

# Welcome to Burlington Ontario, Canada



## Population: 175,000

Burlington's climate is generally continental with warm humid summers and cold, dry winters. This is moderated by the proximity of Lake Ontario, which tends to reduce temperature extremes. Monthly high temperatures range from 27 degrees centigrade in July to 0 degrees centigrade in January. The annual precipitation is 28 inches of rain and 51 inches of snow.



Discovery Landing - David Whale

## THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Beautiful Burlington is located on the waters of Lake Ontario with the majestic cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment as it's backdrop. Our waterfront features Discovery Landing with a weather observatory, waterfront restaurant, and a pond used for model boats in summer and skating in the winter. You can view this unique park in all seasons via the live web cam at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca)

We also host numerous festivals and events during the year including the Fine Art & Craft Festival, Road Races, Doors Open, Sound of Music Festival, Canada Day, Joseph Brant Day, Children's Festival, Canada's Largest Ribfest, Festival of Lights and New Years Eve celebrations.

The downtown features a variety of dining and unique shopping experiences, many with spectacular views of the waterfront.

Golf enthusiasts will enjoy our challenging and scenic courses in the area. Open parkland and trails are perfect for cycling, jogging and strolling in all seasons, including the world-renowned Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), a popular attraction for bus tours, business meetings and day visitors.

With a passion for the arts, Burlington has a new performing arts centre theatre, historical museums and a first class art gallery. Families can enjoy affordable fun by taking a scenic drive and stopping along the way at various local attractions including the RBG, Waterfront, Art Centre, Museums, Bronte Creek Provincial Park, and Halton Conservation Areas.

With so many fun, picturesque and affordable attractions, Burlington is sure to satisfy families and individuals alike.



Royal Botanical Gardens - Daniel Banko

## Visitor Information Centre

Tourism Burlington offers extensive travel information about Burlington and Ontario destinations. Burlington and Canadian souvenirs, maps and postcards are sold at the Centre. Tourism Burlington can also provide information for tour groups, meetings, conference and event planners. We are located at 414 Locust St. below the parking garage, just north of Lakeshore Road.

Phone ..... 905.634.5594  
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Website ..... [www.tourismburlington.com](http://www.tourismburlington.com)  
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SEE & DO | DINE | SHOP | STAY | EVENTS



Snowboarding at Glen Eden



Burlington Teen Tour Band at The Burlington Performing Arts Centre



Burlington Art Centre - Blimp Pics



Ireland House at Oakridge Farm



Tyandaga Municipal Golf Course - Blimp Pics

## BURLINGTON DAY TRIPS

### Art and Horticulture Enthusiasts

- Experience and explore Canada's largest botanical garden, the **Royal Botanical Gardens** offering year round tours. Explore acres of nature areas, trails, spectacular seasonal shows of lilacs, tulips, irises, roses, fall colours, and winter exhibits.
- Lunch at one of Burlington's many area restaurants including quaint tea rooms and waterside patios.
- Continue your day by spending the afternoon at **The Burlington Art Centre**, which boasts the largest collection of Canadian contemporary ceramics in the world, art exhibits, Art Etc. Gift Shop featuring local artisans and Canadiana, an indoor conservatory, as well as a café looking out to the lake.

### Now on stage...

- **The Crossroads Centre** boasts one of the finest television production centres in the world. Tour their state of the art broadcasting facilities and beautiful chapel.
- **The Aldershot Players, Theatre Burlington, Mohawk Dinner Theatre, Tottering Biped and Drury Lane Theatre** are just a few of the productions hosted throughout the year. Check out the events calendar on [burlington.ca](http://burlington.ca) for details.
- In the summer enjoy free **Music in the Park** concerts featuring local musicians such as Burlington's own **Teen Tour Band** at one of the beautiful outdoor locations.
- **The Burlington Performing Arts Centre** Ontario's first stand-alone green performing arts centre with a 718-seat main stage theatre, a 225-seat studio theatre, atrium space and an event patio. Located next to the Visitor Information Centre and near the Waterfront at Downtown Burlington.

### The Great Outdoors

- Spend a day visiting many of our area parks and conservation areas; **LaSalle Park, The Waterfront at Downtown Burlington, Paletta Lakefront Park & Mansion, Bronte Creek Provincial Park, Kelso, Glen Eden, Mountsberg, Crawford Lake, Hilton Falls, Rattlesnake Point and Mount Nemo Conservation areas**. Explore some of the most scenic landscapes found anywhere. Walk, jog or cycle through their scenic trails. Visit waterfalls, lakes and streams, swim, cycle, ski, fish, and bird watch.
- Travel north of the city and hike the Bruce Trail featuring one of Canada's most spectacular world biospheres, the **Niagara Escarpment**.
- In winter see **trumpeter swans**, once thought to be extinct, and only recently reintroduced to this area. The swans chose the Burlington lakeshore and **LaSalle Park** for their winter home and each year have migrated from their nesting area in Northern Ontario to Burlington. Check out our birding information on our website.

