



ANNUAL REPORT

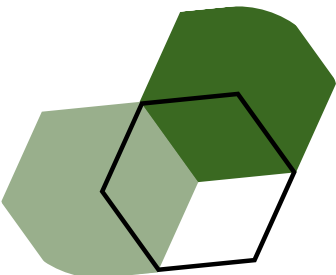
2025

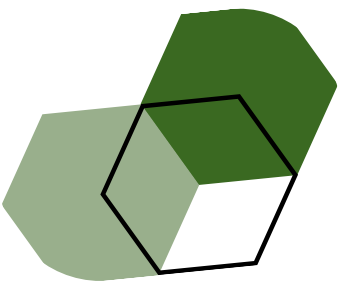
Ontario Heritage Fairs Association

help@ohfa.ca

<https://www.ohfa.ca>

Registered Charity
BN 859478414 RR0001





Message from OHFA's Chair and President

As Chair and President of Ontario Heritage Fairs Association, and on behalf of the entire OHFA board, I want to thank you all for your participation in the 2024-2025 Heritage Fair program. A special thank you to our wide range of generous and kind supporters, dedicated Coordinators, and fantastic teachers, parents, and community members. And a very big thank you to all the students who shared their excellent history projects that were filled with our diverse stories in Ontario and across Canada. Your hard work was evident in the wonderful displays. Students were also reflective and insightful about events in the past and used critical thinking in their project work.

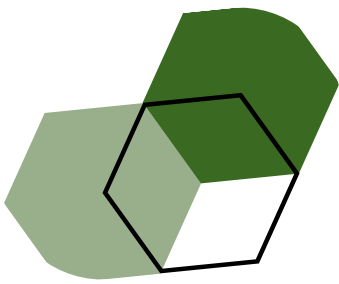
I also want to extend a very special thank you to the dedicated OHFA executive, whose tremendous work all year ensures the continuation and success of the Fairs program. A heartfelt thank you to our outstanding Executive Director Carol White and Past President Liz Kerr, whose tireless and steadfast work ensures positive experiences for all.

This year we held Regional Fairs across the province, involving more students, teachers, and communities, and we hope to expand even further in 2026. The fairs celebrated history and cultural heritage across multiple communities and engaged students, teachers, parents, heritage educators and community members. The events were held in museums, historic houses and educational institutions where everyone came together for celebrations of our Canadian history and heritage through workshops, presentations, talks, field trips and projects! Due to financial restrictions, we were unable to hold an in-person provincial fair this year, but we will post many of the award winners and their projects on our website!

