Ontario

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Best Western Colonel Butler Inn
Niagara Falls Area (Welland)
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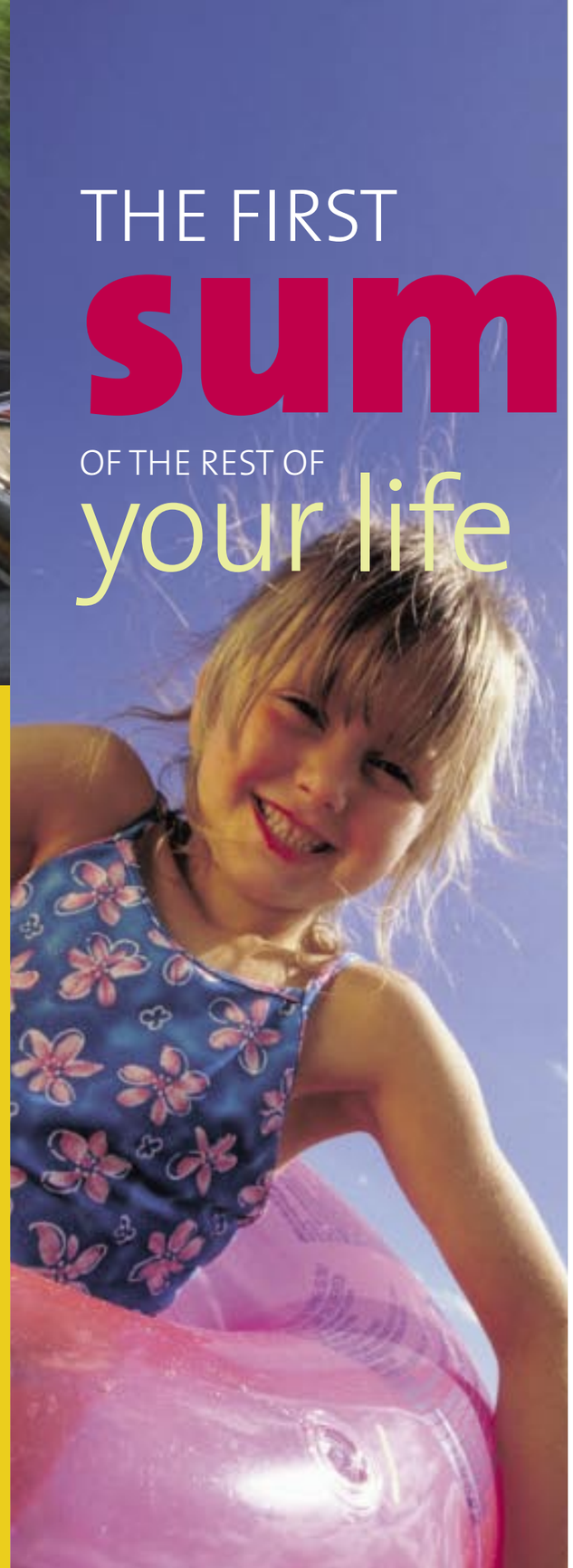

There's a saying 'life is short, but wide.' In travel terms this loosely translates as 'there's so much to see and do in Ontario, don't hesitate to experience the best our province has to offer.'

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Our world-class attractions are truly second-to-none. From theatres and museums to angling and hiking to anything and everything else.

Enter Toronto – a magnetic metropolis undergoing a major cultural renaissance. It has a plethora of summertime activities – all within a pleasant stroll of each other.

Actually, Ontario itself is one huge cultural hotbed. And is just as vast in history. Take in the sights, sounds and smells of our past as you visit historic sites.

Besides having fun with culture, you can experience the culture of having fun. What if you could just be a kid again? This is your chance. Walk through a cave. Go on a safari. Don ponchos at Niagara Falls. Take a train tour through Northern Ontario. Defy gravity on a slippery slide at Ontario Place. Your kids will love them too.

Remember that *Top 10 Things to do in your Life* list? Well, make it 11 by adding 'taking a dip with polar bears in Cochrane.' That's right, you can do that and more in Ontario.

If you haven't got the hint yet, when you vacation in Ontario, it's far from boring – it lets out the kid in all of us! So don't put off planning your vacation – life is too short. But make it wide by experiencing a lifetime of moments in Ontario.

Visit **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO** for more summer excitement.

L: Port Dover

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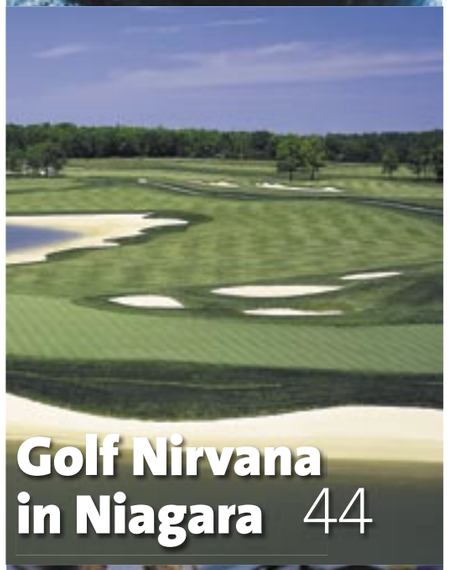

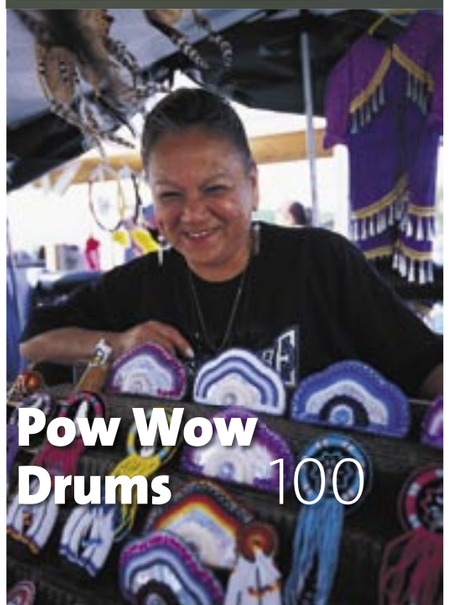

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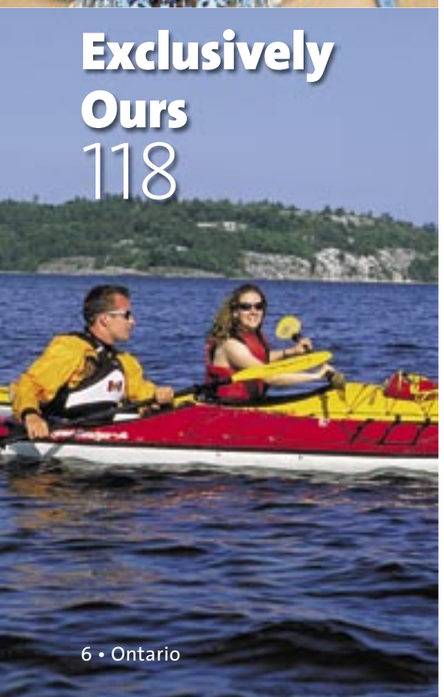

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Cover photo: Killbear Provincial Park. For more information and a complete listing of all parks, go to **www.OntarioParks.com**

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Photo: Catherine Bell

Ottawa

Dear Editor,

Having enjoyed reading the last two editions of your *Ontario* magazine, I thought you may like to see one of the photos I took whilst in Ottawa for the Tulip Festival a couple of years ago. The flowers were a joy to behold. The weather was magical and as I walked along the Rideau Canal among throngs of happy people, I was delighted to hear many familiar Australian songs as the colourful flotilla went by with a strong Aussie theme. It was quite unexpected so far from home.

