

Recreation, Culture and Wellness Quarterly Report
Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Reporting Period: Recreation, Culture and Wellness Quarterly Report for the period July – September 2024

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Q3/2024 Recreation, Culture and Wellness Department Report be received for information.

Department Overview and Statistics:



Meridian Community Centre √ Revenue by Major Customer and Activity
For the months July 1st √ September 30th, 2024 compared to July 1st √ September 30th, 2023

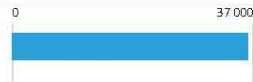
	2023	2023	2024	2024
	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount
Arena Revenues				
User Group Ice Rentals	- 335.25	\$53,304.75	- 273.25	\$43,446.75
Pelham Raiders Lacrosse	- 48	\$1,776.00	- 50.50	\$2,424.00
Private Ice Rentals	- 852.25	\$135,507.75	- 891.08	\$142,045.72
Recreation & Wellness Programming (Shinny, Stick & Puck etc.)	- 1856	\$11,138.50	- 1949	\$11,695.50
Advertising	-	\$3,800.00	-	\$6,150.00
Gym Rentals	- 711	\$16,673.30	- 813	\$19,633.50
Arena Revenues Subtotal		\$222,200.30		\$225,395.47
Multi-Purpose Space Revenue				
Room Rentals MCC	- 639.50	\$11,754.04	- 718.75	\$14,589.00
Room Rental OPTH	- 79.50	\$3,008.04	- 200	\$3,425.35
Recreation Programming (Yoga, 55+, drop-in basketball etc.)	- 590	\$3,540.00	- 889	\$5,338.50
Activity Memberships (Warm & Cold)	- 2459	\$4,480.00	- 2929	\$4,630.00
Multi-Purpose Space Revenue Subtotal		\$22,782.08		\$27,982.85
Camp Registrations (to the end of September)		\$180,316.40		\$179,826.20
Pool (to end of September)		\$68,023.20		\$64,192.39
Camp and Pool Revenues		\$248,339.60		\$244,018.50
Total Revenues		\$493,321.98		\$497,396.82

07/01/2024 - 07/31/2024: Custom period

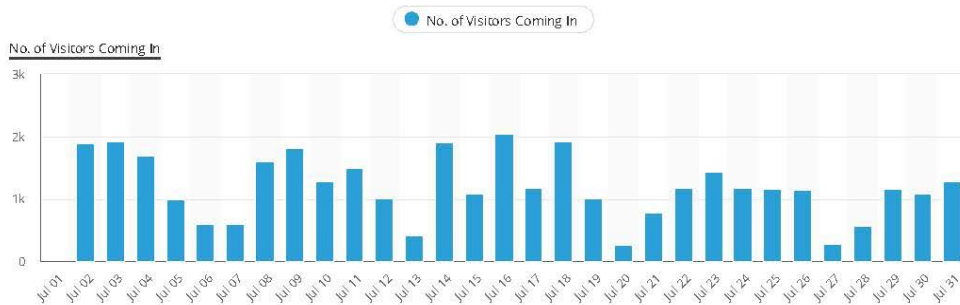
Dashboards > System Default

No. of Visitors Coming In

36 102



No. of Visitors Coming In by Day



The Meridian Community Centre was teeming with activity in the month of July. The Town’s ever popular summer camps and summer reaction programs brought many visitors through the doors. Whether visitors were here for ice rentals, in gyms or multipurpose rooms the Meridian Community Centre received 36,102 visitors throughout the month of July. This was just over an 8% increase from our 33,398 visitor numbers in July of 2023.

Duliban arena was consistent with on-ice rentals for hockey skills training camps, men’s and women’s shinny, figure skating, public skates, and summer ice programming. Accipiter arena was primarily utilized by Pelham Raiders lacrosse rentals five to six days a week with basketball, volleyball and pickleball programming in the gyms. While the Meridian Community Centre was busy with visitors, so too were Recreation, Culture and Wellness facility staff keeping active parks programming running with hardball and slow-pitch baseball on diamonds, soccer on all the fields, assisting operations of events and festivals, along with maintaining splash pads and keeping our public pool open and safe for visitors, lessons, camps, and aquatic programming.