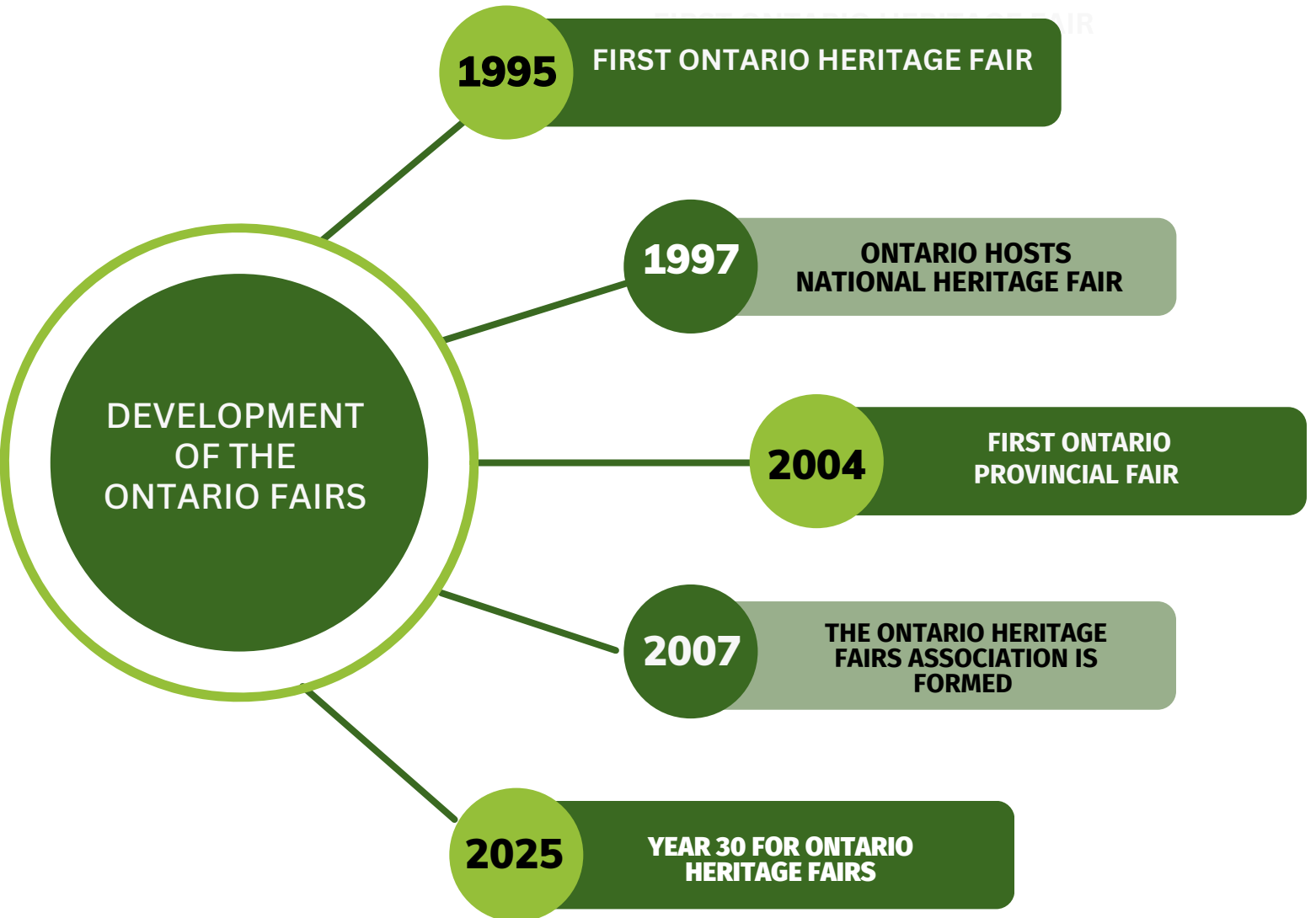
This year we were grateful for the special Educators Symposium sponsored by Canada's History to support the Heritage fairs program. Held in Ottawa, while the Ottawa Regional fair was held, fair coordinators and interested educators, from across Canada, came together to share their ideas and celebrate the fairs program with big plans for expanding our work in the future. I am happy to report that great things are happening across the country for the Heritage Fairs program and OHFA is playing their part through the energy, commitment and hard work of everyone who is volunteering to ensure the OHFA fairs are a success. Thank you!

Finally, congratulations to all the OHFA award winners, all your projects were special and some of you will take part in the national program, representing Ontario. It was another successful year learning and sharing our rich and very diverse history stories.

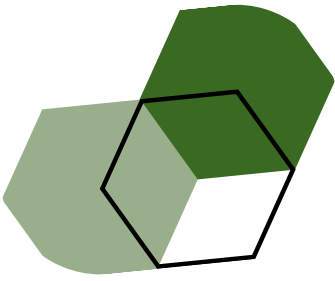
Thank you. Rose Fine-Meyer



ONTARIO HERITAGE FAIRS TIMELINE



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Guiding Principles

MISSION

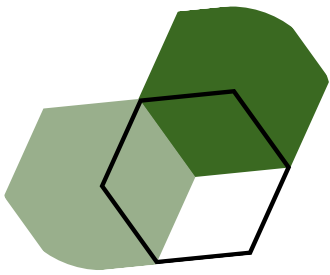
To promote public awareness and understanding of family, community, Ontario and Canadian history and heritage by facilitating and supporting the Youth Heritage Fairs program and other related initiatives.

