

From: Tourism Burlington [info@tourismburlington.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2011 7:00 PM
To: Cvetanovic, Linda
Subject: Tourism Burlington Holiday 2011 Visitor Enews

Visitor ENews



HOME WHAT TO SEE & DO WHERE TO DINE WHERE TO SHOP WHERE TO STAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Happy Holidays!
November 18, 2011

Follow us on...

See & Do
[Santa Loves Burlington](#)
[Christmas Spirit](#)
[Deck the Halls](#)
[Arts Events](#)
[Active Holidays](#)
[Celebrate 2012](#)

Dine
[Holiday Dining](#)
[Culinary Experiences](#)

Shop
[Holiday Gift Guide](#)
[Springridge Farm](#)
[Fantastic Shopping](#)

Stay
[Burlington Hotel Deals](#)

What's Happening
[Visitors Services](#)
[Winter Preview](#)



What to See & Do

Santa Loves Burlington!

The jolly old man in red is all over Burlington. Santa will arrive at [The Burlington Mall](#) via helicopter on November 19th at 10am and will take up residence in his "cabin" at the mall daily. We are not sure how he does it but he will also be appearing weekends at [The Mapleview Centre](#) and you can receive a free 5x7 photo to capture your holiday memory. The [Royal Botanical Gardens](#) will play host to Santa many times throughout December this year. Each weekend between December 3rd-18th from 10am-4pm, you and your little ones can meet the jolly old elf and his reindeer friends! Sundays, enjoy a hot breakfast with Santa starting at 10am until 12pm. There is always excitement in the air for



Burlington's annual [Christmas Parade!](#) On Sunday December 4th, Santa and over 65 bands, floats, clowns, and mascots travel from the Burlington Mall at Prospect Street and Guelph Line to Brant Street and Caroline Street downtown. Find a spot along the route and have fun! Non-perishable food items for the local food banks will be collected by the [Burlington Teen Tour Band](#) and letters to Santa will be picked up by Canada Post letter carriers.

Travel back in time with Santa at special Christmas events. [Bronte Creek](#)

will show families what a Victorian farm Christmas was like with their [Homestead Christmas](#). Traditional decorations, stories, carols, sweets, and toys will transport you back to the 1900s. Dress up in heritage costumes, pose for a picture with Mr. Claus himself, and even take home the pictures! Homestead Christmas activities are offered Saturdays and Sundays in December. Advance reservations are required as these sell out quickly so book now. [Read](#) about our experience last year at this great family event.

Continue your Christmas experience by visiting [Ireland House Museum](#) on Sunday November 20th for [An Old-Fashioned Christmas & Santa's Cabin](#). Come discover the glowing holiday feeling of historic Ireland House and celebrate the season with fond memories of An Old-Fashioned Christmas. Relive the traditions and customs that shaped many of the Christmas celebrations around the world today...It's a day away from the hustle and bustle back to a simpler time. For anyone who loves the smells of holiday baking, there will be heritage Christmas baking demonstrations over the historic hearth along with sampling! Visit Santa's Cabin for a special visit with Mr. & Mrs. Claus. It doesn't stop there, enjoy crafts, cooking, entertainment and a special appearance by Studio Babette. Be sure to return on Friday December 9th for [Candlelight Tours of Yesteryear](#). Experience a wondrous guided tour of this historic property illuminated by candlelight. The house will be filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of a traditional Christmas, as performers play holiday songs. Father Christmas will welcome guests as they become a part of a historic farmhouse family, with delicious period-style refreshments to sample and holiday crafts to create and take home. [Tickets](#) for a full tour, crafts, and refreshments must be purchased in advance.

Christmas Spirit All Around the City!

So many of Burlington's amazing attractions will help you to make fun holiday memories with their special activities and entertainment. Take advantage of the [Halton Streetcar Museum's](#) last days before they close their doors until Spring 2012. "[Christmas on the Rails](#)" on Saturday December 3rd and 10th allows you and your family to hop on a train and take a ride through the beautiful, snowy woods with Christmas carols in the air. As we head into December join the [Burlington Downtown Candlelit Stroll](#) and experience a night of holiday fun. On Friday December 2nd come to City Hall and purchase a candle in support of United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton. From there, stroll and enjoy the live music and entertainment at downtown shops and businesses and return to City Hall for hot chocolate and sweet treats.

