CN Tower

The **CN Tower** ([French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language): *Tour CN*) is a 553.3 m-high (1,815.3 ft) [concrete](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concrete) communications and observation [tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower) in [downtown Toronto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown_Toronto), [Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario), Canada.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-skyscraper-3)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-CNTower-8) Built on the former [Railway Lands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway_Lands), it was completed in 1976. Its name "CN" referred to [Canadian National](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_National_Railway), the railway company that built the tower. Following the railway's decision to [divest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divestment) non-core freight railway assets prior to the company's [privatization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privatization) in 1995, it transferred the tower to the [Canada Lands Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_Lands_Company), a federal [Crown corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_corporations_of_Canada) responsible for real estate development.

The CN Tower held the record for the [world's tallest free-standing structure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tallest_freestanding_structures) for 32 years, from 1975 until 2007, when it was surpassed by the [Burj Khalifa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burj_Khalifa%22%20%5Co%20%22Burj%20Khalifa), and was the [world's tallest tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tallest_towers) until 2009 when it was surpassed by the [Canton Tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canton_Tower).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-10)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-canton-11) It is currently the ninth-tallest free-standing structure in the world and remains the tallest free-standing structure on land in the [Western Hemisphere](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Hemisphere). In 1995, the CN Tower was declared one of the modern Seven [Wonders of the World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wonders_of_the_World) by the [American Society of Civil Engineers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Society_of_Civil_Engineers). It also belongs to the World Federation of Great Towers.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-12)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-info-13)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-great-5)

It is a signature icon of Toronto's [skyline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skyline)[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-14)[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-15) and attracts more than two million international visitors annually.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-great-5)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-FACTS-16) It houses several observation decks, a revolving restaurant at some 1,151 feet (351 m), and an entertainment complex.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-17)

## **History**



CN Tower from the [Toronto Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto_Islands)

The original concept of the CN Tower was first conceived in 1968 when the [Canadian National Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_National_Railway) wanted to build a large television and radio communication platform to serve the Toronto area, and to demonstrate the strength of Canadian industry and CN in particular. These plans evolved over the next few years, and the project became official in 1972.

The tower would have been part of Metro Centre (see [CityPlace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CityPlace%2C_Toronto%22%20%5Co%20%22CityPlace%2C%20Toronto)), a large development south of [Front Street](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Front_Street_%28Toronto%29) on the [Railway Lands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway_Lands), a large railway switching yard that was being made redundant after the opening of the [MacMillan Yard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MacMillan_Yard) north of the city in 1965 (then known as Toronto Yard). Key project team members were NCK Engineering as structural engineer; [John Andrews Architects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Andrews_%28architect%29); Webb, Zerafa, Menkes, Housden Architects; Foundation Building Construction; and Canron (Eastern Structural Division).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-skyscraper-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-emporis-4)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-CNTower-8)

As Toronto grew rapidly during the late 1960s and early 1970s, multiple skyscrapers were constructed in the downtown core, most notably [First Canadian Place](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Canadian_Place). The reflective nature of the new buildings reduced the quality of broadcast signals requiring new, higher antennas that were at least 300 m (980 ft) tall.

At the time, most data communications took place over [point-to-point microwave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microwave#Communication) links, whose dish antennae covered the roofs of large buildings. As each new skyscraper was added to the downtown, former line-of-sight links were no longer possible. CN intended to rent "hub" space for microwave links, visible from almost any building in the Toronto area.

