Ontario

TRAVEL DISCOVERIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Fall is Fair
Two pumpkinfests are better than one

Fall Aboard
Agawa Canyon by train

Getting to the Core
Autumn apple harvest adventure

Recycle
Discover trails where trains once were

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Vineland

Break out the Ontario wine! *Ontario*, your magazine for discovering the province, is celebrating its one-year anniversary. Thank you for your positive feedback. Your story ideas and travel moments are invaluable. Keep them coming!

fall
grown up

Even after a whole year of stories, there's still lots to see and do in this great province of ours.

We have some of the biggest and best native celebrations. Have you ever joined in the rhythmic dancing and chanting at a Pow Wow? Anyone with an appreciation for culture has got to see this.

Actors and tourists flock to our film festivals, especially the Toronto International Film Festival, one of the largest in North America. Sit next to big-name actors as credits roll for yet-to-be-released movies. A round of applause for Hollywood North!

Think you've seen it all? Cut through the Canadian Shield by rail and have a picnic surrounded by the Group of Seven's inspiration – it's like nowhere else on earth.

Pick a bushel of the juiciest, yummiest apples on our Apple Route and bring the heavenly experience home to the kitchen.

Read about all these authentic experiences in *Ontario*. Then go out and do them all.

Visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall**
or call **1-800-ONTARIO**
for more autumn inspiration.

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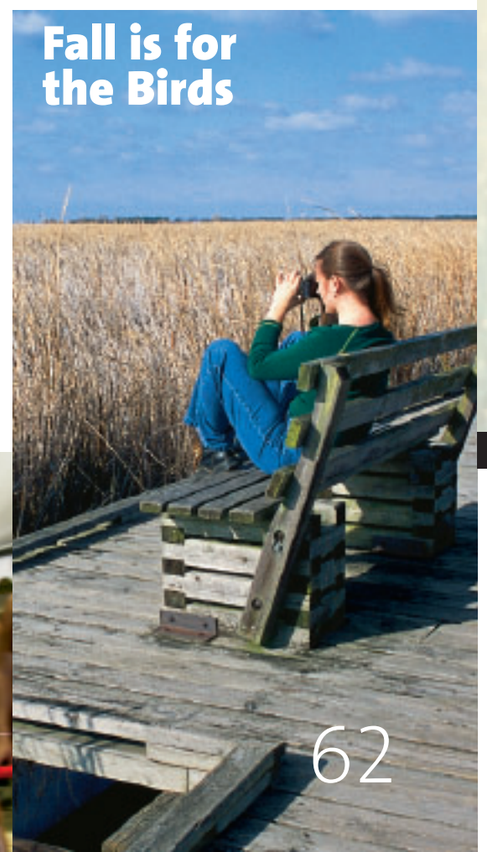

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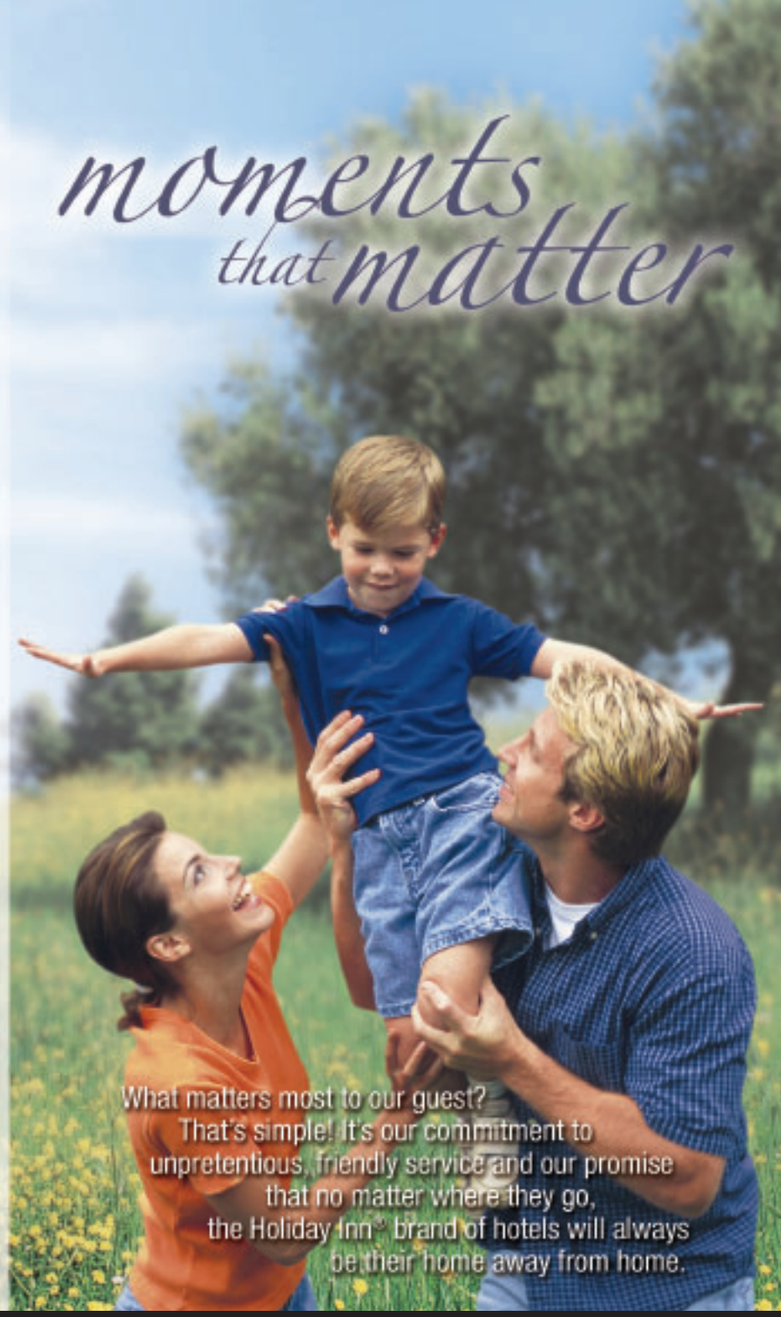

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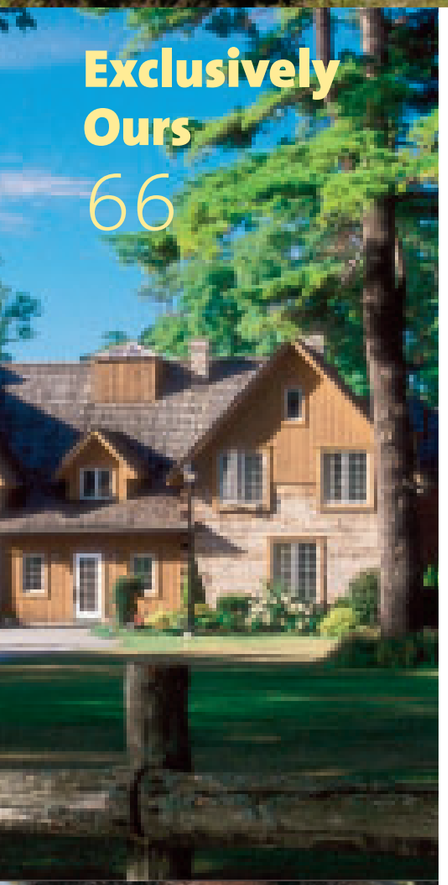

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Cover photo: Milton

Toronto

Ontario

I want to tell you how great I think your editions are. My son and his family live in Chicago and I am always trying to find things for them to do when they come to visit. At Christmas we stayed at the Delta Chelsea for two nights and found it a family-friendly hotel – the kids loved the slide. My son was able to get information and phone numbers of various ski resorts to find out which one suited us the best.

I have put my copy in our staff room to share but certainly will keep it for the future. I will be looking forward to future issues. You have done a great job in showcasing our beautiful province.

Susan House, Scarborough, ON

Great travel moments happen all the time in Ontario. And we want to know about yours. Was it a fall colour tour that captured your soul? A museum exhibit that opened your eyes? Let us know in 100 words or less and you may see it here in an upcoming issue of *Ontario*. Send us a picture that captures the moment and we may include that too.

To submit your moment or to offer comments on our magazine, contact us today.

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E-mail us:
editor@ontariotravel.net

Remember to include your name, address and telephone number. Please send all e-mailed attachments in JPEG format. Sorry, mailed photos can not be returned. Thank you in advance for your story and we hope to share your Ontario moments with *Ontario* readers soon!

Think Big
Have you spotted a muskie that's way too big or a Muskoka chair that can seat a family? If you have, then you've probably found a couple of Ontario's gigantic monuments. Take a photo of other 'big' stops along the way and send them to us with a 50-word description. You may see it featured in an upcoming edition.

contributors

ANDREW SARDONE doesn't throw out his old pants – he gives them a new life as a handbag. He made his first bag when he didn't have money to buy a birthday gift for a friend. It was so unusual it became an instant hit and soon he was getting orders from his friends. They all wanted one. While his company is still called My Old Pants he has had to switch to buying material to make bags and purses, which he then covers with dozens of beads. Andrew studied journalism at Toronto's Ryerson University and his writing talents have made him a regular contributor to *Ontario* magazine. Fashion and film are among his favourite subjects so the Toronto International Film Festival was a natural assignment. You can read his article on Page 34.

ANITA DRAYCOTT has been a Toronto-based journalist, editor and photographer for more than 25 years. Her predilection for fine food and wine made her the ideal candidate to cover the Great Escape through the Niagara region on Page 84. She is Managing Editor of *GolfStyle*, a magazine about "life as it was meant to be played."

Her award-winning travel articles and photography regularly appear in *Chatelaine*, *Toronto Sun*, *The Toronto Star*, *Doctor's Review*, *SCORE Golf*, *Ontario Golf*, *Go Media*, *50 Plus*, *MoneySense* and *Pure Canada*. She is also Associate Editor, eastern Canada for *Canadian Traveller* magazine. Anita is past vice-president of TMAC (Travel Media Association of Canada) and membership Chairperson for SATW (Society of American Travel Writers).

CATHY BENNETT got her first taste of travel and tourism writing almost 20 years ago. She's never looked back. Today, Cathy is a well-known travel writer who has written extensively about Ontario. She may often be found cruising the province's less travelled roads in search of adventure and wonderful vistas with her husband – landscape artist **JOHN MOLNAR**, who also knows how to take a 'mean' photograph. Cathy and John love what they do and in the four season's playground that is Ontario, they are never stuck for something to match their talents. For this edition they did some paddling at Northern Edge near Algonquin Provincial Park. Please see Page 68.

Ontario

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Teletypewriter – TTY/Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): (905) 612-0870

INTERNATIONAL INQUIRIES
Contact the appropriate Canadian embassy or overseas consulate for information on Ontario. For more information, visit www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/world/embassies/menu-en.asp on the Internet. International visitors can also obtain information on Ontario through www.ontariotravel.net

We provide information to assist travellers with disabilities. Accessibility information is collected to address a variety of special needs. Please call the toll-free line and counsellors will assist you with the details you need to plan and enjoy travel throughout Ontario.

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Ontario

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Printer: Colour Impressions

E&OE 08-05-400M-4015-2005

Fall for some finials on a Stratford Stroll
See the Stars of Perth at the International Plowing Match
Remember Vimy and After at Gallery Stratford
As You Like It with some Barenaked Ladies
Our autumn vistas will leaf you breathless
Book time to meet your favourite authors
Browse for kilts and stilts, soaps and coats
Sleep & nosh at a bard and breakfast
Cosy up to 151 quilts on exhibition
Family fun at fall fairs and harvest festivals
Catapult some pumpkins at McCully's Hill Farm
See dragons take over the Avon River
Meet Dolly and say Hello!
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museums | galleries | outdoor adventure | native culture | fall festivals | historic sites

immerse yourself...

In vibrant fall fairs, beautiful historic sites and the colourful folklore of First Nations people.

Plan a visit to Brantford's many museums and galleries this season, or take in native culture at the nationally recognized Woodland Cultural Centre. Refresh yourself at a quaint café after spending the day at one of our fall fairs or apple picking adventures. With many packages to choose from and a spectacular line-up of fall events, savour the season in Brantford and Six Nations/New Credit.

Looking for day trip ideas? The 2005 Discovery Guide has all you need to plan your visit. Give us a call to get your guide, or visit our website.

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fall

L–R: Niagara-on-the-Lake, Gananoque, Kingsville

in love

WITH ONTARIO

Just you and your love. Both filled with a warm cup of coffee and a carefree attitude, on your fall drive in Ontario. Windows are down. The breeze; refreshing. And the reds and oranges of rolling hills send tingles down your spine. At a roadside stand you pull over and pick up fresh fruit and veggies. See the sights. And enjoy Ontario's famous, small town hospitality.

Pull out a map of Ontario to find somewhere you haven't been. Then go. You'll be surprised by what you can find just a drive away.

To discover Ontario's prime fall colour season,
view semi-weekly fall colour reports at
www.ontariotravel.net/fall or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

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in the know cool stuff

It's always surprising to hear about people who fly halfway around the world and brag about new things they could have seen and done right here in Ontario. *In the know* gives these travellers (and you, too) a sneak peek at some of the new and happening world-class experiences Ontario has to offer – no airplane tickets required!

Port Hope

ACCOMMODATION

Suite Dreams

– By Anne Dimon

It's a cool place to stay and by anyone's standards – it's a splurge. But there it sits – most nights occupied – the three-level, two-bedroom penthouse suite at the luxury boutique SoHo Metropolitan Hotel in downtown Toronto.

Why is it so special? Well, let's start with the city view: from the suite's rooftop terrace you get a striking 270-degree panorama – especially impressive sipping a vintage champagne from the eight-person hot tub while waiting for the lobster to grill on the built-in BBQ.

Next, embrace the master ensuite bathroom, certainly the most technically high-end of master ensuite bathrooms. Other lavish amenities include an in-suite glass elevator, three plasma television screens, two fireplaces, a library, two kitchens, a private dining room and of course, a king-size bed wrapped in luxurious linens. Five thousand dollars buys you suite dreams. Sweet!

– Anne Dimon is a travel journalist whose work appears in many major publications.

For more information visit **www.soho.metropolitan.com** or call **1-866-SOHO MET** (**1-866-764-6638**).

For all your accommodation needs visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Toronto

Photo: Metropolitan Hotel

in the know

The interior of Alteriors, Toronto

STYLE

Home décor from ceiling to floor

After a visit to Toronto's home décor stores on King Street East, one of the largest concentrations of such fashion stores in Canada, you're guaranteed to walk away with both modern and classic ways to revitalize your home.

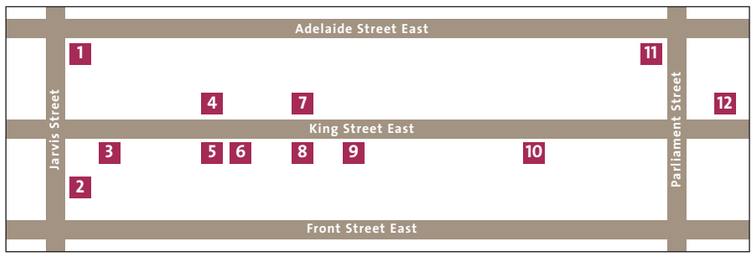
One necessary stop, priding itself in timeless, hand-carved furniture, is Harvest House. "Each Harvest House piece is made to order," says owner Maurice 'Mo' Coulter, "[Customers] choose every detail, from wood species to decorative hardware…" Every piece is lovingly crafted with patience and passion – resulting in absolute perfection.

Anytime is a good time to shop at the 32 gorgeous design boutiques in Toronto's home furnishings district. But for a special treat, visit King Street East between Jarvis and Parliament from September 26 to October 2 to experience the third annual Fall Design Tour. It's a whole week of intriguing design seminars and demonstrations.

Photo: Harvest House

For more information on this popular fall event or to obtain a map of participating stores, please visit **www.kingstreeteaststyle.com**

For more shopping ideas visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.



A SAMPLE OF THE SHOPS

1 Jarvis Rug Co.
2 Neoset
3 Domain
4 Harvest House
5 Savanna Style
6 Urban Essential
7 Nitty Gritty
8 Office & Shop Furniture
9 Alteriors
10 Starcaro
11 Norwalk
12 Roomy Home Interiors

EVENT

Pow WOW!

It may be an odd place to celebrate native culture, but when you're overlooking the infield of Toronto's Rogers Centre (formerly SkyDome) packed with thousands of Aboriginal culture enthusiasts, it'll hit you – the bond between man and nature is never stronger than here at the Canadian Aboriginal Festival. Hands-down it's the biggest and best native celebration in Canada.

Get there in time for the dazzling Grand Entry – a perennial favourite of this three-day event. More than 1,000 native dancers, adorned in beautifully beaded and feathered traditional dresses, dance and chant as the rhythmic thumping of fingers on colourfully decorated drums fills the stadium. Then the Pow Wow begins – filled with song and dance which has been popular for centuries.

But the festival is more than a Pow Wow. Merchants offer lovers of native culture, authentic Aboriginal jewellery, carvings, sculptures, fine art and clothing. There's also the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, young amateur lacrosse skills competition, fashion shows and seminars from Canada's most respected elders and teachers. All in three days!

Attend the Canadian Aboriginal Festival, November 25–27.

Visit **www.canab.com** or call **(519) 751-0040** for more information. Read about Aboriginal travel experiences online at **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Toronto

Photo: Canadian Aboriginal Festival

ATTRACTION

Photo: Conservation Halton, Milton ON

Milton

Things are looking up

You're on a chairlift slowly ascending the hill. No toque. Not even skis. It's autumn. Vivid colours are at their prime and, thank goodness, you've remembered your camera. Take this ride at Milton's Kelso Conservation Area during their Autumn Colours Festival.

