

# Case Studies

**Barrie Waterfront Strategic Plan Update**

**June 2023**

# Old Port of Montreal

- **Location:** Montreal, Canada
- **Length & Area:** 2.5 kilometres, 40.7 hectares

The Old Port of Montreal is situated on the St. Lawrence River as a key destination for Montrealers and visitors. The Old Port has capitalized on its historic, recreational, educational, and cultural assets, offering a range of opportunities to interact with the waterfront. Its combination of regional attractions, such as the Montreal Science Centre and IMAX Theatre, and diverse waterfront programming, including outdoor skating and an annual light festival, create an energetic environment that is attractive and engaging. The Old Port goes further to ensure the waterfront is an inclusive setting for all by eliminating barriers for participation in places such as the Science Centre. Climate change initiatives are also pursued to ensure the waterfront is a sustainable cultural resource that is available for future generations.

➤ **Key Features:**

- Ferris wheel
- Science centre
- Adventure park
- IMAX Theatre
- Marina
- Cruise ship terminal
- Spa on the water (Bota Bota)
- **Activities:** zipline circuit; tandem bikes; food trucks; childrens’ train; ice fishing; skating; labyrinth
- **Events:** light festival; igloofest; circus

➤ **Successes:**

- Diversity of activities: commercial & free
- Programming: year-round, variety of ages
- Climate change initiatives: greenhouse gas reduction, heat recovery, electric vehicle charging stations, new tree plantings, infectious disease monitoring
- Free Science Centre passes for underprivileged families and women and girls in science

➤ **Challenges:**

- Not seen as a place for locals



➤ **Old Port of Montreal**  
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Precedents



A. Ice Fishing



C. La Grande Roue



E. Promenade D'Iberville (Green Roof)



B. Outdoor Skating Rink



D. Cirque du Soleil



F. Promenade

# Burlington Waterfront

- Location: Burlington, Canada
- Length & Area: 3.2 kilometres, 37.4 hectares

The Burlington waterfront is located on the eastern coast of Lake Ontario, adjacent to the City’s Downtown and several institutional uses. The Great Lakes Waterfront Trail runs through the entire waterfront, connecting parks and beaches configured along the shoreline. The Waterfront Trail also connects Burlington to 154 other communities across Ontario located on the shores of the Great Lakes. The waterfront remains a calm environment with local character for residents to enjoy, with a variety of leisure activities and intermittent events that animate the waterfront. The effects of the waterfront’s industrial past have been remedied through environmental remediation, restoring water and ecosystem quality.

- Key Features:
  - Art Gallery of Burlington
  - Joseph Brant Museum
  - Performing Arts Centre
  - Marquis Garden (event hall)
  - Discovery Landing
  - Spencer Smith Park
- Activities: splash pad; model boat sailing; skating
- Events: Dragon boat festival; Indigenous Day summer solstice celebration; Sakura festival; local food events

- Successes:
  - Water quality and ecosystem restoration after intensive industrial and urban development
  - Plans to integrate Aboriginal heritage features including fire circles, First Nations Interpretation Centre, beacons displaying cultural information
  - Plans for flexible parking with permeable paving, ability to be converted to event space and parking shuttle
- Challenges:
  - Balancing population growth from Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and maintaining local character



Burlington Waterfront  
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Precedents



➤ A. Brant Street Pier



➤ C. Great Lakes Waterfront Trail



➤ E. Sakura Festival



➤ B. Spencer Smith Park



➤ D. Burlington Beach



# Victoria Harbour

- Location: Victoria, Canada
- Length & Area: 20.4 kilometres, 244.0 hectares

Victoria Harbour is located on the Strait of Juan de Fuca: the Salish Sea's outlet to the Pacific Ocean. Downtown Victoria and the neighbourhood of James Bay are located adjacent to the primary section of the waterfront, although there are less-visited parts of the waterfront that are more residential and industrial in nature. Victoria Harbour leans into its historical assets and commitment to fostering First Nations relationships. A variety of animated and leisure activities are available at the harbour for tourists and residents. The Ship Point Market, Fisherman's Wharf, whale watching, fishing charters, and First Nations artwork call back to the unique history and quality of Victoria Harbour.

