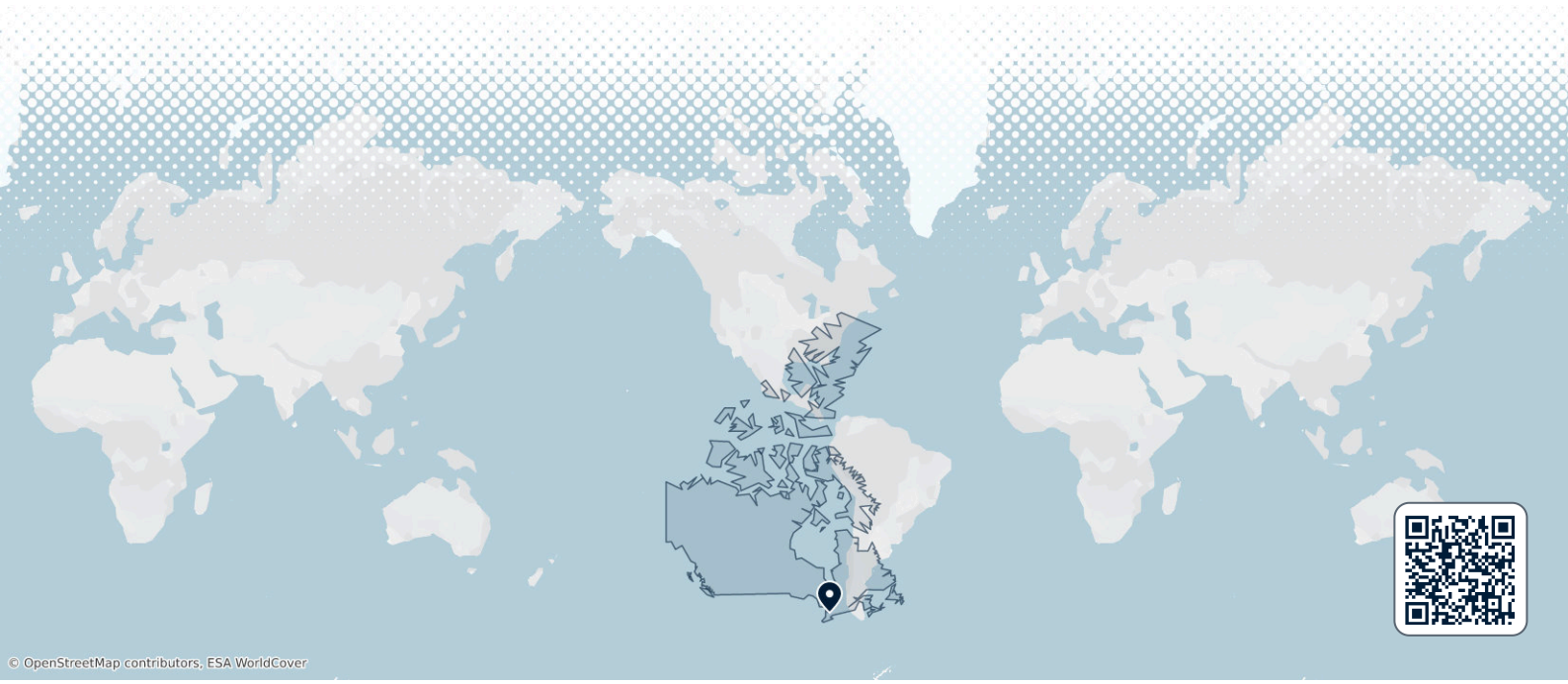


Collingwood

Ontario · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Collingwood is a town on the southern shore of Georgian Bay, in Ontario. It is the base for Blue Mountain, the largest ski resort in the region, about 11 km to the west. The town has a historic main street, a harbour and a long waterfront trail.

The area is busy in winter for skiing and in summer for hiking, cycling and the beach. It suits a weekend or a few days. Most visitors come from Toronto, about 1.5 to 2 hours away by car.

