

SCENIC BEACH DRIVE BURLINGTON to HAMILTON

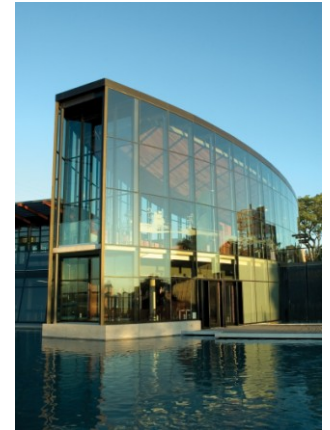
DRIVING DIRECTIONS : Exiting from the QEW on Northshore Blvd turn left at lights onto Northshore. At Maple and Lakeshore you will see to the right the Waterfront at Burlington and on the left Burlington Art Centre.

The Waterfront at Burlington Downtown -Spencer Smith Park

The land for this park was originally part of a parcel granted to the Mohawk leader Joseph Brant, in recognition of his service to The British Crown during the American Revolution. During the 19th century and into the 20th, Lakeshore Road was immediately adjacent to Lake Ontario. There was no protection from storms, and waves frequently washed over the road, threatening nearby property. In 1939 the federal government stepped in and built a seawall. That same year, the Burlington Horticultural Society became involved in cleaning up the shoreline just west of the foot of Brant Street. That land, known as Lakeside Park, was renamed Spencer Smith Park in honor of Spencer Smith - a former president of the society. In 1965 construction was begun on Confederation Terrace and Spencer Smith Park as a Centennial Project for the City of Burlington. In recent years, Spencer Smith Park has been redeveloped with community input by the Waterfront Team to become the recreational centre of our waterfront trail. The wide promenade allows a magnificent view of the lake, beach and Skyway Bridge while sitting on the breakwall, walking, cycling or roller blading. The park boasts several performance areas, historic monuments, children's playground and Water Jet Plaza, Japanese Garden, expansive lawns for leisure activities, Discovery Landing with observatory, restaurant and pond.

Discovery Landing

Discovery Landing is a 14,200 square foot landmark building that faces the lake and offers prime storm and weather watching views. Designed by Baird Sampson Neuert, it offers residents and visitors a unique place to discover, celebrate, play, and relax by our lake. Discovery Landing is open daily and features The Observatory, Spencer's on the Waterfront Restaurant, The Bite, and information about the Waterfront and Burlington. [Parking](#) is available on site.



[Spencer's at the Waterfront](#) offers casual fine dining that serves up fresh, local fare. Whether you choose to sit indoors or on the patio, the ambiance and lake view are spectacular. Join them Sunday mornings for their scrumptious brunch! Looking for a quick bite or something more casual? You'll find The Bite on the lower level offering gourmet burgers, fries and ice cream. Enjoy the comfort of the Fireside Lounge or a sunny day on the Waterfall Deck.

Rotary Centennial Pond

Discovery Landing overlooks the Rotary Centennial Pond, a 10,000 square-foot year-round water feature. In the spring, summer and fall it is a reflective pool ideal for model boat sailing and in winter it offers free recreational ice-skating on an artificial ice surface.

Call 905-634-7263 for the latest rink conditions!

Naval Ships Memorial Monument

This monument facing Lake Ontario is located in Spencer Smith Park and honours the memory of the Canadian ships and sailors who served during the second world war. The monument lists the names of all the ships involved in the six-year Battle of the Atlantic. Ottawa artist Andre Gauthier sculpted the bronze statue and on May 14, 1995 the dedication ceremony took place.

Park Amenities



ADMISSION: FREE

HOURS: Open daily

CONTACT INFO

Located in Spencer Smith Park, Discovery Landing can be found at 1340 Lakeshore Road, east of Maple Ave. and west of Brant St. For more information, please call 905-335-7766 or visit The Waterfront web pages at www.burlington.ca.