- Key Features:
  - The Causeway
  - Inner Harbour
  - Miniature World
  - IMAX Theatre
  - Cruise and ferry terminals
  - Robert Bateman Gallery
  - Ogden Point Sundial
- Activities: carriage, kayak, and boat tours; fishing and cruising charters; whale watching
- Events: summer and night markets; music and cultural festivals

- Successes:
  - First Nations collaboration and reconciliation
  - First Nations representatives included in Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA)
  - First Nations Economic Development Committee created under GVHA
  - Harbour space used for production and sale of traditional carvings and artwork
  - Interpretative artwork and signage: Unity Wall, Juggler's Pitch, and Signs of Lekwungen
  - Indigenous business directory
  - Commitment to climate change adaptation and air & water quality restoration



Victoria Harbour  
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Precedents



➤ A. The Causeway



➤ B. The Breakwater/Unity Wall



➤ C. Fisherman's Wharf



# Halifax Waterfront

- **Location:** Halifax, Canada
- **Length:** 4.0 kilometres

The Halifax waterfront is situated in Halifax Harbour, adjacent to Downtown Halifax. The Halifax waterfront is active and the Seaport Farmers' Market, casino, harbour cruises, Salt Yard, and Discovery Centre attract visitors to the waterfront. There are fewer leisure activities on the waterfront, however, outdoor seating, museums, public art, and historical tours are quieter activities locals and visitors are still able to enjoy.

- **Key Features:**
  - Pier 21: Canadian Museum of Immigration & ferry to Dartmouth
  - Seaport farmers' market
  - Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
  - Discovery Centre
  - Sands at Salter: beach with seasonal shipping container vendors
  - Salt Yard: booth vendors, umbrellas, patio tables
  - Public art: murals, the Wave, Whale Tail, 'Fountain' and 'Get Drunk, Fall Down'
  - **Activities:** harbour cruises; sailboats; boat tour; ferry; sea-doo's; Georges Island national historic site tours
  - **Events:** cultural festivals; dancing events; sailing race; Winterful Waterfront Weekend; busker festival

- **Successes:**
  - Seaport Farmers' Market uses geothermal and solar heat, a green roof and grey water systems, reducing water consumption
- **Challenges:**
  - Sea level rise
  - Accessible design (e.g. safety barriers, outdoor furniture)



➤ **Halifax Waterfront**  
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Precedents



➤ A. Waterfront Dining



➤ B. Halifax Ferry



➤ C. 'Get Drunk, Fall Down'

# Downtown Kingston Waterfront

- **Location:** Kingston, Canada
- **Length:** 8.0 kilometres

The Downtown Kingston Waterfront is located on the northeastern shore of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The waterfront has a balance of current and historic culture, incorporating places of heritage value into programming while also providing active and modern activities and events. For example, the Maritime Museum of the Great Lakes, Shoal Tower, and Engine 1095 are locations of provincial historic importance than can be visited along the waterfront. Outdoor skating, island cruises, and stadium hockey games are activities that may appeal to a different audience– providing people of all demographics and interests something to engage with along the waterfront.

➤ **Key Features:**

- Boat cruise around 1,000 islands
- Wolfe Island & Ferry
- Marine Museum of the Great Lakes
- Tell Centre for Creativity & Learning
- Portsmouth Olympic Harbour
- Engine 1095
- Shoal Tower National Historic Site
- Confederation Park
- **Activities:** boat; canoe; kayak; bike rentals; trolley tours
- **Events:** clean up events; cultural festivals; music events; Christmas light tour

➤ **Successes:**

- 8-80 city principles incorporated into design
- Waterfront Master Plan (2017 National Award of Excellence from Canadian Society of Landscape Architects)
- Climate-adaptive design plan with waterfront-specific climate-adaptive strategies
- Electrical vehicle charging and free wi-fi at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour

➤ **Challenges:**

- Incompatible uses (e.g. sewage treatment plant)
- Adequate parking for expanded commercial and recreational activities



➤ **Downtown Kingston Waterfront**  
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Precedents



➤ A. Wolfe Island Ferry



➤ C. Confederation Park Fountain & Confederation Arch



➤ E. Springer Market Square Farmer's Market



➤ B. Murney Tower National Historic Site of Canada



➤ D. Locomotive CPR 1095/ "The Spirit of Sir John A."



