

AMENITIES, BATHURST MANOR

Recreation

The Irving W. Chapley Community Centre (*dedicated in memory of the long serving City of North York and Metropolitan Toronto Alderman*) is located in Wilmington Park at 205 Wilmington Ave. This [community centre](#) features a tot's play area, meeting rooms and an outdoor pool and water play area. Wilmington Park, located next to the community centre features swimming pool, ice rink, tennis, basketball courts and a baseball diamond.

The [Bathurst Jewish Community Centre](#) BJCC is a multi purpose facility with cardiovascular conditioning equipment, indoor and outdoor pools, indoor and outdoor track, and tennis and basketball courts. This centre is also the home of the Leah Posluns Theatre and the Koffler Gallery.

Skiing was popular during the 1950s at a ski hill located adjacent to what is now Blue Forest Drive. In the summer of 1956, the valley below the ski hill was the site of Bathurst Manor Day Camp, later [Forest Valley Day Camp](#), and now a part of the Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre. At its peak, it was the largest privately owned summer day camp in Canada, with over 900 campers, and operated through 1993. In 1973 the grade ten students from Downsview Secondary School built a suspension bridge across the ravine as part of their workshop experience. The bridge was dismantled some years later when it was considered an insurance liability. Beginning in 1998, Camp NAORCA summer camp operated by [Toronto Parks and Recreation](#) moved here from its previous location at [Seneca College, King Campus](#), and the [Toronto District School Board](#) uses this space during the school year to educate 21,000 students per year.

Other Parks

- Earl Bales Park [North York Ski Centre](#)
- G Ross Lord Park
- Garthdale Park

KELLY FULTON, Sales Representative
Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd.
Johnston & Daniel Division, Brokerage

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Shopping Plazas

The major [strip mall](#), Sheppard Plaza, is located at the intersection of Sheppard Avenue and Bathurst Street, and includes a [Shoppers Drug Mart](#), [TD Canada Trust](#), [Bank of Montreal](#), [Scotiabank](#), [Metro](#) supermarket. The store was formerly a [Dominion](#), and before that a [Miracle Food Mart](#), and originally a [Steinberg's](#). Before that, it was a Grand Union.

There is also a smaller Bathurst Manor Plaza shopping centre at the intersection of Wilmington and Overbrook. It has been in decline since the early 1990s closure and 2004 demolition of its anchor Sunnybrook produce store, it currently features a King David kosher pizzeria and The Bagel Nook coffee shop. These two stores share a building that previously housed a Pioneer gas station, originally a Shell station, which closed in the late 1990s. The plaza is now slated for redevelopment, with plans of fortyfour 3-storey townhouses and two 7-storey condominium apartment buildings.^[2]

Arts

The [Koffler Centre of the Arts](#) located at the BJCC houses the Koffler Gallery, visual arts studios, music and dance schools, and the Leah Posluns Theatre which is a 444-seat facility offering opera, theatre, dance, music and other cultural events. The Jewish Book Fair is held at the Centre annually.

Much of [David Bezmozgis's](#) 2004 short story collection [Natasha and Other Stories](#) takes place in the general vicinity of the Bathurst Manor in the late 1980s. In one story, "Roman Berman - Massage Therapist", the title character takes an office in the medical building at Bathurst Manor Plaza, which is still standing and in use. Bezmozgis's narrator refers to the plaza as "Sunnybrook Plaza", after its anchor store at the time.

Author [Stuart Ross](#), who grew up in Bathurst Manor, set most of his 2011 novel, [Snowball, Dragonfly, Jew](#) (ECW Press), in Bathurst Manor. The book centres on the fictional assassination of a neo-Nazi in Bathurst Manor Plaza. References are made to many streets in Bathurst Manor, as well as stores in the plaza.

*KELLY FULTON, Sales Representative
Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd.
Johnston & Daniel Division, Brokerage*

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Schools

There are three [Toronto District School Board](#) public schools and one private school:

1. [Wilmington Elementary School](#), originally called Cedar Grove Public School, and later, Charles H. Best - West
2. [Charles H Best Middle School](#), named after [Charles Best](#), originally Dufferin Heights Junior High School.
3. [William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute](#), a high school named after Toronto's first mayor, [William Lyon Mackenzie](#)

The [Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto](#), Tanenbaum Campus, a private Jewish high school, on the former site of the Wilmington Public School

ROYAL LEPAGE

JOHNSTON & DANIEL

KELLY FULTON

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Web: www.kellyfulton.ca

E-mail: kelly@kellyfulton.ca

Bus: 416-489-2121 Cell: 416-520-9655

ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE SERVICES LTD.
JOHNSTON AND DANIEL DIVISION, Brokerage

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KELLY FULTON, Sales Representative
Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd.
Johnston & Daniel Division, Brokerage