It was a memory day – one of many I have enjoyed whilst staying with my daughter who lives in Toronto and kindly sends me your magazines.

As I am planning another visit later this year, your magazine is giving me many ideas of places I can explore, *thank you!*

Yours sincerely, *Ontario* Reader

Catherine Bell, Australia

Hi Folks,

In September, as part of a break to Toronto from our home in Scotland, my wife Helen and I decided to stop over in Niagara Falls.

We then spent the day walking along the gorge towards the Falls; we wanted to 'come across' the Falls slowly but surely, and it was worth it. The brilliant sunshine and the clear air made it a super day. Of no less importance is the superb way in which the parks alongside the gorge and Falls have been laid out and maintained.

Overlooking the Falls, we dined in our room on the 31st floor of the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel. Excellent. But this area isn't all about scenery and great weather; it's all about really nice people, kind and helpful. We'll be back.

Ontario Reader

George Boyd, Scotland

Send us your stories

Ontario is bursting with world-class adventures around every corner, wherever you find yourself. If you have had a unique and colourful moment travelling our beautiful province, let us know in 150 words or less and you may see it 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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editor@ontariotravel.net

Please 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!

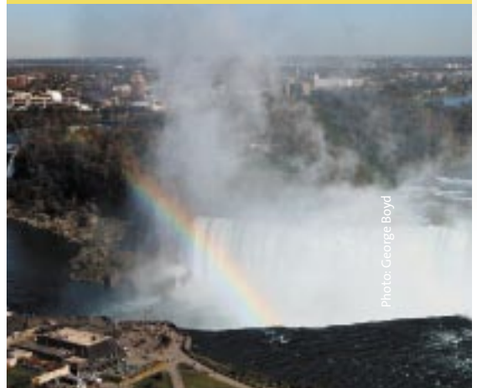

Photo: George Boyd

R: Niagara Falls

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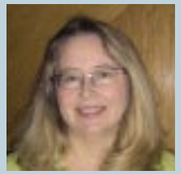

JACQUELYN WALLER-VINTAR'S background is magazine writing and editing, with many years at *Toronto Life* and *WHERE Toronto*. She has been a judge at the National Magazine Awards for the past four years, and was a nominee, with her husband Alan, for the writing of the *Toronto Life Pet Guide*. We asked her for some great places to take kids in the summer, and she headed out with her three children (Tessa, 14, Graydon, 12 and Luka, 4). Her kids love her being a writer – especially when they are her assistant researchers. Their findings are on page 76.

BRYAN PRINCE, a descendant of slaves who fled to Canada, is a farmer, historian and author from the Buxton settlement. He lectures across Ontario and the United States on the Underground Railroad and black history. In addition to researching and writing short stories on this fascinating history, such as the one on page 48, his works include the book *I Came As A Stranger: The Underground Railroad* and writing the script for the television documentary *A Thousand Miles To Freedom*.

As a full-time freelance writer/photographer, **JAMES SMEDLEY** is no stranger to canoes, float planes, hiking boots and heavy packs. Travelling light is a challenge because he never goes anywhere without a laptop and 30 pounds of camera gear. James is the Backroads columnist and Field Editor for *Ontario Out Of Doors* magazine and a regular contributor of outdoors stories and images to U.S. and Canadian books, magazines and newspapers. Since 1996 he has won 14 national awards for writing and photography. See why on Page 145.

GEORGE CZERNY is a former publisher of weekly and daily newspapers, a journalist and photographer. He coined the phrase "Georgian Triangle", the name used to promote Collingwood and area as a travel destination. George looks on Georgian Bay as his centre of the universe and enjoys sharing his feelings about what some people call "the sixth Great Lake" beginning on page 122. He is the author of a travel guide, *George's Georgian Bay*. George lives in Craigleith, near Collingwood, with his first love, Nancy.

Ontario

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FROM CANADA, CONTINENTAL U.S.A. AND HAWAII:
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From Canada: French: 1-800-268-3736
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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.ontariottravel.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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Must be 19 years of age or older. Government issued photo identification may be required. Some restrictions may apply.

fun

L–R: Ottawa, Elora, Haliburton

IN THE sun

It begins with a sprint through waves breaking on to the sandy beach. It ends with exhausted kids, relaxed parents and big appetites. In between, a family's epic shoreline adventure includes beach volleyball, snorkelling, castles galore and the discovery of shiny shells buried in sand. Minds are rested. Blankets laid. And a well-deserved lunch is devoured in seconds. What a day.

Don't miss out on summer in Ontario. Go cycling. Play a round of golf. Enjoy boutique shopping. Take in theatre. And so much more. Visit **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

L: Sandbanks Provincial Park

in the know

It's all right here!

Itching to experience the new, the unique and the intriguing? Well, don't book anything until you've read through *in the know*. You may be pleasantly surprised when you realize that the world's coolest styles, accommodations, events and attractions are right here in Ontario. Simply flip through the next few pages and plan your trip by visiting **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** or by calling **1-800-ONTARIO**. Then go crazy.

Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa

ACCOMMODATION

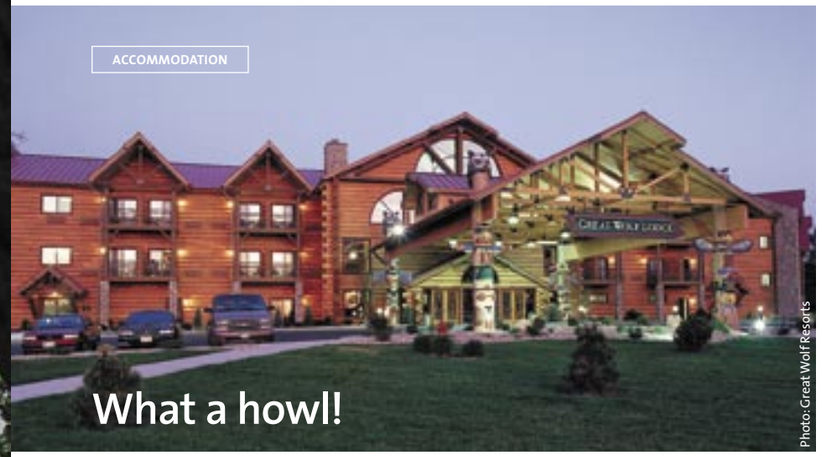


Photo: Great Wolf Resorts

What a howl!