When to visit

Winter is the main season for skiing and snowboarding. Snow is likely from late autumn to early spring. Ski hours and lift dates change each year, so check before you book.

Summer is warm and good for hiking, cycling and swimming in the bay. June, July and September score best for weather. Autumn brings colour in the hills, but also more rain. Spring is quiet and often wet.

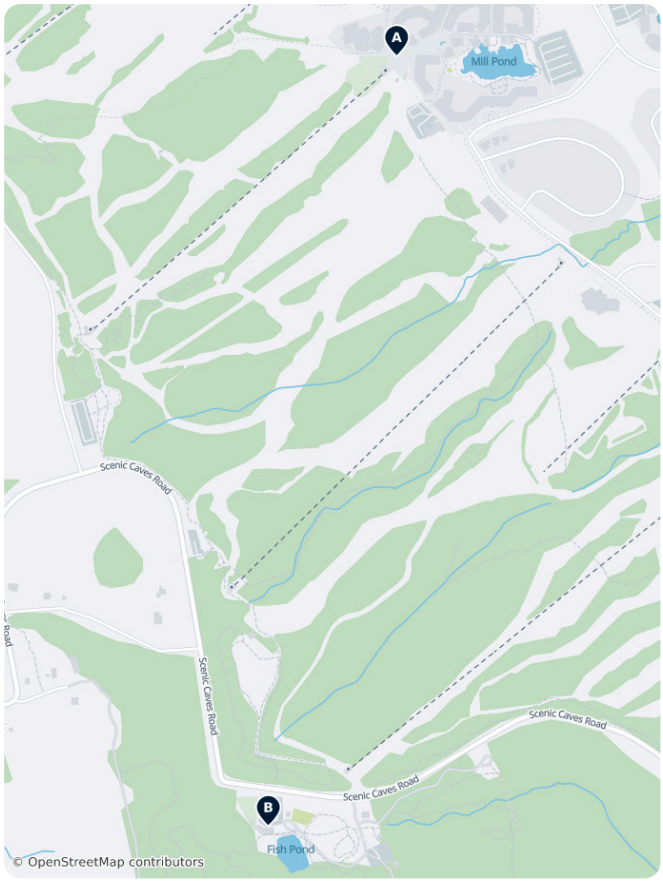
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	-2° / 6° Feels like -9°	-8° / -19°	18 rainy days · Dry air
February	Great Great for skiing	-2° / 6° Feels like -9°	-9° / -19°	13 rainy days · Dry air
March	Great Great for skiing	2° / 11° Feels like -4°	-5° / -14°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair Fair for skiing	7° / 16° Feels like 2°	1° / -5°	13 rainy days · Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	14° / 23° Feels like 11°	8° / 3°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27°	15° / 9°	12 rainy days
July	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 29°	18° / 14°	13 rainy days · Humid air
August	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	18° / 15°	13 rainy days · Humid air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27°	15° / 10°	12 rainy days · Dry air
October	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 22° Feels like 9°	9° / 3°	17 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for skiing	7° / 15° Feels like 1°	2° / -5°	18 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for skiing	1° / 9° Feels like -5°	-3° / -11°	20 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, July, September

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Blue Mountain Resort is the main ski area, with a pedestrian village at its base. It also has summer activities such as hiking, a mountain coaster and a spa.
- B Scenic Caves is a nature park on the Niagara Escarpment. It has caves, a suspension footbridge, hiking trails and zip lines.
- **Downtown Collingwood** has restored brick buildings along Hurontario Street, with shops, cafés and restaurants.
- Collingwood Museum is a small local history museum near downtown. Entry is by donation.
- Sunset Point is a waterfront park and beach on Georgian Bay, east of downtown. It is a good place to watch the sunset.



