

Oh Canada Waterdown Ribfest

Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions



Hours of Operation 2026

Thursday - June 25 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Friday – June 26 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Saturday – June 27 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Sunday – June 28 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Website: www.ohcanadaribfest.ca

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/OCanadaRibfest/>

Twitter: @ocanadaribfest #waterdownribfest

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Welcome and Thank You

On behalf of the entire organizing committee of the Oh Canada Waterdown Ribfest we'd like to say **THANK YOU** for volunteering to help at our community event. A year's worth of planning and organizing by the committee goes into making Ribfest but without volunteers such as yourself we could not make it happen.

This event has become major 'Start of Summer' event in the Waterdown community and draws guests from all over Southern Ontario. We have entertainment for all age groups as well as food, drinks and shopping for everyone.

Each year it takes hundreds of volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours to make the Oh Canada Waterdown Ribfest a success but the outcome of this great community event impacts people all around the world. Your sweat and hard work at Ribfest will help many, many people in our community and globally.

Have fun, be safe and meet some great new people.... Thanks again for helping us make this a success!

Ryan Bridge

Volunteer Coordinator 2026

History and Background of Ribfest

The Oh Canada Waterdown Ribfest began in 2010 and has grown to become one of the Waterdown community's marquee events. Sponsored since the beginning by the Rotary Clubs of Waterdown and Flamborough AM, all funds raised at the Ribfest go directly to support Rotary projects in our local community and around the world.

Some of the many Rotary projects that are sponsored through the two Rotary clubs are:

Community:

- Scholarships for local high school students pursuing post-secondary education
- The Flamborough Youth Centre
- The Flamborough and Grace Food Banks
- Flamborough Connects

- Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum High Flight educational program
- Food4Kids in Waterdown
- City Kidz
- McMaster Children's Hospital
- Flamborough Santa Claus Parade
- YMCA Strong Kids
- CHOICES Supporting the Developmentally Challenged
- Youth Leadership programs

International:

- Wells for Haiti
- Polio Plus – Global Polio eradication
- ShelterBox – disaster relief kits
- Nurses For Africa
- Orbis Flying Eye Hospital
- Operation Eyesight
- Mobile Dental Clinics in the Philippines
- Afghanistan School Project
- International Youth Exchange

Safety First

The safety of our guests and our volunteers is our **Number 1 Priority**. Please be careful and use all of the safety equipment provided. If you see an unsafe situation, please advise your supervisor or any Rotarian immediately. **You are NOT required to perform work that you feel is unsafe or that you do not feel comfortable performing.**

A First Aid tent is set up on the park and we have qualified first responders available to help with any injuries. Please ensure they are notified immediately of any medical issues you encounter in the park.

You are not required to perform any work that you feel is unsafe or that you are not comfortable performing, please inform your supervisor or a Rotarian if you do not want to perform a specific task.

Please drink plenty of water and stay hydrated throughout your shift and if you don't feel well, let your supervisor know immediately. Sunscreen and appropriate clothing for the weather are needed for your own safety and comfort.

Key Contacts

Your primary point of contact during Ribfest will be the Volunteer Tent which is set up near the main gate (near the skate park). We can help you get set up when you arrive and can help answer any questions you may have. You will also have an adult supervisor in each area during your shift.

For any last-minute emergencies you can contact our Volunteer Coordinator

Ryan Bridge at 905-690-6331 (voice or text) or via Email at Ryan.Bridge@hotmail.ca

Where do I go?

Please try to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled start time.

Your first stop upon arrival at Memorial Park will be the Volunteer Tent at the main entrance (near the carnival). Check in with the volunteers working there and they will let you know where you are scheduled to work, provide a food token and water, get you a T-shirt and introduce you to the team you will be working with. Student volunteers will be provided with a timecard to allow us to track your volunteer hours over the weekend.

General volunteers may be held in the volunteer area for a little bit as we determine where best to place everyone and to ensure that all of the positions are covered.

Volunteers need to check in at the start of each shift at the Volunteer Tent so we know which positions are staffed and which ones are still open.

What do I wear?

Please dress for the weather forecast for the day(s) you are scheduled to work. Wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting a little dirty. We provide all volunteers with a T-shirt to wear, and we do have limited changing facilities for everyone.

A hat or head covering is highly recommended as you may be in the sun for extended periods of time.

Wear comfortable shoes as many of the volunteer tasks could involve standing or walking for most or all the shifts. If you have any limitations, please let the staff at the Volunteer Tent know.

What should I bring with me?

Please bring sunscreen, a water bottle and insect repellent if needed. We will provide latex gloves, reflective vests and other safety equipment but if you feel more comfortable with your own equipment, you're welcome to bring it with you.

Backpacks and purses can be left in the Volunteer tent during your shift, if you'd like.

Water is provided for you for free throughout the day and hamburgers/hot dogs will be available for free for all volunteers.

Student volunteers looking for their volunteer hours should bring their school form on their last shift or before the end of the Ribfest and we will tally up your total hours and sign the form for you.

Where can volunteers park?

There is no free volunteer parking in the main Memorial Park parking lot.

Volunteer parking is available at the Mary Hopkins school parking lot (off of Main Street) for all volunteers and it's just a short walk to the park from there.

Where can I eat?

As a volunteer we will provide you with a free hamburger or hotdog each shift in appreciation for your help. If you have dietary restrictions or a food allergy, please let us know and we will try to accommodate as best we can.

There are many other food options available in the park for everyone, but standard prices do apply.

How do I get my volunteer hours?

Each student volunteer will receive a volunteer timecard upon checking in at the Volunteer Tent. At the end of each shift students should get their timecard signed by their supervisor or by the staff at the volunteer tent. The signed timecard should be turned in at the end of your shift and we will keep them in a file. Once you have completed all your shifts, simply bring us your school's community service form and we will tally up your total hours and sign your sheet for you.

Student volunteers looking for their volunteer hours should bring their school form on their last shift or before the end of the Ribfest and we will tally up your total hours and sign the form for you.

What am I going to be doing?

The tasks vary based on the role you signed up for. If you signed up as a General Volunteer we may place you in various suitable positions around the park. If you do not feel comfortable performing the task(s) you have been assigned, please let the staff at the Volunteer Tent know.

What if I can't make my shift?

We understand that life happens and sometimes you will not be able to make it for a shift that you had signed up for. If you know in advance that you will not be able to make your shift you can sign on to your volunteer account at <http://www.ohcanadaribfest.ca/be-a-volunteer/> and remove yourself from the schedule.

If it is too close to the start of your shift or if you are unable to get online, please contact Ryan Bridge at 905-690-6331 (voice or text) or Ryan.Bridge@hotmail.ca

Can I work extra shifts?

Of course, we usually have available slots throughout the weekend that we need help filling. If you wish to help on additional shifts simply let the staff at the Volunteer Tent know and we can add you to the schedule.

Thank you once again for volunteering to help make the Waterdown Oh Canada Ribfest a great community event! Your work helps to directly support Rotary projects in our local community and around the world.

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."
~Winston Churchill

