



### Ready, Set, Go with Our New Timing Lights

2025 brought another exciting leap forward for WESDA with the introduction of our large-format double sided spectator timing lights and a custom built weight scale system!

Mounted on our collapsible finish line structure, the new timing lights have quickly become a crowd favorite. When racers are loaded into the starting blocks, and the starting gate drops, they flash "GO!", letting everyone know the race has begun. As each car crosses the finish line, the lights instantly display 1st or 2nd place, followed by each racer's official time just seconds later.

To keep things fair and competitive, we also added a custom-designed weight scale that measures both the car and driver before each race. This ensures every racer competes on equal ground and helps maintain the integrity of the competition.

### Four Car Sponsors, Sixteen Smiles

This year, we're proud to share that four incredible companies stepped up to sponsor our race cars

**APC Auto Parts, Centerline, Motor City Community Credit Union and Young Drivers.**

With four races and four generous sponsors, we were able to give up to 16 young racers the opportunity to experience Soapbox Derby racing before building or buying their own cars. A huge thank-you to our sponsors for helping make this possible and for supporting youth, families, and the spirit of community across Windsor-Essex!



### Fantastick Fathers – A New Location

We kicked off the season with a new partnership with Fantastic Fathers, hosting our first race at the St. Clair College SportsPlex on June 14. Nineteen young racers brought tons of energy and excitement to this new location. The Fantastic Fathers team helped create a fun, family-focused atmosphere that set the tone for the season.

We were thrilled when CTV Windsor's News Michelle Maluske stopped by to film a segment for the evening news check it out in our In the News section of our website! A huge thank-you to Fantastic Fathers for helping us start the year with such a great event! We also welcomed our furthest family yet, travelling all the way from the GTA to race with us.



### Tecumseh Corn and Music Fest – A Festival Favorite

Tecumseh Corn and music Fest at McAuliffe Park was buzzing—music, rides, food, and non-stop racing on Sunday. Spectators packed in all day to see our short track. We introduced our new weight scales here, tightening the field and even yielding a couple of ties. We snapped a great photo with the kids and Nibby the mascot, and invited the Optimist Club's president and vice president for a friendly race to the finish. Thank you to the Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach for sponsoring our race and organizing such a memorable festival!



### Windsor Children's Fest – Where Kids (and Parents) Become Racers Again

This year's Windsor Children's Fest was another unforgettable event, proudly sponsored by Integrity Tool and Mold and hosted in partnership with the Rotary Club of Windsor.

We invited kids and parents to be kids again, as families joined in the fun for a full weekend of racing and smiles. Saturday was all about exploration and excitement, with new racers and community members stopping by to sit in our soapbox cars, learn about the races, and get a taste of what it's like to be part of the action.



Sunday brought race day energy to life, with cheering crowds and colorful costumes for our "Best Dressed at the Fest" award. The creativity and spirit everyone brought truly made the event shine! Windsor Children's Fest continues to be one of our most attended and anticipated events each year, drawing in new families, new racers, and a whole lot of community pride. A huge thank-you to Integrity Tool and Mold and the Rotary Club of Windsor for making it all possible and for helping us share the joy of Soapbox Derby racing with so many families across the region!





## Essex – A Season Finale to Remember

This year, we wrapped up our 2025 season in the Town of Essex, bringing the excitement of Soapbox Derby racing to a new venue the heritage park and pavilion, just off Main Street. The change of scenery proved to be a fantastic move, giving us plenty of space for racers, spectators, and a vibrant community setup.

For the first time, we transformed the event into our season finale a family BBQ, complete with local vendors and food booths, and a special BBQ lunch provided by Scouts Canadas The 3<sup>rd</sup> of Essex for all our young racers. The atmosphere was incredible a true community event filled with laughter, cheering, and great memories.

We also received a large number of donated gifts and promotional items, which helped make this year's finale extra special. Racers and families enjoyed prize raffles and giveaways throughout the day. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Katie McGuire-Blais, Town of Essex Ward 1 Councillor, for personally donating prizes, and to Mayor Sherry Bondy for presenting official Town of Essex awards to our top three racers.

We were also joined by a member of the Essex OPP, who brought an extra spark of fun and community spirit even issuing a "speeding ticket" to our fastest racer of the day!

A huge thank-you to the Essex Centre BIA, the Town of Essex, and everyone who helped make this season finale one to remember. It was the perfect way to close out another incredible year of racing in Windsor-Essex! We even had an amazing feature by CTV News Windsor and the Windsor Star, who interviewed racers, families, and young competitors about their Soapbox Derby experience. You can find these interviews in the "In the News" section of our website.



Congratulations to Wylie the driver of the #53 car, who achieved 4 out of 4 first-place finishes in our series, along with A **SPEEDING TICKET** at our season final.



# 20 WESDA 25

Windsor-Essex Soapbox Derby Association

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### A Special Thank You

We're grateful to What's Poppin' Popcorn Factory for bringing snacks to every race, keeping our kids fueled and smiling. Thank you, Katie McGuire-Blais, for your thoughtful gifts, and to the families who chose to give anonymously. Special thanks to CenterLine for equipment support and a grand raffle prize valued at over \$500.



### Windsor Essex Locations

South Windsor : June  
Harrow : June  
Tecumseh : Aug  
Windsor : Sept  
Essex : Sept

We are also in talks with other municipalities for future race locations.

Look for us at most races in South Western Ontario

### Other Locations

Retrofest Chatham  
Port Lambton  
Sombra  
Dresden  
Wallaceburg  
Petrolia  
Thamesville  
Ridgetown  
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Sponsorship info available upon request