

YOUR GUIDE TO THE HOTTEST & COOLEST WINTER/SPRING EVENTS

FESTIVALS

Winter/Spring 2025

& Special Events

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MAGAZINE

2025 FESTIVAL SUPERGUIDE
in TORONTO, GTA & SOUTHERN ONTARIO

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FESTIVALS & Special Events

From the Editor



Joey Cee,
Publisher & Managing Editor

Winter and Spring Festival Guide 2025: Celebrating Southern Ontario's Best Events

As the winter months settle in and we embrace the chill of the season, Southern Ontario comes alive with a fantastic array of festivals and special events that offer something for everyone. From culinary delights to cultural experiences and outdoor adventures, the winter and spring seasons in this vibrant

region are packed with opportunities to make lasting memories.

One of the highlights of the season is *Winterlicious* (page 12), Toronto's beloved culinary celebration. This event invites food lovers to indulge in specially curated prix fixe menus at some of the city's top restaurants. It's a wonderful way to warm up your winter while supporting local chefs and restaurants.

For those looking to immerse themselves in the beauty of Toronto, *Celebrate Toronto* is a must-attend event. A blend of music, arts, and culture, it celebrates the city's diversity and vibrant spirit. The event brings together performances, interactive installations, and community gatherings, offering an opportunity to experience the city in new and exciting ways. If you're seeking a taste of tradition, look no further than the *Maple Syrup Festival* (page 26 - 27). Held at various locations across Southern Ontario, including the famous Sugar Bushes in Ontario's countryside, this festival celebrates the time-honored tradition of maple syrup production. Visitors can enjoy syrup tastings, pancake breakfasts, and learn about the history of syrup making, all while enjoying the crisp spring air.

Whether you're indulging in culinary delights, exploring the arts, or savoring the sweetness of maple syrup, Southern Ontario's winter and spring festivals promise a season filled with excitement, discovery, and the joy of community. These events are the perfect way to embrace the season and create unforgettable experiences with friends and family. Enjoy the season, and see you out there!

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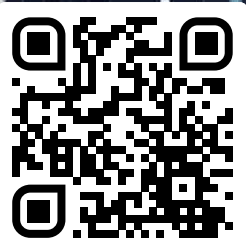
FESTIVALS

& Special Events

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[torontoondemand.ca/
category/festivals](http://torontoondemand.ca/category/festivals).

For a monthly calendar, visit
[torontoondemand.ca/
events/
toronto-festivals](http://torontoondemand.ca/events/toronto-festivals).



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www.TorontoOnDemand.com

HOW TO ENJOY WINTER IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

A Guide to Embracing the Season

Winter in Southern Ontario is a magical time when the region transforms into a picturesque wonderland of snow-covered landscapes, twinkling lights, and festive cheer. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast looking for adventure or someone who prefers cozy indoor activities, Southern Ontario offers a wide range of experiences to make the most of the winter months. From skiing and skating to exploring charming small towns and indulging in winter festivals, there's something for everyone. Here's a guide on how to fully enjoy winter in this beautiful part of Canada.

1 Hit the Slopes

Southern Ontario is home to several fantastic ski resorts that cater to both beginners and seasoned skiers. Blue Mountain, located near Collingwood, is the largest ski resort in the province and offers a variety of runs, from gentle slopes to challenging trails. The resort also features a vibrant village with shops, restaurants, and après-ski entertainment. Another great option is Horseshoe Resort, just north of Barrie, known for its family-friendly atmosphere and excellent snowboarding terrain. If you're new to skiing or snowboarding, many resorts offer lessons to help you get started.

2 Glide Across the Ice

Ice skating is a quintessential winter activity, and Southern Ontario boasts numerous outdoor rinks that provide a magical experience. The Nathan Phillips downtown ice rink offers stunning views of Downtown Toronto, making it a popular destination for both locals and tourists. For a more immersive experience, visit Arrowhead Provincial Park in Huntsville, where you can skate through a forested trail surrounded by snow-laden trees. Many communities across the region also maintain outdoor rinks in parks and town squares, perfect for a leisurely skate or a friendly game of hockey.

3 Explore Winter Festivals and Events

Winter in Southern Ontario is celebrated with a variety of festivals and events that bring communities together and showcase the season's charm. In Ottawa, Winterlude is a beloved annual event that celebrates Canadian winter traditions with ice sculptures, snow slides, and the iconic Rideau Canal Skateway, the world's largest naturally frozen skating rink. See **page 6 - 11** for festivals in Toronto or **page 18 - 21** for festivals outside the GTA.

4 Embrace the Outdoors: Snowshoeing and Hiking

For those who love to explore nature, snowshoeing and winter hiking are excellent ways to enjoy the serene beauty of Southern Ontario's landscapes. Many provincial parks, such as Algonquin Park

and Bruce Peninsula National Park, offer snowshoeing trails that range from easy walks to more challenging routes. These parks provide a peaceful escape into the wilderness, where you can spot wildlife and enjoy the tranquility of snow-covered forests. If you prefer hiking, many trails remain accessible during the winter months, offering stunning views of frozen waterfalls, icy cliffs, and scenic vistas.

5 Indulge in Cozy Indoor Activities

Not all winter activities need to take place outdoors. Southern Ontario has plenty of options for those who prefer to stay warm and cozy indoors. Consider booking a stay at one of Ontario's charming inns or resorts, such as the Millcroft Inn & Spa in Caledon, where you can enjoy hot tubs, fireplaces, and luxurious spa treatments. The peaceful winter scenery adds to the charm of these retreats, offering the perfect setting for a relaxing getaway.

6 Experience the Magic of Winter Getaways

Consider planning a winter getaway to fully immerse yourself in the season's beauty. The Haliburton Highlands, Muskoka, and Prince Edward County are all popular destinations for winter retreats. These areas offer cozy cabins, charming inns, and luxurious resorts, providing the perfect setting for a romantic escape or a family vacation. Whether you're looking to spend your days exploring the outdoors or simply relaxing by the fire with a good book, a winter getaway in Southern Ontario is sure to be a memorable experience.

7 Taste the Flavors of the Season

Winter is a time to indulge in hearty, comforting foods, and Southern Ontario's culinary scene does not disappoint. Many restaurants and eateries in the region focus on farm-to-table dining, offering seasonal menus that highlight local ingredients. Winter is also the perfect time to enjoy Ontario's famous ice wine, produced in the Niagara region. Take a tour of the wineries and sample this sweet, luxurious wine, which is made from grapes that have frozen on the vine. Pair it with a warm dessert or enjoy it on its own as a treat after a day in the cold.

Winter in Southern Ontario offers a wealth of activities and experiences that cater to all tastes and interests. Whether you're an adventure seeker or someone who prefers the comforts of indoor activities, there's no shortage of ways to enjoy the season. From the thrill of skiing down snowy slopes to the simple pleasure of sipping hot cocoa by the fire, Southern Ontario invites you to embrace winter in all its forms. So, bundle up, explore, and discover the magic of winter in this beautiful region. ■

WINTER/SPRING 2025 FESTIVALS SUPERGUIDE

Winter in Southern Ontario offers a wide array of activities that make the cold months exciting and enjoyable. Here are some popular 2025 winter and spring festivals you might want to enjoy.

JANUARY 2025

January 6 – February 28, 2025 THE KIDS' WORLD OF ENERGY FESTIVAL

Various Ontario Classes
relayededucation.com/programs/festival
 A Canada-wide STEM festival. The Kids' World of Energy Festival engages children in fun, hands-on activities to explore renewable energy, sustainability, and environmental science, inspiring the next generation to protect our planet.

January 18, 21 – 25, 2025 21C MUSIC FESTIVAL

Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto
www.rcmusic.com/performance/21c-music-festival
 The 11th edition of the 21C Music Festival celebrates contemporary music innovation, featuring cutting-edge performances by artists pushing boundaries across genres. Held in Toronto, it highlights bold compositions and new sounds shaping the future of music.

January 24 – February 2, 2025 DESIGNTO FESTIVAL

Various Toronto Locations and Online
designto.org
 Canada's leading and largest annual design festival that celebrates design's role in creating a sustainable, just and joyful world with 100+ free exhibitions and events forming Toronto's design week every January.

January 31 – February 13, 2025 WINTERLICIOUS

Various Toronto Restaurants
www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/winterlicious
 The WinterCity Festival wouldn't be complete without Toronto's favourite winter gastronomic celebration. Winterlicious again offers diverse cuisine through one-of-a-kind culinary events and delicious three-course prix fixe lunch and dinner menus at more than 200 top restaurants.

February 1 – 28, 2025 KUUMBA

Harbourfront Centre
harbourfrontcentre.com/series/kuumba
 KUUMBA, Toronto's longest-running Black History Month festival, celebrates African and Caribbean heritage through vibrant performances, art exhibitions, panel discussions, and workshops, promoting cultural expression, creativity, and community empowerment.

FEBRUARY 2025

February 1 – 2, 2025 TORONTO TEA FESTIVAL 2025

Toronto Reference Library, Appel Salon
teafestivaltoronto.com
 Toronto Tea Festival promises an unparalleled experience with over 50 vendors showcasing a diverse range of teas, tea-related products, and accessories. Attendees can expect to explore a rich tapestry of flavours, aromas, and cultures, as they indulge in the world of tea.

February 12 – 17, 2025 TORONTO BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

Various Toronto Locations and Online
torontoblackfilm.com
 The Toronto Black Film Festival celebrates Black voices and stories through diverse films, documentaries, and panel discussions, fostering inclusion and awareness while showcasing the rich talents of Black filmmakers worldwide.

