



heart of toronto's waterfront

The logo for Harbourfront Centre, featuring a white circle with a black dot inside, followed by the text "Harbourfront centre" in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "Harbourfront" is white and "centre" is yellow.

## Fact Sheet

*Canada Square is a joint project of Harbourfront Centre and Waterfront Toronto. The revitalization of the Central Waterfront is improving the most heavily used and developed part of the waterfront by creating new public spaces, linking major waterfront destinations and giving the city the grand waterfront boulevard it deserves. Harbourfront Centre's Canada Square project is a key part of the overall revitalization of the Central Waterfront.*

### Location – Canada Square at Harbourfront Centre

225 Queens Quay West, Canada Square is located at the heart of Harbourfront Centre's 10-acre site, on York Quay between the Enwave Theatre and The Power Plant to the west and Queen's Quay Terminal to the east; just north of the lakeside promenade and boardwalk.

### Overview

Canada Square marks the completion of the York Quay Revitalization project comprised of three phases:

- *Phase 1* (completed 2006): Waterfront Toronto and Harbourfront Centre created a favourite destination on Toronto's waterfront by widening the water's edge promenade, adding a wooden boardwalk and constructing two new finger piers at York Quay.
- *Phase 2* (completed June, 2012): A new 300-stall underground parking garage at Harbourfront Centre to replace the surface parking lot on this prime waterfront site.
- *Phase 3* (completed June, 2013): The creation of two new public squares: Canada Square and Ontario Square, and the Exhibition Common, an interim landscape for Harbourfront Centre's future cultural village.

### Design Team

Michael Van Valkenburgh and Associates (MVVA)

### Construction Team

Ellis Don

### Facts and Features

*Construction Timing:* Construction began June 2012

*Opening:* Canada Square - Canada Day, July 1, 2013

Ontario Square - June 23, 2013

*Dimensions:* York Quay Revitalization Project: 1.4 hectares  
Canada Square: Approximately 17,000 sq. ft.  
Ontario Square: Approximately 53,000 sq. ft.

#### *Canada Square Facts:*

- Canada Square is a joint project of Harbourfront Centre and Waterfront Toronto and is fully funded by the Government of Canada as part of its contribution to waterfront revitalization.
- Located at the southeast end of the Harbourfront Centre 10-acre site, overlooking Lake Ontario
- Canada Square is designed to be a public space for quiet enjoyment and contemplation
- Paving stones in the square are made from red granite found in the Canadian Shield
- Contains 41 Metasequoia (dawn redwood) trees. Metasequoia trees are bright fresh green, turning a red-brown in the fall

#### *Ontario Square Facts*

- Ontario Square is a celebratory public space at the centre of the Harbourfront Centre site.
- Funding for the construction of Ontario Square was provided to Harbourfront Centre by the Government of Ontario.
- Designed by renowned landscape architecture firm Michael Van Valkenburgh and Associates.
- Van Valkenburgh's design was inspired by the Ontario Boreal Forest; featuring more than 500 quaking aspen trees and Ontario forest ground cover, with stone paving that emulates the ice floes in the harbour during the winter months.
- Ontario Square also features a major three-storey reflective glass art piece by architect and artist James Carpenter which brings sunlight into the three levels of a new underground parking garage beneath the square.
- All elements of Ontario Square have been sourced within the province, with the stone paving provided by a local stone supplier.

#### *Exhibition Common Facts*

- An interim landscaped activity area located on the northeast corner of the site.
- Features a café, Common Ground (Muvbox) kiosks, tented activity areas and lawn in addition to Canada's largest outdoor photography exhibition, *Nine Rivers City: Toronto's Extraordinary Waterways*.
- Location of Harbourfront Centre's future *Cultural Village*, a low-scale development with cafés, restaurants, shops, artist studios and architect offices located north of Canada Square.

*Owner and Operator:* Harbourfront Centre

#### **Project Budget**

The project budget for the new squares as part of the York Quay Revitalization was approximately \$20 million including design, construction and other project-related costs.