How to Start your own Repair Café
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Mission Statement

Oshawa Public Libraries enriches the lives and potential of the people of Oshawa by connecting them to the world of information and each other.
What is a Repair Café?

The Repair Café Foundation has the following goals:

- bring back repairing to local society
- maintain repair expertise and spread this knowledge
- promote social cohesion in the local community by connecting neighbours from very different backgrounds and with each other through an inspiring and low-key event.
How to start your own Repair Café

• Repaircafe.org
• Membership and toolkit
• Recruit Volunteers
• Begin to collect tools and supplies through budget or donations

“Very positive experience with helpful members of the community.”
Barrie Public Library’s Repair Café

• Started Spring 2017
• Program started to reach Adult Makers
• 1-4pm on Saturdays
• Orientation & Training were provided
• Two types of volunteers recruited: Fixers & Greeters
Seniors Community Grant

• Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility
• Their goals were broken out into Key and Secondary Priorities
  • Provide opportunities for seniors to network and be part of the social fabric of their community while providing a valuable service
  • Promote intergenerational partnerships by engaging all ages
  • Provide opportunities to combat social isolation
• Our grant proposal asked for funds to host 6 Repair Cafes between July 2018 and March 2019 at our 4 branches
Marketing and Communication

- Local Rotary Club
- Alzheimer’s Society of Durham Region
- Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres
- Durham Woodworking Club
- Library Board and staff
- Friends of the Library Group
- Durham College and University of Ontario Institute of Technology
- Club Carib (Caribbean Cultural Centre)
- Durham Council on Aging
Marketing and Communication

Repair Café: Don’t Throw it Away!
Bring your broken home appliances, electronics, clothing repairs, jewellery, and more to our free Repair Café. Our skilled volunteers will work with us to teach and learn new skills, and keep items out of landfills.

Northview Branch (250 Beatrice St. E.)
Saturday, March 23, 10 AM-2 PM

Stay tuned for more 2019 dates!

905.579.6111
oshlib.ca/signup

Funded by the Ontario government, through the Seniors Community Grant Program.
Marketing and Communication

- Posters, postcards, bi-monthly library program guide
- Developed waiver forms for public and volunteers
- Developed evaluation forms for the public and the volunteers
Volunteers are the key to success

“I think the Repair café is a marvellous idea and I am sharing with my senior friends. Little odd things that need doing can be hard for us. Great idea. Keep it up.”
Volunteer Orientation

- Program Initiatives
- What to expect
- Safety
- Schedule
- Tools/Supply recommendations
On the day

- Library staff:
  - Set up tables, repair tools and equipment, collections display, coffee table and lunch
  - Registration table
  - Waivers, photo release forms, triage, evaluation
  - Social media: 335 followers engaged with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
Lessons Learned

• Form a task group with a point person to oversee all of the details
• Select the right staff to run the events
• 10 am - 2 pm (set up and tear down extra, so 9-3)
• Provide coffee for volunteers and the public (It’s a Café!)
• Provide lunch for volunteers and ensure they take a break!
Lessons Learned

- Volunteers with no customers
- Customers with inadequate volunteers
- Missing skill sets
- Awareness in the community
- Communicating the intent of the Repair cafes (Demanding Customers)
- Crowd control and triage
- Space
- Electrical outlets
- Managing the tool kits
Accomplishments

- 8 Repair Cafés
- 246 participants
- 16 dedicated volunteers with different skill sets
- Items fixed include: heaters, capes, CD players, bracelets, coffee makers, mixers, fans
Accomplishments

• Networking
• Validation
• Friendships
• Teaching skills and vocabulary to new generations

“They got my laptop working after 2 years. I was going to throw it out! I learned so much”
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