

# Heritage

BURLINGTON

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## A Walking Tour of Heritage Burlington

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Art Gallery of Burlington Neighbourhood Walking Tour

*Educate, Inform and Engage the community on  
Burlington's Heritage*



CITY OF  
**Burlington**

Burlington. History  
conservation heritage

The Ontario Heritage Act provides a framework for the conservation of properties that are valued for the important contribution they make to our understanding and appreciation of the history of a place, event or people.

Under the Ontario Heritage Act, municipalities can establish Municipal Heritage Committees to advise council on identifying, protecting and promoting cultural heritage resources that make our communities unique and sustainable places to live. Communities are therefore empowered to ensure the conservation of their important cultural heritage resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

This guide has been created by Burlington's municipal heritage committee, Heritage Burlington. It is intended to provide an opportunity to explore some of Burlington's most intriguing buildings first hand. Start your journey at the Art Gallery of Burlington and make your way through this historic part of Burlington's downtown, finishing the tour at St. Luke's Church Lane – refer to the map in this brochure.

In addition to the featured buildings in this tour, there are many more classic heritage properties in downtown Burlington, some of which are featured in "A Walking Tour of Heritage Burlington: Burlington Downtown Tour".

# The tour starts here...

## Art Gallery of Burlington

The tour starts at the Art Gallery of Burlington. The AGB has thrived as a vital focal point for the visual arts since 1978. It is the seventh largest public art gallery in Ontario, attracting over 100,000 visitors from Burlington, the Bay Area, Toronto, across Ontario and the U.S.A. You are invited to view the exhibits, including the country's largest permanent collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics.



## Nelson Avenue Block

Brock Park is just north of the AGB on Nelson Avenue. Across the street is a block of houses that illustrates a typical streetscape of the last quarter of the 19th Century. Two of these houses were owned by Chisholm brothers and were built about 1886, probably as summer cottages. 451 and 477 are good examples of builder A.B. Coleman's work.





## 445 Nelson Avenue

This 1 1/2-storey end-gabled structure is built in a traditional vernacular style with a three-bay front elevation and a centre gable above an arched window. The walls are parged with lines imitating freestone masonry.



## 451 and 447 Nelson Avenue

The 2-storied verandas on these homes, both enclosed on the second levels, have decorative carpentry work typical of A.B. Coleman. On each house, take note of the front gable embellishment with original fish-scale shingles, defined by a lower band with relief rosettes. Also note the bargeboard gable trim of lace-edged cut out wood above the second storey windows, and the railing, fretwork and turned posts on the lower levels.

## 455 Nelson Avenue

This home retains most of its original features, which include the shiplap wood siding on the lower portion, the windows and trim, the doors and the delicate “gingerbread” bargeboard.



## 470 Nelson Avenue

This house, as are all those on Nelson Ave., is in the survey registered by Benjamin Eager in 1874. The house was built around 1890 of plain classical lines. The window and door trim are of Greek or Classical Revival showing an angled pediment above the lintel and plain sideboard trim on the jambs. The carvings above the round top window in the peak of the gable illustrate the “Gaiety of Gables” and are included in Anthony Adamson’s book of that title.



*The tour continues...*



## 479 Nelson Avenue

Built by A.B. Coleman in 1887, this house was originally a 1 1/2-storey red brick structure. A newspaper of 1899 reported that “William Stewart, architect, is having the roof of his house on Nelson Avenue raised. It will improve the appearance of the pretty cottage”. The Second Empire style home, with a mansard roof, is a square plan with additions. There are several dormers to allow light to the upper rooms, and many ornately carved accents. A board and batten coach house stands at the back of the property and has quarters for a stable boy.



## 1358/1360 Ontario Street

These 1-storey semi-detached frame cottages were built in 1874, with a low ended-gabled roof and gables above each front entrance. Very few semi-detached houses from this period remain in Burlington.

## 1375 Ontario Street

A.B. Coleman built the “Gingerbread House” in 1893 to showcase his craftsmanship. Many different types of designs, gingerbreads, shingles and windows were used. Note the window in the chimney and those apparently climbing a stairway near the top. The building, with its board and batten coach house and lovely gardens, adds strength and character to the neighbourhood.



## 1371 Ontario Street St. Luke's Anglican Church

Augustus Bates in a letter to his brother in Connecticut in 1834 said, “We have a frame Episcopal Church all ready to raise. It will stand on the line of my lot and that of my neighbour (Elizabeth Brant Kerr), who joins with me in giving a lot sufficient for its accommodation.” The white frame church has undergone many changes over the years. In 1899 the roof was taken off, the walls cut down, the galleries removed and a new roof put on with a pitch to match the chancel.