Kelso Conservation Area
www.conservationhalton.on.ca/kelso.html
(905) 878-5011

For more fall viewing areas:
Conservation Ontario
www.conservation-ontario.on.ca
(905) 895-0716

Ontario Parks
www.OntarioParks.com
1-888-ONT-PARK

in the know

MacDonald, J.E.H. (Canadian) 1873-1932
The Beaver Dam (La digue de castors), 1919
oil on canvas, 81.6 x 86.7 cm
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
Gift from the Reuben and Kate Leonard Canadian Fund, 1926

THE ARTS

A group of seven reasons to visit a gallery this fall

If there was ever a group of artistic geniuses who defined Canadian identity, it was the Group of Seven. And if there was ever a time to see their works, it is now.

Seven reasons to check out the Group of Seven exhibitions this fall:

1. This year marks the 85th anniversary of their first exhibition at the Art Museum of Toronto (now known as the Art Gallery of Ontario)
2. Twenty-nine of Ontario's galleries have related events and special educational activities
3. In the 1920s they revolutionized the Canadian art movement and, arguably, Canadian culture as well
4. You'll see remote wilderness landscapes that very few have ever seen
5. Participating galleries are across Ontario – including those in Windsor, Ottawa and 22 cities in between
6. The exhibitions highlight some of Canada's finest works of art – ever!
7. This special tribute to the Group of Seven only runs to December 2005

For a complete list of participating galleries as well as events, exhibitions and dates, visit the Ontario Association of Art Galleries at **www.oaag.org/groupofseven/index.html** or call **(416) 598-0714**.

For other art exhibitions visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

FOOD

Goodness gracious, great balls of pumpkin!

The Waring House Restaurant, Inn & Cookery prides itself in offering world-class cuisine in food aficionados' newest favourite region: Prince Edward County. Join friends at their Cookery School for an authentic culinary experience and to master the fine art of preparing everything from sushi to dessert pastries.

The Waring House Restaurant, Inn & Cookery
www.pec.on.ca/waringhouse
1-800-621-4956

The Waring House Cookery School, Picton

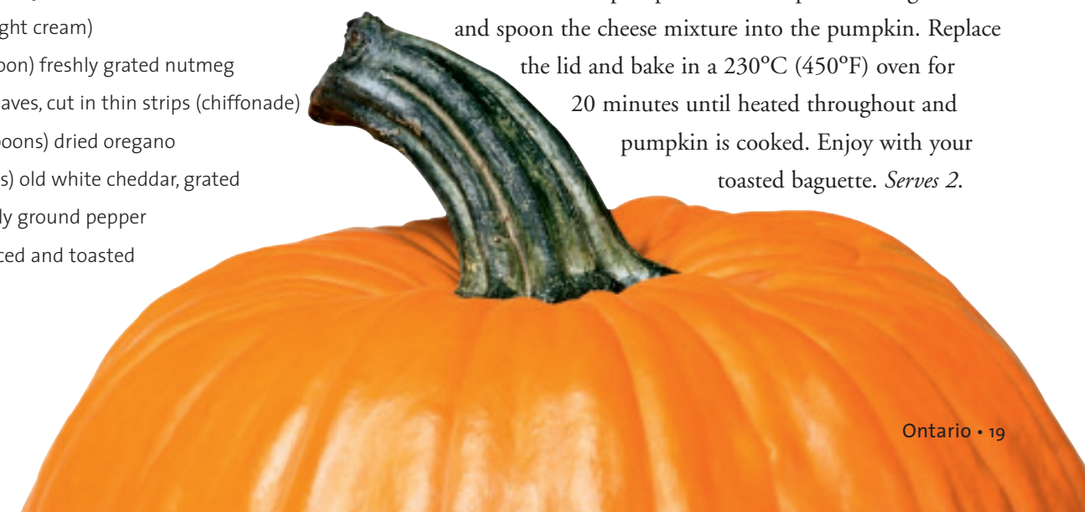
County Pumpkin Fondue for Two

As a fun appetizer for sharing, use long spoons for scooping out the pumpkin, and toasted baguette for dipping. Adapted from Alastair Hendy's *Fresh in Autumn* cookbook.

1 small flat pumpkin or buttercup squash with stem
10 mL (2 teaspoons) butter
1 onion, finely chopped
3 portabello mushrooms, roughly chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
5 mL (1 teaspoon) all-purpose flour
160 mL (⅔ cup) dry white wine (can be substituted with milk or light cream)
3 mL (½ teaspoon) freshly grated nutmeg
5 large sage leaves, cut in thin strips (chiffonade)
10 mL (2 teaspoons) dried oregano
500 mL (2 cups) old white cheddar, grated
Salt and freshly ground pepper
1 baguette, sliced and toasted

With a sharp-tipped knife, poke a few holes in the top of the pumpkin. Microwave on a paper towel on high for about 6–10 minutes, or until softened but still firm, turning often. Cut off the top in a 13–15 cm (5–6 inch) circle and discard the fibre and seeds. Set the pumpkin aside, reserving the lid.

Meanwhile, heat the butter in a large skillet and add the onion, mushrooms and garlic, and sauté until translucent. Add the flour and stir for a couple of minutes to toast the flour. Add the wine (milk or light cream) and heat to simmering, then add the remaining ingredients, except the bread, and stir until the cheese melts. Place the pumpkin in a heat-proof baking dish and spoon the cheese mixture into the pumpkin. Replace the lid and bake in a 230°C (450°F) oven for 20 minutes until heated throughout and pumpkin is cooked. Enjoy with your toasted baguette. *Serves 2.*



in the know

Photo: Ameliasburg Museum, Amazing Loyalist Adventure Committee Member

Ameliasburg

EVENT

Forever Loyal

When the American War of Independence was declared by our neighbours to the south, many loyal British citizens sought out new land to raise their families in peace. Some packed up their belongings and moved to one of the prettiest places in Ontario: Prince Edward County.

They were United Empire Loyalists. And their way of life will be celebrated during the 10th Annual Amazing Loyalist Country Adventure this September 17–23 in Prince Edward County. Buy a passport and relive their history, culture, food and more with 70 events in seven days.

Amazing Loyalist
Country Adventure
www.amazingloyalistadventure.com
1-800-640-4717

THE ARTS

A truly 'Great' collection

She was an empress, philosopher, lover and mother. But if you're an art admirer, you know her as one of the greatest collectors of all time. She was Catherine the Great. And during her reign from 1762–1796, she amassed hundreds of precious masterpieces.

Beginning this fall, you won't need to fly to Russia to see highlights of this collection. Visit the Art Gallery of Ontario from October 1 to January 1, 2006 to see *Catherine the Great: Arts for the Empire – Masterpieces from the State Hermitage Museum, Russia* – an exhibition fit for an empress.

Art Gallery of Ontario
www.ago.net
1-877-225-4246

Photo: AGO

Soup plate from the Cameo Service, 1778–1779
Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory, Paris
X-01576

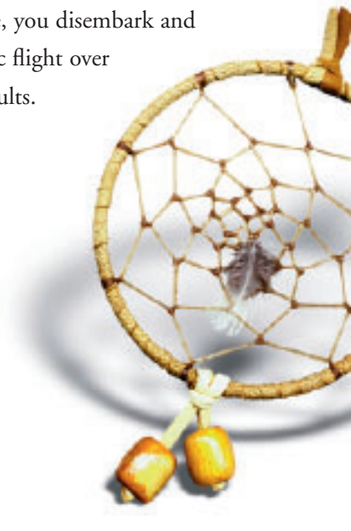
EVENT

A train with a new view

Chugga-chugga-choo-choo! You're aboard the Dream Catcher Express, a 100 km (62 mi.) rail excursion from North Bay, passing through an explosion of fall colours and into pristine Temagami. Here, you disembark and explore a native tipi village, go paddling, hike through old-growth forests or enjoy a scenic flight over the region. What a trip! Day trips for the Dream Catcher Express start at only $65 for adults.

Photo: Ontario Northland

The Dream Catcher Express
September 22–25
September 28–October 2
www.visitnorthbay.ca
1-866-848-2143



THE ARTS

Feast your eyes on art

Few visitors touring a gallery would comment that art is delicious. That is, unless, they're at the Art Gallery of Hamilton's exhibit *The Feast: Food in Art*. It's a diverse, artistic culinary celebration including photography, paintings, sculptures, installations, prints, drawing and videos of all your favourites. It'll satisfy your craving for art and leave you hungry for more. Contact the gallery for dates and times for music, films and workshops.

Art Gallery of Hamilton
The Feast: Food in Art
September 24–December 31
www.artgalleryofhamilton.com
(905) 527-6610

Photo: Art Gallery of Hamilton

John Hall, Quodlibet VIII, 2003, acrylic on canvas

event full

fall is FAIR

Milton

It happens every year at this time – Ontario's townsfolk release their passion for pumpkins, pies, culture and treats on fall-fair-loving visitors. Pick a few events from page 24 or find them online at **www.ontariotravel.net/fall**. Have a 'fair'-ly great time this season.

Waterford

facts on fests

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
www.pumpkinfest.org
1-800-387-3456

Waterford Pumpkinfest
www.pumpkinfest.com
(519) 443-4944

TWO PUMPKINFESTS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
October 1–2
This event is big on pushing limits! Dirt bikes jump higher. Pumpkin seeds are projected further. Even kids' rides are on a massive scale (they ride on elephants!) Last year, Port Elgin broke the record for the heaviest pumpkin in the world – it weighed in at a mind-boggling 656 kg (1,446 lbs.)!

Waterford Pumpkinfest
October 21–23
Waterford is so pumpkin-happy, they even block off downtown streets to make more room! A tower of carved pumpkins is at the centre of the fun, along with a mini tractor pull, pumpkin bowling and even a Punkin' Chunkin' challenge (where unsuspecting pumpkins are loaded onto a trebuchet and hurled through the air).

Unknown artist, after portraits by Fyodor Stepanovich Rokotov and Alexander Roslin, *Portrait of Catherine II*, around 1780, oil on canvas. © The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, 2005

CATHERINE *the* GREAT

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This exhibition has been organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and The State Hermitage Museum in association with The Hermitage Museum Foundation of Canada.
This exhibition has been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, a program of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Culture, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.
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Open Wed, Thurs & Fri 12 noon to 9 pm; Sat & Sun 10 am to 5:30 pm; Mon & Tues Closed

event full

september

Soulpepper Theatre, *Hamlet*
Toronto, to October 1

Oliver Dennis and Albert Schultz in *Hamlet*
Soulpepper Theatre Company, Toronto

Paris Fair
Paris, August 31–September 5

Burlington Rotary Ribfest
Burlington, September 2–5

St. Thomas Fire Muster Days
St. Thomas, September 3–4

Guelph Jazz Festival
Guelph, September 7–11

Taste of Kingsway Festival
Toronto, September 9–10

Westitalia
Hamilton, September 9–11

Cabbagetown Cultural Festival
Toronto, September 10–11

Owen Sound Celtic Festival
Owen Sound, September 16–18

Niagara Wine Festival
St. Catharines, September 16–25

Niagara Food Festival
Welland, September 23–25

Ontario Science Centre
BODY WORLDS 2
Toronto, September 30–
February 26, 2006

october

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
Port Elgin, October 1–2

Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show
Simcoe, October 4–10

Balls Falls Thanksgiving Festival
Jordan, October 7–10

Rockton World's Fair
Rockton, October 7–10

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest parade

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest
Kitchener-Waterloo, October 7–15

TASTE! A Celebration of
Regional Cuisine
Picton, October 8

Toronto Ski, Snowboard and
Travel Show
Toronto, October 13–16

The Toronto Marathon and
Half Marathon
Toronto, October 16

Waterford Pumpkin Festival
Waterford, October 21–23

november

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Toronto, November 4–13

Doorway to Design Christmas:
Interior Design Event
Brantford, November 6

Cambridge Santa Claus Parade
Cambridge, November 19

Hamilton Santa Claus Parade
Hamilton, November 19

Kitchener-Waterloo
Santa Claus Parade
Kitchener, November 19

Santa Claus Parade and Party
Niagara Falls, November 19

Owen Sound Festival in the Park
Owen Sound, November 25–26

Bronte BIA Tree Lighting Ceremony
Oakville, November 26

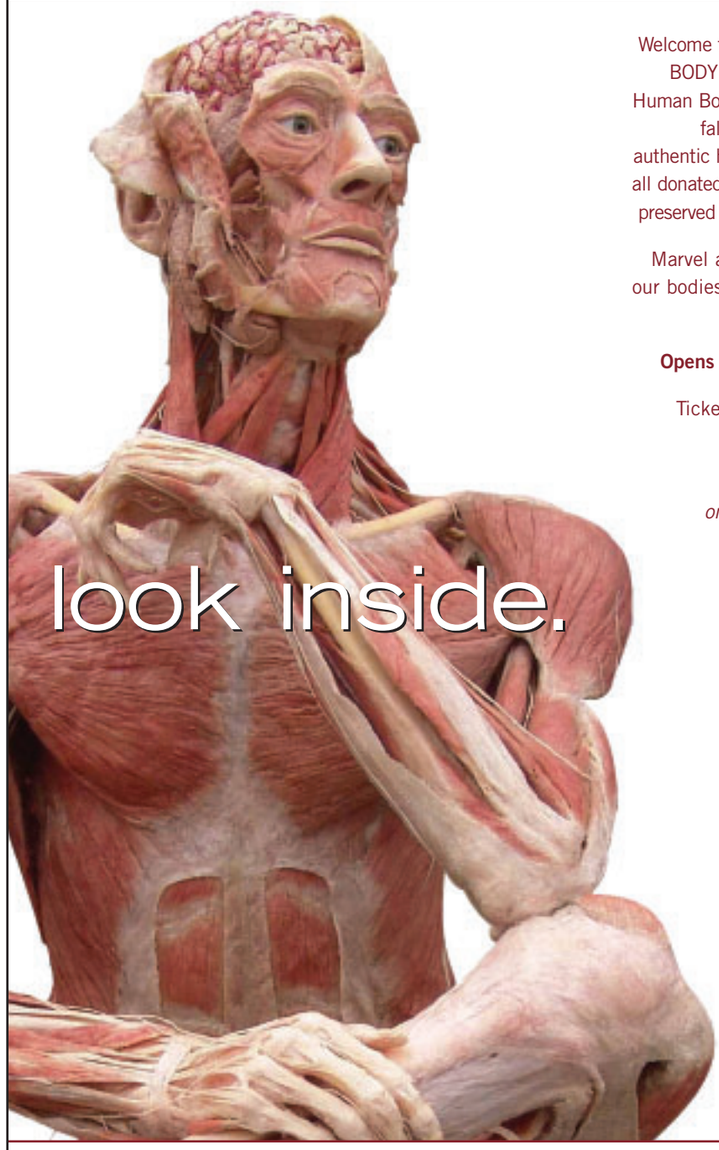
Mississauga Santa Claus Parade
Streetsville, November 27

To discover our full lineup of
events please visit
www.festivalsandeventsontario.ca
or **www.ontariotravel.net/fall**

Happy 'eventing'!

ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE Presents

Gunther von Hagens'
BODY WORLDS 2
The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies



Welcome to the fascinating world of Gunther von Hagens' BODY WORLDS 2: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies, coming to the Ontario Science Centre this fall for a limited engagement. See more than 200 authentic human specimens – including 25 entire bodies, all donated directly from the individuals involved and then preserved through a unique process called "plastination."

Marvel at the complexity of our human anatomy and our bodies in motion. See what audiences in the U.S., Europe and Asia are raving about.

Opens September 30 with extended evening hours.

Tickets on sale September 15 online and through the box office.

Learn more about this fascinating exhibition online at www.OntarioScienceCentre.ca and at www.bodyworlds.com.

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Change your mind.

770 Don Mills Road (at Eglinton E.), Toronto, Ontario 416-696-1000
www.OntarioScienceCentre.ca *Renseignements en français : 416-696-3147*

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Fax: 613-746-0836
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Tel: 613-592-2200
Fax: 613-591-9600
Located 0.5 km from the Kanata Leisure Centre & Wavepool and 3 km from Hazeldean Mall

Les Suites Ottawa
130 Besserer Street
Tel: 800-267-1989
Fax: 613-232-1242
Located 3 minute walk from Byward Market & Parliament Hill

Quality Hotel Ottawa
290 Rideau Street
Tel: 613-789-7511
Fax: 613-789-2434
Located downtown 1 km from Byward Market & Parliament Hill

Travelodge Ottawa East
1486 Innes Road
Tel: 613-745-1133
Fax: 613-745-7380
Located 7 minutes from downtown Ottawa

Radisson Hotel Ottawa Parliament Hill
402 Queen Street
Tel: 613-236-1133
Fax: 613-236-2317
Located downtown 1 km from Byward Market & Parliament Hill

DO THE Munster mash

– By Ilona Kauremszky

Photo: Stephen Smith

Munster Mash. Situated in the sleepy, bucolic setting of the old township of Goulbourn in the town of Munster along Bleeks Road sits Saunders Farm.

Sound like a Hollywood film?

Photo: Stephen Smith

In fact, the place does exist and it's in the western part of Ottawa, about 30 minutes from Parliament Hill. To boot, during harvest season, the haunting shenanigans of Saunders Farm in Munster are legendary and make a great stop to explore the largest collection of hedge mazes in North America.

On the fields of a former strawberry patch, the family-owned and operated enterprise is a local fixture outside Ottawa. Since it first started in 1991, the Saunders' haunting season has evolved into a spectacular family attraction. By day and by night, it's 'Fear Factor' with entertainment poised to scare the bellbottoms off you.