Warning: be prepared to be called 'cool' by your own kids when you enter the lobby of the new Great Wolf Lodge family resort in Niagara Falls. They'll quickly understand what you were talking about when you tell them about this trip.

They'll remember you saying that it's one of the biggest log cabin they'll ever see in their lives...that it has this really neat place to eat called Camp Critter Bar & Grille...and that you get to sleep in the Majestic Bear Suite. But above all, they'll remember it has a huge indoor waterpark where they'll get soaked in a wave pool, zoom down 10 waterslides, play in an interactive treehouse water fort and chill out in a family whirlpool.

Great Wolf Lodge, Niagara Falls
www.niagara.greatwolflodge.com
1-800-605-WOLF

Photo: Great Wolf Resorts

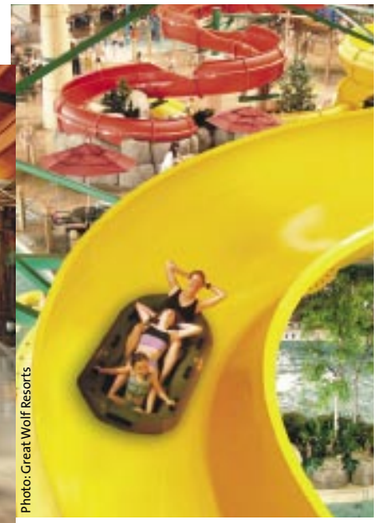


Photo: Great Wolf Resorts

Photo: Andy Whale

EVENT

The Black Rider, designed by Rob Howell for *The Lord Of The Rings* stage adaptation

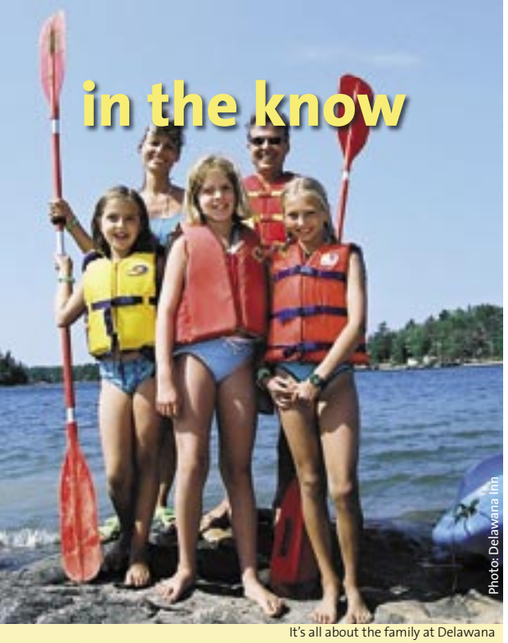
Tuned into *The Lord of the Rings*

The distinctive musical forms of renowned Indian composer, A.R. Rahman, and Finland's most successful contemporary folk music group, Värttinä, filled the theatre with a sound that captivated all and had hairs standing on end. The theatrical production was in full swing. The imaginative music culminated with a deafening round of applause from the totally enraptured audience signalling the scene was over. Lucky for the enthralled, there would be many more memorable musical moments to come.

You'll never forget the magical music of *The Lord of the Rings* now playing at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto.

Don't miss out – purchase your tickets now! Simply visit **www.lotr.com** or call TicketKing at **1-800-461-3333**.

in the know



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ACCOMMODATION

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The Delawana Inn Resort has been a favourite summertime destination for families since 1897. It has practically everything a kid could ever want in a vacation, including one of the hottest new sports in the world, frolf, which is a zany outdoor activity combining golf and frisbee. Here's even better news – it's only 90 minutes north of Toronto and it was rated the Best Summer Family Resort in Canada by *City Parent Magazine* last year.

Delawana Inn Resort
www.delawana.com
1-800-627-3387

For other resorts your kids are sure to love, visit **www.resorts-ontario.com** or call **1-800-363-7227.**

ATTRACTION

'Luxury in the Wild'

She's stately and majestic.

She's not typical of the kind of vessel you see in the beautiful, deep blue waters of Northern Ontario.

But The Grace Anne II has been a fixture on the waters of Lake of the Woods for almost 75 years. The 26-metre (85-foot) yacht was a birthday gift from John Forlong to his wife. The original Grace Anne, just a little smaller, was won by John in a poker game and served the family for almost 20 years.

The Grace Anne II was sold in 1946 and for the past 60 years has been owned by several businesses, primarily the 3M Company, which went out of its way to preserve the original character of the yacht.

Today The Grace Anne II – billed as 'luxury in the wild' – has a wheelhouse equipped with modern telecommunications equipment – sonar and Global Positioning System – that work alongside the original lamplit compass.

The Grace Anne II sails out of Kenora from mid May to the end of October by charter only and trips are mainly three nights – Friday morning to Monday morning and Monday through Thursday or Tuesday through Friday. The luxury cruiser sleeps six and the food is prepared by an executive chef to meet all tastes and events, but everyone experiences the elegant five-course Captain's Dinner.

The Grace Anne II, Kenora
www.graceanne.com
1-800-987-3857

The Grace Anne II plying the waters of Lake of the Woods

FOOD

Mixed berries with raspberry sorbet

Peppered Mango Aspic:
500 mL (2 cups) mango pulp
60 mL (1/4 cups) water
15 mL (1 tbsp) sugar
2 mL (1/4 tsp) lemon juice
pinch white pepper
7 mL (one envelope) gelatine

Directions:
To make the syrup, boil water with the sugar and lemon juice then add pepper and gelatine. Add mango pulp to syrup. Pour the mixture in eight martini, parfait, or dessert glasses. Let cool and solidify in fridge.

Vanilla Infused Fruit Salad:

Syrup:
250 mL (1 cup) water
125 mL (1/2 cup) sugar
2 vanilla beans

Red Fruit Salad
750 mL (3 cups) mixture of red fruits (e.g., strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, red currants, etc.)

Directions:
To make the syrup, boil water with sugar and vanilla beans and let cool. Add syrup to fruit. Once cold, add fruit cocktail over the solid gelatine.

Raspberry Sorbet:
500 mL (2 cups) raspberry purée
60 mL (1/4 cup) sugar
15 mL (1 tbsp) corn syrup
60 mL (1/4 cup) water

Directions:
To make the syrup, boil water with corn syrup and sugar and let cool. Once cold, add the purée and insert in ice cream maker. When sorbet is ready, scoop over the fruit salad. You may decorate the final cup by inserting Mikado Straws.

Looks good, doesn't it? This mouth-watering treat comes to you directly from the kitchen of Ottawa's Le Cordon Bleu Paris Culinary Arts Institute. For more on the school, please turn to page 106.

Finding the fruit of your labour

Ingredients can make or break a recipe. So, hop in your car, drive to a pick-your-own farm and harvest the best produce in the world – here in Ontario. Visit **www.foodland.gov.on.ca** to find the farm nearest you.

in the know

EVENT

The ancient Orient in Ontario

Ontario Place has outdone itself again. This summer only, it's hosting the Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival, heralded as one of Toronto's biggest summer special attractions. Brought to us directly from China, it will boast more than 35 beautiful Chinese lanterns, 3,000 traditional art lamps and 2,000 red silk lamps.

