people who come from faraway places. "I know I don't have the newcomer experience that those who come from other continents and countries have, but I'm the product of immigrants as a second-generation Canadian, so I know how difficult the transition can be," she says. "No matter where you're going, moving to a new place can have its challenges, but there are also so many good things that have come with moving to Durham Region."

FREE ADVICE

- ☐ Start looking for a family doctor or nurse practitioner upon arrival — it can be hard to find one accepting new patients, so ask around.
- ☐ Research amenities that are important to you — transportation, public pools, schools, clubs — before you decide where to settle.

MUST-VISITS

Camille's Closet

This second-hand goods store is run by the Auxiliary to Lakeridge Health Port Perry, which supports the hospital's renovations, equipment purchases and upgrades. The store has been raising money for nearly 15 years, thanks to volunteers who give their time to work the shop and donors who drop off loved items — clothes, shoes, housewares, etc. — for resale. *1894 Scugog Street, Port Perry.*

Pickles & Olives Bistro

Down on Port Perry's waterfront, this family-run restaurant is one of those welcoming places where the people and menu are equally fantastic. Share an appetizer or two with friends and enjoy one of the daily specials in the restaurant or on the patio. *110 Water Street, Port Perry. picklesandolivesbistro.com*

Port Perry Vintage Market

If you're into retro, vintage pieces, the Port Perry Vintage Market is up your alley. Folks who love to collect can shop at more than 30 booths, where they'll find a plethora of cool antiques, funky furniture and other bits and pieces. *1894 Scugog Street, Port Perry. ppvmarket.ca*

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Photo by Norm Reynolds

Left: Electric karting experience at Volt Raceway. Right: Lakeview Park.

WHO Sushant Katare, 36

FROM Pune, India

HOME Oshawa

"I came to Canada for a fresh, new start. I didn't know anyone — that was exciting, but it was also daunting," says Sushant Katare from his office at the Centre for Cybersecurity Innovation at Durham College's Office of Research Services, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Born in the western Indian city of Pune, Sushant had been a business owner back home — after he graduated from university, he started a company in the cybersecurity field but was always looking for a better ecosystem for his work. "I really wanted to be in an ecosystem where awareness of the importance of cybersecurity was much more advanced, and where businesses and people were willing to devote resources to it," he says. "That's one of the biggest reasons why I chose Canada. Of course, there were so many other reasons, like the high quality of life, an appreciation for work-life balance and a focus on positive workplace culture. And Canadians care about things like good air quality, less pollution, cleanliness, dealing with traffic congestion. These things also matter to me, so that's why I decided to come here."

Sushant arrived in Ontario in 2023, just 17 days after the birth of his second child. While Sushant focused on setting up in Canada, his wife, Apurva, took care of their kids. "I had researched the ecosystem here, but I wanted to assess it for myself — I wanted to know if what I'd heard and read was all just hype before I decided to pick up and relocate my family," he says. He landed in Toronto before setting off to another location in Canada, focusing on finding the right pace and opportunities for his cybersecurity career. That decision brought him back to Ontario, but he soon discovered Toronto didn't offer the experience he was looking for. "I lived downtown, and it was so busy. It's a different vibe than what I wanted — I had a more kid-friendly place where we could all thrive in mind. When you have kids, you need a more peaceful environment near good schools, lots of green space and playgrounds," he says. That's when he took a closer look at Durham, not far from where he'd already been hired at the college part time. "I was commuting to work at that time and noticed on my drive that there was really good infrastructure in Durham Region and the area was less populated. Plus, moving to north Oshawa would mean I'd be much closer to work," he says, adding he was hired full time at the college after completing a few contracts.

> **"I WAS COMMUTING TO WORK AND NOTICED ON MY DRIVE THAT THERE WAS REALLY GOOD INFRASTRUCTURE IN DURHAM REGION AND THE AREA WAS LESS POPULATED. PLUS, MOVING TO NORTH OSHAWA WOULD MEAN I'D BE MUCH CLOSER TO WORK"**

Apurva and the girls arrived in Canada in March 2024. "I spent one year without them here, setting up our base and making sure that when my kids and wife landed, they'd have a nice home in a good neighbourhood with proximity to all types of amenities," says Sushant. The time apart was difficult, but he says it was important to get the family's life started in Durham Region before their journey began together. Apurva is currently a stay-at-home mother, but once her toddler is ready for daycare, she plans to enter the workforce. "We both like that we live so close to everything we need — our daughter's school is nearby, and there's plenty of shopping, parks, walking trails, swimming lessons and other classes we can enrol the kids in. North Oshawa is an excellent place for families with kids," he says.

Perhaps one of the biggest reasons the family enjoys life in Durham Region is the area's focus on multiculturalism. Sushant says he chose Canada — and Durham specifically — because he saw people relocating from different countries and amalgamating into their new surroundings while keeping their culture from home alive. "North Oshawa's growth is commendable. Many of my friends and neighbours from India have chosen the area for similar reasons. They share similar experiences — out of all the thriving cities around the world, Canada is welcoming, making it an ideal place to settle and raise families," he says. It's not just about connecting with people who share the same background and culture as his family — Sushant says being exposed to people who were born and raised in Durham Region has also been exhilarating. "I carry gratitude for where we are now," he says. "I admire how Durham welcomes talented individuals while fostering a multicultural environment. It has become a place where we are happy to settle with our family."

FREE ADVICE

- ☐ Identify your priorities early — what do you hope to gain from life in Durham Region?
- ☐ Consider the lifestyle you expect and analyze factors such as cost of living, housing prices and availability, public transportation and commuting options, proximity to schools and community centres, and connectivity to downtown areas.

MUST-VISITS

Lakeview Park

On the waterfront in Oshawa surrounded by a trail and lots of green space is Lakeview Park, which features lots of swings, slides, rockers, a rope web, a carousel and even ziplines. (It's also accessible, allowing all children to take part in the fun.) The park is surrounded by picnic tables and benches, a concession stand, a splash pad and plenty of shade when it's time to get out of the sun. *Lakeview Park Beach, Oshawa*

The Bollywood Tacos

Ever had a tostada filled with paneer tikka? If you've never tried Indian-inspired Mexican street food, head to The Bollywood Tacos for dinner tonight. Choose your base, protein, toppings and sauces and experience the tastes of Mexico and India in one delicious meal. You can thank us later. *36 Simcoe Street #1, Oshawa. thebollywoodtacos.com*

Volt Raceway

Kart racing is exhilarating, and kids of all ages will get a kick out of Volt Raceway's 350-metre thrill track. When you're done taking laps or you're between races, head over to the arcade (which has more than 30 games), the axe-throwing area or billiards room, or sit down for stone-baked pizza before heading back to the track. *2383 Durham Regional Hwy 3, Bowmanville. voltraceway.com*

REVELLING IN THE REGION

WHO Amanda McLaren, 37

FROM Ottawa

HOME Ajax

Photo by Norm Reynolds

FREE ADVICE

- ☐ Look into drop-in programs offered by your municipality to meet people in the area.
- ☐ Prepare for the climate, and not just if you're coming from tropical areas, but also if you're coming from colder parts of the world.

MUST-VISITS

Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park

Kids can't get enough of Flying Squirrel in Whitby, the biggest indoor trampoline fun park in the region. Between the trampolines, games and café, there's enough to keep toddlers to teens busy for hours. (And don't worry — there are areas for parents who don't want to jump to sit and relax.) *1400 Victoria Street East, Whitby. flyingsquirrelsports.ca*

Chúuk

A well-known spot for Mexican food, Chúuk is one of those restaurants that quickly end up on rotation for locals and those travelling from other parts of the Greater Toronto Area who want to experience a piece of Mexico. The ceviche and street corn small plates are not to be missed, and the tacos, empanadas, churros and margaritas are next level. *774 Liverpool Road, Pickering. chuuk.ca*

Pingle's Farm Market

Pingle's has been a must-visit attraction in Durham for nearly 40 years. Folks from all over the Greater Toronto Area don't just come for the year-round farm market and bakery (the pies are legendary), but there's plenty to do in every season, from the Easter Bunny brunch in spring to fall's harvest festival. *1805 Taunton Road East, Hampton. pinglesfarmmarket.com*

Left: Harvest Festival at Pingle's Farm Market (photo from Tripadvisor). Right: Swimming lessons (photo from Envato).

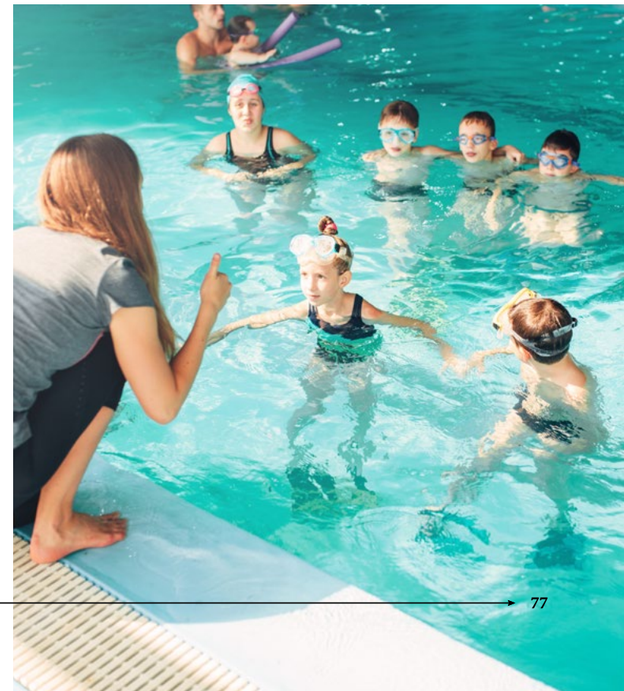
Relocating within the same province is definitely a different experience than picking up, packing your life and moving from another country. That said, each situation has its advantages and challenges. Take it from Amanda McLaren — she's lived both scenarios. Amanda was born in Ontario but spent years in Florida, where her parents emigrated when the southern state was actively recruiting health-care workers. She'd planned to return to Canada and eventually found herself in Ottawa working for the federal government. That's where she met her husband, Adam, who works in film. He'd had a similar experience — prior to the two meeting, he had lived in Calgary and relocated to Ottawa to be closer to his family. They spent seven years living together in the country's capital, then decided it was time to make lifestyle changes and career moves before having children; moving to the Greater Toronto Area was at the top of their list. "Our phase of life really informed where we chose to go. We knew we wanted to raise our family there, and we were looking for a community where we could have a backyard and somewhere that wasn't too far from our family who live east of the city. We considered North York and Markham, but we quickly determined Durham Region was the best place to relocate," she says.

> **"HAVING ACCESS TO THE CITY IS AMAZING, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING DOWNTOWN EVERY WEEKEND. YOU WANT TO FIND THOSE LOCAL GEMS, AND DURHAM REGION IS FULL OF GREAT PLACES"**

In 2017, the couple and their newborn son, Malcolm, moved to Pickering, where they initially rented a home to make sure Durham Region checked all their boxes. "When we decided things were going well and we knew we wanted to stay, most of the region was on the table when it came to where we'd buy our own place. We knew we liked being near the lake, so Ajax is where we've lived ever since," she says. Being in the municipality means a quick commute to Amanda's office (she works for the City of Pickering) and to film sets and locations where Adam works, but it also means Malcolm, now 7, gets to grow up in a diverse community. "Our neighbourhood is full of people from various backgrounds. From the moment he entered daycare to the time he entered French immersion school, Malcolm has been around so many people of different cultures," says Amanda.

When it comes to downtime, there's always plenty going on in the McLaren home. In the winter months, Malcolm plays hockey in the local recreation league and the family enjoys the well-known sledding hill in Pickering and skating on the pond in Ajax, as well as indoor attractions like Flying Squirrel and SkyZone. And in the warmer weather, Malcolm is enrolled in a variety of summer camps. "We're always really impressed with the variety offered in Durham. There are traditional options like nature and sports camps, but he's also enjoyed field trip, coding, LEGO and even dodgeball camps," Amanda says. "I'm a runner so I can reliably be found doing my distance runs along the waterfront — I go from Ajax to Pickering and back on the really long ones." The family frequents the Shops at Pickering, and when Amanda and Adam have time, they enjoy Thermëa Spa in Whitby and dinners out at Chúuk in Pickering.

Along with being a newcomer comes learning about your new city, and there are simple ways to do it, but Amanda says you really have to know where to look. "It might sound silly, but I wasn't following the right social media accounts, groups or influencers when I first moved to Durham, and it was hard because I had a baby at the time and couldn't really find anything to do," says Amanda. When she started getting recommendations, she joined baby read-along groups at the Pickering library, then mom-and-me swimming lessons in Ajax. "These were a lifesaver and pretty affordable. Durham has great programs run by its municipalities and there are new community centres being built to support families," she says, adding municipal programs were ideal venues for meeting new friends with a little one in tow. "Local social media accounts are so helpful — they opened up a new world for me. From discovering play places to local farms, I got so much information from people talking about their favourite places on social media. It's important to find what's nearby and not just rely on Toronto-based amenities for shopping, nights out and entertaining kids. Having access to the city is amazing, but you're not going downtown every weekend. You want to find those local gems, and Ajax and Durham Region are full of great places. You just have to make the right connections and get immersed in your new community."



MAKING HERSELF AT HOME

WHO Siddhita Ahire, 27

FROM Mumbai, India

HOME Oshawa

Photo by Norm Reynolds

Left: Dosa Eatery. Bottom: Watson Farms.

Before Siddhita Ahire landed at Toronto's Pearson International Airport in June 2023, she'd never left India. With a bachelor's degree in architecture and a master's in urban design, the Oshawa-based 27-year-old hails from Mumbai — India's financial capital and one of the most densely populated places in the world. Rich with culture, known for its cuisine and Bollywood films and envied around the world for its incomparable public transportation system, Mumbai is a thriving metropolis most Canadians will never experience, full of outdoor bazaars and beaches dotting the Arabian Sea. There are now 21 million people living in the city where Siddhita was born and raised, where she was educated and worked, and where she emigrated from to start a new life with her husband in Ontario.

Siddhita moved here on a spousal visa. Her husband, Ashish, arrived in Canada a decade before to study chemical engineering at Durham College. The pair had known each other since 2012 and got married in 2022. "Back when he decided to leave India, he was looking for good, affordable education and chose to move here. He had never been to Canada before and he would often tell me how different Oshawa was from Mumbai," she says. "Before I arrived, life in India was very simple for me. It was easy to see friends and family and to get around. When I got here, it was very different. I didn't know anyone else, other than one cousin in Brampton."