During an evening hayride with fellow revellers, we sped through the narrow spruce groves in search of ghoulish figures. With a wagon full of girly teenagers, we were a dangerous lot, screaming and bracing ourselves as the wagon screeched to a grinding halt."This pond is awfully deep," warns our tractor driver as the wheels spin uncontrollably amid Shrek-like figures bobbing in the water. "Oh no, what caught my hand," yelps another as the ride continues into the deep forest.

In October, the haunted hayride is part of the spook-tacular nightly scenes. Mark Saunders, Director of Fun, General Manager and Marketing attributes gasps and groans to good old-fashioned family fun.

The farm's newest addition is the Canadian Experience Maze that opened last summer. Designed by ace maze master Adrian Fisher with Canadian geography and the immigrant experience in mind, Mark notes that much like Canada's history this is an evolving maze.

L: Munster

'...we climbed the observatory tower for a bird's-eye view of 11 mazes including century-old log buildings dotting the field.'

The Canadian Experience Maze is more than 3,000 square metres (32,000 square feet) and features 100 large boulders, hundreds of trees, natural indiginous plants, as well as bridges and waterfalls. There's a log cabin, similar to those built by the early settlers, and along the winding path there are story boards on how to build a log cabin and farming.

With the afternoon's children's activities in full swing, we climbed the observatory tower for a bird's-eye view of 11 mazes including century-old log buildings dotting the field. I also spotted the curvy cedar labyrinth of the children's Spiral Maze and the Mile Maze made of nearly 1,500 white spruce trees.

– Ilona Kauremszky is a freelance travel writer with a regular travel column in the Toronto Sun. *She is the editor of www.mycompass.ca*

A-mazing sweet corn

In Wellington County, the Stroms of Strom's Sweet Corn have been taking the corn maze craze to new heights changing themes annually. New this year, they have created the "Who Dunnit?" It's a two-hectare (five-acre) corn maze, shaped like a 'house,' with an interactive and educational element, adding more to the fun. The idea is to search all nine 'rooms' of the maze 'house,' looking for clues. In each room there is a letter of the alphabet. When you have all nine letters you will be able to crack the code to discover "Who Dunnit?" Along the way you also learn about the interworkings of Habitat for Humanity.

FIND YOUR WAY INTO A MAZE

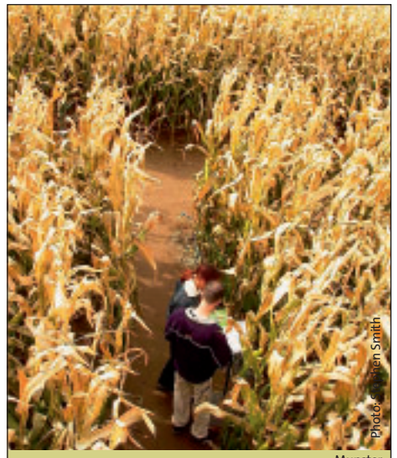

Photo: Ian Smith

Munster

Saunders Farm
www.saundersfarm.com
(613) 838-5440

Strom's Sweet Corn
www.strom.ca
(519) 822-1070

For more travel information visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

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EinsteinFest explores our rapidly changing civilization at the turn of the century and sets Einstein's prolific contributions in context with the science, philosophy, politics, art and music of the day. A full spectrum of hands-on exhibits, educational activities, compelling lectures and inspiring performances examines the discoveries, brilliant minds and rich culture of this transformative period in history.

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Learn about the Age of Discovery—from communications to flying machines. Plus works of art, early films, manuscripts, memorabilia and more.

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Shedding light on the military

– By John Farrington

Imagine creating a window that will allow the light to shine in on an object once a year – at a precise day and time.

It is one of the engineering feats that is part of the new Canadian War Museum on LeBreton Flats, two kilometres (1.25 miles) west of Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

The window – just 46 centimetres (18 inches) wide and 61 centimetres (two feet) high – has been placed to let the sun shine on the headstone of the Unknown Soldier every year at 11 a.m. on November 11 – Remembrance Day, the day World War I ended in 1918.

Diarmuid Nash, managing partner in the Toronto architectural firm Moriyama & Teshima took on the Canadian War Museum project as a joint venture with Griffiths Rankin Cook Architects of Ottawa. He says that many of those who worked on the project were at the site last November 11th, to see the results of their computer-assisted work. There was no doubt it was going to work. They created a makeshift headstone and at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month they gathered in the tiny area to see the sun break through the window and shine on the temporary headstone. Success.

On a sunny day, another feature will be evident. Dots and dashes have been punched through an external wall to spell out the initials of the Canadian War Museum in English 'CWM' and French 'MCG' in Morse Code and project them into the building.

Subtle symbolism comes to play on the roof of the museum. "There are incredible views of the Ottawa River," says Diarmuid, "…one especially is the view back to the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill. It makes the connection between the activities that made military history and the decisions made in the parliamentary process."

The building, which features some of the copper that was on the roof of the Parliament Buildings over the past 50 years, is modern, huge, and a fitting tribute to Canada's military heritage.

– John Farrington has been an editor and publisher at a number of daily newspapers in Canada.

Photo: Harry Foster, CMC

Memorial Hall at the new Canadian War Museum, showing how it might appear on November 11.

Canadian War Museum
www.warmuseum.ca
1-800-555-5621

Ottawa Tourism
www.ottawatourism.ca
1-866-644-1234

For accommodation and other tourism information visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Photo: Harry Foster, CMC

The Canadian War Museum, with the Ottawa city skyline in the background.

Rolling out the RED CARPET

– By Andrew Sardone

You will have to forgive us Torontonians if we get a little giddy at the beginning of September. In the midst of back-to-school and the first chilly evenings of fall, we throw a blowout 10-day bash for people of the celebrity sort. While cities across Canada are crawling with film crews, the Toronto International Film Festival has secured the city's claim on 'Hollywood North' status.

Toronto's knack for red carpet rollouts has been honed over the past 29 years of the Film Festival. To celebrate its 30th birthday, an army of programmers, filmmakers and publicists have cooked up a calendar of screenings and parties to celebrate new cinema.

The Film Festival is a time when Toronto's own pack of seasoned A-listers have trouble jumping the velvet rope at their favourite 'It' spot. Burly security men guard gates across town so that movie industry insiders can party in peace. But there are ways for everyone to get in on the sparkle and shine of the scene. In the name of equal opportunity schmoozing and planning your own junket to the Film Festival, here is a plan to doing Toronto like a star.

Toronto

Red Carpet Arrival

Lux department store Holt Renfrew is a must-stop on Toronto's grand shopping tour, but its four floors are never more fabulous than on the night of its Film Festival Gala. Last year saw swarms of disco balls hanging from the ceiling, while models dressed as rock stars gyrated in the display windows. The Holt's party lets everyone in on the fun.

Screaming fans line the street trying to spot the arrival of their favourite star. Performers dance and sing on an outdoor stage, while video of the air-kissing and palm-pressing going on inside is projected onto a giant screen.

On Location

Toronto's Yorkville neighbourhood is stocked with theatres, hotels, restaurants and bars that fill up with film folks during the Festival. Centred where downtown meets uptown, it was a Victorian village and a mecca for the city's hippies. Today, Yorkville's streets and sky-high condos are home to Toronto's super rich and a shopping magnet for visiting celebrities craving a Rodeo Drive-esque experience.

Food Service

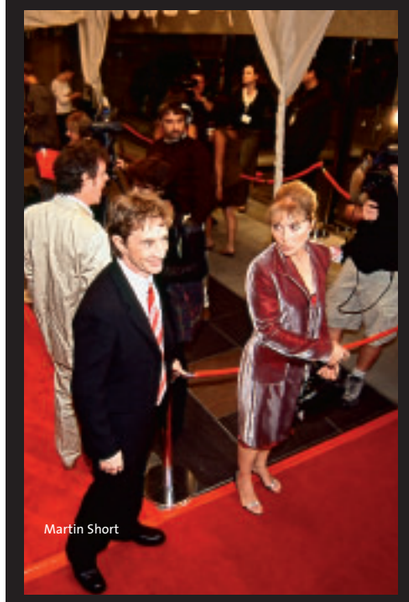
Toronto restaurants and bars usually cork their bottles at 2 a.m. but many of the city's stylish eating and drinking establishments get their last call

Susan Sarandon *(Noel)*; Toronto

Photo: Martin Mordecai, courtesy of the Toronto International Film Festival

Photo: Isaiah Trickey, courtesy of the Toronto International Film Festival

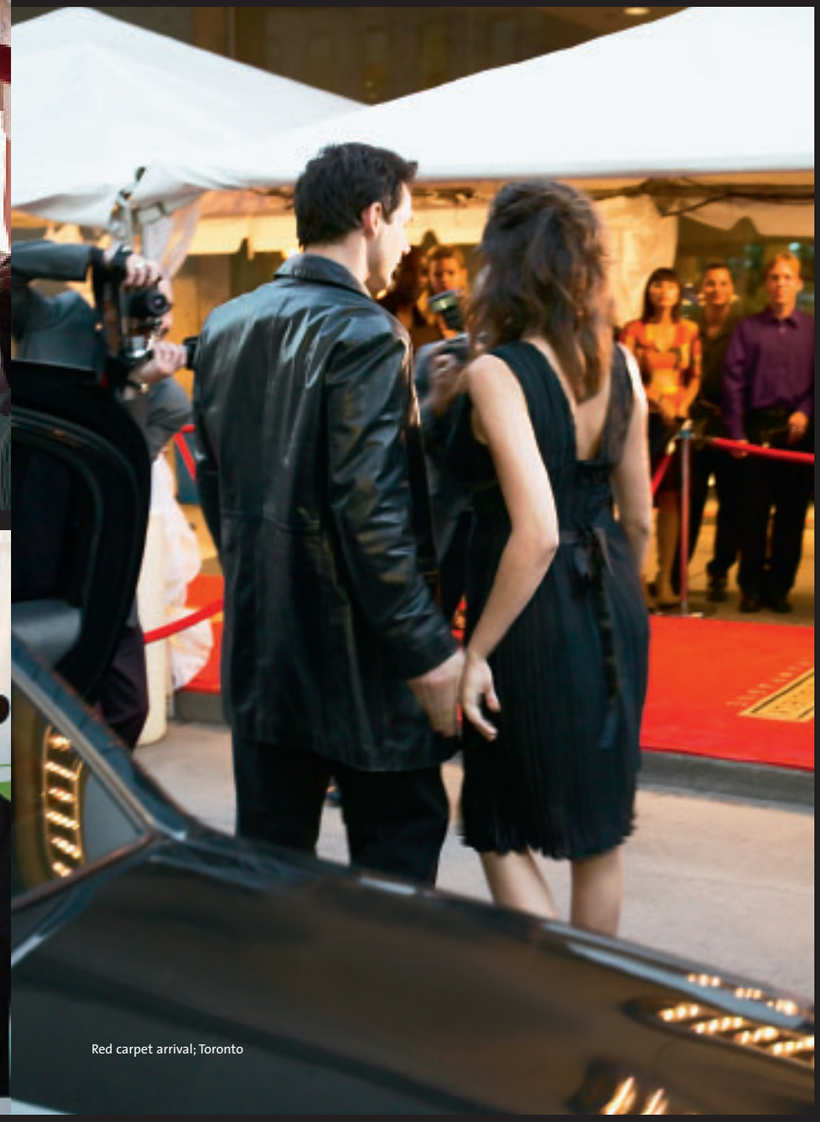
Jeremy Irons, Annette Bening, Warren Beatty at opening night of *Being Julia*; Toronto



Martin Short

Photo: Sam Barnes, courtesy of the Toronto International Film Festival

Sean Penn *(The Assassination of Richard Nixon)*; Toronto



Red carpet arrival; Toronto

Yorkville

Toronto at dusk

curfew extended until 4 a.m. during the festival. Celebrity feeding time usually happens late at night after they have made the rounds of screenings and parties.

From the window seats at Caren's Wine and Cheese Bar, you have an unobstructed view of the Cumberland Theatre across the street. And if the stars aren't posing for pictures out front, they might be nibbling on a stilton-stuffed burger a few tables down. Staking out a seat at Yorkville haunts like Sassafraz, Amber and Hemingway's means you can spot celebs without getting pummelled by paparazzi.

Wardrobe

While celebrity stylists storm through the luxury boutiques lining Bloor Street to find the perfect red carpet frock, fashionable Torontonians know that Yorkville's hidden shopping gems are sprinkled along its small streets and laneways. The M0851 on St. Thomas Street fills its loft-like shop with the softest and sexiest leather jackets and bags. Aspiring celebutantes on the hunt for bejewelled handbags should track down Augustina on Old York Lane. And for more than 30 years, Over The Rainbow on Yorkville Avenue has been fitting the city's denim devotees in cutting-edge jeans.

– Continued on page 40.

'Sudbury Saturday Night'

– By Neil Thompson

Photo: Dynamic Earth, a Science North Attraction

The 'Big Nickel' in Sudbury

Sudbury's film gala night was not anything like the wild times described by Stompin' Tom in song a generation ago, but a dazzling evening of film, food and fun.

Cinéfest Sudbury, part of the International Film Festival circuit, is the second largest film festival in Ontario, and one of the top five in Canada.

The city, oozing northern hospitality, really knows how to put on a good show and this film festival gala stacks up with red-carpet nights anywhere.

The festival is now in its 17th year. It is impossible to take in the over 100 films during this nine-day festival. However, the lineups are shorter, the crowds are just as excited and, many of the same films play here as in larger centres like Toronto. Film fan or not, Sudbury is a treat at this time of year.

– Neil Thompson is an entrepreneur who has been reviewing movies for The Daily Press *in Timmins for more than 10 years and was one of the founders of the Timmins Film Society.*

Cinéfest Sudbury International Film Festival, September 17–25, visit **www.cinefest.com** or call **(705) 688-1234**.

For more information on the Sudbury area visit **www.mysudbury.ca/Tourism** or call **1-877-304-8222**.

Take one. **Action!**

What do Blues Brothers 2000, Relic Hunter, Murder at 1600 and Due South have in common? Well, they have at least one thing: Hillcrest Motel.

This colourful 60s-style motel on Toronto's western shoreline is a favourite location for TV and movie productions – more than 150 have been filmed here. And you can actually stay here too!

Find them online at **www.hillcrest-motel.com** or call (416) 255-7711. Say *Ontario* sent you.

For more information on other unique places to stay, visit the Ontario Accommodation Association online at **www.ontarioaccommodation.com** or call **1-800-461-1972**.

Toronto

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Neighbourhoods Aglow!
14 of Toronto's famous neighbourhoods showcase 14 spectacular lighting displays for the holiday celebration.

Shop by day, see the lights by night!
Catch the Cavalcade of Lights Neighbourhood Tour for a guided exploration of the lighting displays throughout several of the neighbourhoods. The two-day pass allows you to shop, dine and experience all that is Toronto day and night!

Visit online for complete festival details:

www.toronto.ca/special_events

Produced by

TORONTO SpecialEvents

– *Continued from page 38.*

The Reel Festival

If you peek behind the schmooze, the reason Toronto's Film Festival is so popular is the public. Few major film festivals open their theatre doors to regular folks but this festival welcomes cinephiles in, to mix with Hollywood actors and dealmakers at more than 300 screenings. Information and tickets are available during the Festival at its Manulife Centre office.

Whether you are in it for the cinema or the scene, the Toronto International Film Festival serves up the world's best movies with a humble dash of glamour and an endearing dose of local fandemonium.

– Andrew Sardone is a Toronto entrepreneur who makes one-of-a-kind purses and is a regular contributor to Ontario *magazine.*

Lights, camera, information

Toronto International Film Festival, *September 8–17*. For information and ticketing visit **www.e.bell.ca/filmfest** or call **(416) 968-FILM**.

For more information on the Bloor-Yorkville area visit **www.bloor-yorkville.com** or call **(416) 928-3553**.

For more travel information, including accommodation, visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Bright lights. Many cities.

– By Neil Thompson

Ontario cities stage many film festivals.

Among them are Ottawa, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Kingston, Port Hope, London and Windsor. Many of the events have a theme, including Canadian content, French films, shorts, Aboriginal, Asian and Jewish.

Music and Film in Motion's website posts an extensive list of film festivals throughout the year. Visit **www.musicandfilminmotion.com** and select 'resource guide' for more information on these and other festivals:

Hamilton
Photophobia Film Festival

Kingston
Kingston Canadian Film Festival

London
London Lesbian Film Festival

Ottawa
Ottawa International Animation Festival

Port Hope and Cobourg
The Vintage Film Festival

St. Catharines
Niagara Indie Film Fest

Toronto
Hot Docs – Canadian International Documentary Festival

Images Festival – Independent Film and Video Festival

ImagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival

Moving Pictures Festival of Dance on Film and Video

Splice This! – Annual Super 8 Film Festival

Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children

Toronto Jewish Film Festival

Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

World of Comedy International Film Festival

Waterloo
Waterloo Festival for Animated Cinema

Windsor
Media City Windsor Experimental Film Festival

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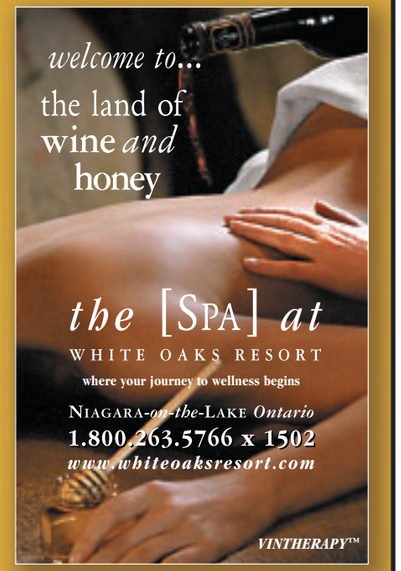

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recycle

– By Sue Lebrecht

DISCOVER TRAILS WHERE TRAINS ONCE WERE

Rail-trails provide a privileged position in the landscape. Not overt like a road, nor intimate like a footpath, a rail-trail takes the middle ground.

