

\$182,200 OTF Grant from the Province Enabled Big Brothers Big Sisters to Complete Accessibility Renovations

Port Perry, ON — Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham and the Scout Hall Restoration Committee is pleased to share that the essential renovations that have been happening at the hall are now done, thanks to receiving a \$182,200 Capital grant last year from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The grant, formally announced last year by Durham MPP Todd McCarthy, enabled the renovations to move forward. "Our Ontario government

believes that organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham enrich the lives of residents in our communities and play an important role in mentoring and inspiring the youth who will benefit from these crucial upgrades," said the Hon. Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham. "These necessary renovations of the Scout Hall in Port Perry now make the facility safer and more accessible for even more residents to enjoy and enable community organizations like Big Brothers Big

Sisters or North Durham to expand programs and services to more people."

The upgrades reflect the organization's shared commitment to creating a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive space for all who use the facility. Renovations, which began in October 2024, include: a new ramp and stairs, upgraded flooring, new windows and automated doors, outdoor security cameras, a picnic shelter, new fencing, new walkways and paths throughout

the property. "We're thrilled to unveil our refreshed space," said Margaret Ayres, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham. "Thanks to support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Scout Hall is now safer, more accessible, and better equipped to serve our community."

Over the 12-month grant period, accessibility improvements were prioritized. A wheelchair-accessible ramp and doors were installed, the back walkway

was widened, retaining walls were repaired, and windows were replaced. A new fence and outdoor cameras enhance safety, while a new gazebo provides a welcoming outdoor gathering area. The results will also benefit all the community groups that share the hall, including 1st Port Perry Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham, and other local organizations, by funding essential building repairs and upgrades.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$105M into 732 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment.





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FREE PARKING - HURRAY

OSHAWA - Oshawa was the first municipality to announce FREE holiday parking along city streets. The Bowmanville parking meter covered with a bag was launched.

Shop local this holiday season and park for free in beautiful historic downtown Bowmanville.

The parking meters have been turned off for December, and the paid parking lots offer free courtesy parking, allowing shoppers easy access to local

stores and restaurants. The exception is the King Street lot, which continues to have a two-hour maximum.

Winter parking reminders

No parking is allowed on the street during a snow event at any time of day or night, even with a parking permit.

In order to help us clear the roads more effectively, please assist us by following Clarington's by-law regarding vehicle operation. The by-law is applicable year-

round.

Do not park on the road between the hours of 3 and 5 a.m., or for a period of longer than three hours.

Do not push, plow or blow snow onto the road

During late winter and early spring, follow weight restriction guidelines

Oshawa Winter parking takes effect on December 1

Changes to on street parking for the winter season will be in effect from Monday, December 1, through to

April 1.

Reminders to community members:

On street parking is not permitted on Oshawa streets between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., from December 1 to April 1. Vehicles can be ticketed and/or towed during that time, regardless of snow clearing operations or weather conditions.

Vehicles parked on Oshawa streets at any time while salting/snow clearing operations are underway,

may be ticketed and/or towed, regardless of whether it occurs before December 1 or after April 1

Occasional Use Parking Permits (O.U.P.P.'s) are not valid during salting/snow clearing operations, and all previously arranged O.U.P.P.'s are suspended during salting/snow clearing operations.

Remember to lock your car and make sure you are not violating any of the thousands of downtown by-laws. Just because the space is

free. You may be in violation of an array of bylaws.

Make sure that if you are a downtown merchant. Keep your walk ways clear of snow and ice.

The City at one time use to clear snow along the core as part of it's community involvement.

The program has since stopped and now any local downtown business may be facing fines and or harassment from a bylaw officer.