

Fall 2025

EVENTS

OSHAWA
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES

September | October | November



(905) 579-6111 | oshawalibrary.ca



Message From the CEO

Are libraries good investments of tax dollars? How do we demonstrate the value of a service that is offered at little to no charge? Return on investment for businesses is measured by revenue or profits, but the value of public libraries, is not so easily measured. After all, libraries are meant to save people money, not to make money.

Public libraries in Ontario are primarily funded by municipal tax dollars so Ontario Library Service and the NORDIK Institute created a formula to calculate libraries social return on investment. Simply put, Social Return on Investment (SROI) calculations take something that is offered at no charge and applies a dollar value to it. It's a way to represent the value of an organization by calculating dollar estimates for the benefits that are created by goods, programs, or services.

Libraries provide critical social infrastructure by creating community benefits in education, culture, inclusion and well-being, entertainment and leisure, economic development, civic engagement, and spaces. Using annual statistics, we have determined that **for every municipal dollar invested in Oshawa Public Libraries, the social return on investment is \$5.48.**

The numbers tell an important story, but the real impact happens when a struggling reader gets help through our Reading Buddies program, or an unemployed person lands a job after taking online courses through LinkedIn Learning to improve their skills. The list goes on and on...

For more information, visit oshawalibrary.ca/social-return-on-investment

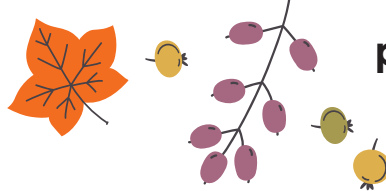
See you at the Library!

Frances

Frances Newman
CEO Oshawa Public Libraries



In Every Issue



programs for adults

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One-on-One Tech Help

For an appointment call (905) 579-6111:
McLaughlin ext. 5200 | Delpark ext. 5800
Northview ext. 5871 | Jess Hann ext. 5861

French Conversation Circle / Drop-in

Delpark / Wed / 6-7 pm

Meditation Group

Northview / Thu / 6:30-7:30 pm

Toastmasters / Tue / 12-1 pm

McLaughlin / Zoom / Sep 2 / Oct 7 / Nov 4

English Conversation Circle

McLaughlin / Mon / 3-4 pm / Sep 22-Nov 24

Local History Speaker Series / Tue / 6-7 pm

Northview / Sep 16 / Oct 21 / Nov 18

Genealogy Club / Wed / 2-3:30 pm

McLaughlin / Oct 15 / Nov 19

Lunchtime Book Club / Thu / 1-2 pm

McLaughlin / Sep 18 / Oct 16 / Nov 20

Ladies Social for Newcomers / Thu / 5:30-7:30 pm

McLaughlin / Sep 18 / Oct 16 / Nov 20

Eyes Forward Audiobook Club / Wed / 2-3:30 pm

Northview / Zoom / Sep 24 / Oct 29 / Nov 26

Creative Aging: Books and Ideas / 2-3 pm

Zoom / Sep 23 / Oct 30 / Nov 27

Spooky Paint-Along / Drop-in

Delpark / Tue / Oct 28 / 2-3:30 pm

Repair Café

Northview / Sat / Nov 1 / 1-4 pm

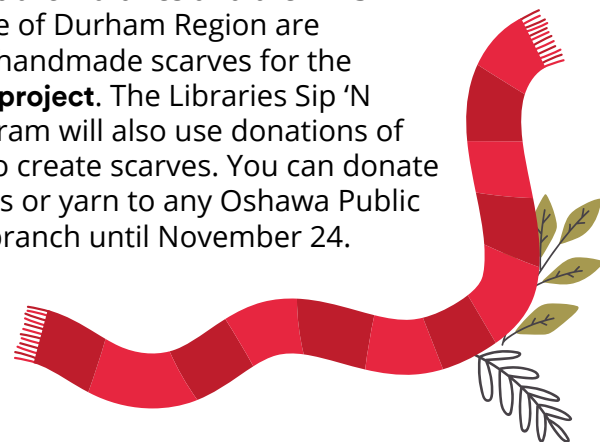
#LoveYourLibrary Reading Challenge / Oct 1-31

Celebrate Canadian Library Month by exploring diverse genres and stories that showcase Canada's cultural richness. You could win a book bundle! Register by creating an account at oshlib.readsquared.com or on the READsquared app.

Ontario Public Library Week: October 19-25

Drop by all week to check out our fun displays, activities, and book draws.