08/01/2024 - 08/31/2024: Custom period

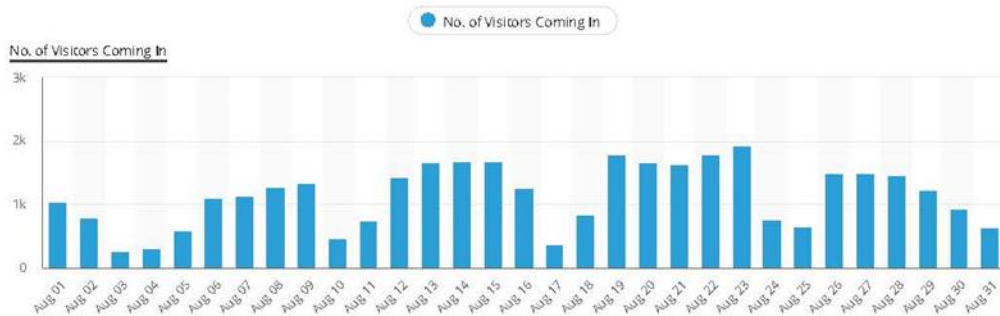
Dashboards > System Default

No. of Visitors Coming In

35 434



No. of Visitors Coming In by Day



August of 2024 was another busy month within the Meridian Community Centre. With the installation of ice back in the Accipiter arena, ice rentals were at full capacity on both rinks once again. August saw many returning visitors for on ice training camps and tryouts for the Junior Panthers hockey club. In August of 2024 the Meridian Community Centre welcomed 35,434 visitors through the doors. This was a 5% decrease in visitors from the 37,655 visitors in 2023, but still a 16% increase from the 29,806 visitors in 2022. The lower visitor count could have been due to the absence of the annual GOJHL Doug Burr Junior hockey tournament. This tournament not only kicked off the junior hockey season but brought many residents, visitors, scouts, and hockey clubs through the Meridian Community Centre in years past. While the Meridian Community Centre was busy moving forward to another fall/winter ice programming season, active parks programming was moving towards playdowns and finals. With August brought another season of swimming lessons come to an end at the Pelham Public Pool, along with the Pelham Raiders Lacrosse season to a close.

09/01/2024 - 09/30/2024: Custom period

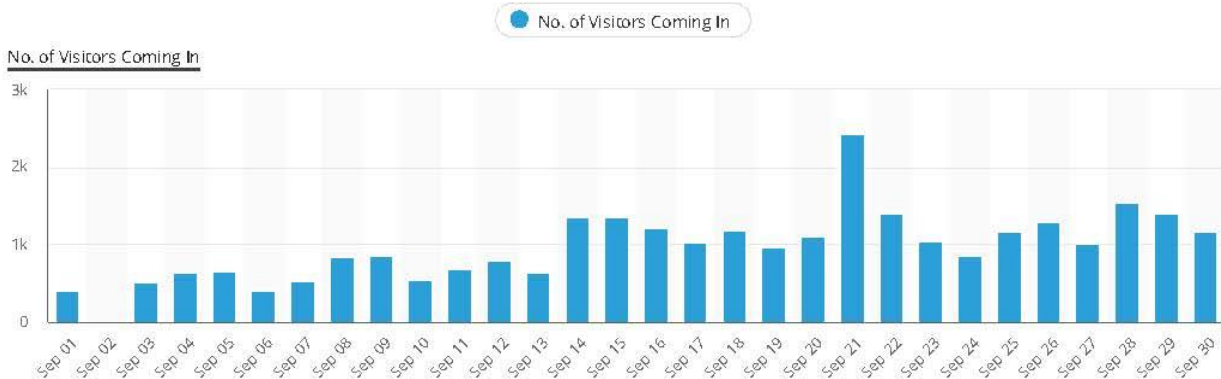
Dashboards > System Default

No. of Visitors Coming In

29 033



No. of Visitors Coming In by Day



As we moved into September so did our Meridian Community Centre visitors, back inside for the Recreation, Culture, and Wellness’s Fall/Winter programming. The Meridian Community Centre was back to being the hub for Pelham sports and recreation. This included the Meridian Community Centre’s user groups with Pelham Minor Hockey Association, Niagara Centre Skating Club, and Southern Tier Admirals back on the ice and Pelham Panthers Basketball associations back in the gyms. The Recreation, Culture, and Wellness Department continually provided many community services within programming, along with events and seminars bringing culture and community together. In the month of September, the Meridian Community Centre welcomed 29,033 visitors through the facility. This was a slight decrease in visitors from the 30,954 in September of 2023 and the 30,089 in 2022