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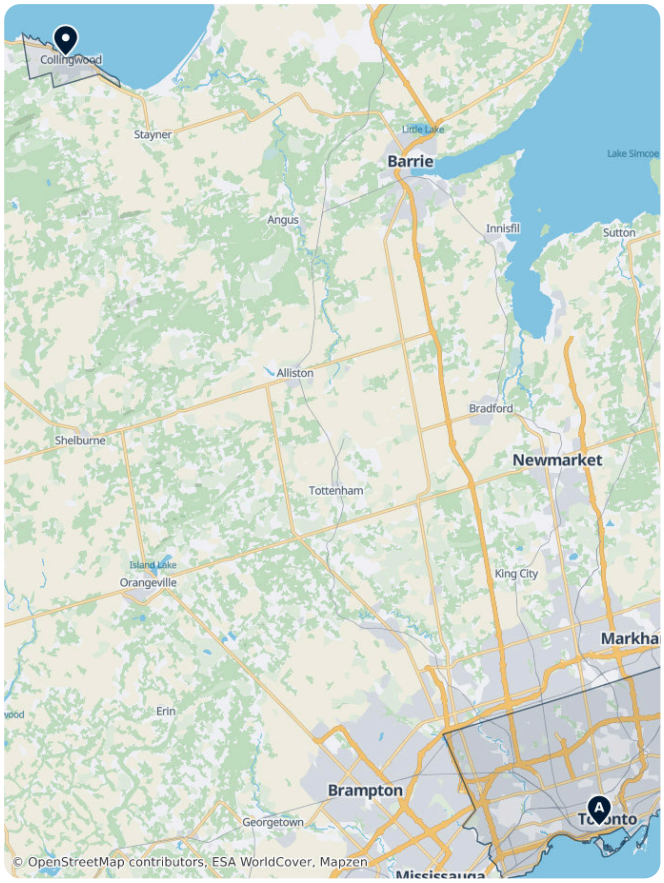
What to experience

- **Ski or snowboard at Blue Mountain.** Runs suit beginners to advanced skiers. Rentals and lessons are available at the village.
- **Cycle or walk the Georgian Trail.** The trail follows an old rail line along the bay toward Thornbury and Meaford.
- **Hike the Bruce Trail.** Sections of this long trail run along the Niagara Escarpment near Collingwood.
- **Swim and paddle on Georgian Bay.** Beaches at Sunset Point and Wasaga Beach are best in July and August. The water is cold in early summer.
- **Relax at a spa.** Outdoor thermal spas near Blue Mountain are popular after a ski or hiking day.

Day trips

All times are one way by car from Collingwood, in order from closest to farthest.

- **Thornbury**: about 20 minutes west. A small harbour village with cideries and shops, at the start of the Beaver Valley.
- **Wasaga Beach**: about 20 minutes east. A long sandy beach on Georgian Bay, busy in summer.
- **Beaver Valley**: about 30 minutes southwest. A scenic valley with farms, lookouts and hiking on the Bruce Trail.
- **Owen Sound**: about 1 hour west. A small city on Georgian Bay with a harbour and waterfalls nearby.
- A Toronto: about 1.5 to 2 hours southeast. A large city with major museums, food and sights.



Where to explore

- Muskoka Lakes is Ontario's lake and cottage country, about 1.5 to 2 hours northeast.
- Niagara-on-the-Lake is a wine town on Lake Ontario, about 3 hours southeast by car.

Getting there

- **By air**: Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) is the main gateway, about 1.5 to 2 hours away by road. Most visitors rent a car or book a shuttle from the airport.
- **By bus**: FlixBus runs coaches between Toronto, Toronto Pearson, Barrie and Collingwood. Services are few, so check the current schedule before you plan around them.
- **By car**: From Toronto, take Highway 400 north to Barrie, then Highway 26 west to Collingwood. Allow extra time on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons in ski season.
- **By train**: There is no passenger train service to Collingwood.

