

# Visitor Newsletter - Holiday Edition 2017

## Events November 14, 2017 - January 2018

### Ongoing

To Sat Dec 9: [On the Water Exhibit](#), Crawford Lake  
To Jan 7: [Flora & Fauna](#), Art Gallery of Burlington  
To Sun Dec 31: [Setting Ontario's Table: Once Upon a Time](#), Art Gallery of Burlington  
Nov 17-19,23,24,26,30, Dec 7-10, 14-17, 21-23, 27-30: [Winter Lights at the Rock](#), Royal Botanical Gardens, Rock Garden  
Wknds Nov 18-Dec 24, Daily Dec 27-31 & Jan 2-7: [Escarpment Train Exhibit](#), Royal Botanical Gardens, Rock Garden  
Thurs Nov 23-Sat Dec 23: [Santa's Cabin Signature Experience](#), Royal Botanical Gardens, Hendrie  
Sat Nov 18- Dec 24 & Dec 27-Sun Jan 7: [Botanical Train Display](#), Royal Botanical Gardens, Centre  
Wed Nov 22-Dec 20: [Visits with Santa](#), Royal Botanical Gardens, Hendrie  
Wed Dec 27 - 31 & Jan 2-7: [RBG Express Ride-On Train](#), Royal Botanical Gardens, Hendrie  
Fri Dec 1-Mon Jan 8: [Festival of Lights](#), Spencer Smith Park  
Dec 8-Jan 14: On the Trail of the Monarch Butterfly, Royal Botanical Gardens, Mezzanine  
Sat Dec 23- Sat Jan 6: [Tim Horton's Holiday Skating](#), City of Burlington  
Wed Dec 27- Sun Jan 7: [Victorian Christmas](#), Bronte Creek  
Mon Jan 1 - Wed Jan 31: [Festival of Beer](#), Various Burlington & Hamilton restaurants  
Sat Nov 11-Sun Feb 18: [Winter at Crawford Lake](#), Crawford Lake  
Mon Dec 26-Feb: [Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides](#), Mountsberg

### November

Tues 14: [Who is Halton: Our Region's Story](#), Central Library  
Wed 15: [Eco-Film Festival: "Minimalism"](#), Central Library  
Thurs 16: [Throwback Thursday: "The Bridge on the River Kwai"](#), Central Library  
Thurs 16-Sat 18: ["Into the Woods"](#), Drury Lane Theatre  
Fri 17-Sun 19: [Winter Lights at the Rock](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Fri 17: [Sea Sick](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - CST  
Fri 17: [Buffy Sainte-Marie](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Sat 18: [Hamilton Police Female Choir](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 18: [Let it Snow by the Magic Family](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 18: [Christmas Craft Market](#), Mohawk Inn & Conference Centre  
Sat 18: [Raptors in Focus](#), Mountsberg  
Sat 18: [Rotary Burlington Music Festival Grand Festival Concert](#), Burl Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Sat 18: [Aldershot BIA Village Tree Lighting](#), Plains Road East & Downsview Ave  
Sat 18-Sun 19: [Parade of Lights](#), Country Heritage Park  
Sun 19: ["Sleeping Beauty"](#), Drama Centre  
Sun 19: [A Christmas Event](#), Ireland House at Oakridge Farm  
Sun 19: [Klaudia's Music Studio](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 19: [Comic Show by Juggler Craig Douglas](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 19: [Matt Haimovitz](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - CST  
Mon 20: [One Book, One Burlington Books & Letters](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Tues 21: [Connect the Dots with Dr. David Suzuki](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Wed 22: [Visit with Santa](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 22: [High Five Quartet](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Thurs 23: [UnCovered: Springsteen & Dylan](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Thurs 23-Fri 24: [Winter Lights at the Rock](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Thurs 23-Sun 26: [Soup Bowl Event](#), Art Gallery of Burlington  
Thurs 23-Sun 26: [Guild Christmas Sale](#), Art Gallery of Burlington  
Thurs 23-Sun 26: ["Into the Woods"](#), Drury Lane Theatre  
Fri 24: [Visit with Santa](#), (PA Day) Royal Botanical Gardens  
Fri 24: [A Passage to Bollywood](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT

Fri 24- Sun 26: ["Sleeping Beauty"](#), Drama Centre  
Sat 25: [The Harlequin Singers](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 25: [Darren Bedford](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 25: [Harbourtown Sound Christmas Show 2017](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Sat 25: [Shane Koyczan](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - CST\* SOLD OUT  
Sat 25-Sun 26: [Christmas Activities](#), Springridge Farm  
Sun 26: [Enchorus Children's Choir](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 26: [Stylamanders](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 26: [Winter Lights at the Rock](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 29: [Visit with Santa](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 29: [The Baker Street Victorian Carollers](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 29: [Men of the Deeps](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Thurs 30: [Winter Lights at the Rock](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Thurs 30: [Fest-of-Ales](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Thurs 30: [Throwback Thursday: "Nightwatching"](#), Central Library  
Thurs 30: [Lucy Maud Montgomery's Birthday](#), Central Library