Nature always feels close at hand when you're on a rail-trail. Even while streaking through communities and fields, past backyards, pastures, crops, and developments, the rail-trail generally maintains its band of green. Shoulders of natural growth usually adorn either side of the train-wide right-of-way. Trees sometimes form a canopy; there's brush and wildflowers, birds and butterflies. Journeying though wilderness, the rail-trail corridor further provides admission to areas not easily accessible, such as steep hills and wetlands.

A rail-trail is aloof from the terrain it crosses. Built as straight and level as possible – for commuting not communing – the way is tame and consistent. Water is bridged, hills gouged, rocks blasted, gullies filled. There is never more than a three-degree grade up or down. All turns are slow and sweeping. So while providing a portal to ever-changing landscape, a rail-trail grants effortless passage through ruggedness.

Ontario has an amazing network of multi-use recreational rail-trails developed from abandoned rail lines. The old rails and ties have been removed, of course. Trestles have been planked, sandy and soupy sections covered with crushed gravel, and safety gates erected at road crossings. The following are three of my favourites.

Victoria Rail-Trail North Corridor

Location: Kinmount to Lindsay
Distance: 55 km (34 mi.)

Stretching north-south, from the edge of the Canadian Shield down past the Trent-Severn Waterway, the Victoria Rail-Trail presents a changing of settings with highlights. Now, I wouldn't call it riveting, but I do find myself quite engaged with the varying landscape, the transitions and overt subtleties all along the way.

At Kinmount, the route starts in a park that's site to the wooden relic of the Austin Saw Mill and to an old CN Railway Station, restored to its 1874 debut. Intrigued by old buildings, I give myself time to look closely and ponder before setting off.

For the first half of the journey, the trail follows the snaking Burnt River over deep creeks and gorges on bridges with turquoise-coloured planks made of recycled plastic. Reaching the cottage-lined shore of Cameron Lake, it traces the water's edge into the community of Fenelon Falls, where I like to enjoy a picnic in view of its namesake waterfall at Lock 34.

The trail's latter half streaks through open fields punctuated with scattered rocks, juniper bushes and cedar trees. At one point, the route crosses a wetland of bulrushes, part of the Ken Reid Conservation Area. And from there it's downhill on a slight grade you'll feel but not see.

South of Burnt River along the Victoria Rail Trail

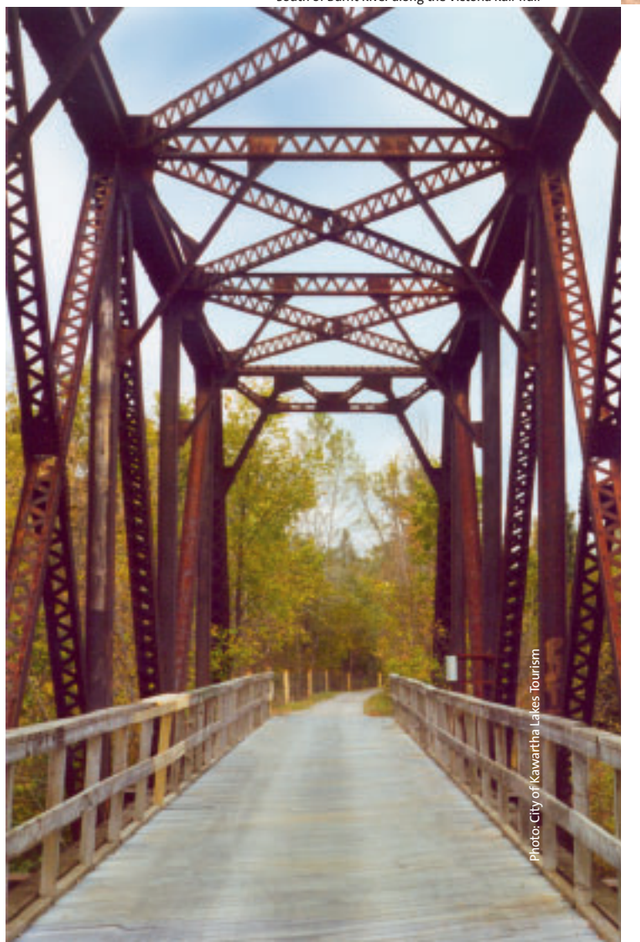


Photo: City of Kawartha Lakes Tourism

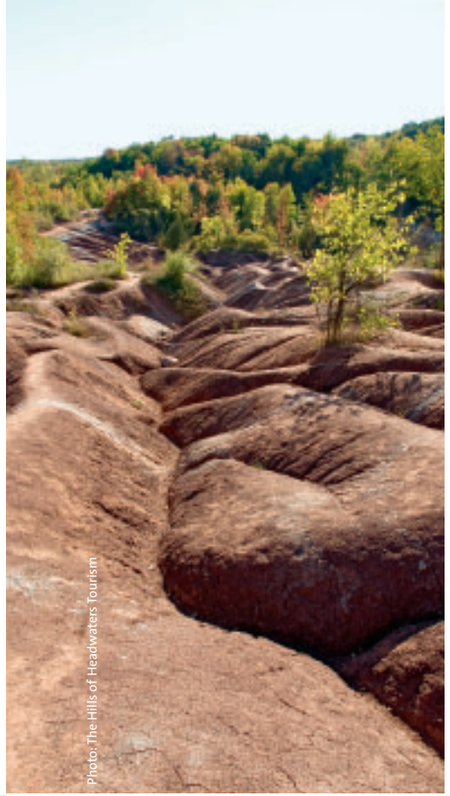


Photo: The Hills of Headwaters Tourism

Caledon Badlands

A free trail map and brochure is available from the City of Kawartha Lakes Tourism office at **www.explorekawarthalakes.com** or call **1-866-397-6673**.

Caledon Trailway

Location: Terra Cotta east to Highway 9 near Palgrave
Distance: 36 km (22 mi.)

Stretching above Greater Toronto, the Caledon Trailway is a quick retreat from the grey concrete. Linking a handful of charming small towns, it offers a rural ride with a sweet tooth reward. Exercise and ice cream, that's what I like; cycling to Terra Cotta for a cone or to Inglewood for baked goods.

As part of Ontario's Greenbelt, the route links the Oak Ridges Moraine in the east to the Niagara Escarpment in the west. So, near Palgrave, I'm surrounded by hills upon hills of the moraine. Here also is an elevated tract with radical drops to either side. It's a perfect perch, and in tribute a sandstone bench has been perfectly placed upon it. I sit and spy, mesmerized by the flocks of birds that congregate in the spruce bog, three storeys below.

In the middle of the route, the trail streaks amidst fruit farms and hardwood forest, brilliantly coloured in fall. I bring my camera for artistic endeavours and also try to capture the stateliness of black walnut trees with their seemingly ancient, thick trunks.

En route, six historic, wooden trestles over backroads and running water remind me of the corridor's past life; of a rail line that joined Hamilton with Barrie beginning in the 1870s and ending in 1967. Finally, at the west end, just before Inglewood, I take in a clear view of the Devil's Pulpit, a prominent rise on the Niagara Escarpment.

A free trail map and brochure are available at the Visitor Information Centre in Orangeville or provided by mail. Visit **www.thehillsofheadwaters.com** or call **1-800-332-9744**.

Town of Caledon,
www.caledon.ca
1-888-CALEDON

Seguin Recreational Trail

Location: From Highway 69 south of Parry Sound to Highway 11 near Elmsdale
Distance: 61 km (38 mi.)

The Seguin Recreational Trail streaks across the Canadian Shield just north of Muskoka. It's a wilderness route, winding among lakes, amidst evergreen and hardwood forests, over and between slabs and outcrops of granite. At the same time it's an historic route that evokes wonderment as I pass through a chain of former rail-side communities that have long gone 'ghost.'

Built in the 1890s by timber baron J.R. Booth, the rail line was used for transporting lumber from forest tracts as far as Arnprior on the Ottawa River, west to the thriving port of Depot Harbour near Parry Sound. When the line was discontinued in 1955, the numerous hamlets that prospered en route fell quiet, and today are marked only by a few cottages, old homes and former foundations.

I remember writing about Depot Harbour years ago, as part of an Ontario ghost town story. Researching, I found sidewalks and house foundations hidden in the

undergrowth, and I came upon the stone steps of a church on a hill that once overlooked Georgian Bay. Just the steps remained. Days after the story was published, scores of letters came from people – now seniors – that had lived there. I photocopied all the letters and sent them around to all.

At creek crossings, old trestles are gone and the trail descends embankments to newer bridges closer to water level. It makes for pretty picnic spots. For a travelling companion, consider Ron Brown's insightful *Ghost Towns of Ontario: A Field Guide*.

Trail information is available from the Park-to-Park Trail Association at **www.parktoparktrail.com** or call **1-888-746-4455**.

Georgian Trail

Seguin Trail east of Sprucedale

Georgian Trail

Location: Meaford to Collingwood
Distance: 32 km (20 mi.)

Between Georgian Bay and the Niagara Escarpment, the Georgian Trail stretches through one of the fastest growing real estate development regions in Ontario. Yet while Highway 26 between Meaford and Collingwood is abuzz with traffic, and while construction projects between communities abound, the trail is a greenway, both soothing and invigorating.

Where it cuts across fields there are birds and butterflies. In the forest, the snap of a branch turns my head and I'm looking at a doe and her fawn. I stop at a wetland mesmerized by the throbbing, percussion-like ensemble of frogs.

At each clearing I scope the green band of the Escarpment and the shaved slopes of ski resorts. Pretty wooden bridges span streams and rivers, the highest and longest over the Beaver River in Thornbury is where I take a photo.

I'd bring a bathing suit the next time to jump in the bay in town at Bayview Park, and farther along at Northwinds Beach near Craigleith Depot.

The Depot, one of the last of the old wooden CNR stations, is a striking reminder of the trail's past life as a rail line. It served harbour towns from 1872 to 1984, and also catered to skiers in the late-1940s and 1950s.

Today's trail, much loved and well used by locals, is smooth enough for road bike and wheelchair. Boulders and stop signs mark road intersections where a red dot on a distance chart lets you know where you are. Moreover, beginning from Meaford, kilometre points on posts tally up as you go. Reaching Collingwood, the final stretch is a highlight as it traces the shoreline through park and on elevated boardwalk over wetland. There is ample parking at both ends, in Collingwood at Harbourview Park at the foot of Birch Street, 0.5 km west of Hurontario, Collingwood's main street, and in Meaford at Meaford Harbour at the base of Bridge Street.

– Adventure travel writer Sue Lebrecht is the author of nine guidebooks.

For more information, contact the Georgian Cycle and Ski Trail Association at Box 151, Collingwood, Ontario, L9Y 3Z5 or contact the Georgian Triangle Tourist Association at **www.georgiantriangle.com** or call **1-888-227-8667**.

For more information on cycling visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Victoria Rail Trail

FOR MORE RAIL TRAIL INFORMATION

Elora Cataract Trailway Association
www.trailway.org
For more information and a trail pamphlet, contact the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce
1-877-242-6353

Hamilton-to-Brantford, Brantford-to-Paris and Paris-to-Cambridge rail-trails, visit **www.grandriver.ca** click on "trails" under recreation. Trail pamphlets are available from the Grand River Conservation Authority
(519) 621-2761

North Simcoe Rail-Trail
www.simcoecounty trails.net/nsrt.htm
For more information, contact Tourism Barrie at **1-800-668-9100**.

Ontario Trails Council
www.ontariotrails.on.ca
1-877-ON TRAIL (668-7245)

Ontario Cycling
www.ontariocycling.org
(416) 426-7416

Hike Ontario
www.hikeontario.com
and click on fact sheets or call **1-800-894-7249**.

Please see story on Page 81 for cycling in Prescott-Russell.

fall aboard!

– By Betty Zyvatkauskas

'Someone mutters about the scenery being obscured by all the trees. But the trees are what draw most people at this time of the year, particularly the blazing red maples and luminous yellow birches.'

Trout Lake at Mile 57

Photo: Algoma Central Railway, Elmer Kars

Photo: Algoma Central Railway, Elmer Kars

L–R: Agawa; Chapleau Crown Game Preserve; Mile 92 – Montreal River Trestle

On a warm September afternoon, few places on the planet are as perfect as the Bridal Veil Falls in the Agawa Canyon. Sunlight illuminates the mist and sets the cliffs glistening. Pines tower over a near-silent canyon while a thin curtain of water tumbles into a tea-coloured river so still that it doesn't seem to flow. The only other sound is a twittering chickadee.

Thanks to the Algoma Central Railway, this wilderness scene is as accessible as a gentle stroll in a city park. Like the 1,300 other railway passengers who are now scattered through the canyon, I've come here on the famed Agawa Canyon Tour Train to enjoy the soul-stirring scenery north of Sault Ste. Marie.

The morning's four-hour trip quickly passed as we admired the scenery, chatted with fellow travellers and enjoyed a hot breakfast in the dining car. Now we have two hours to enjoy the outdoors before the train returns to Sault Ste. Marie, commonly known as 'The Soo.' Some of us sit with our box lunches at riverside picnic tables on the meticulously mowed lawns, or follow prim paths and tidily lettered signs to four different waterfalls. Others more energetic head for the Lookout Trail with more than 300 steps. Their reward is a stunning view down the length of the canyon and a sense of smugness when they return huffing down the path.

There's still a strong sense of history along the line, particularly in the vintage rolling stock – these passenger cars look awfully familiar to anyone who took the Toronto-to-Montreal run 50 years ago.

When Francis H. Clergue envisioned the railway in the late 1890s, a sightseeing tour was not what he had in mind. The loquacious entrepreneur known for his grandiose-but-failed schemes (including the Trans-Persian Railway and Tehran Water Works) was counting on an efficient way to transport iron ore to a Sault Ste. Marie steel mill. He already owned a hydro electric plant and a pulp and paper mill there. His original plans called for the Algoma rail line to extend all the way to Hudson Bay, but before it could be completed, Clergue Industries collapsed in 1903. He backed out, leaving the restructured Lake Superior Corporation to build the tracks as far north as Hearst where mile 296 is the end of the line.

Algoma's outstanding scenery ensured that sooner or later the tourists were bound to come. Among the first was Lawren S. Harris. In 1918 and 1919 Harris and his fellow painters rode the line in boxcars that could be shunted onto the siding at particularly scenic locations – like a portable cabin-cum-studio. From the boxcar they could explore by hand-car, canoe and foot. Those excursions produced many of the dramatic landscapes that would become Canadian icons painted by Harris and his colleagues who later gained fame as the Group of Seven.

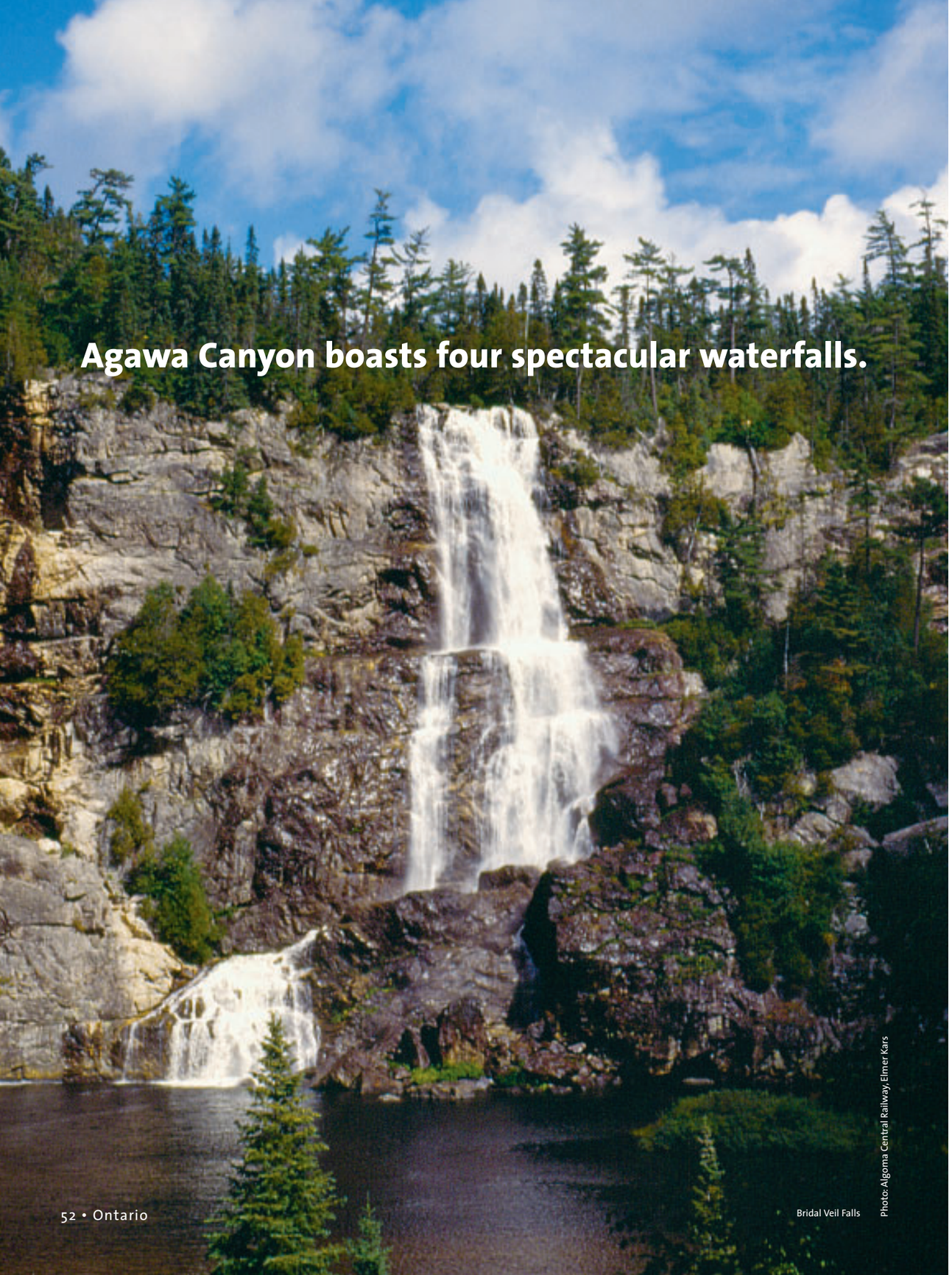
Like Harris, today's passengers can spend a week on the siding, but in the perfectly groomed Canyon Park, hiking the trails, paddling the river and watching wildlife. So popular is the caboose-turned-camp car that there is virtually a year-long waiting list to enjoy the experience.