### History Buffs

- Start your day with a visit to **Joseph Brant Museum**, a replica of the home of Captain Joseph Brant, which houses Burlington history, Canadian costumes and accessory displays.
- Stroll the historical streets of the downtown to discover some of the first homes built in Burlington, dating back to the late 1800's. **A Walking Tour of Burlington Downtown and War of 1812-14** brochures are available from the Visitor Information Centre.
- Continue your discovery of the past with a visit to **Ireland House at Oakridge Farm**, a living history museum that has been restored to reflect the four generations of the Ireland family who lived on the farm.
- Travel north of the city to see **Spruce Lane Farm** at Bronte Creek Provincial Park, the **Halton Region Museum** and the **Streetcar & Electric Railway Museum**.
- Step back in time and take **Brock's Walk** and learn about the War of 1812-14.

### Unique Shopping

- Visit Burlington Downtown and discover the beautiful shopping district featuring one of Canada's best-known independent bookshops, **A Different Drummer Books**, as well as many one of a kind shops specializing in clothing, accessories and gifts, and numerous galleries.
- Then take time out to dine at one of many unique restaurants located downtown on the waterfront or in **Village Square** with its cobblestone streets and old English architecture.
- Burlington shopping includes familiar names such as, **IKEA, Lee Valley, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Marshalls and Costco** and 2 large indoor shopping malls.

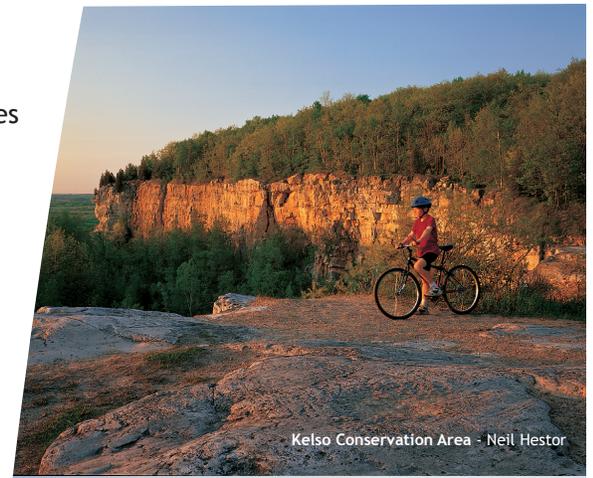
## Golfers Paradise

- Book a tee time at one of 9 golf courses within the city as well as many other award winning courses scattered throughout our rural area.
- Perhaps miniature golf is your choice, visit the numerous mini-putt courses located in and around the city.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Here are just a few of the points of interest that you can enjoy while visiting Burlington.

- **Burlington Art Centre** - exhibitions of Canadian art, crafts including the world's largest collection of Canadian contemporary ceramic art. Art Etc. gift shop. **Free admission.**
- **Bronte Provincial Park** - features skating, skiing and tobogganing in winter, Spruce Lane Farm, play barn, hiking trails, camping, swimming, and geocaching in spring/summer.
- **Central Park Labyrinth** - Relax, and reduce stress by walking this eleven-circuit, wheelchair accessible labyrinth that is patterned after the one in Chartres Cathedral in France.
- **Ireland House at Oakridge Farm** - living history museum restored to reflect farm life over four generations. Tours, educational programs and events.
- **Joseph Brant Museum** - replica of Joseph Brant Homestead offering tours, educational programs and events.
- **Kerncliff Park**- former quarry property on Niagara Escarpment with walking trails, boardwalk over wetland, majestic views of city, bird-nesting area.
- **LaSalle Park Marina and Walking trails** - beautiful views of the Hamilton skyline and Burlington Skyway Bridge. From mid December until early March see one of few locations in Ontario where trumpeter swans visit each winter.
- **Lowville Park** - Bronte Creek meanders through this picturesque rural park that features many picnic areas, trails, and an old school house.
- **Magnetic Hill** - one of the only naturally occurring magnetic hills in Canada. Located in rural section of King Rd.
- **Mount Nemo** - pristine cliffs with old growth forests, ancient cedars and spectacular views of Lake Ontario and Toronto. 5 km of hiking trails.
- **Paletta Lakefront Park and Mansion** - self guided walking tour on discovery trail through estate property. Restored mansion used for meetings and banquets in wonderful waterfront setting.
- **Performing Arts Centre** - Opening 2011 with main and studio theatres.
- **Royal Botanical Gardens** - world-renowned attraction featuring 2700 acres of breathtaking gardens and spectacular nature sanctuaries. Garden Café and gift shop.
- **Walking Tour Burlington Downtown** - starting at the Visitor Information Centre, take a step back in time viewing historic homes, churches and businesses on this self-guided tour.
- **Waterfront Trail** - 23 km trail along Burlington's beautiful waterfront. On road trails along tree-lined streets with upscale residential properties. Off road trails through waterfront parks with wonderful lake views.
- **The Waterfront at Downtown Burlington** - explore weather changes and evening skies at Discovery Landing. Enjoy the Dofasco Waterjet Plaza, sail model boats or skate at Rotary Centennial Pond.