See How Burlington Decks its Halls!



Head out to see all of the beautiful holiday decorations on display. The annual "[Doorways to the Holidays](#)" will be at the [Royal Botanical Gardens](#) until January 8th. [Read](#) about our visit to Doorways to the Holidays last year. The RBG will also have seasonal activities, musical entertainment, local school and adult choirs, model train and light displays, and more to keep your December weekends full and festive! The picturesque [Paletta Lakefront Mansion](#) will open its doors to the public on Monday, December 19th from 10am-3pm. Explore the wonderfully restored 1930s mansion and beautiful waterfront grounds, while also enjoying the holiday decorations. There will be free admission for the day. Canned goods donations will be accepted. [Spencer Smith Park](#) will once again shine

brightly with holiday spirit from Sunday December 4th to January 12th. Each evening, the downtown park will dazzle visitors with more than 60 spectacular animated figures and illuminated displays. The [14th Annual Festival of Lights](#) is a free event that has become a fabulous Burlington holiday tradition.

Arts Events during the Holiday Season!

The month of December is full of wonderful productions, exhibits, and performances to keep you and your family entertained and inspired. The [Burlington Art Centre](#) will have 2 exhibitions to enjoy. "[Black + White = Grey](#)" will be on display from December 1st to January 22nd. A collection of works by a number of artists, including Kayo O'Young, Diane Nasr, Jane Hill, and Sadashi Inuzuka, showcases the relationship between ceramics and technology through the use of glazes, colour, and clay. "[Gino Lorcini: Significant Forms](#)" offers visitors a unique look at the range of three-dimensional works and wall reliefs by artist, Gino Lorcini. Lorcini's pieces will be a thrill to see from December 1st to January 22nd. Visit [website](#) for hours, location, and exhibit details.

We are very excited this year to have the brand new [Burlington Performing Arts Centre](#) open and offering excellent performances throughout the holiday season. You won't want to miss the opening week celebration November 27th- December 3rd. It kicks off with [The Centre's Family Day](#) on Sunday November 27 featuring At Nightfall - In the Main Theatre, Sursaut presents a visually stunning story of

a shoemaker who discovers what toys exist outside his workshop. In the Community Theatre see Cashore Marionettes, this is a moving and humorous performance of Simple Gifts. There will be facepainting by Nathalie Simard, make-up designer for Cirque du Soleil's Totem, Stilt walker Kristi Heath, Granny Garbanzo from Gemini-award winning children's show The Big Comfy Couch and hands on art experiences with art instructors from Burlington Art Centre. Lobby entertainment and activities are FREE. Next up is [In Paradisum, Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie](#) on Tuesday November 29. One of Canada's most accomplished and innovative dance companies, Coleman Lemieux and Compagnie present a program of three brilliant dance performances. No need to get all decked out for this gala, just put on your favorite blue jeans and celebrate some wonderful Burlington artists. On Thursday December 1st they will all come together for what will be a true celebration of Burlington, "[Celebration! Blue Jeans Gala](#) hosted by CBC Broadcaster, Jian Ghomeshi. The Grand Finale of the opening week is "[A Red Carpet Evening with Sarah McLachlan](#)" On Saturday December 3rd. Turn up the lights! This Red Carpet Evening marks the official opening of The Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Sarah McLachlan, one of Canada's most beloved singers and a leading artist on the world stage of popular music will light up the stage as she entertains a much anticipated full house. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity. For a complete listing of events and performances visit their [website](#). For more detailed information on "The Centre's" performances visit our blog "[Oh the drama and more!](#)"

Theatre lovers rejoice this holiday season. December 1st to 3rd head to [Theatre Burlington's](#) production of "[Rumplestiltskin](#)", a show that the whole family can enjoy together. If you prefer dinner theatre consider enjoying a great meal and show with Mohawk Dinner Theatre's "[Sinners](#)" on Thursday-Sunday from December 2nd-18th. With all of these fantastic choices around Burlington, you will be sure to be entertained and enthralled during the holidays!

Have an ACTIVE, Happy Holiday!