Along with the lamps and lanterns, there will be themed performances, oriental cuisine and a marketplace. And it's only happening this summer, right here in Ontario.

Photo: Ontario Place

Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival
Ontario Place, Toronto
July 20 – October 1
www.chineselanternfestival.ca
1-866-666-8996

ATTRACTION

Fountains of youth

On the west side you see one of the most visited attractions in Canada, the Eaton Centre. On the south, the lively Hard Rock Café. On the east, the world's only permanent Olympic-themed complex, Olympic Spirit. And on the north, the soon-to-be-completed mega entertainment centre: Metropolis.

Where are you? You're at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto, of course. The star attractions of this one-acre space are its 22 fountains, computer-programmed to shoot water into the air to the delight of kids and adults alike.

But it's more than just a place to chill out. Throughout the summer, the bustling Yonge-Dundas Square has weekly artisans' markets, free outdoor movies, world music shows, a café and a permanent kiosk for discounted performance tickets.

Yonge-Dundas Square, Toronto
www.ydsquare.ca
(416) 979-9960

Yonge-Dundas Square, Toronto

THE ARTS

Warhol's works

He once prophesied that, "In the future, everyone will be world famous for 15 minutes." It didn't take him long to become one of the most famous painters in the world. How did Andy Warhol do it?

He took everyday American products, such as Campbell's soup cans and celebrities, including Elvis Presley, and painted them using wild colours in a screen and ink process called screen-printing. Warhol, along with his workers at his New York 'Factory', mass-produced his art in the same way that many of his images themselves are created – in a factory.

The Art Gallery of Ontario, in conjunction with the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis are eager to present *Andy Warhol/Supernova: Stars, Deaths and Disasters 1962–1964* this July 8 to October 1 which includes more than 20 of Andy Warhol's iconic images on silkscreen.

Collection Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Art Center Acquisition Fund, 1968.
Photograph courtesy of Walker Art Center.

Andy Warhol, *16 Jackies*, 1964 acrylic and silkscreen ink on linen 80 x 64 in. (203.2 x 162.6 cm)

Andy Warhol / Supernova: Stars, Deaths and Disasters 1962–1964
The Art Gallery of Ontario
Toronto
July 8 to October 1
www.ago.net
(416) 979-6648

in the know

Collingwood Elvis Festival

EVENT

All shook up in Collingwood

The King of Rock and Roll lives! Elvis and his hundreds of look-a-likes are celebrating his legacy in Collingwood with street dances, parades and more.

Collingwood Elvis Festival
July 26–30
www.collingwoodelvisfestival.com
1-866-444-1162

ATTRACTION

Magical mountain

– By Michael Franks

The first time I visited Lake on the Mountain I sensed a serene feeling that has stayed with me ever since; and I often return to renew that feeling. It's a peaceful place full of gentle sounds; water lapping at the lake's edge, birdsong, bees doing what bees do.

The Mohawks named it Onokenoga: Lake of the Gods, where they believed spirits lived within its waters.

It's a magical place to stroll, picnic under the dappled shade of huge ancient trees, or canoe across the quiet expanse of the lake. You can enjoy a romantic lunch or dinner by the lake at Lake on the Mountain Resort's restaurant The Inn, a stone building dating back to pre-1878; sit under umbrellas on its terrace surrounded by beautiful flowers and shrubs, or you can dine inside and join locals at its cosy bar. The lake has a constant flow of fresh water even though there is no apparent source. It is just over 61 m (200 ft.) above the level of Quinte Bay, creating an oddity that defies geological theory. That is part of its magic and adds to the mystery of this unique place.

Few places have had the impact on me that this locale has. It's hard to believe it still exists unspoiled, waiting to soothe our spirit.

– Michael Franks is an accomplished TV producer, writer and avid kayaker who regards Lake on the Mountain as one of his favourite destinations in Ontario.

Lake on the Mountain
Provincial Park
www.ontarioparks.com
(613) 393-3319

Prince Edward County
Chamber of Tourism & Commerce
www.pecchamber.com
1-800-640-4717

Lake on the Mountain Provincial Park

ATTRACTION

Photo: John Farrington

Where's Nemo?

– By John Farrington

On a (very) clear day you can see the CN Tower.

The view from Mount Nemo is spectacular, even when it is overcast. It's relatively easy to get to the top of this limestone cliff, just north of Burlington on the Guelph Line. Park the car at the base and take a walk on a very pleasant tree-lined path to the lookout.

From the main path two loop trails, each taking about an hour to complete, are a little more rugged and often come close to the edge of the escarpment cliff. And for the more adventurous there are caves to explore and rocks to climb.

On a clear day you can see Milton and Brampton. You can admire 1,000-year-old cedar trees, their growth long-since stunted because of the harsh climate they endure on the cliff face. If you think that's old, it's nothing compared to Mount Nemo itself. Those that know how to judge these things figure it may be 450 million years old – give or take a few million. They say it popped up on the shore of a tropical shallow sea that covered much of Ontario and Michigan way back then.

There are birds to see, such as the turkey vulture, black-capped chickadee, Canada warbler, scarlet tanager and the rose-breasted grosbeak. Red squirrels, white-tailed deer, the American toad and northern leopard frog also call Nemo home.

Enjoy the natural beauty of Mount Nemo of Conservation Halton, part of Ontario's Greenbelt on the Niagara Escarpment, a world biosphere reserve.

– John Farrington has been the editor and publisher of a number of daily newspapers throughout Canada.

Brock Harris Lookout on Mount Nemo

Mount Nemo Conservation Area
www.conservationhalton.on.ca/nemo.html
(905) 336-1158

Bruce Trail Association
www.brucetrail.org
1-800-665-4453

Greenbelt Ontario
www.greenbeltontario.org

Lookout plaque honours Brock Harris' 31 years of service to Halton Conservation Authority

Photo: John Farrington

Ottawa

Something for **EVERYONE** under the sun

There's one thing about Ontario that never fails to surprise – we have a lot of festivals and events. Not only that, but they're some of the finest in North America. Make your summer memorable. Flip to page 26 for our summer favourites, including provincial park events on page 30. For a complete list, visit **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** today.

Canada Day – July 1

This is it – the big one. Today is devoted to the celebration of our fair nation's 139th birthday (wow, that's a lot of candles). Before you take in the parades, concerts, arts and Canadiana memorabilia, dress head to toe in your finest red and whites to show off your Canadian pride.

Canada Day in Ottawa
www.ottawatourism.ca
1-800-363-4465

Victoria Day – May 22

There are so many reasons to do something spectacular this day: it's on the first long weekend signalling the return of summer, it's the official celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday and nature is finally coming to life. If you love the outdoors, this is the perfect opportunity to pack up the tent for the weekend and go camping.

Simcoe Day – August 7

Did you know that the first Monday in August is also called Simcoe Day here in Ontario? Named after the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (Ontario), Major-General John Graves Simcoe, who established our provincial capital and initiated the abolishment of slavery in Ontario. So on Simcoe Day, honour this historic legend and make the most of it enjoying everything Ontario has to offer.

