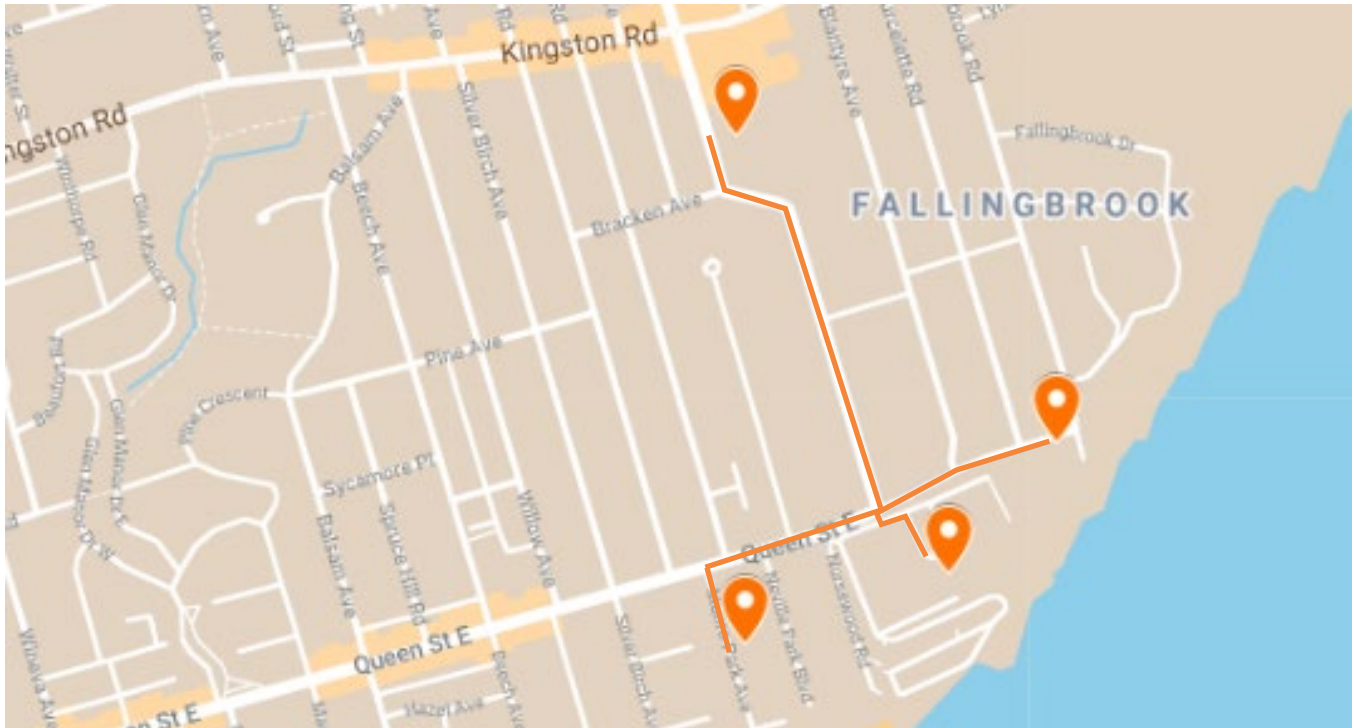


# TOBuilt Walking Tour: The Beaches

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## 3025 Queen Street East

Known as Chateau des Quatre Vents, the house at 3025 Queen St. East was originally built in 1892 for William T. Murray on land purchased from Sir Henry Pellatt, who is best-known for having commissioned Casa Loma. Pellatt owned a neighbouring summer cottage which was destroyed by fire in the early 1920s; the land was later expropriated by the city for the R.C. Harris filtration plant. The house has a further connection to Pellatt when in 1910, Murray commissioned Edward Lennox, the architect behind Casa Loma, to build a 2 1/2 story addition.

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## R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant

The treatment plant was named after Roland Caldwell Harris, the Commissioner of Works from 1912 to 1945. Harris envisioned an Art Deco castle, with ornamental iron, marble floors, art deco clocks and medieval water gardens, all constructed over the Great Depression and Second World War no less. Architect Thomas Canfield Pomphrey was commissioned to design the treatment plant which would become known as “The Palace of Purification”. With its fortress setting overlooking the Lake, it is easy to see why the plant has become such a source of inspiration; it played a central role in Michael Ondaatje’s novel “The Skin of a Lion” and has been a regular location for the filming of many movies and shows. Most impressive though is the capacity and efficiency of this striking site. It is still the largest water treatment plant in Toronto and produces 30% of Toronto’s tap water.

The interiors glimmer with the same elegance as the exterior, a rare chance to experience what lies inside during Doors Open Toronto event should not be missed!

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## Munro Park Avenue

George Monro, Mayor of Toronto from 1841 to 1848, acquired over 60 acres along the Lakeshore in 1847 and established Painted Post Farm, an orchard with hundreds of fruit trees. Following Monro's death, his family leased out parcels of land to the Toronto Railway Company to turn into an amusement park. The streetcar would bring excited visitors directly into Munro Park. The misspelling of the former Mayor's family name stuck long after the amusement park was disassembled in 1906. When the grounds of the park were eventually redeveloped as a residential neighbourhood the street kept the name Munro Park Avenue. The houses along Munro Park are a beautiful collection of Arts and Crafts inspired Craftsman homes, the John P. MacLaughlin House at 29 Munro Park is a nice representation of the rustic, sturdy homes of the street.



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## 127 Victoria Park Avenue

The all-boys Catholic school was founded in 1958 by the Holy Ghost Fathers that had come as missionaries from Ireland. The building was originally only two-stories, the third story and a gymnasium, cafeteria were added in 1967. In 2009 there was a movement by the Toronto Catholic School Board to shake up the school district to funnel more students to a nearby school with low enrollment rates. Parents of Neil McNeil passionately fought this movement and were able to secure the school's facility for the next 50 years.