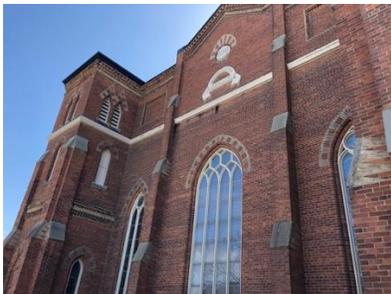


# Welcome to Whitby!



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We realize that the times aren't exactly conducive to travel. And if you are able to visit, it helps to know where to look!

Whitby is a suburban town in easy reach of Toronto—and in even easier reach of more rural areas to the north and east. One of the perks is that we're not far from anything. From most places in Whitby, you can drive for 15 minutes and be in farmland or forest. Equally, you can hop on a GO train and go see a Jays game or visit a museum in Toronto.



Whitby's old train station, converted into an art gallery

*(Disclaimer: All photos were snapped with an iPhone on a sunny spring weekend... may not be "brochure quality!")*

Location: On the north shore of Lake Ontario, about a 40-minute drive East of Toronto, nestled in between Ajax/Pickering and Oshawa.

Population: Somewhere around 130,000, which blows our minds a bit. Growth has been rapid, to say the least.

Transportation: Mostly by car. Some areas are bike-friendly, and there are lots of great biking/walking paths. Durham Transit busses run locally. We also have a GO station, which makes it easy to get to Toronto and anywhere else on the GO system. Another option for getting to Toronto is to drive to Scarborough, then take the subway.

Current motto: Durham's Business Centre

Old motto: Home of the Marigold! ☺

## What's it Like?

Whitby sometimes gets described as a commuter town or a bedroom community. We like to think there's more to us—although many who live here do work in Toronto, and all of us know that if there's a choice, you don't want to be heading west on the 401 during morning rush hour, or east at the end of the day.

That being said, there seem to be more “alternate routes” to get east from the city than west, and some are lovely country drives.

Whitby is within reach of the city, but it's not the city. It's a place where you can and should smile at strangers on the street and drop a friendly word or two. You'll find that most people are friendly and polite.

Those of us who aren't used to Toronto driving are always relieved to get home again, where it's okay to wait for there to be a giant gap before turning left. Whitby is not a place where you'll often hear car horns honking... unless, of course, someone attempts to turn left at “the Four Corners” (Brock and Dundas). That's simply not done. (There is a sign at the intersection, but it's easy to miss—best to know ahead of time and plan accordingly.)

Another thing you'll need to get used to is explaining to friends coming to visit from Toronto that they want the Brock Street/Highway 12 exit, NOT the Brock Road one.

Whitby is “in between” in a lot of ways. In between the city and the country. In between old and new—or rather, made up of both. In between big and small. It doesn't have a hospital, and doesn't have a mall to speak of, but Oshawa and Ajax/Pickering both do.

What does it have? Friendly people. Community events... at least during non-Covid times. A great waterfront (a point of pride is that its natural deep harbour was kind of a big deal back in the days when everything went by ship) with trails, a beach, a lighthouse, and several playgrounds. The Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Services is down by the water, too, and it's lovely.

Whitby has a farmer's market and some great places to get local produce and honey. A couple of really gorgeous conservation areas. Lots of parks and trails and green spaces with mature trees. It has culture—some local theatre and music groups, and an art gallery where they offer classes. And a big, beautiful library. Events are often held on its grounds.

It's a town of dog-walkers and joggers. A town where a LOT of kids play hockey. And soccer, and lacrosse, and sometimes baseball. But especially hockey.

Boundaries are blurry out here. It's easy to drive from Ajax to Whitby to Oshawa without much noticing, at least if you're travelling along Highway 2. (To the north, the gaps are more

noticeable.) People who live in Whitby know what's great about all of the nearby towns, and where to go for what.

