

# HISTORIC NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY

Newsletter #2  
October 30, 2009

*People led planning for Barrie's older neighbourhoods*

Welcome

## HNS Neighbourhood Profiles

This newsletter covers the results of the Name Your Neighbourhood Contest and the first resident survey.

It also includes a map showing the boundaries of each neighbourhood and offers a glimpse of the seven neighbourhoods excerpted from profiles that can be found on line at [hns.barrie.ca](http://hns.barrie.ca) or on the HNS Facebook page.

The dialogue continues as community Committee members join me at the Farmer's Market October 31 and Barrie Public Library November 8 noon to 3:00 and November 17 5:00 - 8:00 to talk with residents.

For the most part these are walkable neighbourhoods with a variety of homes, a well-established canopy of older trees and easy access to amenities.

Excerpts from the profiles begin on page 2.

*Jeff Lehman, Committee Chair*



HNS Residents' Survey

## The dialogue continues

The first of two residents' surveys was conducted this fall with residents submitting responses by email, on line and by filling out a questionnaire at community events. A summary of the results can be found on the website at [hns.barrie.ca](http://hns.barrie.ca).

The following sound bites will give you a flavour of some of the comments:

What are the top-three things you enjoy or appreciate most about your neighbourhood?

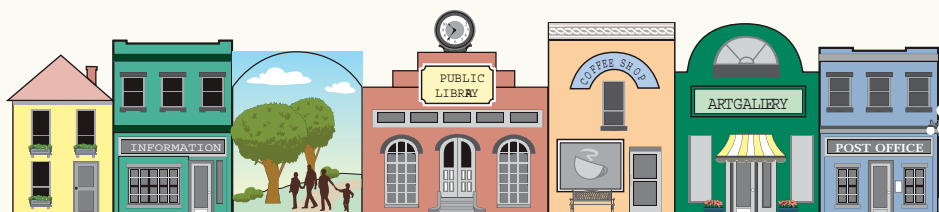
The mature trees / lots... proximity to waterfront...within walking distance of most facilities a person requires...my neighbours...centrally located in centre of Barrie...the historic homes...proximity to downtown, waterfront and Highway 400...variety/mix of homes, residents, churches and buildings... diversity of population...walkability...Large, old homes with character... historic buildings and parks...community...tree cover-keeps area cool, aesthetically pleasing... eclectic styles of older homes / historical buildings...parks...

What are the top-three things you would like to see changed for the future in your neighbourhood?

Rental properties that fall into severe disrepair...road repairs, smoother road pavement...water pressure...sensible planning standards that recognize historic features...clean up neglected properties...finish construction of water treatment site... improved access to waterfront...fix roads...better bike lanes and pedestrian walkways...snow/ice removal...dog park...too much vehicular traffic...property standards involving absentee landlords...noisy venues...water sewage lines replaced... repairs to roads and sidewalks... more enforced property maintenance...heritage site protection...speed limit...less commercial traffic...

Intrigued? Want to find out more? Want to have your say? Want to stay connected?

Visit [hns.barrie.ca](http://hns.barrie.ca) and the HNS Facebook page and join the discussion.



## Allandale

Located on the southern shore of Kempenfelt Bay where rail and road transportation routes converge, the Allandale neighbourhood has a history rooted in the railway. The area was known as the Village of Allandale before annexation by Barrie in the 1890s.



129 Cumberland Street (c 1880s)

Reflecting its turn of the century heritage, Allandale offers a mix of historic mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century homes and smaller 1 to 1½ storey homes, placed along a grid street pattern with some cul-de-sacs ending along the rail line.

Views of the water can be seen at five locations throughout the neighbourhood—on Milburn Street, Bayview Street, Essa Road, Tiffin Street and William Street.

Local retail uses are encouraged along the edges of the neighbourhood and the re-development of the train station lands is expected to provide a range of uses.

The rail yards re-development is anticipated to serve as a catalyst for area re-development as this is a feature site and an important piece of the neighbourhood's identity and character.

## Blair Park

A quiet, quaint residential area centred on Blair Park, this neighbourhood is hidden away in the triangle formed by Tiffin Street, Essa Road and Highway 400. The various employment land uses located along these arterial roads act to insulate the neighbourhood and define its edges.

Almost entirely residential, the Blair Park neighbourhood offers a mix of housing including some larger early 20<sup>th</sup> century and smaller-scale mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> century homes of 1 and 1½ storeys.

## Brock Park

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

Today the neighbourhood hosts a mix of residential, entertainment and employment uses. There is a variable mix of housing stock in Brock Park with a number of older homes converted to multi-residential units, newer semis and smaller singles and duplexes.

Brock Park offers residents several well-established local entertainment opportunities and restaurants and is adjacent to the amenities of the downtown and waterfront. This neighbourhood's central location allows residents to easy access to community festivals and events and other amenities found in surrounding neighbourhoods.

The western portion of this neighbourhood abuts many 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 re-development and infill. The area's industrial legacy is slowly changing particularly with as residential condominium developments renew the brownfields along Lakeshore Drive.

## Queen's Park

Containing one of Barrie's original parks, the Queen's Park neighbourhood pivots around this central neighbourhood feature.

Created in the mid-1800s, Queen's Park has always been a central gathering place for the community and today.



Queen's Park Pathway

Much of the original housing, built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, remains today. Over the years, infilling has brought smaller war-time single and semi-detached housing here, 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.

## Downtown

The historic core of the City of Barrie, the Downtown neighbourhood is a vibrant mixed-use community comprised of a rich blend of specialty shops and services as well as institutional and ceremonial community spaces. Interspersed throughout this bustling area of entertainment and services exists the most diverse residential neighbourhood found anywhere in the City.

The Downtown neighbourhood contains a rich variety of original historic homes and buildings, many of which have been converted into multi-use buildings and multi-residential dwelling. Indeed it offers the widest variety of housing types and building ages available anywhere in the city, including high-rise apartments and condominiums as well as single and semi-detached homes and row-housing.



Farmers Market

The Downtown is host to most of Barrie's cultural, civic and ceremonial facilities including the courthouse, City Hall, library, Downtown Community Theatre, cenotaph and the Farmer's Market. Most of Barrie's festivals and charitable events occur in the downtown and the neighbourhood is wrapped around a large section of the waterfront parkland, which offers visitors some of the best views of Kempenfelt Bay.

### Questions or Comments?

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## The Grove

The Grove is one of the oldest residential areas in the City of Barrie. This neighbourhood remains primarily residential and boasts a rich inventory of historic homes and properties. Blending the old with the new, the Grove offers residents today a diverse and eclectic mix of housing allowing virtually anyone to call this neighbourhood home.



22 Peel Street (c 1870s)

This neighbourhood offers residents quiet tree-lined residential streets and a wide variety of housing for a broad range of income levels and ages.

## The West Village

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

In tandem with the industrial growth that proliferated to its south and southwest, The 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-20<sup>th</sup> century interspersed among late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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. The West Village is home to a large retail facility in the north end with a grocery store, pharmacy and other local retail services for residents.



14 Boys Street

HNS Contest

**Names, boundaries, action**

The results are in and residents who entered the Name Your Neighbourhood Contest have confirmed the names of the seven historic neighbourhoods in downtown Barrie—Allandale, Blair Park, Brock Park, Downtown, Queen`s Park, The Grove, The West Village.

Meanwhile, City Planning staff has been working with the HNS Community Committee to delineate the boundaries of each neighbourhood based on history, land uses and street patterns. Take a look at the map—in this Newsletter, on line at [hns.barrie.ca](http://hns.barrie.ca) or on the HNS Facebook page.