> **"I'M A BIG FAN OF FALL. THE WEATHER IS JUST RIGHT — NOT TOO HOT, NOT TOO COLD — AND THERE ARE SUCH VIBRANT COLOURS. WE DON'T SEE MUCH FALL IN MUMBAI. IT'S MY FAVOURITE SEASON"**

Of course, there are a plethora of differences between Canada and India, and while Siddhita says it's taking time to acclimate and get to know her new surroundings, the future is bright. "For me, Oshawa is a very slow, quiet place, compared to what I'm used to back home, but it's actually full of opportunity." Doing her certification in local economic development at Toronto Metropolitan University, she says the growth in Oshawa is one of the main drivers that attracted her and her husband to choose the Centennial area of the city to make a home. "Mumbai has such exceptional infrastructure and it's much bigger than Oshawa, but as an urban designer, I like the city and its architecture," she says. "There's also so much culture. There are a lot of Indian people where we live — I didn't think Oshawa was going to be as multicultural as it is. I think more people are coming to Durham because of the opportunities, the post-secondary schools including Durham College, Ontario Tech and Trent, and big employers like GM. I think these factors are really attracting people to move to the region." Siddhita is also keeping an eye on the GO Train's expansion into the east — Mumbai runs on trains and it's a mode of transport she's used to, but when she arrived here, she was surprised to see everyone driving cars. "There are so many vehicles on the road, so I'm getting my licence for the first time," she says.

When she and Ashish, 33, have downtime (Ashish formerly worked at SGS Canada and is currently preparing for taking his power engineering exams, and Siddhita is looking for positions in planning and economic development), they have a list of favourite spots they frequent. "Oshawa has some great places to visit. The lakefront is beautiful — we really like the trails; our go-to trail is Cedar Valley Park. It's clean and well-kept.

We both find the trails healing — we're more into nature and calm activities," she says, adding the Oshawa Botanical Garden, Parkwood Estate and Kingsmen Valley Park are also favourites. "We even have our own picnic dates there." Long weekends or holidays call for a trip to downtown Port Perry ("It's close to home and the downtown is nice and small; plus, it's so clean," she says), Lake Scugog or a trip to Orono to explore the small villages nearby. "The rural areas and all the farms are really interesting to see; we like Watson Farms in Bowmanville. We don't have farms everywhere like this in Mumbai," she explains. They also spend time at Oshawa Centre, they visit Panchvati and Vinland to pick up authentic Indian groceries, and prefer Indian restaurants (Indraprastha in Whitby, Sankalp in Oshawa, Dosa Eatery in Courtice and Dal Roti in Pickering, to name a few) when dining out.

Since being in Canada, Siddhita and Ashish have spent time acquainting themselves not only with Durham Region, but they've also travelled to Winnipeg to visit friends, and they spent their first wedding anniversary at Niagara Falls. Siddhita is quickly getting used to the weather — it's the first time in her life she's experienced four seasons. "I'm a big fan of fall. The weather is just right — not too hot, not too cold — and there are such vibrant colours. We don't see much fall in Mumbai. It's my favourite season," she says. And when it comes to what it's like to be a new Canadian, Siddhita says she feels accepted — especially by her neighbours. "I love spending time with them. They tell me stories about how Canada was back in the day, and I tell them about life in Mumbai. It's quite a cultural exchange," she says. "Canadian homes are just so cosy. I'm so grateful to have such wonderful neighbours here."

FREE ADVICE

- ☐ Find the best ways to get around — local buses, the GO Train, ride-sharing — before you get your driver's licence.
- ☐ Research the town or city where you'll be living — don't just research Toronto.
- ☐ Seek out opportunities and keep developing your skills in your field — take courses at local post-secondary institutions that can bolster existing degrees or certifications.
- ☐ Do your paperwork as soon as you can after you land.

MUST-VISITS

Dosa Eatery

There's a selection of authentic South Indian dosas (savoury crepes) to choose from at this restaurant, from masala varieties to chocolate dosas. You'll also find uthappam, poori and idli on the menu, as well as a selection of chai teas. *1414 King Street East, Courtice. dosaeatery.com*

Watson Farms

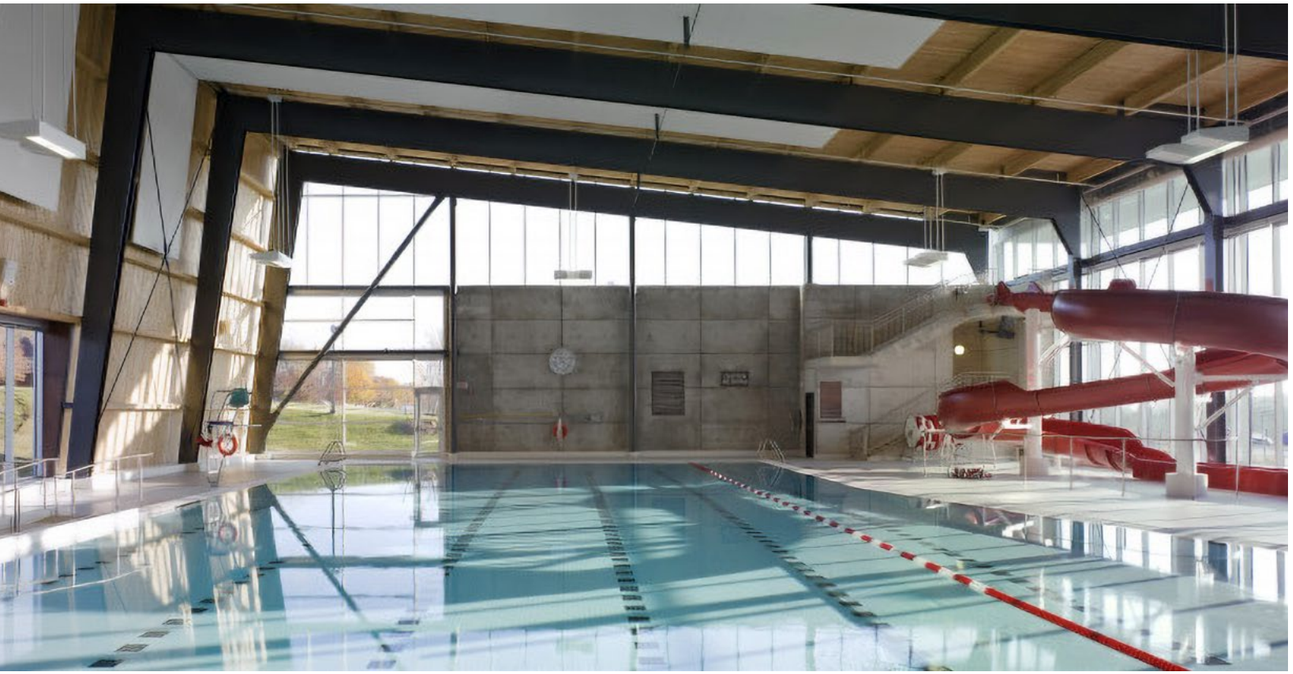
This Bowmanville-based pick-your-own and farmer's market is run by father-son duo Ted and Paul Watson. Not only will you find a petting zoo, playground and wagon rides, but there's always strawberry picking in late spring, apple picking in late summer and fall, and pears, beans, pumpkins, raspberries, peas and other delicious produce during the growing season. *2287 Highway 2, Bowmanville. watsonfarms.ca*

Panchvati Supermarket

With two locations in Durham Region, this supermarket features a diverse array of traditional and authentic Indian food, from aloo bhujia snacks to Chakki Atta flour for baking. There's even a fast-food section where you can find favourites like panipuri, samosa and ragda patties. *18 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax; 1053 Simcoe Street South, Oshawa. panchvati.ca*

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Photo by Norm Reynolds



This page: Pool at Diane Hamre Recreation Complex. Opposite: Oysters at The Springwood.

WHO Sarah Israel, 39

FROM Quebec; moved to Durham Region from Toronto

HOME Oshawa

When she told her friends she and her husband were moving out of their midtown Toronto condo and going to Oshawa, Sarah Israel was met with uncertainty. "A few things I heard a lot when we told people we were planning on moving here were, 'You're going to be bored.' 'You're going to miss the city.' 'What about the hustle and bustle you're used to?' 'You'll be back in a year.' But I love living here," Sarah, 39, says from her home in north Oshawa. "By the time we left Toronto, I was tired of the congestion, the faster pace, the lack of green space; we made the right choice."

Sarah and her husband, Adrian, moved to Durham Region in 2023. They were ready to move out of their tiny one-bedroom condo and were met with opportunities to head west of the Greater Toronto Area, where many of their friends had relocated. Instead, they set their sights on the east end. Adrian was recruited for a job in IT for the region, and since Sarah works from home (she's in culinary tourism and runs an online vintage and second-hand decor business), she was game to make a big change. "Adrian commuted for a couple months and then we decided it was time to move out there. The budget we had in Toronto could support us renting a much bigger place that we thought would be more conducive to having a better life," she says, adding she was new to Durham, but Adrian had attended Ontario Tech University, so he was familiar with the area. They first rented a new townhome on the Oshawa-Courtice border before moving to their four-bedroom home just minutes away.

The couple has experienced a slew of positive changes in the past two years. Sarah grew up in Quebec and has lived in Vancouver and Toronto, so when she talks about the advantages of living in Durham Region, she has other metropolitan areas to compare with Oshawa. "We have access to being outdoors in a way that I've never had, no matter where I've lived. It's just less dense here — you can drive down to the waterfront, park your car and eat your lunch without sitting in traffic or having hundreds of people around," she says. "It's easier and more accessible to be part of the community. In Toronto, I was doing my own thing — that's kind of the vibe in a big city. Here, I can involve myself in activities and branch out in new ways." Sarah takes aquafit class in nearby Newcastle, she joined an outdoor bootcamp class for women and signed up for art classes run by the city. "It's been a great way to meet new people; I like seeing the same ladies every week," she says. "I never did those things in Toronto. Everything is so much easier to do here."

When they're not working, Sarah and Adrian frequent downtown Whitby, and they're all about supporting local. She says they often make a day of popping into small businesses around Dundas and Brock Streets (a.k.a. the Four Corners) — there are more than 300 unique shops, restaurants and cafés in the downtown area. "It's a really walkable spot and there are a ton of good places for dinner, which we love. The Springwood is my favourite restaurant; we were there recently, and the meal we had was in my top five culinary experiences. The owners are from Toronto and ended up here, and it's such a wonderful place so close to home," she says. "The lower cost of doing business is definitely something small business owners can take advantage of when they open in Durham." Sarah and Adrian also enjoy King Street in Bowmanville. "There are so many things to do in that stretch and so much to explore — there's great coffee and pastries, sushi restaurants, a bunch of shops that sell vintage pieces and the Yardbird."

> **"WE HAVE ACCESS TO BEING OUTDOORS IN A WAY THAT I'VE NEVER HAD, NO MATTER WHERE I'VE LIVED"**

It's not just the downtown areas Sarah and Adrian (who is now in a tech role at a Crown corporation in Durham) visit — they enjoy exploring green spaces and the more rural places within the region. "Even driving from here to Newcastle to go swimming is relaxing — there are huge fields, giant barns, rolling hills everywhere. There's something really calming about being closer to nature and out of all the congestion," says Sarah. "It's nice to have more space, and that's something you can't have in a small condo in Toronto. This is a completely different lifestyle."

FREE ADVICE

- ☐ Sign up for a library card and meet new people through classes and activities — everything from English classes to aerobics — run by your local branch
- ☐ Know where you want to settle and which lifestyle is up your alley — Durham is filled with urban and rural areas that offer different experiences

MUST-VISITS

The Springwood

This neighbourhood restaurant cares about providing locals and tourists with only the best-quality, locally sourced ingredients. Come for the raw bar and small plates, stay for a variety of protein mains and delectable veggie sides. *1645 Dundas Street East, Whitby. thespringwoodwhitby.com*

Diane Hamre Recreation Complex

This rec centre doesn't just have a full-sized gym, community meeting rooms and a pool (though those are all draws) — enjoy the skateboard park, pickleball court, table tennis and leash-free dog park. *1780 Rudell Road, Newcastle. clarington.net*

The Yardbird

Open for lunch and dinner, the Yardbird's menu features a variety of hearty sandwiches, filling salads, rich entrees and a selection of classic cocktails (think early 20th century) and super-modern mixes. *50 King Street East, Bowmanville. theyardbird.ca*

A NEW PLACE IN THE SUN

Photo by Norm Reynolds

WHO Dwight Massiah, 42

FROM Guyana

HOME Oshawa

The Massiah family comes from sunshine, sand and sea, so you can imagine what Dwight, Shemeka, Sheniya and Dajani's first winter was like in Canada back in 2018. "The kids were really excited the first time they saw snow — they wanted to play in it and get the whole experience. Now, after five winters here, they've adapted. It's like they're Canadian now — they don't even feel the cold anymore," Dwight says with a laugh. The 42-year-old was born and raised in Guyana, on the northeastern coast of South America, and spent half his life in Antigua, a tiny Caribbean island between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, before he and his wife, Shemeka, decided they were ready for a change. They arrived in Ontario via Atlanta, where they had spent a year considering their options. Canada was at the top of their list for a handful of reasons. "We wanted a place where we could give our kids as many opportunities as possible, I wanted somewhere I could increase my qualifications and skills, and we wanted to be in a place where we could leave our kids a legacy. The company I worked for in Antigua had its head office in Toronto, so I'd already visited and liked what I saw when I visited the city," he says. "We were also considering Europe — we have family in England and France — but we said we're young, adventurous and comfortable with making a big change, so we picked Canada."