## December

Fri 1: [Visit with Santa](#), (PA Day) Royal Botanical Gardens  
Fri 1: [Burlington Downtown Candlelit Stroll](#), Civic Square to Spencer Smith Park  
Fri 1: [A Night at Ireland House](#), Ireland House at Oakridge Farm  
Fri 1: [Burlington Concert Band 15th Annual Christmas Concert](#), Burl Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Fri 1-Sat 2: ["Sleeping Beauty"](#), Drama Centre  
Fri 1-Sun 3: [TISSOUT UCI Track Cycling World Cup](#), Mattamy National Cycling Centre  
Fri 1-Sun 3: [Walk to Bethlehem](#), Country Heritage Park  
Sat 2: [Storytelling with Mrs. Claus](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 2: [Markus in Concert](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 2: [Christmas on the Rails](#), Halton County Radial Railway  
Sat 2: [Cosima Grunsky - Cozy Music](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - CST  
Sat 2-Sun 3: [Christmas Activities](#), Springridge Farm  
Sun 3: [Burlington Welsh Male Chorus](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 3: [Isabella Hoops](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 3: [Burlington Santa Claus Parade](#), Burlington Mall to Brant St. & Caroline St.  
Sun 3: [Victorian Christmas Afternoon Tea](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 3: [The Ennis Sisters](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - CST\* SOLD OUT  
Sun 3: [Light Up the Lake 5km Run/Walk](#), Running Room  
Wed 6: [Visit with Santa](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 6: [Maudie](#), Central Library  
Wed 6: [Skyfall Quartet](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 6: [HPO Rocks RBG](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 6: [Gerry Dee Live](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Thurs 7: [Canadian Brass](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Thurs 7-Sun 10: [Winter Lights at the Rock](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Fri 8: [Home School- Victorian Christmas](#), Ireland House  
Fri 8-Sat 9: [The Nutcracker](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre - MT

**December cont'd**

Sat 9: [Santa 5km Run](#), Burlington Downtown- Start at Appleby Pharmacy  
Sat 9: [Christmas on the Rails](#), Halton County Radial Railway  
Sat 9: [Milton Show Choir](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 9: [Madame Buskerfly](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 9-Sun 10: [Brunch with Santa & Mrs. Claus](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 9-Sun 10: [Christmas Activities](#), Springridge Farm  
Sun 10: [National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation](#), Central Library  
Sun 10: [My Pop Choir](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 10: [The Magic of Christmas with Rick Rossini](#), Royal Botanical Gardens

Sun 10: [Symphony on the Bay - A Double Reed Christmas](#), Burl Performing Arts Centre - MT  
Sun 10: [High Five Quartet](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Tue 12: [It's a Wonderful Life](#), Central Library  
Wed 13: [Visit with Santa](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 13: [The Second City: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly Sweater](#), RBG  
Thur 14: [Serena Ryder](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre  
Thurs 14-Sun 17: [Winter Lights at the Rock](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Fri 15: [Elvis Wonderful World of Christmas](#), Burl Performing Arts Centre  
Fri 15: [Christmas Collage](#), Rotary Centennial Pond, Spencer Smith Park  
Sat 16: [Storytelling with Mrs. Claus](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sat 16: [A Christmas Show with Cindy Cook](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 17: [Tim Holland- Stunt Ventriloquist and Puppeteer](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Sun 17: [Christmas with The Salvation Army](#), Burl Performing Arts Centre  
Sun 17: [Brunch with Santa & Mrs. Claus](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Tues 19: [An Evening with Cathy Jones and Mary Walsh](#), Burl Performing Arts Centre  
Wed 20: [Visit with Santa](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Wed 20: [Skyfall Quartet](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Thurs 21: [Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street](#), Central Library  
Thurs 21-Sat 23: [Winter Lights at the Rock](#), Royal Botanical Gardens  
Fri 22-Sat 23: [Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol](#), Burl Performing Arts Centre  
Sat Dec 23- Sat Jan 6: [Tim Horton's Holiday Skating](#), City of Burlington  
Wed Dec 27- Sun Jan 7: [Victorian Christmas](#), Bronte Creek  
Wed Dec 27 - 30: 50<sup>th</sup> [Golden Horseshoe Hockey Tournament](#), various arenas  
Sun 31: [33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Resolution Run](#), YMCA  
Sun 31: [Coyote Howl Hike](#), Bronte Creek Provincial Park  
Sun Dec 31: [Family New Year's Eve Hoopla](#), Mountsberg