Port Perry has a really pretty downtown area for walking and browsing—it may look familiar when you see it. It often gets used as a movie set. Uxbridge has a great downtown, too, and a phenomenal bookstore in Blue Heron Books—which might seem like an odd thing to mention, until you realize how tireless the owner is in connecting with and supporting local authors, and organizing and attending community events. Up north of Pickering is the Pickering Museum Village, where many St. Mark's members volunteer to help with their fundraising productions such as “A Spirit Walk” in the fall.

Sometimes, those of us who have lived here for a while can tend to navigate by landmarks that are no longer there. (There may be a metaphor in that...) Spouses from out of town soon learn “where the old K-Mart used to be.”

Whitby has grown incredibly fast over the past decade or so. It continues to grow. Whitby, once not-so-affectionately known as “White-by,” has grown a lot in diversity and continues to make great strides in that direction.

Much of the area is given to single-family homes in subdivisions, so it tends to be very spread out. There are some apartment buildings, but only a few really tall ones—it's easy to see the White Oaks buildings from a fair distance away. There are some subsidized apartments here, too, and some walk-ups and smaller apartment buildings in the downtown areas. Recently there has been some condo development down by the lake.

There are several retirement homes of different types—everything from independent-living communities to assisted living and nursing homes. Some of them, particularly the nursing homes, were hit hard by Covid.

There are areas of need in Whitby. There are a lot of big, fancy homes, and also a lot of areas where people are struggling. There are homeless people here. St. Andrew's Presbyterian runs a really great food bank, and St. Mark's works to support them.

Downtown Whitby is not really a thriving community. There are some shops and restaurants that have been there for ages, and others that open up and close down within months. Downtown, like Whitby—like St. Mark's, in some ways—is still figuring itself out.

That being said... it's a wonderful place to live. It's a place where you feel safe walking around, and it's still small enough that it's not unusual to run into a friend or two when you're out running errands. It's a pocket of quiet when that's what you need, but it's in easy reach of pretty much anything you might want to do.

There are great restaurants, and pretty places to visit, and friendly people at St. Mark's who will make sure you know where they are. It's a good place to call home.

# Photo Gallery

Waterfront!







(Friendly raccoon in the gazebo down by the water)



Whitby Station Gallery (art gallery)



Iroquois Park Sports Arena—swimming pools, several hockey arenas, and baseball/soccer fields on the grounds. Includes the Whitby Sports Hall of Fame and a skateboarding park outside.



Whitby Abilities Centre—a community hub with social, health and cultural programs for all ability levels



St. Mark's, of course! 😊



Accessible door into the sanctuary (with access to the elevator to get to other sections)



The gardens are just coming in...



... but you can take a rock if you need one!



St. Mark's is in an older part of Whitby with some pretty houses and mature trees.



(A "Little Free Library" in this one!)



Here's the big library. The grounds are under construction, so I couldn't get far enough away to do a wide-angle shot and show the full thing. It's nice and bright inside. Lots of events are held on this brick pavilion outside the library.



Whitby's Centennial Building—events sometimes held here



Another Whitby landmark—Trafalgar Castle. Built for no other reason than that a long-ago Sherriff of Whitby wanted to live in a fancy castle. It's "Trafalgar Castle School" now, a private school for girls. In the summer, they run a popular day camp there.



Melanie Pringles! A 50's-style diner with AMAZING milkshakes. St. Mark's people have been known to hang out here from time to time. ☺



Construction... another subdivision going in. This is not an uncommon sight in Whitby.



There are lots of little paths and green spaces like this in the various Whitby subdivisions. This one goes alongside a stream and the train tracks.

Heber Downs Conservation Area!