Ski, skate, snowboard or even run a race with Santa! Whatever your sport, Burlington has something active to offer you this holiday season. Lace up those skates and go for a spin on the [Rotary Centennial Pond](#), located at Discovery Landing in Spencer Smith Park. Starting December 3rd (weather permitting), enjoy free skating, 7 days a week from 10am to 10pm. All other City of [Burlington arenas](#) will be offering public skating as well throughout the holidays. Visit the [website](#) for times and admission prices. [Bronte Creek's](#) huge outdoor rink will be open as of December 18th for daily skating from 9:30am-9:30pm. Cross-country skiing is available too! If hockey is more your game, register for the [Christmas Classic Hockey Tournament](#) at the Burlington Pond from December 27th to 30th. Sign up individually or as a team of 10 and compete 3-on-3 in a division ranging from Tyke to Bantam. Ski, snowboard or tube this holiday at [Glen Eden](#). With six slopes, a terrain park and a learning centre you are sure to find a hill to match your skills. For those that need a little help on the slopes, instructors are available for semi/private lessons. For cross-country skiing, be sure to visit [Conservation Halton's parks: Hilton Falls, Mountsberg, Crawford Lake](#) or [Rattlesnake Point](#) have spectacular views of the Niagara Escarpment from their trails. Mountsberg also offers skating and sleigh rides, while Crawford Lake can rent you a pair of snowshoes too. All of the parks have wonderful trails for hiking and wildlife viewing ensuring everyone can find an activity to participate in while enjoying the great outdoors!



Have you every seen over 3,000 Santas running loose in the streets? This December 10th you can! Bundle up in your own Santa suit and take part in Canada's largest all-[Santa 5km Run](#)! Run or walk through downtown Burlington or cheer on the hundreds of Santas. Visit their [website](#) today to register for this fun-filled event! Ho, ho, ho!! View the Santa Run video [here](#).

Celebrate 2012!

Ring in 2012 with any one of the exciting events happening in Burlington this New Year's. For a family-friendly event, go to Central Park for the [City of Burlington's Family New Year's Eve](#). Celebrate from 6pm-10pm and see how the park is transformed into Seussville for the evening! With performances of "Seussical the Musical" by Student Theatre, free skating, crafts and games, and fireworks at 10pm, your family will have a fabulous night! [Mountsberg](#) is also a great spot to spend the evening with your family. Their [New Year's Eve Hoopla](#) runs from 6pm to 9:30pm. Take a wagon ride, enjoy a puppet show, go on a guided hike, visit with the owls, or warm up with a toasted marshmallow and hot chocolate by the campfire. End the evening with a countdown to the new year at 9pm. [Bronte Creek](#) will keep you partying until midnight with their [New Year's Eve Family Skate and Coyote Howl](#). Starting at 5pm and continuing through until 12:30am, you and your family can skate, snack, hike, and howl your way into 2012.

Where to Dine



Burlington is home to a wide variety of restaurants that will please every palate. If you are planning a holiday get-together be sure to visit our [dining page](#) for ideas on where to dine in Burlington. Many of our restaurants have private dining areas and are happy to work with you to make your holiday gathering spectacular.

Planning to dine out on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or New Years? Give [Tourism Burlington](#) a call to find out which establishments are open.

Visit our [website](#) for other culinary experiences including cooking classes, celebrity chefs, culinary events and more!

Stuck for a holiday gift? Consider a gift certificate ~ always a favourite!

[Back to the top](#)

Where to Shop

It's never too early to start holiday shopping!

Holiday Gift Guide - by Guest Blogger [Victoria Hughes](#)



2011 has brought more reasons than ever before to do your holiday shopping in Burlington. If you love unique stores, thoughtfully curated product selections, memorable service, and giving your loved ones gifts that have them asking "where did you get this?" then I promise you, Btown has exactly what you need. In recent years, this lakefront city has cultivated a plentiful crop of one-of-a-kind boutiques. This fills me with genuine glee because I just don't think I can take another year fighting the crowds in the GTA mega-malls, and I know I'm not alone on that one! You take your life into your own hands in some of those parking lots! As for Btown (where parking is both plentiful and peaceful) here are 10 shopping gems to get you started, along with the year's best gift ideas, in our 2011 Burlington Holiday Gift Guide! Read the entire guide [here](#).