## Family Fun

Santa is a very busy jolly old soul in #BurlON! He arrives at [Burlington Mall](#) for his holiday stay at 10am on November 25 by helicopter. He also takes up residence in the [Mapleview Centre](#) from December 1-23. The annual Santa Clause Parade on December 3 features bands, colourful floats, clowns, mascots and jolly St. Nick himself. Check out the [parade route online](#), pick your spot, then grab your blanket, chairs and head out to catch this holiday tradition. Weekends December 27 to January 7, head to Bronte Creek Provincial Park for a [Victorian Christmas](#). Experience the traditions of a Victorian Christmas on a farm in 1900. Decorations, stories, caroling, sweets and toy shop. Visit the reindeer barn and then enjoy a personal visit with the big guy. Heritage costumes available for family photos with Santa\* (\*additional charge).

On November 19, step back in time and learn about the origins of holiday traditions that are still used today as the Museums of Burlington present a [Christmas Event at Ireland House](#). Enjoy a tour of the the historical house, sample Victorian treats made on the hearth and vegetable soup will be served off of the wood stove. Take a ride in a horse drawn wagon, visit the petting zoo, and make a craft. Children can visit Santa Claus, and they will also get to meet Father Christmas, a mid 17th century holiday figure.

There is so much to do this season at the Royal Botanical Gardens you will have to plan multiple visits. Back by popular demand is [Holiday Traditions](#), the annual holiday celebration featuring the famous [RBG Botanical Train Display](#) which runs from November 18 - January 7. The RBG Centre will have family entertainment, crafts and more every weekend for your family to enjoy. This year, the RBG will be offering a one hour *Visit with Santa* signature

experience that includes a return trip on The RBG Express, hot chocolate and a cookie, storytelling and crafting with Santa`s helpers and a visit with Santa. Book your [ticket online](#) it is very popular so don't delay New to the RBG is the Escarpment Train Exhibit on weekends Nov 18-Dec 24 and then daily from Dec 27-31 & Jan 2-7 at the Rock Garden House. See a magical winter wonderland at the Rock Garden's [Winter Lights at the Rock](#) a ticketed outdoor event, with activities, music and lights.

Our friends at Springridge Farm are getting ready for the holidays with [Christmas Activities](#) for the children weekends from November 25 - December 10. Keep an eye out for Old Saint Nick as he has been spotted in the barn (maybe he's getting some gift ideas).

Can you imagine watching over 3,000 Santas run through the streets of Downtown Burlington? On December 9, you can be a spectator at the annual [Santa 5k](#) run, cheering on the runners in their holiday suits or be a participant and run/walk the race yourself. This is great event to do with your family or co-workers, we had such fun participating in the past. You can register on the [website](#). This is Canada's largest all Santa race and is a sight not to be missed!

Other festive events include the [Candlelit Stroll](#) in downtown Burlington on December 1. This family friendly evening includes activities and visits with Santa in Civic Square, the lighting of the Tree of Hope followed by traditional caroling through the downtown ending with the launch of the Festival of Lights. Bundle up and join the fun! Speaking of the [Burlington Festival of Lights](#), you can enjoy over 60 festive displays in Burlington's Spencer Smith Park until January 8. Wander through the park or get a full view of the themed displays while driving along Lakeshore Rd at the City's waterfront. December 2 & 9 ride into the holiday season at the Halton County Radial Railway with [Christmas on the Rails](#). There's nothing like riding the train through the woods with snow on the trees and Christmas carols in the air and of course a visit from Santa.

Ring in 2017 with the City of Burlington at their 18th annual [New Year's Day](#) event on January 1. Celebrate with the kick-off party for Canada 150! Family event with free swimming, entertainment and activities. See the details [online](#).

## Arts & Culture

The holiday season is filled with memorable performances, from the classics to some modern day favourites. You are sure to find something that will stir your soul and bring the arts alive here in Burlington.

The Burlington Performing Arts Centre will play host to many holiday performances throughout the next two months. The sounds of Christmas will be front and centre, with these festive concerts: The annual [Harbourtown Sound Christmas Concert](#) on November 25, [The Men of the Deeps: Christmas in the Mine](#) on November 29, Burlington Concert Band "[Christmas Spectacular](#)" on December 1. Don't miss the spectacular State Ballet Theatre of Russia as they perform "[The Nutcracker](#)" December 8 & 9. [Symphony on The Bay](#)- A Double Reed Christmas on December 10 and [Elvis, Wonderful world of Christmas](#) on December 15. The festive feeling continues with Charles Dicken's "[A Christmas Carol](#)" closing out the holiday programming on December 22 & 23. For a full list of performances [visit the website](#).