> **"WE WANTED TO RAISE OUR KIDS IN A MORE SUBURBAN AREA WITH A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT THAT'S SAFE, HAS GOOD SCHOOLS AND LOTS OF AMENITIES. THE WINDFIELDS AREA IN NORTH OSHAWA TICKED ALL OUR BOXES AS THE PLACE TO SETTLE"**

Dwight enrolled in Trent University, where he completed his master's in applied modelling and quantitative methods, boosting his knowledge of and qualifications in financial analysis and data science. After renting in Markham, Dwight and Shemeka started looking for property to call their own. Deciding where to live here came down to proximity to Toronto and diversity — Dwight says Durham Region was the clear winner. "We looked at Pickering, Ajax and Oshawa. We wanted to raise our kids in a more suburban area with a multicultural environment that's safe, has good schools and lots of amenities. The Windfields area in north Oshawa ticked all our boxes as the place to settle," he says. "We were skeptical, but I know we made a great choice because we can see how well our kids have adapted. When they came home after their first day of school, they said they loved it — no kid ever says they loved the first day of school. That really made us feel like we made the right decision for our family. A huge weight was lifted."

Trent University, Oshawa Campus.

The community is ideal for the Massiahs — it's full of neighbourly folks, there are a lot of outdoorsy things to do and there's plenty of green space, which was important to Dwight. The kids, Sheniya, 15, and Dajani, 11, have made good friends, and so has the couple. "Everyone has made us feel welcome; there's a much richer culture here than we expected. We even met another Caribbean family who lives 10 minutes away — it's been nice to connect."

While his kids are heavily involved in extracurricular basketball and typical tween and teen pastimes, Dwight and Shemeka have been getting involved in their new community, meeting new people and discovering new hotspots. "We've really gotten to know the downtown area because we go to many events organized and hosted by the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce. Through the chamber, we've been to new coffeehouses, restaurants and other venues, and we've really enjoyed it because we've met many people and we've seen so much more of Oshawa," he says. Connecting with new people has also proved useful in terms of business — now that they're settled in Oshawa and plan on remaining in Durham Region, Dwight and Shemeka have started their own accounting firm. "My wife is a practising chartered professional accountant and has been in public accounting for more than 20 years. We're focusing on supporting small businesses with their accounting needs," he says, adding Oshawa has been a great place to launch their own firm, thanks to helpful programs offered by the BDC and the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce. "With our qualifications and guidance, we're hoping to help business owners grow their own businesses in Durham."

So far, the Massiah family's experience in the region has been positive, and they've all experienced opportunities for growth. "I would encourage people who are considering North America for school or work to look closely at Ontario, and specifically Durham Region. This is a place where you can raise your kids, grow your career or even start a business. This is where you can leave a legacy to your children," says Dwight. "In the years we've been here, we've found there's no limit as to what can be achieved here. There's excitement in the air and I'm looking forward to my family continuing to put down roots here."

FREE ADVICE

- [ ] Checking out local hubs like malls or nearby parks can help you feel more at home.

MUST-VISITS

Champs Caribbean Restaurant

Specializing in the rich island flavours of West Indian cuisine, this restaurant focuses on Jamaican takeout and features a variety of dishes, from goat curry to jerk chicken. Where: *1288 Ritson Road North, #6, Oshawa. champscaribbeanrestaurant.ca*

Market at 70 King

Foodies, rejoice! The Market at 70 King is a new hotspot in an old landmark where people can come together for food and drink and to celebrate events. With eight diverse vendors and a speakeasy-style lobby cocktail bar, this is the newest place to hang out on King. Where: *70 King Street East, Oshawa. marketat70king.com*

TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS

WHO Claudia Duggan, 41

FROM São Paulo, Brazil

HOME Burketon Station

Photo by Norm Reynolds

FREE ADVICE

- ☐ Put yourself out there and get engaged — attend events, register for classes, speak to folks about their experiences and must-visits in your new city or town.
- ☐ If you're on social media, join groups from the community you're moving to before you relocate. It's a great resource to find babysitters, dogsitters, great restaurants, etc.

MUST-VISITS

Blackstock Pizza Town

This classic pizza joint serves up all the pies and panzerotti you'd expect, plus a bunch of sides that might not seem typical of your everyday pizza place — who knew samosas and mutton rolls were so popular? *14421 Old Scugog Road, Blackstock. avantoeats.com*

NEB's Fun World

Dubbed the largest five-pin bowling centre in the world (there are 52 lanes), this place has a ton of attractions — there's a playground, virtual reality games, bumper cars, arcades and even an indoor roller-coaster. It's also the perfect place to host birthday parties. *1300 Wilson Road North, Oshawa. nebsfunworld.com*

Blackstock Berries

Family owned and operated, Blackstock Berries started out as a pre-picked and you-pick berry farm, but the business has grown so much over the years that there's an apple orchard, as well as pear, cherry and peach trees. Plus, the greenhouse has plenty of seasonal fruit and vegetables. *13451 Old Scugog Road, Blackstock. blackstockberries.ca*

Winter trails at Long Sault Conservation Area.

"THERE'S A REAL SENSE OF COMMUNITY HERE, AND THAT'S GOOD FOR ALL OF US"

Not everyone who moves to Durham Region wants the bustling downtown or suburban life — in fact, there are folks who crave the opposite and yearn for the ample space, quiet, safety and serenity that comes with a property with some acreage in a small village most of us have never heard of.

That's the experience Claudia Duggan and her husband, Richard, were looking for when they decided to relocate to Burketon in rural Clarington, north of Enniskillen, on the Oak Ridges Moraine. With larger properties, plenty of farms and Long Sault Conservation Area right across the street, the family has a calmer life off the beaten path. "It's very much country living — very quiet, no sidewalks, bigger properties, mature trees, hardly any cars on the roads. My husband wanted a farm, but I couldn't handle the idea of not having neighbours — I grew up in a condo in a city of 20 million people. So Burketon was a good fit. We just like the quietness and the privacy. My friends call it Narnia because it's like being in the middle of nowhere and no one knows how to get here," Claudia says with a laugh.

While Richard hails from the Maritimes, Claudia moved to Canada 20 years ago from Brazil, where she was born and raised. She had finished her university studies at home and decided life in Canada — where her cousin lived — would offer more stability and a safer place to live. She'd once visited during a school break and really liked the area and atmosphere. She ended up applying for a one-year international business program at Seneca College, and at the time, a one-year work permit was offered to people who successfully graduated. "So, I applied and came here. I loved it. During that time, I started dating Richard, who I met when I came to Canada the first time. We got married and I applied for citizenship," she says. It was a whirlwind back then — the couple rented condo after condo in downtown Toronto for several years, and then started looking for a house where they could settle. Since they both worked in Markham at the time, they chose to look in Pickering and Uxbridge, but Richard knew he didn't want to live in the suburbs — he wanted a house with acreage and solitude. "We'd been looking for so long and almost gave up until we found this place. It's a lot farther than we were hoping for, but as soon as we saw the property and house and stepped through the door, we knew. We have two-and-a-half acres and a big country home," says Claudia, who adds the location is great for work — when she's not in her home office, she's on the road across the province, travelling east to Ottawa and west to London. "We moved here 12 years ago, and we still know this is the place for us."

These days, life in Burketon is relaxed and peaceful. The couple's nine-year-old daughter, Keira, attends a Durham Region private school about 30 minutes away, which means more driving time for Claudia, but she doesn't mind — there's no traffic on the area's country roads. When they're not working and Keira out of school, days are filled with activities. "I've been able to find pretty much everything Keira has wanted to try within the region — she's done swimming, fencing, gymnastics, rock climbing, guitar, tennis, jiujitsu. I never have to go that far to find things for her to do," she says. The family has favourite spots and hobbies, too — they spend time with neighbours on nearby properties, go to play places, support local retailers and restaurants, and enjoy the waterfront in nearby Port Perry. They visit local farms in the warmer months (Keira enjoys horseback riding) and skate and ski (Brimacombe is a favourite) when winter rolls around. And they spend a lot of time across the street at Long Sault playing with their dog, Bella.

For Claudia, who grew up in São Paulo, there are countless differences when it comes to living in Canada. "São Paulo has a ton of traffic, and I know Toronto does, but we don't experience that here. Safety is also a big surprise. People here are not paranoid about crime. Where I lived, there were all kinds of rules and strategies to follow, and gates, cameras and security guards. We don't have any of that and it took me time to relax. That's something I really appreciate," she says. "Of course, the weather is very different — we don't get snow in Brazil — and the culture takes some time getting used to. People in Brazil are a lot more open and affectionate and there's no personal space there. But the positives far outweigh the negatives." Claudia says in her experience, one of the most important things to do when you relocate is to immerse yourself in your new community to soak up the culture and meet new people. "There are lots of public events and clubs. I think it's really easy to get involved as long as you're willing to make an effort," she says, adding she joined the community advisory panel for Lakeridge Health as a way to give back and feel more involved in her area. "There are opportunities if you're willing. Even when I go to the park, I'll sit on a bench and start chatting with other people. Suddenly I've made a new friend."

While so many of us live in suburban communities, there's much to be said for the rural lifestyle. With more space and fewer neighbours, it's simpler to build connections, and the families tend to get together often to ensure the kids and adults alike can cultivate lasting relationships. "I think a lot of people who live here appreciate being in a rural community. We plough each other's driveways, we cut each other's trees. There's a real sense of community here, and that's good for all of us," says Claudia. "That's why I love it. I feel like I found a little gem that really works for us."

Photo by Norm Reynolds

SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES

WHO Gilles Tchianga, 47

FROM Cameroon; moved to Ontario from Italy

HOME Whitby

When your new home — so far away from where you were born and raised — immediately feels like a place you've always lived, you know you've made the right decision. That's the situation Gilles Tchianga found himself in when he arrived in Canada in 2008. Originally from Cameroon in central Africa, Gilles had been living in Italy where he was doing his master's degree in food processing. When he finished and was considering his next move, Canada topped his list. "I knew of Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, and I considered Montreal because I come from a Francophone country. But I wanted to learn English, so I decided to move to Toronto," he says.

Gilles landed in Oshawa just before the pandemic, then moved to Whitby, where he lives now. His place at the corner of Brock and Dundas Streets (known as the Four Corners) puts him right in the downtown core, where there's no shortage of restaurants, stores, coffee shops and friendly faces. "That's something that's always touched me here — the people. I spend a lot of time in Whitby, Ajax and Oshawa, and wherever you are, in any part of Durham, people really welcome you and I've always felt such a strong connection with people I've met. It actually feels like I was born here," he says.

This connection has helped Gilles start a business in his new home. Taltis Foods makes authentic African products using Canadian ingredients. With his background in food processing and his experience in Cameroonian cuisine, Gilles has created cooking sauces and beverages ideal for people who want to experience the flavours of his home continent. (You can find his products in grocery stores throughout the province.) He says starting a business in Durham has been a hugely positive experience, and the BADC (Business Advisory Centre Durham) in Whitby was the first organization that jumped in to help him get going. "It's been really helpful to have someone advising me and someone who's been able to meet on a regular basis. I've had a lot of support," Gilles says, adding he's currently working on a traditional African bread to add to his product line.

"WHEREVER YOU ARE, IN ANY PART OF DURHAM, PEOPLE REALLY WELCOME YOU"

For Gilles, Durham is the perfect location to launch a business like his — one that celebrates multiculturalism. "There are people who come to Durham Region from everywhere around the world. I've met people from many African countries, including Senegal, Nigeria and Cameroon. I also have a lot of friends from Europe. We gather and meet at church, and we all feel very welcome and safe in this area," he says. "Durham reminds me a lot of back home. The farmers' market here is a good example. I grew up where there are lots of people walking down the streets who stop to talk to each other. That's what the market is like — there are always friendly faces around. It's nice to feel connected with the place you're living." While Whitby has that small-town feel, Gilles says it's also very modern and has all the amenities residents need. "There are so many stores, offices, parks and more. Everything is close; you don't need to go far for anything. It's shocking how easily I can access any place from here — downtown Toronto, Richmond Hill, Brampton or even Colborne to the east. Those areas are always in your backyard."

Opposite page: Parkwood Estate. Right: Durham Region Transit's all-electric Nova Bus.

After his years here, Gilles has advice for those who relocate to Durham from other countries: seize opportunities and don't be afraid to connect with others. "Don't be scared to approach new people, to stop someone and talk, to walk into a store and ask a question, to go to an office and speak openly about what you're looking for," he says. "Whether it's personal or for work, I've learned there's always someone here ready to give you an opportunity, and someone who can give you the answers you're looking for." R:

FREE ADVICE

- ☐ Keep an open mind and ask locals for help when you need it.
- ☐ Learn about the area's public transportation system, which makes it easy to travel in and around the region.

MUST-VISITS

Pickering Village

At the crossroads of Old Kingston Road and Church Street you'll find Pickering Village, Ajax's historic main street. The area is full of local businesses and restaurants, as well as the St. Francis Centre for Community Arts and Culture, which puts on events for the community.

Parkwood Estate

Parkwood Estate was the home of R.S. McLaughlin, the founder of General Motors of Canada. The 15,000-square-foot, 55-room mansion is a National Historic Site, and its furnishings, architecture, art and gardens have been preserved and is open for the public to explore and enjoy. *270 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa. parkwoodestate.com*

Canadian Automotive Museum

Housing the world's most significant collection of Canadian cars, the Canadian Automotive Museum pays homage to cool wheels of the past and present. Check the website for special events, activities for little ones, walking tours and more. *99 Simcoe Street South, Oshawa. canadianautomotivemuseum.com*

Photo by Ontario Tech University

EXCITEMENT OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

You probably know Ontario Tech University as a cutting-edge hub of research and discovery that's training the next generation of innovative thinkers, but there's so much more to this vibrant institution than what happens in classrooms and lecture halls. Beyond post-secondary education, Ontario Tech offers a wide range of fun and affordable activities that bring families in the community together to connect, learn, explore and engage with each other. Here, we've rounded up five of our favourite extracurricular activities that showcase just how dynamic this university really is. Visit *ontariotech.ca* to explore all the exciting opportunities Ontario Tech has to offer.