February 13 – 23, 2025 RHUBARB FESTIVAL CANADA'S PREMIER NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Toronto
www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/the-rhubarb-festival-3
 Rhubarb Festival offers Toronto fresh, live encounters with contemporary theatre, performance art, dance, and music. For two weeks, hundreds of local and international artists descend on Buddies to share new ideas in performance creation with adventure-loving audiences.

February 14 – 16, 2025 WINTERFOLK BLUES AND ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Tranzac Club, Toronto
www.winterfolk.com
 It's an all-ages, mid-winter, weatherproof event, where you'll find the best of urban, blues, rock, jazz, country, folk and roots music, emulating a multi-stage rural summer festival. More than 150 artists will be performing at 5 venues over 3 days.

February 22, 2025
THE ROUNDHOUSE WINTER CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Roundhouse Park, Toronto

www.craftbeerfest.ca

Celebrate Winter at *Roundhouse Craft Beer Fest!* Enjoy Toronto's biggest and baddest après brew ski party. Don your stompin' boots, pull on a toque, and wear your puffiest parka because it's time to hoist a pint or two from local and regional breweries.

MARCH 2025

March 5 – 16, 2025
TORONTO SKETCH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Various Toronto Location

www.torontosketchfest.com

12 hilarious days of the best live, scripted comedy in North America. Founded by a group of Toronto comedians the festival has since grown by leaps and bounds and is a highlight in the Toronto comedy calendar.

March 2025
CELEBRATE TORONTO

Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto

www.celebratetoronto.ca

Shop from over 100 local vendors, including "Toronto Made Market", feast upon diverse cuisines from Toronto-based Food Trucks, and get cozy in the Licensed Warming Lounge. Live performances featuring local bands and dancers.

March 13 – 18, 2025
TORONTO SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Paradise Cinema, Toronto

torontoshort.com

This festival showcases a diverse array of short films from emerging filmmakers worldwide, highlighting innovative storytelling across various genres. It's a platform for creative voices to connect with audiences.

March 20 – April 20, 2025
TORONTO QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

Various GTA Locations and Online

torontoqueerfilmfest.com

The Toronto Queer Film Festival celebrates LGBTQ+ voices through bold, innovative films. It showcases diverse stories, fosters community, and promotes social justice through art and dialogue.

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March 25 – 29, 2025 CANADIAN FILM FEST

Scotiabank Theatre, Toronto
www.canfilmfest.ca

Celebrating homegrown talent, showcasing independent films across various genres. It provides a platform for emerging filmmakers, promoting Canadian stories, creativity, and cultural diversity to audiences nationwide.

APRIL 2025

April 1 – 4, 2024 ICFF YOUTH FESTIVAL

Cineplex Cinemas Yorkdale, Toronto
icff.ca/icff-youth-2025

This festival inspires young audiences through global films, fostering cultural understanding and creativity. Workshops, screenings, and discussions, empowering youth with the transformative power of storytelling and cinema.

APRIL 4 – 6, 2025 TORONTO DANCE FESTIVAL

Marriott Downtown, Toronto Eaton Centre
www.torontodancefestival.ca

The *Toronto Dance Festival* brings together diverse dance styles, featuring performances, workshops, and competitions. It celebrates artistic expression, showcasing local and international talent while fostering a vibrant dance community in Toronto.

April 9 – 13, 2025 TORONTO ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL (TAFF)

Location TBA
taafi.com/festival-1

The *Toronto Animation Film Festival (TAFF)* showcases innovative animated films from global creators. It celebrates the art of animation through screenings, workshops, and networking, highlighting creativity, storytelling, and visual artistry.

April 10 – 16, 2025 IMAGES FESTIVAL 2025

Various GTA Locations
imagesfestival.com

A leading presenter of independent film and media culture in dialogue with contemporary art. They aspire to elevate conversations between artists, scholars, and the public about the politics of the moving image.

April 11 – 13, 2025 T.O. FOOD AND DRINK FEST

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto
tofoodanddrinkfest.com

Taste the very best from local chefs, restaurants, winemakers, spirits, beer and cider companies, and quality culinary products plus get all the latest food & drink trends. Grab your friends and prepare your taste buds for 3 epic days of tastings, classes, pairings, and music.

April 23 – May 11, 2025 FIREWORKS FESTIVAL 2025

Mainstage, Alumnae Theatre
alumnaetheatre.com/fireworks-festival-2025.html

The Alumnae Theatre's *FireWorks Festival* champions women writers with the premieres of three wonderful full-length plays. This curated three-week festival is an incubator for new works and emerging artists, showcasing provocative writing and inventive staging. The festival is a highlight of the theatre's programming, offering a platform for emerging talents and unique theatrical experiences.

April 2025 TIFF NEXT WAVE FILM FESTIVAL

TIFF Bell Lightbox, Toronto
www.tiff.net/nextwave

TIFF Next Wave Film Festival is a dynamic, youth-driven event showcasing films by emerging filmmakers. With screenings, interactive workshops, and panel discussions, it empowers young audiences to explore storytelling through cinema. A creative space for the next generation of film enthusiasts and creators to shine!

April 24 – May 4, 2025 HOT DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, Toronto
hotdocs.ca/festivals/hot-docs-festival

This Festival is North America's largest documentary festival. Each year, the festival presents a selection of more than 200 films from Canada and around the world. Through its industry programs, the Festival also provides a full range of professional development, market, and networking opportunities for documentary professionals.

MAY 2025

May 1 – 31, 2025 CONTACT: PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

Various GTA Locations
contactphoto.com/

Showcasing diverse works from local and international artists, it transforms public spaces, galleries, and museums into captivating visual experiences. The festival fosters dialogue through exhibitions, installations, and workshops, highlighting the power of photography in storytelling.

May 3, 2025 21C MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Royal Conservatory of Music
www.rcmusic.com/performance/21c-music-festival

21C Music Festival celebrates contemporary music innovation, featuring cutting-edge performances by artists pushing boundaries across genres. Held in Toronto, it highlights bold compositions and new sounds shaping the future of music.

May 6 – 11, 2025 CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK REIMAGINED – DEPARTURE

Toronto's Hotel X
www.departureto.com

Departure is a dynamic and innovative launchpad featuring diverse talent, boundless energy, and committed artists. This kind of ambition and audacity draws talent from all across Canada and internationally, energizes creatives from all disciplines, and offers a fresh spark of inspiration that keeps passion alive. Here, you'll discover new talent, groundbreaking work, and innovative ideas.

May 12 – 17, 2025 MUSICFEST CANADA

York University and Christian Centre Church, Toronto
musicfest.ca/festival

Celebrate musical excellence at *MusicFest Canada*, uniting talented student ensembles from across the country. Enjoy outstanding performances, workshops, and adjudications that inspire and elevate music education. A premier event showcasing Canada's vibrant young musicians and their passion!

May 17, 2025 | 5:30 – 11pm
8TH BANGLADESH FESTIVAL

Toronto International Pavilion, Toronto
www.eventbrite.ca/e/8th-bangladesh-festival-2025-tickets-920982382097

The 8th Bangladesh Festival 2025 celebrates the rich culture of Bangladesh through vibrant performances, traditional music, dance, and cuisine. This lively event fosters community spirit, showcasing Bangladeshi heritage and arts to audiences in a joyful, immersive experience.

May 19 – 25, 2025
BIG IDEAS FESTIVAL 2025

Studio Theatre, Alumnae Theatre
alumnaetheatre.com/big-ideas-2025.html

Big Ideas Festival 2025 brings together visionary thinkers, innovators, and change-makers for a dynamic exploration of future-focused topics. Featuring inspiring talks, panels, and interactive workshops, the festival ignites creativity and problem-solving, empowering participants to tackle pressing global challenges with bold solutions.

May 24 – 25, 2025
DOORS OPEN TORONTO

Various Neighbourhoods
www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/doors-open-toronto

Doors Open Toronto invites you to explore the city's most iconic and historic buildings. Enjoy free access to architectural landmarks, cultural spaces, and hidden gems during this annual celebration of Toronto's heritage. It is Canada's largest Doors Open event and one of the three largest Doors Open events in the world.

May 25 – June 1, 2025
SING! TORONTO INTERNATIONAL VOCAL ARTS FESTIVAL

Various GTA Locations
singtoronto.com

SING! The Toronto International Vocal Arts Festival showcases the best in vocal performance, from a cappella groups to solo artists from Canada and around the globe. With a mix of concerts, workshops, and community engagement, SING! offers something for everyone, from professional singers to enthusiasts.

May – June 2025
WEEFESTIVAL

Factory Theatre, Toronto
The Assembly Hall, Etobicoke
weefestival.ca

WeeFestival is a celebration of children's theater, featuring engaging performances and interactive experiences designed for young audiences. It offers a diverse lineup of shows that stimulate imagination and creativity in a family-friendly environment.

JUNE 2025

June 3 – 8, 2025 (Toronto)
June 9 – 15, 2025 (Virtual)
25TH IMAGINATIVE FILM + MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL

Various GTA Location
imaginative.org

Celebrating Indigenous storytelling through innovative films and media arts. Featuring screenings, panels, and workshops, the festival highlights Indigenous perspectives and creators, fostering cultural exchange and showcasing diverse narratives from across the globe in Toronto.



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June 4 – 22, 2025**LUMINATO**

Dundas Square and Various Locations

luminatofestival.com

Luminato is a multidisciplinary arts festival celebrating creativity and innovation in Toronto. Featuring performances, installations, and interactive experiences, it showcases local and international artists, fostering dialogue and collaboration while transforming public spaces into vibrant hubs of artistic expression and cultural exchange.