Getting around

- **Local bus**: Collingwood Transit runs four town routes. The Blue Mountain Link (BLINK) goes to Blue Mountain Village and is a separate fare zone, so transfers are not valid. See Collingwood Transit.
- **Taxi**: Taxis and shuttles serve the town and the resort. Book ahead on busy winter weekends.
- **By car**: A car gives the most freedom, especially for Thornbury, Wasaga Beach and the Beaver Valley.
- **On foot and by bike**: Downtown and the harbour are easy to walk. The Georgian Trail is a paved and gravel rail trail between Collingwood and Meaford, popular for cycling.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Downtown and the harbour are compact, but Blue Mountain and other sights are a drive away.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The Georgian Trail and waterfront paths are popular, and the escarpment has trails.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Yes, for most visits. Sights, trails and nearby villages are spread out, and bus service is limited outside town.
- **Winter roads**: Snow squalls off Georgian Bay can reduce visibility quickly and slow traffic. Check the forecast and road conditions before you drive, and carry warm clothing.
- **Parking**: Downtown has free and paid parking. Blue Mountain has large lots, and parking close to the village can be busy and may cost extra on peak days.

Food & drink

Collingwood has a good restaurant scene for its size, with many places along Hurontario Street. Local craft breweries and cideries are common, and apples are a regional product. Try a BeaverTail, a fried pastry with sweet toppings, at Blue Mountain Village after skiing.

Tipping of 15 to 20 percent is normal in sit-down restaurants. Book ahead on winter weekends and in summer.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Tourtière
A savory meat pie, traditionally made with pork, beef, or game, especially popular in Quebec.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Poutine
Fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, originally from Quebec and now popular nationwide.

Bannock
A simple fried or baked bread with roots in Indigenous cooking, found in many regional variations across the country.

Montreal-style Bagel · Bagel montréalais
A smaller, sweeter, denser bagel than the New York style, boiled in honey water and baked in a wood-fired oven.

Maple Syrup · Sirop d'érable
Syrup tapped from maple trees, mainly in Quebec and Ontario, used on pancakes and in baking and savory dishes alike.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Butter Tart
A small pastry shell filled with a sweet, gooey butter, sugar, and egg filling, sometimes with raisins or pecans.

Nanaimo Bar
A no-bake dessert bar from British Columbia with a chocolate-crumb base, custard filling, and chocolate topping.

DRINKS

Caesar
Canada's signature cocktail: vodka, Clamato juice (tomato and clam broth), and spices, served with a celery stalk.

Canadian Whisky
A lighter, smoother style of whisky than Scotch or Bourbon, often blended with rye.

Ice Wine
A sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine, produced mainly in Ontario's Niagara region and British Columbia's Okanagan Valley.

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Safety & health

Collingwood is a safe town for visitors. Normal care with valuables is enough.

Winter needs preparation. Dress in layers and wear boots with good grip. Cold, wind and ice are the main risks, on the slopes and on paths. Wear a helmet when skiing or cycling.

Stay on marked trails on the escarpment, and take water and a map. In summer, bring insect repellent. Georgian Bay is cold and can have strong waves, so swim only where it is calm.

History

Anishinaabe peoples and the Petun lived in this area long before European settlers came. The town grew after the railway from Toronto reached the bay in the 1850s. It became a port for grain and a shipbuilding centre. The shipyard closed in the 1980s.

Since then the town has changed to a tourism base. Skiing at Blue Mountain and the growth of four-season visits now shape the local economy.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Collingwood Essentials

Collingwood's heritage and recreation center on the shores of Georgian Bay. This selection features the Collingwood Museum, housed in a 19th-century station building, and the 1911 Gayety Theater. Outdoor options include the shale-covered Sunset Point Beach with views of the historic Nottawasaga Lighthouse, alongside championship golf courses at the base of the Niagara Escarpment. Family-oriented activities range from seasonal go-kart tracks to mini-putt courses located near the waterfront and local resorts.