07/01/2024 - 09/30/2024: Custom period

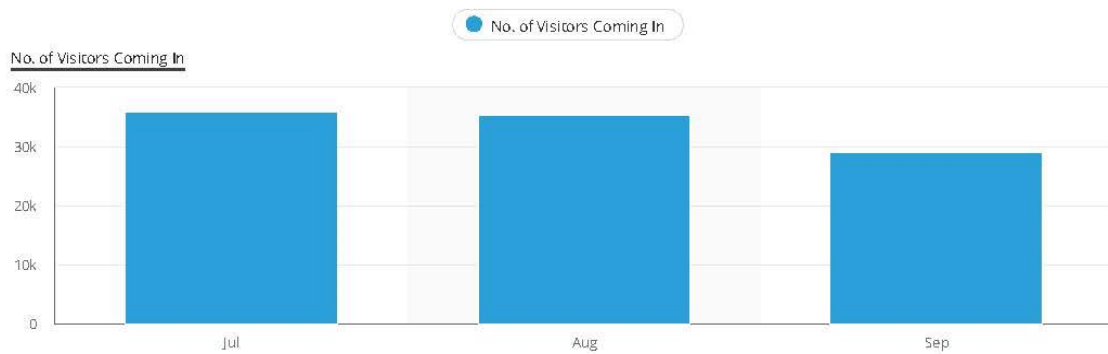
Dashboards > System Default

No. of Visitors Coming In

100 569



No. of Visitors Coming In by Month



The Recreation, Culture, and Wellness department not only continues to look for opportunities and growth in programming and culture, but also operational and facility efficiencies within the Meridian Community Centre. In July, August, and September of 2024 the Meridian Community Centre welcomed 100,569 visitors and residents through the doors for a wide array of community engagement. The Meridian Community Centre experienced a net 19% increase in visitors in the 3rd quarter of 2024 compared to 84,721 in 2022. Whether it is for sports and recreation, or culture and wellness, the Town of Pelham’s Meridian Community Centre continues to prove to be positive and significant core to all our residents and visitors.

Pelham Farmers' Market

The 21st season of the Pelham Farmers' Market began May 2 and ran weekly until October 10th. Please see the average monthly attendance in the chart below:

Month	2024	2023	2022
May	140	150	154
June	237	297	332
July	414	444	538
August	362	351	623
September	138	216	130

The Farmers' Market began with 18 seasonal vendors plus a non-profit booth. There have been a couple additional weekly vendors added and the not-for-profit booth has been utilized on the weeks where there is no market programming. The Farmers' Market Committee came up with some very creative programming this year including Walley the garden rock worm. He has been placed in the flowerbed where the Farmers market sign is located and has been growing steadily through the season as children paint rocks at home and bring them back to add onto Walley.

There were three Market Bunch Kids Corner stalls throughout Q3 which included creating a garden sign, decorating canvas bags, and tie-dyeing pillowcases. The last market night of the season (Oct. 10th) is always a Customer Appreciation evening with free hot apple cider, apple fritters, pumpkin decorating for kids, and face painter.



Summer Chill Supper Market

The annual Thursday Night Summer Chill Series returned to Peace Park on June 13 and finished it's 13-week season on September 5th. The Supper Market portion included 6 weekly local food vendors, and local musical talent each Thursday from 5:30 – 6:45 pm prior to the Bandshell concerts. Five service clubs/community groups assisted in serving beverages under the sail this year. New in 2024 was that the entirety of Peace Park was licenced under the Special Occasions permit which was received very positivity by community members and there were no incidents surrounding expanding the licensed area.

The list of vendors, and entertainers can be still seen on the Summer Chill webpage at www.pelham.ca/summerchill. This season saw an increase in attendance from 2023. The increase in numbers can be attributed to the perfect weather that was seen in Pelham on Thursdays this summer. The Summer Chill Series began one week prior to the Bandshell Concert Series.

Please see to attendance from year to year in the chart below (Counters at entrances of Supper Market). There will be a full report on all numbers later this fall.

Date	# of attendees 2024	# of attendees 2023	# of attendees 2022	# of attendees 2019	# of attendees 2018	# of attendees 2017
Week 1		133*		632*	1471*	743*
week 2	613*	166*	411*	***	1329*	972*
week 3	2978	3661	1941**	1987**	3,603	532*
week 4	5312	2412	2374	2329	2,944	3259
week 5	5895	2310	2879	1838	2592	2809
week 6	2957	7500	2903	1837	3,115	3810
week 7	7447	***	4697	5083	5,611	6289
week 8	2770	2810	2174	1671	1,711	2759
week 9	2432	1710	1406	2393	1,832	2271
week 10	3901	3574	2033	2650	4,342	4406
week 11	2077	1416	2215	2286	2,005	4400
week 12	3260	1676	7195	2596	2,599	610
week 13	2511	2092	3678	2147	2,427	3761
week 14	2053	2788	3601	3546	2056	3988
week 15		407		-	703*	2261
week 16		199		-	-	520*
Totals	44,215	32,854	37,507	30,995	40,623	36,168

* No Bandshell Concert

** Rainy weather

*** Rain cancellation



Big Band

The Town of Pelham’s Big Band Dance Night, featuring the Jimmy Marando Swing Band takes place every third Tuesday of the month in the Accursi Room at the Meridian Community Centre. It is a night filled with swing, jazz, classical music, and lots of dancing! This event continues to offer free admission with food and beverage available for purchase. This event welcomes those of all ages. Please see the below chart for the average attendance over the past two years.

Quarter	2024	2023	2022
Q1	140	140	No BB due to Covid
Q2	140	160	75
Q3	87	80 -100	80
Q4		115	115



MCC Art Walls

During Q3 of 2024, there were art displays showcased on the Meridian Community Centre art walls. During the months of July and August, Pelham resident Brittany Amadio displayed her art in the atrium of the Meridian Community Centre. For the month of September, Hamiltons of Pelham provided mixed medium artworks from their collection, featuring various Indigenous artists.

