

Parks



Agricultural Park

Located at 35 Sherwood Drive, this land used to be flooded in the spring by the Grand River before the dikes were constructed. The park was used for a wide variety of sporting events and it was the home of the "Southern Fair", Brantford's annual showcase of agricultural products, for many years. The Cockshutt family gave this land to the city in memory of Ignatius Cockshutt who died on March 1, 1901. The deed was formally presented to the city the following year (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 2, 1902, p. 12) and a bronze

tablet was placed on one side of the gateway to commemorate the gift. The park was originally about 19 acres in size but land adjoining the park was purchased at various times to increase the size of the park. Charles Brown sold eight acres to the city for \$8,000 and Mr. Ballantyne also sold some of his land. The park was renamed Cockshutt Park in 1957. The baseball stadium at the park was renamed Arnold Anderson Stadium in August 1998.

For more information:

- [Reville's History of the County of Brant Vol. 1 \(p. 110 of PDF\)](#)
- [City of Brantford, Ontario: preliminary report to the Parks Commission on future development and improvement](#)



Alexandra Park

This land, bounded by Colborne, Peel, and Dalhousie Streets and Park Avenue, was originally laid out as a second market square in 1830 by the surveyor Lewis Burwell but it was never used for this purpose. It became a parade ground for the Dufferin Rifles during the 1860s and a large wooden drill hall was built on the north side of the site. Circa 1880 the roof was blown off during a strong windstorm and eventually the building was torn down and the park was planned. The Russian cannon located on the Dalhousie Street side was given to the city of Brantford as a gift by the British Seventh Royal Fusiliers when they were stationed here in the 1860s. It was a war trophy from the

Crimean War.

For more information:

- [Reville's History of the County of Brant Vol. 1 \(p. 109 of PDF\)](#)
- [City of Brantford, Ontario: preliminary report to the Parks Commission on future development and improvement](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Bell Homestead Park

In 1870 Melville Bell, the father of Alexander Graham Bell, purchased the Tutela Heights home built by Robert Morton. This was where Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone while visiting his parents in the summer of 1874. The house and grounds are now a national historic site. For more information about the Bell Homestead go to **Historic Sites and Monuments: Bell Homestead**.

Bell Memorial Gardens

The monument honouring the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell is located in this park at the intersection of Wellington, King, and West Streets. For more information about the Bell Memorial go to **Historic Sites and Monuments: Bell Memorial**.

Charles Ward Park

This park is bounded by Darling, Peel, and Wellington Streets and Park Avenue. It was originally called Alexandra School Park because this was where **Alexandra School** was located before being torn down in 1975. The name was changed to Charles Ward Park with an official opening and dedication in June 1981 (**Brantford Expositor**, June 24, 1981, p. 23). Charles Ward was a Brantford alderman for many years. He moved to Brantford from England in 1908 and worked at Cockshutt Farm Equipment Limited and Massey-Harris until his retirement in 1958. He was first elected to city council in 1952, and except for 1958-1960 when he made an unsuccessful run for mayor, he was an alderman until his death on April 14, 1982 (**Brantford Expositor**, April 15, 1982, p. 1). Named Brantford's Citizen of the Year in 1963, he was also a charter member and first president of Local 458 of the UAW, and was appointed Honorary Lord Mayor of Brantford on his 90th birthday in 1981 (**Brantford Expositor**, September 22, 1981, p. 1). A caucus room on the second floor of city hall was renamed the Charlie Ward Room after his death.

For more information:

- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Cockshutt Park

This park was originally called **Agricultural Park**. The land was given to the city by the Cockshutt family in memory of Ignatius Cockshutt. It was renamed Cockshutt Park in 1957.

Glenhyrst Gardens

Edmund Lister Cockshutt, son of Ignatius Cockshutt, purchased approximately 15 acres of land along the Grand River from the Stratford family in 1914. A shortage of building materials during World War I delayed construction of his house, designed by local architect F. C. Bodley, until 1922. Edmund Cockshutt was very interested in horticulture and landscaping and his gardens were open to the public during his lifetime. When he died in January 1956 (**Brantford Expositor**, January 23, 1956, p. 1), he left instructions that his property, which included the main house, a coach house, and a cottage, was to be used for artistic and cultural purposes. The trustees gave his estate to the City of Brantford. When it opened in June 1957 with an exhibition of paintings by Tom Thomson on loan from the National Gallery of Canada, it was the first community arts centre in Canada. The Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant became a nonprofit organization in 1986. The grounds and buildings are now owned by the City of Brantford and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. The main house is used as a gallery, office, and exhibition space while the coach house is used for workshops and arts and crafts classes.

For more information:

- [Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Gore Park

This park, bounded by King, Nelson, and West Streets, was donated by the South African Memorial Association and was bought with surplus funds left after the completion of the soldier's monument in Jubilee Terrace Park.

