

## Orillia Streamlines Grant Policies to Better Support Community

Grants 

**New intake deadlines are March 15, Sept. 15 annually.**

The City of Orillia is making changes to its community grant policies to enhance accessibility, streamline processes, and expand eligibility for funding.

These updates take effect immediately for 2025 and are designed to better support local non-profit organizations, cultural festivals, and now sport tourism initiatives. As part of the process, intake deadlines for applications will shift to twice per year on March 15 and Sept. 15 annually.

**Key changes to the grant policies include:**

- **Expanded eligibility:** Sport tourism events are now eligible for funding.
- **Consolidation of grant policies:** The previous Partnership Program for Cultural Festivals and Events has been merged into the General Grants Policy to simplify the application process.
- **New funding levels:**
  - Community Grants: Maximum of \$1,500 per applicant.
  - Special Events Grants: Maximum of \$5,000 per applicant.

- **Revised intake schedule:** Grant applications will now be accepted twice annually, with submission deadlines in the spring and fall.
- **Increased funding pool:** An additional \$18,000 has been allocated from the Municipal Accommodation Tax, bringing the total annual grant budget to \$50,000.

**How to apply:**

Eligible non-profit organizations and event organizers can apply through the City's online application. The first intake deadline for 2025 is set for March 15, 2025.

For more information on eligibility and the application process, visit [orillia.ca/grants](http://orillia.ca/grants) or contact the Business Development, Tourism and Modernization Division at 705-325-4900.

Community 

## February is Black History Month

**The City of Orillia proudly joins the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada in proclaiming February 2025 as Black History Month.**

Black History Month is a time to reflect on and celebrate the profound contributions of Black Canadians to our community and country. This month provides an opportunity to honour the individuals who have shaped our society, enriched our culture, and contributed to the ongoing fight for equality and justice. While we celebrate these achievements, we also recognize that there is still much work to be done in the pursuit of equality and inclusion for all.

The City is proud to support Black in Canada, a powerful production presented by Arts Orillia and the Orillia and Area Black Community Association. This special event highlights the stories and experiences of Black Canadians and celebrates their enduring impact on our society. To learn more about the event and purchase tickets, visit [artsorillia.ca/seasonandprograms](http://artsorillia.ca/seasonandprograms).

To learn more about the history, achievements, and stories of Black Canadians, as well as a list of local events and resources, visit [orillia.ca/blackhistory](http://orillia.ca/blackhistory).



Events 

## Bright Minds Corporate Innovation Challenge

**Registration open until Feb. 28 for Lakehead, Georgian students.**

Student innovators from Lakehead University and Georgian College are invited to solve real-world municipal challenges through advanced, technology-driven solutions as part of Fuel Innovation's Bright Minds Corporate Innovation Challenge.

Teams of two to three students will collaborate to develop innovative solutions to address challenges identified by City of Orillia staff. Participants can form teams within their college or university or collaborate across institutions. The challenge will be released on **Feb. 28, 2025, at 5 p.m.** and runs until **March 5, 2025**.

Learn more and register at [orillia.ca/innovation](http://orillia.ca/innovation).



## K. Valerie Connor Poetry Competition Now Open

**The Leacock Museum is inviting submissions for the tenth anniversary of the K. Valerie Connor Poetry Competition. In memory of former volunteer Valerie Connor, the contest is open to amateur poets of all ages who currently reside in Ontario.**

Entrants are invited to submit up to three poems in their applicable age-based category: Adult (18+), Intermediate (13 to 17), and Elementary (12 and under). A total of \$2,350 in cash prizes will be awarded this year, with a top prize of \$1,000. This competition is made possible due to the generous support of the Connor family.

Poems must be original and unpublished and can be about any topic or theme. Entries must be between two and 250 words and submitted by May 28, 2025. Visit [orillia.ca/poetrycontest](http://orillia.ca/poetrycontest) to complete the submission form and to see full rules and regulations.

Winter Control 

## Track when local roads are plowed with the Orillia Snowplow Tracker

Available online at [orillia.ca/plowtracker](http://orillia.ca/plowtracker) and on the OrilliaNow portal at [orillia.ca/now](http://orillia.ca/now).



Notice 

## Automated Speed Enforcement Program Driving Ahead

Orillia is moving forward with the next phase of its Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program.

During the Feb. 10, 2025, Council meeting, three locations for future camera installations were approved on Fittons Road West, Park Street, and Westmount Drive South.