There's still a strong sense of history along the line, particularly in the vintage rolling stock – these passenger cars look awfully familiar to anyone who took the Toronto-to-Montreal run 50 years ago. Added to those are two dome cars, including the Spirit of Superior (the former California Zephyr) with a sleek blue Art Deco interior that recalls a more glamorous era for rail travel. Some of that history is chronicled in the information booklet issued at the start of our tour. Mile-by-mile it lists all the pertinent facts, from geology

Did you know?

Pictograph, Lake Superior Provincial Park

The Agawa Canyon was created by faulting, which occurred over **1.2 billion** years ago.



Bridal Veil Falls

Photo: Algoma Central Railway, Elmer Kars

to this amusing description from J.W. Mills' account of travel along the line in 1911.

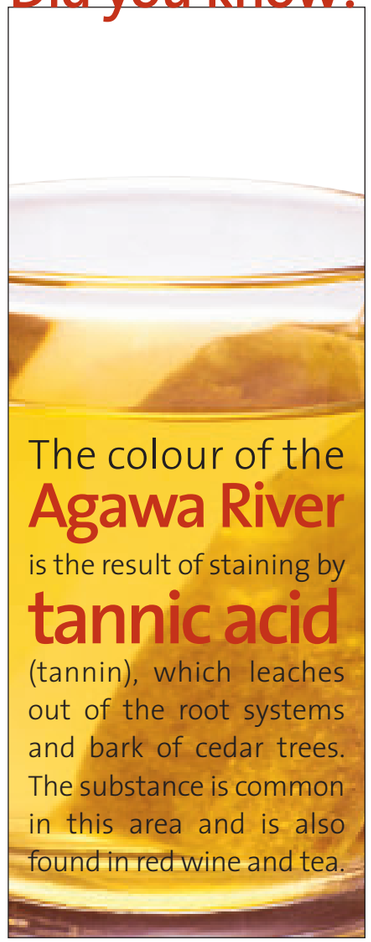
"At the start of any trip from The Soo, the female passengers were isolated (barricaded) in a separate coach at the rear of the train while the front coaches were filled with uneven-tempered lumberjacks. This arrangement offered a modicum of protection for the members of the delicate sex as the only males they had to fight off were the members of the train crew and the travelling clergy…"

There's no sign of those rambunctious lumberjacks today. For those who would rather look out the window than read, there's live tour commentary and a patient guide who answers questions, the most frequent of which is, "how do we turn the seats around?"

The scenery from the brochure is duly noted and photographed: the towering trestle bridge over the Montreal River, glimpses of silvery Lake Superior, hills of maple and pine. Someone mutters about the scenery being obscured by all the trees. But the trees are what draws most people at this time of year, particularly the blazing red maples and luminous yellow birches.

Thanks to its accessibility the tour train is hugely popular – more than three million passengers have enjoyed the Canyon Park since the tours started in 1952. Craving more adventure than is offered on the typical tour, I booked an additional trip that would extend my stay with an overnight sojourn at a wilderness lodge. After our two-hour stop in Canyon Park, the sightseeing passengers re-boarded the tour train for the return trip to 'The Soo'. Eleven of us remained behind to wait for the tour train's work-a-day cousin, the regularly scheduled passenger train with its 1950s maroon-coloured cars, to transport campers, hunters and lodge guests to destinations not accessible by road.

Did you know?



Conducting the ultimate getaway

Breakfast is served in the private car

Passengers can relive the days of railway barons in a deluxe private car. The 1913 Agawa accommodates up to 12 passengers in splendid luxury: a mahogany-panelled lounge with wing chairs and steward service, meals served on Royal Doulton Berkshire China in a formal dining room, and a rear deck where you can stand outside to watch the scenery fading into the distance. Individuals can not purchase single seats on the luxury car, but it is available to all groups looking for a different meeting place. For details contact the Algoma Central Railway.

See page 56.

Mile 1 to Mile 296

Mile 296 – Hearst
Mile 281 – Coppell
Mile 273 – Horsey
Mile 245 – Oba
Mile 217 – Mosher
Mile 206 – Wabatong
Mile 195 – Franz
Mile 184 – Dubreuilville
Mile 165 – Hawk Junction
Mile 148 – Anjigami
Mile 138 – Sand Lake
Mile 120 – Eton
Mile 114 – Agawa Canyon
Mile 102 – Frater
Mile 92 – Montreal Falls
Mile 71 – Spruce Lake
Mile 64 – Mekatina
Mile 57 – Trout Lake
Mile 48 – Ogidaki
Mile 42 – Achigan
Mile 32 – Searchmont
Mile 25 – Northland
Mile 1 – Sault Ste. Marie

Lake Superior

This is the supply run, with frequent stops to pick up and drop off almost anyone or anything along the line. Out of the baggage car come cases of beer, fishing gear, backpacks, more beer, a pair of ATVs and even a fridge that looks about as old as the train itself – no doubt to put the beer in. Men and women emerge from the bush to greet passengers disembarking at mile markers in the wilderness.

Chapleau Crown Game Preserve

As we continue north, the canyon opens up, offering longer views of lakes, rugged cliffs and sometimes logging camps. The maple-covered hills gradually give way to a flatter boreal landscape of spruce trees, marshes and beaver ponds. One of the hunters on board remarks on the perfect moose habitat and sure enough, another passenger spots one of the antlered behemoths at the edge of the water. More easily seen are the numerous beaver lodges and dams.

At mile 206, Al Errington is waiting beside the track to ferry us to Errington's Wilderness Island Resort, a 15-minute pontoon boat trip across Lake Wabatongushi, deep in

the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve, which at 700,000 hectares (two-million acres) takes the record as the world's largest preserve. Under Al's stewardship, Errington's has grown from a traditional hunting and fishing lodge, to a comfortable log cabin eco resort where visitors can still catch a whopping walleye, but also enjoy seeing black bear and moose just for the sheer pleasure of watching them. On the way we see a bald eagle's tree-top nest.

After a steak dinner we head back to the pontoon boat, outfitted with rain ponchos, blankets and binoculars for our evening nature-watching. Ivan Madhabee, our Ojibway guide, takes us to the marshy north arm of the lake where we are most likely to see moose dining on aquatic vegetation in the fading evening light. Sadly, we didn't see any.

Our morning nature cruise was more successful. From the safety of our pontoon boat, just a few feet from shore, we watch a mother bear, then three cubs emerge from the bush. We are so close that we can hear them grunt and snort. When a larger bear emerges from the bush, the young ones scamper up a tree to get out of its way. The bears don't seem to notice that we are hovering off shore, shooting more photos than paparazzi at a royal wedding.

Later that morning we board the train with the satisfaction of having had a wilderness adventure.

– Betty Zyvatkauskas is a Toronto-based writer who enjoys travel, nature and culinary history.

GET ON TRACK

Sault Ste. Marie

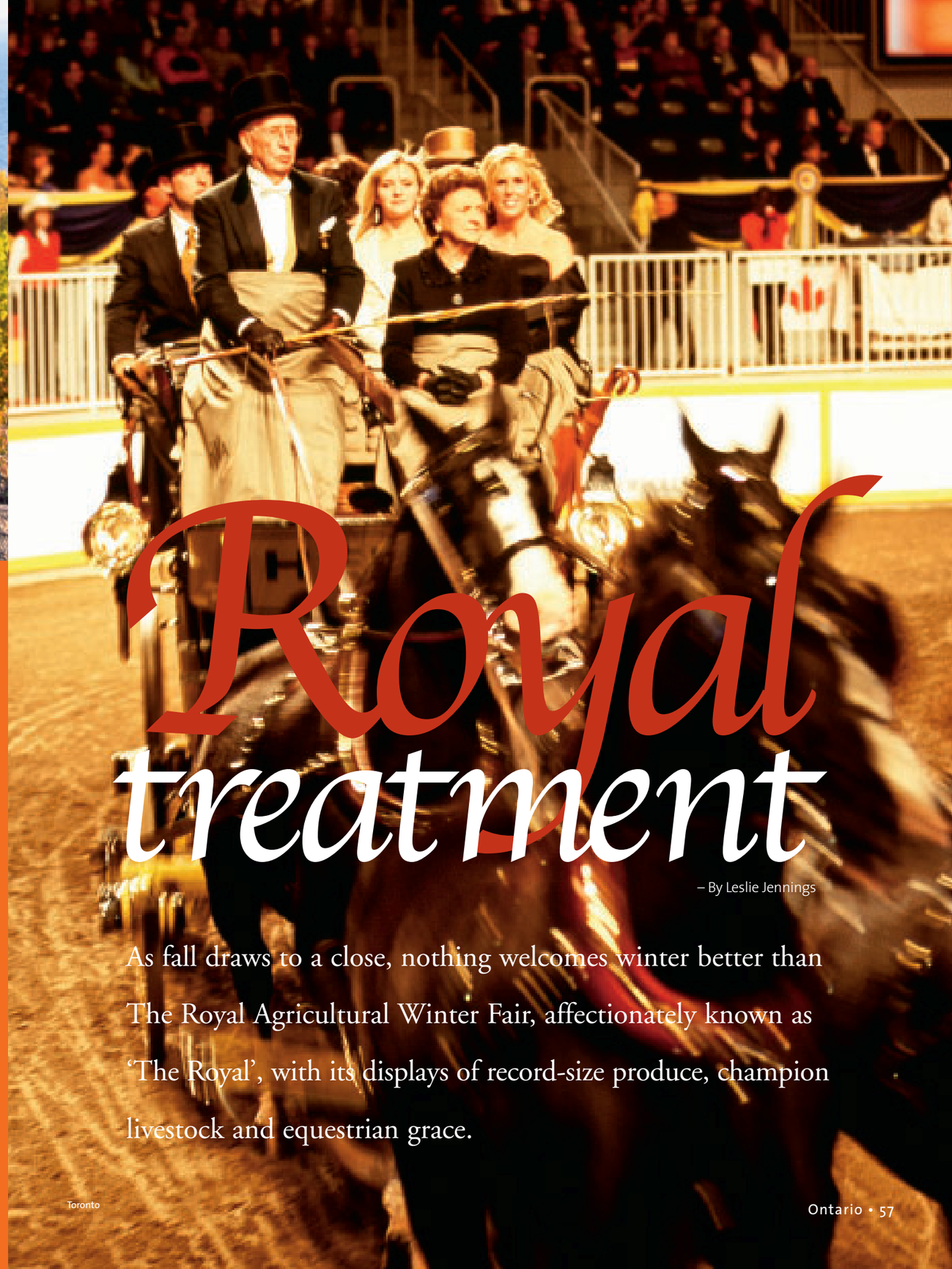
Algoma Central Railway, Sault Ste. Marie
www.agawacanyontourtrain.com
1-800-242-9287 or **(705) 946-7300**

Errington's Wilderness Island Resort, mile 206
on the Algoma Central Railway
www.wildernessisland.com
(705) 884-2215 (May–Sept.), **(705) 946-2010** (Oct.–Apr.)

Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association
www.algomacountry.com
1-800-263-2546

Tourism Sault Ste. Marie
www.sault-canada.com
1-800-461-6020

For more travel information and packages
visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call
1-800-ONTARIO.



Royal treatment

– By Leslie Jennings

As fall draws to a close, nothing welcomes winter better than The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, affectionately known as 'The Royal', with its displays of record-size produce, champion livestock and equestrian grace.

Toronto

Photo: Dr. Joel Walker, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, 2004

Photo: Leslie Jennings

Photo: Dr. Joel Walker, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, 2004

Photo: Dr. Joel Walker, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, 2004

L - R: International Show Jumping Competition; butter sculpture; The Royal Agility Challenge; students get an opportunity to get up close to their favourite farm animals

‘Every November for the past 83 years, the country comes to the city.’

Every November for the past 83 years, the country comes to the city. Where else would you find a chicken mobile (a trailer fitted out to show all the stages of poultry production), blue ribbon butter sculptures and a pumpkin that weighs as much as a moose?

The Royal is big with kids – each year more than 40,000 students attend. Teaching them how food makes its way from the farm to our homes is an important part of the fair’s mandate. It’s also a place for farmers to engage in some friendly competition. Only The Royal could lure our old family friend and Charolais cattle farmer Dalton Lett from the Upper Ottawa Valley to Toronto.

Every year my family (suburban born and bred) eagerly awaits the arrival of The Royal – and not just for the fudge. My 13-year-old epicure is always keen to see what foodstuffs are on hand – wild rice, maple sugar, stinky cheese, whatever. When he was six he learned to shake cream ’till it turned to butter. This year he watched the cooking demonstrations at The Royal Vineyard and Food-To Your Good Health centre. As he took notes (and managed to win cooking implements with his trivia know-how) my seven-year-old daughter gleefully harassed the critters at the Petting Farm.

Photo: The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Carriage Racing Derby competition

The fact is, The Royal is a huge event – one that just seems to get bigger every year.

Meanwhile, my 10-year-old son eyed the hermit crab display covetously. I told him he could either have a hermit crab or a puppy.

The fact is, The Royal is a huge event – one that just seems to get bigger every year. You can’t possibly see it all in an afternoon, or even a day. I figure that over the years we’ve seen and done a lot though. This year our horse-crazed daughter influenced a significant investment of time visiting with the horses. After perusing the demos at the Cavalcade of Horses, where we enjoyed dressage and vaulting, getting up close to so many horses was really the big thrill.

THE LITTLE IRON HORSE

Photo: Cealy Tetley

Another horsey highlight was a visit with a beautiful and versatile Canadian Horse, often referred to as ‘The Little Iron Horse’ earned because of their strength and durability.

The Canadian was among the first horses sent to Canada in the 1600s by King Louis XIV of France – some from his own stable. Brought back from the brink of extinction (there were only 400 left in the late 1960s), the Canadian Horse became Canada’s National Horse, thanks to a private member’s bill passed in 2002. Here’s a horse that can do it all, from farm work to barrel racing, jumping to trail riding.

The Canadian we met was Beckett’s Creek Calypso Ferari, owned by Ray and Gerry Lalonde from Beckett’s Creek Farms in Cumberland.

We chatted with another Canadian Horse breeder, Brenda Pantling from Hidden Meadow Farm, who explained Ferari’s fancy name. The first part of the name references the owner or stable of the horse where it was born. The second name is the horse’s father, or sire. The last name is the horse’s actual personal name – and even that has some limits. The first letter identifies the year that the horse was born. For example, all Canadian Horses born in 1999 would have a name starting with J.

My daughter wants a horse. I told her that as soon as she has saved up the $3,000-$4,000 that her Canadian Horse will cost, then she can start saving for the stabling. In the meantime, we can keep coming back for our annual dose of equestrian excellence at The Royal.

– Leslie Jennings is a freelance writer who specializes in family travel. She is the travel editor of City Parent Newsmagazine *and editor of* News4Kids.

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, November 4–13
www.royalfair.org
(416) 263-3400

Canadian Horse
www.ucdcanadianhorse.ca
(519) 855-6498

For more travel information visit **www.ontariotravel/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Walk ON THE wild side

Hikers rejoice! Ontario's new **Greenbelt** area has Canada's largest network of hiking trails. It's now possible to walk established trails from Rice Lake in the east to Tobermory in the west to Queenston in the south. This hiking-enthusiast's dream links the oldest and longest marked footpath in Canada (the Bruce Trail) with another favourite hiking route: the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail.

For Greenbelt hiking information visit **www.greenbelt.ontario.ca**

The Bruce Trail Association
www.brucetrail.org
1-800-665-HIKE

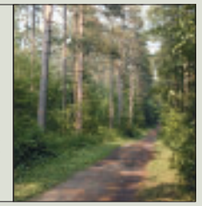
The Oak Ridges Trail Association
www.orta.on.ca
1-877-319-0285

Hike Ontario
www.hikeontario.com
1-800-894-7249

For more information on hiking elsewhere in Ontario, visit **www.ontariotravel.net/outdoor** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

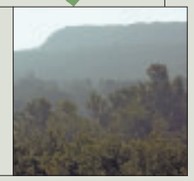
BRUCE PENINSULA
It's rugged and it's worth it! The ferry takes you to Flowerpot Island, part of Fathom Five National Marine Park, for a hike among gigantic rocks, creepy caves and towering cliffs.