VISION

To engage all youth: anglophone, francophone, Indigenous, and other cultures in learning activities that will help them to develop critical thinking while motivating them to explore their family history, make connections within their community, discover the history of their community, province and their country, and have the confidence to become active citizens who shape the future of Canada.

CORE VALUES

Equity Accessibility Diversity Flexibility Collaboration Respect
Creativity Growth Innovation Inclusion
Positive Citizenship



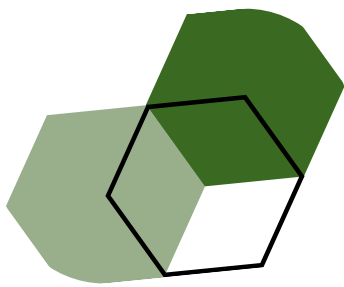
What is a Youth Heritage Fair?

The Heritage Fairs program is a bilingual educational initiative that encourages students to explore Canada's heritage history in a fun and engaging learning environment. Participants use the medium of their choice to recount significant events, highlight famous people, or share family histories and present heritage items of personal value. In a series of public exhibits taking place across the country, students present their research findings to their classmates, families, and members of their community.

Founded as a pilot program in 1993, Heritage Fairs are now held in every province and territory of Canada. Each year, approximately 60,000 students aged 10 to 16 carry out research projects in the classroom. In addition, there are approximately 100,000 students who participate in the program by visiting one of the 900 school festivals fairs held across Canada. In April and May each year, the best projects are presented at one of the 85 regional, provincial, and territorial festivals fairs held across the country.

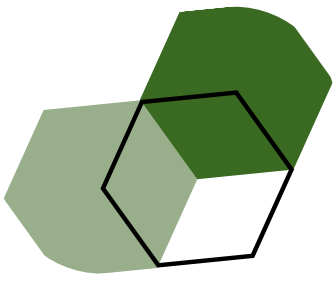
Source: Canada's History

Ontario was one of the first five provinces to join the heritage fair program. In 2025, we celebrate our 30th year.



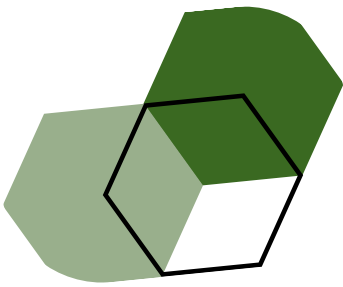
Ontario Regional Heritage Fairs 2025

FAIR	DATE	LOCATION
Simcoe County Regional	April 23, 2025	Simcoe County Museum Simcoe County School Board
Thames Valley Regional	April 24, 2025	Fanshawe Pioneer Village
Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair	April 29, 2025	Canadian War Museum
District School Board of Niagara Regional	April 29, 2025	Welland Markets Welland Historical Museum
Durham DSB Regional	April 30, 2025	Durham District School Board Education Centre
Independent Schools Fair	May 1, 2025	Kingston Secondary School Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik School Sudbury Christian Academy
Toronto District School Board Regional	May 8 2025	York University
Kingston Regional	May 9, 2025	Queen's University Main Campus



Regional Fair Statistics 2024/2025

STATISTICS	2024	2025
Number of Regional Fairs	8	8
Number of Participating Schools	101	120
Number of Participating Classes	246	247
Number of Participating Students (Schools)	6,931	8,717
Number of Students at Regional Fairs	963	1,026
Number of Visitors at Regional Fairs	1,558	1,742
Number of Workshops at Regional Fairs	35	37
Number of Volunteers	370	432
Volunteer/Staff Hours	3,039	3,900



Ontario Heritage Fairs Association

The Ontario Heritage Fairs Association (OHFA) was formed in 2007 to ensure the continuity of the Ontario Fairs program. The non-profit, charitable organization's volunteer Board of Directors is divided into committees and sub-committees and works to sustain the program.



