

HISTORIC NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY

Neighbourhood Profile
December 4, 2009

People led planning for Barrie's older neighbourhoods

Brock Park

Located directly west of Kempenfelt Bay, the Brock Park neighbourhood was once a thriving hub of heavy industrial employment and manufacturing.

This residential neighbourhood has continued over the years, despite being bisected by several heavily travelled routes that have been host to numerous changing employment uses.

The name Brock Park comes from the local park that is a central feature of the neighbourhood.

The northern edge of the Brock Park neighbourhood is Vespra Street and the southern boundary is Tiffin Street, both hosts to employment uses, providing neighbourhood edges for travelling pedestrians.

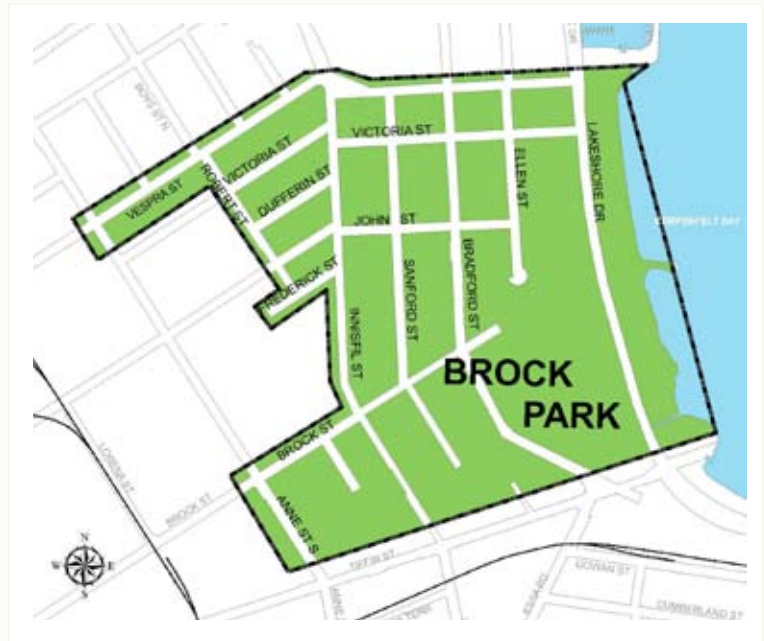
The eastern edge is naturally defined by Lakeshore Drive and the waterfront. A circuitous route comprising parts of Anne, Robert, Innisfil and Seaforth streets all serve as the western edge. These roads mark the end to the residential neighbourhood and the beginning of employment lands to the west.

Neighbourhood Characteristics

The employment opportunities found throughout this neighbourhood have routinely changed with shifting economic conditions over the years. The industrial legacy is now slowly changing with residential condominium development renewing previous brownfield areas along Lakeshore Drive.

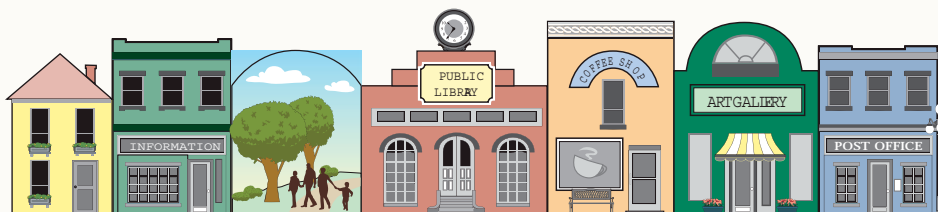
A blend of housing stock characterizes Brock Park with a number of older homes converted to multi-residential units, newer semi-detached and smaller single-detached homes and duplexes.

The western portion of this neighbourhood abuts a variety of small-scale manufacturing and other



employment uses, many of which are car-related. A number of the once prevalent car dealerships have left the Bradford Street business area over the last few years creating opportunities for redevelopment and infill.

Historic employment uses have left their mark and many sites are challenging to redevelop today; however, proximity to the waterfront and the downtown continue to support the viability of this neighbourhood.



Community Facilities & Services

Brock Park hosts a number of local businesses including entertainment and eateries, dry cleaning and coffee shops, all interspersed throughout the neighbourhood. These neighbourhood services, many of which having been in operation for some time, are not clustered in one place, but have prospered in their long-standing various locations.



37 Sandford Street

This neighbourhood's central location allows residents easy access to community festivals and events and other amenities found in surrounding neighbourhoods and at the waterfront.

The neighbourhood has been host to the City's wastewater treatment plant at Bradford Street and Tiffin Street since the 1940s and home of Barrie Fire Hall 1 at Vespra and Innisfil since the 1960s. The fire hall is planned to relocate to a new facility at Dunlop Street West and Eccles Street South in 2011 and therefore the site will become available for redevelopment.

Brock Park is traversed by two waterways—Dyment's Creek and Bunkers Creek—that both flow through Brock Park and into Kempenfelt Bay. A local park is adjacent to the Dyment's Creek waterway and offers space for children with a play facility, as well as an open field for dog owners and smaller-scale team activities.



Brock Park

Neighbourhood Heritage

This neighbourhood historically hosted a large number of industrial and manufacturing operations, such as:

- Barrie Tannery Co. operated on the south side of Bradford Street at Vespra Street from the early 1900s through to the late 1970s.
- Barrie Carriage Company operated at Ellen Street and John Street from the early 1900s through to the early 1920s.
- General Electric Plant on Bradford Street and Vespra Street opened in the 1940s and remained operational until its closure in the late 1980s.



Bradford Street – Converted Dwellings

What residents said they like most about Brock Park...

- Proximity to the downtown and the waterfront
- Mature trees and historic homes
- Central location, close to amenities

What residents said they most want to change about Brock Park...

- Infrastructure improvements including roads, sewers and water-mains

Two sources were invaluable in preparing these profiles —Heritage Barrie Walking Tours and Beautiful Barrie, The City and its People by Su Murdoch, et al (2005).

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