A Blue Mountain Go Karts

Seasonal outdoor recreation center featuring a go-kart track, batting cages, and an 18-hole miniature golf course.

10 Nottawa Sideroad, L9Y, Canada (44.47566, -80.14227)

bluemountaingokarts.ca

B Sunset Point Beach

Waterfront park featuring a pebble and shale shoreline, views of the Nottawasaga Lighthouse, a large playground, and seasonal snack bars.

(44.50764, -80.20207)

C Collingwood Museum

Located in a replica 1873 railway station, this museum exhibits local shipbuilding history, indigenous artifacts, and the region's maritime heritage.

(44.50272, -80.21417)

Mo–Sa 10:00–16:00

collingwood.ca/culture-recreation-events/heritage-muse...

D Historic Gayety Theater

An Edwardian-style venue dating back to 1911. Originally a vaudeville house, it now hosts independent films and live theatrical performances.

Hurontario Street 1911 (44.49871, -80.21635)

E Cranberry Golf Course

An 18-hole, par 72 championship course. It was the first in Canada to be designated as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for its environmental preservation.

(44.51199, -80.25700)

F Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club

A semi-private 18-hole course established in 1964, situated between the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay.

(44.49406, -80.26097)

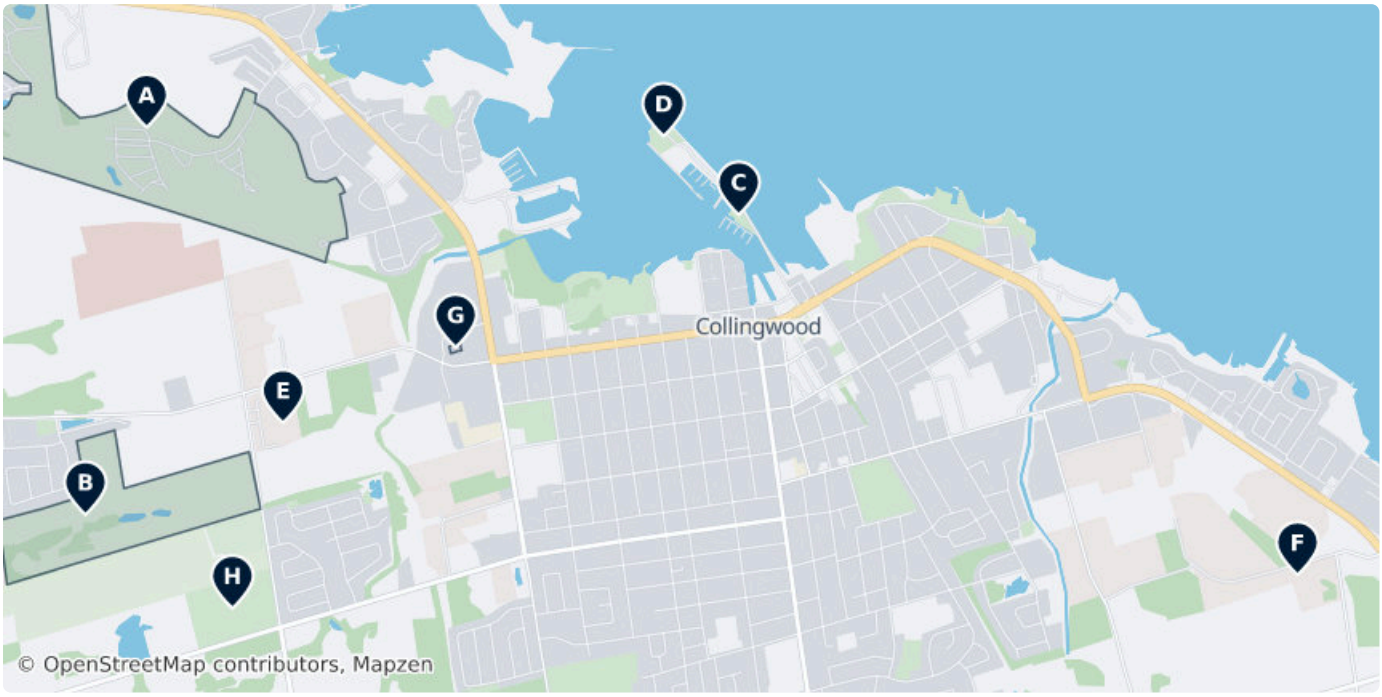
G Shadowcat Mini Putt

Landscaped 18-hole miniature golf course featuring tiered greens and water hazards.

(44.51773, -80.26216)

Best of Collingwood

Collingwood's landscape is defined by its industrial heritage and proximity to Georgian Bay. This selection highlights the town's recreational diversity, featuring championship golf courses like Cranberry, the first in Canada to achieve Audubon certification. Waterfront spaces such as Harbourlands Park provide insight into local shipbuilding history near the iconic grain terminals. The town's craft beer scene is represented by breweries focusing on traditional German techniques, while extensive sports complexes and modern cinemas offer central locations for active and indoor leisure.