JUNE 5 – 15, 2025**TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

Bloor Cinema, Toronto

www.tjff.com

The festival highlights films that explore Jewish culture, history, and identity. Featuring a diverse selection of international and local films, the festival offers screenings, discussions, and events, promoting cultural understanding and celebrating the richness of Jewish storytelling through cinema.

June 6 – 28, 2025**DO WEST FEST 2025**

Little Portugal, Toronto

dowestfest.com

Do West Fest 2025 transforms Little Portugal into a vibrant celebration, spanning 16 blocks of downtown Toronto. Featuring local artists, live music, delicious food, and community activities, this festival showcases the neighborhood's rich culture and fosters a sense of unity among residents.

June 7, 2025 | 12 – 10 pm**SPRING INTO SPICE: CANADA'S 1ST ETHNIC FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL**

TBA, Toronto

www.springintospice.com

This open air food and wine festival is a one day extravaganza with 30 food and wine vendors, incredible DJs, deep-dive food and wine seminars, and most of all incredible denizens of Ontario, representing all walks of life and cultures.

June 7 – 8, 2025**TORONTO COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL**

Toronto Reference Library

www.torontocomics.com

One of the world's largest comic festivals,



showcasing a diverse range of comic artists, publishers, and creators. This free event features panels, workshops, and opportunities meet their favorite artists.

June 2025**RIVERSIDE EATS & BEATS STREETFEST**

Toronto's Riverside Neighbourhood

riverside-to.com/events/riverside-eats-beats-streetfest

The festival will span 10 vibrant blocks for free live music and activities at five local street closures and two parks, paired with local food and retail sidewalk sales. It combines street food, family activities, and performances, creating a fun and festive community atmosphere.

June 14 – 15, 2025**TORONTO INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT RACE FESTIVAL**

Toronto Island

mldb.gwnevents.com/toronto-island

The *Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival* is a dynamic cultural event featuring exciting races, performances, and family-friendly activities. Celebrating Asian heritage, it brings together teams from around the world, fostering unity, community spirit, and a love for dragon boating.

June 20 – 29, 2025**TORONTO JAZZ FEST**

Various GTA Locations

torontojazz.com

The *Annual Toronto Jazz Festival* celebrates the vibrant jazz scene with performances from world-renowned artists and emerging talent. It spans multiple venues across the city, offering a mix of free and ticketed shows, fostering appreciation for jazz music and culture.

June 2025**TORONTO TANGO FESTIVAL**

Various Locations

www.torontotangofestival.com

Toronto Tango Festival is a four-day celebration of Argentine Tango, with workshops for all levels, practicas, milongas, performances and more. Explore and enrich your passion for this captivating dance at the biggest Argentine Tango event in Toronto.

June 2025**TASTE OF LITTLE ITALY**

College Street (Bathurst and Shaw Streets)

tolittleitaly.com

Toronto's Taste of Italy Festival transforms Little Italy into a vibrant celebration of Italian culture. Featuring authentic cuisine, live music, and traditional dance, the event offers a lively experience of Italian heritage, with local restaurants serving delicious

pasta, pizza, and gelato. Other cultures have also made culinary inroads and you'll find Japanese, Mexican, and Portuguese eateries as well.

June 11 – 15, 2025

NXNE – NORTH BY NORTHEAST

Various Nightclub Locations

www.nxne.com

NXNE (North by Northeast) is a major annual music and arts festival celebrating emerging talent in music, gaming, comedy, and interactive media. It features live performances, showcases, and panel discussions, fostering creativity and innovation across various creative industries.

June 2025

WOOFSTOCK – NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST FESTIVAL FOR DOGS

Woodbine Park

www.facebook.com/BarkleyWoofstock

North America's largest festival for dogs is a lively celebration in Toronto dedicated to dog lovers and their furry friends. Featuring contests, dog-friendly vendors, fashion shows, and entertainment, it's a fun-filled event that celebrates all things canine!

June 2025

PRIDE WEEK 2025

Various Locations

www.pridetoronto.com

A vibrant celebration of LGBTQ+ diversity, inclusion, and equality. Featuring a parade, live performances, parties, and cultural events, the week fosters community spirit and advocacy, making it one of Canada's largest and most inclusive Pride festivals.

June 2025

TORONTO RIBFEST

Centennial Park, Toronto

www.torontoribfest.com

Make Ribfest your family destination; there's fun and excitement for all! This popular event put on by the Rotary Club of Etobicoke attracts over 100,000 visitors who come to enjoy live music, succulent ribs and the beer tents. Children are delighted with candy floss, carnival rides, the climbing wall and pony rides. On Canada Day, a lively fireworks display celebrates Canada's birthday at dusk. ■

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WINTERLICIOUS^{OM}

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Produced by  TORONTO

Winterlicious 2025 is set to be one of Toronto's most anticipated culinary festivals, bringing food enthusiasts together to experience the diverse and rich flavors of the city. Running for two weeks from January 31st to February 13th, this annual festival transforms winter into a gastronomic adventure. Participating restaurants across Toronto offer specially curated prix-fixe menus, giving diners the chance to sample exquisite dishes at more affordable prices. Whether you are a fan of classic fine dining or eager to explore new culinary trends, Winterlicious offers something for every palate.

Participating Winterlicious Restaurants

This year, over 200 of Toronto's top restaurants are expected to participate, showcasing the city's multicultural cuisine. From Italian trattorias and French bistros to contemporary fusion spots and beloved local gems, the variety of restaurants ensures there's a unique dining experience for everyone. Each restaurant offers a tailored menu, showcasing signature dishes and creative new offerings, making Winterlicious the perfect time to try something new. Visit www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/winterlicious for the list of participating restaurants.

Curated Prix-Fixe Menus

The prix-fixe menus offered during Winterlicious are a major highlight, designed to give diners a full culinary experience at an accessible price point. Menus typically consist of three courses, with options for appetizers, mains, and desserts. For instance, you might start with a velvety butternut squash soup, followed by a seared salmon with winter vegetables, and end the meal with a decadent chocolate mousse. Prices vary by restaurant but generally fall within affordable ranges, making it easy to indulge in high-end dining without breaking the bank. Many menus also feature vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options to cater to a wide range of dietary preferences.

How to Make the Most of Winterlicious

To fully enjoy Winterlicious 2025, it's a good idea to plan ahead. Popular restaurants tend to book up quickly, so making reservations early is key. With so many options, it can be helpful to explore the Winterlicious website, where you can filter restaurants by cuisine type, location, and price. Whether you're dining out with friends, planning a romantic evening, or treating yourself to a solo food journey, Winterlicious offers a fantastic opportunity to explore Toronto's food scene in a new and exciting way, all while supporting local chefs and restaurants during the winter months. ■

If you have a **FESTIVALS** you would like us to know about, send the details of your event to HOToronto@rogers.com or submit our form on www.torontoondemand.ca/contact-us.

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WINTER FESTIVALS IN ONTARIO COTTAGE COUNTRY

Ontario's cottage country offers a range of exciting winter festivals, bringing together locals and visitors to celebrate the season with unique outdoor activities, food, and cultural experiences.

Ontario's cottage country transforms into a winter wonderland each season with festivals that embrace the snowy landscape, celebrating Canadian culture, outdoor adventure, and community spirit. These winter festivals offer unique activities like ice skating, snow tubing, live music, dog sledding, and creative ice sculptures, catering to families, outdoor enthusiasts, and those seeking a cozy getaway. Here are some of the top winter festivals to explore:

January 2025 BURK'S FALLS WINTERFEST

Burk's Falls, Ontario

www.facebook.com/WinterfestBurksFalls

Burk's Falls Winterfest features a variety of activities suitable for all ages. The event is hosted at multiple venues, including the Burk's Falls Memorial Arena. This festival is a small-town favorite, featuring events such as ice skating, snow sculpture contests, and live music. Local food vendors and artisan crafts are available for visitors to enjoy, along with a cozy community vibe.

January 25, 2025 FIRE & ICE FESTIVAL

Bracebridge, Ontario

fireandicebracebridge.com

The *Fire & Ice Festival* in Bracebridge is a captivating winter celebration typically held in January. This vibrant event features an array of activities, including snow tubing, ice skating, and dazzling ice sculptures that line the streets. Families and visitors can enjoy

live music, food vendors, and a spectacular fireworks display to cap off the festivities. The festival promises fun for everyone, making it a highlight of the winter season in Muskoka.

January 31 – February 2, 2025 PORT CARLING WINTERFEST

Port Carling, Ontario

portcarlingwinterfest.ca

Port Carling Winterfest celebrates winter with a variety of family-friendly activities and events, embodying the spirit of a traditional winter carnival. Attendees can enjoy activities such as the classic Haudenosaunee game of snow snakes, along with other engaging winter sports and festive gatherings. The event features multiple venues across Port Carling, offering something for everyone, from art displays to food tastings.

February 2025 SEVERN WINTERFEST

ODAS Park, Severn

www.facebook.com/severnwinterfest

The *Severn Winterfest* is a family-friendly event that will give Severn and the surrounding area fun activities to do with friends and family in the winter season. Bring the whole family and enjoy many fun activities, including Demolition Derby, Pancake Breakfast, Chainsaw Carving, Magician, Face Painting, Charity Polar Dip, Ice Skating, Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, food trucks, grab a drink at the ice bar, and experience many other events for all to enjoy!

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February 14 – 17, 2025 (Family Day Weekend) MUSKOKA WINTER CARNIVAL

Gravenhurst, Ontario

www.gravenhurst.ca/gravenhurst-winter-carnival

The *Muskoka Winter Carnival* in Gravenhurst is a beloved annual event held in February, celebrating winter with a variety of fun-filled activities. Visitors can enjoy thrilling snowmobile races, ice fishing, and pond hockey, alongside delicious local food and a chili cook-off. Families will appreciate dog sledding, outdoor skating, and exciting cardboard sled races. This carnival captures the spirit of winter in Muskoka, offering something for everyone, from kids to adults.

