

What's Easter All About? Edition

Easter Explained

Easter is an important festival in the Christian calendar. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, an event central to Christian belief. According to the New Testament, Jesus rose from his tomb on the third day after his crucifixion.

While Easter's primary meaning is deeply rooted in Christian religious belief, the holiday has also developed several non-religious or secular aspects and traditions, particularly in how it is celebrated culturally. These often focus on themes of spring, new life, and community. Easter often falls around the spring equinox, a time when nature awakens after winter. Easter Sunday is the following Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. For 2025, Easter Sunday is April 20th. The longer days, blooming flowers, and the general sense of renewal in the air contribute to Easter being seen as a celebration of the season itself. The themes of rebirth and new life, central to the religious meaning, resonate on a secular level as a time for personal renewal, hope, and fresh starts.

In Ottawa, people will observe non-religious aspects of Easter through Easter egg hunts organized by communities or businesses, families enjoying springtime activities, and the general festive atmosphere associated with a long weekend and the arrival of warmer weather. While the religious significance remains paramount for Christians, the secular traditions

contribute to the broader appeal and celebration of Easter.

Origins of Easter

Easter is a very famous holiday here in Canada! Its origins are often misconceived as solely Christian, however, the roots can be traced back to plenty of ancient religions and cultures. Easter was developed out of multiple traditions. It was commercialized to blend Resurrection Day with the Jewish passover day, as well as many ancient spring festivals. It quickly gained popularity due to its inclusion of all backgrounds. Many families began to spend dinners together or participate in Easter Egg hunts to celebrate.

Modern Symbols

The Easter Bunny and Easter Eggs are symbols of fertility and new life which is often associated with Spring. They have historic meaning within Christianity and Paganism and have been modernized to be celebrated by all. Canadians often participate in Easter Egg hunts and painting Eggs! Once Easter began to be commercialized, the rise of chocolates and candy did not go unnoticed. They symbolize the joy and celebration that was intended when Easter was created. Easter parades and bonnets are also traditions that signify the arrival of spring and celebration.



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Pesach or Passover

Passover, known as Pesach in Hebrew, is a major Jewish holiday that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. It's a historical and religious festival that is rich in tradition and meaning. Passover is an eight-day festival (seven days in Israel and for many Reform Jews). In 2025, Passover begins at sundown on Saturday, April 12th, and concludes after nightfall on Sunday, April 20th. Passover is a holiday that emphasizes themes of freedom, remembrance, and the importance of passing on the story of liberation from generation to generation. It serves as a reminder of the Jewish people's history, their resilience in the face of oppression, and the value of freedom for all.



Student Involvement

Email this edition's word to Kritc1@ocdsb.ca for a shoutout in the next edition of The Brookfield Bark!



Ovechkin Breaks Gretzky's NHL Career Goals Record

In the sports world outside of Brookfield. Alex Ovechkin, one of the Washington Capitals left wings, scored his 895th goal in the regular NHL season, breaking a 24 year old record held by NHL superstar Wayne Gretzky. This happened in a 4-1 loss to the New York Islanders at UBS Arena on Sunday April 6th 2025. Gretzky retired in 1999 with 894 goals in 1,487 games during his 20 NHL seasons. Ovechkin scored his 895th goal in his 1,487th game.