Oshawa Public Libraries and the AIDS Committee of Durham Region are collecting handmade scarves for the **Red Scarf project**. The Libraries Sip 'N Stich program will also use donations of red yarn to create scarves. You can donate red scarves or yarn to any Oshawa Public Libraries branch until November 24.



Volunteers are needed to assist with tax returns for the 2025 filing season. Your support will help community members navigate tax filing and receive the benefits they deserve. No experience is needed—the Canada Revenue Agency will provide training.

Contact Jen Clark: (905) 579-6111 ext. 5260
or jclark@oshawalibrary.on.ca

Unless marked as drop-in, register at oshawalibrary.ca/signup

All Delpark Branch programs are drop-in. Be advised, space and supplies are limited.

Select McLaughlin Branch programs may be postponed or relocated due to ongoing construction. Visit our website regularly for the latest updates.

Fall Programs

programs for adults

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Seniors Art Contest Exhibition **The Robert McLaughlin Gallery**

Fri / Aug 15 to Thu / Sep 25

View the participant's works of art on display.

The Annual Writing Competition for Seniors

We are now accepting creative writing submissions inspired by the theme *Adventure*. We look forward to reading your stories! The submission deadline is September 22. Find out the winners at the Tell Tale Tea. For more information, visit oshawalibrary.ca.

Sip n' Stitch / 6-7 pm

Northview / Wed / Sep 3 / Oct 1 / Nov 12

Grab your favourite hot beverage and bring your fibre crafts to work on while you sip and chat.

Introduction to the Envoy Connect Player **McLaughlin / Sat / Sep 6 / 2:30-3:30 pm**

Learn about the Envoy Connect audiobook player and CELA's accessible reading services.

Beating an AI Wizard:

Can You Get AI to Tell You the Secret Password?

Northview / Tue / Sep 9 / 6-7:30 pm

In this session, get hands on with the Gandalf chat game, where the aim is to get Gandalf to tell you a series of passwords, a challenge with increasing difficulty as you move through the levels. Explore the concept of prompt engineering and the effectiveness of AI guardrails in ensuring safety. Presented by Ontario Tech University.

Author Talk: Michelle Good

Zoom / Tue / Sep 9 / 7-8 pm

Join us for a conversation with Michelle Good, award-winning author of *Five Little Indians* and member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation. She will read from her latest work, *Truth Telling: Seven Conversations about Indigenous Life in Canada*, and discuss her journey as a writer. This event is presented with the Public Libraries of York and Durham Region.

Newcomer Women's Leadership

Northview / Wed / Oct 1 / 10 am-12 pm

Build your confidence, leadership skills, and support network in Canada! Learn about public speaking, self-advocacy, and your rights, while connecting with other women in Durham Region.

Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hub

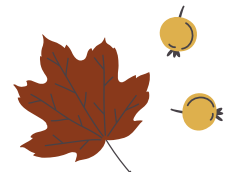
Northview / Tue / Oct 7 / 1-6 pm

Eligible children can receive up to \$2,000 from the Canadian government, deposited into a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) to help pay for education after high school. RESP providers will be on site to help families open RESPs and apply for the Canada Learning Bond. Service Canada will be present to assist with issuing Social Insurance Numbers on site. Birth Certificate application support will be available. Visit Durham.ca/MobileBenefitsHub to learn more about the Canada Learning Bond and what to bring to the event.

Rhythm & Roots: A Garba Dance Workshop

Northview / Sat / Oct 11 / 2-3:30 pm

Join us for a fun Garba dance workshop with Darshini of ViBeat Dance! This vibrant folk dance from Gujarat, India, is open to everyone—regardless of age or experience. Celebrate Culture Days through dance and enjoy a sense of joy and togetherness!



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programs for adults

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Tell Tale Tea – Seniors Writing Competition

OSCC, John Street Branch

Wed / Oct 22 / 2-3:30 pm

Enjoy an afternoon of tea and stories read by the Seniors Writing Competition winners. Light refreshments will be served. Allergy alert.

Interview with an Author: Bianca Marais

McLaughlin / Thu / Oct 23 / 6-7 pm

Bianca Marais is the bestselling author of *The Witches of Moonshyne Manor*, *Hum If You Don't Know the Words*, and *If You Want to Make God Laugh*. Learn about Bianca's new book, *A Most Puzzling Murder*, and her writing process in this interview-style program led by author Gwen Tuinman.