February 14 – 15, 2025 DORSET SNOWBALL WINTER CARNIVAL

Dorset Recreation Centre, Dorset

In Support of Dorset Recreation Centre

algonquinhighlands-001-ca.govstack.com/explore-play/dorset-snowball-winter-carnival

Enjoy a 2-day event welcoming visitors and neighbours to the annual all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, Snowball Parade, and friendly competitions both on the ice and the snow-covered hills, gather around the campfire with your hot chocolate & lace up your skates for the family public skating event,

February 15, 2025 (Saturday of Family Day Weekend) ALGONQUIN PARK WINTER IN THE WILD FESTIVAL

Algonquin Park, Ontario

www.algonquinpark.on.ca/news/winter_in_the_wild.php

The *Algonquin Park Winter in the Wild Festival* invites nature enthusiasts to immerse themselves in the park's winter beauty. This festival features guided snowshoe hikes, birdwatching, and workshops focused on winter wildlife and ecology. Participants can engage in storytelling by the campfire, making it a unique experience to connect with nature and learn about Algonquin's diverse ecosystem.

February 22, 2025 HUNTSVILLE SNOWFEST

Downtown Huntsville

huntsvilleadventures.com/snowfest

Get ready for a day filled with live music, buskers and on-ice performers, and interactive activities to keep everyone entertained. Picture yourself roasting marshmallows, sipping on hot chocolate, and marveling at the mesmerizing artistry of ice sculptors creating masterpieces before your eyes. SnowFest promises a day of joy and wonder for the whole family. Debuting on the same day as SnowFest, Snow Village is all about family-friendly fun, featuring interactive snow activities like whimsical snow sculptures, sturdy snow forts, and a snow labyrinth.

Each of these festivals offers something unique, making Ontario's cottage country a winter wonderland for outdoor enthusiasts, families, and anyone looking to embrace the beauty of the season. Remember to check dates as they can change annually! ■

Tips to Enjoy Winter Festivals in Cottage Country

Winter festivals in Ontario's cottage country are a magical experience filled with fun, adventure, and community spirit. To make the most of these festivities, consider these ten tips to enhance your enjoyment and ensure a memorable outing.

- 1. Dress in Layers:** Wear multiple layers to stay warm and comfortable, allowing you to adjust as you move between indoor and outdoor activities.
- 2. Check the Weather:** Stay updated on weather forecasts to plan your attire and activities accordingly.
- 3. Arrive Early:** Get there early to find parking and explore all the festival offerings without rush.
- 4. Plan Your Activities:** Review the festival schedule to prioritize must-see events and activities.
- 5. Try Local Cuisine:** Sample regional foods and drinks from food vendors to enjoy the local flavors.
- 6. Engage with Vendors:** Chat with local artisans and vendors to learn about their crafts and products.
- 7. Bring the Family:** Many festivals have activities for children, so make it a family outing.
- 8. Capture the Moment:** Take plenty of photos to document your experiences and the beautiful winter scenery.
- 9. Use Public Transport:** If available, use public transportation to avoid parking hassles.
- 10. Stay Hydrated:** Remember to drink water, especially if you're partaking in outdoor activities.
- 11. Be Mindful of Time:** Keep track of time to ensure you don't miss key events or activities.
- 12. Dress for the Occasion:** Wear comfortable shoes suitable for snow and ice to navigate the festival grounds safely.
- 13. Participate in Activities:** Engage in games, contests, and workshops for a more immersive experience.
- 14. Plan for Nighttime Fun:** Many festivals have evening events; check the schedule for special nighttime activities.
- 15. Relax and Enjoy:** Take time to soak in the atmosphere, relax, and enjoy the company of friends and family.

With these tips in mind, you're set to enjoy the winter festivals in cottage country fully. Embrace the magic of the season, create lasting memories, and celebrate the beauty of winter with family and friends! ■



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Family Day Weekend : Celebrate Togetherness

Family Day Weekend, from **February 15 to 17**, offers a perfect opportunity to bond with loved ones across Southern Ontario. Whether you're looking to enjoy the great outdoors, explore local attractions, or relax at home, there are plenty of activities to suit every family. Here are some activities to help you create lasting memories with those who matter most.



ATTRACTIONS

Ongoing | 9:30 am – 9:30 pm **CN TOWER**

301 Front St. West (& John St.)

www.cntower.ca

The CN Tower, a Canadian icon, stands 553 meters tall in Toronto. Offering breathtaking panoramic views, thrilling glass floors, and the EdgeWalk experience, it's a must-visit attraction for locals and tourists alike.

NOTE: Every Low Sensory Morning will take place for 90 minutes after opening. Visit www.cntower.ca for dates.

Ongoing | 9 am – 7 pm **HIGH PARK ZOO**

Deer Pen Rd., Toronto

www.highparkzoo.ca/visit-the-zoo

High Park Zoo has been entertaining people since 1893. The attraction, which houses domestic and exotic animals such as bison, llamas, and reindeer, as well as the famous capybaras, Bonnie and Clyde. Admission is free.

Ongoing | 9 am – 5 pm **RIVERDALE FARM**

201 Winchester St., Toronto

www.riverdalefarmtoronto.ca

Riverdale Farm in Toronto offers a charming escape with its working farm, historic barns,

and lush gardens. Visitors can enjoy nature trails, meet farm animals, and experience rural life in the heart of the city. Admission is free.

Ongoing | 9 am – 11 pm **RIPLEY'S AQUARIUMS**

288 Bremner Blvd., Toronto

www.ripleys.com/attractions/ripleys-aquarium-of-canada

Ripley's Aquarium of Canada in Toronto features over 20,000 marine creatures across stunning exhibits, including a mesmerizing underwater tunnel. Visitors can explore vibrant aquatic life, touch tanks, and immersive jellyfish displays.

NOTE: Sensory Sunday Morning, on the first Sunday of every month, experience the aquarium with special accommodations for an enjoyable experience for all.

Ongoing | 10 am – 4 pm **TORONTO HOCKEY HALL OF FAME**

30 Yonge St., Toronto

www.hhof.com/visit/exhibitsandinteractives.html

The Toronto Hockey Hall of Fame celebrates the sport's rich history with interactive exhibits, memorabilia, and tributes to legendary players. A must-visit for hockey fans, it offers an immersive, unforgettable experience.

February 15 – 17, 2025 **CELEBRATE FAMILY DAY AT YOUR TORONTO ZOO**

2000 Meadowvale Road, Toronto

www.torontozoo.com

Celebrate Family Day at the Toronto Zoo with animal encounters, educational activities, and special presentations. Enjoy winter wildlife exhibits, family-friendly events, and explore the zoo's scenic trails for a fun-filled day together!

CONCERTS

February 16, 2025 | 11:30 am **FIRESIDE MUNSCH**

19 on the Park, Stouffville

tows.ticketpro.ca/en/pages/19onthePark_FM

Fun for the entire family, M. John Kennedy's hit solo show Fireside Munsch is a high-energy performance featuring four of Robert Munsch's classic stories performed as one wacky storytelling play!

FESTIVALS

February 1 – 17, 2025 **HAMILTON WINTERFEST**

Various Hamilton Locations

www.hamiltonwinterfest.ca

Hamilton Winterfest is a flurry of activities spanning February 2025, that is local,

imaginative, and unique to Hamilton and its surrounding areas.

GALLERIES

February 15, 2025 | 10 am–5:30 pm

LIGHT: VISIONARY PERSPECTIVES EXHIBITION

Aga Khan Museum, Toronto

agakhanmuseum.org/whats-on/light-visionary-perspectives

These installations illustrate various physical properties and symbolisms of light, showcasing the unseen force's universal ability to unite individuals, inspire empathy, and highlight the significance of diversity.

March 15, 2025 | 12 – 5 pm

OTHERWORLD

Art Museum, University of Toronto

artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/otherworld

Otherworld by Camille Turner is an immersive art installation blending technology with storytelling, it invites participants to engage with their own narratives, reflecting on culture, memory, and the concept of belonging. Public programming will include activating the Afronautic Research Lab (2016–present), a counter archive that offers visitors a chance to participate in the ongoing research of Black history.

February 17 – March 17, 2025

WINTER STATIONS

Woodbine Beach, Woodbine Park, Kew Gardens, and Ivan Forrest Gardens

www.winterstations.com

Winter Stations is an award-winning, annual international design competition and exhibition of temporary public art installations.

February 17, 2025 | 12 – 4 pm

POWER KIDS: FAMILY DAY LONG WEEKEND DROP-IN WORKSHOP

The Power Plant, 231 Queens Quay W.

www.thepowerplant.org/whats-on/calendar/power-kids-family-day-long-weekend-drop-in-workshop

Families are invite to the special Family Day Long Weekend Power Kids workshop, inspired by Charles Campbell's exploration of bathymetry, the science of mapping the ocean floor. No registration is required—simply drop in!

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a cappella performances, workshops, and more.



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— don't miss out!

May 25 – June 1, 2025 | singtoronto.com



MUSEUMS

Ongoing | 10 am – 5 pm FORT YORK NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

250 Fort York Blvd.

Fort York National Historic Site in Toronto showcases Canada's military history with preserved 19th-century fortifications. Visitors can explore barracks, witness live reenactments, and learn about the War of 1812 in this historical landmark.

