

Beaverton Became an International City of Peace

It is with great pleasure that I share that in September 2025, Beaverton was officially designated as a **Community of Peace** by the *International Cities of Peace* organization.

<https://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/user/beaverton%20ontario%20canada/>

Over the years, I have been actively pursuing peace initiatives not only in Beaverton, but also across the GTA and North America through both in-person and online events and programs.

I kindly request the Township's support in announcing and recognizing this important achievement for Beaverton.

If aligned with the Township's priorities, we may also explore the possibility of expanding this designation in the future — potentially recognizing all of Brock Township as an International City of Peace.

Regardless of the next steps, I believe it is meaningful for us to celebrate this current recognition, which reflects the dedication of our community and its growing presence in global peacebuilding efforts.

What are International Cities of Peace?

International Cities of Peace™ is a not-for-profit and non-political association which started in 2009 in the United States founded by Frederick Arment, an avid Peace Leader. The organization, with its advisory council, is working to provide a sustainable platform for citizens to bring every person in the community into the process of working toward a culture of peace. VISION: To foster peace as a consensus value in Cities of Peace around the world. MISSION: To network, encourage, document, and provide resources and information for leaders and organizations working to make peace a consensus value through the global Cities of Peace movement. GOAL: 1000 International Cities of Peace by 2025.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/about/what-are-cities-of-peace/>

How many other Cities have this designation?

There are currently 459 cities that hold this designation of an International Cities of Peace around the World. Canada used to have 5 cities that held this designation including Chilliwack, Victoria, Calgary, Montreal and Toronto, later [Charlottetown](#), [Dieppe](#), [Riverview](#), [Moncton](#), [Lethbridge](#) joined this list. Recently with the Peacefulness Challenge initiative across Canada by Heartfulness Institute in collaboration with Peacefulness Institute, we have now [Beaverton](#), [Surrey](#), [West Kelowna](#), [Toronto Community](#) holding this designation and bringing life to the idea of peace in each community.

What are the experiences of other cities with this? What are they doing?

Each experience is very different as each city self-defines as a city of peace in a way that best meets its unique needs and legacy of peace building. Here are a few examples of other cities and their projects: • Victoria: Cultivating Peace from the Inside Out. lobbying for a Canadian Dept. of Peace • Ashland, OR: Peace to Police, Bridging youth and veterans, Peace Education in Schools • Chilliwack: Youth and Peace Education in schools and youth delegation to UN • Occala, FL: Business Community, Arts and Peace Tourism • Montreal: Circles Of Peace for Storytelling and bringing people together • Kibuye, Rwanda: Social Peace and Justice for Women How does a community qualify for this designation? Typically, a City of Peace begins as a grassroots community initiative which then invites the city to join in, sign a proclamation, and collaborate/support local peace initiatives.

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Does Brock Township qualify as an International City of Peace?

As each community under Brock Township have their own identity and activities, we need two more liaisons, one in Cannington and one in Sunderland that can bring life to peace inspired activities until September 2026 when we can share about:

- Our past achievements
- Our current initiatives
- Our desire to inspire future generations for practical peace building

Based on the conversation I have started with International Cities of Peace, Brock Township can qualify to become an international city of peace if we can identify a liaison for the two other communities of Sunderland and Cannington and can initiate peace inspired activities in these communities as well.

How could Brock Township benefit from this initiative?

By becoming an International City of Peace, Brock Township could benefit in multiple ways, including economic development, growth of Peace tourism and a sense of belonging for all citizens and newcomers. Twelve specific benefits from the International City of Peace Association are:

1. Information: resources and links to “how to” materials
2. Affirmation and Recognition: membership in a global association
3. Connections: alliances with affiliated organizations
4. Legitimacy: a higher profile in the worldwide community
5. Education: access to exhibits and teaching tools
6. Funding Options: links to funders and global funding sources
7. Online Learning: video and hard-copy documents
8. Online Presence: free website page promoting Brock Township
9. Public Relations: free news release through blog post
10. Community: receive and be featured in newsletters
11. Database: access to ICP database for connections
12. U.N. Representation: ICP has Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

How could the community and citizens be impacted?

Brock Township could become recognized as a national and international leader in peace building, promoting a Culture of Peace where all residents and visitors feel safe, heard and empowered. It could continue to bring compassion to conversations, decision-making and systems. The Brock Township community would benefit by creating an emerging, evolving, living model for thriving together.

What is the link with the United Nations?

Within the framework of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations, a vision of safe and sustainable cities, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, the environment, promoting gender equality and peaceful and inclusive societies. The SDGs enshrine a conceptual shift in thinking about the global community beyond economic growth — envisioning a future that is equitable, inclusive, peaceful, and environmentally sustainable. This bold vision demands creative approaches, beyond the typical silos and linear ones with emphasis on engagement, collaboration and a sense of belonging which aligns with Brock Township’s vision and the International Cities of Peace.

What are the risks for the city?

There are no risks for a city in establishing itself as a City of Peace. The City itself, and the leaders in the community, establish the goals based on the needs of the community in increasing the safety, prosperity, and quality of life for all. The network is a platform for a City to build unity of purpose in creating a culture of peace and promoting programs to help the community around diversity, engagement and a sense of belonging. Establishing a City of Peace is good for children, good for tourism, and good for building community.

The only caution would be that the process for creating a city of peace is more than signatures on paper. Rather than a one-time event, it is a commitment to a sustainable process of building and expanding a culture of peace.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the cities in this designation?

The Cities get to decide on their specific roles and how this initiative integrates into their own visions, strategic plans and opportunities for community engagement. It is encouraged that the Cities be involved in its leadership, co-creation and evolution.

What does the city need to do to maintain the status?

Establishing Brock Township as a City of Peace is a general commitment to continuing to foster a peaceful culture. There are no audits or annual reporting to maintain the status. Once you are granted the designation there are no additional maintenance requirements.

How can we make this sustainable?

Creating an International City of Peace offers a vision and platform for the entire community to begin working toward a culture of peace. We are co-creating a collaborative movement where all parties are invited to commit, collaborate and take mutual responsibility for its ongoing evolution. What other organizations are supporting this initiative? There are various local organizations in support of International Cities of Peace such as: YMCA, YWCA, Woven Cultures, Rotary, Dialogue NB, along with schools and members of the Business Community.

How can Brock Township call itself a City of Peace if we are experiencing challenges such as gender inequality, crime, discrimination and violence?

No city is 100% a city of peace. We all endeavor to “become”. Establishing the Brock Township as part of International Cities of Peace gives individuals and groups, as well as governments a

chance to continually focus on co-creating a community-wide culture of peace. This is a forum which supports collaboration on difficult community challenges on both sides of debates and problems and encourages dialogue and solutions where everyone can be heard.

What funding and resources are required?

There are no fees, dues or obligations attached to becoming a city of peace. Each community has a legacy of peace that can be highlighted. It is suggested that each city has a contact or liaison person to support and represent their city on a “board” or stakeholder team that oversees this ongoing initiative. The Cities may or may not decide to allocate funds or resources as this initiative evolves and expands.

What would the proclamation and launch look like?

To begin the process, a Proclamation is signed by the mayor. A sample proclamation can be found at <https://www.ashlandcpc.org/city-of-peace-proclamation> The celebration ceremony and launch would be determined jointly with all stakeholders once the City Mayor signs the Proclamation. One suggested public launch date is on United Nations International Day of Peace, September 21, 2026.