Tarot Talk

Delpark / Thu / Oct 30 / 6-7 pm

Join Vannessa Williams, founder of Beyond Your Sun Sign, for a beginner-friendly introduction to Tarot. Learn the basics of understanding cards, reading simple spreads, and trusting your intuition. No prior knowledge required. Please bring your own Tarot deck to participate.

Climate Action Week: November 1-7

Enjoy special displays and activities throughout the week focused on promoting climate action.

Auto Tips with OMVIC

Zoom / Tue / Nov 4 / 6-7 pm

Make smart decisions when buying or leasing your next car. Get helpful tips about spotting tricky ads and avoiding fraud, understanding car loans and agreements, and the OMVIC compensation fund. Presented in partnership with the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC), the regulator of motor vehicle sales in Ontario.

AI Prompts to Give You What You Really Need

Northview / Mon / Nov 10 / 6-7:30 pm

Join this hands-on session to learn how to create effective prompts that lead to useful AI responses. Gain actionable insights to make AI tools work for you. Presented by Ontario Tech University.

Stay Safe Online!

Delpark / Tue / Nov 11 / 2-3:30 pm

Learn essential tips for online safety, including spotting red flags and phishing scams. No tech skills needed—bring your devices! In partnership with Ontario Tech University's Networking and IT Security Society.

Bright & Merry Market

McLaughlin / Fri / Nov 14 / 5-9 pm

Have a holly, jolly time at the Bright and Merry Market! Starting at 6 pm, warm up at the Library with fun activities and live music from the Bruce Gorrie Trio. In collaboration with the City of Oshawa, Oshawa Senior Community Centres, and The Robert McLaughlin Gallery. For more information and updates, visit oshawa.ca

Book Trivia Night: Movie Adaptations

Delpark / Tue / Nov 25 / 6:30-7:30 pm

Put your knowledge of book-to-movie adaptations to the test! Join forces with friends or compete solo for the chance to win bragging rights. Refreshments provided.

Create with Cricut®: Holiday Ornaments

McLaughlin / Thu / Nov 27 / 5:30-7:30 pm

Create a personalized holiday ornament to display in your home or gift to a loved one. All materials provided.



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Fall Programs

programs for teens

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Grab & Go Bags / Ages 12-18

Registration opens Saturday / Sep 13

Grab a bag full of Library items, a fun activity, and other freebies! Reserve yours while supplies last. An OPL TAG initiative.

Teen Discord / Ages 13-18

Join the Teen Discord Server, your cozy internet corner for chatting and chilling with like-minded teens! Whether you are into gaming, reading, art, cute cat pics, or want to chat about your day, this is the place for you! Check-in regularly for exclusive giveaways.

OPL Teen Advisory Group / Ages 13-18 / 6-8 pm

McLaughlin / Thu / Oct 9 / Nov 13

Delpark / Mon / Sep 29 / Oct 27 / Nov 24

Earn community service hours when you attend TAG meetings and have your say in what happens for teens at OPL.

Discord Gaming Night / Ages 13-18

Teen Discord Server / Thu / Sep 25 / 6:30-7:30 pm

Join us on the Teen Discord Server for an evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and group games in voice chat!

Spooky Smash Book Journaling / Ages 13-18

Delpark / Mon / Oct 20 / 6-7:30 pm

Get spooky with us and create personalized smash book journals using eerie supplies. Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own supplies as well.

Zombie Dolls / Ages 13-18 / 6-7 pm

Jess Hann / Wed / Oct 22

Northview / Wed / Oct 29

Bring eerie zombies to life by crafting your undead doll. All materials provided.

DIY Pusheen Workshop / Ages 13-18

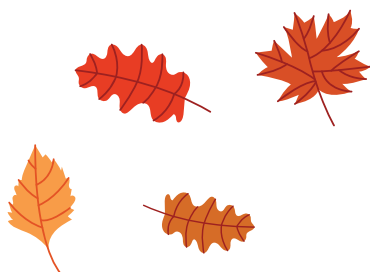
McLaughlin / Sat / Nov 22 / 2-4 pm

Kick off the holiday season with a fun workshop to learn basic embroidery and create your favourite chubby cat in plushie form. All materials provided.

Creative Writing Circle / Ages 13-18

Teen Discord Server / Wed / Nov 26 / 6-7:30 pm

Connect with fellow writers and share your works in progress! This session will feature a themed activity to spark creativity and writing sprints to boost productivity.