For further event information and more long weekend ideas, please visit **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO** today.

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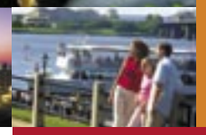

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OTTAWA 2006 **SUMMER EVENTS**

PETRA: Lost City of Stone
Canadian Museum of Civilization

Emily Carr
National Gallery of Canada

Canada Dance Festival
National Arts Centre

Canada Day
Parliament Hill

Sound & Light Show
Parliament Hill

Popular Shows
Casino du Lac-Leamy

Casino Sound of Light Fireworks Competition
Casino du Lac-Leamy

Ottawa Bluesfest

Ottawa International Jazz Festival

Ottawa Chamber Music Festival

Country Mazes
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Ottawa

event full

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Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake
March 30–November 19
www.shawfest.com

Stratford Festival, Stratford
April 24–October 29
www.stratfordfestival.ca

may

Watched by Heaven, Tied to Earth
Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto,
to March 2007

Contact Toronto Photography Festival
Toronto, May 1–31

Canadian Tulip Festival
Ottawa, May 4–22

38th Annual Niagara Folk Arts Festival
St. Catharines, May 12–28

Lilac Festival
Hamilton, May 20–22/27, 28

Milk International Children's Festival of the Arts
Toronto, May 21–28

Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival and Merchant Mall
Waterloo/St. Jacobs, May 24–27

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Carassauga Festival
Mississauga, May 26–28

Doors Open
Toronto, May 27, 28

june

Gregor's Crossing Medieval Faire
Chatham, June 1–4

Canada Dance Festival
Ottawa, June 2–10

Feast in the City
Hamilton, June 2–11

Blind River White Pine Cultural Festival/Centennial Celebration
Blind River, June 2–August 19

Welland Rose Festival
Welland, June 3–11

Hamilton International Tattoo
Hamilton, June 10–11

Festival de la St. Jean Baptiste de la region de Kapuskasing
Kapuskasing, June 14–18

Rock the Fort
Fort William Historical Park,
Thunder Bay, June 16–18

Pride Week
Toronto, June 19–25

TD Canada Trust Ottawa International Jazz Festival
Ottawa, June 22–July 2

Cobourg Highland Games
Cobourg, June 23, 24

Canadian Aviation Expo
Oshawa, June 23–25

Oakville Waterfront Festival
Oakville, June 23–25

Moosefest
Dryden, June 24–July 10

Peterborough Summer Festival of Lights
Peterborough, June 24–August 26

Friendship Festival
Fort Erie, June 29–July 2

Great Rendezvous Festival
Fort William Historical Park,
Thunder Bay, June 29–July 3

Bikers Reunion and Summerfest
Temiskaming Shores, June 30–July 2

Kincardine Scottish Festival
Kincardine, June 30–July 2

Windsor Elvis Fest
Windsor, June 30–July 2

july

Canada Day Celebrations
Ottawa, July 1

The Antique and Classic Boat Show
Gravenhurst, July 7–9

Belleville Waterfront and Ethnic Festival
Belleville, July 7–9

Carabram
Brampton, July 7–9

Molson Grand Prix of Toronto

Molson Grand Prix of Toronto
Toronto, July 7–9

Thunder Bay Blues Festival
Thunder Bay, July 7–9

Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition
Toronto, July 7–9

RotaryFest, The Sault's Summer Festival
Sault Ste. Marie, July 13–15

Kingston Buskers Rendezvous
Kingston, July 13–16

5th Annual Holstein Rodeo Weekend
Holstein, July 14–16

Angels Watching Quilt Show
Peterborough, July 14–16

French Dressing International Dragon Boats Festival
Windsor, July 14–16

Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival
Toronto, July 20–October 1

Norseman Festival
Red Lake, July 21–23

Festival of the Sound
Parry Sound, July 21–August 13

Collingwood Elvis Festival
Collingwood, July 26–30

Kapuskasing Lumberjack Heritage Festival
Kapuskasing, July 27–30

Mattawa Voyageur Days
Mattawa, July 27–30

Toronto Beaches Jazz Festival
Toronto, July 27–30

Hillside Festival
Guelph, July 28–30

Harbourfest
Kenora, July 29–31

Scarborough Rotary Ribfest
Scarborough, July 29–August 1

Caribana
Toronto, July 29–August 7

Caribana, Toronto

august

Markdale Ice Cream Festival
Markdale, August 4, 5

North Bay Heritage Festival
North Bay, August 4–7

Kempenfest 2006
Barrie, August 5–7

Wikwimikong Cultural Festival
Wikwimikong, August 5–7

Annual Shania Twain Worldwide Fan Convention
Timmins, August 10–13

Cobblestone Festival
Paris, August 10–20

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games
Fergus, August 11–13

Live from the Rock Folk Festival
Red Rock, August 11–13

Taste of the Danforth
Toronto, August 11–13

Festival of the Islands
Gananoque, August 11–20

Sturgeon Falls Annual Step Dance and Fiddle Festival
Sturgeon Falls, August 13–20

13th Annual Ottawa Folk Festival
Ottawa, August 17–20

Havelock Country Jamboree
Havelock, August 17–20

Summerfolk 2006
Owen Sound, August 18–20

Winnie's Hometown Festival
White River, August 18–20

Canadian National Exhibition
Toronto, August 18–September 4

Limestone City Blues Festival
Kingston, August 24–27

Tecumseh Corn Fest
Tecumseh, August 24–27

Fiesta del Sol '06: A Celebration of Latin American Culture
London, August 25–27

Winona Peach Festival
Winona, August 25–27

Garlic Festival
Sudbury, August 26, 27

To discover our full lineup of events please visit
www.festivalsandeventsontario.ca
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MORE SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS IN OUR PROVINCIAL PARKS

may

May Birding Month
Rondeau Provincial Park
April 29– May 22

Migration Weekend
Pinery Provincial Park
May 20, 21

Pinery Provincial Park

Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend
Presqu'ile Provincial Park
May 20, 21

Huron Fringe Birding Festival
MacGregor Point Provincial Park
May 26–June 4

july

Blue Lake Time Machine
Blue Lake Provincial Park
July 1

Superior, Sand and Sun
Neys Provincial Park
July 14–16

Wild about the West
Quetico Provincial Park
July 21–23

Wasaga Under Siege
Wasaga Beach Provincial Park
July 21–23

12th Annual Canoe Regatta and Corn Roast
Rainbow Falls Provincial Park
July 22

Rushing River Daze
Rushing River Provincial Park
July 22

Bon Echo Art Exhibition and Sale
Bon Echo Provincial Park
July 28–30

Bon Echo Provincial Park

Music Jamboree
MacLeod Provincial Park
July 28–30

Loggers' Day
Algonquin Provincial Park
July 29

august

Superior Fest
Lake Superior Provincial Park
August 5, 6

History Weekend
Presqu'ile Provincial Park
August 5, 6

Take A Hike Weekend
Blue Lake Provincial Park
August 11–13

Festival of the Giant
Sleeping Giant Provincial Park
August 11–13

Sleeping Giant Provincial Park

Long Live the Voyageurs!
Quetico Provincial Park
August 12

Sibbald Point Heritage Weekend
Sibbald Point Provincial Park
August 12, 13

Spirits of the Past
Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park
August 18–20

For more information and a complete listing of all park events go to:
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WHAT A bloomin' city

– By Lorraine Flanigan

Photo: City of Brampton

When I drove into Brampton on a sunny day last summer, twin traffic-stopping gardens welcomed me from the corner of Bovaird and Dixie. These gardens, which are part of the city's 12 main gateway displays, explain why this Southern Ontario city with a flowertown heritage garnered a 5-Bloom award in 2005 from Communities in Bloom, a national program that rewards communities for their achievements in municipal beautification.