The Human Resources Committee liaisons with Regional Fair Coordinators to support Regional Fairs and organizes Provincial Fairs, Celebrations and Outreach Programs.



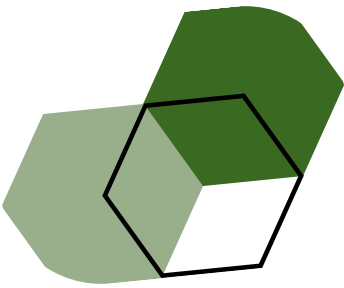
The Communications Committee maintains the OHFA website and social media outlets and keeps the membership informed through newsletters, emails, website content, and Annual and Event Reports.



The Strategic Partners Committee liaisons with Ontario and National Partners to manage the OHFA Awards Program, and sustain, grow, and promote the programs and outreach of OHFA.



The Fund Development Committee maintains the financial records of OHFA, seeks new financial opportunities and manages fund-raising applications and funding reporting.

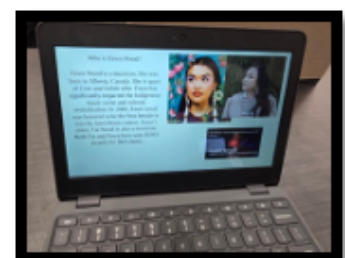
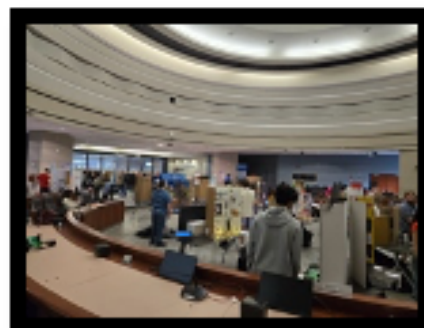


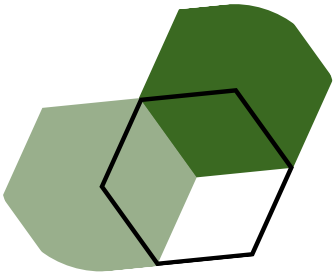
Human Resources 2025

Each Ontario Youth Heritage Fair is unique. Volunteer committees from schools, school boards, museums, and community groups plan learning experiences that reflect the diversity and uniqueness of their region.

Our Venues

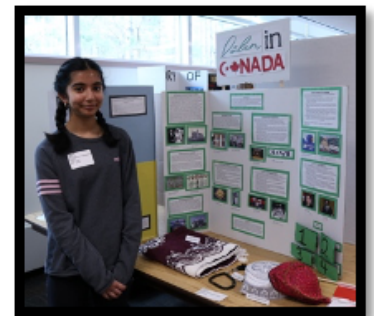
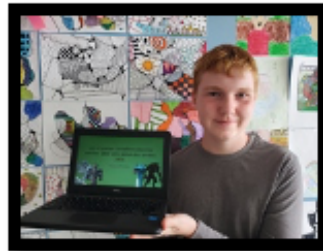
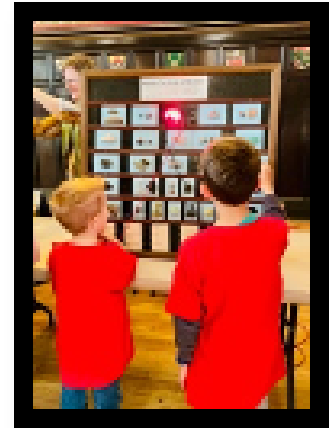
Universities, Museums,
Pioneer Villages, School
Boards, On-Line