For more information:

- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Jubilee Terrace Park

This park was named Jubilee Terrace Park in honour of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897. The Armouries replaced a large warehouse and some rundown shacks along the river bank were torn down. In order to expand the park to include the upper section where the **Boer War Memorial** now stands, the city purchased Mr. Biggar's property for \$1,000 in 1901 and Mr. J. P. Excell's property for \$4,000 in 1902.

For more information:

- [Reville's History of the County of Brant Vol. 1 \(p. 110 of PDF\)](#)
- [City of Brantford, Ontario: preliminary report to the Parks Commission on future development and improvement](#)
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Lorne Park

Located at the west end of the Lorne Bridge, it is now Brantford's main horticultural park with the largest public rose gardens in the city. This area used to be part of the riverbed until it was gradually filled in after the first dikes were built. During the 1920s it was known as Pickwick Park and had a miniature golf course. At one time it was one of the city's garbage dumps. By 1936 the park was laid out with formal flower beds. It was later renamed Lorne Park perhaps because it was close to the Lorne Bridge which was named after the Marquis of Lorne, governor general of Canada from 1878-1883, who officially opened the bridge in 1879.

Mohawk Park

This park, now located within the city limits, was originally part of the Lovejoy estate in Brantford Township. John Lovejoy, born in the United States in 1800, was granted a crown deed for a large tract of land on December 20, 1836. In 1854 Mr. Lovejoy built his house at what later became the southeast corner of Park Road South and Colborne Street. He owned the first line of stages that ran between Brantford and Hamilton and was a major stockholder in the Brantford Road Company which managed the local roads and charged tolls. John Lovejoy died in February 1858 (**Brantford Semi-Weekly Expositor**, February 16, 1858, p. 2). His son, William J. Lovejoy who inherited the estate, died in June 1897 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, June 17, 1897, p. 11). Lovejoy's Pond was formed when the Grand River Navigation Company built the canal through Brantford in the 1840s. In 1894 the Brantford Street Railway Company leased Lovejoy's Grove and built a rail line from the city limits to a small station in the centre of the park where open street cars, capable of carrying 90 passengers, took people to and from the park for five cents a ride. The park officially opened on Victoria Day, May 24, 1895 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 25, 1895, p. 1). The attractions included a cinder bicycle track, the first of its kind in Ontario, where many competitions featuring local cyclists such as Fred Westbrook and Alfred Sherritt, took place. The park was acquired by the city in 1915 for \$25,000 from the Lovejoy estate. City council also provided a \$5,000 grant to the Parks Board so that the facilities could be upgraded. The formal opening of the park was held on Labour Day in 1915 with more than 4,000 people in attendance. A merry-go-round was one of the attractions in the park from 1904 until the 1930s when the city sold it to the Agricultural Society of Roseneath, a town near Peterborough, Ontario. In 1990 a large area on the western side of the park became a natural regeneration area and several trails were created. The park is still in use today with many large groups and companies holding picnics and events there.

For more information:

- [Reville's History of the County of Brant Vol. 1 \(p. 109-110 of PDF\)](#)

- Remember: Brantford, 1877-1977 (p. 15-17 of PDF)

Tom Thumb Park

This park was named after a miniature golf course that was located on the corner of West Street and Brant Avenue in the 1930s. Miniature golf was so popular at that time that the Brantford Expositor would post winning scores from many of the tournaments that were played. The city later purchased this land for a park. The **I.O.D.E. cenotaph** was moved here from Gore Park.

For more information:

- Brantford Heritage Inventory Website

Victoria Park

This land was originally designated as a public square in 1830 by the surveyor Lewis Burwell. Bounded by Market, Wellington, George, and Darling Streets, this downtown block was neglected for many years before it was developed. John Turner, the architect of the courthouse across the street, designed the park in 1861. In 1864 the city built a fence with an iron railing around the square and gates at the four corners. Intersecting paths were laid out and trees were planted. Members of the royal family attended ceremonies in the park on two occasions - the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise on September 16, 1879 and the Prince of Wales on October 20, 1919. The **Brant monument** was unveiled here on October 3, 1886. The drinking fountain was donated by Mr. J. K. Osborne who worked at the Harris Company for many years before moving to Toronto after the company amalgamated with the Massey Company.

For more information:

- History of the County of Brant Warner, Beers, and Co. (p. 136-137 of PDF)
- Reville's History of the County of Brant Vol. 1 (p. 109 of PDF)
- Remember: Brantford, 1877-1977 (p. 49 of PDF) (photo)
- City of Brantford, Ontario: preliminary report to the Parks Commission on future development and improvement
- Brantford Heritage Inventory Website

War Memorial Park

This park is bounded by Dalhousie Street, Brant Avenue, West Street, and Bridge Street. The Brant County War Memorial which honours all of the men and women who served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War is located here. For more information about the Brant County War Memorial go to **Historic Sites and Monuments: Brant County War Memorial**.