As I strolled along Main Street towards the leafy shade of Gage Park, I passed the historic courthouse and jail, now the Peel Heritage Museum, with its eye-catching flowerbeds, and admired the 250 beautiful flower baskets that hang from lamp posts in the city's historic downtown. Stopping to chat with a gardener working in the park, I learned that there are 350 colourful gardens located at all major intersections and at the entrances to Brampton's many neighbourhoods.

No wonder the residents of 'Canada's Flower City' are proud to display their emblem of the yellow rose of friendship.

Floral achievements are not new to this city. Browsing the museum's archives I learned that it was home to Dale Estate Greenhouses, one of the British Commonwealth's top producers of cut flowers in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

L: Dixie Parkette, Brampton

Photo: City of Brampton

Dale roses were known the world over, and its horticulturists developed hybrid roses such as 'Lady Canada,' 'Canadian Queen' and 'Lady Willingdon'. Since then, Brampton hasn't lost its floral touch. Recently, I was thrilled to see its award-winning show gardens at two Toronto traditions, Canada Blooms and the Canadian National Exhibition. Brampton certainly is a community that keeps on blooming!

This summer, plan to experience the beauty of Ontario's award-winning Communities in Bloom – there are many to visit, including Woodstock, which won out against international cities such as Zlin of the Czech Republic and Hershey, Pennsylvania. Other Communities in Bloom include, Kincardine, Mildmay, Midland, Owen Sound, Petrolia and Vaughan. The top award of 5 Blooms is bestowed based on the following eight criteria: a community's excellence in floral displays, turf and groundcover areas, landscaped areas, heritage preservation, tidiness, environmental awareness, urban forestry and community involvement.

Other beautiful Ontario gardens well worth a visit are Allan Gardens, a favourite Toronto attraction since 1858; Gardens at Landon Bay, 60 decorative and environmentally-themed gardens just east of Gananoque; Canada Agriculture Museum's magnificent Ornamental Gardens in downtown Ottawa; Shakespearean Gardens in Stratford, with fragrant herbs, shrubs and flowering plants from 17th century England; University of Guelph's year-round 182 hectare (406 acre) Arboretum with 46 floral collections and 3,000 trees; and, of course, the spectacular Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, featuring the world's largest lilac collection.

– Lorraine Flanigan is a freelance travel and garden writer/editor whose work frequently appears in Canadian Gardening, *the* Globe and Mail *and in* Trellis, *the newsletter of the Toronto Botanical Garden*

Experience the beauty of Ontario's Communities in Bloom. For a complete list of participating communities, and for more information on the program, visit **www.communitiesinbloom.ca**

Don't miss Brampton's Flower City Parade, contact Tourism Brampton **www.city.brampton.on.ca/tourism** **(905) 874-2000**

For more on gardens, visit **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

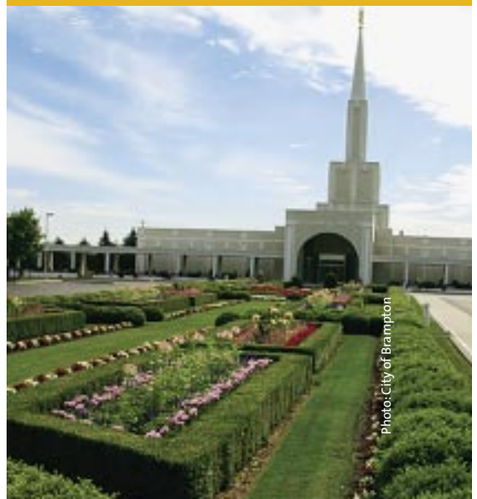
Photo: City of Brampton

Top and right: Gardens of Mandarin Restaurant, Brampton; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Brampton

Brampton

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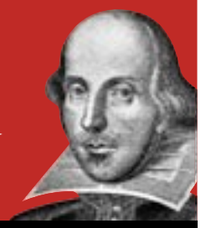

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Showing off

Staging Summer Shows in Ontario

By John Farrington

Photo: 4th Line Theatre

Natural props in the great outdoors add to the wonderful ambience at 4th Line Theatre at Millbrook

Photo: Wayne Eardley

Theatre-goers sit outside the barn at 4th Line Theatre

Photo: Drayton Entertainment

Huron Country Playhouse

Ontario has an array of summer theatre second to none.

Stratford with Shakespeare and Niagara-on-the-Lake with Shaw have paved the way for a whole host of picturesque communities – no matter what their size – to put themselves on the summer theatre map.

Artistic directors have had a field day breathing life back into old theatres, vaudeville rooms and opera houses. Imagination has had no limits and summer theatre has popped up on lakeside wharfs, in old schoolhouses and churches, even blossoming from barns and cropping up in farm fields.

In what has to be one of the prettiest places in the province, the 4th Line Theatre is tucked away in rolling hills a mile or so from Millbrook, near Peterborough. Now in its 15th year, 4th Line Theatre is an outdoor treasure. The stage is the grass outside the barn. The seating is plastic lawns chairs and bleachers – most of them out in the open.

The staging is simple. The lighting is minimal. In fact, the shows start at 6 p.m. in June. and by mid-August they get under way at 5:30 p.m. to get them in before dark. This is all part of the charm of Ontario summer theatre.

The view is breathtaking at 4th Line Theatre, which is located on the family farm of Robert Winslow, managing artistic director of the company.

Many of Ontario's theatrical gems are taking the opportunity to teach audiences about local history. The 4th Line Theatre's mandate is to preserve heritage. Robert Winslow has written many scripts. One, *Doctor Barnardo's Children* (staged last year), will be a performance that could keep showing up on the 4th Line stage. In fact, it is back again in 2006.

Doctor Barnardo's Children opens the season July 6 and runs to July 30. More than 6,000 saw it last year and a similar sell-out is expected this year.

It tells the story of orphaned street urchins from 19th century England who were shipped to Canada to help build the new country. More than 10,000 boys and girls were sent to homes in Peterborough before finding themselves on farms not unlike the Winslow farm. The home has long since been torn down, but a historical plaque marks a place in history that we don't know that much about.