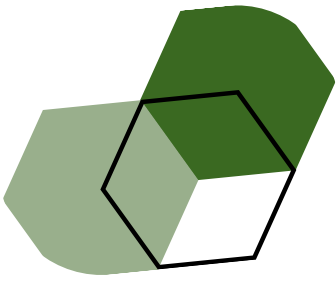




Our Students

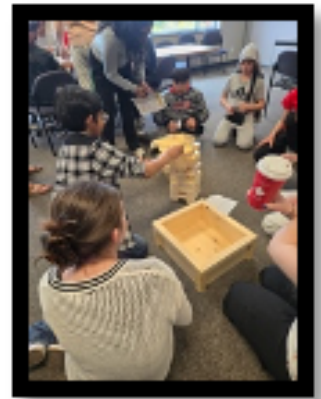
Sharing their Projects
Participating in Heritage Workshops
Learning about their Communities

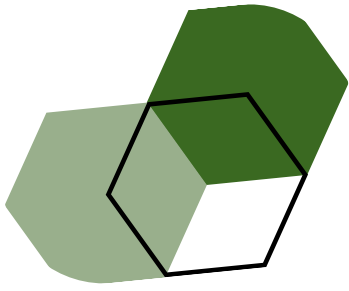




Our Heritage Community

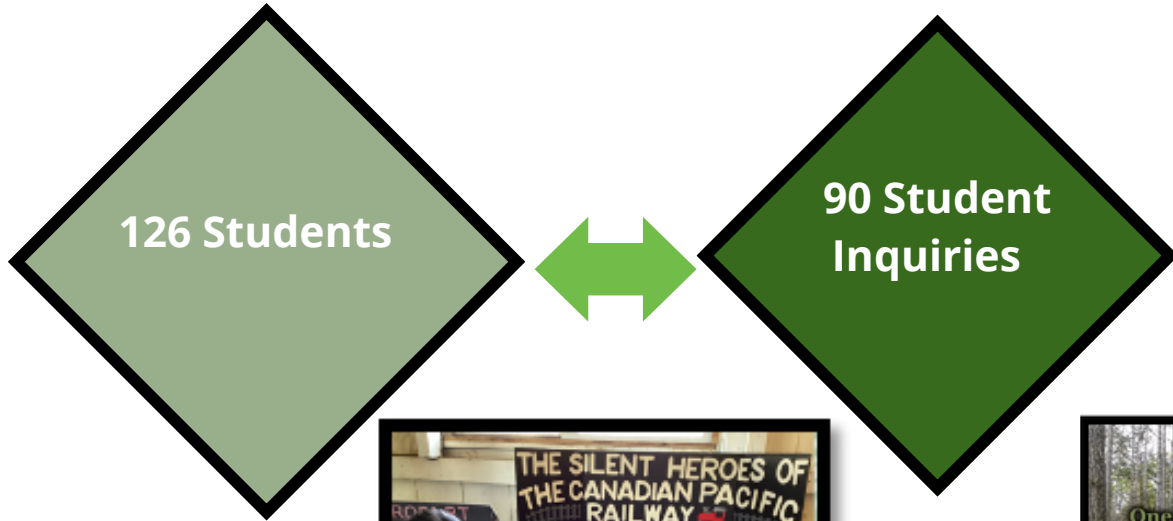
Project Judges, Workshop Leaders. Special Guests





Our Ontario Virtual Provincial Heritage Fair

<https://www.ohfa.ca>



Slideshows



Poster Boards

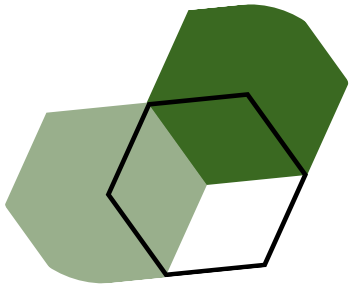


Videos

SPONSORS



June 10, 2025



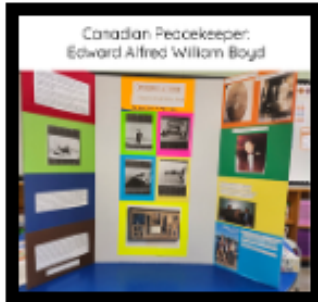
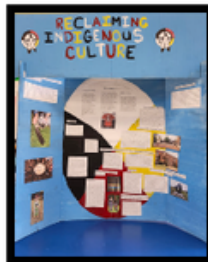
Our Outreach Programs

Faculties of Education

OHFA personnel introduce the teachers of tomorrow to the Inquiry Process, Reliable Sources, and the value of Heritage Fairs.