A Cranberry Golf Course

An 18-hole championship course and the first in Canada to receive Audubon Society certification for environmental stewardship. It features diverse terrain integrated into the Living Water Resort property.

(44.51199, -80.25700)

B Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club

A semi-private 18-hole course established in 1964. It is situated on the flatlands between the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay, offering unobstructed views of the Blue Mountains.

(44.49406, -80.26097)

C Harbourlands Park

Developed on the former site of the Collingwood shipyards, this park features landscaped gardens, historical plaques, and direct views of the landmark Collingwood Terminals grain elevator.

(44.50795, -80.21852)

D Millenium Park

Located at the northern tip of Heritage Drive, this waterfront park features a stone labyrinth, public art installations, and panoramic views of Georgian Bay and the historic industrial skyline.

L9Y, Canada (44.51159, -80.22340)

E Side Launch Brewery

A craft brewery named after the local tradition of launching ships sideways. It specializes in traditional German-style beers, including unfiltered wheat beer and mountain lager.

(44.49831, -80.24813)

sidelaunchbrewing.com, +1-705-293-5511

F The Collingwood Brewery

An independent craft brewery producing a range of year-round and seasonal beers. Known for its flagship Kingpost ESB and a taproom that highlights local ingredients.

(44.49126, -80.18220)

Tu–We	12:00–17:00
Th	12:00–19:00
Fr	12:00–20:00
Sa	11:00–19:00

thecollingwoodbrewery.com, +1-705-444-2337

G Galaxy Cinemas Collingwood

A multi-screen movie theater complex featuring current Hollywood releases, digital projection, and standard cinema concessions.

Mountain Road 6, L9Y 4S8 Collingwood
(44.50180, -80.23691)

