

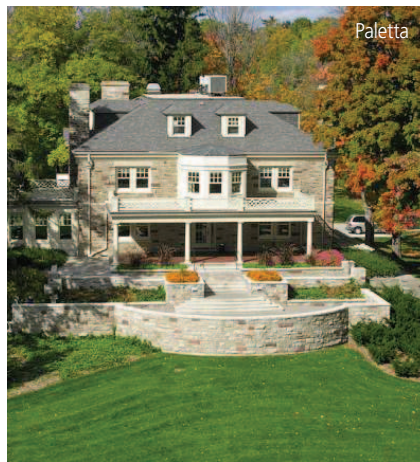
## BURLINGTON BECKONS BUSINESS

## Shining City on the Bay



As many experienced corporate meeting planners have recently discovered, the greatest treasures often glisten right in our own backyard. One of the brightest jewels in Toronto's backyard is the pleasantly charming and strikingly elegant city of Burlington, and planners knowledgeable of its myriad delights can reveal that this vibrant community offers far more than mere convenience and economy. Nestled between the picturesque blue waters of Lake Ontario with its splendid waterfront parks and marinas and the sparkling waterfalls and verdant conservation lands surrounding the majestic Niagara Escarpment, Burlington's bustling downtown is a stroller's paradise, with popular restaurants and cafes flanked by countless shops and trendy boutiques. Here is one of Canada's most attractive cities, and for business conferences and events, Burlington offers a wealth of venues ranging from stately to intriguing, and from practical to fascinating, many of them popular attractions in their own right.

**Paletta Lakefront Park** provides a magnificent location for meetings or intimate dinners in a heritage lakefront property celebrated as the "Jewel in the Crown" of Burlington's shoreline. Built in 1930 as a summer residence for one of the area's most affluent families, the two-storey, elegantly restored limestone Paletta Mansion graces 14 acres originally deeded by the crown to Canadian heroine Laura Secord. The 11,000 square foot mansion hosts groups ranging from 20 to 100 in an atmosphere redolent of stately grandeur. Meals at Paletta are expertly catered by Carmen's at Oakville Conference Centre or Ancaster's Old Mill.



Paletta

Another attractive lakeside setting can be found at **Geraldo's at LaSalle Park** on the north side of Burlington Bay. Here on 47 acres of scenic parkland on the site of the original LaSalle Park Pavilion built in 1917 (and rebuilt in 1996) are two attractive banquet rooms divided by the outdoor Grand Terrace, a covered verandah which itself can accommodate 500 guests, making the venue perfect for large cocktail receptions or company picnics. Inside, the stylish Main Ballroom will seat 300 for dinner, while the more intimate Bayshore Room will seat 100 guests. This cherished historic site also offers two acres of complimentary parking.

For sheer breathtaking beauty, few venues in Burlington (or anywhere, for that matter) can compare with the **Royal Botanical Gardens**, a National Historic Site of Canada. Opportunities for team-building activities are abundant on the 23 kilometres of trails that wind their glorious paths throughout 2,700 acres of tranquil, colourful gardens and spectacular nature sanctuaries. Year-round facilities include a spacious auditorium that will accommodate up to 450, a restaurant and function space suitable to accommodate trade shows or dinners seating from 30 to 300. For many companies, the opportunity to host their corporate function in an earth-bound facsimile of paradise is hard to resist.

Meeting planners seeking an artistic flavour to their event will wish to consider **Burlington Art Centre**, a fascinating showcase for the visual arts and home to the work-



Royal Botanical Gardens



Geraldo's



Burlington Art Centre



Pepperwood Bistro and Brewery

ing studios of seven craft guilds active in Burlington since the 1950's. Here is Canada's largest collection of contemporary ceramics, with over 1,600 pieces in the permanent collection, the work of 400 Canadian artisans. The Shoreline Room offers stunning views of the lake from floor to ceiling windows, seating 175 for dinner, and the intimate Fireside Lounge hosts 40. The open-air courtyard and gardens makes an inviting setting for cocktail receptions.

Meals at Burlington Art Centre are catered by **Pepperwood Catering and Special Events**, the city's largest caterer with over 1000 corporate events each year. Owners Bill Leslie and Stephen Bell also operate **La Costa Nuova**, and **2020 Lakeside Ristorante and Bar**, local restaurants with their own private dining rooms serving corporate clients.

**Pepperwood Bistro Brewery and Catering** situated on Lakeshore Road is an award winning, multi-levelled contemporary bistro offering live jazz and a popular outdoor patio. Private dining is available in Pepperwood's Rose Room or Yellow Room, with space to accommodate up to 150.

Burlington also offers corporate Ontario an excellent selection of major convention facilities and full service hotels, each with its own distinct advantages. A stylish combination of the modern and the ornate, **Burlington Convention Centre** is Halton Region's grandest full service facility. A colonnaded entry arch leads into the opulent Grand Foyer Hall and over 20,000 square feet of meeting space. Three interconnecting ballrooms permit flexible configurations for various functions, ranging from banquets for 1,200, theatre-style meeting space for 1,500, or receptions for up to 1,800 people. Adjustable, multi-level lighting and individual climate controls are a feature of each ballroom, one of

which also contains a raised indoor patio. There's also two executive boardrooms, a business centre, full service webcast and video-conferencing capabilities, and 680 free parking spaces.

Just off the QEW at Guelph Line, the **Holiday Inn Burlington Hotel & Conference Centre** has 237 rooms and suites, and is the largest hotel and conference facility under one roof between Toronto and Niagara Falls. There's over 20,000 square feet of meeting space, 20 breakout rooms and executive boardrooms, and meeting and banquet capacity for up to 550 people. Franco's Restaurant offers all day dining, an Executive Club delivers a host of amenities, and the Holidome Recreation Centre contains an indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool and more.

Superbly located on the lake in the heart of downtown, **Burlington on the Lake Travelodge Hotel** provides 122 rooms, including two Jacuzzi suites and limited access Business Class floors with rooms featuring a large working desk, complimentary wireless high speed internet, two phone lines, microwaves, fridges and more. The Nelson Ballroom contains 5000 square feet of meeting space and seats 200 in rounds for meals. Three boardrooms overlook the lake. There's complimentary continental breakfast, and the onsite 2020 Lakeside Ristorante serves three meals daily. An indoor pool, whirlpool and sauna and free parking are welcome amenities.

Another delightful twin facility alongside the QEW at Burloak Drive is the **Hilton**



Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites

**Garden Inn Toronto/ Burlington** and the adjacent **Homewood Suites**. The Hilton Garden Inn is superbly equipped with the 2,650 square foot John Labatt Hall seating up to 300 theatre-style and two executive boardrooms for 3-35 people. There's 120 guest rooms featuring all the modern amenities and the Great North American Grille serves three meals daily. The Homewood Suites boasts 83 fully equipped suites with kitchens, living space and work stations and 1,100 square feet of additional meeting space.

Tourism Burlington knows that many cor-

porate meeting planners who serve delegates living north and west of Toronto will find Burlington far more economical and accessible than the megacity. Delegates arriving for full day sessions will be driving into Burlington against the prevailing flow

of traffic, making for a speedy and hassle-free commute to any of the city's attractive venues or hotels. Tourism Burlington staff are eager to assist planners and corporate executives with advice, information and recommendations concerning venues, restaurants, accommodations, shopping, gaming, nightlife and entertainment, all within a quick and easy drive. They're also quick to point out that more corporate planners each year are turning wistful eyes towards the vibrant, shining city by the bay to fulfill their meeting and conference needs.

Burlington Convention Centre



Holiday Inn



Travelodge