Burlington Art Centre

Across the street from Discovery landing is the Burlington Art Centre which boasts Canada's foremost collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics, numerous art exhibits and an indoor conservatory. With free admission, spend a few hours wandering galleries containing art from both the BAC's permanent collection and local contemporary artists as well. With exhibits which rotate several times a year, there is always something new to see. Stop for a snack or lunch at the Shoreline Café which serves sandwiches, desserts and more.

If you're looking for a piece of art to take home with you, be sure to visit Art Etc., the Burlington Art Centre's gift shop. It features a quality collection of gift items created by Canadian artists, including area painters and craft artisans.

ADMISSION: FREE

HOURS: Open daily

CONTACT INFO

For more information, contact the Burlington Art Centre at 905-632-7796 or e-mail them at info@burlingtonartcentre.on.ca. The Centre is located at 1333 Lakeshore Road at Brock Street.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS : Travelling further down Lakeshore and turning left at Locust St. you can visit the Visitor Information Centre.

Visitor Information Centre

For visitors to the area, a Tourist Information Centre operated by Tourism Burlington is located at 414 Locust St. across Lakeshore Road from the park. Spencer Smith is a major attraction for both local residents and tourists, as it is in the heart of downtown and is the venue for major community events along the waterfront such as the [Sound of Music Festival](#), [Children's Festival](#) and [Rotary Ribfest](#).



DRIVING DIRECTIONS : From Lakeshore Rd. turn left (westbound) or right (eastbound) at the Hospital (Beachway)

Joseph Brant Museum



Turning from Northshore to Lakeshore Rd. West the Joseph Brant Museum is located on the corner of North Shore Blvd. and is a replica of Joseph Brant's original home built in 1800 closer to the lake. Joseph Brant, "Thayendanegea", was one of Canada's most colourful native heroes and one of the founding fathers of the Burlington area.

The museum was built in 1937/38 and opened its doors in June, 1942 as a one-room exhibit gallery. Inside the Museum, visitors will see exhibits that explore Burlington's heritage including Iroquois life, the European settlement of the region, the importance of the waterfront, and the life of Joseph Brant.

Today the museum has more than 2,200 square feet of exhibit space and houses more than 10,000 artifacts. An expansion is planned to increase accessibility and exhibit and program space which will open in 2011.

ADMISSION: FEES

HOURS: Open Tuesday - Friday and Sunday

CONTACT INFO

1240 North Shore Blvd. at corner of Lakeshore and Maple Ave. 905 634.3556

Beachway Park and Pavilion

The Beachway Park, pavilion and multi-use trails provide a 2 km. route on a former railway line from Spencer Smith Park in Burlington to the canal. This site was named by combining Beach (strip) and Queen Elizabeth Way. The pavilion provides change rooms, outdoor showers, seasonal concession facilities featuring the Snack Shack and year round washrooms.

Amenities at the beach include the pavilion, parking, a pay phone, a playground, and lots of sun, sand and water. Special events are held at Beachway Park throughout the summer as well. Come down to the beach, dip your toes into the lake, build a sandcastle, play Frisbee and enjoy a bit of paradise, right here in Burlington!



Amenities



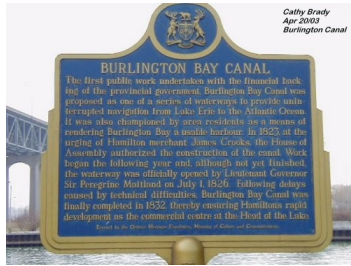
ADMISSION: FREE

HOURS: Park open daily

CONTACT INFO:

For information on water quality please call 905-825-6000 and ask for the Beach Hotline.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS : Turn left onto Eastport Drive, (to Hamilton) where you can stop at the Canal to see large freighter and pleasure boats go through the lift bridge.