DURHAM
Covering over 400 hectares (988 acres) atop the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Durham Regional Forest Main Tract accommodates hiking, as well as cycling and horseback riding.



NORTHUMBERLAND
Peter's Woods Provincial Park sits on a sandy slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Steep valleys and a variety of trees make this nature reserve a great hiking experience.

BLUE MOUNTAIN
Hike your way to the highest point on the Bruce Trail: Osler Bluff Lookout. It's a perfect place to overlook Georgian Bay and see fall's endless colour display.



CALEDON
Rolling pastures. Viewing platforms. A deep gorge. Forks of the Credit Provincial Park, one of the region's most popular hiking locations has it all!

NIAGARA
If you like hiking and waterfalls, then you're in luck with a visit to Balls Falls Conservation Area. Beautiful waterfalls. Over 450 species of plants and rocky outcrops at every turn.

YORK
Dotted with conservation areas and large tracts of forests, Peel and York regions have what hikers demand to reconnect with nature – even if it's just escaping the big city for a weekend.

Georgian Bay
Lake Ontario
Toronto
Hamilton
Canada
United States

Photos page 60 – Blue Mountain: Rick Chard; Caledon: Keith Early; Niagara: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Photos page 61 – Durham: Tessa J. Buchan; Northumberland: Richard Kettle, northumberlandtourism.com
York: Richard Chard

fall is for the birds

The sky is their stage. The audience, rapt. High-flying performers dip and dive, tweet and warble. Bright lights of warmer climes beckon. Exit stage south.

Being the friendly magazine that we are, we're offering you a sample of some great places to start your birding obsession (in alphabetical order):

Long Point Provincial Park – This 40-kilometre- (25-mile) long sandspit is a breathtaking combination of dunes and marshes – and a birdwatcher's dream destination.

Point Pelee National Park – Borrow a trail guide from the visitors' centre, then take a shuttle to the Tip Trail. If you're passionate for nature, and especially birds, a stroll on the Marsh Boardwalk is a hands-down must.

Presqu'ile Provincial Park – Floating bridges, boardwalks, sandy trails and paved paths make watching birds easy. More than 325 species have been spotted.

Rondeau Provincial Park – The varied terrain of dunes, savannah, forest and marsh beckon birds. More than 330 species of our feathered friends have been spotted here, with more than 130 of them nesting as well.

Ontario Parks
www.OntarioParks.com
1-888-ONT-PARK

Parks Canada
www.pc.gc.ca
1-888-773-8888

For tips on birding, where to go, places to stay and more activities in the area, visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Point Pelee National Park

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ONTARIO
More to discover

Colourful cruise fit for a princess

– By Cathy Bennett

On a late September day that's so glorious and warm, it's hard to believe it's fall. We arrive at the Bayview Wildwood Resort on a weekend getaway, with an itinerary that includes an all-day fall colour lunch cruise aboard the Island Princess, which departs from the Port of Orillia.

Idyllically located on Sparrow Lake, the Bayview Wildwood Resort has been owned and operated by the Stanton family since 1898.

It's a wonderful spot for a family vacation with a full schedule of activities for children. But with its townhouse-style cottages, cosy fireplaces and private decks, my husband John and I find the resort equally appealing for couples.

On a morning that's as glorious as the one yesterday, we're greeted by Captain Tom Gostick and his lovely wife Rita, our hosts on our 64 km (40 mi.) Island Princess voyage that will take us across Lake Couchiching, through Lock 42 on the Trent-Severn Waterway, down the Severn River into Sparrow Lake, and back to Orillia.

Captain Tom is a self-described entertainer who continuously regales us with tidbits about the area. He's a riverboat pilot in the tradition of Mark Twain, with a little Leacock thrown in for good measure.

During our leisurely cruise down the Severn River, which is lined with cottages and trees that have just begun their transformation into fall, lunch is served. And what a lunch it is! Roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, an assortment of breads and salads, Apple Brown Betty and fruit. Pretty impressive when you consider the price of the cruise is only $50 a person!

– Cathy Bennett is a freelance writer who loves to travel throughout Ontario. Her husband, John, an artist, is her co-pilot and photographer.

Dock in front of Wildwood Inn at Bayview Wildwood Resort

Photo: Bayview Wildwood Resort

Bayview Wildwood Resort
www.portstanton.ca
1-800-461-0243

Island Princess
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For more cruise information visit **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN

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inn seventh heaven

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Eganridge Inn and Spa

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Book their From Field and Stream to Table package today and you get to experience it all – in true fall fashion:

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- country continental breakfast each morning
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- $580.00 per couple includes all gratuities and taxes

For more information on Eganridge Inn & Spa visit **www.eganridge.com** or to book, call **1-888-452-5111**.

If you're looking for more getaway packages on regional fare, visit **www.ontariotravel.net/savour**

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One lucky winner will receive a delectable getaway for two including private tastings with acclaimed winemakers, chef's table dining, a personalized cooking class and three nights of luxurious accommodations. As you are chauffeured through Niagara's wine country in your luxury car rental, you can stop along the way to collect vintage offerings to take home and store in your new 32-bottle wine cooler. An aerial tour of Niagara's wine region and the Falls via helicopter will be a magnificent memory to take home. No purchase required! Simply log on to **www.ontariotravel.net/savour** to fill out your ballot today!

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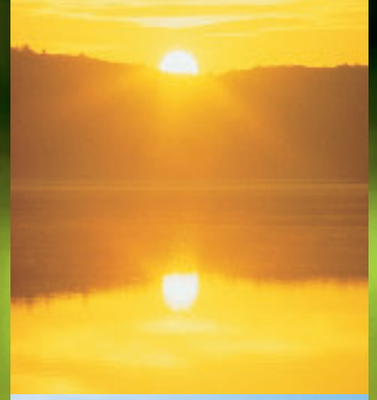
Your time to Howl

– By Cathy Bennett



Wanna have an outdoor experience that redefines the meaning of 'cry wolf'? Then you may want to head for Northern Edge in South River where you can venture into Algonquin Provincial Park on their Fall Colours Wolf Howl Canoe Trip – a 3-night/4-day paddling adventure led by an experienced guide.

The trip kicks off with a slide show which provides you with a fascinating glimpse into the habits of the Algonquin wolf, one of the park's most treasured animals, and a species that is related to the endangered red wolf. And you'll learn that one reason August and September are prime times for wolf howls is because the young pups have discovered their voices and are eager to try them out.

The next morning, your group will set off across Kawawaymog (Round) Lake amid a blaze of fall colours, destined for the peaceful lakes and rivers of Algonquin. After you set up camp for the evening, you'll gather by the lakeside where your guide will lead the wolf howl – first howling and then waiting in silence for the spine-tingling response.

The all-inclusive Fall Colours Wolf Howl Canoe Trip package is $515/per person (two for $975). It includes overnight accommodations the night before the trip in a habitat or canvas cabin. A tasty vegetarian dinner and breakfast at the lodge are included in the package. Please note that the Northern Edge does not guarantee wolf howl responses.

– Cathy Bennett is a freelance writer who loves to travel throughout Ontario. Her husband, John, an artist, is her co-pilot and photographer.

For more information about Northern Edge and the Fall Colours Wolf Howl Canoe Trip, visit **www.algonquincanada.com/wolfhowl** or call **1-800-953-EDGE** (**3343**).

For other paddling adventures and packages in Ontario, visit **www.paddlingontario.com** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

For more wildlife and nature viewing experiences visit **www.ontariotravel.net/outdoor** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

getting to the core

– By Betty Zyvatkauskas

Autumn is for apples. From the first McIntosh of mid-September to the last Granny Smith of November, the fruit typifies the season. And no wonder; Ontario apples are as crisp and colourful as autumn itself.

great escapes

Photo: Betty Zyvatkauskas

Photo: Betty Zyvatkauskas

L–R: The orchard at Nature's Bounty, Port Perry; picking perfect Cortlands

The sandy hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine in Ontario's newly created Greenbelt, north of Toronto are perfect apple-growing terrain. The trees thrive in the well-drained soil and fruit ripens well on a sunny south-facing slope. Less than 30 minutes from Toronto, Durham Region's hills are a perfect day-trip destination too. Every autumn I like to drive and hike among these hills, stopping to walk among the red and white pines of the Durham Regional Forest, looking for deer hoof-prints on the sandy hills and listening for downy woodpeckers hammering in the trees.

I take my family apple picking at Nature's Bounty, a 40 hectare (100-acre) farm on a particularly scenic stretch of the moraine south of Port Perry. We each have our favourite variety. My mother loads up on firm Cortlands perfect for slicing into salads because the inside keeps its white colour after being cut. My daughter fills her bag with red-striped Gala apples daintily sized for a school snack. But I can't resist the firm, green Mutsu so massive they must weigh a pound apiece. Each has a delicate pink cheek that suggests the sweetness inside. These are apples so large they must be meant for sharing.

Each has a delicate pink cheek that suggests the sweetness inside. These are apples so large they must be meant for sharing.

It takes only a couple of minutes to fill one of the 10-pound-sized plastic bags provided at the gate, leaving ample time for strolling through the orchards, past sunflower fields and pumpkin patches, then sipping a mulled cider at the picnic shelter and visiting with the shaggy sheep and llamas that look longingly at our apple cores. Dwarf apple trees make it easy for even youngsters to join in the fall harvest.

Apple juice becomes an adult beverage when it is fermented into a fruit wine. At Ocala Orchards Farm Winery, near Port Perry, a century barn with hand-hewn beams now houses an attractive tasting room and winery where their popular Heritage Apple Wine, a light-bodied blend of Red Delicious, Northern Spy and McIntosh apples, is made.

Then it's on to Port Perry to check out the shops on Queen Street, the town's beautifully restored downtown. Home décor – both antique and contemporary – seems to be a specialty, with shops that sell everything from aromatherapy candles to French settees. If time permits we take a two-hour fall colour cruise aboard Scugog Island Cruises' new boat 'The Woodman,' moored at the foot of the street.

When we're out on an orchard tour I never miss an opportunity to stop in at Archibald Orchards & Estate Winery, north of Bowmanville, to pick up a bottle of their award-winning Spiced Winter Apple, a super sweet dessert wine with the aroma of apple pie. It's one of their 20 vintage varieties that range from a dry, oak-aged Ida Red to the ultra-patriotic Canadian Maple (a blend of Waterloo County maple syrup wine and apple wine), all available for sampling in their tasting room. For the kids there's a very festive sparkling non-alcoholic cider, then a visit to the playground.

Deep Dish Apple Pie with Cheddar Crust

– By Betty Zyvatkauskas

For a rich taste of autumn, this traditional pie combines two classic Ontario ingredients; cheddar cheese and apples.

Pastry
250 mL (1 cup) flour
2 mL (½ teaspoon) salt
75 mL (⅓ cup) cold butter
75 mL (⅓ cup) finely grated, extra-old cheddar cheese
45 or 60 mL (3 or 4 tablespoons) ice water

Filling
6 or 7 Northern Spy apples, peeled, cored and sliced
75 mL (⅓ cup) sugar
Nutmeg to taste (optional)
30 mL (2 tablespoons) of butter

Sift the flour and salt together. Using a pastry blender, work the butter into the flour until it is the texture of coarse sand. Mix in the cheese. Sprinkle in the water, 1 tablespoon at a time, and mix just until the dough holds together. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator while preparing the filling.

Mix the apples with the sugar and nutmeg (if using), and place in a 23-centimetre (9-inch) glass pie dish; dot with butter. Roll out the pastry and cover the pie. Trim the edges and cut vents into the top. Bake at 200°C (400°F) for the first 10 minutes then turn down the heat to 175°C (350°F) and bake for another 30 minutes. If the edges brown too quickly, cover with foil.

With a savoury cheese crust atop a sweet apple filling, this old-fashioned pie makes six to eight servings. It's delicious on its own but extra cheese or whipped cream on the side make it a decadent treat.

great escapes

Our apple-themed explorations typically end up in the hamlet of Tyrone, just a couple of kilometres (a mile-and-a-half) down the road, where the 1846 Tyrone Mill still uses water power for the business of sawing lumber, grinding flour and pressing apple cider, a process visitors watch while sipping their free sample from a paper cup. We manoeuvre past crates of apples, stacked on creaky wooden floorboards, savouring the sweet scent of just-fried cider doughnuts, before shopping for cider and whole wheat flour stone-ground at the mill. We never leave without buying a piece of extra-old Empire cheddar – another classic Ontario food – to use in our favourite apple pie.

– Betty Zyvatkauskas is a Toronto-based writer who loves travel, nature and culinary history.

Port Perry

APPLES
crisp as autumn

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Northumberland Tourism
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www.mdcc.ca
(519) 538-1640

Harvest Ontario
www.harvestontario.com

Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association
www.ontariofarmfresh.com/consumer

For more great routes across Ontario this fall visit
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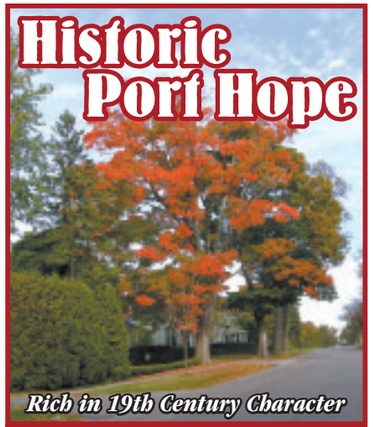
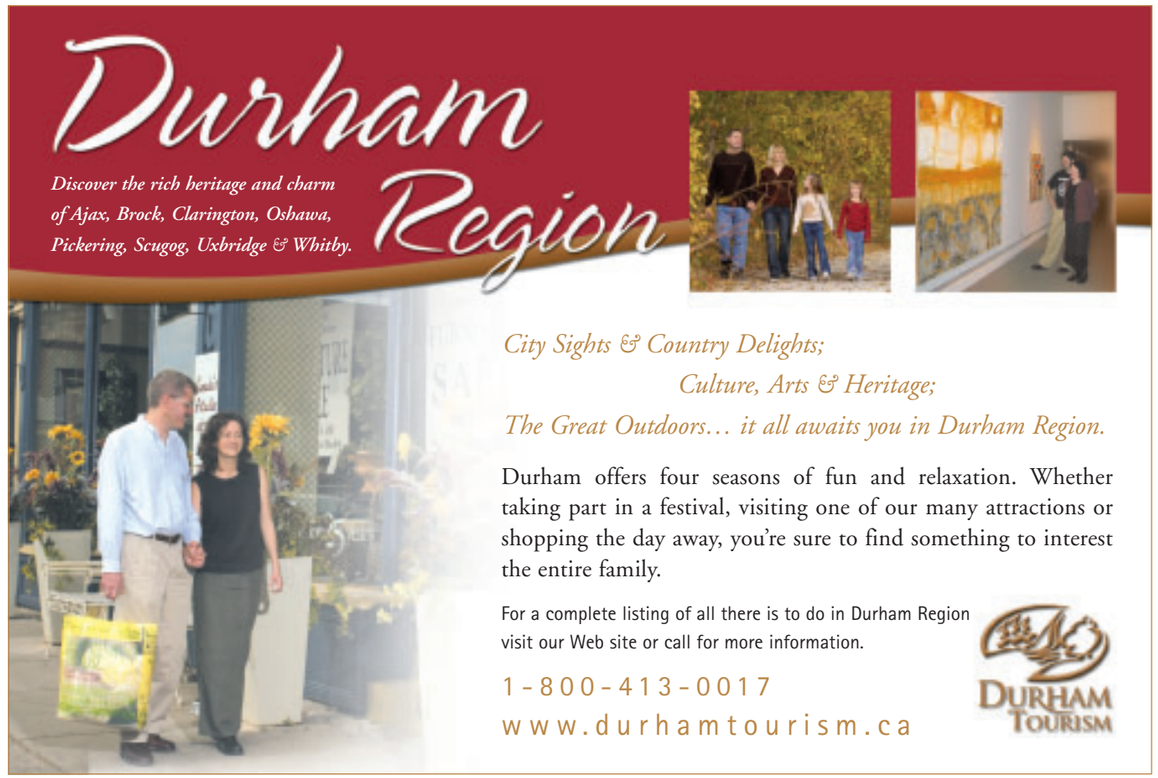
For information on apple festivals and celebrations across Ontario, **www.ontariotravel.net/fall** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.





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PUTT the moves ON HIM

At first, he isn't too sure. "A romantic golfing trip to Muskoka?" he says. He laughs and tells you that it's the ultimate oxymoron. You guess that for some guys, romance and a five wood don't go together. But he decides to give it a try, admitting that you're the love of his life.

In no time at all, you both find yourselves overlooking the first hole at Bigwin Island Golf Club. You can't help but admire the scenery and mention that it's one of the most beautiful fall sights you've seen. It's an entire island covered with elegant trees flaunting their dazzling colours amidst well-manicured greens.

"You're up" you say with a smile, followed by a peck on the cheek. "Remember, the loser buys dinner." He smiles back sportingly as you admire his stance, seeing how it compares to Mike Weir's. He pulls the club back and hopes for luck.

Swoosh!

You're speechless. He's speechless. All that's heard is a faint rustling of wind. His ball lands just shy of yours.

Deerhurst Resort, Muskoka

Photo: Bigwin Island Golf Club

Bigwin Island Golf Club, Muskoka

Next time you'll have to put a little more effort into it, you tell yourself, with a smile. And with that, you both saunter hand-in-hand down the fairway to shot number two. Romantic? Yes. Enjoyable? Most definitely.