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In Every Issue



Bouncing Babies / Drop-in

Northview / 9:45-10:15 am / Mon
Delpark / 10:15-10:45 am / Wed / Fri

Family Story Time / 10:15-10:45 am / Drop-in

Delpark / Mon | Jess Hann / Mon / Wed
Northview / Thu | McLaughlin / Sat

*Bedtime Bash / 6:15-7 pm / Drop-in

McLaughlin / Wed / Oct 8 / Nov 12

Family Music and Movement with EarlyON

10-10:45 am / Drop-in

Northview / Sat / Sep 6 / Oct 4 / Nov 1
Jess Hann / Tue / Sep 9-Nov 25

*Kinder-Garden / Ages 3-5 / Wed / 11-11:45 am

McLaughlin / Sep 24-Nov 19

*Creation Station / Ages 5-9 / 4-4:45 pm

Northview / Mon / Sep 15-Nov 17
OR Thu / Sep 18-Nov 20

*Coding Club / Ages 9-12 / 4-4:45 pm

Jess Hann / Wed / Sep 17 / Oct 15 / Nov 12

*STEAM After School / Ages 5-9 / 4-4:45 pm

Jess Hann / Wed / Sep 10, 24 / Oct 8, 22 / Nov 5, 19

*Tween Scene / Ages 9-12 / Wed / 6-7 pm / Drop-in

Northview / Sep 10, 24 / Oct 8, 22 / Nov 5, 19

Home School Club

McLaughlin / Wed / 1:30-2:30 pm

Oct 15 / Check It Off: Fall Family Library Fun

Nov 19 / How-to-in-Ten Festival

Neighbourhood Play Date / Ages 0-5

Jess Hann / Thu / 10-10:45 am
Sep 18 / Oct 16 / Nov 20

Reading Buddies / Ages 5-10 / Thu / 4-6 pm

Zoom / Sep 18-Nov 20

Math Buddies / Grades 1-3 / Tue / 5-7 pm

McLaughlin / Oct 7-Nov 18

*STEAM Saturday / Sat / 2-4 pm / Drop-in

Delpark / Sep 13 / Oct 11 / Nov 8
McLaughlin / Sep 27 / Nov 29

Ontario Tech Workshops / Sat / 10 am-12 pm

Northview

Sep 20 / STEM / Grades 1-4
Nov 15 / STEM / Grades 5-8

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Help your little one develop a love of reading and the early literacy skills needed for success.

One book a night = 1000 books in 3 years!
Three books a night = 1000 books in 1 year!

Visit oshlib.readsquared.com or any branch to start your reading journey!
(oshawalibrary.ca/1000-books)

Page-by-Page Reading Quest / Ages 5-10

Sep 2025-May 2026

Your quest is to read as many books as possible during the school year. Join a community of readers, track your progress, and celebrate milestones. Check in each month for a new fun theme. Visit oshlib.readsquared.com or any branch to get started!



Borrow a Sensory Support Kit

Developed by Autism Canada, Sensory Support Kits are designed to help those on the Autism Spectrum self-regulate and remain calm when experiencing stress. The kits contain various tactile and sensory items that can comfort autistic and neurodivergent customers.

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Fall Programs



Rabbit and Bear Paws – The Way / Family Northview / Sat / Sep 6 / 2-3 pm

Presented by Rabbit and Bear Paws, this interactive puppet theatre retells the story of how the Turtle carries our world on her back and how the tiny muskrat succeeds in giving us the greatest gift of all, a place to call home, Turtle Island. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

***Family Maker Magic / 6-7:30 pm / Drop-in / Family McLaughlin / Wed / Oct 15 / Nov 19**

Play, create, and explore in our Maker Space with STEM equipment like Snap Circuits, Machines in Motion, 3D pens, robots, and more.

Mythical Story Time: Dragons / Ages 5-9 Delpark / Sat / Sep 20 / 2:30-3:30 pm

Come on a magical dragon adventure! Discover fun facts, hear a fiery tale about a taco-loving dragon, and make a dragon friend.

Community Champions Story Time / Family

Meet a new community helper each month through engaging stories and hands-on activities and discover how they support our community.

Northview / Sat / Sep 27 / 11 am-12 pm

Celebrate Culture Days with LivingRoom
Community Art Studio

Jess Hann / Sat / Oct 4 / 2-3 pm

Oshawa Fire Services

McLaughlin / Sat / Nov 15 / 2-3 pm

Canadian Tank Museum

Leafy Creatures and Autumn Adventures / Family Northview / Tue / Sep 30 / 6-7 pm

Enjoy seasonal stories and create a leafy creature using colourful fall leaves.