Springridge Farm - Shopping in the Country

If you want to get out of the city and enjoy some amazing scenic views while shopping, head to Springridge Farm. Their extensive gift shop is located on two levels of an old 19th century barn. The main entrance to the barn is an enclosed deck in which you will find a broad selection of outdoor decorator items and gifts: garden furniture, cement figurines, cast iron pots and wall art. On the main floor of the barn shoppers will find all kind of seasonal decorations and gift ideas. They also sell many lamps, pictures, candles and glassware. Upstairs you will discover scarves, jewellery, handbags and wallets. For over 30 years, Springridge has been turning the harvest into preserves, relishes, chutneys, sauces, and pickles which can be purchased on site. In addition, they carry a wide variety of gourmet items, cookbooks and Canadiana. If you or someone on your list are a fan of David Rocco be sure to pre-order a personalized, signed copy of Made in Italy from their Gift Loft - call (905) 878-4908 today! Last but certainly not least Springridge Farm is excited to announce a special evening with Food Network Canada personality, Anna Olson! Tuesday, December 6 from 5:30pm-8:00pm you can celebrate the release of Anna Olson's new cookbook, Back to Baking. [RSVP](#) as space is limited. Unable to attend? Call now and Anna Olson will personalize a signed copy for you. What a delicious Christmas gift! (905) 878-4908



'Tis the Season for Fantastic Shopping!

Be sure to make your list, check it twice, and head on out to the wonderful shops in [Burlington Downtown](#) is full of one-of-a-kind shopping experiences so that you can find lots of unique gifts for everyone on that list. As an added bonus visit the Resist Sameness [website](#) for a chance to win a downtown shopping spree! If you enjoy more of the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping, head to [Burlington Mall](#) or [Mapleview Centre](#). Keep shopping 'til you drop at Burlington's big box stores too, including [IKEA](#) and [Mountain Equipment Co-op](#). Whatever your shopping preference, you'll find the gifts you're looking for (and maybe something extra for you too!)

[Back to the top](#)

Where to Stay



This holiday season you can "Stay and Play" with Burlington Hotel Deals. Special rates include: \$20 off standard or regular rack rate PLUS your choice of one \$20 gift card to area shopping and local services at any of the six [participating hotels](#) in Burlington. Visit the [website](#) for more details.

[Back to the top](#)

What's Happening

Ongoing

Oct 28-Nov 26: ["Nunsense II"](#), Drury Lane Theatrical Productions
Oct 30- Jan 22: ["Black + White = Grey"](#), Burlington Art Center
Oct 30- Jan 22: ["Gino Lorcini: Significant forms"](#), Burlington Art Center
Nov 4-Dec 18: ["Sinners"](#), Mohawk Dinner Theatre
Nov 26-Jan 8: [Doorways to the Holidays](#), Royal Botanical Gardens

November

Thurs 17-Sun 20: [Christmas Sale](#), Burlington Art Center
Thurs 17-Sun 20: [Soup Bowl Event](#), Burlington Art Center
Thurs 17- Fri 18: [Christmas By Design](#), Royal Botanical Gardens
Fri 18: [Top Hats Marching Orchestra - TMO Concert '11](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre
Fri 18: [Footloose & Fancy Feast IV](#), danceScape
Sat 19: [Abbamania](#) (SOLD OUT), Burlington Performing Arts Centre
Sat 19-Sun 20: [Children's Christmas Activities](#), Springridge Farm
Sun 20: [Old fashioned Christmas & Santa's Cabin](#), Ireland House at Oakridge Farm
Fri 25: [Christmas Tree of Hope Lighting](#), Corner of Plains Road and Downsview Ave.
Fri 25-Sun 27: ["Rumpelstiltskin"](#), Theatre Burlington
Fri 25: [Lunch at Allen's](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre
Sat 26: [Hearthside Jazz](#), Halton Region Museum
Sat 26: [Rotary Burlington presents Grand Festival Concert](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre
Sat 26-Sun 27: [Santa and his Reindeer](#), Royal Botanical Gardens
Sat 26-Sun 27: [Children's Christmas Activities](#), Springridge Farm
Sun 27: [Family Day: At Nightfall/The Cashore Marionettes](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre
Tues 29: [In Paradisum, Coleman, Lemieux & Compagnie](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

December

Thurs 1: ["Celebration!" A Blue Jeans Gala](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre
Thurs 1-Sat 3: ["Rumpelstiltskin"](#), Theatre Burlington
Fri 2: [Burlington Downtown Candlelit Stroll](#), Starts at City Hall
Sat 3-Dec 4: [Santa and his Reindeer](#), Royal Botanical Gardens