This follows Council's 2024 decision to implement ASE cameras, a measure designed to reduce speeding in Community Safety Zones and enhance road safety.

Since the initial approval, City staff have conducted a data-driven review to identify locations where ASE cameras will be most effective in reducing speeding and improving compliance with posted limits. The three selected sites will now move forward with implementation, bringing Orillia in line with other Ontario municipalities that have seen measurable success in enhancing safety through ASE programs.

### Next Steps:

Before enforcement begins, the City must finalize agreements with the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Transportation, and Hydro One, while also installing required signage, including a 90-day advance notice period before activation. Traffic by-laws will be amended to establish permanent 40 km/h speed limits in the designated areas, and the process will conclude with camera installations and system testing, with full implementation anticipated in fall 2025.

To learn more and receive updates on the Automated Speed Enforcement program, visit [orillia.ca/trafficsafety](https://orillia.ca/trafficsafety).



## Important Dates

## Upcoming Meetings

**Monday, March 3: Regular Council**

**Monday, March 24: Public Meeting of Council re Planning Matters, Special Council re Tax Appeals and Regular Council**

Meetings will be held in-person in the Council Chamber and may also be held electronically in accordance with Section 238 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001. Meeting start times will be noted on the agendas when published. A portion of these meetings may be held in Closed Session. Members of the public who wish to attend Council Chamber during the open session portions of these meetings are welcome. Regularly scheduled City Council meetings may be streamed live on the City of Orillia's YouTube channel. Full agenda packages and streaming links are available at [orillia.civicweb.net](https://orillia.civicweb.net). For further information, contact us at 705-325-1311 or [councilservices@orillia.ca](mailto:councilservices@orillia.ca).

## Job Opportunities

### Collection/Distribution System Operator

Environment and Infrastructure Services Department  
Closing: Feb. 21, 2025

### Preschool Instructor

Corporate Services Department  
Closing: Feb. 21, 2025

### Seasonal Enforcement Officer II

Development Services and Engineering Department  
Closing: Feb. 21, 2025

### Building Summer Student

Development Services and Engineering Department  
Closing: Feb. 28, 2025

### Sport Coordinator

Corporate Services Department  
Closing: Feb. 28, 2025

### Trades 1 Operator

Environment and Infrastructure Services Department  
Closing: Feb. 28, 2025

### Summer Clerical Student

Environment and Infrastructure Services Department  
Closing: March 7, 2025

### Park Maintenance (Contract)

Environment and Infrastructure Services Department  
Closing: March 14, 2025

### Community Liaison Assistant (Contract)

Corporate Services Department  
Closing: March 28, 2025

For all positions available, including duties and qualifications, visit [orillia.ca/employment](https://orillia.ca/employment).

## Snowbank Removal and Road Width Frequently Asked Questions

Winter Control 

With an unprecedented amount of snow received this winter, the City has been working hard to keep roads safe, including engaging external contractors for snowbank removal and hauling. Here's how our crews are working to manage it.

### Why do snowbanks remain?

- Some snowbanks are unavoidable due to obstacles.
- Between snowfalls, crews use front-end loaders and tractors to further remove snow from these areas manually, but this takes time.

### What about visibility at intersections?

- We prioritize clearing sightlines in the Business Improvement Area, on main arterial roads, and at key locations, including schools, hospitals, and crosswalks.
- While not all areas have height limits for snowbanks, safety remains a priority.

### How you can help:

- Avoid pushing driveway snow onto boulevards so there's space for plowed snow.
- Avoid parking on the street whenever possible to allow plows room to pass.

### How we maintain road width and manage snowbanks:

- The most effective way to maintain the 5 m minimum road width and eliminate snowbanks is by driving a tractor directly on top of the snow on the boulevard.
- The tractor blows snow from boulevards into a dump truck travelling alongside to clear space.
- This works best in open areas, but obstructions like trees, fire hydrants, and signs can slow the process.
- When obstructions exist, snowbanks may still form, but they are pushed back from the curb.

Winter operations are guided by a Council-approved Winter Control Policy, that sets out how the City manages winter maintenance, including establishing minimum road width requirements (5 m) and snowbank height limits for downtown and arterial roads. Learn more about the Winter Control Policy at [orillia.ca/wintercontrol](https://orillia.ca/wintercontrol), where we have a quick guide to winter maintenance and beyond.

Thank you for your patience as our teams continue working hard to keep roads as safe and accessible as possible!