



Hon. Todd McCarthy as Grand Marshal for 38th Parade

Durham - St. Patrick's Toronto Announces Hon. Todd McCarthy as Grand Marshal for 38th Parade Season.

Founded in 1988, the St. Patrick's Parade Society of Toronto has grown into the world's most diverse St. Patrick's celebration. Governed by an elected volunteer committee, we operate year-round without municipal or federal funding, fueled by passion and community support.

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ontario's Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Member of Provincial Parliament for Durham, named Grand Marshal for Toronto's 2026 St. Patrick's season. St. Patrick's season kicks off February 12 with the Emerald Forum Leadership Luncheon. "Everyone's Irish" as Toronto's 38th Annual St. Patrick's Parade returns Sunday in March.

Minister McCarthy will serve as Grand Marshal for Toronto's 2026 St. Patrick's season, which brings together the Toronto community along with government, business, labour, media, and community leaders in a shared celebration of Irish heritage, civic pride, and family values. Each year, the St. Patrick's season unites Torontonians of

all backgrounds through a series of civic and cultural events that reflect the city's diversity, values, and sense of belonging - culminating in one or the most inclusive St. Patrick's parades in the world.

The 2026 St. Patrick's season officially begins with the Emerald Forum Leadership Luncheon on Thursday, February 12, welcoming leaders from government, industry, labour, and the broader business community. The Emerald Forum serves as the flagship civic event of the season, offering a non-partisan setting for dialogue, leadership, and connection at the start of Toronto's St. Patrick's celebrations. For details on tickets or sponsorship please contact info@stpatrickstoronto.com.

Grand Marshal: Hon. Todd McCarthy As Grand Marshal, Minister McCarthy will lead the 2026 Parade season, participating in key St. Patrick's events throughout Toronto. Minister McCarthy brings a strong record of public service and community leadership to the role. As Ontario's Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and MPP for Durham, he has championed environmental stewardship, economic growth, and civic engagement

- values that align closely with the spirit of St. Patrick's in Toronto.

Toronto's St. Patrick's Parade - Sunday, March 15, 2026 Toronto's 38th Annual St. Patrick's Parade will take place on Sunday, March 15, 2026, welcoming families, community groups, performers, and spectators from across the city and beyond.

Minister McCarthy stated: "It is an honour of a lifetime to be named as the Grand Marshal for the 38th Toronto St. Patrick's Day parade. As a proud Irish Canadian, I am embracing my roots, and I ask you to join me in celebrating the spirit of Ireland along with those who enthusiastically become Irish for the day. St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick's Day is a reminder of heritage, resilience, and the joy of coming together. Whether you have Irish roots or wish to be Irish for a day, this celebration belongs to all of us. As we enjoy the festivities, the music, the food and the camaraderie of friends, enjoy the day and let us all be thankful of the great country and community which we all call home."

Often described as "Everyone's Irish," the Parade is a joyful and inclusive celebration reflecting Toronto's

Community Safety Alert for High-Risk Offender

OSHAWA - The man that has brought great controversy and debate is Darren Scott RAY. He was released on a 72-hour Unescorted Temporary Absence Permit (UTA) that expired March 5th. RAY is currently serving a life sentence for first degree murder and is residing in Oshawa.

Ray was convicted back in 1987 in the rape and murder of 14-year-old Darren Pepin. The then 26 year old received an automatic sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

The Toronto Star reported at the time that court heard Ray tortured and raped Pepin before killing him and throwing the Scarborough high school student's body away in the garbage room of his high-rise building.

Now, nearly 40 years after his conviction, Ray is being granted temporary unescorted absences from prison as part of his parole process.

At the end of the 72 hours, Ray was required to immediately report to a correctional facility. The parole board will then assess whether he is eligible for further temporary releases going forward.

This process will continue down the line until either they're deemed to be a low risk or they are required to remain indefinitely inside a facility.

Durham Regional Police Service Warned the public about a high-risk offender who has been released into the community. This individual has a history of serious criminal convictions including first degree murder.

Darren Scott RAY, age 65, poses a significant risk to the community. He is described as male, Indigenous, 5'9" tall, 199 lbs, average build. He is bald and wears glasses.

The Durham Regional Police Service will continue to monitor RAY's whereabouts and activities. Darren Scott RAY release is part of the parole process.

His release sent a shock wave across the region as his crime is still felt by the community at large.

This compounded with the fact that it involved a minor. People called for tougher reform laws.

Many worried that by releasing of such a hideous criminal back to the community.

That he may re offend. People from all over the region demanded answers and fueled all kinds of debates both online and at public gatherings.

Crimes against under age people is not something that is taken lightly by society.

Many across the region demanded that the parole board cancel the release of this individual back in to Oshawa.

Parole board now must decide his fate.



multicultural fabric while honouring Irish history, culture, and tradition.

Parade Details Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026

Start Time: 12:00 PM (Noon) Route: Begins at St. George Street and Bloor Street West, proceeding south through downtown Toronto

Admission: Free and open to the public

For more details on participating or attending, please visit www.StPatricksToronto.com.

About the St. Patrick's Parade Society

The St. Patrick's Parade Society is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating Irish heritage, fostering community connection, and delivering inclusive cultural events for the city of Toronto.



Here is how to reach us

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