EL Crossley’s art class have displayed their art in the upper hallway at the Meridian Community Centre throughout the summer. As well, the Welland Museum switched up their display in the atrium to showcase indigenous artifacts and recreations for the month of September.

Staff are currently connecting with local artists to display in the MCC for the remainder of 2024 and into 2025.

Comedy Night in Pelham

On July 27th, 2024, the Garden City Comedy Festival hosted "Comedy Night in Pelham", an evening of laughs with guest comedians Dom Paré, Rhiannon Archer, Jimmy England, and DK Phan, hosted by Niagara's own David Green. There was a total of 70 attendees who shared positive feedback and reviews on the performers. Bar service was available for purchase.

The next Comedy Night in Pelham is planned for Saturday October 19th and includes an incredible line-up of comedians headlined by Chris Locke and featuring Wes Zaharuk and Bernie Law. Hosted by David Green.

Tickets are \$30 or call 289 668 3425 to reserve a table of 8 for \$200. Bar service will be available for purchase. Doors at 7pm. Showtime 8pm. Purchase tickets [here](https://www.gardencitycomedyfestival.com).

Visit www.gardencitycomedyfestival.com for more information or to purchase ticket!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19

Garden City COMEDY FESTIVAL PRESENTS

COMEDY NIGHT IN PELHAM

HEADLINER | HOST
CHRIS LOCKE | DAVID GREEN

FEATURING FONTHILL'S OWN BERNIE LAW
SPECIAL GUEST WES ZAHARUK

TICKETS \$30 OR RESERVE A TABLE OF 8 FOR \$200
SCAN THE QR OR CALL 289-668-3425 - 8PM START
[www.GARDENCITYCOMEDYFESTIVAL.com](https://www.gardencitycomedyfestival.com)
MERIDIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE - 100 MERIDIAN WAY, FONTHILL

SPONSORED BY Ravenshead Homes



Culture Days

Culture Days is a Canada-wide celebration that is the largest-ever public participation campaign undertaken by the arts and cultural community in this country. Culture Days features FREE activities that invite the public to participate in interactive arts and culture experiences. This year's Culture Days runs from September 20 to October 13.

Culture Days kicked off with a Drum Circle with Mark Chindemi on Wednesday September 25 from 4-5pm. There were 14 participants within this experience. On October 2nd, Beverly Sneath will hold a Paint Night with 20 participants creating their own "Shoreline Sunrise" inspired painting. Lastly, Culture Days is covering the program fees of participants for our drop-in Family Music Time on Monday October 7th. This program introduces children to music and movement concepts through songs and games.

The additional Culture Days programming is highlighted in the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation section below.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30th, the Town of Pelham recognized the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, where the Town aimed to honour the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. The day began with a flag raising ceremony at Town Hall with James Doxtador from the Niagara Regional Native Centre, who shared his own experience and encouraged attendees to connect with an elder to listen and reflect on their stories. The Every Child Matters Flag was flown, as it is inclusive of all Indigenous communities, and reiterates the importance of bringing awareness to the residential school system.



During the day, there were seminars, performances and workshops held at the Meridian Community Centre. The Town of Pelham hosted a KARIOS Blanket Exercise facilitated by Jodi Vander Heide-Buswa. This exercise delves into the history of colonization in Canada. Town staff and many residents attended a "Roots & Relations: Shared Understanding of Indigenous History to Strengthen Relations" seminar facilitated by Nokomis Migizinz Cindilee. The Town of Pelham also had the honour of hosting an interactive drumming workshop with Cindilee, where a grade 6 class from St. Alexander school attended and participated. Following the interactive drumming workshop, the Town of Pelham worked in conjunction with the Lincoln Pelham Public Library to offer a Moccasin Identifier Event in the courtyard of the MCC.

There were multiple comments from residents on social media leading up to the September 30th programming. One comment stated "The Blanket Exercise is a tough one however an exercise that every descendant of a settler, myself included, needs to take at least once. Jodi Vander Heide-Buswa is a great facilitator. Bravo to Town of Pelham for offering this [...] And you have some other great programming and speakers. This is how our 'acknowledgements' need to be. Up close and personal!"

A self-guided StoryWalk® of "Phyllis's Orange Shirt" was on display in Peace Park from September 23- October 4.

In September, as noted above, the MCC Atrium was also home to a display from Hamiltons of Pelham who provided mixed medium artworks from their collection, featuring various Indigenous artists. As well, the Welland Museum showcased indigenous artifacts and recreations allowing residents and visitors a self-directed experience to delve into indigenous culture.

Overall, there were 298 participants in the activities and programming provided for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Additionally, the Town of Pelham website contains a wide variety of resources for residents to learn more about Indigenous communities, the residential school system and how to be an ally.