The original plan for the tower envisioned a tripod consisting of three independent cylindrical "pillars" linked at various heights by structural bridges. Had it been built, this design would have been considerably shorter, with the metal antenna located roughly where the concrete section between the main level and the SkyPod lies today. As the design effort continued, it evolved into the current design with a single continuous hexagonal core to the SkyPod, with three support legs blended into the hexagon below the main level, forming a large Y-shape structure at the ground level.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-CNTower-8)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-ieee-18)

The idea for the main level in its current form evolved around this time, but the Space Deck (later renamed SkyPod) was not part of the plans until some time later. One engineer, in particular, felt that visitors would feel the higher observation deck would be worth paying extra for, and the costs in terms of construction were not prohibitive. It was also some time around this point that it was realized that the tower could become the world's tallest structure to improve signal quality and attract tourists, and plans were changed to incorporate subtle modifications throughout the structure to this end.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-CNTower-8)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-ieee-18)

### Construction



Map of CN Tower

The CN Tower was built by Canada Cement Company (also known as the Cement Foundation Company of Canada at the time),[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-19) a subsidiary of Sweden's [Skanska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skanska), a global project-development and construction group.

Construction began on February 6, 1973, with massive excavations at the tower base for the foundation. By the time the foundation was complete, 56,000 [t](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonne) (62,000 [short tons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short_ton); 55,000 [long tons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_ton)) of [earth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil) and [shale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shale) were removed to a depth of 15 m (49.2 ft) in the centre, and a base incorporating 7,000 m3 (9,200 cu yd) of concrete with 450 t (496 short tons; 443 long tons) of [rebar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebar) and 36 t (40 short tons; 35 long tons) of [steel cable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wire_rope) had been built to a thickness of 6.7 m (22 ft). This portion of the construction was fairly rapid, with only four months needed between the start and the foundation being ready for construction on top.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-ieee-18)

To create the main support pillar, workers constructed a hydraulically raised [slipform](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slip_forming%22%20%5Co%20%22Slip%20forming) at the base. This was a fairly unprecedented engineering feat on its own, consisting of a large metal platform that raised itself on jacks at about 6 m (20 ft) per day as the concrete below set. Concrete was poured Monday to Friday (not continuously) by a small team of people until February 22, 1974, at which time it had already become the tallest structure in Canada, surpassing the recently built [Inco Superstack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inco_Superstack) in [Sudbury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Sudbury), which was built using similar methods.

The tower contains 40,500 m3 (53,000 cu yd) of concrete, all of which was mixed on-site in order to ensure batch consistency. Through the pour, the vertical accuracy of the tower was maintained by comparing the slip form's location to massive [plumb bobs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plumb_bob) hanging from it, observed by small telescopes from the ground. Over the height of the tower, it varies from true vertical accuracy by only 29 mm (1.1 in).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-CNTower-8)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-ieee-18)



Skycrane "Olga" lifting antenna segment

In August 1974, construction of the main level commenced. Using 45 hydraulic jacks attached to cables strung from a temporary steel crown anchored to the top of the tower, twelve giant steel and wooden bracket forms were slowly raised, ultimately taking about a week to crawl up to their final position. These forms were used to create the brackets that support the main level, as well as a base for the construction of the main level itself. The Space Deck (currently named SkyPod) was built of concrete poured into a wooden frame attached to rebar at the lower level deck, and then reinforced with a large steel compression band around the outside.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-ieee-18)

While still under construction, the CN Tower officially became the world's tallest free-standing structure on March 31, 1975.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-records-6)

The antenna was originally to be raised by crane as well, but during construction, the [Sikorsky S-64 Skycrane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikorsky_S-64_Skycrane) helicopter became available when the [United States Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army) sold one to civilian operators. The helicopter, named "Olga", was first used to remove the crane, and then flew the antenna up in 36 sections.

The flights of the antenna pieces were a minor tourist attraction of their own, and the schedule was printed in the local newspapers. Use of the helicopter saved months of construction time, with this phase taking only three and a half weeks instead of the planned six months. The tower was topped-off on April 2, 1975, after 26 months of construction, officially capturing the height record from [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow)'s [Ostankino Tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostankino_Tower%22%20%5Co%20%22Ostankino%20Tower), and bringing the total mass to 118,000 t (130,000 short tons; 116,000 long tons).