The play will have you laughing and crying as it captures the often tender and sometimes terrifying moments of young children struggling to make it in England and then Canada without a mom or dad. Don't be surprised to be sitting next to one of the descendants of a Barnardo child. Many were in the audience last year. If you want to know more, there are several books about the Barnardo children at the theatre and in stores in nearby Millbrook.

Doctor Barnardo's Children is a play that could get an even bigger boost – it was sold out at every performance in 2005 – if Andrew Lloyd-Webber recreates an early musical of his about the Barnardo children.

After the show, there's a great place to stay, just down the road, in Bethany. The Plantation House Bed and Breakfast is Rose Meghie's dream come true. It's a pleasant house on

23 hectares (57 acres), way off the road down a tree-lined lane. A big deck and two gazebos, surrounded by neatly manicured grass make it an ideal spot for wedding receptions.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AT HURON COUNTRY

Huron Country Playhouse started in 1972 in a tent attached to a barn in a farm field just outside Grand Bend.

Today there are two beautiful theatres on the same farm property usually playing to capacity audiences at every show. The main theatre seats 660 and Playhouse II has 160 seats. Both theatres are air-conditioned and primarily feature the kind of entertainment that vacationing families just love – family-oriented musicals and comedies. While attending the Huron Country Playhouse, a bed and breakfast with a difference is The Robson Suites in downtown Bayfield. It is on the top floor of a 19th century building that at one time housed a general store.

There's nothing old about this suite. It has all the modern conveniences – and it comes with a guarantee that if they don't have it – they will get it. While you are in the Grand Bend area, Hessenland Country Inn is well worth a visit to sample Huron County pork. Hessenland is the result of a holiday in 1979 by German tourists Christa and Ernst Ihrig. They wanted to share their German traditions and European hospitality so they bought a 40-acre farm along the shores of Lake Huron in 1982, built a restaurant, a hotel and over the years earned a reputation as an ideal place for weddings, conventions and gatherings.

– John Farrington has been the editor and publisher of a number of daily newspapers across Canada.

The show must go on – **ANYWHERE!**

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

Photo: Plantation House Bed and Breakfast

Photo: Hessenland Country Inn

Top–bottom: Gazebo at Plantation House in Bethany; Coach House reception hall at Hessenland Country Inn

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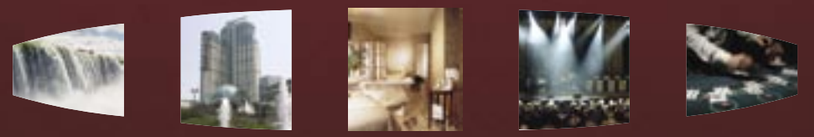

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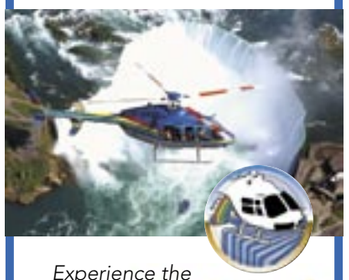

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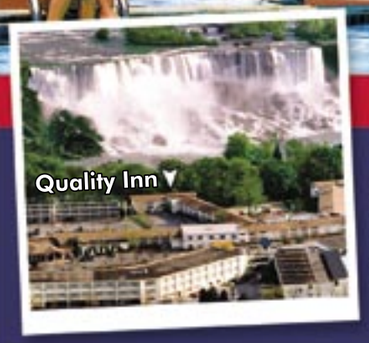

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GOLF NIRVANA in Niagara

– By Anita Draycott

With over 40 courses built, and more on the drawing boards, it's safe to say that the Niagara region has become a golf mecca.

I like to start my swing through the region where it all began back in 1875 when the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club opened for play. Acknowledged as the oldest golf course in Canada where the game is still played on the original site, this stately nine-hole tract meanders along the shores of Lake Ontario and around Fort Mississauga National Historic Site. I plan my round so I'll have enough time to wander through Canada's prettiest town and enjoy some live theatre at the Shaw Festival.

You'll experience more history at the Legends on the Niagara complex where two of Canada's top golf architects were hired to create masterpieces. Thomas McBroom designed Ussher's Creek and Doug Carrick takes credit for Battlefield. With a sprawling lake, and many bunkers, Carrick's creation requires every weapon in your bag. A plaque on the fourth hole commemorates the participants of the Battle of Chippawa where the Americans defeated the British in 1814.

Consistently ranked as one of the best-conditioned courses in Ontario and earning a four-star ranking in *Golf Digest's Best Places to Play*, the 27-hole Peninsula Lakes Golf Club in Pelham is my favourite for the variety of holes and friendly staff. Sculpted out of the remains of a sand and gravel quarry, the undulating topography winds through orchards and numerous lakes and ponds. After the game, I like to sit out on the terrace and soak up the spectacular view with a glass of vino from the Mike Weir Estate Winery.

Photo: Niagara Parks Commission

Battlefield Golf Course

The green at hole 2, Niagara-on-the-lake Golf Club

Photo: Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club

The two newest kids on the block, opened last summer, are the Grand Niagara Club and Thundering Waters. The former is a classic parkland gem by architect Rees Jones – a mix of beauty, intrigue, subtleties and lots of risk and reward possibilities. I hear there is a shark by the name of Greg Norman building a second course on the property, scheduled to open in 2007.

The tract I'm most excited about is Thundering Waters, John Daly's first signature course in Canada. Located a mere 1,371 metres (1,500 yards) from the Horseshoe Falls, the course combines the parkland tranquility of Augusta National with the heathland treachery of a British Open. Like John himself, there is never a dull moment. Naturally, I expected a John Daly course to be long and this par-72 measures a whopping 7,208 yards from the championship tees. The signature number two hole is a monstrous 637-yard par five from the tips, but with five sets of tee blocks, long and not-so-long hitters alike can enjoy Daly's dazzling debut. I'll be packing some energy bars in my bag for my next bout on Mr. Daly's devilishly difficult, yet supremely satisfying challenge.

Other courses to visit in the Niagara area are Whirlpool Golf Course, Royal Niagara, Peach Trees, Eagle Valley and Whisky Run.

– Anita Draycott is an award-winning travel writer and is managing editor of GolfStyle, *a magazine about "life as it was meant to be played."*

Photo: Niagara Parks Commission

Whirlpool Golf Course

Photo: Anita Draycott

The classy hole marker for the hefty par five finishing hole at Thundering Waters

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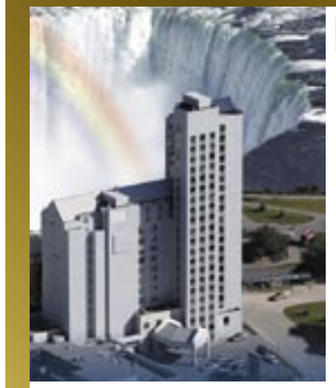

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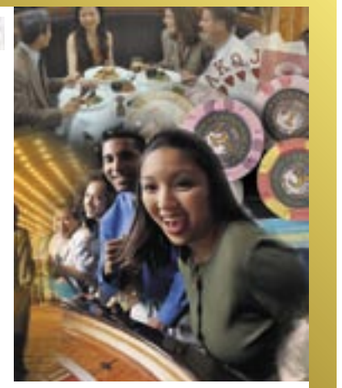

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FINDING Freedom

– By Bryan Prince

Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site

Dresden

An estimated 30,000 American slaves fled to Ontario.

