



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
OSHAWA, ONTARIO L1H 3Z7

## **Statement from Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter on Vandalism to Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park and Garden of Human Rights**

As Mayor, I am extremely disheartened by destructive acts of vandalism at the City of Oshawa's newly opened Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park and Garden of Human Rights.

I am saddened and frustrated to share that the beautiful Waterfront Park and Garden of Human Rights – named in honour of long-time former Oshawa MP Mr. Ed Broadbent, a champion and advocate for human rights – incurred significant and costly damages in two separate incidents of vandalism. At this time, initial estimates to repair the damages is upwards to \$50,000.

We are severely disappointed by these criminal acts of violence and the destruction of such a beautiful space that is enjoyed by residents and visitors and those travelling through our city on the waterfront trail system. More importantly, I am disheartened by the visual impact, including the very noticeable damage to the Garden of Human Rights sign that is seen by visitors to the Gardens and those travelling to and from Oshawa's waterfront. Sadly, until repaired, damage to the light poles at the amphitheatre could impact our evening Events in the Park program series and community events and programming this summer.

While it is not uncommon for communities to occasionally experience graffiti and some vandalism to public amenities, the damage to Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park and Garden of Human Rights is extensive and costly.

Unfortunately, there have been other recent acts of vandalism in our community, including removal of plantings from City gardens and graffiti and property damage in various areas throughout the city. I am frustrated to share that a number of private property owners, including small businesses, are faced with costs to repair graffiti and other damages.

I urge all community members to help bring an end to these incidents of destruction and vandalism to public spaces and private properties. If you see something that does not seem quite right, report it. We can make our community safer by reporting non-criminal and nuisance-related issues to Service Oshawa (905-436-3311) and criminal activity to Durham Regional Police Service (9-1-1 for emergencies and serious crimes in progress or 905-579-1520). Visit [Oshawa.ca/ReportIt](https://www.oshawa.ca/ReportIt) to learn more.

Let's show pride in our city and work together to keep Oshawa beautiful for all of us to enjoy.