1 | GO TO CAMP

As a university known for top-tier education and groundbreaking innovation, it's no surprise that Ontario Tech's summer camp programs are just as dynamic, engaging and unique as its academic offerings. "We create fun, hands-on opportunities for kids to learn and explore their curiosity in a positive and safe educational environment. Our goal is to inspire kids to see STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) everywhere in the world around them," says Amy Neil, Executive Director, Brand and Communications. Campers will experience curriculum-based learning in robotics, gaming, coding and engineering, with a perfect balance of indoor learning activities and outdoor play. There's also a focus on leadership, empowering girls and learning about Indigenous cultures and people. For example, STEAM Girls (the A stands for art) is designed for kids aged nine to 12 and lets campers get creative with paint, wood, fabrics and circuitry to design and build projects. Turtle Island gives campers the chance to learn from Indigenous Knowledge Holders and Elders, connecting engineering design with the importance of environmental stewardship. "We know we've succeeded when our campers leave excited about STEM, feeling its within their reach, and maybe even a big part of their future," says Neil. *ontariotech.ca/camps*

2 | CATCH A FLICK

Who doesn't love movie night? Oshawa's historic Regent Theatre has been a community mainstay since 1919, and today, it's owned and operated by Ontario Tech. Used as a lecture theatre by the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities by day, the Regent boasts an exciting lineup open to the public once the sun goes down. "The Regent attracts leading music acts, tribute artists, the Ontario Philharmonic and comedy icons every week," explains Neil. But it's Classic Movie Night — held the first Thursday of every month — that's always a crowd-pleaser. "Grab some popcorn and check out great films of yesteryear, like *Murder on the Orient Express, It's a Wonderful Life, Back to the Future* and *On the Waterfront*." *regenttheatre.ca*

3 | EXPERIMENT AT SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS

Got a budding scientist who's curious about mechanics, artificial intelligence, the human brain, the environment and other hot topics? Science Rendezvous is a beloved yearly tradition at Ontario Tech — it takes place on one Saturday each May and brings all things STEAM out of the lab and into the community. This free event invites kids of all ages (adults can't resist joining in on the fun) to dive into science, tech, engineering, art and math with lots of hands-on experiments and super-cool demonstrations. "Participants can explore a kid-friendly escape room, tour Ontario Tech's world-leading ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel, cool down with liquid nitrogen ice cream and try virtual reality, 3D printing, coding and so much more," says Neil. *sciencerendevous.ca*

4 | GET INVOLVED AT ANY AGE

"Ontario Tech is dedicated to being a more inclusive and accessible part of our community for people of all ages — we believe learning is a lifelong journey with no beginning or end. We're proud to be one of the few Canadian universities recognized with the Age-Friendly University (AFU) designation from the AFU Global Network," says Neil. As an age-friendly university, Ontario Tech offers a ton of programs, events and opportunities for the community to connect and grow. "You can boost your knowledge and leadership skills through our micro-credential programs, attend our dynamic Speaker Series that features groundbreaking research and discoveries from Ontario Tech experts, and take advantage of our top-notch recreation and wellness facilities on campus," she adds. The university also hosts Campus Community Connect events, welcoming seniors and caregivers to meet students and staff, tour the campus and get active with sports and games. Plus, Ontario Tech's Continuous Learning certification programs cover exciting and current topics like artificial intelligence, conflict management, financial literacy, leadership and content creation. *ontariotech.ca/agefriendly*

5 | CHEER FOR THE RIDGEBACKS

Love the thrill of live sports and cheering for the home team? Meet the Ridgebacks — Ontario Tech's talented student-athletes who compete provincially in 15 men's and women's sports, including hockey, soccer, golf, lacrosse, rowing, badminton, curling and basketball. Their games are affordable, open to the public and held at convenient, family-friendly venues like the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre, the Campus Ice Centre and Vaso's Field. "All venues offer great sight lines and positive vibes, says Neil. "So put on your blue-and-orange gear and don't forget to high-five Hunter the Ridgeback, our beloved mascot." Grab tickets to individual games or score a season's pass to make sure you catch all the action! (Bonus: Ontario Tech and Durham College staff, students and alumni always get in free — woot woot!) *goridgebacks.com*

Photos courtesy of Ontario Tech University

Downtown Port Perry. Photo by Hark Nijjar

WELCOME TO DURHAM REGION

Consider the region — all eight municipalities — your new home. Whether you're in one of the bigger cities on Lake Ontario's waterfront or a smaller hamlet off the Trans-Canada Highway, you'll soon see what makes Durham so unique, warm and hospitable. You'll find everything you need to live a happy, healthy and prosperous life within Ajax, Brock, Clarington, Pickering, Oshawa, Scugog, Uxbridge and Whitby.

CONTACT THE REGION OF DURHAM

In-Person

The Regional Municipality of Durham
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

Online

durham.ca
municipal311.ca
@durhamtourism

By Phone

Municipal 311, dial **3-1-1**
905-668-7711
Toll-free: 1-800-372-1102

Municipal Directories

AJAX PG. 106
BROCK PG. 108
CLARINGTON PG. 112
OSHAWA PG. 114
PICKERING PG. 118
SCUGOG PG. 120
UXBRIDGE PG. 122
WHITBY PG. 124

THE REGION OF DURHAM

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE/BOARDS OF TRADE

- Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, oshawachamber.com
- Whitby Chamber of Commerce, whitbychamber.org
- Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade, apboardoftrade.com
- North Durham Chamber of Commerce, northdurhamchamber.ca
- Clarington Board of Trade, cbot.ca
- Newcastle and District Chamber, newcastle.on.ca
- Brock Board of Trade, brockboardoftrade.com
- Scugog Chamber of Commerce, scugogchamber.ca

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

Durham College Community Employment Services, employmenthelp.ca

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

- Invest Durham, investdurham.ca, @investdurham
- Business Advisory Centre Durham, bacd.ca
- Spark Centre, sparkcentre.org
- Angel Investors Durham, angelinvestorsdurham.ca
- 1855 Technology Accelerator, 1855whitby.com

CABLE, INTERNET & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Durham Region has placed high impoprtance on building access to high-speed broadband throughout the area. Learn more by visiting *durham.ca*

LOCAL AND NATIONAL PROVIDERS

- Bell, 905-310-2355, bell.ca
- Rogers, 1-888-764-3771, rogers.ca
- Durham Broadband, 1-866-8-DURHAM, durhambroadband.ca
- Communicate Freely, 289-225-1220, communicatefreely.ca
- Durham OneNet, durhamonenet.ca

EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, please dial **9-1-1**

POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)

Durham Regional Police Service
1-888-579-1520, drps.ca

FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)

Fire departments are managed at the municipal level; visit the appropriate page in this directory to find your local fire service contact information.

AMBULANCE & PARAMEDICS (NON-EMERGENCY)

Durham Paramedic Services
905-665-6313

EVENT LISTINGS

For a list of upcoming events, visit calendar.durham.ca, durhamtourism.ca/events

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

GARBAGE, GREEN BIN AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Bulky items, metal, electronic waste, porcelain and batteries: Dial **3-1-1** or 1-800-372-1102 or send an email to waste@durham.ca

Find your waste and recycling pick-up days by visiting durham.ca/wastecollection

New residents receive **one kitchen food waste bin** and **one curbside green bin**. Visit the Durham Reigon municipal services website to order (please allow up to 15 days for delivery), municipal311.ca

RECYCLING

Missed collections, new and replacement blue boxes, recycling questions: Call Miller Waste Systems 1-888-852-4723 or send an email to area8@millerwaste.ca

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

SERVICE ONTARIO

For driver's licence, licence plates, accessible parking permits, health cards, marriage certificates, Ontario Photo Cards and more, visit ontario.ca

SERVICE CANADA

For social insurance numbers, employment insurance, passports and more, visit canada.ca

VOTER REGISTRATION

elections.on.ca; elections.ca

HEALTH-CARE

DURHAM REGION HEALTH INFORMATION

To stay up to date on public health news, programs and resources in Durham Region, visit durham.ca/publichealth

ONTARIO HEALTH INFORMATION

To connect with a registered nurse, find a family doctor or check your symptoms, dial **8-1-1** on your phone or visit health811.ontario.ca

ONTARIO POISON CENTRE

ontariopoisoncentre.ca

HOSPITALS

To find the closest hospital to you, visit the Lakeridge Health website at lakeridge.on.ca

ONTARIO SHORES CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

ontarioshores.ca

IMMIGRANT RESOURCES

DURHAM IMMIGRATION PORTAL

durhamimmigration.ca

WELCOME CENTRE IMMIGRANT SERVICES

welcomecentre.ca

SCHOOL BOARDS

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

- Durham District School Board, ddsb.ca
- Durham Catholic District School Board, dcdsb.ca
- Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir, cscmonavenir.ca
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde, csviamonde.ca
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, kprschools.ca
- Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board, pvnccdsb.ca

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- Montessori, durhamregionmontessori.ca
- Trafalgar Castle School, trafalgarcastle.ca

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- Durham College, durhamcollege.ca
- Ontario Tech University, ontariotechu.ca
- Trent University Durham GTA, trentu.ca/durham
- Queen's University at Lakeridge Health, meds.queensu.ca/academics/regional_education/lakeridge_oshawa

SENIOR SERVICES

AGE-FRIENDLY DURHAM

durham.ca/agefriendly

COMMUNITY CARE DURHAM

communitycaredurham.ca

SOCIAL SERVICES & SUPPORT

KIDS HELP PHONE

Visit kidshelpphone.ca, dial **1-800-668-6868** on your phone, or text **CONNECT** to **686868**

988 (SUICIDAL CRISIS HOTLINE)

If you are contemplating sucide, please dial **9-8-8** or visit 988.ca to get the help you need

FINDHELP INFORMATION SERVICES (211)

A resource for non-emergency social support. Visit 211central.ca or dial **2-1-1** on your phone.

TRANSPORTATION

BUS

Durham Region Transit, durhamregiontransit.com
GO Transit, gotransit.com

TRAIN

VIA Rail, viarail.ca
GO Transit, gotransit.com

AIR

Oshawa Executive Airport (YOO), oshawa.ca
Toronto Pearson Airport (YYZ), torontopearson.com

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

For accessible or specialised transport, contact Durham Region Transit at 1-866-247-0055

WATER & SEWER

For water or sewer information, please contact the Region of Durham by phone at 905-666-6211

TOWN OF AJAX

@townofajax

MUNICIPAL OFFICE
65 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax
905-683-4550
ajax.ca

Population:	Distance from Toronto Pearson International Airport:	Distance from CN Tower:
126,666*	55.5 kilometres	50.5 kilometres

** according to Statistics Canada Census 2021*

A lively town set along the shores of Lake Ontario, Ajax offers a blend of scenic beauty, cultural richness and community connection. Just under an hour's drive from Toronto with sound public transit systems, Ajax's location makes it a desirable place to relocate.

Neighbourhoods: Duffins Bay (named after the eponymous tributary that flows through the Oak Ridges Moraine and down to Lake Ontario) and Discovery Bay are popular family-oriented neighbourhoods known for their scenic views and proximity to the waterfront trails. Pickering Beach is an older area with mature trees and quaint homes that offers easy waterfront access, and Pickering Village offers historical charm with remnants of its Quaker settlements and quaint shops in the heritage district along Old Kingston Road and Church Street. (We know it's a bit confusing — Pickering Beach and Pickering Village aren't actually in Pickering; in fact, this pretty area merged with the town of Ajax back in the '70s.) Downtown Ajax is a hub of leisure activity with a diverse culinary scene and immersive cultural opportunities, along with plenty of space to walk and cycle to restaurants, cafés and shops.

Must-Visits: DAM Food Caribbean Market sells produce, fish and meat from the islands; Casa Verde is beloved for its authentic Italian dishes and wine selection; and Sea Salt Seafood Café is all about Southern-style cuisine (think seafood boils and lobster rolls). The St. Francis Centre for Community, Arts and Culture is your entertainment venue — it hosts a line-up of concerts and live performances throughout the year. The Cultural Cinema series, a plethora of summer events and Ajax Festival of Lights celebrate the town's cultural diversity while encouraging community interaction. If you love art, Ajax has a ton of public pieces available for viewing, from "Grounded Community" by Geordie Lishman at the Audley Recreation Centre and "The Storm" by Amanda Berry and Henry Kortekaas & Associates Ltd. by the waterfront, to "WoodHaven" by Mark Puigmarti, a piece depicting family and community at the Carruthers Marsh Pavillion. For outdoor and active lifestyle seekers, Ajax encompasses numerous amenity-rich parks, green spaces and recreational facilities including Rotary Park (a lakeside retreat with green space and trails connecting to the larger Waterfront Trail network), Deer Creek (a golf-lover's haven) and Ajax Waterfront Park (which spans more than six kilometres of parkland on the shores of Lake Ontario). Don't miss the Greenwood Conservation Area, which includes the ultra-popular Duffins Creek Trail, and Paradise Park, a family-friendly community gathering place that features playgrounds, sports fields and picnic areas.

Above: Pat Bayly Square. Opposite page, left: Goldie's Café. Right: Sea Salt Seafood Café. Photography courtesy of The Region of Durham

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1
900 Salem Road North, Ajax
905-683-4481
ajax.ca/fire

POLICE & FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
Fire: 905-683-3050
Police: 905-579-1520

HEALTH-CARE

Ajax Pickering Hospital (Lakeridge Health Network)
580 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax
905-683-2320
lakeridgehealth.on.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ANIMAL SERVICES
bylawservices@ajax.ca; 905-683-8275

LIBRARIES
Main, Audley and McLean branches
ajaxlibrary.ca

PROPERTY TAX
ajax.ca

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

CABLE, INTERNET & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Bell, 905-310-2355
Rogers, 1-888-764-3771

ELECTRIC
Elexicon Energy
905-427-9870
elexiconenergy.com

GARBAGE & RECYCLING
See page 104

NATURAL GAS
Enbridge
1-877-362-7434
enbridgegas.com

WATER & SEWER
See page 105

SCHOOL BOARDS

See page 105

TRANSPORTATION

See page 105

TOWNSHIP OF BROCK

@brocktownship

MUNICIPAL OFFICE
1 Cameron Street East, Cannington
705-432-2355
townshipofbrock.ca

Population:	Distance from Toronto Pearson International Airport:	Distance from CN Tower:
12,567*	110 kilometres	107 kilometres

** according to Statistics Canada Census 2021*

Made up of five wards, the Township of Brock beckons those seeking a slower, more peaceful way of living, but who also want to be within a reasonable distance to urban centres. An hour and a half northeast of Toronto, Brock rests along the shores of Lake Simcoe and the Trent-Severn Waterway and provides residents with tranquil surroundings and endless leisure opportunities. Ask locals and they'll tell you Brock is characteristically quaint and history-rich, while the community is tight-knit and laid-back. Countryside serenity is what you'll savour here, whether you settle into the urban areas of Beaverton, Cannington or Sunderland, the heritage-rich hamlets of Gamebridge, Manilla, Port Bolster, Sonya or Wilfrid, or the shoreline residential areas. Ease of access to lakes, trails, farms and parks makes Brock an outdoor enthusiast's oasis, offering an abundance of all-season leisure opportunities.