cineplex.com/Theatre/galaxy-cinemas-c..., +1-705-443-8478

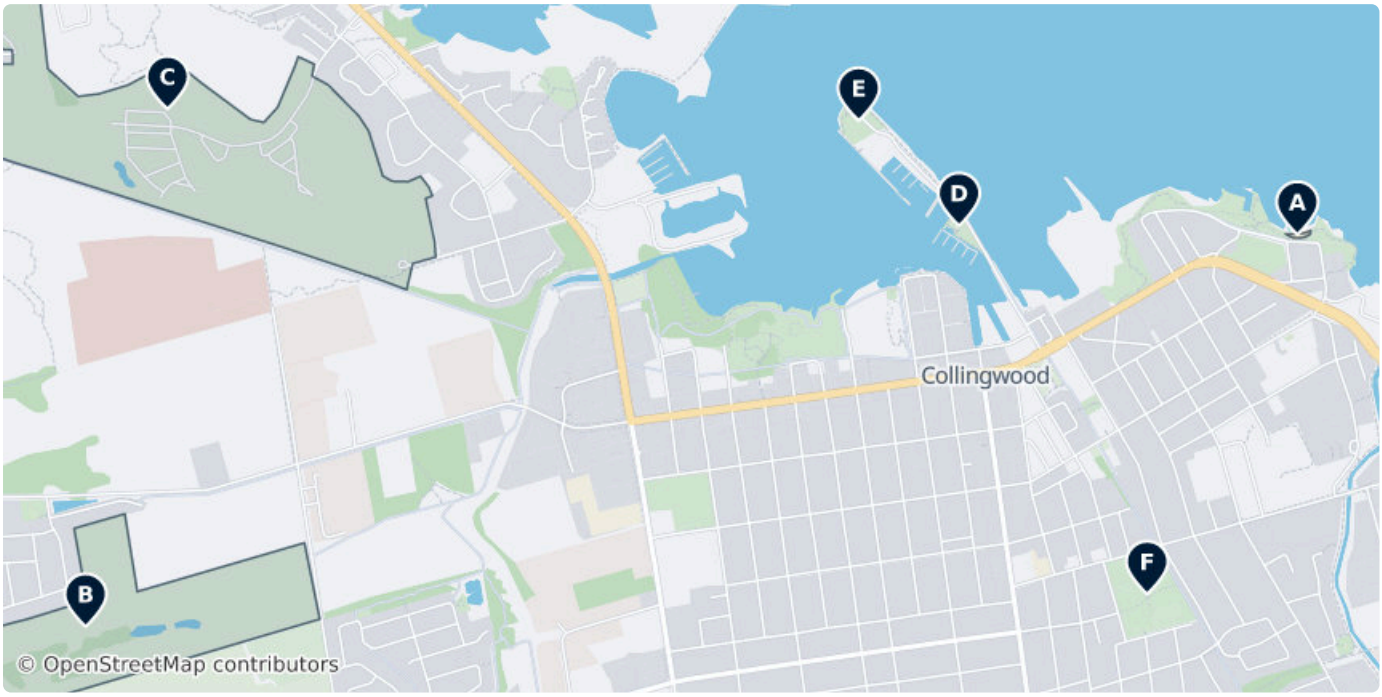
H Fisher Fields

A 40-acre municipal sports park equipped with multiple soccer pitches, baseball diamonds, and a perimeter trail system used for walking and cross-country running.

(44.48971, -80.25142)

Outdoor Recreation

Collingwood's outdoor scene centers on its Georgian Bay shoreline and the proximity of the Niagara Escarpment. This collection includes Sunset Point Beach, known for its shale shoreline and windsurfing, and waterfront parks like Harbourlands and Millennium Park, which occupy former industrial sites near the historic grain terminals. For golfers, the area offers the Audubon-certified Cranberry Golf Course and the established Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club, providing 18-hole layouts with views of the surrounding Escarpment.



A Sunset Point Beach

Waterfront park featuring a pebble shoreline, walking trails, and views of Georgian Bay. Facilities include a playground, seasonal canteen, and washrooms.

(44.50764, -80.20207)

B Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club

Semi-private 18-hole course established in 1964, situated on level terrain between the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay.

(44.49406, -80.26097)

C Cranberry Golf Course

18-hole championship course spanning 6,750 yards. It was Canada's first golf course to receive Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification.

(44.51199, -80.25700)

D Harbourlands Park

Reclaimed industrial land on the waterfront featuring gardens, walking trails, and views of the historic Collingwood grain terminals.

(44.50795, -80.21852)

E Millenium Park

Park located at the northern end of Heritage Drive, offering panoramic views of Georgian Bay and the Nottawasaga Lighthouse.

L9Y, Canada (44.51159, -80.22340)

F Central Park

Community hub featuring baseball diamonds, a playground, and the Collingwood YMCA. It serves as a central point for local sports and recreation.

(44.49518, -80.20937)

DATA SOURCES

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