*The tour continues...*



## St. Luke's Cemetery

A walk through the churchyard will show the headstones of early families of the area - Elizabeth Brant Kerr, husband William Johnson and son Simcoe, the Chisholm family, Fergussons and son Fergusson-Blair. Other stones mark the graves of the Bates, Buntons and Daltons, all early settlers.



## Elgin Street Radial Line

Now Elgin Street, this was formerly the radial line between Niagara and Toronto. Take note of the stately Silver Maple Honour Roll Tree on the north side of the street.



## 436 Burlington Avenue

Conveniently located next to the Radial Line, this 1 1/2-storey brick bungalow with wooden fish-scale shingles on the front dormer was built in 1914 as an office and house for the Toronto & Niagara Power Company. The roof of this well maintained home extends over the full veranda and is supported by four slim Tuscan columns.

## 437 Burlington Avenue

Circa 1885, this home is a 2-storey stretcher bond brick residence with truncated hip roof, broken by an offset gable with returns over the projecting front wing and a smaller front gable above the entrance. The high flat roof over this porch has a small mansard-type roof at the same height as the roof over the front bay window projection. Note the dentil frieze and small brackets on both roofs. Building openings are segmental with radiating voussoirs and dressed stone sills. The windows under the large gable are paired within a large arch and there is an arched window under the smaller gable.



## 432 Burlington Avenue

This is a 2-storey building of Georgian proportions, with a shallow hipped roof and balancing slight projections on each side of the front entrance. A central portico is supported by two sets of double pillars. There is a small arched window above the portico and symmetrically placed tall narrow side windows. Handsome massive pierced cornice brackets support the eaves of the main roof and the eaves of the side bay. This home has the original double leaf front door with a leaded glass transom panel.



*The tour continues...*



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## 431 Burlington Avenue

This landmark 2 1/2-storey brick structure is built in Queen Anne Revival style. Side and front gables, a small front dormer window and a tall chimney break the high truncated hipped roof. The front and side gables, above 2-storey bays, have returns with rectangular windows. These and the cornices at the roof, verandah and front bay window are supported by brackets. Float stone lintels articulate the window heads at all levels. Note the leaded glass sidelights and transom panels over the front door. The wrap around verandah leads to another smaller front door with a large glass transom.



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## 415 Burlington Avenue

This 2-storey front gabled frame structure was built circa 1895 by A.B. Coleman. This house was originally very similar, but not identical, to the house now at 1421 Lakeshore Road, built at the same time by Coleman. Both homes are asymmetrical at the first-level front elevation, with a double-leaf door and a double window.

## Spencer Smith Park

In Spencer Smith Park, on the south side of Lakeshore Road between Locust Street and Spencer's Landing, there is a plaque attached to a plinth honouring the memory of Spencer Smith and his tireless efforts to make Burlington a more beautiful place.



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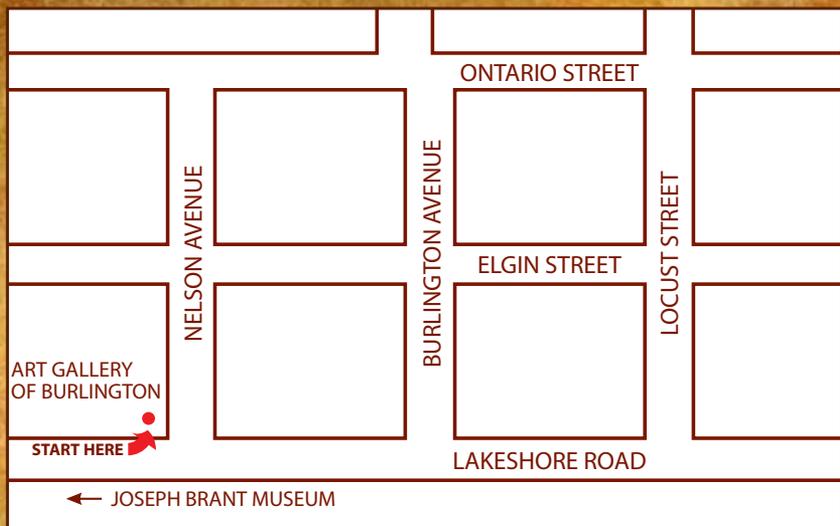
## St. Luke's Church Lane

On the north side of Lakeshore Road, look through the long narrow tree line lane to St. Luke's Church.



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*We hope you enjoyed the tour.*



Heritage Burlington would like to thank the Burlington Historical Society for providing resource material used in the creation of this brochure.

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