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National Drowning Prevention Week: July 19 to July 25 - Jul 10, 2026

The City, in collaboration with Lifesaving Society Canada, recognizes July 19 to July 25 as National Drowning Prevention Week. Community members are encouraged to prioritize water safety and educate themselves and their families about the potential risks.

Free events during National Drowning Prevention Week

The City will host a variety of free events during National Drowning Prevention Week to promote water safety, weather permitting. Events include:

A backyard pool safety information session at Camp Samac Outdoor Pool

Free 'Swim to Survive' demonstrations at various City pools: Learn how to survive an unexpected fall into deep water by rolling onto your back and treading water

Water safety information sessions at Lakeview Park Beach For event information, including dates and times, visit [Oshawa.ca/NDPW](#).

Lifejacket Loaner Program at Lakeview Park Beach

The City of Oshawa, in partnership with the Hamilton-Ontario Port Authority (HOPA), offers a Lifejacket Loaner Program at Lakeview Park Beach at no cost. Lifejackets are available to beachgoers from June 22 to September 7.

Beach safety guidelines: Check for beach closure at [Durham.ca/beaches](#) before visiting-Swim only in designated areas - Always swim while under supervision - Swim with a buddy

Becoming a Water Smart community

Most drownings are preventable in a Water Smart community. Educate yourself and others about water safety to enjoy water activities responsibly.

Supervise children around water at all times -Avoid consuming alcohol while participating in aquatic activities

Always wear a lifejacket while boating

For more information on Drowning Prevention: the Water Smart® Campaign, visit the Lifesaving Society's website at [lifesavingsociety.com](#).

Male Arrested After Attempting to Fraudulently Purchase Baby Formula

A male is facing charges after attempting to use fraudulent payment methods to purchase a quantity of baby formula and feminine hygiene products in Whitby.

On Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at approximately 10:20 p.m., members of Central West Division responded to a fraud call at the Real Canadian Superstore located at 200 Taunton Road West. Loss prevention staff reported a male suspect attempting to use fraudulent payment methods to purchase a quantity of baby formula, feminine hygiene products, and other goods. The suspect was also reported attempting to fraudulently purchase a quantity of the same items at the Real Canadian Superstore in Ajax earlier that day.

Officers arrived on scene and located the suspect who was taken into custody without incident. The suspect's vehicle was later located in the parking lot with two different licence plates affixed. A search of the suspect's vehicle located over \$5700 in baby formula and hygiene products, in addition to a replica handgun.

Aoqi XU, age 21 from Vaughan is charged with: Fraud Over \$5000, Unauthorized Use of Credit Card Data, and Possess Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5000.

Whitby's Home Sweet Home Festival

Whitby's Home Sweet Home Festival returns on Saturday, July 25, transforming Downtown Whitby into a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly celebration of all things local.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., this signature summer event will showcase the people, places, and experiences that make Whitby a great place to live, work, and explore.

Enjoy: Artisan Marketplace: Hosted by the Station Gallery, featuring local makers and creators.

Family Adventure Zone: Fun activities including a massive 300-foot zipline, face painting, and a trackless train for kids.

Local Eats and Treats: Outdoor dining patios, local restaurants, and the Whitby Farmers' Market. Entertainment: Cultural dance performances, live music, and roaming performers.

Getting There and Parking

To make your visit smooth and enjoyable, consider the following transportation option:

Free Shuttle Service

A free shuttle will run between the Henry Street Parking Lot and the festival, with drop-off at the Whitby Public Library (west side of the event site). Shuttles run every 10 minutes from 9:50 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.

Striving for a Plastic Free July

By Lorraine Roulston

The Plastic Free Foundation partners with the corporate, philanthropic and community sectors to help affect the behaviour change required to create a healthier environment. With the help of aligned partners, they aim to become world leaders striving to be free from plastic waste.

If, or when, we face a shortage of oil, will we begin to see plastic items prioritized? Less plastic toys, no inner plastic film on takeout coffee cups, and the gradual decreasing single-use food containers? It's an anti-plastic challenge for you to tackle! My plastic rant questions the following:

Why are 5 avocados in a plastic net bag cheaper than purchasing them loose?

Who decided that loose mushrooms should be in a single-use air tight container where they decompose quicker?

Why are children's birthday party loot bags still popular? Generally, they contain 30 seconds of enjoyment from a little plastic toy, wrapped individual candies, plastic stickers, and a couple of magic markers.

Will dental floss ever be PFC free? Most floss comes packaged in a plastic case. The floss is coated with Perfluorochemicals (PFCs) which is the non-stick coating found on teflon pans. Switch to a natural floss like silk

Why do some grocery shoppers place bananas or a melon into a small plastic bag?

Storing leftover food in glass jars or glass snap-ware containers is a healthier option than using plastic tubs. Want to phase out plastic wrap? One solution is reusable beeswax wrap, or simply scoop that bit of food in a bowl and refrigerate covered with a plate!

Soap bars are wrapped in paper or sold without packaging. Using a bar of soap that was handled by someone else is just one small way to strengthen your immune system. Will soap bars make a comeback?

When did Chiclets gum switch from a boxboard container to one that has each piece surrounded by a plastic bubble? Did you know that chewing gum contains plastic particles? A new study revealed that microplastics are being found in saliva.

How many women know that many menstrual products are made of plastic? Best to opt for organic cotton tampons or switch to reusable menstrual cups.

Can you say goodbye to your pink plastic razors? If so, swapping to a stainless steel safety razor with replaceable blades will last a lifetime, and save money.

Did you know that you can go without using shampoo for weeks once your hair is accustomed to not being shampooed every 3 days or so? Shampoo bars can replace plastic bottles. You can wash your hair with a tablespoon of baking soda in a cup of water. Test out the No Shampoo method.

Will board games ever come without little plastic markers? Players can find items around the house such as coins, buttons, and bread tabs to use instead.

Are you ready to take the July Plastic Free Challenge?

Thinking of Making a Move? Experience Counts!

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