Sat 3-Sun 4: [Homestead Christmas](#), Bronte Creek Provincial Park (ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ONLY)

Sat 3: [A Red Carpet Evening w/ Sarah McLachlan](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Sat 3: [Christmas on the Rails](#), Streetcar Museum

Sat 3-Sun 4: [Children's Christmas Activities](#), Springridge Farm

Sat 3: [First Skate](#), Discovery Landing

Sun 4: [Christmas Parade](#), Starts at Burlington Mall

Sun 4-Jan 12: [Lakeside Festival of Lights](#), Spencer Smith Park

Tues 6: [The Irish Rovers](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Tues 6: [Anna Olsen Book Signing](#), Springridge Farm (RSVP REQUIRED)

Fri 9: [Canadian Orpheus Male Choir - Choir Concert '11](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Fri 9: [Candlelight Tour of Yesteryear](#), Ireland House Museum

Sat 10: [Christmas on the Rails](#), Streetcar Museum

Sat 10- Sun 11: [Santa and his Reindeer](#), Royal Botanical Gardens

Sat 10- Sun 11: [Homestead Christmas](#), Bronte Creek Provincial Park (ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ONLY)

Sat 10: [Stories about Storytellers](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Sat 10: [Harbourtown Sound - HS Concert](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Sat 10: [Santa 5K Run](#), Burlington Downtown

Sat 10: [The Children's Show](#), Central High School

Tues 13-Wed 14: [The Nutcracker](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre (SOLD OUT)

Thurs 15: [Glen Foster](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Fri 16: [Burlington Concert Band - Christmas Concert](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Sat 17- Fri 23: [Homestead Christmas](#), Bronte Creek Provincial Park (ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ONLY)

Mon 19: [Paletta Mansion Open House](#), Paletta Mansion

Wed 21: [Leahy Family Christmas](#), Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Tues 27-Fri 30: [Christmas Classic Hockey Tournament](#), The Burlington Pond

Sat 31: [Family New Year's Eve](#), Central Park

Sat 31: [New Year's Eve Family Skate](#), Bronte Creek Provincial Park

Sat 31: [New Year's Eve Hoopla](#), Mountsberg Conservation Area

January 2012

Sun 1: [New Years Day Free Family Party](#), Tansley Woods

Sun 1-Thurs 12: [Lakeside Festival of Lights](#), Spencer Smith Park

Mon 2- Feb 5: [Family Winter Carnival](#), Various Locations in Burlington

*All events are subject to change, please visit/contact individual events for details.

Visit the Burlington Events Calendar for event information for visitors and residents at <http://www.burlington.ca/>.

Visit The [Heart of Ontario](#) website for additional fall/winter activities, events and packages throughout the region. For discounts at Burlington attractions, restaurants, accommodations and more [click here](#).

[Back to the top](#)

Visitor Services



The [Visitor Information Centre](#) is open daily from 9 am to 4 pm. We're open 7 days a week to answer your inquiries, provide directions, show you souvenirs and recommend activities. [Contact us today](#) or drop in and visit us at 414 Locust Street just one block north of Lakeshore Road and Spencer Smith Park on the ground floor of the downtown parking garage where visitors always get 20 minutes FREE parking!

Holiday Hours: Our visitor centre will be closed for the holidays from

December 24 - January 1. We will re-open January 2, 2012. If you have inquiries over the holidays we can be reached via [email](#), [facebook](#) or [twitter](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Winter 2012 Preview

Our next issue will be full of great winter ideas including the Maple Syrup Festivals, [A Taste of Burlington](#), Royal Botanical Gardens [Chocolate Exhibit](#) and the Burlington Chocolate Trail. Visit our [website](#) for more information on what to see and do in Burlington!

[Back to the top](#)

[Tour-Burl Visitor ENews](#) - is distributed five times per year to keep you up to date on what to see and do in Burlington

[Enewsletter Unsubscribe](#) - If you prefer not to receive this Enews or would like to receive a print version, [contact us](#).

This message was sent to cvetanovicl@burlington.ca from:

Tourism Burlington | 414 Locust St | Burlington, ON L7S 1T7, Canada

[Manage Your Subscription](#) | [Forward To a Friend](#)