Sample a few of Muskoka's renowned golf courses for an above-par escape from the city. Courses on the Muskoka Golf Trail offer discerning golfers, romantics and foodies all the amenities they desire and more. Among them are Deerhurst Highlands, the Mark O'Meara Course at Grandview, the Lake Joseph Club, Rocky Crest Golf Club and The Rock.

Follow through

Complete any outing with a romantic cruise on the Lady Muskoka, the area's largest cruise ship capable of carrying 300 passengers.

For everything cranberry and much more, stop by the Bala Cranberry Festival, October 14–16. It's a perfect way to complement a colourful fall weekend.

Art lovers will appreciate the annual Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour, September 24 and 25, when the region's favourite artists and craftspeople open their studio doors free of charge.

Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour
www.muskoka.com/tour

Bigwin Island Golf Club, Huntsville
www.bigwinisland.com
1-800-840-4036

The Muskoka Golf Trail
www.muskokagolftrail.ca
1-866-440-1087

Lady Muskoka, Bracebridge
www.ladymuskoka.com
1-800-263-LADY (5239)

Bala Cranberry Festival
www.balacranberryfestival.on.ca
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off the 417

– By Laura Byrne Paquet

Over the course of two decades, I've probably driven through The United Counties of Prescott and Russell dozens of times, on my way between Ottawa and Montreal. When I finally ventured off the four-lane Highway 417 a few months ago to explore this bilingual, rural corner of eastern Ontario, I wondered why I'd waited so long.

My first stop was St. Albert. 'Village' is almost too grand a word for this small settlement, where the main attractions are a silver-steepled church, a school and a locally famous cheese factory. Drop into the St. Albert Cooperative (founded in 1894) for some caraway cheddar or squeaky-fresh cheese curds.

Another fun stop is Vankleek Hill, where red brick shops trimmed with gingerbread sell all manner of antiques, candles, artworks and baked goodies (don't miss the pecan butter tarts at Mary's Country Kitchen). Murals depicting the town's history brighten the sides of several downtown buildings.

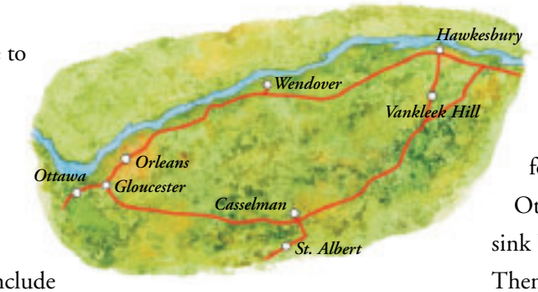
Just north of Vankleek Hill is one of many access points to the new 72-kilometre (45-mile) Prescott-Russell Recreational Trail. Outdoorsy types can hike, cycle or snowmobile along this former rail bed, now surfaced with gravel. The trail passes

Photo: United Counties of Prescott and Russell

great escapes

close to the Alfred Bog, home to rare orchids, butterflies and turtles. And from spring through fall, you can see other unusual animals at the Papanack Park Zoo in Wendover, whose residents include snow leopards, white lions and a striped hyena.

Country pleasures are the order of the day in this unspoiled corner of Ontario. Take your kids on a wagon ride, make maple taffy at a sugar shack, go kayaking or canoeing, or tap your toes at a country music festival. And when it's time to head home, skip the four-lane expressway. Instead, follow Highway 17 along the Ottawa River and watch the sun sink behind the Gatineau Hills. Then you'll know you've truly absorbed the laid-back spirit of Prescott-Russell.



– Laura Byrne Paquet is a travel writer who has written for more than 50 publications in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

L-R: Victorian architecture lines the streets of Vankleek Hill; Cheese is always on the menu in Ontario; A hometown barber shop on a Vankleek Hill street corner

Arrêtez along THE WAY

St. Albert Cooperative
www.curds.com
1-800-465-1553

Mary's Country Kitchen
(613) 678-3984

Prescott-Russell Tourism Association
www.tourprescott-russell.com
1-800-361-7439

Prescott-Russell Recreational Trail
www.prescott-russell.on.ca/sentier-trail
1-800-667-6307 ext. 292

Papanack Park Zoo
www.papanack.com
(613) 673-7275

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www.realontario.ca
(613) 269-2777

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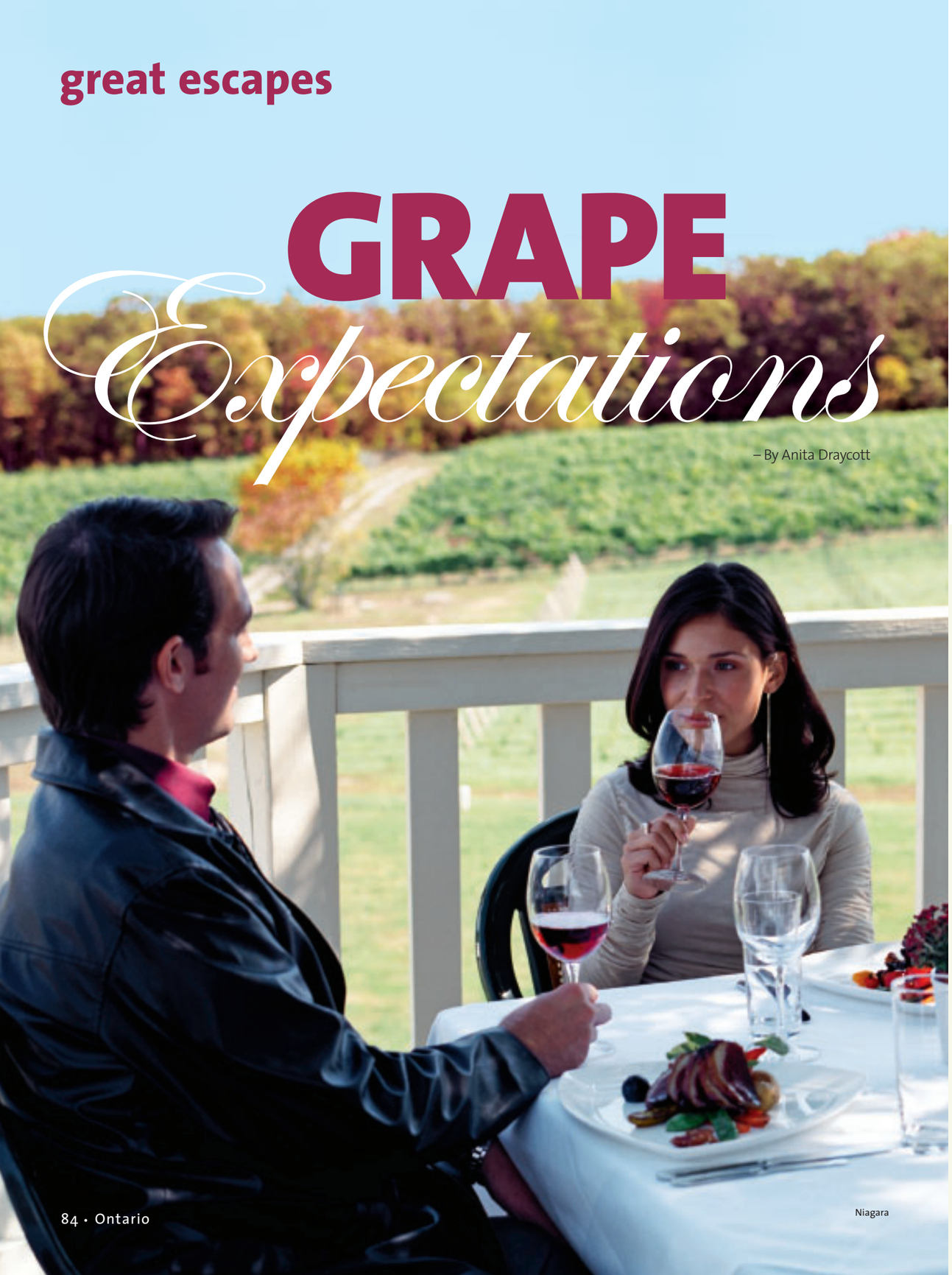
GRAPE Expectations

– By Anita Draycott



Niagara

Start with the bountiful Niagara countryside. Pour in liberal amounts of vintage wines. Stir in the best of the region's harvest concocted by brilliant chefs. Sprinkle with demonstrations from food and wine experts. Toss in live entertainment from classical to rock to blues. Allow guests plenty of time to munch and mingle. Et voilà – a foolproof recipe for a gastronomic escapade.

From September 16 to 25 there's no better time to explore the Niagara region than during the 54th Annual Niagara Wine Festival, celebrating our internationally acclaimed grape and wine industry.

More than 30 participating wineries open their doors along Niagara's famous wine route in Ontario's beautiful Greenbelt. The hub of the festival takes place in St. Catharines' Montebello Park where you'll enjoy offerings from Ontario's top chefs, concerts, artisan shows, wine seminars, family entertainment and one of Canada's largest street parades.

– Anita Draycott is a freelance writer whose articles appear regularly in Canada's major newspapers and magazines.

WINE TIME a sampling of the events...

Purchase a $20 Winery Touring Passport at the various wineries or order online for discounts and free offers.
www.niagarawinefestival.com
(905) 688-0212

Rev up your taste buds at the Wine Country Cooking School at Strewn on September 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hands-on cooking classes, wine tastings and pairings plus a delicious three-course lunch, served with a selection of VQA Strewn wines costs $195.
www.winecountrycooking.com
(905) 468-8304

At the Hillebrand Estates Winery on September 24 and 25, guests are invited to remove their footwear and stomp grapes the old-fashioned way, followed by a sampling of the cuisine of Chef Tony de Luca at the outdoor bistro. Drop by from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine; admission is complimentary.
www.hillebrand.com
1-800-582-8412

Chef Mark Hand of the Niagara Culinary Institute raises a toast

Hillebrand Estates Winery, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Savour the Sights is a progressive five-course dinner ($135 per person) offered once a month in the fall, at Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery. Begin with bubbles and canapés in the Great Hall, moving to the Barrel Cellar for the fourth course. The grand finale dessert and Icewine are served in the Estate Lounge.
www.jacksontriggswinery.com
(905) 468-4637

Ontario greatfalldrives

Take a roadtrip amidst Ontario's spectacular fall colours! By car, motorcycle or RV, we have 19 extraordinary excursions for you to choose from. Celebrate the harvest, tour artists' studios or taste at wineries. Shop for antiques as you meander through charming small towns and villages. Rustle the leaves beneath your feet as you hike through Ontario's inspiring landscape with its red, yellow and orange coloured leaves against brilliant blue skies and shimmering lakes.

Treat yourself with a couple of days off or explore on a weekend getaway. It's nature's time limited offer! So take advantage!

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Warm up to winter

For romantic spots to heat up the season, book a few nights in our breathtaking resorts. There's nothing like valuable 'alone time', whether that's cuddling fireside, being pampered at a spa or enjoying a candlelit dinner with warm comfort cuisine.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Outdoor enthusiasts love Ontario too – and its heavenly blanket of pure white snow. Get all the snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skiing, skating, snowboarding, and tobogganing you've ever dreamed of and more.

TO LIVE WITH CULTURE

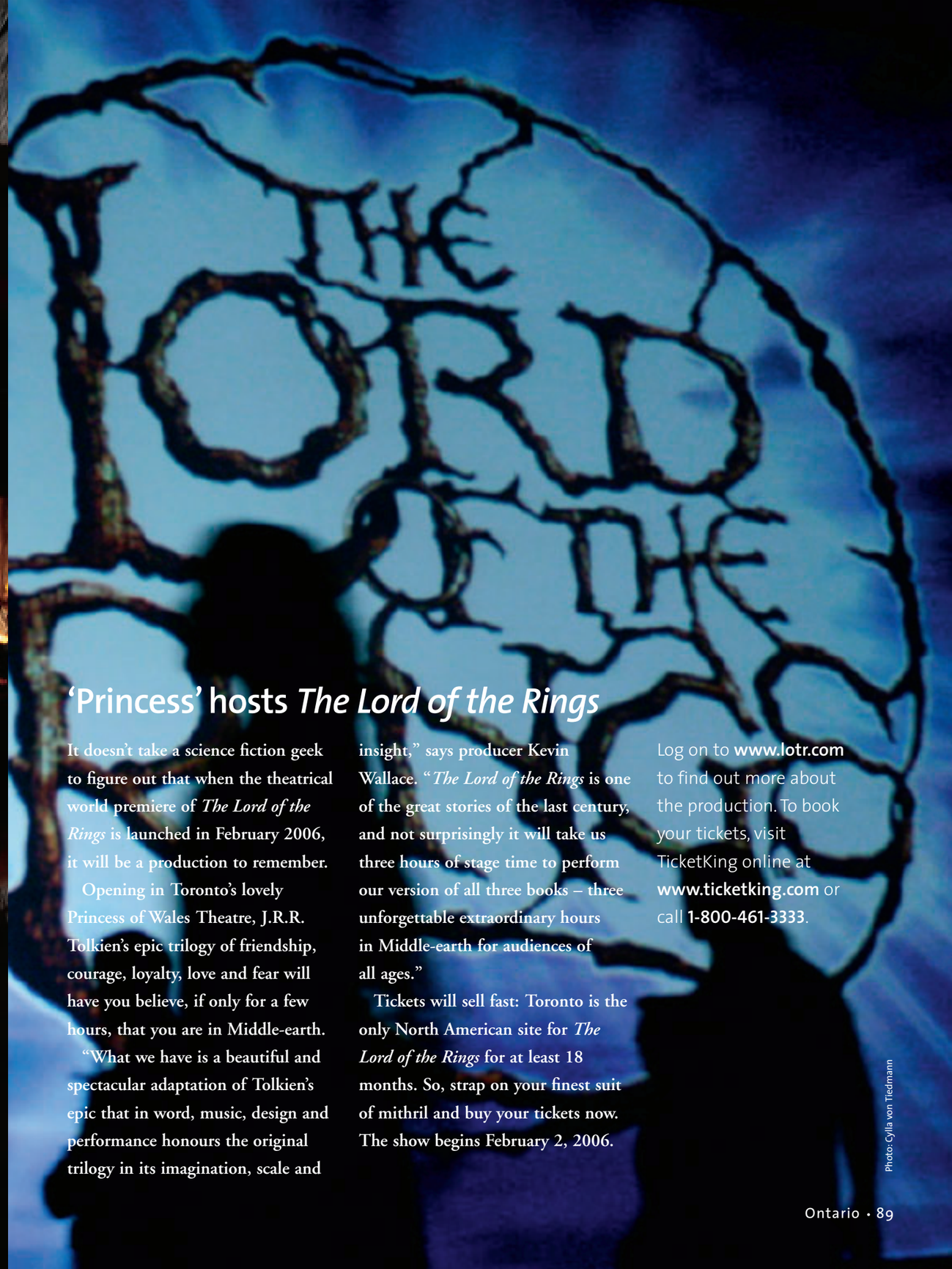
Celebrations of epic proportions are happening in Toronto beginning this fall and running for 16 straight months. Signature cultural events will be popping up all over the city and a few of our world-class cultural venues will be showing off their fresh new look.

GIVE KIDS A BREAK

Who can forget about families this winter? Load up the kids and beeline it to museums, zoos, science centres and historic sites this holiday season for truly magical places to celebrate Ontario. March break is not that far away. To guarantee you and your family have the best break ever, start planning your Ontario vacation today.

We'll help you plan and book your winter escape today. Simply visit **www.ontariotravel.net** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**. While you're online or on the phone, ask for your FREE subscription to *Ontario*. There's more culture. More ways to stay. More things to do. And much more winter fun.

Blue Mountain



'Princess' hosts *The Lord of the Rings*

It doesn't take a science fiction geek to figure out that when the theatrical world premiere of *The Lord of the Rings* is launched in February 2006, it will be a production to remember.

Opening in Toronto's lovely Princess of Wales Theatre, J.R.R. Tolkien's epic trilogy of friendship, courage, loyalty, love and fear will have you believe, if only for a few hours, that you are in Middle-earth.

"What we have is a beautiful and spectacular adaptation of Tolkien's epic that in word, music, design and performance honours the original trilogy in its imagination, scale and insight," says producer Kevin Wallace. "*The Lord of the Rings* is one of the great stories of the last century, and not surprisingly it will take us three hours of stage time to perform our version of all three books – three unforgettable extraordinary hours in Middle-earth for audiences of all ages."

Tickets will sell fast: Toronto is the only North American site for *The Lord of the Rings* for at least 18 months. So, strap on your finest suit of mithril and buy your tickets now. The show begins February 2, 2006.

Log on to **www.lotr.com** to find out more about the production. To book your tickets, visit TicketKing online at **www.ticketking.com** or call **1-800-461-3333**.

Photo: Cylla von Tiedmann

the source

a world of information

Muskoka

Get the most out of your vacation with *Ontario*. Whether you have your mind set on where you'd like to visit, or are simply looking for ideas, we recommend some specific sources to help you plan your fall getaway.

If you need any information on travelling in Ontario – weather, highway construction and travel tips – we're just a mouse click or phone call away, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When you are ready to *plan*, we have friendly travel counsellors ready to *help* at **1-800-ONTARIO (668-2746)**, and don't miss the searchable events database at **www.ontariotravel.net**

Fishing Ontario

Take advantage of 250,000 lakes, 100,000 km (60,000 mi.) of rivers and streams teeming with millions of hungry fish. Reel in trout and walleye, two of the anglers' favourite fall-typical fish catches. Visit **www.ontariotravel.net/gofish** to view many packages to help you plan your fishing adventure today.

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It's your complete online source to authentic Ontario experiences. Log on for vacation ideas and travel planning. Send an e-postcard. Check on the weather. View maps. Get the hottest travel tips. Subscribe to *Ontario.* But before you pass out from all the excitement, remember to order your free copy of our new *Great Fall Drives* guide at **www.ontariotravel.net/greatdrives** for unique fall driving tours.