Burlington Bay Canal & Lift Bridge

To enter Burlington Bay and gain access to both Burlington and Hamilton Harbors, one must pass through the Burlington Canal, which can be accessed through the Burlington beach area to Burlington Bay. In 1823, the Burlington Bay Canal was proposed as one of a series of waterways, which would open the Lake to sea traffic from the Atlantic. Work began in 1826, but was not completed until 1832. The canal is bordered by two concrete break walls of 0.2 miles in length, 240 feet in width, and the channel depth is 29 feet. There are two high level bridges and a lift bridge crossing the canal. The Burlington Bay Skyway Bridge is 445 feet

SW of the lift bridge, and has a clearance of 125 feet. The lift bridge has a clearance mid channel of 10 feet closed and 131 feet open. Burlington Bay lift bridge is in operation **24 hours a day**, opening on the hour and the half hour for pleasure craft, or request for commercial traffic. Department of Public works maintains a radio facility on the bridge for traffic control purposes.

ADMISSION: FREE

HOURS: n/a

Burlington Canal Lighthouse

Nestled in between the massive twin-span Skyway Bridge and an aging lift bridge sits a 145-year-old limestone lighthouse. Situated in-harbor on the south bank of the Burlington Canal, the Burlington Bay Main lighthouse is easily overlooked. In 1832 the Burlington Bay canal was constructed to allow ships unlimited access to Hamilton's harbor from Lake Ontario. Due to the demands of the distressed mariners and area residents, a 54-foot wooden lighthouse was finally constructed along the Pier. This octagonal-shaped structure was built in 1837 by the American, John L. Williams, and was constructed of clapboard set on a stone foundation. On July 18, 1856, sparks from the steamer Ranger ignited the wooden pier. On that windy day, the fire spread swiftly and engulfed the area, destroying the lighthouse, the ferry house, and the keeper's cottage. John Brown, who was a prominent lighthouse contractor, completed a new main lighthouse on October 18, 1858. The 90-foot cylindrical tower was constructed of limestone, the walls being seven feet thick at the base. Along with the new stone lighthouse, a more modern method of keeping the light was adapted. Instead of using the traditional whale oil to fuel the light, this lighthouse was the first in Canada to switch to the use of coal oil. Deemed no longer necessary, the Burlington Bay Main Lighthouse was deactivated in 1961 and currently sits abandoned along with the light keeper's red brick house, situated several yards away. Efforts are currently under way to develop a historical park highlighting the existing lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's residence, in an effort to preserve this local landmark for years to come.



ADMISSION: Not open to the public (site still under development)

HOURS: n/a



Burlington Skyway Bridge

The Burlington Bay James N. Allan Skyway, originally called the Burlington Bay Skyway, is a pair of high-level freeway bridges located in Hamilton and Burlington, Ontario, Canada. The Skyway, as it locally

known, is part of the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) highway linking Fort Erie with Toronto. Construction for the Skyway started in mid October 1954. The plan was to have a 120 ft clearance for shipping vessels, and the bridge itself would be 7,700 feet long, that would be 1.6 miles. The Skyway Bridge was completed on Dec. 14th, 1957 and was opened to the public on October 30th 1958 as a toll bridge until the early 1970's. At that time, the Burlington Skyway Bridge was also ranked as the largest in Canada at a length of 8,400 ft. with a height at the center of the bridge above the canal at 120 ft. The Skyway Bridge was the second largest steel structure in the world, the first being the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California U.S.A. with a total length of 9,266 ft. The twinning project saw a major upgrade of the freeway approaches to the bridge. The entire project resulted in the QEW being widened to 8 lanes from Burlington Street to Highway 403. A federally-owned low-level lift bridge linking Beach Boulevard in the Hamilton neighbourhood of Hamilton Beach and Lakeshore Road in the Burlington neighbourhood of Burlington Beach continues to operate. Today the Burlington Skyway Bridge stands like a giant over the Burlington Canal with its steel framed structure handling over 50,000 vehicles traveling over it each day. The Burlington Skyway Bridge has also had its share of history and mishaps over the years, and because of this, the bridge attracts many curiosity seekers and paranormal investigators.

ADMISSION: Skyway accessible to vehicles only. Lift Bridge has pedestrian walkway.

HOURS: n/a