

HISTORIC NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY

Neighbourhood Profile
June, 2010

People led planning for Barrie's older neighbourhoods

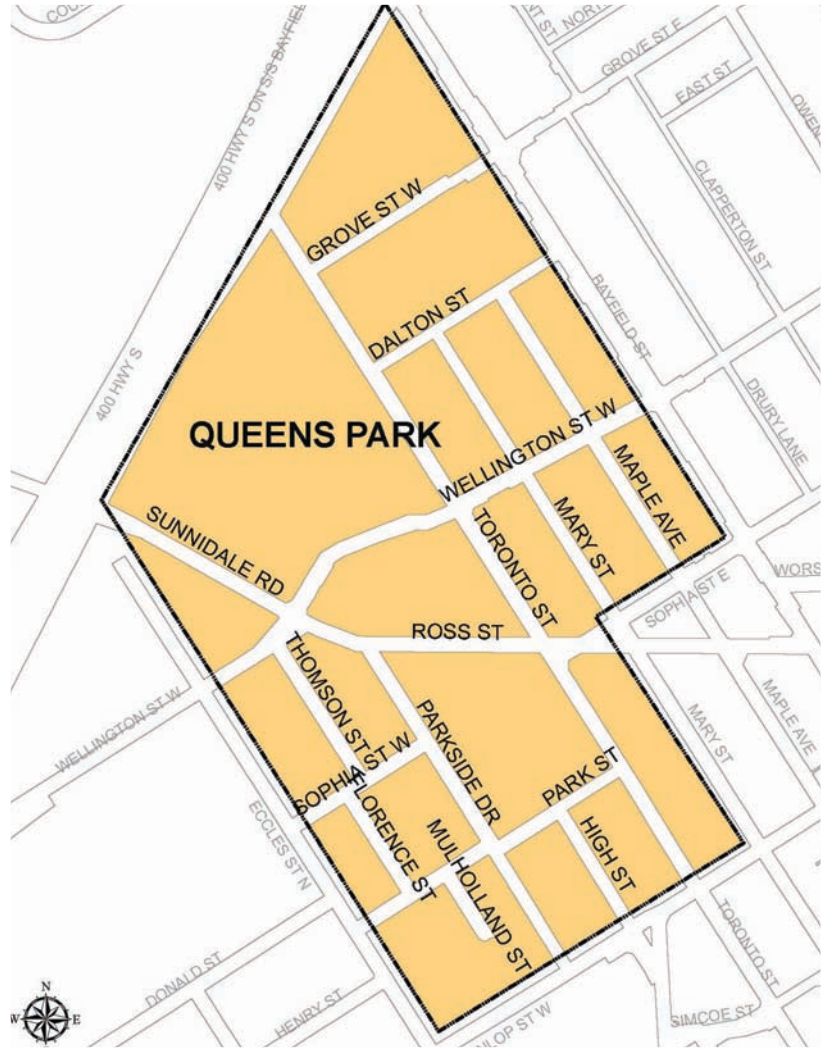
Queen's Park

Residents' vision of the future Queen's Park...

Queen's Park is a walkable, liveable, diverse neighbourhood where residents are creative and active. Home to the first Maclaren Art Centre and small galleries and studios as well as the first Royal Victoria Hospital, Queen's Park attracts not only commuters because of its easy access to Highway 400, it also attracts young professionals and families drawn to the neighbourhood schools and amenities.

Queen's Park is an urban community that respects the past while embracing the future through its built form and services that attract a diverse mix of people— young families, retirees and renters, all who enjoy our well-equipped parks, walking downtown or enjoying the waterfront paths and festivals.

In the Queen's Park neighbourhood children can walk to their schools, which act as local community hubs and to parks, which are venues for small festivals and parades. Our children play baseball and soccer; we rollerblade, walk and cycle and appreciate the linkages with our adjacent neighbourhoods and what they offer. We envision better relationships – between people, cars and City Hall, as we put the environment and pedestrian safety first.



Spring trees



What residents most enjoy about Queen's Park...

- Mature landscapes
- Mature, well-equipped parks
- Proximity to amenities and services such as pharmacies, grocery stores, doctors, banks, unique restaurants and cafes, as well as the arts and entertainment district downtown, and the recreational area along the waterfront
- Diverse types and styles of housing
- Proximity to neighbourhood schools



Skateboarding in Queen's Park

How residents would like to see Queen's Park grow...

- Encourage high-end retail services along lower Toronto, Maple and Mary streets
- Install wider sidewalks and improve pedestrian pathways and linkages
- Install public art
- Encourage development of townhouses, stacked townhouses and garden homes, rather than walk-ups as they have a greener, more people-friendly look and feel.
- Encourage transit use by posting route schedules at all bus stops



Queen's Park



Maple Hill House

What residents would like to see changed in Queen's Park...

- Conservation of historic buildings
- Redevelopment of vacant areas, especially where there have been fires
- Additional on-street parking
- Traffic management to decrease speeding as well as the number of cars
- Pedestrian linkages to services and amenities
- Wider well-maintained sidewalks with benches for seating and public art and landscaping to promote an active lifestyle
- Upgraded parks facilities including improvements to lighting
- Proactive enforcement of the property standards and parking by-laws