The Fort York Visitor Centre and The Bentway at Fort York skating trail are open from 10 am – 9 pm

Ongoing | 12 – 4pm SCARBOROUGH MUSEUM

1007 Brimley Rd., Toronto

Scarborough Museum, located in a picturesque park, explores local history through restored historic buildings, engaging exhibits, and interactive programs. It offers a hands-on experience, showcasing life in Toronto from the past.

February 17, 2025 FAMILY DAY AT THE MUSEUM

St. Catharines Museum,
1932 Welland Canals Pkwy.

bit.ly/family-day-museum

Family Day at the museum is an exciting day of activities and tours that everyone of any age can enjoy. The most popular staple of the Family Day event is the behind-the-scenes guided tours of our collection vaults.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Family Day programs will be available throughout Southern Ontario. Residents can enjoy the day with free outdoor and indoor activities including skating, swimming, cooking, drumming, dancing, crafts, board games, and family fitness classes.

SKATING

There are 52 outdoor rinks or skating trails to choose from across the city, weather permitting. Many indoor arenas will also be open. There is no charge for public skating at the City's indoor arenas and outdoor rinks. CSA-approved hockey helmets are mandatory for children under the age of six and are recommended for skaters of all ages.

February 17, 2025 | 12 – 9 pm FAMILY DAY SKATE PARTY

The Bentway, Toronto

thebentway.ca/event/winter-skating-2024/

Celebrate the last day of The Bentway's winter season on Family Day with a free, all-ages, DJ Skate Party! Featuring local newcomer DJs, uplifting music, and diverse refreshments.

NATHAN PHILLIPS SQUARE SKATING PARTY

Families can visit Nathan Phillips Square at City Hall, located at 100 Queen St. W., from 9 am – 10 pm and on Family Day are also invited to take part in a fun-filled outing from 1 to 4 pm, sponsored by Tim Hortons, which will feature informal skating instruction and hot beverages at the Tim's House lounge. Skate rentals are available.

SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING

EARL BALES AND CENTENNIAL PARK SKI AND SNOWBOARD CENTRES

4169 Bathurst St, North York

www.toronto.ca/data/parks/prd/facilities/complex/2766/index.html

Open on Family Day, weather permitting. Earl Bales Ski and Snowboard Centre has:

- one beginner hill: rope tow, all ages
- one main hill: three runs that start at the top of the hill
- a race hill: for general public use when not in use by ski racing groups
- washrooms (access from both inside and outside the building)
- accessible ski chalet

THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

February 10 – March 16, 2025 THE DARKEST DARK: ASTRONOMICALLY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Young People's Theatre, Toronto

www.youngpeoplestheatre.org/shows-tickets/the-darkest-dark

Enjoy *The Darkest Dark* at Young People's Theatre in Toronto for a cosmic adventure that explores fear, curiosity, and the wonders of space. This family-friendly show, inspired by astronaut Chris Hadfield's book, is sure to captivate audiences of all ages!

February 14 – 15, 2025 Lunch and Dinner Shows TWIST AND SHOUT: NEW MUSICAL

Famous PEOPLE Players, Toronto

famouspeopleplayers.com

Everyone wants to go back in time to a world we once knew that was sunshine and lollipops. Even if you've never heard of Elvis (oh, come on!), you will be dancing in your seat.

February 15, 2025 | 1 pm GRUFFALO'S CHILD TALL STORIES

Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts

www.oakvillecentre.ca/whats-on/upcoming-events/gruffalos-child

The Gruffalo said that no gruffalo should, ever set foot in the deep dark wood. Follow the *Gruffalo's Child* on her adventurous mission in Tall Stories' enchanting adaptation of the much-loved picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

February 17, 2025 | 3 shows TWEET TWEET!

Robertson Theatre, St. St. Catharines

bit.ly/fopac-tweet-tweet

TWEET TWEET! is the story of 2 birds who've just hatched and start to discover the outside world. This magical journey takes place in a tree with 2 nests and 2 wood swings that hang from the branches. The birds explore moving from the nests, up into the aerial tree canopy, through the rope tree trunk, and finally onto the floor.

February 17, 2025 | 1 & 3:30 pm THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD

Living Arts Centre, Mississauga

www.mississauga.ca/arts-and-culture/events/the-gruffalos-child?eventdate=2025-02-17T13%3A00%3A00&schedule=16387

The *Gruffalo's Child* comes to life at the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga, with an enchanting adventure for the whole family. Follow the brave little Gruffalo as she explores the deep, dark woods! ■



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WHAT'S ON WHERE IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Ontario hosts a variety of festivals throughout the year that cater to diverse interests, from music and food to art and cultural celebrations. Here are some notable festivals outside of Toronto:

WOW: BARRIE/ORILLIA

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-barrie-orillia

February 1 – 2, 2025

WINTERFEST 2025

Barrie Waterfront, Heritage Park & Memorial Square

bit.ly/barrie-winterfest

Celebrate *Winterfest 2025* in Barrie, Ontario! Enjoy ice sculptures, outdoor skating, live entertainment, winter activities, and delicious treats. Perfect for families and friends, it's a magical winter celebration.

February 14, 2025 | 8 – 10 pm

FULL MOON NIGHT SNOWSHOE

East Coulson Swamp, Orillia

www.orillialakecountry.ca/event/full-moon-night-snowshoe

Under the glow of the full moon, explore the snow-covered landscape on a snowshoe trek while our knowledgeable guides share insights into the ecology of the area. Please bring your own snowshoes.

March 2025

CHAPPEL FARMS SPRING FESTIVAL

Chappell Farms, Barrie

chappellfarms.ca/spring-festival

Spring Festival at Chappell Farms is an amazing place for kids and adults alike! They have all kinds of activities, and there is also plenty of room to just run and play in the fresh air!

April 24 – 27, 2025 | 6 pm

ROOTS NORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Downtown Orillia

www.rootsnorthmusic.ca

Discover incredible live music at *Roots North Music Festival*! Experience diverse artists, intimate venues, and unforgettable performances in Orillia, Ontario. Celebrate community and creativity.

April 25 – May 10, 2025

ANNUAL ORILLIA PERCH FESTIVAL

Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching, Orillia

www.csfl.ca/orilliaperchfestival

One of the largest fishing derbies in North America, the Orillia Perch Festival presented by Leadbetters, kicks off the beginning of the open water fishing season in Canada.

May 23 – 25, 2025

BARRIE WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

Centennial Park, Barrie

www.barriewaterfront.ca

The *Barrie Waterfront Festival* is back to bring Centennial Park to life with amazing musical acts, food trucks, a children's fun zone and more.

May 23 – 25, 2025

BARRIE WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

Memorial Square & Heritage Park, Barrie

www.barriewaterfront.ca

The *Annual Barrie Waterfront Festival* presents live bands from a variety of genres. In addition, free outdoor entertainment: street buskers, a midway with rides, face painting, street vendors, fresh food, treats, and contests.

June 14, 2025 | 9 am – 5 pm

BUTTER TART FESTIVAL

Downtown Midland and Waterfront Parks

midland.ca/en/community-tourism-culture/ontarios-best-butter-tart-festival.aspx

The *Ontario Best Butter Tart Festival* feature a variety of butter tarts from local bakers. Held in Midland, it includes tastings, baking competitions, and family-friendly activities, showcasing delicious traditions.

WOW: BRAMPTON

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-brampton

April 12 – 26, 2025

PEEL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025

Various Location

www.peelmusicfestival.ca

Peel Music Festival was started in 1927 has grown into one of Canada's largest music festivals. Faithful to its origin, PMF continues to have a section for school choirs and ensembles.

April 27 – May 4, 2025

THE FESTIVAL OF LITERARY DIVERSITY (FOLD)

TBA, Brampton and Virtual

thefoldcanada.org/festival-events/the-festival-of-literary-diversity

Celebrate diverse voices at The Festival of Literary Diversity (FOLD)! Join authors, readers, and storytellers for thought-provoking panels, workshops, and events championing inclusion in literature.

May 22, 23, 26 – 28, 2025

CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

Heart Lake Conservation Area, Brampton

www.peelregion.ca/childrens-water-festival

The *Peel Children's Water Festival* is a fun, hands-on learning event for Grades 2 to 5 students. This festival allows young and eager minds to interact and engage with the natural world around them.

June 12 – 15, 2025

HERITAGE SOUNDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Chinguacousy Park, Brampton

heritagesounds.ca

Experience the *10th Annual Heritage Sounds Music Festival*! Four days of multi-genre music, 50+ incredible artists, and unforgettable vibes. Celebrate YOUR music, YOUR vibe!

WOW: BURLINGTON

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-burlington

April 2025 BURLINGTON COMEDY FESTIVAL

Various Burlington Locations

www.burlingtoncomedy.com

The 9th Annual Burlington Comedy Festival comes alive across the streets of Downtown Burlington. Burlington Comedy Festival is proudly presented by the Burlington Downtown Business Association.

June 12 – 15, 2025 SOUND OF MUSIC FESTIVAL

Spencer Smith Park, Burlington

www.soundofmusic.ca

The *Sound of Music Festival*, proudly presented by The Burlington Performing Arts Center, is one of Canada's largest and most iconic music festivals, offering a vibrant celebration of sound and community.

WOW: HAMILTON

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-hamilton

February 1 – 17, 2025 HAMILTON WINTERFEST

Various Hamilton Locations

www.hamiltonwinterfest.ca

Hamilton Winterfest is a seasonal celebration featuring outdoor activities, ice skating, light displays, and family-friendly events. It transforms the city into a winter wonderland, offering residents and visitors the chance to enjoy the beauty of winter in a festive atmosphere.