Canada Day

Canada Day kicked off with the return of Pelham's beloved Grande Parade, attended by thousands of people who lined the parade route from A.K Wigg School to Harold Black Park. The parade showcased local talent, and community spirit. The Pelham Canada Day Parade tradition of the Town's firefighters engaging in a friendly water fight with parade goers is always a hit!

A central attraction of the celebration was the "Party in the Park" which was centered around Princesses and Superheroes this year. The main stage featured live performances by talented local musicians, providing a platform for artists to showcase their skills and entertain the audience with music that resonated with the Canadian spirit. The Jimmy Marando Swing Band kicked things off at the main stage, followed by Walkmen, No More New and Max-Life Crisis. There were princesses and superheroes strolling to the park and interacting with the youngest attendees!

The Rotary Club of Fonthill hosted the Kids Zone area that remained packed with families for the entire duration of the event with an expanded Kids Zone area. The Rotary Club played a crucial role in ensuring that the youngest members of the community had an enjoyable Canada Day experience. They organized a variety of children's activities, including games, crafts, and entertainment, making it a fun-filled day for families.

During the day, there were four community booths and two food vendors, including the Fonthill Lions providing food at the concession stand. A local arborist brought a bucket truck to the event and raised the Canada Flag 60 feet in the air!

As the day transitioned into night, the highlight of the event was the breathtaking fireworks display that lit up the skies of Pelham. The fireworks served as a stunning finale, bringing the community together to marvel at the beauty of the night. The Town of Pelham gratefully acknowledges Canada Heritage for their support of the Canada Day festivities.

Canada Day 2024 in the Town of Pelham was a resounding success. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of various community organizations and the support of residents. It provided an opportunity for the community to come together, celebrate Canadian heritage, and enjoy a day filled with entertainment and activities. The event saw around 10,000 attendees who emphasized the community's unity and patriotism. The celebrations affirmed Pelham's commitment to coming together in pride and celebration.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and making each Canada Day celebration even more memorable in the years to come.



Community Mural – Ontario Arts Council Grant

The Town of Pelham was successful in receiving a grant for \$5,000 from the Ontario Arts Council to create a heritage-themed collaborative community mural project. Town Staff have gathered community feedback from the Pelham Historical Society, EL Crossley Staff/Students, the Pelham Cultural Advisory Committee and general community within Culture Days workshops. The most common response from these groups was focused on local agriculture and farming.

At this time, a Call for Artists has been put out for design concept proposals from graphic artists and artist-led teams with experience in creating large scale works and the technical skills to provide the work in a digital (vector) format suitable for large scale reproduction. The digital design will be reproduced into a 6 foot by 10 foot paint-by-number mural that will be painted by Town residents during programming in December of this year. The mural will be displayed outdoors upon completion.

The Town will be responsible for fabricating, installing and maintaining the mural and for administering community participation.

Design concept proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria set out in the Call Out. The Town will select one design concept.

View the [Call for Artists](#)

The application can be viewed at [Artist Call Out - Town of Pelham](#)

Summer Camp

Summer camp had a tremendous turn out this summer, with the group travelling to many out-trips such as Wild Waterworks, African Lion Safari, Parkway Social, and Adventure Village, amongst other places. Additionally, the campers had guests from Niagara Region Waste Management, Mad Science, Crock-a-doodle, and more!

Speciality camps also ran throughout the summer. These camps included bike camp, art and theatre camp, music camp, animal camp, and sports camp.

	2023 Participant Total	2024 Participant Total
Week 1	87 campers	94 campers
Week 2	122 campers	130 campers
Week 3	103 campers	121 campers
Week 4	102 campers	107 campers
Week 5	112 campers	98 campers
Week 6	40 campers	91 campers

Week 7	100 campers	93 campers
Week 8	92 campers	78 campers
Week 9	67 campers	79 campers



Aquatics

The Pelham Pool had another great season with over 320 swimming lesson participants over the course of July and August. During lessons, the Pelham Public Library set up a table on the grass to provide books and activities for children at the park. The pool was open from 8:30am – 8:00pm each day, for a variety of aquatic programming, including public swim and Aqua Zumba. We welcomed over 420 Aqua Zumba participants this summer, which is an increase from a total of 300 in 2023. Along with this, we welcomed the Township of West Lincoln’s summer camp back to our pool for another season.

Additionally, Swim team had a total of 53 participants this season. The group worked hard and placed second at regionals!



Spin-Bike Membership

New this quarter, RCW staff introduced a monthly membership option to utilize the spin bikes outside of instructor-led class times. Customers are now able to use the spin bikes from 6am-11pm for \$30.00 per month.

NEW – Music Theatre

New this quarter, the Town introduced Kinder Music Theatre (ages 4-7) and Junior Music Theatre (ages 10-12) as a pre-registered program. 15 children are enrolled in the first session, which runs for 7 weeks and includes a final performance for family and friends to watch!

