

### **Dive into the New Year at the Clarington Polar Bear Swim The Coolest Event of the Season!**

Kick off 2025 with a splash! Take the ultimate plunge into Lake Ontario at the Annual Clarington Polar Bear Swim on New Year's Day. This exhilarating event is the perfect way to start the year on a high, while raising money for a cause that makes waves in our community.

Whether you're braving the icy waters solo or rallying a team, dive in with purpose – every splash supports Autism Home Base through the Hollylynn Towie Memorial Fund, funding vital social and recreational programs for autistic adults and their families.

Be among the first 200 brave swimmers to register and snag a free, exclusive Polar Bear Swim toque! Plus, don't miss your chance to win prizes for the best costume, top fundraiser, and more! Last year, we raised over \$20,000 – help us beat that and make an even bigger impact in 2025.

Feel the energy, embrace the chill, and experience the thrill of this unforgettable event. Media are invited to capture all the action as participants leap into the freezing waters, united by a great cause. Interviews with organizers and brave participants will be available on-site.

#### **Event Details:**

**Date:** New Year's Day – January 1, 2025

**Time:** Check-in begins at 12:45 pm; Swim kicks off at 2 pm sharp!

**Location:** Bond Head Parkette, Newcastle

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#### **For more information or to set up interviews, contact:**

**Paula Carter, Director of Development**

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**Autism Home Base (AHB)** provides safe, adapted social and recreational opportunities through which autistic adults and their families may explore new interests and connect with a supportive peer community. Through virtual, community-based, and on-site programs at their Autism Hub, located in the heart of Bowmanville, Ontario, they are building a community for the often-overlooked adults still living at home with family caregivers.

**Hollylynn Towie Memorial Fund** was established in honour of a remarkable young autistic woman. Known for her warm heart and fierce loyalty as a friend, Hollylynn had a dream of pursuing a career in cosmetology. Tragically, on April 29th, 2012, Hollylynn's life was cut short in a devastating house fire in Whitby, where she passed away alongside her two best friends. In the wake of this unimaginable loss, Hollylynn's family channeled their grief into action, dedicating themselves to honoring her memory by supporting others in the autism

## Media Advisory



community. Over the years, they have tirelessly raised funds to create meaningful opportunities for autistic individuals—ensuring that Hollylynn's legacy lives on.