February 7 – 8, 2025 FOOD AND DRINK FEST

Hamilton Convention Centre, 1 Summers Lane

foodanddrinkfest.com

Hamilton's Food and Drink Fest showcases the city's culinary scene, offering a variety of local food, beverages, and gourmet experiences. It highlights the creativity of local chefs, wineries, and breweries, attracting food enthusiasts from across the region.

February 2025 FROST BITES FESTIVAL

Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre,
876 Cannon St. E.

www.hftco.ca/frost-bites

Now in its 9th year, *Frost Bites* is a one-week community-embedded festival with a smorgasbord of FREE activities and events for all ages.

May 2025 | 10 am – 4 pm DOOR OPEN HAMILTON

Various Locations

www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/pages/events/hamilton

Enjoy Doors Open Hamilton Region — and explore over 50 sites, including four walking tours.

May – June 2025 WEEFESTIVAL

Theatre Aquarius, Hamilton

weefestival.ca

WeeFestival of Arts & Culture for Early Years, Toronto's only festival of its kind, returns with live, in-person performances in Toronto, the GTA & Ontario.

May 2025 LUCKY LION NIGHT MARKET

Bayfront Park, Hamilton

www.luckylionnightmarket.ca

Celebrate Asian culture and sample culinary delights from diverse and talented vendors. While enjoying your food, stroll through the park and experience interactive lion dancers.

May 30 – June 2, 2025 HAMILTON BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

Various Locations

www.hbff.ca

An annual festival that showcases cultural and traditional films of African/Caribbean, Native, Asian, and Middle Eastern filmmakers, and other films of ethnic inclusion.

May 2025 HAMILTON CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

Pier 4 Park – 64 Leander Dr, Hamilton

www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/outreach-education/water-outreach-education/childrens-water-festival

The *Hamilton Children's Water Festival* is an opportunity to educate students about the importance of water conservation, protection, awareness, respect, science technology, history and health.

WOW: MARKHAM/ UNIONVILLE

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-markham-unionville

February 17 – 18, 2025 | 10 am – 5 pm LUNARFEST GTA

Varley Art Gallery, Markham

lunarfestgta.ca

LunarFest GTA 2024 celebrates the Year of the Dragon with vibrant cultural performances, art displays, and community activities, honoring Asian traditions and fostering cross-cultural connections across the Greater Toronto Area.

June 2025 UNIONVILLE FESTIVAL

Various Locations

unionville.ca/unionville-festival

This annual event takes place on historic Main Street Unionville and is a celebration of the local community, featuring live music, delicious food, and a wide range of activities for people of all ages.

June 20 – 21, 2025 MARKHAM VILLAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Main Street, Markham

www.markhamfestival.com

A highly anticipated annual event that brings the community together for two days of music, art, and family-friendly activities. It offers a vibrant mix of live performances, artisan vendors, cultural displays, and activities that celebrate the diverse spirit of Markham.

June 2025 | 9 am - 5 pm STEERING FOR STEER FRIENDS AUTOMOTIVE FESTIVAL

Markham Fairgrounds

steerfriends.org/carshow

Enjoy a day of excitement and elegance at the *Steering for Steer Friends Automotive Festival* at the Markham Fairgrounds! This event is not just a showcase of cars; it's a celebration of community, craftsmanship, and a commitment to a great cause.

June 2025 TASTE OF ASIA

Kennedy & Steeles, Markham

taste-of-asia.ca

Taste of Asia is one of Canada's largest Asian festivals, held annually in the city of Markham, just north of Toronto. The festival takes place over a weekend in June and celebrates the diverse cultures and cuisines of Asia.

WOW: MISSISSAUGA

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-mississauga

February 7, 2025 | 10 am – 9 pm

APIK FEST MISSISSAUGA

Celebration Square, Mississauga
apik.tribu.co/en/mississauga

APIK is a FREE urban winter event in the heart of Mississauga. Ski and snowboard competitions, snowskate demos and lessons, DJ sets and afterparty.

March 8 – 17, 2025

PUPPET FESTIVAL

Various Mississauga Locations

Mississaugacranecreations.ca/event/puppet-festival-mississauga

The Puppet Festival Mississauga celebrates puppetry arts with captivating performances, workshops, and family-friendly events, offering an entertaining and educational experience for all ages. Don't miss this unique cultural event.

May 24 – 25, 2025

CARASSAUGA FESTIVAL

Various Mississauga Locations

www.carassauga.com

Over two fun-filled days, visitors will have the unique opportunity to span the globe without leaving the city! Carassauga Festival Passport gets you unlimited access to cultural, all-festival weekend long!

June 6 – 8, 2025

BREAD & HONEY FESTIVAL

Memorial Park, Streetsville

www.breadandhoneyfestival.ca

Streetsville's Bread and Honey Festival is held in Streetsville Memorial Park, expect the tongue-tantalizing sensations of the locally made bread from the local flour mills in Streetsville.

June 2025

ANNUAL MISSISSAUGA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Mississauga Canoe Club, 31 Front St. N.

www.mississaugacanoecub.ca/mississauga-dragon-boat-festival

Annual Mississauga Dragon Boat Festival is an event that allows you and your friends, family, and/or co-workers to compete in friendly dragon boat races on the Credit River in beautiful Port Credit.

WOW: NIAGARA

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-niagara

To January 5, 2025

WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Niagara Falls

www.wfol.com

The *Winter Festival of Lights* in Niagara Falls transforms the city into a dazzling winter wonderland! Enjoy stunning light displays, interactive exhibits, and festive activities for all ages. A magical experience celebrating the season's beauty.

January 10 – 26, 2025

ICEWINE FESTIVAL

Various Niagara Locations

www.niagarawinefestival.com/icewine-series-events

The weather outside may be frightful, but Niagara's Icewine sure is delightful! The Niagara Grape & Wine Festival has a series of events that allow you to explore Icewine in all its myriad characters - from sophisticated at stylish at the *Cool As Ice Gala*, to showcasing its versatility when paired with different culinary dishes through the Discovery Pass.

April 10 – 13, 2025

ANNUAL NIAGARA FALLS ELVIS FESTIVAL

Greg Frewin Theatre, Niagara Falls

www.niagarafallselvisfestival.com

The Annual *Niagara Falls Elvis Festival* celebrates the King of Rock 'n' Roll! Enjoy incredible tribute performances, meet Elvis impersonators, and experience the magic of Elvis' music in the heart of Niagara Falls. A must-see event for fans!

May 2025

ANNUAL PELHAM ART FESTIVAL

Pelham Arena, 1120 Haist Street

www.elhamartfestival.com

The *Pelham Art Festival* is a must for art lovers, a show and sale of prestigious original fine art by artists and artisans who collectively present thousands of choices in a vibrant array of style, medium and message.

NOTE: Festival proceeds benefit the various projects in Pelham community.

WOW: OAKVILLE

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-oakville

February 17 – March 10, 2025

TASTE OF OAKVILLE

Oakville, Bronte, Kerr Restaurants

tasteofoakville.ca

Taste of Oakville invites you to explore the best local dining! Enjoy prix-fixe lunch and dinner menus from restaurants in Downtown, Bronte, Kerr and across Oakville.

May 25, 2025 | 11 am – 4 pm

NORTHEAST OAKVILLE FAIR

1051 Glenashton Dr., Oakville

ne.oakvillefair.ca

The *Northeast Oakville Fair* celebrates community with family-friendly activities, live entertainment, games, food, and local vendors. Fun-filled day for all ages.

June 2025

OAKVILLE FAMILY RIBFEST

Sheridan's Trafalgar Campus, Oakville

www.oakvillefamilyribfest.com

This festival features ribbers from across North America, live entertainment, a beer garden, and activities for kids. It's a popular event that attracts both locals and visitors.

WOW: OSHAWA/AJAX

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where

May 10, 2025

DURHAM CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Oshawa's Botanical Gardens, Children's Arena

www.durhamcraftbeer.ca

The festival showcases a variety of local and regional craft breweries, offering beer enthusiasts the chance to sample unique brews.

WOW: RICHMOND HILL/NEWMARKET

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-richmond-hill-newmarket

February 18 – 22, 2025

NEWMARKET VOICE FESTIVAL

The Old Town Hall, Newmarket

www.newmarketvoicefestival.com

This festival provides a wonderful opportunity for singers and actors to receive feedback on technique and performing skills in an encouraging, supportive setting.

The festival is open to soloists and small ensembles throughout Ontario.

WOW: ST. CATHARINES

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-st-catharines

February 7 – 9, 2025

SPORTFEST, FESTIVAL OF SPORTS™

Port Colborne

www.portcolborne.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/sportsfest.aspx

A February celebration providing family friendly activities for all ages. This city-wide community *Festival of Sports™* attracts participants from across Niagara with proceeds donated to various charities.

WOW: VAUGHAN/ WOODBRIDGE

www.torontoondemand.ca/category/whats-on-where-vaughan-woodbridge

February 1 – 2, 2025

VAUGHAN'S WINTERFEST

Vellore Village Community Centre,
Vaughan

www.vaughan.ca/residential/recreation-programs-and-fitness/events/winterfest

As one of the city's most cherished traditions, *Winterfest* is set to bring the community together for a day of fun, entertainment, and celebration amidst the chilly beauty of winter.

May 16 – 19, 2025

VAUGHAN RIBFEST 2025

Assembly Park, Vaughan

ribfestx.com/event/vaughan-ribfest-2025

Featuring 5 of North America's Best Rib Teams ready to serve you, your friends and family Award-Winning Mouth-Watering BBQ Smoked Ribs, Tender Pulled Pork, Juicy Smoked Brisket, BBQ Chicken, Smoked Sausage and those huge Beef "Dino" Ribs.