Mayor’s Youth Advisory Collective

The Mayor’s Youth Advisory Collective (MYAC) got off to a great start this year, with 17 members! An initial meeting was held on September 10th, where the group began to plan events and initiatives for Pelham youth. This year, the group is interested in creating an ‘eco-team’ and participating in courses such as first-aid training.

Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts

With 178 pickleball memberships and 120 tennis memberships, Centennial Park is the place to be this summer! The courts have been open each day for member usage and public access between 1pm – 3pm. Weather dependant, the courts will remain open until October 31st.

Drop-in Program Admissions

<u>June 1 – September 30, 2024</u>		<u>2024 Total</u>
Program	Quantity	Quantity
60+ Shinny	433	919
55+ Aerobics	54	136
Adult/Preschool Skate	36	184
Adult Only Skate	171	643
Adult Public Skate	148	597
Basketball Drop-In	19	109
Chair Yoga	82	245
Family Music	46	46
Family Public Skate	36	197
Flexagility	1	11
Hatha Yoga	15	123
Mediation	6	30
Men's Shinny	534	983
Mom & Baby Fitness	3	54
Orchestra	17	45
Parent & Tot Drop-In	66	237
Pickleball Drop-In	349	1666
Stick & Puck	499	1147
Senior/Student Public Skate	266	1202
Teen Basketball Drop-In	0	3
Teen Volleyball Drop-In	0	7
Ticket Ice	150	259
Volleyball Drop-In	135	296
Women's Learn to Play	6	16
Women's Shinny Combo	7	146
Women's Shinny	173	304
Yogalates	60	156
Youth Drop-In	39	91

Youth Skate Grade 7-12	0	17
Zumba	418	418
Activity Drop-In	3	36
Total:	3,772	10,182

Pelham Summerfest

In 2011, Pelham Summerfest began as a one-day event to celebrate the completion of the Downtown Fonthill streetscaping project, advocated for by the Pelham Active Transportation Committee. The goal of this project was to create and promote a pedestrian friendly downtown area. Since its origin in 2011, Pelham Summerfest has grown to a four-day festival, which has been recognized as one of the Top 100 Festivals and Events in Ontario every year since 2015.

This year, Pelham Summerfest celebrated its twelfth year from Thursday July 18th to Sunday July 21st. Featuring 50 food and artisan vendors and 3 Pelham Street restaurants, Summerfest continues to be a major economic driver for Pelham businesses. The Pelham Summerfest working group continued to collaborate with local businesses through the newly updated sponsorship package. The working group worked hard to curate meaningful sponsorships for Pelham Summerfest and in turn we saw the highest amount of sponsorship dollars since the events origin in 2011.

In addition to the sponsorship dollars, Pelham Summerfest received grant funding from the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF). This funding allowed for the creation of a new Pelham Summerfest website to enhance the accessibility and functionality. Additionally, this funding permitted work with a social media marketing team to enhance the social media pages as well as hire a videographer. Working with a videographer enabled additional content for sponsors and to gain a plethora of videos and photos from the event, to use for future promotion.

Pelham Summerfest was lucky enough to see four days of sunshine, which lead to the highest attendance we have seen in Summerfest history. Throughout the duration of the weekend, Pelham welcomed 45,006 attendees:

