

New Mural Unveiled in Downtown Whitby Honours Molly

Whitby's First Fire Safety Dog

A 60 ft wide by 28 feet tall building mural titled "Molly's Way" has been unveiled on the side of the new Brookfield Residential Station No. 3 Condominium in Downtown Whitby. The building is located at 201 Brock Street South – the former location of Fire Hall Station No. 3 – and is the largest development in Downtown Whitby in 30 years.

The artwork pays tribute to the building's history and Molly, a beloved and former

Fire Safety Education Dog who devoted her life to working with Whitby firefighters for 12 years to champion lifesaving safety education in the community. Over the years, Molly became a bridge between people of all walks of life, fostering understanding and creating opportunities for connection. Sadly, Molly passed away in March 2024.

The mural was commissioned by Brookfield Residential and is included as part of Whitby's Art Trail, further promoting

local art in the community. At Brookfield Residential, our commitment extends beyond building homes to enriching the cultural fabric of the communities we serve.

The story of Molly and Fire Hall Station No. 3 is a cherished part of Whitby's heritage, and supporting this mural on Station No. 3 reflects our dedication to honouring the past while looking toward the future. Molly's legacy embodies the spirit of community service, and we are proud to bring that spirit to life

through art. We hope this mural serves as a lasting symbol of connection, inspiration, and pride for all who call Whitby home.

- Marc Thibault, Senior Vice President, Brookfield Residential

'Molly's Way' beautifully captures the spirit of Downtown Whitby and the legacy of a remarkable dog who was loved by so many. I had the privilege of working with Molly and firefighter Terry Von Zuben for many years and seeing firsthand the impact

they had on our community. This mural, on the site of the former Fire Station No. 3, celebrates Molly's legacy while enhancing our downtown with public art that reflects Whitby's history.

- Elizabeth Roy, Mayor, Town of Whitby

I originally got Molly to assist me with public education. Over time Molly's role expanded, and I started to use her to demonstrate techniques kids can use in the event of a fire such as stop, drop and roll, crawling low

under smoke, and checking a door to see if it is hot.

- Terry Von Zuben, Retired Firefighter, Town of Whitby

Molly's Way is a vibrant celebration of Whitby's past, present, and future. The cheerful Dalmatian honors the history of the Whitby Fire Hall. The bright colours and playful swimming Dalmatian bring a youthful joy to Downtown Whitby, reflecting the area's lively spirit.

- Mural Artist, Meaghan Claire Kehoe

ONTARIO BUILDING MORE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS - AJAX

AJAX — The Ontario government is building over 1,300 new electric vehicle (EV) charging ports in small and medium-sized communities, marking a major milestone in the province's plan to increase access to EV chargers outside of large urban centres and support the electrification of transportation across the province.

As the province continues to see substantial job creation and investment in the growing EV and EV battery manufacturing

sector, these new charging stations will provide critical supporting infrastructure in communities across the province, including for EVs made right here in Ontario.

"With more than 201,000 electric vehicles on the road in Ontario, we're putting shovels in the ground to build more charging stations and make life easier for drivers," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification. "That includes a focus on smaller and under-

served communities across our province where we are providing more certainty for parents and workers during their commutes."

The new chargers are part of the government's \$63 million investment to build publicly accessible charging stations in communities with less than 170,000 people, as well as in any Indigenous community in Ontario. The chargers will be located at 270 sites across the province, such as arenas, hos-

pitals, parks and recreation centres. This includes 190 charging ports in northern Ontario, providing drivers across the north with more options when travelling.

"Improving EV charging infrastructure is essential to ensuring drivers are confident in electric vehicles," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "By focusing on smaller and medium-sized communities, we're filling gaps in underserved areas to build a more connected charging network for everyone in Ontario." Each new EV charging site will include Level 2 charging stations, Level 3 charging stations, or a combination of the two.

In addition, the government has also launched a new Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Price Plan and is exploring options for an Electric Vehicle Charger Discount Electricity Rate to further support EV adoption and reduce emissions.

The new Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Price Plan is helping customers who use more electricity at night, including those who charge their electric vehicle, save up to \$90 per year.

"Having attracted \$45 billion in new electric vehicle and EV battery investments over the last four years, our government is delivering on a plan to build a fully integrated end-to-end EV supply chain in Ontario" said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "By expanding access to charging infrastructure beyond urban centres, we're ensuring workers and families across the province can feel confident in their adoption of EVs."

The government is investing a total of \$91 million through the EV ChargeON program which consists of two streams: the Community Sites Stream and the Government Sites Stream. Requests for bids for the Government Sites Stream closed in September 2024.

Businesses, not-for-profit corporations, municipalities, Indigenous communities and organizations, and broader public sector organizations (such as hospitals, universities, and colleges) were invited to submit funding applications for the Community Sites Stream.

As of October 2024, there were more than 201,000 EVs registered in Ontario, including both battery-electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. By 2030, over one million EVs are expected on Ontario's roads.

This initiative builds on Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector, a government plan that includes measures aimed to encourage EV uptake across Ontario.



Lisa Robinson
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Through the Age Well at Home (AWAH) initiative, WMRCC of Durham is delivery volunteer-based, eligible practical support services to help low-income and otherwise vulnerable seniors from diverse backgrounds age well at home. WMRCC will expand the delivery of services, primarily in the seniors' homes in the local communities of the Durham Region.

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