Neighbourhoods: Beaverton is Brock's most urban area, and a super-popular destination for those who love all-season fishing, as well as those who enjoy unique farm experiences like taking a stroll through Canada's only sunflower-shaped blooming fields at The Sunflower Farm. Summers draw residents and visitors to Beaverton Harbour Park to enjoy beach days by Lake Simcoe, while golf aficionados can book a round at the historic Stanley Thompson-designed greens at Cedar Hurst Golf Club or the challenging yet affordable 18-hole course at Beaverton Golf Course. For those in favour of long-standing traditions and community connection, the annual Beaverton Fall Fair is not to be missed; it always takes place on the grounds beside Foster-Hewitt Memorial Community Centre, an indoor hub of recreation offerings.

If farms and conservation areas are up your alley, Sunderland is home to the Buzzing Bees Adventure Farm (which focuses on family-friendly fun with its 10-acre escape-room-style corn maze in the fall or the honeyberry adventure in the spring), as well as Vive Lavender Farm, which is the perfect spot to enjoy a calming stroll, take a yoga session or sip afternoon tea in the fresh, fragrant air in the spring and summer months. For a quintessentially Canadian experience, don't miss Sunderland's Maple Syrup Festival.

Must-Visits: The Beaver River Wetland Conservation Area offers 34 kilometres of well-maintained, accessible trails along the river to hike, bike, snowmobile or cross-country ski your way through Brock while savouring the sights and sounds of an unspoiled wilderness. History, arts and culture buffs will appreciate the ways in which Brock honours its roots and heritage — there are several sites, venues and community events to visit, including the Cannington Historical Museum, Beaverton Town Hall, Sunderland Lions Community Theatre and the Beaver River Museum. Stefano's Bistro, River Street Café, Crusty Pizza and Shortis|s Café|Bar are among the top picks of locals.

Above: Cyclists in downtown Beaverton. Opposite page, left: Cool Cow ice cream; right: Stefano's Bistro
Photography courtesy of The Region of Durham

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

CABLE, INTERNET & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Bell, 905-310-2355
Rogers, 1-888-764-3771

ELECTRIC
Elexicon Energy
905-427-9870
elexiconenergy.com

Hydro One
1-888-664-9376
hydroone.com

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Enbridge
1-877-362-7434
enbridgegas.com

WATER & SEWER
See page 105

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1

POLICE & FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
Fire: 705-432-2355
Police: 1-888-579-1520

HEALTH-CARE

Lake Ridge Health Port Perry, lakeridgehealth.on.ca
Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, osmh.on.ca
Uxbridge Hospital, oakvalleyhealth.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ANIMAL SERVICES
705-432-2355 ext. 262

LIBRARIES
Beaverton, Cannington and Sunderland branches
brocklibraries.ca

PROPERTY TAX
townshipofbrock.ca

SCHOOL BOARDS

See page 105

TRANSPORTATION

See page 105

FINDING HOME IN DURHAM

WHY A LOCAL REALTOR® IS YOUR BEST GUIDE

Moving to a new community is an exciting chapter in life — full of possibilities, fresh opportunities and a chance to build new memories. Durham Region, with its thriving economy, welcoming communities and stunning landscapes, is an ideal destination for those seeking a balanced lifestyle close to Toronto while enjoying the charm of lakeside living and vibrant urban centres. The thing is, making a move can also be overwhelming. That's where the expertise of a local REALTOR® makes all the difference.

A Region That Feels Like Home. Durham Region is more than just a place on the map — it's a collection of unique communities, each with its own character and lifestyle offerings. From Oshawa's dynamic downtown and the serene shores of Port Perry, to the family-friendly neighbourhoods of Whitby and the historic charm of Bowmanville, Durham has something for everyone. Whether you're drawn to bustling city life, quiet suburban streets or sprawling rural properties, finding the perfect fit requires insight, expertise and a deep understanding of what makes each area special.

A local REALTOR® doesn't just help you find a house — they help you find your place in a community. They know the best school districts, the hidden-gem coffee shops and the future developments that could impact your home value. More than that, they understand what home means to you and your family, helping to match you with the right neighbourhood for your lifestyle and aspirations.

The Power of Local Knowledge. Purchasing a home is one of the biggest financial decisions most people will make. In today's competitive market, having a knowledgeable, professional advocate in your corner is invaluable. A Central Lakes REALTOR® brings market expertise, local connections and negotiation skills that ensure you get the best value and experience in your home search. Beyond price and square footage, they consider factors that truly matter: commuting and transit (if you work in Toronto, a REALTOR® can guide you toward neighbourhoods with GO Train access, making your daily commute stress-free); schools and family life (if education is a priority, they can provide insight into top-rated schools, daycare options and family-friendly amenities); lifestyle and recreation (whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, an arts lover or a foodie, a REALTOR® can help pinpoint communities that align with your interests); and market trends (they stay ahead of market shifts, ensuring you buy in an area that aligns with your long-term investment goals).

Navigating the Homebuying Process with Confidence. For many, the homebuying process can feel daunting, especially if you're relocating from another city or province. The right REALTOR® makes it simple, walking you through each step from pre-approval to move-in day. A great REALTOR® understands your needs, lifestyle, preferences and budget, and they curate a selection of homes tailored to you. They explore options, provide guided tours and can discuss the benefits and potential drawbacks of each property you see. Negotiation and closing are incredibly important traits, and REALTORS® ensure you get the best deal, advocate for fair pricing, negotiate closing terms and handle all the closing details so you can focus on your upcoming move.

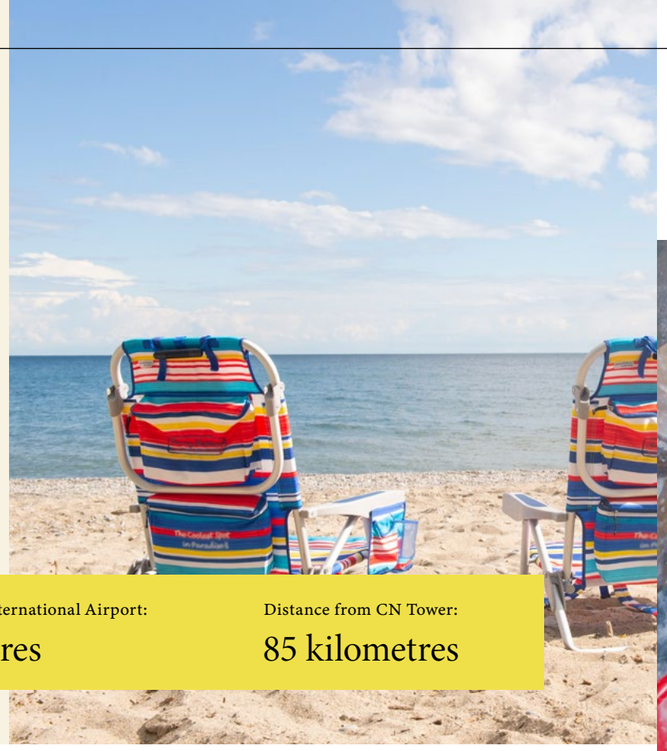
A Helping Hand Beyond the Sale. A local REALTOR®'s job doesn't end once the keys are in your hand. They serve as a long-term resource, offering connections to trusted local contractors, mortgage professionals and service providers. Need a recommendation for the best moving company? Searching for a reliable plumber or landscaper? Your REALTOR® has the network to support you long after you move in.

Let a Local REALTOR® Guide You Home. Whether you're making a move for work, family or you're looking for a fresh start, Durham Region is a place where you can truly belong. With the guidance of a local REALTOR®, your journey to finding the perfect home can be smooth, informed and even enjoyable. Visit us at *CLAR-mls.ca* to find a REALTOR® who will help you navigate your move with confidence and ease. Your new beginning starts here. Welcome home. *clar-mls.ca*

MUNICIPALITY OF CLARINGTON

@claringtonconnected

MUNICIPAL OFFICE
40 Temperance Street, Bowmanville
905-623-3379
clarington.net



Population:	Distance from Toronto Pearson International Airport:	Distance from CN Tower:
101,427*	90 kilometres	85 kilometres

** according to Statistics Canada Census 2021*

Dubbed the fastest-growing municipality in Durham Region, Clarington is made up of four main urban centres — Bowmanville, Courtice, Newcastle and Orono — as well as numerous hamlets and rural communities. Clarington offers countless advantages to those who relocate here. The population is diverse, and residents benefit from both urban conveniences and rural simplicity. Clarington's location on Lake Ontario offers opportunities for residents and visitors to immerse themselves in natural splendour with waterfront trails and the serene sights of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Neighbourhoods: Bowmanville is the largest community in the municipality, and it's known for its arts and culture scene, its historic downtown shopping area and a host of well-attended community festivals. Newcastle's claim to fame is its stunning marina and the waterfront-living experience it offers residents who live near the lake. Courtice has a friendly suburban feel, and hiking, mountain biking and geocaching reign supreme in Orono.

Must-Visits: Adventure seekers will feel right at home in the area. Hit the slopes and spend the day shredding at Brimacombe ski hill, fuel your need for speed watching a race or enjoying a karting track experience at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park or Volt Raceway, trot through nature trails by horseback at Kuzenko Stables, climb your way to new heights at Pinnacle Indoor Climbing or splash around at Cedar Park Resort. Hikers can explore the Ganaraska Forest, Orono Crown Lands and Darlington Provincial Park.

As an agri-tourism hub, Clarington boasts unique experiences for families who enjoy spending weekends at Algoma Orchards, Archibald's Orchard & Estate Winery, Knox's Pumpkin Farm, Pingle's Farm Market and more. It's also an ideal spot for aspiring and seasoned (pun intended) home cooks looking to ramp up their culinary game — there's local fresh fruit, veggies, dairy, eggs and meat available year-round, plus plenty of pick-your-own-produce farms and markets to check out.

Foodies looking for must-try eats will find plenty of spots sprinkled throughout the villages, rural retreats and historic downtown main streets. There are baked delights and apple cider at Tyrone Mills, Victorian-era high tea at Tea Grannys & Friends, butter tarts at The Toasted Walnut, excellent java at Coffin Creek Coffee Co., the allergy-friendly sweet treats at Buddha Belly Bakery and enormous ice-cream scoops at Enniskillen General Store. The community's popular brew houses include Chronicle Brewing Company, Lightcaster Brewery and Tilted Glass.

Speciality shopping is Clarington's signature, with unique treasures to be found throughout the community. Discover one-of-a-kind gems along Orono's antique shopping route, find collectibles and memorabilia at the Courtice Flea Market or support one of the many local artisans and artists along "A Country Path" like 3 Beez Buzz or Timeless Essentials with a visit.

Above: Port Darlington East Beach Park. Opposite page, left: Pinnacle Indoor Climbing; right: Downtown Orono
Photography courtesy of The Region of Durham

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1
156 Church Street
Bowmanville
905-623-5126

POLICE & FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
Fire: 905-433-1234
Police: 905-579-1520

HEALTH-CARE

Lakeridge Health Bowmanville
47 Liberty Street South
Bowmanville
905-623-3331
lakeridgehealth.on.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ANIMAL SERVICES
clarington.net

LIBRARIES
Bowmanville, Courtice, Newcastle and Orono branches
cplma.ca

PROPERTY TAX
clarington.net

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

CABLE, INTERNET & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Bell, 905-310-2355
Rogers, 1-888-764-3771

ELECTRIC
Elexicon Energy
905-427-9870
elexiconenergy.com

Hydro One
1-888-664-9376
hydroone.com

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NATURAL GAS
Enbridge
1-877-362-7434
enbridgegas.com

WATER & SEWER
See page 105

SCHOOL BOARDS

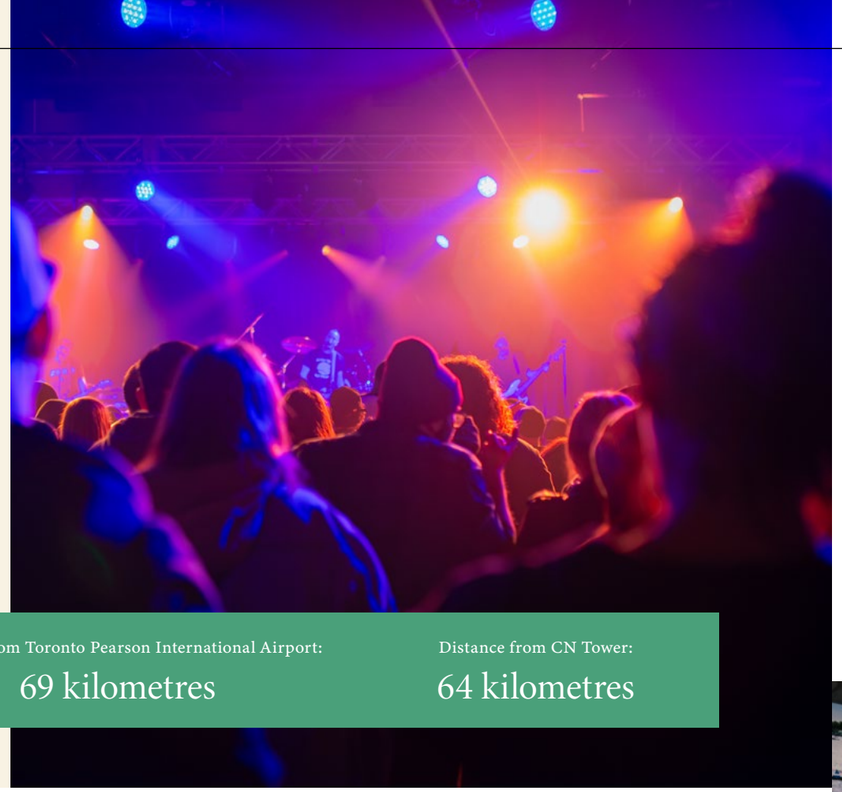
See page 105

TRANSPORTATION

See page 105

CITY OF OSHAWA

@cityofoshawa



MUNICIPAL OFFICE
50 Centre Street South, Oshawa
905-436-3311
oshawa.ca

Population:	Distance from Toronto Pearson International Airport:	Distance from CN Tower:
175,383*	69 kilometres	64 kilometres

** according to Statistics Canada Census 2021*

Oshawa is the largest municipality in Durham Region, and it has plenty to offer. Located about 60 kilometres east of Toronto, on the shores of Lake Ontario, the city provides a mix of urban amenities and natural surroundings. There's easy access to major highways and an excellent transit system connecting to neighbouring networks and towns (including GO Transit and VIA Rail), allowing you to get to downtown Toronto in under an hour by car or public routes. The city has a rich arts and culture scene and is known as an industrial and educational hub (it's home to Durham College, Ontario Tech University, Trent University Durham GTA and the Queen's University Lakeridge MD Family Medicine Program). It's also home to the largest shopping mall in the region, the Oshawa Centre.