# New York City Waterfront

- **Location:** New York City, United States
- **Length:** 837 kilometres

- **Key Features:**
  - Boardwalk
  - Amusement Park
  - Skyline views
  - Waterfront parks and public spaces of different sizes with unique characteristics and activities
- **Activities:** kayaking; canoeing; fishing; beaches; row boats; park stewardship; youth sports
- **Events:** exercise classes; live music; tree planting; community clean-ups; wildlife watching; cultural events



➤ Battery Park & Manhattan



Precedents



➤ A. Pier 26



➤ C. Hunter's Point South Park



➤ E. Domino Park Volleyball Court



➤ B. Domino Park



➤ D. Brooklyn Bridge Stained Glass House



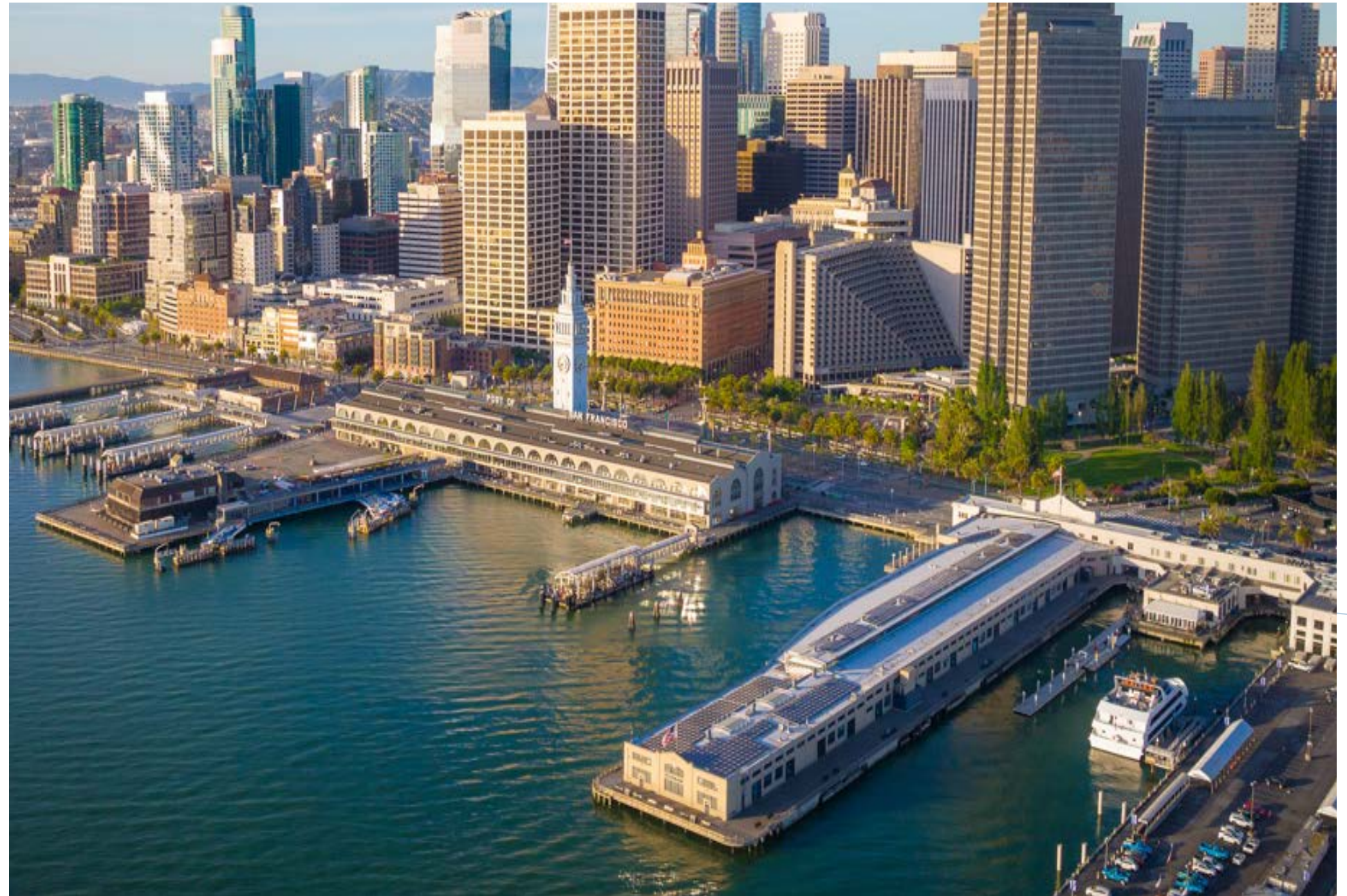
➤ F. Battery Park



# San Francisco Waterfront

- 7 Location: San Francisco, United States
- 7 Length: 12 kilometres

- 7 Key Features:
  - 7 Fisherman's Wharf
  - 7 Exploratorium
  - 7 Golden Gate Bridge
  - 7 Ferry Building Marketplace: farmers' market, private events, merchants
  - 7 Aquarium of the Bay
- 7 Activities: sailing; boat & bike tours; cruises; escape room; musical stairs; acrobatic performances; infinite mirrors; wildlife watching; street performers
- 7 Events: art exhibits; cultural events; plant market; live music



7 San Francisco Waterfront



Precedents



➤ A. Fisherman's Wharf



➤ C. Ferry Building Marketplace



➤ E. Aquarium of the Bay



➤ B. Pier 9