Kelso Conservation Area - Neil Hestor



Paletta Mansion - Blimp Pics



LaSalle Park Pavilion - Kirk Johnston



LaSalle Marina - Bill Browning

## SCENIC DRIVES

Slow down and enjoy a more leisurely drive along the waterfront or through the Burlington countryside. Here are a few suggestions for scenic drives. Contact the visitor centre for more detailed directions and other driving tours.

- **Great Drives** - Begin your adventure at **Royal Botanical Gardens** Canada's largest botanical garden. Canada's longest footpath, the **Bruce Trail**, runs through the RBG property. Next stop is Burlington's **Discovery Landing** on Lakeshore which includes a waterfront centre, a children's play area and water jet plaza. Across from Discovery Landing is the **Art Centre** and **Joseph Brant Museum**. Heading east and north **Bronte Creek** has great trails, camping, a play barn and large outdoor pool. Tucked beneath the Niagara Escarpment, **Halton Region Museum** sits in the heart of Kelso Conservation Area, and is the centre for exploring Halton's natural and cultural heritage.
- **East Lakeshore** - from the Visitor Centre head east on Lakeshore Road stopping at waterfront parks en route; **Sioux Lookout**, **Paletta Lakefront Park** and **Burloak Parks**. Continue on to Oakville to watch the boats come in at **Bronte & Oakville Harbours**.
- **Beach Drive** - from the Visitor Centre go west on Lakeshore and turn left at the Hospital - stop at **Beachway Park** for ice cream, take a walk across the boardwalk at the dune crossing. Turn left onto Eastport Drive, where you can stop at the **Canal** to see large freighter and pleasure boats go through the lift bridge. Walk the waterfront trail at **Confederation Park** and stop for a cool drink overlooking the water.
- **Northshore** - from the Visitor Centre head west on Lakeshore, which turns into North Shore Blvd. The tree-lined streets with up-scale residential homes show glimpses of the waterfront along this route. Stop at **LaSalle Park and Marina** to walk the trails and gaze at sailboats in the bay. Continue on LaSalle Park Rd. to Plains Rd. and head west for a stop at **Royal Botanical Gardens** and then along York Blvd to **Dundurn Castle** in Hamilton.
- **Rural Burlington** - from the Visitor Centre head north on Brant St. until it becomes Cedar Springs Rd. Travel through farmland intermixed with golf courses until you reach Britannia Rd. Go east on Britannia to Guelph Line and north to Lowville where you can enjoy a picnic lunch at **Lowville Park** along the banks of Bronte Creek.

## HISTORY OF BURLINGTON

The many natural advantages of this area attracted aboriginal people long before the arrival of the first white settlers along the lakefront in the late 1700's. In 1669 famous French explorer Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle landed where LaSalle park is now located.

In 1784 the British granted a large land tract to Captain Joseph Brant in recognition of fighting on the side of the British in the US War of Independence. The sale by Brant of lots in his block marked the beginning of the area that evolved into Burlington. Two structures near the site of Brant's home, the Joseph Brant Museum and the Joseph Brant Hospital, are just two memorials to his name.

The wave of Loyalist settlers into this area as a result of the American Revolutionary War was followed by immigration from the British Isles and Europe. Homesteaders had to clear some timber from their lots in order to patent the deeds for their Crown Grants of land. From 1820 to 1850 pine and oak timbers were the area's principal export. Wheat became the major export during the Crimean War when European sources of wheat were disrupted. By 1900, Burlington had evolved into a prosperous farming community with mixed farms and cash crops of fruit and vegetables.

The agrarian period of our history was marked by activities that have disappeared. Commercial canneries, ice harvesting and basket factories have been replaced by modern companies and high tech industries which have brought an influx of residents. From the visit of LaSalle to this area over 300 years ago, Burlington has grown into a highly successful urban area with an appealing quality of life.



Joseph Brant Museum - Blimp Pics



The Burlington Teen Tour Band

## GETTING HERE

Burlington is conveniently located next to major highways, easily connecting to the Greater Toronto Area, the Niagara Region and Kitchener/Waterloo and within 45 minutes of three international airports. Go Transit and Via Rail also provide service to Burlington and beyond.

### Distances to Burlington

City	Miles	Kilometres
Buffalo, New York	78	125
Hamilton, Ontario	13	20
Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario	69	110
London, Ontario	91	145
Montreal, Quebec	367	587
Niagara Falls, Ontario	59	95
Ottawa, Ontario	279	444
Syracuse, New York	231	369
Toronto, Ontario	30	48
Windsor, Ontario	204	328

While visiting Ontario be sure to add Burlington to your list of must-see destinations.

Call us toll free for more information at **1.877.499.9989**.

[tourismburlington.com](http://tourismburlington.com)

**SEE & DO | DINE | SHOP | STAY | EVENTS**