

HISTORIC NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY

Neighbourhood Profile
December 4, 2009

People led planning for Barrie's older neighbourhoods

West Village

Directly west of the downtown core, West Village boasts a mix of residential and employment uses and a growing local retail and service shopping sector.

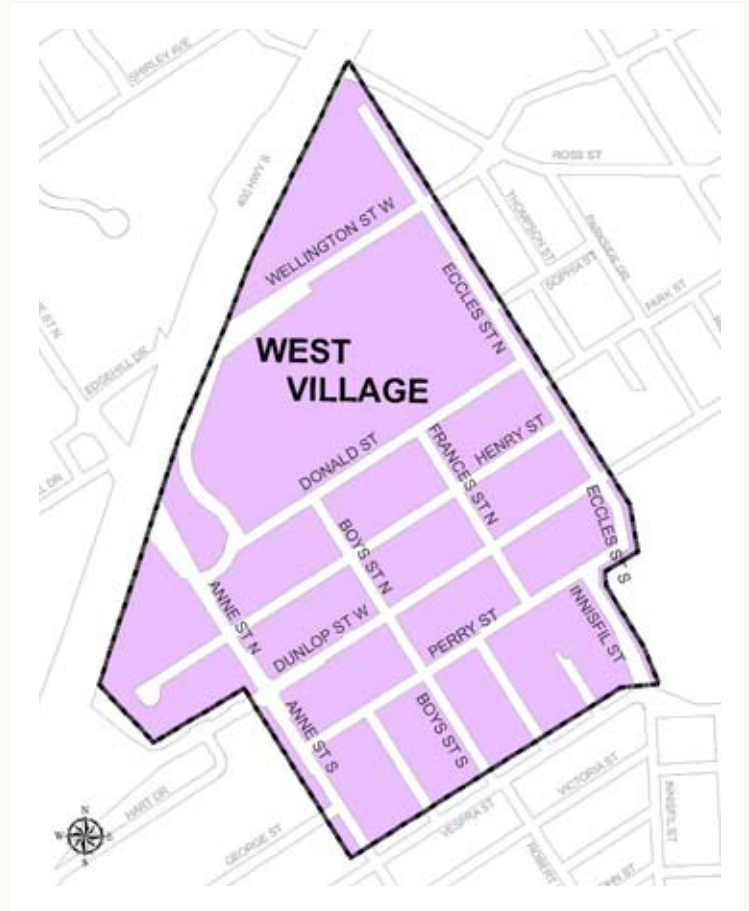
Bounded by major vehicular routes to the north—Highway 400, Anne Street and Vespra Street—the West Village is defined by the change in land uses that surround it on three sides.

On its northern edge are retail / employment uses, with heavier industrial operations and institutional uses to the south and auto employment uses to the west. West Village shares its eastern boundary—Eccles Street—with other historic neighbourhoods including the Downtown, Queen's Park and Brock Park.

Neighbourhood Characteristics

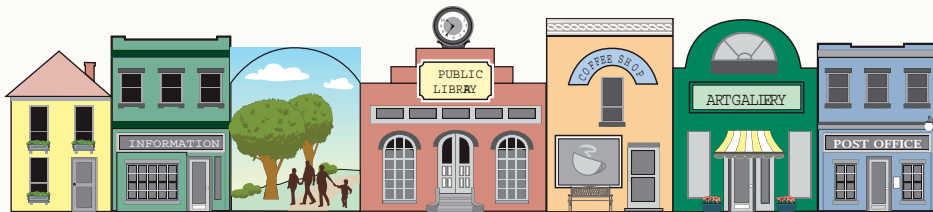
In tandem with the industrial growth that proliferated to its south and southwest, West Village grew significantly during the last half century with housing to accommodate workers. This legacy is abundantly clear today with traditional war-time bungalows and 1½-storey homes from the mid-20th century interspersed among late 19th and early 20th century homes.

More recently low-rise apartments, townhouses and larger apartments have been built to accommodate population growth and some of the original homes remaining along Dunlop Street West have been converted into employment uses, as the downtown extended west.



Today this area continues to offer a broad range of housing including single-family homes, semi-detached, multi-unit houses, apartments and townhouses, as well as a seniors' facility for ageing residents.

West Village also is home to a large retail facility in the north end with a grocery store, pharmacy and other local retail services for residents.



Community Facilities & Services

West Village residents are in close proximity to the waterfront for recreational and leisure activities.



14 Boys Street

In their own neighbourhood, Audrey Milligan Pond provides naturalized space and Donald Park provides a child's play area and space for passive recreation.

The abundance of greenspace available here and in adjacent neighbourhoods is considered a central feature to this neighbourhood.

The neighbourhood also supports the home of the Barrie Art Club and is directly adjacent to Barrie Central Collegiate and Prince of Wales Elementary School. This elementary school is set to close at the end of the 2009-2010 and residents in this neighbourhood consider this to be a significant loss.

West Village provides supportive housing for seniors at the Simcoe Terrace and offers a range of local convenience retail services at the Wellington plaza in the north end.

Neighbourhood Heritage



Donald Park

West Village traditionally served as primarily a residential area for workers, moving here to find employment during the industrial expansion in the early-to-mid-20th century. At that time there was

plentiful employment opportunities in the area to the south and southwest and the north-end of West Village and this continues today.

Local retail and services in the north-end of the neighbourhood and along Dunlop Street West have developed more recently.

What residents said they *like* most about the West Village...

- The quiet community and historic homes
- Diversity of park spaces and number of trees
- Diversity of residents
- Close proximity to the amenities of the waterfront and the downtown



91 Henry Street

What residents said they most want to *change* about the West Village ...

- Encourage more property owners to repair and maintain historic homes
- Increase the sense of pride in homes
- Improve roads and sidewalk conditions
- Improve snow clearing on sidewalks



Audrey Milligan Pond

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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