Independent Heritage Fair

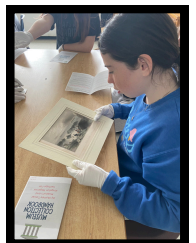


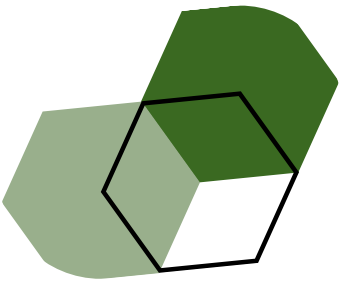
The virtual OHFA Independent Fair allows schools without a Regional Fair to participate in the Fairs' programs.



Workshops in Schools

OHFA facilitates the "Museums In the Classroom" and "Cultural Workshops" programs.





Communications 2025



<https://www.ohfa.ca>
with over 3,000
visitors per year, and
regular emails,
continue to be the
main communication
tools for OHFA.

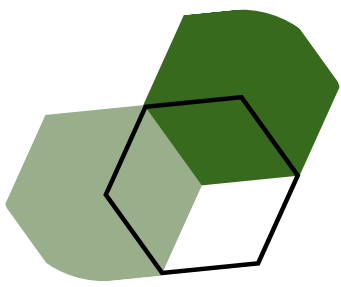
Social Media is
taking off with
followers
increasing
regularly since
our new
launches.

Regular
newsletters keep
members up to
date with OHFA
news.



OHFA distributes
its Event and
Annual Reports
to all of its
stakeholders





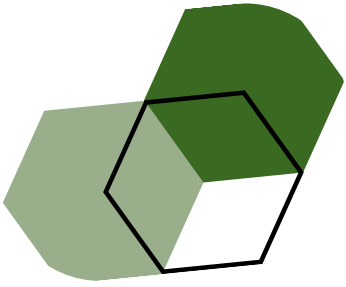
Strategic Partners 2025

Eight Provincial Organizations provided 11 prizes to each of our regional heritage fairs to recognize excellent achievement in the research and communication of a variety of research skills.



Canada's History provides free class sets of select Kayak magazines several times a year.

Awards from the Ontario Heritage Partners included medals, books, journals. Canada's History provided a red participation ribbon for each student.



Fund Development 2025

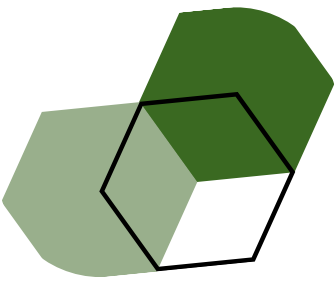
***The fiscal year of the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association is September 1 - August 31 and the official audit will be available for our fall AGM. The audit only covers revenue and expenditures of the Association and does not cover funds of the Regional Fairs or in-kind donations at either level.**

Main Revenues

- **Funds from Canada's History and Ontario Heritage Fair Reserves to sustain OHFA and its Regional Fairs**
- **Funds from private donors and Provincial funder**

Main Expenditures

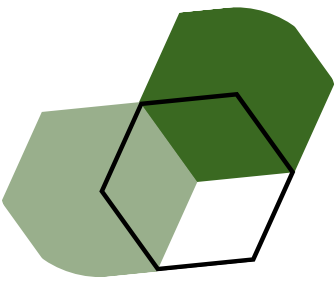
- **Transfer of Funds to Regional Fairs**
- **Outreach Pilot Project Expenses**
- **Provincial Virtual Fair/Provincial Celebration Expenses**
- **Operational Expenses**



