



VISIT
OAKVILLE



STORY BANK IDEAS

WINTER 2026

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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 lineup of shows this winter to enjoy including: [Sam Roberts Band](#) (February 6), [Bedouin Soundclash](#) (March 13), [We love Beethoven](#) by the Oakville Chamber Orchestra (March 21), West End Studio Theatre’s [God of Carnage](#) (March 26-29), 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."

Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Oakville has a rich history of Blacks in the community both early settlement and contemporary. [The Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton \(CCAHA\)](#) has and continues to work with historians and entrepreneurs to ensure that this history is not forgotten. Check out the numerous events that will happen throughout the month [here](#).

Recent Award Winners

[Ce Soir Brasserie + Bar](#) in downtown Oakville won our recent Talk of the Town Award for Best Mocktail. Check them out [here](#).



A Town of Festivals and Events



Did You Know?

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. New this year, we're excited to introduce our first-ever outdoor Dining Domes at two restaurants, The King's Arms and 7 Enoteca – offering guests a cozy, immersive, winter dining experience. For information on Taste of Oakville 2026, visit our dedicated website [here](#).

Additional information

Upcoming Events

- Bronte Creek Provincial Park will have its annual [Maple Syrup Festival](#) in March. Plan to enjoy two to three hours exploring and enjoy a guided tour of maple lane where you will see the progression of techniques used to boil maple sap into syrup. Join a maple show, visit the farm animals, take a wagon ride to the pancake house, and so much more! Festival runs March 1, 7, 8, 14-22, 28, 29 from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm



Taste of Oakville



Bronte Creek Provincial Park



Maple Syrup Festival

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