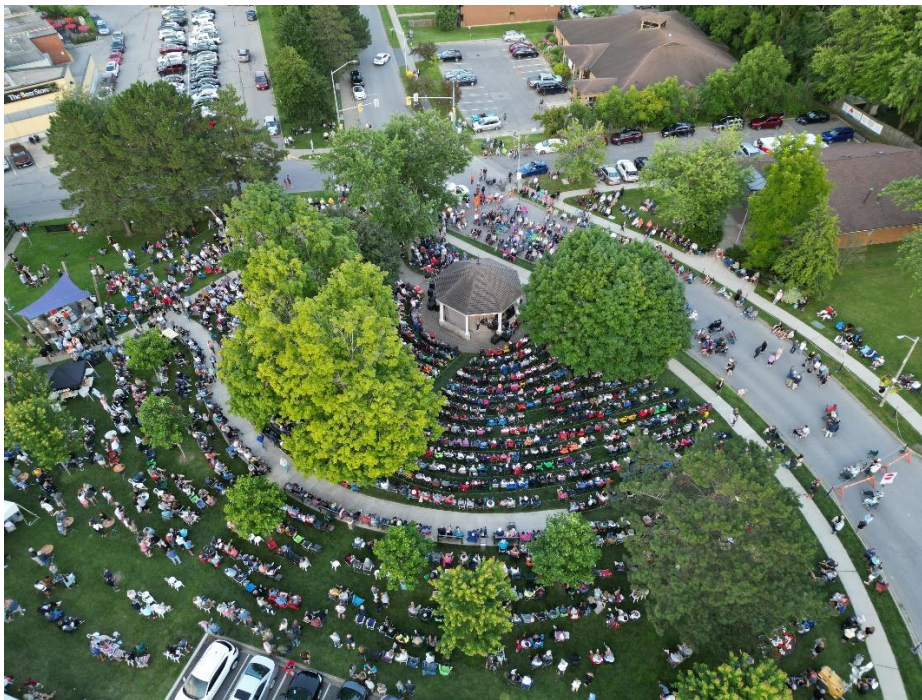
Thursday: 7447

Friday: 14,569

Saturday: 18,857

Sunday: 4,133

Pelham Summerfest kicked off on Thursday night with the Supper Market, Farmer's Market and the Bandshell concert in Peace Park. With beautiful weather and an attendance of 7,447, both residents and visitors enjoyed the diverse food options, shopped local at the Farmer's Market, listened to Craig McNair in the Supper Market area and Forever Young – A tribute to Rod Stewart in the Bandshell.



The Friday saw clear skies and warm temperatures. After a full and busy day of transforming Pelham Street, Country Night kicked off and featured musical performances from Kendra Gabrielle, Chippawa Dirty, the Country Junkies and headliners The Blackstones. New to the line-up was a learn to line-dance session with Rhea Daniels, which was widely enjoyed by attendees. Returning to Country Night was Tom Bishop and his famous rope tricks! Friday evening saw 14,569 attendees.



Saturday of Pelham Summerfest was another beautiful day on Pelham Street and in Peace Park for the highly anticipated Kids Zone. New to Summerfest this year was the Pelham Street Games, taking place on Pelham Street from Churchill to College Street from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. The Pelham Street Games featured 10 life size games sponsored by 9 local businesses. The Pelham Street Games were a popular addition to the event this year. Saturday's Rockin' on Pelham Street featured musical performances from Craig McNair, Dynamic Trio, Brandon Agnew, Ryan Thomas Smelle Trio, Figure Four, Mage, the Madhatters and headliners, the Chimps. In between the musical performances, fire dancers filled the area in front of the stage to put on three separate shows for the crowd.





The Saturday Kids Zone in Peace Park featured an array of entertainment and activities including Niagara Inflatables, the highly anticipated Superhero Training, Balloon Twisting, Reptile Kingdom, Mad Science, Fonthill Music Academy, Stilt Walking, Firefighters, and family magic shows! In addition to the entertainment, the Kids Zone also featured food and artisan vendors!



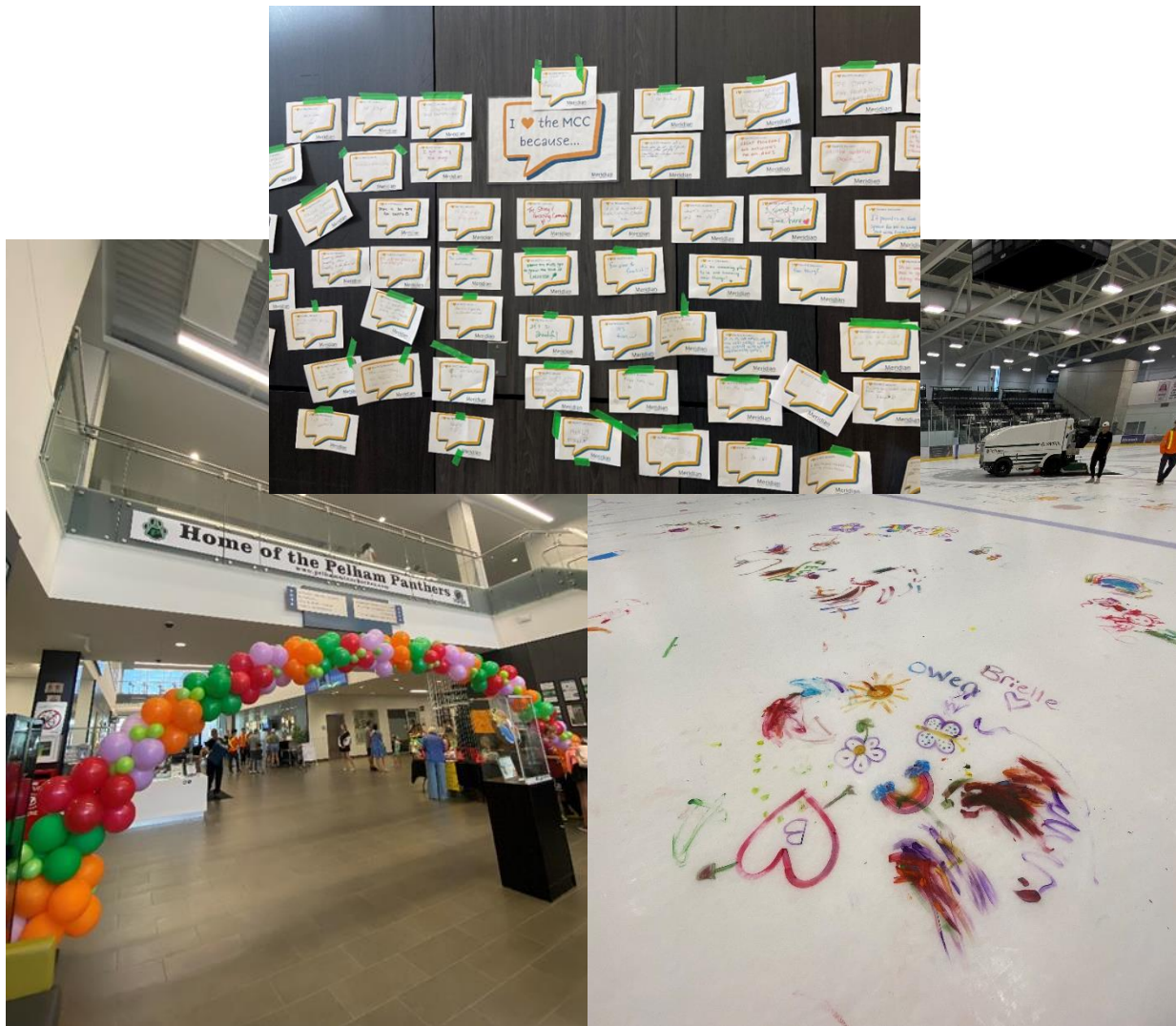
Sunday, the fourth and final day of Pelham Summerfest once again saw clear skies and warm temperatures for the Kids Zone and Car Show! Featuring a record-breaking 120 registered cars, attracting automotive enthusiasts and spectators alike, thanks to our partner Storm the Falls for organizing and promoting the car show for the second year. The 120 vehicles lined the entirety of Pelham Town Square, overflowing into the municipal lot. This year, the Sunday Kids Zone was enhanced to mimic the entertainment and activities offered on the Saturday with inflatables, magic, mini golf, balloon animals, face painting, stilt walking and food and artisan vendors. In addition to the Kids Zone and Car Show, Jim Casson returned to provide entertainment with his Blues Band. Jimmy's Juke Joint drew a significantly large crowd, adding a musical dimension to the Summerfest Sunday festivities.