Neighbourhoods: Oshawa has diverse neighbourhoods catering to various lifestyles and interests. With a growing economy, the city is a desirable place to settle. In the heart of the city is the downtown core, which is filled with unique shops, multicultural dining choices, exciting entertainment options and immersive attractions. The entertainment district is super lively, especially when it comes to offering locals and visitors cool places to enjoy live music. You'll find venues of all types, from Atria, a small punk bar, to Tribute Communities Centre, which hosts bigger shows and seats 5,000 concert-goers. Outside the downtown area, Oshawa's Lakeview neighbourhood offers the beauty of waterfront living, while the Taunton, Kedron and Windfield communities, for example, provide a more suburban feel. The Stevenson and McLaughlin neighbourhoods, named after notable figures in Oshawa's history, offer a blend of residential charm and proximity to amenities.

Must-Visits: For starters, Oshawa is full of parks and green spaces, giving residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and engage in leisure activities. Lakeview Park and beach is super relaxing, while the historic Oshawa Harbour is surrounded by picturesque pathways — the Larry Lad Harbour Trail and Waterfront Trail are favourites. Cycle among meadows and wetlands in the Harmony Valley Conservation Area, which features an off-leash dog park and prioritizes accessibility. If you're not into hikes, take a stroll through the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens, home to one of North America's largest peony collections, and enjoy your surroundings.

For those who enjoy spending time downtown, catch an action-packed OHL game at Tribute Communities Centre. Explore a fascinating showcase of Canadian artists at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, or check out the Canadian Automotive Museum, which highlights Oshawa's rich automotive heritage.

Above: Live music at Bond\|St Event Centre. Opposite page: Canadian Automotive Museum Photography courtesy of The Region of Durham

Parkwood Estate, a national historic site that was once home to the founder of General Motors Canada, is a must-visit — its sprawling gardens, enchanting fountains and century-old architecture have become a sought-after backdrop for several film and TV productions.

Food lovers are in for a treat — there's an impressive culinary scene in Oshawa. Locals rave about the breakfast menu at Rainbow Restaurant; Berry Hill's brunch; the small plates and drinks at BOND\|ST Snack Bar; the old-school deli sandwiches at Teddy's Restaurant & Deli; Zaps Polish Street Food for authentic Polish dishes; Street Momo for its Nepalese dumplings; and Avanti for some of the best Italian you can find.

And when it comes to celebrating culture, Oshawa connects the community and by playing host to a variety of festivals and events suited to all preferences. Fiesta Week, celebrating the city's diversity, is popular, as are Convergence Oshawa (an annual arts and music festival in the downtown), Kars on King (a classic car show), the award-winning Peony Festival and the Oshawa Centre Farmer's Market.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1

POLICE & FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
Fire: 905-433-1234
Police: 905-579-1520

HEALTH-CARE

Lakeridge Health Oshawa
1 Hospital Court
Oshawa
905-576-8711
lakeridgehealth.on.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ANIMAL SERVICES
oshawa.ca/animals

LIBRARIES
Delpark Homes Centre, Jess Hann, John Aker Northview, McLaughlin branches
oshawalibrary.ca

PROPERTY TAX
oshawa.ca

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

CABLE, INTERNET & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Bell, 905-310-2355
Rogers, 1-888-764-3771
Durham Broadband: 1-866-838-7426

ELECTRIC
Oshawa Power
905-723-4623
oshawapower.ca

Hydro One
1-888-664-9376
hydroone.com

GARBAGE & RECYCLING
See page 104

NATURAL GAS
Enbridge
1-877-362-7434
enbridgegas.com

WATER & SEWER
See page 105

SCHOOL BOARDS

See page 105

TRANSPORTATION

See page 105

OSHAWA KICKS: MORE THAN A CLUB, A COMMUNITY

On any given evening in Oshawa, you can hear the rhythm of a soccer ball bouncing off cleats, the laughter of children chasing after it and the cheers of families watching from the sidelines. This is the heartbeat of Oshawa Kicks Soccer Club, where the game is about more than just goals — it's about belonging, growth and community.

For 50 years, Oshawa Kicks has been a place where toddlers take their first unsteady kicks, teenagers push their limits on the competitive stage and adults rediscover their passion for the game. But what truly sets the club apart is the people — the families, coaches, volunteers and players — who create an environment where everyone, regardless of age or ability, can find their place on the field.

A GAME FOR EVERYONE

Whether you're looking to put your tot in an activity, you're a competitive player with dreams of playing at the highest level or you're a senior looking for a low-impact way to stay active, Oshawa Kicks has a program tailored for you.

House League: This league offers the opportunity for more than 2,000 young players to come together to learn, grow and, most importantly, have fun. Our seasons kick off every May — that's when 12 weeks of excitement, teamwork and new friendships start.

Competitive Teams: With 19 high-performance teams, Oshawa Kicks' athletes train hard, travel across Canada and the U.S. and compete in some of North America's biggest tournaments. Each fall, tryouts mark the beginning of a new season of challenges and achievements.

Adult Leagues: Soccer doesn't stop when childhood ends. Oshawa Kicks offers both indoor and outdoor leagues for adults who want to stay in the game, whether competitively or just for the love of it.

Walking Soccer: A new addition for players ages 60 and over, this program ensures that passion for the game never has to fade. It's about staying active, social and engaged in a sport that has brought so much joy for so many people over the years.

SOCCER WITH A PURPOSE

Beyond the field, Oshawa Kicks is dedicated to making a difference in the community. The club proudly partners with organizations like Feed the Need and Epilepsy Durham, using the power of sport to support those who need it most.

Newcomers Program: In collaboration with Scarborough Simbas, Oshawa Kicks welcomes refugees, newcomers and at-risk youth, offering them a chance to play, connect and feel at home in their new community.

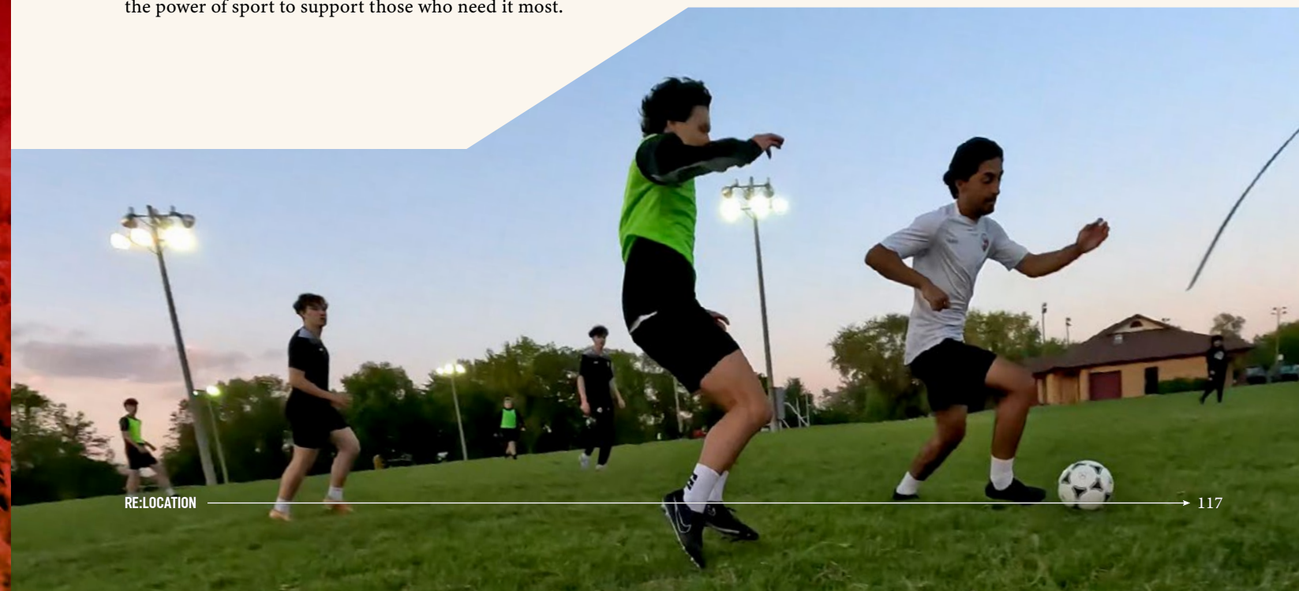
Soccer in Schools: Through partnerships with 10 local schools, Oshawa Kicks brings the game to classrooms, introducing soccer to young students and fostering a love for the sport at an early age.

5K Run/2K Walk: Set in mid-April, this annual event isn't just about fitness — it's about coming together for a cause, and raising funds and awareness for Epilepsy Durham.

A Festival of Soccer: Each May, the Sobil Spring Classic transforms Oshawa into a hub of soccer excitement. Over two weekends, more than 300 teams come together for competition, camaraderie and celebration. The festival atmosphere brings out the best in players and fans alike, reinforcing the club's belief that soccer is about so much more than winning — it's about creating lasting memories.

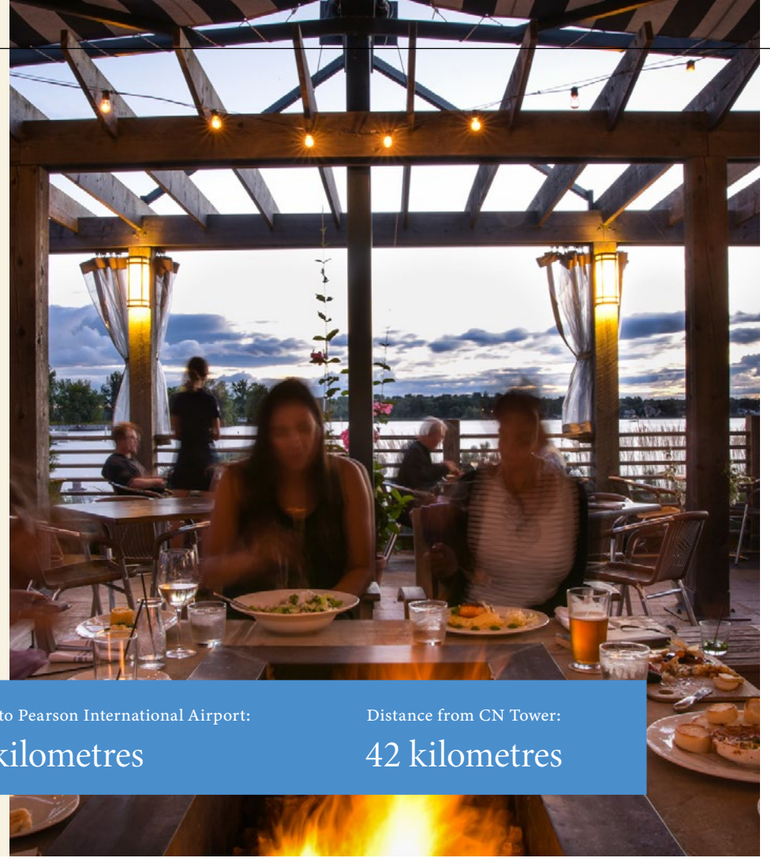
JOIN THE OSHAWA KICKS FAMILY

At Oshawa Kicks, the field is just the beginning. It's the friendships formed, the confidence built and the sense of community that make this club truly special. Whether you're signing up to play, volunteering to coach or cheering from the sidelines, you'll be part of something bigger when you're part of Oshawa Kicks. Find your place in the game and get involved. *oshawakicks.com*



CITY OF PICKERING

@cityofpickering



MUNICIPAL OFFICE
One The Esplanade, Pickering
905-683-7575
pickering.ca

Population:	Distance from Toronto Pearson International Airport:	Distance from CN Tower:
99,186*	49 kilometres	42 kilometres

** according to Statistics Canada Census 2021*

Pickering is a thriving, scenic city resting along the northern shore of Lake Ontario, offering residents an abundance of nature, amenities and a strong community connection. About a half-hour east of downtown Toronto, Pickering has strong connectivity to other major destinations with its proximity to Highways 401 and 407, as well as ample public transit access. The city is history-rich with diverse neighbourhoods and plenty of opportunities for work and leisure.

Neighbourhoods: Frenchman's Bay Marina and Nautical Village are the jewels of the city where you can enjoy water-sports, stroll from shop to shop or simply soak in the beauty of the lakeside. Other desirable neighbourhoods to settle in include Liverpool and West Shore, which offers suburban comforts and character. Duffins Heights has a more modern feel, while Bay Ridges, with its proximity to Lake Ontario, is appealing for those who crave waterfront living. Seaton is one of the newest communities, and there's a new downtown mixed-use area being developed dubbed City Centre.

Must-Visits: With more than 500 acres of well-kept conservation areas, hiking trails and parkland — including Petticoat Creek Conservation Park, the Seaton Trail and being on the border of Rouge Urban National Park — Pickering is committed to recreation activities for residents. Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex is an activity hub for all ages, with quality recreation programming and fitness facilities, skating, swimming, tennis and squash. History buffs will delight in the Pickering Heritage & Community Centre, the Seaton Recreation Complex & Library and Pickering Museum Village, the largest living history museum in Durham Region. Set amidst restored 19th-century buildings, the museum offers visitors an educational journey. Those who like the thrill of action and new-age adventure can check out the BATL Axe Throwing, Archer's Battlefield venues and the Porsche Experience Centre. Pickering Casino Resort offers top-notch gaming and has a spectacular venue for concerts and shows.

There are a bunch of events and festivals to check out during the year, including the annual Cultural Fusion Fair, Petapalooza and Winter Nights, City Lights. When it comes to eats, locals frequent Amici, PORT, The Social Bar & Lounge, 468F Wood-Fired Pizza, Big M and Chúuk.