High Street



Parkside Drive

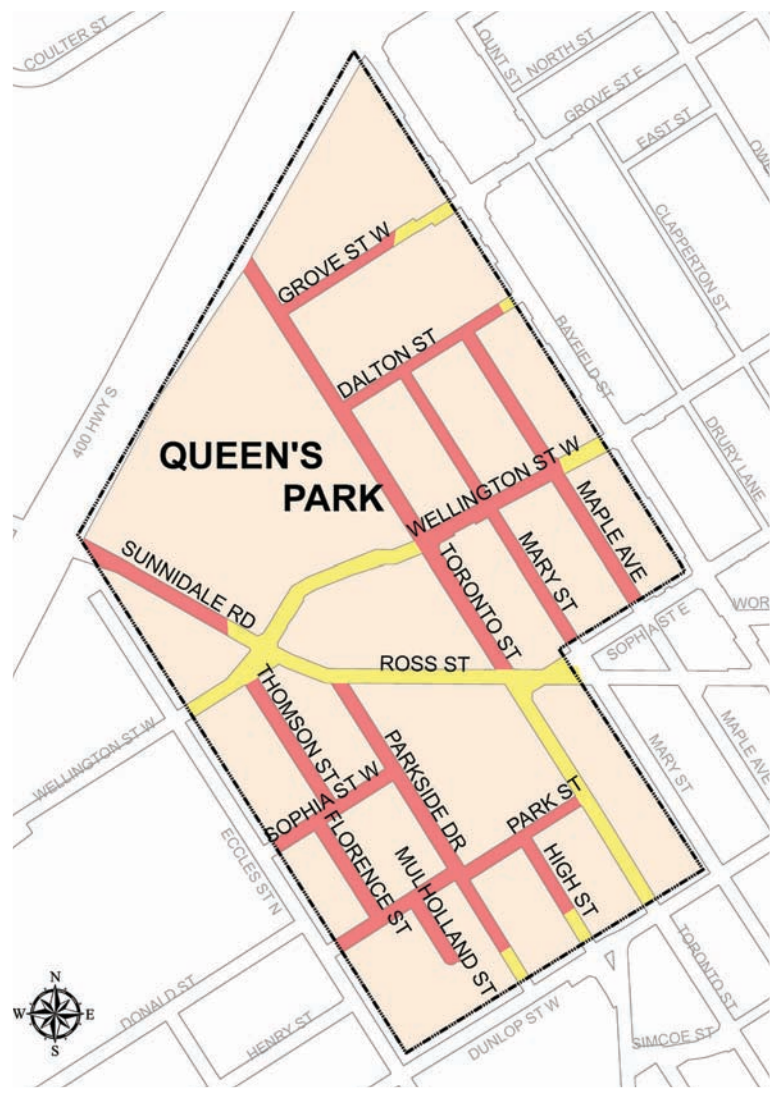


High Street

Where residents envision future development...

Opportunities exist throughout the neighbourhood to accommodate small-scale residential infill. Being an area in transition, Queen's Park contains existing sites, particularly on the periphery, that may in time experience pressure for re-development and/or a change in landuse. 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.

As part of the discussion around future growth opportunities, residents identified where differing scales of future development seemed to be most appropriate. Using neighbourhood maps with red, yellow and green streets, the following map was created to depict the type and location of future development residents expect in Queen's Park.



Red Streets

Character: A primarily residential area that is expected to stay primarily residential in nature.

Growth Expectations: Significant change in the residential character of the area is not anticipated. Growth is expected to occur primarily through small-scale residential infill (e.g., new single-detached homes) and renovations/additions to the existing housing stock.

Yellow Streets

Character: An area that is in transition with a growing mix of housing forms and a range of services.

Growth Expectations: Some growth in the area is anticipated, primarily along minor collector roads and at smaller intersections, on vacant lots and underutilized sites. Medium-scale infill is considered acceptable provided it adheres to good urban design standards and is complementary to the neighbourhood, particularly development that is directly adjacent to stable residential areas.

Green Streets

Character: An area experiencing significant transition and in many parts is in need of significant investment to offset decline.

Growth Expectations: Growth in the areas is anticipated, primarily along major arterial roads and intersections, on vacant lots and underutilized sites. Medium-to-higher-scale development is considered acceptable provided it adheres to good urban design standards and is complementary to the neighbourhood, particularly development that is directly adjacent to stable residential areas.

Neighbourhood Characteristics

One of Barrie's original parks, Queen's Park is the central feature in this neighbourhood. Created in the mid-1800s, Queen's Park has always been a gathering place for the community and today, with Victoria Village, it continues to be a focus for recreation and leisure activities for neighbourhood residents as well as those who come to see the baseball league action and to skateboard.

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 and semi-detached homes, as well as some early multiple-unit dwellings, all with distinctive architecture, scale and built form. 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)

Over the years, infilling has brought smaller war-time single and semi-detached housing to the neighbourhood, as well as more 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. Our streets are diverse – in both housing styles and people.

Today, in response to downtown growth, 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. A vibrant mixed-use area, the Queen's Park neighbourhood continues to reflect

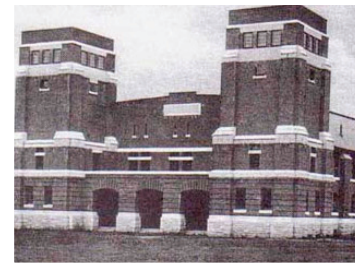
a successful blend of residential, employment and institutional uses.

The Royal Victoria Hospital, first built in this neighbourhood in the late 1800s, moved in 1997 to the city's north-east end. The former RVH building now provides housing and assisted living for seniors throughout the community, as well as a range of recreation, education and leisure opportunities for seniors and the broader community. It is an inspiring microcosm of how people live and work together – of what we strive to be.

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 to which their children can walk. A private school is located at Victoria Village as well. We have churches and a recreation centre that support a variety of learning programs for children and adults.

The neighbourhood is well served with recreational facilities including a baseball diamond, a skate board park and tennis courts as well as the school fields and baseball diamonds and a soccer field at Hillcrest Public School.

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.



Barrie Armoury

Questions or Comments?

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The City of
BARRIE