June 16 – 20, 2025


VAUGHAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2025

Location TBA

www.vaughanfilmfestival.com

The *Vaughan International Film Festival* celebrates global cinematic talent with diverse screenings, industry panels, and networking events, showcasing creativity and storytelling from emerging filmmakers. ■

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Southern Ontario Maple Syrup Festivals: A Sweet Celebration of Spring

These festivals are a family-friendly opportunity to explore local sugar bushes, learn about the history of maple syrup, and indulge in the sweet flavors of the season. Join the fun and savor the taste of spring!

As winter's grip loosens and the first signs of spring emerge, Southern Ontario's countryside comes alive with one of the region's most cherished traditions: **THE MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL**. These events celebrate the art of maple syrup production, a practice that has deep roots in Canadian culture and history. In 2025, maple syrup festivals across Southern Ontario will offer visitors the chance to experience the sweet joys of the syrup-making process, along with a variety of family-friendly activities that showcase the best of rural Ontario.

Bronte Creek Maple Syrup Festival • March Weekends
Bronte Creek Provincial Park, Oakville
www.brontecreek.org/BCPP_Friends/the-park/featured-events/maple-festival

The *Bronte Creek Maple Syrup Festival* is a delightful annual event celebrating the arrival of spring and the sweetness of maple syrup. Held at Bronte Creek Provincial Park, this family-friendly festival features guided tours of the sugar bush, traditional syrup-making demonstrations, and delicious pancake breakfasts drizzled with fresh maple syrup. Visitors can also enjoy live entertainment, wagon rides, and various outdoor activities, making it a perfect outing for all ages in a beautiful natural setting.

Mountsberg Maple Town • March 2 – April 7, 2025
Mountsberg Conservation Area, Campbellville
www.conservationhalton.ca/mapleseason

Mountsberg Maple Town invites you to celebrate maple season on weekends in March. Explore the sugar bush to see how sap is collected, and visit the sugar shack to watch traditional syrup-making demonstrations. Enjoy wagon rides, taste maple

taffy, and sample fresh syrup over pancakes at the pancake house. Kids can meet farm animals and explore the play barn, while the whole family will enjoy learning about this sweet Canadian tradition. It's a fun-filled, educational experience for all ages.

Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival • March 8 – April 6, 2025
Bruce's Mill Conservation & Kortright Centre for Conservation
www.trca.ca/activities/maple-syrup-festival

The *Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival*, hosted at Kortright Centre for Conservation and Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, celebrates Ontario's maple syrup season with a range of sweet activities. Visitors can enjoy syrup tastings, maple-themed treats, and traditional pancake breakfasts. The festival also features live demonstrations of syrup-making, horse-drawn wagon rides, and guided tours through scenic sugarbushes. Perfect for families, this annual event highlights the natural beauty of spring while celebrating the art of maple syrup production.

Warkworth Maple Syrup Festival • March 8 – 9, 2025
Various Locations, Warkworth
warkworthmaplesyrupfestival.ca

Celebrate the sap run and the beauty of the Warkworth community! The Warkworth Community Service Club, Sandy Flat Sugar Bush, Maple Syrup Festival Committee, and local merchants invite you to their village. Enjoy a free shuttle to the sugar bush for a pancake breakfast, horse and wagon rides, maple taffy, and live music. Explore Maplelicious in the village with a shuttle back to downtown for shops, boutiques, and cafés featuring maple-themed items.

Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival • March 9 – 31, 2025

Purple Woods Conservation, Oshawa

www.cloca.com/maple-syrup-festival

The *Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival* is a popular spring event celebrating the maple syrup season. Visitors can enjoy guided tours of the sugarbush, live demonstrations of traditional syrup-making, and delicious pancake breakfasts. The festival also offers wagon rides, family-friendly activities, and maple syrup tastings. Set against beautiful natural surroundings, it's a perfect way to experience the sweetness of spring in the Durham Region.

Maple Festival • March 2025

Drysdale's Tree Farm, 6635 Simcoe County Rd. 56, Egbert

www.drysdales.ca/seasonal-event.php?id=20

The *Maple Festival* at Drysdale's Tree Farm offers a fun filled celebration of Ontario's maple syrup season. Held annually, the festival features guided tours of the sugarbush, syrup-making demonstrations, and delicious maple-infused treats. Families can enjoy pancake breakfasts, wagon rides, and outdoor activities like hiking and exploring the scenic tree farm. With its charming rural atmosphere, the festival provides a perfect opportunity to enjoy the sweetness of spring in nature.

Sweetwater Harvest Festival • March 22 – 23, 2025

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Midland

www.wyemarsh.com/sweetwater

The *Sweetwater Harvest Festival* is a beloved spring event celebrating the maple syrup season in a natural setting. Visitors can enjoy guided tours of the sugarbush, learn traditional syrup-making methods, and indulge in pancake breakfasts topped with fresh maple syrup. The festival also features family-friendly activities like live entertainment, wagon rides, and nature hikes, making it a perfect blend of outdoor fun and sweet maple treats.

Elmira Maple Syrup Festival • April 5, 2025

Various Locations, Elmira

www.elmiramaplesyrupfestival.com

The *Elmira Maple Syrup Festival*, the world's largest one-day maple syrup festival, is a cherished annual event in Ontario. Held in the heart of Elmira, it attracts thousands of visitors for its famous pancake breakfasts, maple syrup tastings, and live demonstrations of syrup-making. With local vendors, artisan crafts, live entertainment, and family-friendly activities, the festival offers a sweet celebration of spring and the region's rich maple syrup heritage.

Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival • April 2025

Tiffin Conservation Area, 8195 8th Line, Utopia

www.nvca.on.ca/spring-tonic-festival

The *Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival*, held at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation, is a delightful celebration of Ontario's maple syrup season. This annual festival offers syrup tastings, pancake

breakfasts, and family-friendly activities like horse-drawn wagon rides, live entertainment, and demonstrations of traditional maple syrup production. Visitors can explore nature trails and enjoy the sweet smells and tastes of freshly made syrup in a fun, outdoorsy setting.

Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival • April 5 – 6, 2025

Various Locations, Downtown Sunderland

maplesyrupfestival.ca/sunderland/schedule

The *Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival* is a beloved annual event celebrating the sweetness of spring in small-town Ontario. Held in the charming village of Sunderland, the festival features maple syrup tastings, pancake breakfasts, artisan vendors, and live entertainment. Families can enjoy wagon rides, games, and maple-themed treats while exploring local crafts. It's a perfect way to experience the community spirit and traditional maple syrup production in a festive, family-friendly atmosphere.

Belmore Maple Syrup Festival • April 10 – 12, 2025

Belmore Community Centre, Wroxeter

belmorecommunitycentre.ca/belmore-maple-syrup-festival.html

The *Belmore Maple Syrup Festival* is an annual celebration in Belmore, Ontario, highlighting the rich tradition of maple syrup production. Visitors can enjoy a delicious pancake and sausage meal, local crafts, and live entertainment. The festival offers a unique glimpse into the syrup-making process, with demonstrations and activities for all ages. It's a sweet family-friendly event that showcases the best of rural Ontario's maple syrup culture.

Muskoka Maple Festival • April 26, 2025

Main Street, Downtown Huntsville

www.muskokamaple.com

The *Muskoka Maple Festival* in Downtown Huntsville is a sweet celebration of all things maple. Held annually, this family-friendly event features local vendors offering maple-inspired treats, live entertainment, and activities for all ages. Visitors can indulge in syrup tastings, artisan crafts, and delicious food while enjoying the charm of Huntsville's historic downtown. It's the perfect way to welcome spring and celebrate Muskoka's rich maple heritage.

Southern Ontario's maple syrup festivals are more than just a celebration of a sweet treat; they are a testament to the region's cultural heritage and natural beauty. The 2025 festivals promise to deliver a rich tapestry of experiences, from traditional syrup-making demonstrations to lively community events. Whether you're a long-time lover of maple syrup or a first-time visitor, these festivals offer a unique opportunity to connect with Ontario's rural charm and enjoy the simple pleasures of spring. ■

Discovering March Break in Southern Ontario

March Break is fast approaching, and families across Southern Ontario are gearing up for a week of fun and relaxation. Whether you're looking to explore the great outdoors, indulge in cultural experiences, or simply unwind, there are countless activities and destinations to enjoy from **March 10 to 14, 2025**. Here's a guide to some of the best ways to make the most of this year's break.

CAMP

March 10 – 14, 2025 | 9 am – 4 pm **ROM MARCH BREAK CAMP**

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
www.rom.on.ca/en/whats-on/march-break-camp

The ROM March Break Camp offers kids a fun-filled week of discovery and creativity with engaging activities centered around art, science, and history. Campers explore exhibits, enjoy hands-on projects, and learn from experts.