Above: PORT. Opposite page, left: Pickering Museum Village. Right: Pickering Nautical Village Photography courtesy of The Region of Durham

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1
Pickering Fire Services
1700 Zents Drive

POLICE & FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
Fire: 905-250-0420
Police: 905-579-1520

HEALTH-CARE

Ajax Pickering Hospital (Lakeridge Health Network)
580 Harwood Avenue South
Ajax
905-683-2320
lakeridgehealth.on.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ANIMAL SERVICES
pickering.ca/animals
pickering.ca/pettags

LIBRARIES
Central, Claremont, George Ashe branches
pickeringlibrary.ca

PROPERTY TAX
pickering.ca

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

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WATER & SEWER
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SCHOOL BOARDS

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TRANSPORTATION

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TOWNSHIP OF SCUGOG

@twpofscugog

MUNICIPAL OFFICE
181 Perry Street, Port Perry
905-985-7346
scugog.ca

Population:	Distance from Toronto Pearson International Airport:	Distance from CN Tower:
21,581*	86 kilometres	83 kilometres

** according to Statistics Canada Census 2021*

Nestled on the shores of Lake Scugog, about an hour from North Toronto, the Township of Scugog offers peaceful rural living — the community is small, the landscape is scenic and there is a plethora of recreational activities to enjoy.

Neighbourhoods: Scugog's biggest community is Port Perry, which has been called Ontario's favourite lakeside heritage town for its gorgeous waterfront along Lake Scugog and its family-friendly neighbourhoods. The Downtown Heritage District is full of eateries and park space, while the Port Perry Waterfront Trail offers residents a place to take in the beauty of the area. The quaint hamlets of Seagrave and Greenbank add to Scugog's distinct appeal — each has their own charm, but both are serene, close-knit communities.

Must-Visits: When you're down by the lake, you'll find the Boathouse Grill is bustling. The ice cream and gelato at the Perfect Scoop are must-tries — you'll find it across from Palmer Park, where the community gathers in warm-weather seasons for picnics, community celebrations (its Canada Day festivities are super popular) and waterside enjoyment. The Port Perry Farmers' Market has local farm-fresh produce.

On the outskirts of Port Perry, Willowtree Farm welcomes residents and visitors with its corn maze, pumpkin patch, pick-your-own strawberries, animal encounters, holiday events and a year-round food market. Enjoy award-winning lagers at Old Flame Brewing Co. or crisp ciders at Two Blokes Cider, or visit Christel Lake Lavender Farm for a peaceful escape among fragrant fields. For hearty homestyle meals and friendly service, Haugens Chicken & Ribs has been a go-to tradition for residents and tourists for more than 70 years. Exciting town-run events keep residents engaged year-round, including the annual Labour Day weekend Port Perry Fair.

When it's time to get outdoors, Lake Scugog is perfect for kayaking, fishing and boating. The Port Perry Waterfront Trail and Crowe's Pass Conservation Area offer hiking paths for all skill levels, while golfers can spend days at Sunnybrae, Golfer's Dream and Summerlea.

Scugog has many unique sites that honour the area's history and culture. Scugog Shores Museum Village gives a fascinating glimpse into the past and honours Indigenous culture with a unique Ojibway Heritage exhibit. The township is also home to Theatre on the Ridge, where locals can take in a show under a tent during the summer months. Redman's Antique Barn offers a shopping adventure through time, with antiques, vintage items and timeless collectibles.

Above: MSIFN annual Pow-Wow. Opposite page, Left: Palmer Park. Right: Willow Tree Farm Photography courtesy of The Region of Durham

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1

POLICE & FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
Fire: 905-985-2384
Police: 905-579-1520

HEALTH-CARE

Lakeridge Health Bowmanville
451 Paxton Street
Port Perry
905-985-7321
lakeridgehealth.on.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ANIMAL SERVICES
Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter
905-985-9547

LIBRARIES
Scugog Public Library
231 Water Street, Port Perry
905-985-7686
scugoglibrary.ca

PROPERTY TAX
scugog.ca

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

CABLE, INTERNET & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Bell, 905-310-2355
Rogers, 1-888-764-3771

ELECTRIC
Elexicon Energy
905-427-9870
elexiconenergy.com

Hydro One
1-888-664-9376
hydroone.com

GARBAGE & RECYCLING
See page 104

NATURAL GAS
Enbridge
1-877-362-7434
enbridgegas.com

WATER & SEWER
See page 105

SCHOOL BOARDS

See page 105

TRANSPORTATION

See page 105

TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

@townshipofuxbridge

MUNICIPAL OFFICE
51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge
905-852-9181
uxbridge.ca

Population:	Distance from Toronto Pearson International Airport:	Distance from CN Tower:
21,556*	84 kilometres	81 kilometres

** according to Statistics Canada Census 2021*

The Township of Uxbridge rests in a beautiful valley on the northern slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine, just under an hour northeast of Toronto. For those seeking a balance of rural tranquillity and access to urban conveniences, Uxbridge delivers.

Neighbourhoods: Downtown Uxbridge boasts charming boutiques, delightful eateries and cosy cafés — like the Bridge Social Inc., Urban Pantry and Wixan's Bridge — to satisfy all tastes; many are featured in the town's Culinary Trail. In the warmer months, downtown plays host to the award-winning Uxbridge Farmers' Market, where residents load up on local produce.

There are 11 charming hamlets, each with their own character: Goodwood, Coppins Corners, Altona, Leaskdale, Sandford, Zephyr, Udora, Sandy Hook, Glasgow, Glen Major and Siloam. Goodwood is arguably the most well-known of the bunch — it was a filming location for Canada's hit television show *Schitt's Creek*, and fans from all over the world descend on the area to take pictures at the show's popular sites. Altona offers heritage-rich, peaceful surroundings, while Coppins Corners is home to a tight community and award-winning golf.

Must-Visits: Uxbridge is history-rich — the Leaskdale Manse National Historic Site is the former home to one of the country's most celebrated authors, Lucy Maud Montgomery, and there are public tours that stop along the Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail. Take the Historical Walking tour, which offers residents and visitors a self-guided exploration of the town's historic landmarks, including the library, railway station and former homes of prominent figures. Connections to the town's past are balanced by a thriving arts scene, showcased in the many galleries and art studios spotted around town, and in art installations created by world-renowned artists featured in Uxbridge's Public Art Tours.

The Uxbridge Arena and Community Centre is the town's hub for year-round recreation and active living opportunities, and the annual Uxbridge Fall Fair at nearby Elgin Park is a time-honoured tradition. If you're a skier, you'll want to check out Dagmar Ski Resort and Ski Lakeridge in the winter, and golfers can hit some of Durham Region's finest fairways, including Wooden Sticks Golf Course and Wyndance Golf Club. You'll also find Trail Hub in the area — it was created to be a central destination for outdoor enthusiasts and features more than 240 kilometres of trails. If you're looking for eateries, or a place to grab a drink, Annina's Bakeshop (their desserts are famed), Slabtown Cider Co., Second Wedge Brewing Co. and Banjo Cider are all tasty destinations with stunning surroundings.

Above: Downtown Uxbridge. Opposite page, left: Thomas Foster Memorial. Right: Blue Heron Books
Photography courtesy of The Region of Durham

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1

POLICE & FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
Fire: 905-852-3393
Police: 905-579-1520

HEALTH-CARE

Uxbridge Hospital
4 Campbell Drive
Uxbridge
905-852-9771
oakvalleyhealth.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ANIMAL SERVICES
Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter
905-985-9547

LIBRARIES
Uxbridge and Zephyr branches
uxlib.ca

PROPERTY TAX
uxbridge.ca

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

CABLE, INTERNET & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Bell, 905-310-2355
Rogers, 1-888-764-3771

ELECTRIC
Elexicon Energy
905-427-9870
elexiconenergy.com

Hydro One
1-888-664-9376
hydroone.com

GARBAGE & RECYCLING
See page 104

NATURAL GAS
Enbridge
1-877-362-7434
enbridgegas.com

WATER & SEWER
See page 105

SCHOOL BOARDS

See page 105

TRANSPORTATION

See page 105

TOWN OF WHITBY

@townofwhitby

MUNICIPAL OFFICE
575 Rossland Road East, Whitby
905-430-4300
whitby.ca

Population:
138,501*

Distance from Toronto Pearson International Airport:
75 kilometres

Distance from CN Tower:
60 kilometres

** according to Statistics Canada Census 2021*

Above: Thermëa spa village. Opposite page, left: 8-Bit Cafe. Right: Reptilia
Photography courtesy of The Region of Durham

The Town of Whitby is in the heart of Durham Region, and it's one of Canada's fastest growing communities. Situated about 70 kilometres east of Toronto near Lake Ontario, Whitby offers high-quality living, blending a small-town community feel with an abundance of amenities usually found in larger urban centres.

Neighbourhoods: Whitby's neighbourhoods are diverse and welcoming, each offering unique features. Port Whitby offers lakeside living and plenty of waterfront activities. The Port Whitby Marina — an award-winning 420-slip full-service marina — is located at Port Whitby, along with shops, restaurants and entry to the Waterfront Trail. Bluegrass Meadows has become a top choice for families, with access to many parks, schools and family-focused amenities. Located on the northern end of Whitby, Brooklin blends country living with lots of conveniences and a historic downtown. Williamsburg, located along the border with Ajax, is a good place to settle for those who appreciate ease of access to commuting routes. And then there's the downtown Whitby area — a vibrant mix of more than 400 speciality shops and culturally diverse restaurants with historical architecture adding to the appeal.

Must-Visits: Play a round at Royal Ashburn, Winchester or Lakeridge Links when golf season is in full swing. For all-season enjoyment, Whitby's Iroquois Park Sports Centre — Canada's largest municipally owned rec centre — is your place for endless sports, active programing and top-notch athletic facilities. Unplug from the hustle and bustle and tend to your mind and body with a wellness escape at Thermëa spa village, the province's largest spa facility. There are also more than 100 parks in the area — many are ideal for skateboarding, picnicking and fun on the playground.

For hits of arts and culture, visit Lynde House Museum, Whitby Courthouse Theatre, Brooklin's annual Harvest Festival, or go to an event at Celebration Square. When it comes to entertainment, the Whitby Centrum features iFly, Playdium and Putting Edge. And if you're looking for a good meal, the gourmet Food Truck Frenzy is a must-visit event, and locals say you can't go wrong dining at the Lake Grill, The Springwood or A Tavola Bistro.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1
111 McKinney Drive
Whitby
905-668-3312

POLICE & FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
Fire: 905-852-3393
Police: 905-579-1520

HEALTH-CARE

Lakeridge Health Whitby (no emergency department)
300 Gordon Street
Whitby
905-668-6831
lakeridgehealth.on.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

ANIMAL SERVICES
whitby.ca/animals

LIBRARIES
Central, Brooklin, Rossland branches
whitbylibrary.ca

PROPERTY TAX
whitby.ca

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

CABLE, INTERNET & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Bell, 905-310-2355
Rogers, 1-888-764-3771

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905-427-9870
elexiconenergy.com

Hydro One
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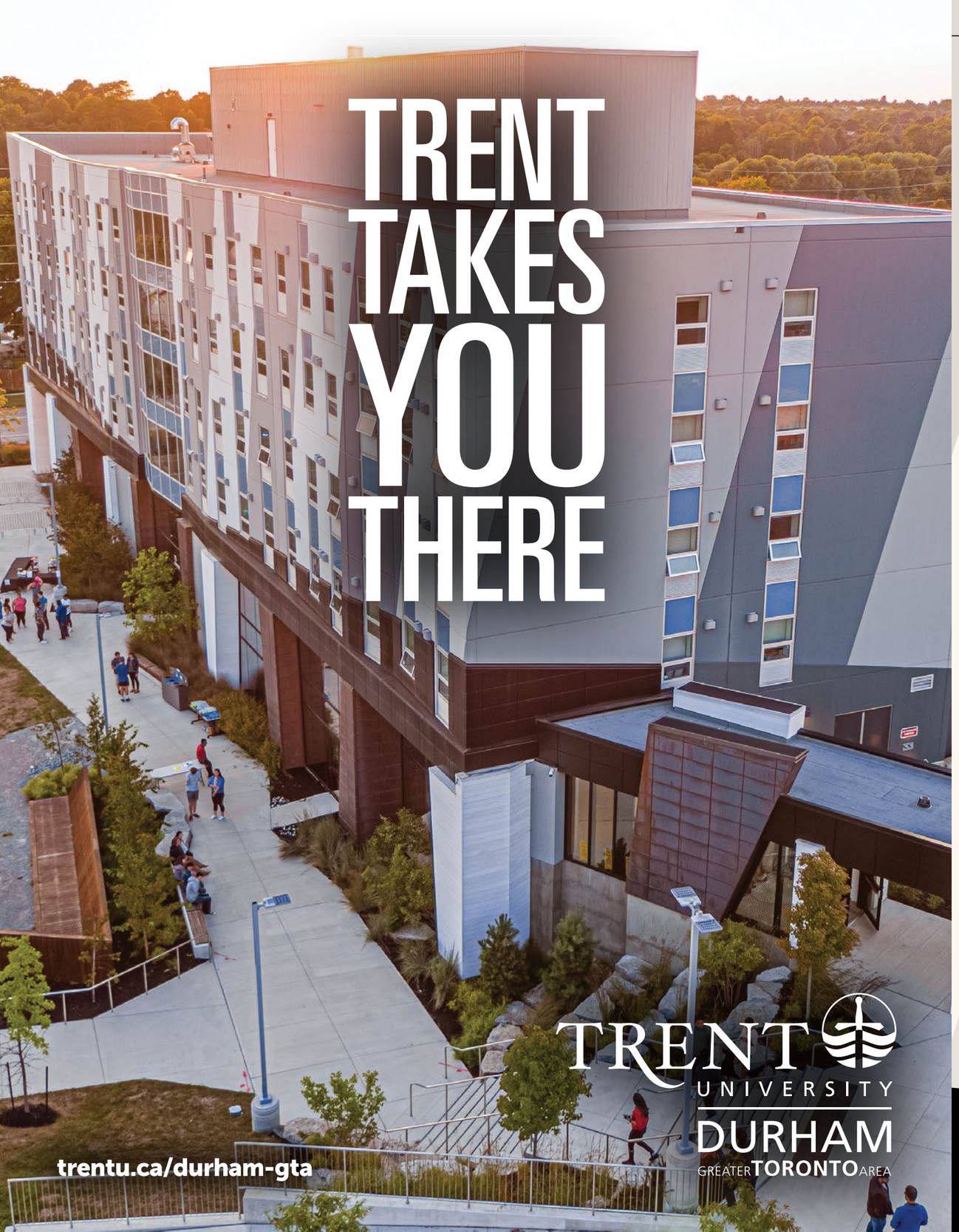


SHAPING DURHAM'S FUTURE

Trent University Durham Greater Toronto Area's staff and students are making a mark in the region.