REGIONAL FAIR SUCCESSES

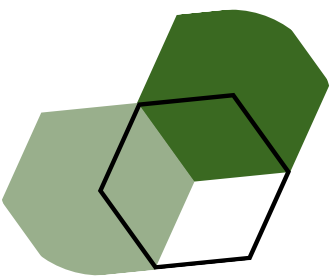
2025





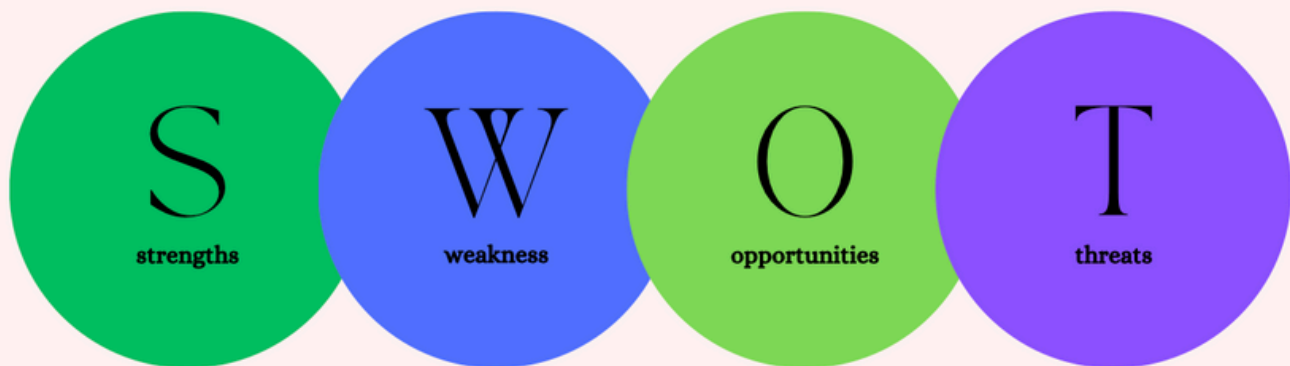
REGIONAL FAIR CHALLENGES 2025





SUCSESSES, WEAKNESS, OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS

SWOT ANALYSIS - OHFA 2025



● Meets Curriculum Expectations

● Funding

● Grant Applications

● Competition From Other Events

● Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

● Promotion

● Conferences

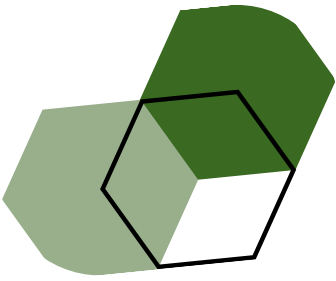
● Committee Fatigue

● Non-Profit Charity

● Volunteer Work Load

● Social Media

● Lack of Consistent Financial Support



Goals Moving Forward



- **Fill gaps in expertise at the Board level**
- **Hold a Provincial Fair/Celebrations in 2026**
- **Increase participation of Regional Fairs, schools and students**
- **Continue and increase participation in the Outreach programs**



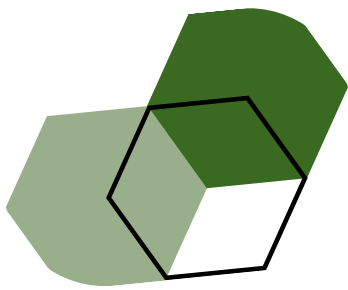
- **Add additional teaching resources in both English and French to the website**
- **Create example project rubrics for Junior and Intermediate Levels**
- **Promote the programs and initiatives of our Strategic Partners**



- **Devise strategies to further engage strategic stakeholders**
- **Facilitate partnership goals through zoom meetings**
- **Strengthen current recognition programs for all OHFA stakeholders**