And finally... a gratuitous garden shot from last summer. Because we needed some flower content! Lots of pretty gardens in Whitby. 😊

# Things to See in Whitby

(Corresponding to maps: Whitby Detail and Whitby Overview—small versions included, PDFs separate)

## Pretty Places (Nature)

1. Heber Downs Conservation Area. Picnic areas, walking/hiking trails, lots to explore.
2. Whitby Lakefront Trail (part of the Trans-Canada Trail), beach, playgrounds, etc.
3. “Rail Trail”—a pathway along the train tracks—there are lots of these little pathways and green spaces running through various Whitby neighbourhoods, and some of them are quite lovely. Nice for jogging or dog-walking or just spending time near trees.
4. Lynde Shores Conservation Area—a marshland conservation area where you’ll always see tons of birds.

## Pretty Places (Buildings)

5. Trafalgar Castle (former Ontario Ladies’ College)
6. Centennial Building—some events held here
7. “Old Whitby”—just a pretty area with some lovely older homes and full-grown trees. There are other little pockets like this around Whitby, but this area is especially nice
8. Whitby Shores—a newer area with lots of young families

## St. Mark’s and Nearby

9. St. Mark’s! ☺
10. Our old Church House. We’re currently renting it to a Montessori school
11. Whitby Library, main branch
12. Anglican Church with bell tower (sounds pretty every Sunday)
13. Portuguese Bakery (Yummy!)

## Athletics Complexes

14. Iroquois Park—many hockey rinks, a pool, “Whitby Sports Hall of Fame,” outdoor sports fields
15. Whitby Civic Recreation Complex—gym, pool, lots of fitness classes
16. Abilities Centre—exercise equipment, an indoor walking track, and lots of classes and other support systems for people of all abilities

## Downtown Whitby (“Blink and you’ll miss it...”) and various nice, local restaurants

17. French restaurant: Nice Bistro
18. Fancy new brewery: Brock St. Brewery

19. Melanie Pringles—where we usually go hang out after the shows in late November/early December. Fifties-style diner, great milkshakes (“Running Room” is right beside it in case of too many milkshakes...)
20. Hot Rocks (wood-burning pizza oven!)
21. The Brock House

#### Hospitals and Health Care

22. Old Whitby hospital—no longer in use as such, but they do have a dialysis clinic (Oshawa has quite a large hospital; that and Ajax-Pickering Hospital are the main ones nearby. Port Perry and Bowmanville have very nice small ones.)
23. Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences
24. Planned location for Durham Region Hospice (10-bed location planned in Whitby, 9-bed location planned in Clarington)