Trent University Durham Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is a cornerstone of Durham Region — it's deeply integrated into the fabric of the community, and it plays a vital role in shaping the area's growth, innovation and overall vitality. As a hub for higher education, research and professional development, Trent Durham is committed to equipping students and professionals with the tools they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. From expanding academic offerings to fostering community partnerships, the university continues to make a lasting impact on the region it serves. In 2024, Trent University celebrated 50 years of academic excellence and community engagement. Since its founding in 1974, Trent Durham has grown into a leading institution dedicated to fostering critical thinking, research and lifelong learning. This anniversary not only reflected on past achievements, but it also set the stage for the university's continued contributions to the region.

Over the years, Trent Durham has grown in both size and influence, adapting to meet the educational and economic →

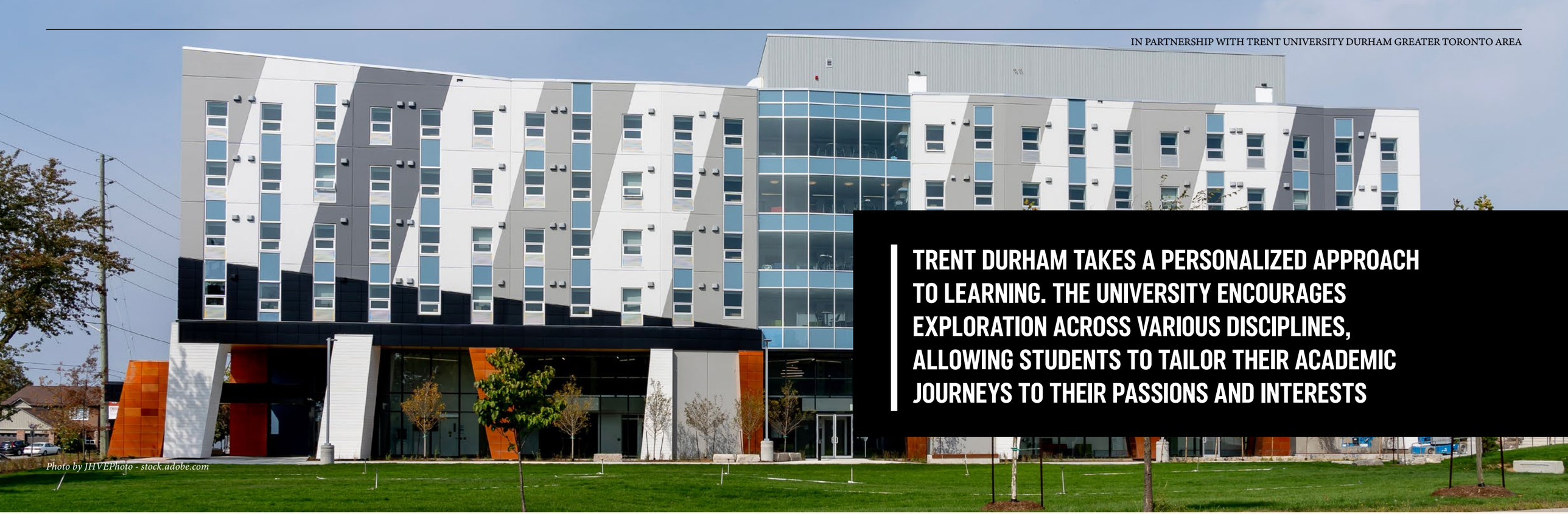


Photo by JHVEPhoto - stock.adobe.com

TRENT DURHAM TAKES A PERSONALIZED APPROACH TO LEARNING. THE UNIVERSITY ENCOURAGES EXPLORATION ACROSS VARIOUS DISCIPLINES, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO TAILOR THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEYS TO THEIR PASSIONS AND INTERESTS

needs of the region. The university's Advanced Learning Centre (ALC) at 11 Simcoe Street North in downtown Oshawa serves as a hub for graduate studies, providing a dedicated space for postgraduate certificate programs and future graduate offerings. Strategically located in the heart of Oshawa, the ALC fosters deeper connections between the University and local industry, strengthening Trent Durham's role in regional economic development. "The ALC is a direct reflection of our ongoing investment in the region and our readiness to serve an increasing student population while reinforcing our presence in downtown Oshawa as a centre for innovation and learning," says Dr. Scott Henderson, Vice-President and Head of Trent Durham GTA, who emphasizes the university's commitment to small class sizes, personalized instruction and a strong support system, ensuring students at all levels receive a high-quality education tailored to their needs.

As evidence of this growing influence, Trent Durham marked a historic milestone in June 2024, celebrating its largest graduating class to date. A total of 765 graduates, spanning undergraduate degrees, Master of Management degrees and postgraduate certificates, crossed the stage — it was a true testament to the university's expanding reach and impact. This achievement underscores Trent Durham's role in developing a highly skilled workforce ready to contribute to various industries, particularly in sectors that are central to the region's economic future.

Reflecting on a decade of transformation, Trent Durham celebrated 10 years at its Thornton Road campus in October 2020. Over this period, the campus has undergone remarkable growth, both in infrastructure and student population. The addition of a new student residence and a cutting-edge academic building has enhanced the student experience, fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus environment. When Trent Durham first opened on Thornton Road, the student population stood at 700 — there are now 2,800 students on campus. The introduction of forward-thinking programs, such as Child and Youth Studies and Policing & Community Well-Being, reflects the university's responsiveness to the changing demands of the job market and its commitment to offering programs that address societal needs.

One of the defining features of a Trent Durham education is its personalized approach to learning. The university encourages exploration across various disciplines, allowing students to tailor their academic journeys to their passions and interests. By fostering interdisciplinary exploration, Trent Durham provides a holistic and well-rounded education. With an emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving and adaptability, graduates are highly skilled and well-prepared to take on diverse career paths and make meaningful contributions to society. Graduates leave campus with transferable and cross-disciplinary skills to meet the changing needs of the job market, helping to position Ontario as a globally competitive economy. By fostering strong connections between education and industry, the university ensures that students gain real-world experience, preparing them for the demands of their future careers. Experiential learning is at the core of programs such as Logistics, Business Administration and Artificial Intelligence. Opportunities include graduate and undergraduate placements, internships with businesses in the Durham Region, co-op work terms with industry partners and community-based research projects. These hands-on experiences provide students with essential skills, real-world knowledge and professional networks needed to drive innovation, leadership and growth across Ontario's diverse sectors. These collaborations benefit both students and the community, creating opportunities for experiential learning, internships and research projects that address real-world challenges. By engaging with businesses, nonprofits and government agencies, Trent Durham helps bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application, reinforcing its mission to serve as a catalyst for innovation and progress.

Beyond academics, Trent Durham is deeply engaged in initiatives that enrich the cultural and social fabric of the community. The establishment of the Medicine Garden and a 30-foot Tipi on campus underscores the university's commitment to Indigenous heritage and reconciliation. These spaces serve as venues for traditional ceremonies, cultural events and educational programming, fostering dialogue and understanding among students, faculty and the broader community. Events such as Sacred Fires and Full-Moon Ceremonies provide opportunities for reflection, connection and cultural exchange, reinforcing the university's role as a place of inclusivity and learning.

As Trent University Durham GTA continues to evolve, it remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering academic excellence, supporting lifelong learning and contributing to the vitality of Durham Region. Whether through the expansion of facilities, the introduction of new programs or deepening ties with the community, the university is poised to play an even greater role in shaping the region's future. For those considering relocating to Durham, Trent Durham offers not just an exceptional education, but a vibrant and engaged community dedicated to growth, opportunity and discovery. Whether seeking higher education, professional development or meaningful community connections, Trent Durham stands as a welcoming and dynamic institution that embodies the spirit of lifelong learning and regional prosperity. *trentu.ca/durham-gta*

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

Now that you're here in Durham Region (hey, neighbour!), we're putting out the welcome mat and suggesting five things to add to your to-do list once you're unpacked and ready to settle in.

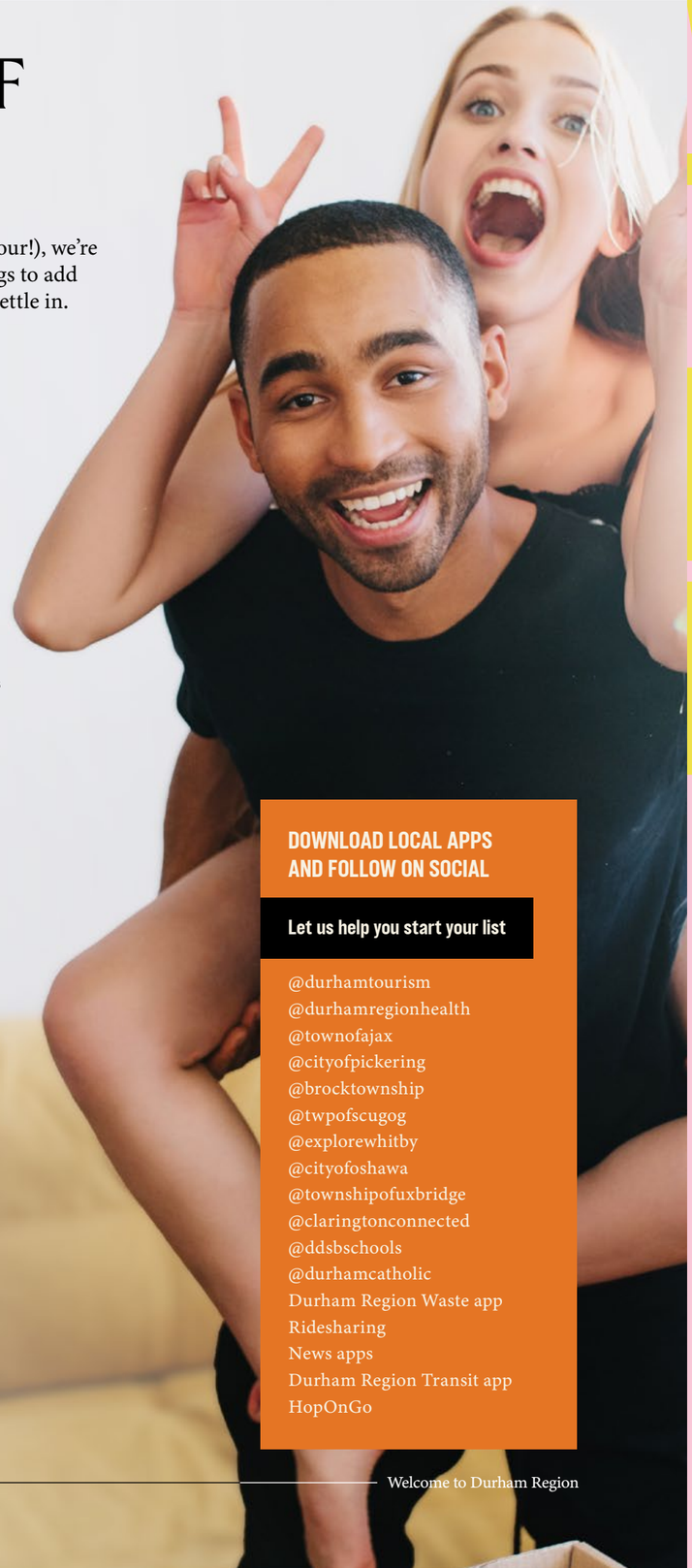
Find your favourite spots: Start by doing the less-fun stuff (make sure you know where your nearest police departments, emergency rooms, pharmacies, grocery stores, post offices, etc. are located), then get exploring. You know what they say — why not be a tourist in your town? Talk to neighbours, parents at school pick-up, folks in the park, etc., and ask for recommendations for restaurants, coffee shops, cafés, boutiques, farmers' markets, recreation programs, local events, etc., then get out there and discover the cool spots that make up the region.

Update your info: It's paperwork time! Change documents to your new address and alert the necessary organizations:

- Driver's licence
- Health card
- Vehicle registration
- Your employer
- Utilities providers
- Financial institutions
- Insurance policies
- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

Meet your neighbours: Yep, Canadians love chatting with their neighbours. When you see them out shovelling (and you will), mowing their lawns, watching their kids, gardening, etc., make a point of saying hello and getting to know them. The same goes for people at your workplace and folks you might start seeing regularly — your local barista, the receptionist at physiotherapy, your kids' bus driver.

Get involved: Sign up for clubs or classes (and don't just sign your kids up — take classes you're interested in!), get memberships to libraries, local farms, play places, gyms, etc., and check out your city or town's recreation guide to see what's offered throughout the year. Oh, and did we mention we're all about volunteering? It's such a great way to meet friends, give back and learn more about your new area. (Find ideas on page 20.)



DOWNLOAD LOCAL APPS AND FOLLOW ON SOCIAL

Let us help you start your list

@durhamtourism
@durhamregionhealth
@townofajax
@cityofpickering
@brocktownship
@twpofscugog
@explorewhitby
@cityofoshawa
@townshipofuxbridge
@claringtonconnected
@ddsbschools
@durhamcatholic
Durham Region Waste app
Ridesharing
News apps
Durham Region Transit app
HopOnGo

WELCOME TO DURHAM REGION

Welcome Home — and Thank You

Creating *Re:location*, Durham Region's relocation guide, has been a true community effort.

We're so grateful to the partners whose support brought this guide to life and helped us showcase the vibrant, diverse communities that make Durham Region such a special place to call home.

But most of all, we want to thank you — the new residents, future neighbours and adventurers who are choosing to make Durham your home. Your story is now part of ours, and we can't wait to see how you'll make this place your own.

Continue to explore everything Durham has to offer at LocateInDurham.com.

WELCOME TO YOUR NEXT CHAPTER.

Oshawa Kicks EST. 75
OntarioTech University
Durham College — Success Matters
Trafalgar Castle School
Central Lakes Association of REALTORS®
Trent University
Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce
Durham Tourism

Follow @DurhamTourism on social to get to know our community.

The Sunflower Farm, Brock

Durham Tourism