

HISTORIC NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY

Neighbourhood Profile
December 4, 2009

People led planning for Barrie's older neighbourhoods

Queen's Park

Containing one of Barrie's original parks, the Queen's Park neighbourhood pivots around this central neighbourhood feature, with residential pockets located north of Sophia Street and south/west of Queen's Park.

Created in the mid-1800s, Queen's Park has always been a central gathering place for the community and today with Victoria Village, these central neighbourhood spaces continue to be a locus of recreation and leisure activities for those who live here.

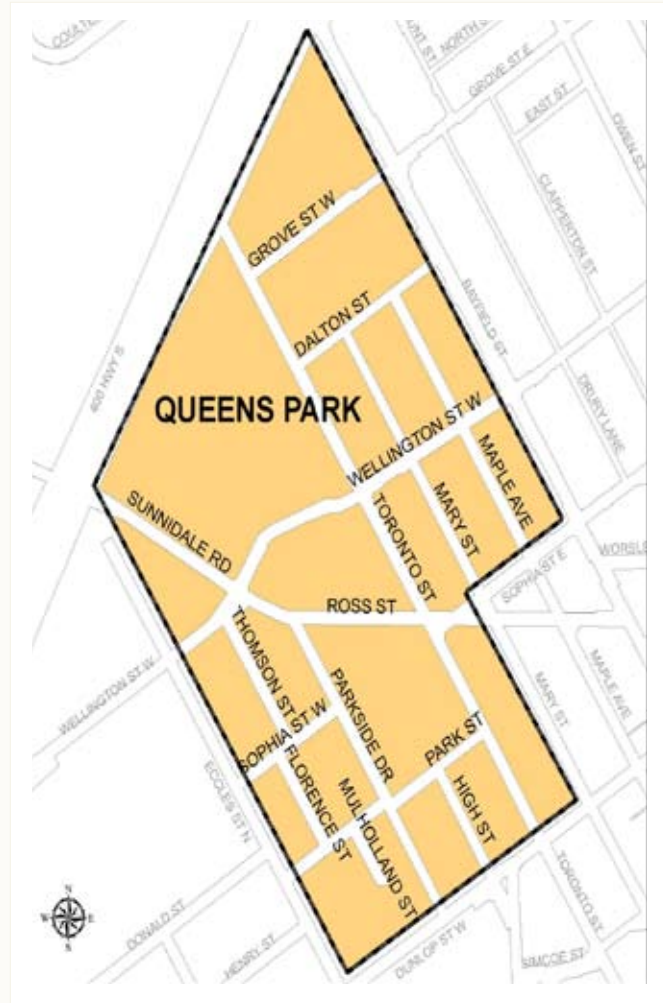
The boundaries of the Queen's Park neighbourhood are defined by heavily-travelled vehicular routes, lined with employment uses—Highway 400 to the north, Sophia Street West / Dunlop Street West to the south, Eccles Street to the west and Bayfield Street to the east.

Neighbourhood Characteristics

Much of the original housing, built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, remains today throughout the neighbourhood. Examples include classic two-storey brick and stone single-detached homes and semi-detached homes, as well as some early multiple-unit dwellings, all with distinctive architecture, scale and built form.

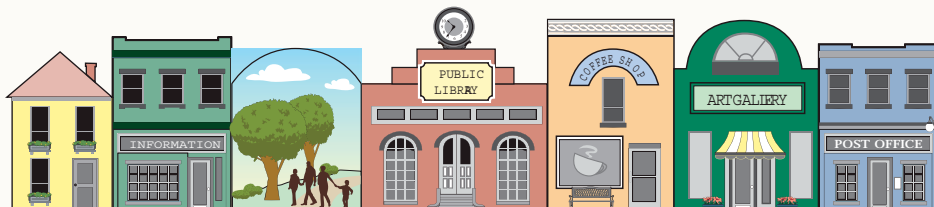
Over the years, infilling brought smaller war-time single and semi-detached housing, as well as additional multi-unit housing and a range of rental accommodation. The result is a neighbourhood that has attracted and continues to retain residents with a range of ages and income levels.

Today, in response to growth in the downtown, some of the larger original homes on the southern ends of High and Toronto streets have been converted into employment uses or subdivided to accommodate multi-residential units.



The Royal Victoria hospital, first built in this neighbourhood in the late 1800s, moved its location in 1997 to the northeast end of the City. Today the last RVH building provides housing and assisted living for seniors throughout the community, as well as a range of recreation and leisure space.

Two elementary schools are located in the Queen's Park neighbourhood—Hillcrest Public School and Maple Hill Montessori School—that provide families with local school facilities for their children.



A vibrant mixed-use area, the Queen's Park neighbourhood continues to reflect a successful blend of residential, employment and institutional uses.



Maple Hill: 147 Toronto Street

This neighbourhood contains a number of areas where future growth and development could be accommodated through intensification. These areas primarily include the eastern and southern boundaries of Bayfield Street and Dunlop Street West, both edges

to this neighbourhood leading into and out of the downtown.

Opportunities exist throughout the neighbourhood to accommodate small-scale residential infill. Being an area in transition, this neighbourhood contains existing sites, particularly on the periphery, that may in time experience pressure for redevelopment and/or a change in land use.

Community Facilities & Services

Queen's Park is well served with recreational facilities including a baseball diamond, skate board park and tennis courts as well as the school fields and facilities at Hillcrest Public School. Victoria Village provides a range of seniors housing as well as recreation, education and fitness opportunities for the broader community.



Queens Park Pathway

The Armoury, located in Queen's Park, is still being used by military personnel and for many people its presence remains a central feature of this neighbourhood's identity.

The neighbourhood is walking distance to the waterfront and the Downtown and also contains a variety of shops and services throughout to serve basic everyday needs of residents.

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).

Neighbourhood Heritage

This neighbourhood has many examples of late 19th century and early 20th century homes and other buildings, particularly along High Street, Parkside Drive and Toronto Street. Notable examples include:

- Maple Hill (c 1860s), 147 Toronto Street
- Maplehurst (c 1883), 72 High Street
- Glenholme (c 1872), 62-64 High Street
- Carnoevar (c 1863-4), 5 Wellington St. W.
- Robinson-Burton House (c 1872), 105 Toronto
- Armoury (c 1914)
- 32 Parkside Drive (c 1890)
- 68 – 70 Parkside Drive (c 1875)
- 74 High Street (c 1907)
- 73 – 75 High Street (c early 1900s)
- 60 High Street (c 1929)

What residents said they like most about Queen's Park...

- Beautiful historic homes and the historic feeling of the neighbourhood
- Mix of housing and the diversity of the population
- Proximity to the downtown, waterfront and area parks
- Sense of community and human streetscape
- Living car-free and having transit close by
- Quiet tree-lined streets and the beauty and pride of ownership found here

What residents said they most want to change about Queen's Park...

- Extend vintage-style lighting to Mary Street
- More enforcement of property standards of poorly maintained residences
- Reduce the number of rooming houses
- Provide more lighting in Queen's Park
- Planning practices that recognize historic features
- Reduce traffic through neighbourhood

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