



## Burlington ranked one of top 10 cities in Canada

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**BURLINGTON** — On a sunny day, the crowds sipping a cold one on a Brant Street patio or strolling along the pier at Spencer Smith Park don't need a magazine to tell them they're living in one of the best places in Canada.

They don't need it, but it's still nice to have.

Hamilton's nearest neighbour has been recognized again by Toronto-based MoneySense Magazine with a Top 10 placing on its annual list of best cities in Canada. Burlington placed third overall and first among mid-sized cities (100,000 to 400,000 population). The overall ranking is a two-position bump from 2014's fifth place. Next door, Oakville landed at the No. 6 spot.

Hamilton also improved, moving up 36 positions to 41st place from 77th. The magazine ranked 209 municipalities with populations over 10,000.

Mayor Rick Goldring said the ranking is a testament to decades of city council decisions made with a clear goal and vision.

"It means we've taken control of the things we can control," he said. "We have a safe community with low unemployment and a strong arts and recreation community and that's not by chance, it's by design."

The MoneySense rankings are based on measures of a city's quality of life, including unemployment rates, incomes, housing affordability, population growth, access to health care, low taxes, crime rates, transportation options, good weather and a healthy arts and sports community.

Burlington ranked highly on unemployment, incomes, low crime weather and arts. The other measures, Goldring admitted, "are opportunities for us to improve."

Mark Brown, managing editor for rankings and reports at MoneySense, said Burlington's ranking is the result of several enviable attributes, including a good position between Hamilton and Toronto with lots of employment opportunities and access to good markets on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border.

"Burlington has always done quite well on these lists because it has lots of high income earners, low crime rates and is close to a lot of big markets for business," he said. "These lists aren't looking for the prettiest places, they're looking for places where you can have a good life."

Hamilton's placing, he added, was still a good showing.

"Placing anywhere in the Top 50 is good," he said. "That's still good territory to be in."

Hamilton scored well for population growth, access to health care, low taxes and crime rates and good weather.

"Hamilton is on an even keel by most measures," Brown said. "Its median incomes are a little low and its housing prices are a little high."

Keith Hoey, president of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, was cheered by a ranking he described as "accurate and appropriate."

"This is a very live and clear measure of what is happening here," he said. "Burlington is a very livable city where we're close to Toronto but far enough away that we don't get wrapped up in big city issues."

Burlington also scored well on sub lists ranking it as the second best place in the country to raise children, tenth best place to retire and sixth best place for new Canadians.

The best city to live in, according to the MoneySense measures, is the Montreal suburb of Boucherville, population 43,000.

"Boucherville enjoys high incomes and low unemployment making home ownership affordable. Combine that with a robust transit system and a vibrant arts community and it's no wonder the city is seeing healthy population growth," the magazine said.

The full ranking will be published in the summer issue of MoneySense, available Wednesday on newsstands, in Next Issue and on the MoneySense app.

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Burlington has been named one of the best places to live in Canada in an annual ranking.

Median income

Burlington: \$85,434

Average home price

Burlington: \$557,003

2010-15 population change

Burlington: 3.7 per cent

Average property tax

Burlington: \$2,781

Average household net worth

Burlington: \$706,088

## Canada's Best Places to Live 2015 — Overall

1. Boucherville, Que.

2. Ottawa, Ont.

3. Burlington, Ont.

4. St. Albert, Alta.

5. Blainville, Que.

6. Oakville, Ont.

7. Stratford, Ont.

8. Lévis, Que.

9. North Vancouver (District Municipality), B.C.

10. Quebec City, Que.

## Top 10 places to raise kids

1. St. Albert, Alta.

2. Burlington, Ont.

3. Calgary, Alta.

4. Oakville, Ont.

5. Strathcona County, Alta.

6. Blainville, Que.

7. Ottawa, Ont.

8. Milton, Ont.

9. Halton Hills, Ont.

10. Spruce Grove, Alta.

## Top 10 places to retire

1. Ottawa, Ont.

2. Toronto, Ont.

3. Stratford, Ont.

4. Victoria, B.C.

5. Rimouski, Que.

6. Kingston, Ont.

7. Gatineau, Que.

8. Quebec City, Que.

9. Joliette, Que

10. Burlington, Ont