Two years into the construction, plans for Metro Centre were scrapped, leaving the tower isolated on the Railway Lands in what was then a largely abandoned light-industrial space. This caused serious problems for tourists to access the tower. Ned Baldwin, project architect with John Andrews, wrote at the time that "All of the logic which dictated the design of the lower accommodation has been upset," and that "Under such ludicrous circumstances Canadian National would hardly have chosen this location to build."[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-20)

#### Phases of construction

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Constructing the base, July 1973

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Brackets being raised, August 1974

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Helicopter lifting part of antenna, March 1975

### Early years

When the CN Tower opened in 1976, there were three public observation points: the SkyPod (then known as the Space Deck) that stands at 447 m (1,467 ft), the Indoor Observation Level (later named Indoor Lookout Level) at 346 m (1,135 ft), and the Outdoor Observation Terrace (at the same level as the Glass Floor) at 342 m (1,122 ft).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-great-5)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-ieee-18) One floor above the Indoor Observation Level was the Top of Toronto Restaurant, which completed a revolution once every 72 minutes.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-24)

The tower would garner worldwide media attention when stuntman [Dar Robinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dar_Robinson) jumped off of the CN Tower on two occasions in 1979 and 1980. The first was for a scene from the movie [*Highpoint*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highpoint_%28film%29), in which Robinson received $250,000 ($856,250 in 2020 dollars)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-inflation-CA-22) for the stunt. The second was for a personal documentary. Both stunts used a wire decelerator attached to his back.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-robinson-25)

On June 26, 1986, the ten-year anniversary of the tower's opening, [high-rise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-rise_building) firefighting and rescue advocate [Dan Goodwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Goodwin), in a sponsored publicity event, used his hands and feet to climb the outside of the tower, a feat he performed twice on the same day. Following both ascents, he used multiple rappels to descend to the ground.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-26)

### The 1990s and 2000s

A glass floor at an elevation of 342 m (1,122 ft) was installed in 1994.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-ieee-18) Canadian National Railway sold the tower to Canada Lands Company prior to privatizing the company in 1995, when it divested all operations not directly related to its core freight shipping businesses. The tower's name and wordmark were adjusted to remove the CN railways logo, and the tower was renamed Canada's National Tower (from Canadian National Tower),[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-CN_Tower_Name-27) though the tower is commonly called the CN Tower.

Further changes were made from 1997 to January 2004, [TrizecHahn Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hahn_Company%22%20%5Co%20%22The%20Hahn%20Company) managed the tower and instituted several expansion projects including a [CA$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_dollar%22%20%5Co%20%22Canadian%20dollar)26 million entertainment expansion and revitalization that included the 1997 addition of two new elevators (to a total of six) and the consequential relocation of the staircase from the north side leg to inside the core of the building, a conversion that also added nine stairs to the climb. TrizecHahn also owned the [Willis Tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis_Tower) (Sears Tower at the time) in Chicago approximately at the same time.

In 2007, [light-emitting diode](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light-emitting_diode) (LED) lights replaced the incandescent lights that lit the CN Tower at night, the reason cited being that LED lights are more cost and energy efficient than the incandescent lights. The colour of the LED lights can change, compared to the constant white colour of the incandescent lights. On September 12, 2007, [Burj Khalifa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burj_Khalifa%22%20%5Co%20%22Burj%20Khalifa), then under construction and known as Burj Dubai, surpassed the CN Tower as the world's tallest free-standing structure.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-CBCSurpassed-28) In 2008, glass panels were installed in one of the CN Tower elevators, which established a world record (346 m) for highest glass floor panelled elevator in the world.

### 2010s: EdgeWalk



EdgeWalk

On August 1, 2011, the CN Tower opened the EdgeWalk, an amusement in which thrill-seekers can walk on and around the roof of the main pod of the tower at 356 m (1,168.0 ft), which is directly above the 360 Restaurant.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-29) It is the world's highest full-circle, hands-free walk. Visitors are tethered to an overhead rail system and walk around the edge of the CN Tower's main pod above the 360 Restaurant on a 1.5-metre (4.9 ft) metal floor.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-30) The attraction is closed throughout the winter and during periods of electrical storms and high winds.