March 10 – 14, 2025 | 9 am – 4 pm **MARCH BREAK CAMP 2025**

Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King St. W.
www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/program/march-break-camp-2025

AGH March Break Camp offers campers the opportunity to explore AGH exhibitions and art-making through a variety of materials and techniques, with new activities planned daily! (Drop-off begins at 8:30am. After care is not provided) **Registration Required.**

March 10 – 14, 2025 **STEM MINDS MARCH BREAK CAMP**

212 Earl Stewart Drive, Aurora
www.stemminds.com/product/march-break-camp-2025

Spend your week exploring the exciting world of STEM through a variety of exciting hands-on activities and projects on topics including graphic design, 3D design, video game design, film and photography, coding and robotics, and more. For 4 – 14 years old. **Registration Required.**

March 10 – 14, 2025 | 9 am – 3 pm **TORONTO NATURE SCHOOL MARCH BREAK CAMP**

2245 Queen Street East, Toronto
torontonatureschool.ca/programs/march-break-camp

Spend each day engaged in seasonal, hands-on activities and explorations on the beach and in the forest. Campers should make sure to dress for the weather, bring a nut free lunch, two snacks and a change of clothes. For 4 – 10 years old. **Registration Required.**

March 10–14, 2025 | 9 am–4:30 pm **MARCH BREAK CAMP 2025**

Gymnastics Mississauga,
5600 Rose Cherry Pl
gymmississauga.org/march-break

A full day consisting of gymnastics instructions on all the different apparatus, including the trampoline. Other activities: gymnastics, arts & crafts. Before and After also available. Ages 5 -14 years old. **Registration Required.**

CONCERTS

March 12, 2025 at 12 pm **COC MARCH BREAK: STORIES OF OPERA THROUGH ART SONG**

Four Seasons Centre, Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room

www.coc.ca/tickets/2425-season/coc-march-break-stories-of-opera-through-art-song

Free Concert Series. Join Canadian Opera Company Teaching Artists for an interactive workshop that explores the world's most beloved art songs, through the language



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of cultural storytelling. This session offers an educational exploration of how art song provides multiple pathways to understanding opera.

FESTIVALS

March 11 – 16, 2025 PUPPET FESTIVAL

Various Mississauga Locations
cranecreations.ca/puppet-festival-mississauga-an-annual-march-break-event
Experience the magic of *Puppet Festival Mississauga*, featuring captivating puppet performances, workshops, and interactive activities. Perfect for all ages, this event showcases the art of puppetry, bringing stories to life in a fun and engaging way!

March 6 – 16, 2025 SPRINGFEST TO

Markham Fair Grounds
springfestto.ca
SpringFest offers Greater Toronto families an indoor fun park with the latest in children's entertainment, games and activities. Back for the 18th year of quality family entertainment at the Markham Fairgrounds.

GALLERIES

March 8 & 15, 2025 | 10am–5:30pm LIGHT: VISIONARY PERSPECTIVES EXHIBITION

Aga Khan Museum, Toronto
agakhanmuseum.org/whats-on/light-visionary-perspectives
These installations illustrate various physical properties and symbolisms of light, showcasing the unseen force's universal ability to unite individuals, inspire empathy, and highlight the significance of diversity.

March 8 & 15, 2025 | 12 – 5 pm OTHERWORLD

Art Museum, University of Toronto
artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/otherworld
Otherworld by Camille Turner is an immersive art installation exploring themes of identity and history through digital and physical realms. Public programming will include activating the Afronautic Research Lab, a counter archive that offers visitors to participate in the ongoing research of Black history.

MUSEUMS

March 8 – 16, 2025 DISCOVER HAMILTON'S CIVIC MUSEUMS

Various Hamilton's Civic Museums
bit.ly/hamilton-civic-museums
Whether you are exploring early 19th century life, getting creative with art-making workshops, or diving into engaging guided tours, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

March 10 – 14, 2025 MARCH BREAK AT THE MUSEUM

St. Catharines Museum,
1932 Welland Canals Pkwy.
www.stcatharines.ca/en/arts-culture-and-events/st-catharines-museum-and-welland-canals-centre.aspx
Programs usually include interactive tours, games and fun, and crafts and makerspaces. There's a little something for everyone.

SKATING

There are 52 outdoor rinks or skating trails to choose from across the city, weather permitting. Many indoor arenas will also be open. There is no charge for public skating at the City's indoor or outdoor rinks. CSA-approved hockey helmets are mandatory for children under the age of six and are recommended for skaters of all ages.

SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING

EARL BALES SKI & SNOWBOARD CENTRE

4169 Bathurst St, North York
www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/program-activities/ice-snow-activities/downhill-skiing-snowboarding-centres

SHOWS

March 14 – 16, 2025 TORONTO COMICON 2025

Metro Toronto Convention Centre
www.fanexpohq.com/comicontoronto
Toronto Comicon 2025 brings together fans of comics, sci-fi, anime, and pop culture for an exciting weekend of celebrity guests, panels, cosplay, and exclusive merchandise. A must-attend event for enthusiasts!.

THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

February 10 – March 16, 2025 THE DARKEST DARK: ASTRONOMICALLY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Young People's Theatre, Toronto
www.youngpeoplestheatre.org/shows-tickets/the-darkest-dark
Enjoy *The Darkest Dark* at Young People's Theatre in Toronto for a cosmic adventure that explores fear, curiosity, and the wonders of space. This family-friendly show, inspired by astronaut Chris Hadfield's book, is sure to captivate audiences of all ages!

March 12 – 15, 2025 Lunch and Dinner Shows TWIST AND SHOUT: NEW MUSICAL

Famous PEOPLE Players, Toronto
famouspeopleplayers.com
Everyone wants to go back in time to a world we once knew that was sunshine and lollipops. Even if you've never heard of Elvis (oh, come on!), you will be dancing in your seat.

March 12, 2025 | 4 and 7 pm JIM HENSEN'S FRAGGLE ROCK

Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts
www.oakvillecentre.ca/whats-on/upcoming-events/jim-hensen-fraggle-rock
Jim Henson's Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock LIVE brings beloved characters to the stage with vibrant puppetry and music. This engaging performance revives the magic of *Fraggle Rock* for fans of all ages.

March 13, 2025 | 3 – 4:30 pm JIM HENSON'S FRAGGLE ROCK: BACK TO THE ROCK LIVE

Living Arts Centre, Mississauga
www.mississauga.ca/arts-and-culture/events/jim-hensons-fraggle-rock-live?eventdate=2025-03-13T15%3A00%3A00&schedule=16339
Jim Henson's Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock LIVE brings beloved characters to the stage with vibrant puppetry and music. This engaging performance revives the magic of *Fraggle Rock* for fans of all ages. ■

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Ontario Heritage Trust, Doors Open Ontario

With events running from spring to fall across Ontario, Doors Open gives participants a rare opportunity to peek inside landmarks that are typically closed to the public. From museums and theatres to private homes and historic churches, this initiative brings to life the stories of Ontario's diverse communities, cultures, and traditions.

Ontario Heritage Trust's *Doors Open Ontario* is an annual event that invites residents and visitors to explore the province's rich architectural, cultural, and historical heritage. Since its launch in 2002, the program has opened the doors of hundreds of unique and often hidden locations, from heritage buildings to modern architectural marvels, offering free access and exclusive tours.

Whether you are a history buff, an architecture enthusiast, or simply curious about the places that shape Ontario's identity, *Doors Open Ontario* offers something for everyone. It's a celebration of the spaces that connect us to the past, inspire us in the present, and shape the future.

The event also highlights Ontario Heritage Trust's commitment to preserving and promoting the province's historical and cultural landmarks, ensuring that future generations can continue to explore and appreciate the beauty and significance of Ontario's heritage.

April 2025 | 10 am – 4 pm GUELPH

guelph.ca/living/arts-and-culture/doors-open-guelph

Doors Open Guelph returns with free guided tours of some of the city's most architecturally, historically and culturally significant sites. Come and explore tours and interactive experiences throughout the day!

May 2025 | 10 am – 4 pm HAMILTON REGION

www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/pages/events/hamilton&view_mode=cards

With theatres, churches, music schools, pubs, costume shops and a lab that researches the effect of music on the human psyche, Hamilton has it all. Many sites will have music, demonstrations and participant interaction. Participate with your community in the *Doors Open Hamilton Region* — and explore over 50 sites, including four walking tours.

May 3, 2025 | 10 am – 4 pm OSHAWA

www.oshawa.ca/en/parks-recreation-and-culture/doors-open-oshawa.aspx

Doors Open Oshawa is a free, annual event that provides an opportunity to explore Oshawa's diverse heritage and cultural sites.

May 10, 2025 | 10 am – 4 pm RICHMOND HILL

www.richmondhill.ca/en/find-or-learn-about/Doors-Open-Richmond-Hill.aspx?_mid_=816

Doors Open Richmond Hill is a free event that supports cultural sites in the community to open their doors to everyone. Reunite, reconnect and celebrate all that call Richmond Hill home.

May 24 – 25, 2025 | 10 am – 5 pm TORONTO

www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/doors-open-toronto

Explore more than 160 of Toronto's

architectural, historical, cultural and socially significant buildings for free during the *Doors Open Toronto* weekend!

**June 2025 | 10 am – 4 pm
OTTAWA**

ottawa.ca/doorsopen

Doors Open Ottawa returns for another exciting year of honouring the built heritage and architecture in Ottawa. Go behind the scenes of over 90 of Ottawa's most architecturally and culturally significant buildings — including embassies, theatres, sustainable farms and everything in between.

**June 2025 | 10 am – 4 pm
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**

www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/pages/events/whitchurch-stouffville&view_mode=cards

Come and explore some of Whitchurch-Stouffville's oldest buildings and learn the roles they have played throughout the town's fascinating history at *Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville 2025*.

**June 2025 | 10 am to 5 pm
MARKHAM**

www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/pages/events/markham&view_mode=cards

Guests are invited to explore a variety of buildings throughout the City as they open their doors — for one day only — to visitors. *Doors Open Markham* provides a behind-the-scenes look at select buildings throughout Markham and free access to buildings that usually charge an admission fee.

**June 2025 | 10 am – 4 pm
LOYALIST TOWNSHIP**

www.loyalist.ca/en/explore-and-play/doors-open.aspx

Come and enjoy over 15 participating buildings — with everything from farm gate visits and intricately built churches to historical museums and sites. Pack a picnic lunch or stop by a local spot as you spend the day touring Loyalist Township. ■

Summer and Fall dates will be available in the Summer/Fall Festival 2025 Guide edition.



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