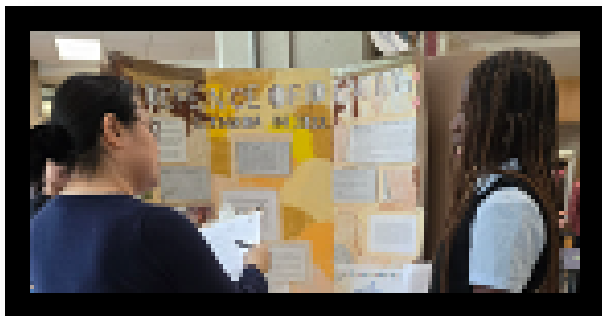
- **Devise strategies to effectively increase and utilize funds for sustainability of OHFA and Regional Fairs moving forward**
- **Seek opportunities for further diversification of funding**



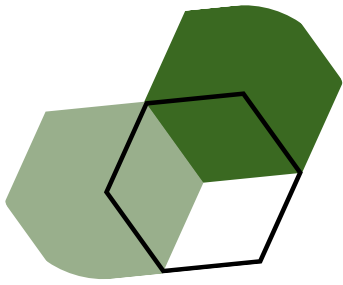
Thank you to everyone who made the 2025 Heritage Fairs a success!



Historical groups, museum and school board personnel, teacher candidates, seniors, active and retired teachers, university students and staff, alumni, plus interested community members of all ages, make the fairs happen.



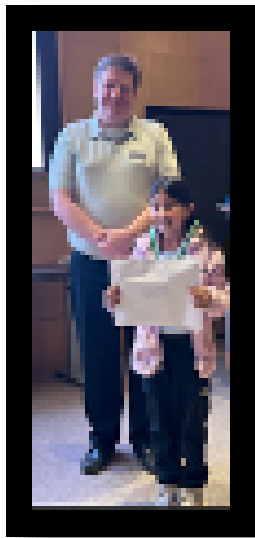
The 2025 Ontario Heritage Fairs would not have happened without the over 400 community volunteers and staff who dedicated over 3,900 hours.



Thank You Sponsors!

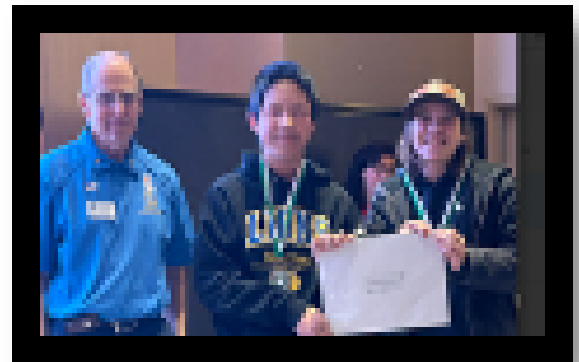


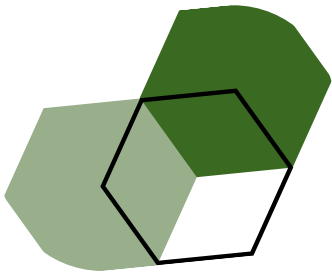
PERSONAL DONATIONS



138 community sponsors and partners provided funds, venues, services, workshops, and, awards for our Regional Fairs.

Regional Fairs had an average of 17 funding and in-kind sponsors and partners, including OHFA's 8 Ontario Award Partners and our National partner.





Board of Directors 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE

Dr. Rose Fine-Meyer, Chair and President
Dallas Rocheleau, Treasurer
Garrett Hajnal, Secretary
Carol White, Ontario Coordinator and Executive Director
Liz Kerr, Past President
Laura Bebee, Webmaster

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Jacinthe Caron, Director
Allan Hux, Director
Kellie Keddy, Director
Rabia Khokhar, Director
Shannon Landra, Director
Marthe Poirier, Director
Rosemary Sadlier, Director
Kerby Waud, Director

PARTNER REPRESENTATIVES

Archives of Ontario, Hafiz Printer
Canada's History, Jean-Philippe Proulx
Multicultural History Society of Ontario, Elizabeth Price
Ontario Ancestors, Coral Harkies
Ontario Historical Society, Daniel Dishaw
Ontario Human Rights Commission, Shafiza Gangji
Ontario Library Association, Melissa Macks
Ontario Womens' History Network, Victoria Cosby