➤ D. Pier 39 Seal Watching



# Seattle Waterfront

- **Location:** Seattle, United States
- **Length:** 3.2 kilometres

- **Key Features:**
  - Public Market Center
  - Linear waterfront park with gardens
  - Boardwalk
  - Seattle Aquarium
  - Ferris Wheel
  - Continuous bike path
  - Waterfront viewpoints
- **Activities:** Street food; distillery tours; antiques market; fish market; food tours; boating
- **Events:** fitness classes; Indigenous storytelling; cultural events; youth sports; dance



➤ Bell Harbour Marina



Precedents



➤ A. Waterfront  
Park Fountain



➤ C. Seattle  
Aquarium



➤ B. Ferris Wheel



➤ D. Public Market  
Center



# Copenhagen New Harbour

➤ **Location:** Copenhagen, Denmark

➤ **Key Features:**

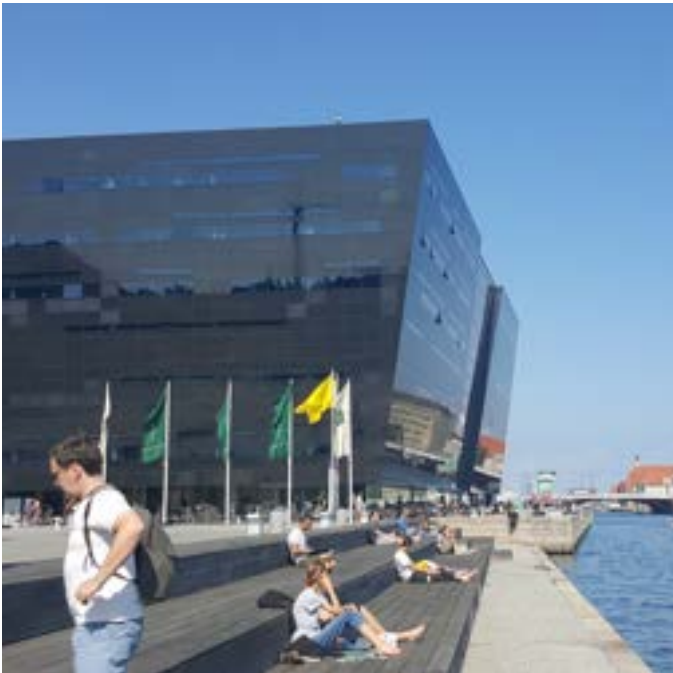
- Colourful waterfront buildings
- Royal Danish Playhouse
- Opera House
- Danish Architecture Centre
- Black Diamond Square & the Royal Library
- Harbour Baths (adult pools, childrens' pools, diving pool)
- **Activities:** swimming; plazas; public art; beaches; sailing hot tubs; fishing; street food; bungee jumping; boat rentals; pedal boats; kayak
- **Events:** music events; cultural festivals; film festival; Copenhagen Marathon



➤ Nyhaven Waterfront in Copenhagen



Precedents



➤ A. Black Diamond Square



➤ C. Opera House



➤ E. Harbour Baths



➤ B. Cycle Track



➤ D. The Kissing Stairs



➤ F. Waterfront Kayaking