One of the notable guests who visited EdgeWalk was Canadian comedian [Rick Mercer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rick_Mercer) as featured as the first episode of the ninth season of his [CBC Television](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBC_Television%22%20%5Co%20%22CBC%20Television) [news satire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/News_satire) show, [*Rick Mercer Report*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rick_Mercer_Report). There, he was accompanied by Canadian pop singer [Jann Arden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jann_Arden). The episode first aired on April 10, 2013.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-31)

#### Pan Am Games

The base of the CN Tower was home to the main [Pan Am Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan_Am_Games) flames playing an important part in both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

On July 10, 2015, the CN Tower was incorporated into [the opening ceremony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Pan_American_Games_opening_ceremony) of the [2015 Pan American Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Pan_American_Games). A pre-recorded segment featured track-and-field athlete [Bruny Surin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruny_Surin%22%20%5Co%20%22Bruny%20Surin) passing the flame to sprinter [Donovan Bailey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey) on the EdgeWalk and parachuting into Rogers Centre. A fireworks display off the tower served as the ceremony's finale.

#### Canada 150

On July 1, 2017, as part of the nationwide celebrations for [Canada 150](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/150th_anniversary_of_Canada), fireworks were once again shot from the tower in a five-minute display coordinated with the tower lights and music broadcast on a local radio station.

**FACTS:**

### Falling ice danger



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| **CN Tower** |
| *Tour CN* |
| Toronto - ON - Toronto Harbourfront7.jpgThe CN Tower is the [world's 9th tallest free-standing structure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tallest_freestanding_structures)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-tallest-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-2) |
| [https://maps.wikimedia.org/img/osm-intl,13,43.6426,-79.3871,250x200.png?lang=en&domain=en.wikipedia.org&title=CN+Tower&groups=_3b14ed3b8219b19be55990537aba13dd50fb2648](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower%22%20%5Cl%20%22/map/0)[Wikimedia](https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Maps_Terms_of_Use) | © [OpenStreetMap](https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright) |
| **Alternative names** | Canadian National Tower, Canada's National Tower |
| **Record height** |
| Tallest in the world from 1975[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-records-6) to 2007[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-7)[[I]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#endnote_talleststatus) |
| **Preceded by** | [Ostankino Tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostankino_Tower) |
| **Surpassed by** | [Burj Khalifa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burj_Khalifa) |
| **General information** |
| **Status** | Completed |
| **Type** | Mixed use:Observation, telecommunications, attraction, restaurant |
| **Address** | 290 Bremner Boulevard[Toronto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto), [Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario)M5V 3L9 |
| [**Coordinates**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system) | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[43°38′33.36″N 79°23′13.56″W](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=CN_Tower&params=43_38_33.36_N_79_23_13.56_W_region:CA-ON_type:landmark)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[43°38′33.36″N 79°23′13.56″W](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=CN_Tower&params=43_38_33.36_N_79_23_13.56_W_region:CA-ON_type:landmark) |
| **Construction started** | 1973[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-skyscraper-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-emporis-4) |
| **Completed** | 1976 |
| **Opening** | June 26, 1976 |
| **Cost** | [CA$](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_dollar)63,000,000[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-emporis-4) |
| **Owner** | [Canada Lands Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_Lands_Company) |
| **Height** |
| **Antenna spire** | 553.3 m (1,815.3 ft) |
| **Roof** | 457.2 m (1,500.0 ft) |
| **Top floor** | 446.5 m (1,464.9 ft) |
| **Technical details** |
| **Floor count** | Equivalent of a 147-storey building |
| **Lifts/elevators** | 9[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-great-5) |
| **Design and construction** |
| **Architect** | [WZMH Architects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WZMH_Architects):[John Andrews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Andrews_%28architect%29), Webb Zerafa, Menkes Housden[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-great-5) |
| **Website** |
| [www.cntower.ca](https://www.cntower.ca/) |
| **References** |
| [[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-skyscraper-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-emporis-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-great-5) |

