



STORY BANK IDEAS

WINTER HOLIDAYS 2025

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Here in Oakville, we have so many stories to share that reflect the diversity, passion, and heritage of those who do and have called this place home, past, present, and future. We're proud of our charming community, its vibrant neighbourhoods, restorative green spaces, passionate and friendly locals, bustling arts and culture scene, and world-class recreation opportunities. If you're looking for storytelling inspiration, the ideas below are a good place to start. Of course, we invite you to visit us in person to experience first-hand all we have to offer and follow your storytelling inspiration wherever it leads you. Have questions? Get in touch!



Rich History, Heritage, Arts, and Culture

Did you know that Oakville served as a major gateway to Canada for those fleeing slavery using the Underground Railway?



The Inspiring People that make Oakville, Oakville.

Oakville has produced top athletic talent from Olympic gold medalists to grand prix winning race car drivers, to professional coaches/officials.



A City of Festivals and Events

One of the largest events in Oakville each year, we host our annual Taste of Oakville festival every year.



Rich History, Heritage, Arts, and Culture



Did You Know?

Did you know that Oakville served as a major gateway to Canada for those fleeing slavery using the Underground Railway? Many first entered Canada through Oakville, usually by boat or on foot, and the legacy of their contributions to our community endure. Learn more about Oakville's black history [here](#) or try a [self-guided](#) black history tour of Oakville!

Additional Information

History

Oakville is located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, whose ancestors arrived in this area towards the end of the 17th Century and left a mark on this place that endures today. Learn more about the rich culture and heritage of the Mississaugas, known as “people of the water” for their strong connection to and understanding of the area’s lakes, rivers, and water sources. Explore interpretive Treaty signage throughout Oakville that explains this land and follow the posted QR codes to learn more about the [Debwewin Project](#), a partnership between the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Oakville Community Foundation to further a shared understanding of Oakville’s Indigenous past and support local Truth & Reconciliation.

Upcoming Events & Exhibits

- Looking to get out of the cold and enjoy a top performance? The Oakville Performing Arts Centre has an amazing line up of shows this holiday season to enjoy including: [The Nutcracker](#) (November 28-30), [The Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show](#), [Oakville Symphony Family Holiday Concert](#), [Snow White & The Secret Vault: A Holiday Pantomime](#) (December 19-28), and more.
- Running until February 7, 2026, check out Oakville Galleries’ newest exhibit “[Hugo Canoilas: Hold Your Breath](#)” at Centennial Square. The exhibition presents an enormous, amorphous painting covering the entire Centennial Gallery space and is Canoilas’ first solo exhibition in Canada. The Oakville Galleries also has an exhibit on at Gairloch Gardens by Andreia Santana: [A Door Handle, A Handshake](#) which was developed during her residency at the Gallery and features a new series of sculptures that engage directly with the gallery architecture and its surrounding environment.



The Inspiring People that make Oakville, Oakville.



Did You Know?

Oakville has produced top athletic talent from Olympic gold medalists (like Brianne Jenner and Larry Cain) to grand prix winning race car drivers (like James Hinchcliffe), to professional coaches/officials. We are frequently honoured to host top-tier athletic events like the 2024 [Centennial Cup](#), there is always something going on sports-wise in Oakville to discover. Learn more about our top-tier recreation and sports facilities and events [here](#).

Additional Information

Local Business

Our local business owners are passionate and engaged with their community. Come on by to learn more about their love for Oakville and enjoy the creative energy of their businesses. From [restaurants](#) serving up everything from dim sum to charcuterie, cute and quirky [boutiques and shops](#), and thrilling attractions for [entertainment and leisure](#), our enthusiastic business owners have you covered for more than a few days of merriment.

Culinary Delights

Oakville's culinary scene is truly outstanding, with [Hexagon restaurant](#) recently awarded a coveted [MICHELIN star](#) for a second year in a row. Sister restaurant [7 Enoteca](#) also received a nod from MICHELIN with a [Bib Gourmand](#) designation. Chef Victoria Rinsma from Hexagon Restaurant has been named the Canadian regional winner of the S. Pellegrino Young Chef Academy Competition 2024-25 with her signature dish, "Across the Sea and Home Again."



2024 Centennial Cup



Kerr Village



Hexagon Restaurant

For photos available for download click [here](#).



A Town of Festivals and Events



Did You Know?

The holidays are an incredible time to visit Oakville, with the town's stunning lights, festive downtown charm, and vibrant seasonal events. We've curated a list of amazing happenings this holiday season. Read it [here](#).

Additional information

Upcoming Events

- If you happen to be in town for any of the Business Improvement Area's tree lighting ceremonies, you're in for a treat! With music and maybe even Santa, these events are fun for the whole family. Catch downtown Oakville's [Light up the Night](#) on November 14. [At Home in Bronte for the Holidays](#) on November 22 and the [31st Annual Kerr Village Tree Lighting and Holiday Market](#) on November 29.
- On until February, one of the most popular events of the season is the [Holiday Lights by the Lake](#). This family friendly event features more than 90 trees decked in 130,000 lights, paths illuminated by 100 light displays and 13 spotlight and laser displays, the park will be transformed into an unmissable winter destination!
- Visit Oakville hosts our annual [Taste of Oakville](#) festival running February 19 – March 15, 2026 featuring over 50 fantastic restaurants, all offering a unique prix fixe menu to the culinary curious. Many of our participating restaurants also offer live music events. For information on Taste of Oakville 2026, visit our dedicated website [here](#).



[Light Up the Night](#)



[Holiday Lights by the Lake](#)



[Flavour Fox](#)

Click each photo to open a high-res version.
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