#### Other Cool Stuff

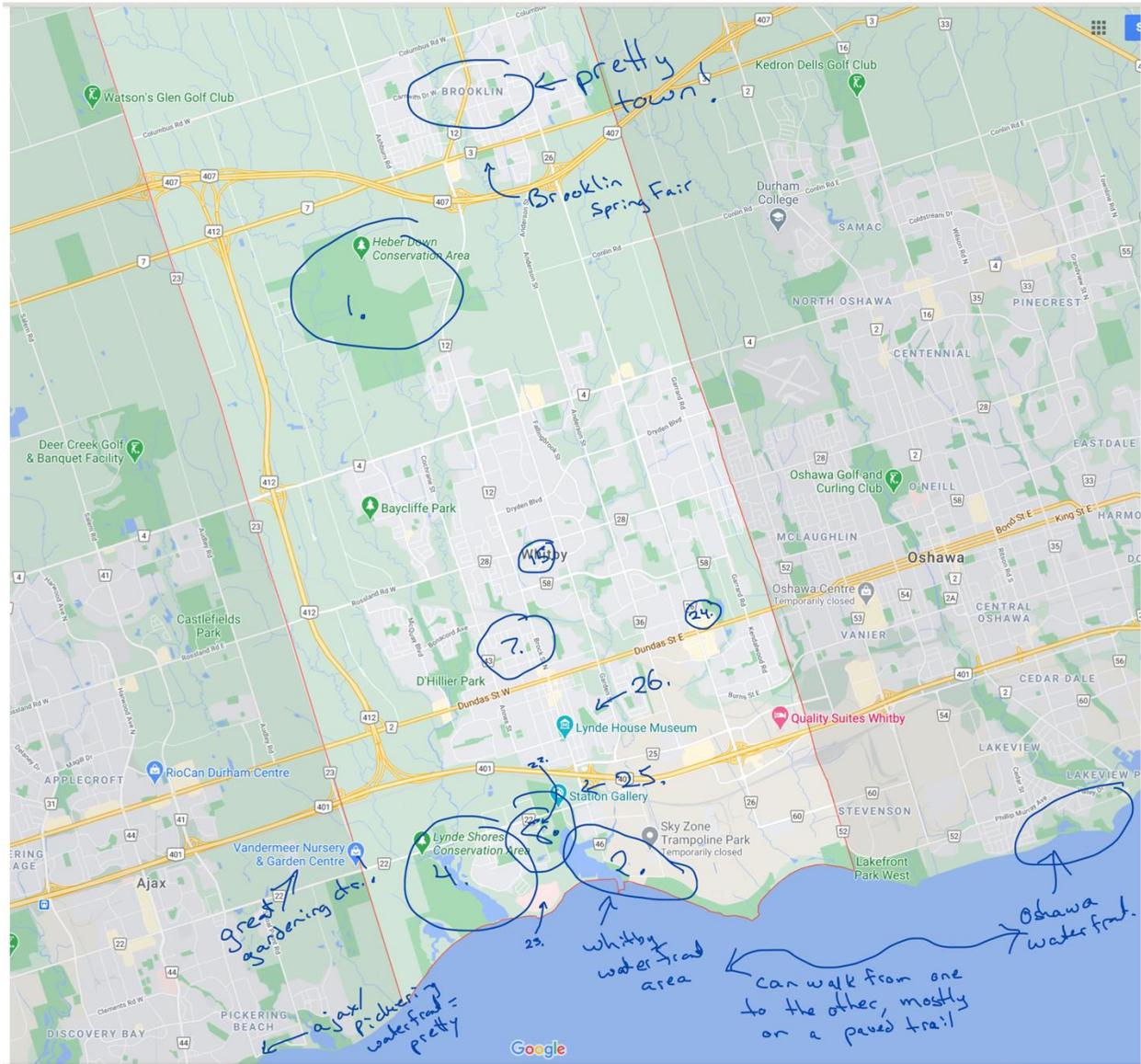
25. Station Gallery (art museum where they sometimes do classes)
26. Lynde House Museum (historical building that has been moved around Whitby about a gazillion times)
27. Parkwood (technically in Oshawa—historical home, open to tours, where Sam McLaughlin of General Motors lived)
28. Soccer Fields (Okay, they’re just soccer fields, but lots of events are held here in the summer. BBQ Fest, fireworks, etc.)

