

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**2023 FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN ONTARIO  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

***Provincial organization recognizes Ontario's Best Festival Achievements***

**Niagara Falls, Ontario (March 8, 2023)** Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) is proud to announce the 2023 FEO Achievement Award winners. These awards, showcase various elements of festivals or events that those submitting believe stood out in the previous festival year. The Achievement Awards were handed out on Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 during FEO's annual conference "CELEBRATE" in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Submissions from FEO members were received for consideration in the fall of 2022 and were judged by an independent panel of judges. Festivals and events of all kinds from every corner of Ontario were represented in the submissions – from community festivals to internationally recognized events.

FEO would like to congratulate the 2023 Achievement Award Winners sponsored by **Smart Serve Ontario**:

***Best Greening of a Festival or Event***

*\$500,000 or more*

**Hillside Festival**

**Sound of Music Festival**

***Best New Festival or Event***

*\$100,000 or less – Belleville Diwali Festival*

*\$100,001 to \$500,000 – Chatham Crowfest*

\$100,001 to \$500,000 – **Indigenous Tourism Ontario – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**  
\$500,001 or more – **Blue Mountain Film Festival**

**Best Promotional Campaign**

\$100,000 or less – **Hamilton Day**  
\$100,001 to \$500,000 – **Vaughan Celebrates Canada Day**  
\$500,001 or more – **Redpath Waterfront Festival**

**Best Social Media Campaign**

**Hamilton Day**

**FEO Impact Award**

\$100,000 or less – **The Sound Waterfront Festival**  
\$100,000 or less – **East Gwillimbury Nature Day**  
\$100,001 to \$500,000 – **Indigenous Tourism Ontario – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**  
\$100,001 to \$500,000 – **Fan EXPO Canada**

**FEO Innovation Award**

\$100,000 or less – **Owen Sound River District Holiday Magic**  
\$100,001 to \$500,000 – **Port Elgin Pumpkinfest**  
\$100,001 to \$500,000 – **Stouffville Holiday Market**

**Sponsor of the year**

\$100,000 or less – **Amherstburg River Lights Winter Festival** sponsored by: Enbridge  
\$100,001 to \$500,000 – **Hamilton Winterfest** sponsored by: Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority

**Best Volunteer Program**

**Lucknow's Music in the Fields**  
**Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights**

The “CELEBRATE” 2023 Festivals & Events Ontario Conference was held in Niagara Falls, Ontario from March 6-8, 2023.

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**About Festivals & Events Ontario**

Festivals & Events Ontario (FEO) was established in 1987 as an association devoted to the growth and stability of the festival and event industry in Ontario. FEO supports a lively, engaged and dedicated festival and events industry by sharing knowledge, enabling networking and providing leadership on education, advocacy and promotion. FEO operates Canada's largest dedicated festival and event Conference, publishes and distributes an annual consumer guide, promotes its industry festival supplier goods and services and oversees an industry-leading awards recognition program. The festivals and events industry in Ontario is estimated to generate in excess of \$2.3 billion annually in contribution to regional GDP, create/sustain approximately 50,000 full-year-equivalent jobs and foster approximately \$1 billion dollars in taxes at all levels of government.