Looking east at CN Tower from [Gardiner Expressway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gardiner_Expressway) in 2010

A [freezing rain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freezing_rain) storm on March 2, 2007, resulted in a layer of ice several centimetres thick forming on the side of the tower and other downtown buildings. The sun thawed the ice, and winds of up to 90 km/h (56 mph) blew some of it away from the structure. There were fears that cars and windows of nearby buildings would be smashed by large chunks of ice. In response, police closed some streets surrounding the tower. During morning rush hour on March 5 of the same year, police expanded the area of closed streets to include the [Gardiner Expressway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gardiner_Expressway) 310 metres (1,017 ft) away from the tower as increased winds blew the ice farther away, as far north as [King Street West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Street_%28Toronto%29), 490 m (1,608 ft) away, where a [taxicab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxicab) window was shattered. Subsequently, on March 6, 2007, the Gardiner Expressway reopened after winds abated.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-41)

On April 16, 2018, falling ice from the CN Tower punctured the roof of the nearby [Rogers Centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rogers_Centre) stadium, causing the [Toronto Blue Jays](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto_Blue_Jays) to postpone the game that day to the following day as a [doubleheader](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubleheader_%28baseball%29); this was the third doubleheader held at the Rogers Centre. On April 20, the CN Tower reopened.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-42)

### Safety features

In August 2000, a fire broke out at the [Ostankino Tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostankino_Tower%22%20%5Co%20%22Ostankino%20Tower) in [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow) killing three people and causing extensive damage. The fire was blamed on poor maintenance and outdated equipment. The failure of the fire-suppression systems and the lack of proper equipment for firefighters allowed the fire to destroy most of the interior and spark fears the tower might even collapse.

The Ostankino Tower was completed nine years before the CN Tower and is only 13 m (43 ft) shorter.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-doom-43) The parallels between the towers led to some concern that the CN Tower could be at risk of a similar tragedy. However, Canadian officials subsequently stated that it is "highly unlikely" that a similar disaster could occur at the CN Tower, as it has important safeguards that were not present in the Ostankino Tower. Specifically, officials cited:

* the fireproof building materials used in the tower's construction,
* frequent and stringent safety inspections,
* an extensive sprinkler system,
* a 24-hour emergency monitoring operation,
* two 68,160-litre (15,000-imperial gallon; 18,006-US gallon) water reservoirs at the top, which are automatically replenished,
* a fire hose at the base of the structure capable of sending 2725 litres (600 imperial gallons; 720 US Gallon) a minute to any location in the tower,
* a ban on natural gas appliances anywhere in the tower (including the restaurant in the main pod),
* an elevator that can be used during a fire as it runs up the outside of the building and can be powered by three emergency generators at the base of the structure (unlike the elevator at the Ostankino Tower, which malfunctioned).[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-safety-44)

Officials also noted that the CN Tower has an excellent safety record, although there was an electrical fire in the antennae on August 16, 2017 — the tower's first fire.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-safety-44)[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-Doherty-45)[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-46)[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CN_Tower#cite_note-CTV-47) Moreover, other supertall structures built between 1967 and 1976 — such as the [Willis Tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis_Tower) (formerly the Sears Tower), the [World Trade Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center_%281973%E2%80%932001%29) (until its [destruction on September 11, 2001](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks)), the [Fernsehturm Berlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernsehturm_Berlin%22%20%5Co%20%22Fernsehturm%20Berlin), the [Aon Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aon_Center_%28Chicago%29), 875 North Michigan Avenue (formerly the [John Hancock Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Hancock_Center)), and [First Canadian Place](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Canadian_Place) — also have excellent safety records, which suggests that the Ostankino Tower accident was a rare safety failure, and that the likelihood of similar events occurring at other supertall structures is extremely low.