

DRPS Launches Project Atlantis II and Unveils New UTV to Support Downtown Safety in Oshawa

OSHAWA - The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS), in partnership with the City of Oshawa, Municipal By-law Enforcement, and Oshawa Corporate Security, formally launched Project Atlantis II, a coordinated and proactive community safety initiative focused on downtown Oshawa.

Led by DRPS' Community Response Unit (CRU), Project Atlantis II takes a phased and balanced approach to community safety through education, engagement, visibility, and enforcement, while strength-

ening collaboration between police, municipal partners, and security services.

Phase One of the initiative will focus on education and awareness, with officers and community partners engaging with residents, businesses, and service providers to promote safety, compliance, and appropriate use of public spaces.

In addition to officers on bicycles deployed as part of Project Atlantis II, DRPS also unveiled a new utility terrain vehicle (UTV) to support officers working in the downtown core. The UTV

will enhance officer visibility and allow police to more quickly access multi-use paths, green spaces, and parks, improving mobility and response in areas not easily reached by traditional patrol vehicles.

While this initiative represents the fifth consecutive year of focused downtown safety efforts in Oshawa, 2026 marks the second year operating under the Project Atlantis framework, building on lessons learned and established partnerships from previous years. Superintendent James Lamothe of Central East



Division, provided remarks at the launch, highlighting the importance of collaboration, visibility, and flexibility in addressing safety concerns within the downtown

core. Project Atlantis II will continue through the summer months, with DRPS and its partners working closely with businesses, residents,

and community organizations to address safety concerns while promoting a welcoming and inclusive downtown Oshawa.

Supporting Cultural Tourism in Durham Region \$35,000 investment

AJAX - The Ontario government is supporting the growth and sustainability of cultural tourism, creating

jobs and boosting the local economy in the Region of Durham. Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby

announced that BMK Events & Promotions Inc. will receive \$35,000 in funding through the Ontario Arts

Council* (OAC) and the Ontario Creates (OC) programs.

"This investment is great news for Durham Region and our local tourism sector. By supporting initiatives like Durham SummerFest 2026, our government is helping to showcase the diverse culture and talent that make our communities so vibrant," said.

Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby. "Events like this not only bring people together, but also support local businesses, create jobs, and strengthen our regional economy.

I want to congratulate Bilal Khan and BMK Events & Promotions Inc. on this funding and look forward to the continued success of this exciting event."

The Ontario government, through the OAC and OC, is supporting Bilal Khan, and BMK Events to develop, promote and present Durham SummerFest 2026; taking place August 22nd and 23rd at Ajax Downs.

"Arts and culture organizations across Ontario enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike by providing one-of-a-kind events that proudly showcase the best that our province has to offer," said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "The investments will help to bring these wonderful projects to life, while boosting local business, creating jobs and enabling audiences of all ages to experience unique, made-in-Ontario programming that will create lifelong

memories."The funding is part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by supporting workers, businesses, communities and jobs in the face of ongoing economic uncertainty, while creating a solid foundation for a strong, resilient and competitive future.

• Ontario is investing in 22 arts organizations and nine individual artists through the Music Production and Presentation Projects program.

• The Ontario Arts Council

(OAC), an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, provides grants to Ontario-based individual artists and arts professionals, ad hoc groups, collectives and organizations, supporting a range of arts activities and disciplines.

• In 2024-25, OAC invested \$52.2 million in 204 communities across 123 Ontario ridings, providing 1,969 grants to individual artists and 1,030 grants to organizations.

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