#### Great Places within Reach (up to about 40 minutes to an hour) of Whitby

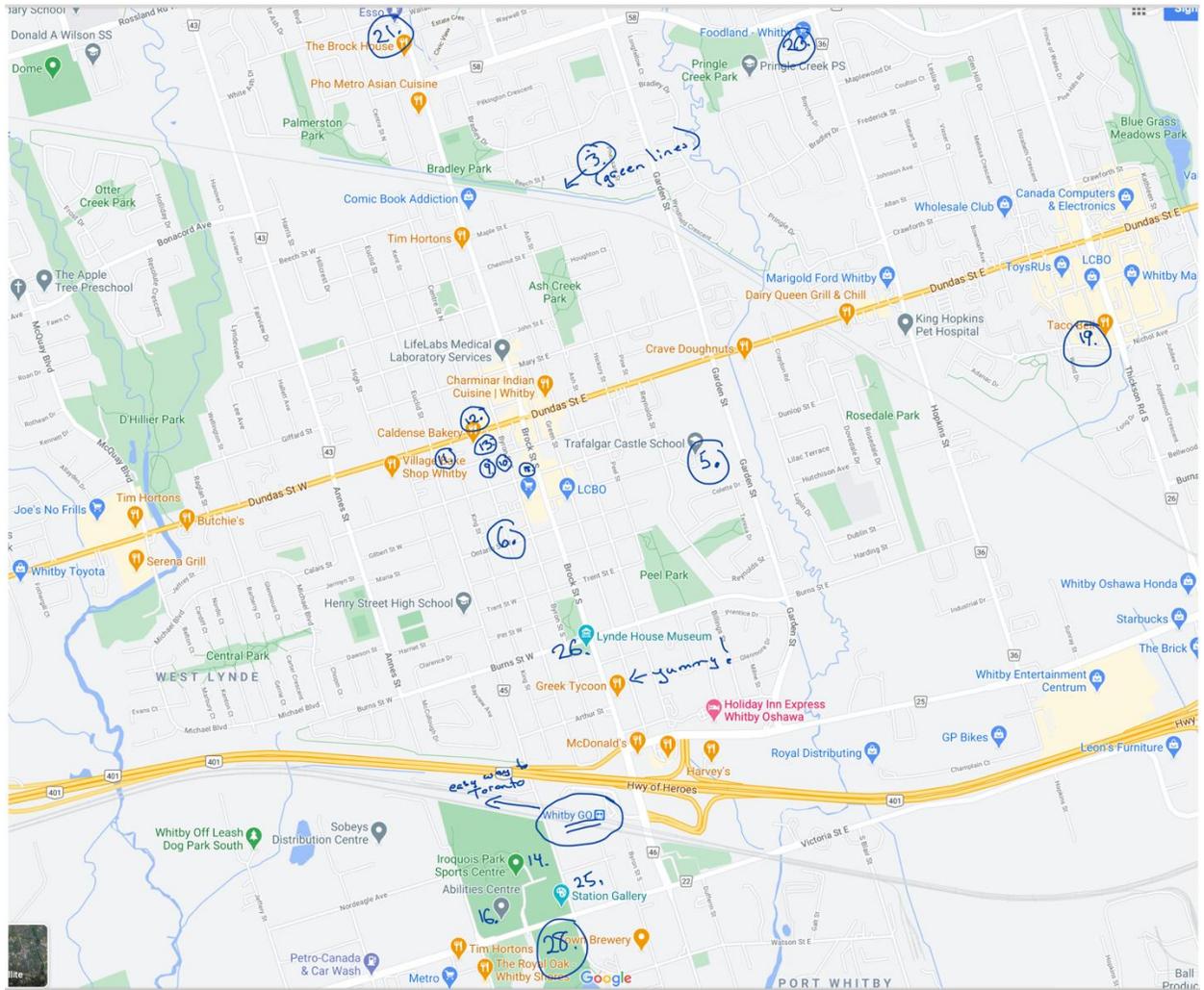
- Brooklin—old Brooklin is very pretty. Brooklin Spring Fair (first weekend of June every year, except during Covid...) is a big local event
- Skiing (Lakeridge, Dagmar, Skyloft—and to the east, Brimacombe)
- Uxbridge (pond, Blue Heron Books, some great restaurants, lovely downtown)
- Port Perry (waterfront, great downtown)
- Oshawa beach and waterfront—the trail from Whitby waterfront goes most of the way here, with just a few bits where you have to walk on roads
- Oshawa trail—starts down near the 401, goes north for quite a while, through parks and under bridges, along a river/stream
- Ajax beach and waterfront—again, I think the trail is mostly continuous from Whitby, but I’m not 100% sure
- Scarborough bluffs, Toronto’s “The Beach” area, Danforth/Greek town, Unionville
- Port Hope—lovely!

Highly recommend: driving up Lakeridge Road when going north, e.g. to Uxbridge. It’s quite pretty. Taking Anderson or Thickson up from Whitby to Brooklin is nice, too.

# Whitby Overview



# Whitby Detail



Please come visit when  
you can! 😊

-St. Mark's