Ontario Public Library Week: October 19-25

Drop by all week for fun activities, crafts, a scavenger hunt and more to share your love of the Library.

** Select STEAM-related programs have been sponsored by Ontario Power Generation's Power for Change Project Empowerment Grant.*

Toddler Pumpkin Painting

Jess Hann / Fri / Oct 17 / 10:30-11:30 am

Bring your little one to the Library Pumpkin Patch to paint a pumpkin and enjoy activities. This sensory play is perfect for ages 1-3 years.

Fall for the Library: A Community Celebration / Drop-in / Family

Jess Hann / Sat / Oct 18 / 10 am-1 pm

Kick off Ontario Public Library Week with autumn-themed activities, including a community scavenger hunt, STEAM and crafts, family photos, and story times. Special treats and giveaways will be available while quantities last. Allergy Alert.

Islamic History Month Story Time Drop-in / Family

Northview / Sat / Oct 18 / 2-4 pm

Celebrate Islamic History Month with story time, crafts, colouring, and henna with supplies provided. Everyone is welcome to take part. A partnership with Muslim Women of Durham Region and Oshawa Public Libraries.

Boo Beats: A Baby Rave / Ages 0-2

Northview / Fri / Oct 24 / 10:30-11:30 am

Dance, bop, or crawl to your favourite beats. Capture fun moments in the photo booth and explore exciting sensory stations while meeting new friends. Wear a costume or dress to impress!

TAG Presents:

A Haunted House / Drop-in / Family

McLaughlin / Sat / Oct 25 / 1-4 pm

The OPL Teen Advisory Group (TAG) has created a new spooky experience. Enter the Haunted Forest, where twisted trees whisper secrets and something sinister lurks behind every branch. Different levels of scariness are available upon request.

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Fall Programs



Haunted Mansion: Ozobots Edition / Ages 9-12

Delpark / Tue / Oct 28 / 6-7 pm

Design a haunted house filled with spiderwebs, ghosts, and bats. Then, learn to code a little robot to roam your spooky home.

Spooky Slime / Ages 5-9

Jess Hann / Wed / Oct 29 / 4-4:45 pm

Create your own spooky, gooey slime featuring special Halloween surprises.

*Spooky Stories in the Dark / Family

McLaughlin / Thu / Oct 30 / 6:30-7:30 pm

Gather around the campfire for spooky stories that are family-friendly, along with a glow-in-the-dark craft activity.

Climate Action Week: November 1-7

Experience special displays and activities throughout the week that promote climate action. Our regular programs will also include activities using reusable or recycled materials.

Scientists in School:

Colour My World / Ages 4-12

Delpark / Mon / Nov 3 / 6-7 pm

Colour is everywhere! Without it our world would be very dull. Use colour to watch water defy gravity, explore rainbows and create a sun catcher. Use chemistry to create new colours. Curious? Come and explore some colourful science.

Bright & Merry Market – see page 5



Introduction to Fossils / Ages 5-9

Northview / Fri / Nov 14 / 2-3:30 pm

Happy Dinovember! Learn about ancient life with this hands-on workshop delivered by Dino Bites that features real fossils.

Zoo Crew / Family

McLaughlin / Tue / Nov 25 / 6-7 pm

Explore the animal kingdom with stories, crafts, and hands-on activities inspired by Zootopia characters.

Cardboard Gingerbread Houses /

Drop-in / Family

Jess Hann / Tue / Nov 25 / 4-5:30 pm

Delpark / Sat / Nov 29 / 2-4 pm

Create a whimsical holiday gingerbread cottage using cardboard, craft supplies, and festive decorations. All materials provided – no baking required!

**ONTARIO
POWER
GENERATION**

The
**Power
for Change
Project**

** Select STEAM-related programs have been sponsored by Ontario Power Generation's Power for Change Project Empowerment Grant.*

Oshawa Public Libraries is a proud participant in Ontario Power Generation's Power for Change Project, supporting grassroots initiatives in the communities where OPG operates. The Empowerment Grant support will help OPL to offer more STEAM-related resources and materials to support the Library's popular learning programs.

#PowerForChange #ElectrifyingLife

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Friends of the Library

Giant Book Sale

McLaughlin Branch, Auditorium (65 Debwewin Miikan)

Thu / Nov 6 / 9:30 am-7:30 pm

Fri / Nov 7 / 9:30 am-4:30 pm

Sat / Nov 8 / 9:30 am-4:30 pm



OSHAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