Ontario Outdoors

Get your fill of paddling, white-water rafting, birding, hiking, cycling and more outdoor adventures at **www.ontariotravel.net/outdoors** online. Surprise yourself with the interesting facts of our signature landscapes, then book a fall getaway package at one of Ontario's favourite destinations.

Official Road Map of Ontario

Always make sure that you have an up-to-date Official Road Map of Ontario, created by the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Tourism. The latest edition is available by visiting **www.ontariotravel.net** or by calling **1-800-ONTARIO**.

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Travel information

Year-round Centres

Barrie, (Hwy. 400 & Molson Park Dr. East)
21 Molson Park Dr. East L4N 9A9
Tel: (705) 725-7280 **Fax:** (705) 725-7285
Toll-Free: 1-800-567-1140
May 15 - June 10 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 - Nov. 30 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dec. 1 - Mar. 31 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
April 1 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Cornwall*, 903 Brookdale Ave. K6J 4P3
Tel: (613) 933-2420 **Fax:** (613) 933-3387
May 15 - June 9
Sat. - Wed. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thurs. - Fri. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 10 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fort Erie*, 350 Bertie St., Unit 1 L2A 6S6
Tel: (905) 871-3505 **Fax:** (905) 871-6461
May 15 - June 9 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
June 10 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sept. 6 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fort Frances*, 400 Central Ave. P9A 1X8
Tel: (807) 274-7566 **Fax:** (807) 274-7870
May 15 - Sept. 3 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sept. 4 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Niagara Falls*, 5355 Stanley Ave. L2E 7C2
Tel: (905) 358-3221 **Fax:** (905) 358-6441
May 15 - June 10
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5† - Oct. 8
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Oct. 9 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

St. Catharines*, (Westbound QEW at east end of Garden City Skyway)
RR 4, Niagara-on-the-Lake L0S 1J0
Tel: (905) 684-6354 **Fax:** (905) 684-3634
May 15 - June 10
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5† - Oct. 8
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Oct. 9 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sarnia*, Blue Water Bridge
1455 Venetian Blvd. N7T 7W7
Tel: (519) 344-7403 **Fax:** (519) 332-4576
May 15 - June 10
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5† - Oct. 8
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Oct. 9 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sault Ste. Marie*, 261 Queen St. West
P6A 1A3
Tel: (705) 945-6941 **Fax:** (705) 945-6943
May 15 - June 10 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 - Oct. 15 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Oct. 16 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Toronto*, Atrium on Bay
Location: 20 Dundas Street, West M5G 2C2
Mailing Address: Atrium on Bay, P.O. Box 162
595 Bay Street, Toronto M5G 2C2
Fax: (416) 314-5901
All Year (except Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day)
Jan. 2 - May 19 and Sept. 5 - Dec. 31
Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
May 20 - Sept. 2
Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Weekends same all year
Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sun. Noon-5 p.m.

Windsor Huron*, Ambassador Bridge
1235 Huron Church Rd. N9C 2K6
Tel: (519) 973-1310 **Fax:** (519) 973-1313
May 15 - June 10
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5† - Oct. 8
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Oct. 9 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Windsor Park*, 110 Park St. East N9A 3A9
Tel: (519) 973-1338 **Fax:** (519) 973-1341
May 15 - June 10
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5† - Oct. 8
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Oct. 9 - May 14 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Seasonal Centres

Hawkesbury, 777 Highway 417, RR 1
Chute a Blondeau K0B 1B0
Tel: (613) 674-2000 **Fax:** (613) 674-2689
May 15 - June 10
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 - Oct. 10 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Oct. 11 - May 14 CLOSED

Hill Island*, 700 Highway 137 (Lansdowne)
RR 1, Hill Island K0E 1L0
Tel: (613) 659-2108 **Fax:** (613) 659-2102
May 15 - May 21 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
May 22 - June 9
Sat. - Wed. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thurs. - Fri. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 10 - Sept. 4
Sept. 5 - Oct. 10 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Oct. 11 - May 14 CLOSED

Lancaster, 20806 County Rd. 2 & Hwy. 401
RR 1 K0C 1N0
Tel: (613) 347-3498 **Fax:** (613) 347-3435
May 15 - June 10
Sun. - Thurs. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 10 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 - Oct. 10 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Oct. 11 - May 14 CLOSED

Kenora, (Hwy. 17 at ON/MB Border)
c/o General Delivery, Keewatin P0X 1C0
Tel: (807) 468-2495 **Fax:** (204) 349-8339
May 15 - June 15 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
June 16 - Aug. 26 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Aug. 27 - Sept. 5 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sept. 6 - May 14 CLOSED

Pigeon River*, 7671 Hwy. 61
(at US/Canada Border)
RR 7, Pigeon River
Thunder Bay "F" P7C 5V5
Tel: (807) 964-2094 **Fax:** (807) 964-2029
May 15 - June 9 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
June 10 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 - Oct. 10 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Oct. 11 - May 14 CLOSED

Prescott, (1033 Hwy. 16 at US/Canada Border)
PO Box 1600 K0E 1T0
Tel: (613) 925-3346 **Fax:** (613) 925-1462
May 15 - 21 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
May 22 - June 10
Sun. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
June 11 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 - Oct. 10 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Oct. 11 - May 14 CLOSED

Rainy River, 301 Atwood Ave.
PO Box 100 P0W 1L0
Tel: (807) 852-4449 **Fax:** (807) 852-3124
May 15 - June 9 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
June 10 - Sept. 4 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sept. 5 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sept. 6 - May 14 CLOSED

**Currency exchange on site*
†Open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Labour Day (Sept. 5)

? INDICATES LOCATION OF ONTARIO TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTRE. SEE OPPOSITE PAGE FOR LOCATIONS. ADDRESSES AND HOURS OF OPERATION CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING.

to go

While you're on the road, stop in at any of Ontario's 18 conveniently located Travel Information Centres. Knowledgeable staff are on hand to provide quality, customized travel information to suit your personal needs, and each centre is stocked with Ontario travel brochures. We recommend that you call **1-800-ONTARIO** to verify hours of operation.

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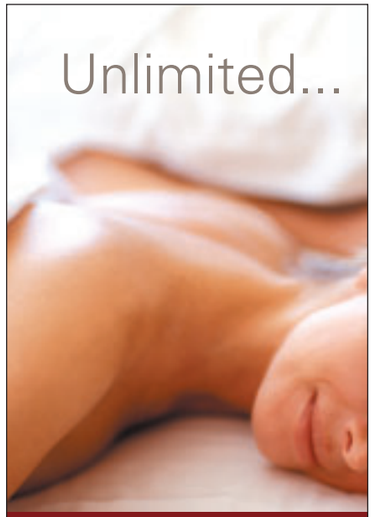
On the next few pages you'll find delightful places to **eat, play** and **stay** – complete with their latest deals and contact information.



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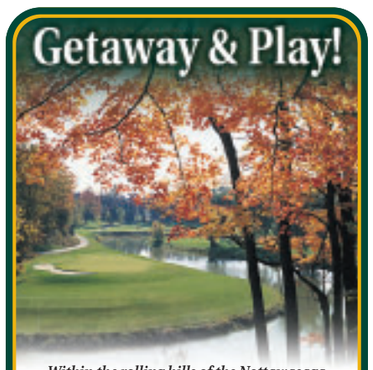

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La Nuit sur l'etang, Oct. 22
Passe la nuit avec nous
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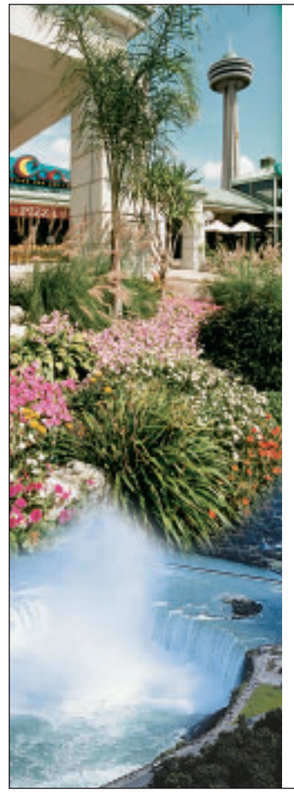

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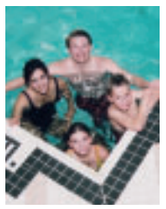

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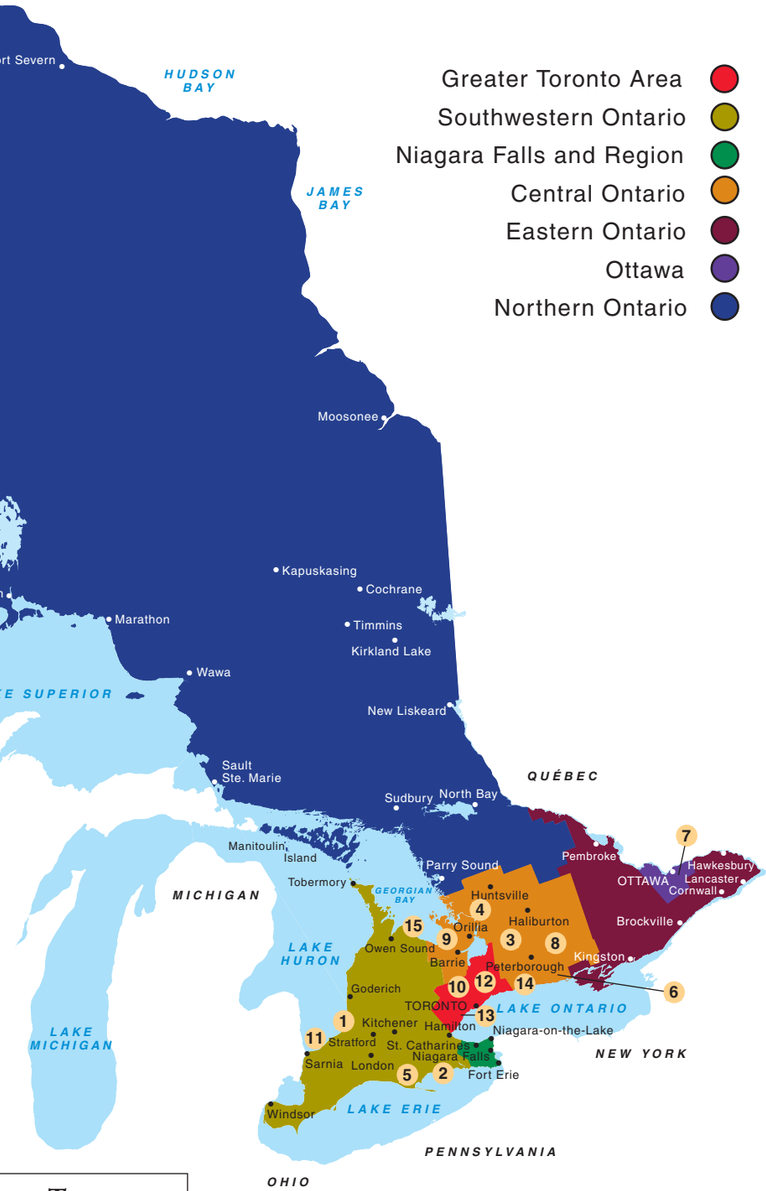

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ontario trivia

do you really know Ontario?

Roll up your sleeves, take the phone off the hook, ignore your pet's pleas for attention! It's another round of fun with *Ontario* trivia. To make it really easy for you, the answers are at the bottom of the page.

1

Over 426 km (264 mi.) in length, the Missinaibi River is which of the following?

a) One of the longest uninterrupted canoe routes in Ontario
b) One of Ontario's longest, unimpeded stretches of wilderness river environments
c) Part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System
d) All of the above (and more)

This was Canada's first children's museum.

a) Canadian Children's Museum
b) London Regional Children's Museum
c) Waterloo Regional Children's Museum
d) Hamilton Children's Museum

2

3

Ontario is home to Canada's largest environmental education centre. Which of the following is it?

a) Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Midland
b) Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia
c) The Kortright Centre, Woodbridge
d) Muskoka Wildlife Centre, Severn Bridge

Thunder Bay is home to the world's largest _____ .

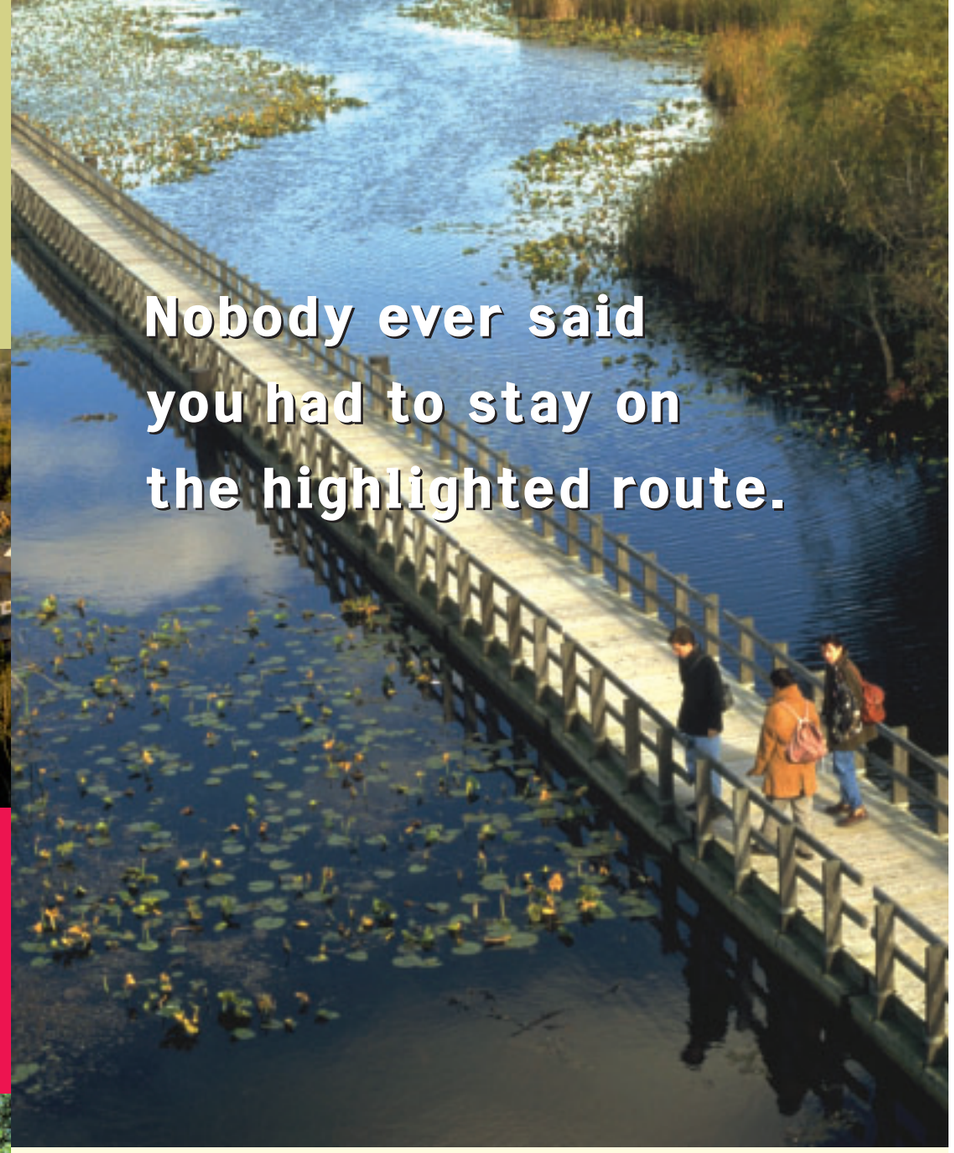
a) Steam engine museum
b) Swedish population outside of Sweden
c) Fur trade post
d) Ski club

4

Canada's largest network of walking paths, part of Ontario's Greenbelt, stretches:

a) From Thunder Bay to Sudbury
b) From North Bay to Orillia
c) From Cornwall to Kingston
d) From Rice Lake to Tobermory to Queenston

5



•Barrie (2)
•Belleville (2)
•Bracebridge
•Brantford
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•Hamilton
•Huntsville
•Kapuskasing
•Kenora
•Kingston (2)
•Kirkland Lake
•Kitchener
•Leamington
•London (4)
•Midland
•New Liskeard
•Newmarket
•Niagara Falls (5)
•Niagara Falls/Fort Erie
•Niagara Falls/St. Catharines (2)
•Niagara Falls/Welland
•North Bay (3)
•Orillia (3)
•Oshawa
•Oshawa/Whitby
•Ottawa (5)
•Ottawa/Arnprior
•Ottawa/Kanata
•Ottawa/Smiths Falls
•Owen Sound
•Parry Sound
•Pembroke
•Peterborough (2)
•Port Hope
•Sault Ste. Marie (3)
•Simcoe
•Sudbury (3)
•Thunder Bay
•Timmins
•Toronto (7)
•Toronto/Brampton
•Toronto/Markham
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ANSWERS: 1. d) All of the above (and more) (Photo: Albany Rapids: Missinaibi by Dave Sproule) 2. b) London Regional Children's Museum (Photo: Brian Hillier) 3. c) The Kortright Centre 4. c) Fur Trade post (Fort William Historical Park) 5. d) From Rice Lake to Tobermory to Queenston

Finally a show we all agree on.

Here on nature's commercial-free channel it's prime time all the time, with a kind of remote even my kids seem to handle well.

Ontario moments

Arowhon Pines Resort, Algonquin Provincial Park