Meridian Community Centre 6 Year Celebration

On Saturday, September 14th, the MCC hosted an event to celebrate 6 years of operation. With an attendance of 1,450 throughout the duration of the event, residents and visitors enjoyed a variety of activities and entertainment. During the day, attendees had an array of activities to participate in including ice painting, meet the Olympia, inflatable arcade zone, family magic show, family skates, face painting, balloon animals, a community art space, an interactive passport and more! Attendees also had the opportunity to connect with the Rotary Club of Fonthill, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee and the Women's Shiny group. During the evening, families were able to enjoy food trucks and entertainment from 6:00 – 11:00 pm in the courtyard. Musical performances were provided by Max Ingrao, Claralux, Copper & Iron, Caitlin Miller, and Craig McNair.



Volunteers

During Q3 of 2024 Staff received 9 new volunteer expression of interest forms through the Town's website. Staff continue to advertise volunteer opportunities through emailing the community volunteer database and posting through our social media channels.

One Senior VIP (Volunteer in Pelham) has continued to contribute her time to the Meridian Community Centre. During Q3 of 2023, this volunteer contributed a total of 12 hours to assisting with the Orchestrum Music drop-in program on Friday's and the monthly Big Band Dance Night.

Volunteers also assisted on Canada Day as face painting attendants, kids zone attendants. A total of six volunteers contributed 39 hours to Canada Day. Finally, six volunteers contributed 45 hours as bike valet attendants at the Thursday night Summer Chill evenings at Peace Park.



A total of 59 volunteers contributed 243 hours to various volunteer positions including: Summerfest ambassador, wrist-banding attendant, bouncy castle attendant, bike valet attendant, and Pelham Street games attendant. Members from Pelham Service Clubs also contributed 40 volunteers and 170 hours on the Saturday of Summerfest. Service club positions included: serving, bar backing, ticket sales, wrist banding, and Summerfest ambassadors. In total, Pelham volunteers and Service Club members contributed 413 hours to Summerfest. Summerfest gained us the largest number of volunteer hours so far this year.



Dedication Program

During Q3 of 2024, there was 1 new inquiry for the bench dedication program.

The Memorial Bench for the Tramsek family has been installed at the Steve Baur Trail near the Port Robinson rd. entrance.



The memorial Bench for the Hyde family has been installed at Centennial Park to honour Bruce Hyde and remember his work as founder of Niagara Pickleball Masters (NPM) as part of the Global Pickleball Network.



The tree dedication for The Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club has been installed at Harold Black Park and unveiled at their Legacy Project Tree Dedication/Adopt-A-Road event on Friday, September 13, 2024. The plaque has the following inscription: "This tree is dedicated to the outstanding members of the Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club in recognition of their time and talents spent in service to the club and to the advancement of recreational cycling in the Niagara Region."