## Culinary Experiences

For the month of November enjoy specialty burgers at 24 Burlington restaurants and vote for your favorite during [Novemburger](#). \$1 from each burger goes towards United Way of Hamilton/Halton. We have tried a couple of these magnificent burgers and they are amazing! Try several this month and invite others to join you.

On December 1, step back in time for [A Night at Ireland House](#). The beautifully decorated Ireland House will set the backdrop for an evening of tasting and entertainment. Enjoy a fun, celebratory evening of sampling holiday foods that would have been enjoyed by the Ireland family and their guests along with samples and pairings of local wine, beer and tea . For tickets call 905-332-9888.

This holiday season, give the gift of good taste. Treat your loved ones (or yourself) with tickets to the [Taste of Burlington](#) launch on January 23, 2018. Enjoy samples from 20+ Taste of Burlington restaurants as well as [Nickel Brook Brewery](#). This event always sell out so get your tickets early by [subscribing](#) to the Taste Enewsletter so you are first to know when tickets go on sale.

Burlington is home to an amazing array of restaurants sure to satisfy every palate! If you are planning a holiday get together for a group or family many of our restaurants offer private dining rooms and special menus. Perhaps you are planning a special dinner for two to exchange a holiday gift - we have great bistros and intimate locations for just such an occasion. For a complete list of restaurants [visit our website](#).

Our elves are also hard a work finding out which restaurants will be open Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Contact us by phone (1-877-499-9989) or [email](#) with inquiries.

## Shop 'til you Drop

Who knew shopping could be so simple! If you are looking for a special one of a kind gift or maybe just a different shopping experience then look no further than Burlington! Just like you, we struggle to find that perfect gift for everyone on our list. Stay tuned for our 2017 Holiday Gift Guide coming soon to [our blog](#).

Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens [Shop at the Gardens](#) for books, apparel and other fabulous holiday gift giving ideas. I never leave empty handed and always find some unique hostess gifts and great children's books.

Downtown Burlington is home to a wide variety of boutiques and shops with something for everyone. Select merchants on Brant St. will be kicking off the holiday season with the Brant St. Jingle on Thursday November 23. [Visit the website for details](#).

For a truly unique one of a kind gift, head to the Art Gallery of Burlington for the [Fine Art & Craft Sale](#). From November 23-26 features works from the 7 member guilds of the AGB. Be sure to stop by the [Art Etc. Gallery Shop](#) while you are there for beautiful Canadian handmade items.

If you decide to head to Downtown Burlington to shop you'll be thrilled with [FreeP](#) all December (maximum 3 hours on street).

Museums of Burlington have a great [gift shop](#) for history lovers and vintage items and if you're looking for Burlington and Canada souvenirs then stop by our [visitor centre](#) - we've got lots to choose from plus new items including the Halton Hikes book and locally themed notecards.

Burlington is also home to two shopping centres for the holiday shopper. The fashion forward [Mapleview Centre](#) is home to some of the best names in apparel and accessories for the fashionista in your life. From December 1-24 you can also have your gifts wrapped with a donation benefiting McMaster Children's Hospital. The [Burlington Mall](#) located in midtown is home to perennial favourites Old Navy, The Bay, Home Sense and more. They will also be offering gift wrapping beginning of December with donations to the Joseph Brant Hospital.

For more shopping ideas and locations, be sure to visit our [website](#).

## Stay Awhile

Burlington is home to a wide variety of accommodations ranging from name brand [hotels](#) to [B&B's](#) that can offer you or your guests a home away from home. For those that prefer the outdoors, consider glamping at the KOA Toronto West in a deluxe camping cabin. [Great deals](#) on for the fall/winter.

Wondering what to do this New Year's Eve? We've got you covered! Here are some of the NYE events happening in Burlington to ring in 2018!

FAMILY NYE @ [HOLIDAY INN BURLINGTON](#) Includes one night accommodation, Italian buffet dinner, dancing, movies, party favours and countdown. Call 905 639-4443 and ask for reservations to book.

MAGICAL FAMILY NYE @ [WATERFRONT HOTEL](#) Marquis Gardens is hosting a family themed event including dinner, late night sweet table, DJ, party favours and more. Call 905 681-5400 for information.

NYE PARTY @ [BURLINGTON CONVENTION CENTRE](#) All inclusive celebration includes deluxe buffet dinner, midnight champagne, sweet table, and dancing to Blue Frog Entertainment. Call 905 391-0319 to book tickets. Age 19 years or older.