After a lifetime of looking warily over their shoulder, many decided to move farther into the interior counties with the largest black population beginning a new life in Chatham-Kent. Within its borders were three of the largest concentrations of blacks.

Today, thousands visit The Heritage Room at the Woodstock Institute Sertoma Help (WISH) Centre in Chatham, Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, and the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum in North Buxton to learn more about the mysteries that wove the fabric of the Underground Railroad.

Chatham became a primary centre for fugitive slaves as well as free blacks from the northern states, from its earliest days of habitation following the American Revolution.

The Heritage Room proudly displays this rich history in a powerful new exhibit entitled *Black Mecca*. Prominent anti-slavery activists such as Martin Delaney, Mary Ann Shadd and John Brown are featured in meticulously researched text, complemented with archival photographs. Lesser-known individuals who left their mark on Chatham's historical landscape share the spotlight.

At nearby Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, visitors learn about the life of fugitive slave Josiah Henson and the Dawn Settlement. Under the enthusiastic new ownership of the Ontario Heritage Trust, the site boasts an impressive interpretive centre and several historic buildings – including Henson's home where he based his efforts towards helping others escape and to establish themselves in Canadian communities.

A 19th century church and cemetery reinforce the images of this deeply religious man and the challenging times in which he lived. His most enduring legacy is his association with the title character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, that shook the

Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site

foundations of slavery. This lends a special atmosphere to the experience.

Buxton celebrates the lives of those who came to Canada's largest black colony prior to the American Civil War. Set in a peaceful rural village, the museum has many original artefacts and displays that shed light on the refugees emerging from slavery.

The adjacent school and church, both dating from the 1860s, continue to emphasize religion and education that are as important to each succeeding generation of the community as they were to the founders. The newly-restored log cabin harkens back to the rustic comfort and simplicity of the earliest days of the settlement.

All three of these Underground Railroad sites tell their stories in a myriad of ways. Chatham-Kent beckons travellers to experience the uniqueness of its history – powerful, emotional, hopeful and profound.

– Bryan Prince is a descendant of slaves who fled to Canada. He is a farmer, historian and author from the Buxton settlement. His works include a book I Came as a Stranger: The Underground Railroad *and the script for the television documentary* A Thousand Miles To Freedom.

CONTACT INFO

Uncle Tom's Cabin
www.uncletomscabin.org
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Buxton National Historic Site & Museum
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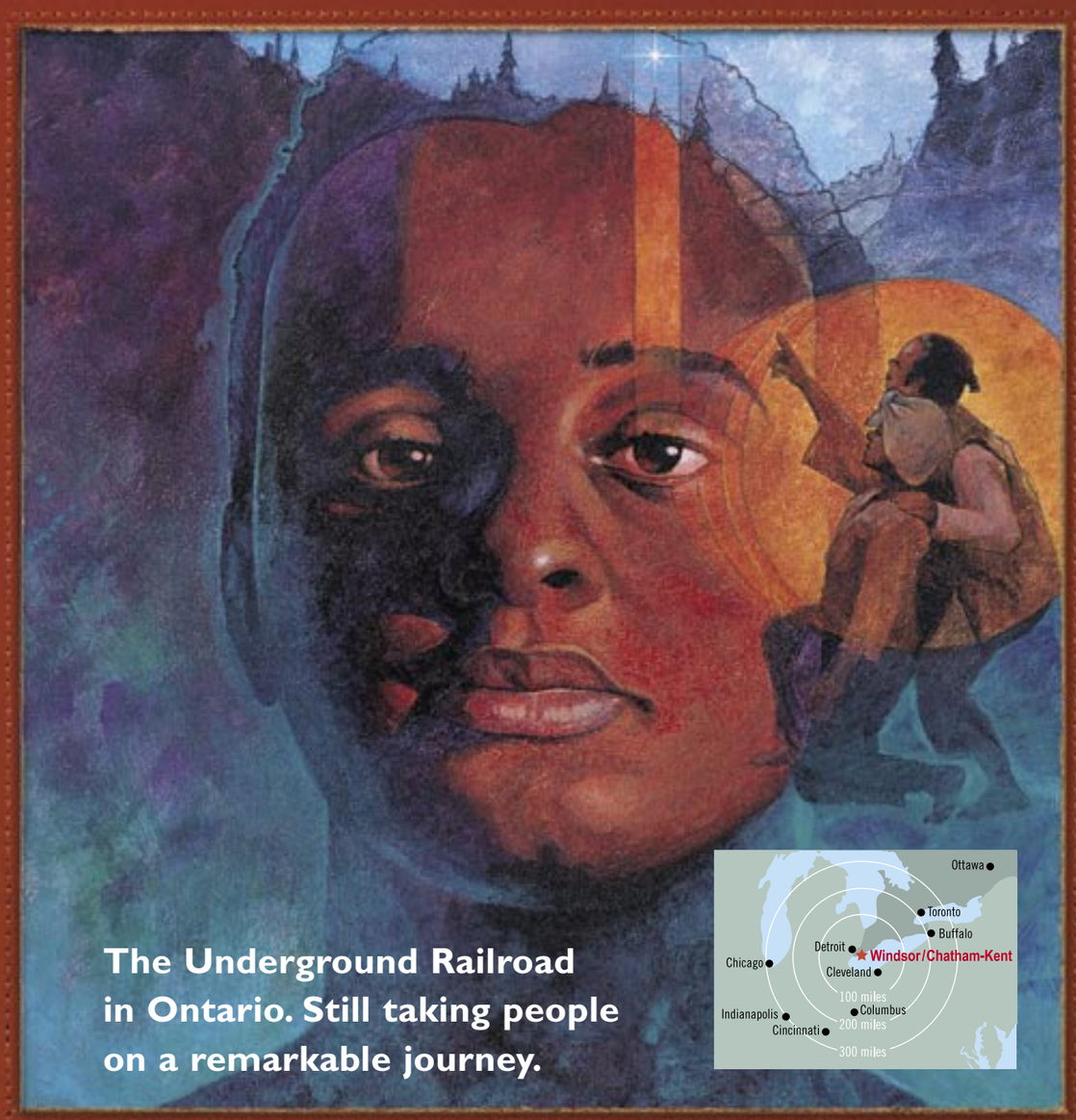
Rededication of Buxton School (built 1861). Photo: Andy Stockdill



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As a major route on the Underground Railroad, Windsor and Chatham-Kent welcomed thousands of refugees who escaped slavery. Across Ontario you can retrace the footsteps of those men and women whose bravery and determination inspire us all. The North American Black Historical Museum, Buxton National Historic Site, Uncle Tom's Cabin, John Freeman Walls Site, Sandwich Baptist Church and the Black Mecca are still welcoming travellers today.

For more information on Southwestern Ontario's Underground Railroad experiences call **1-800-561-6125** or visit **www.visitwindsor.com**

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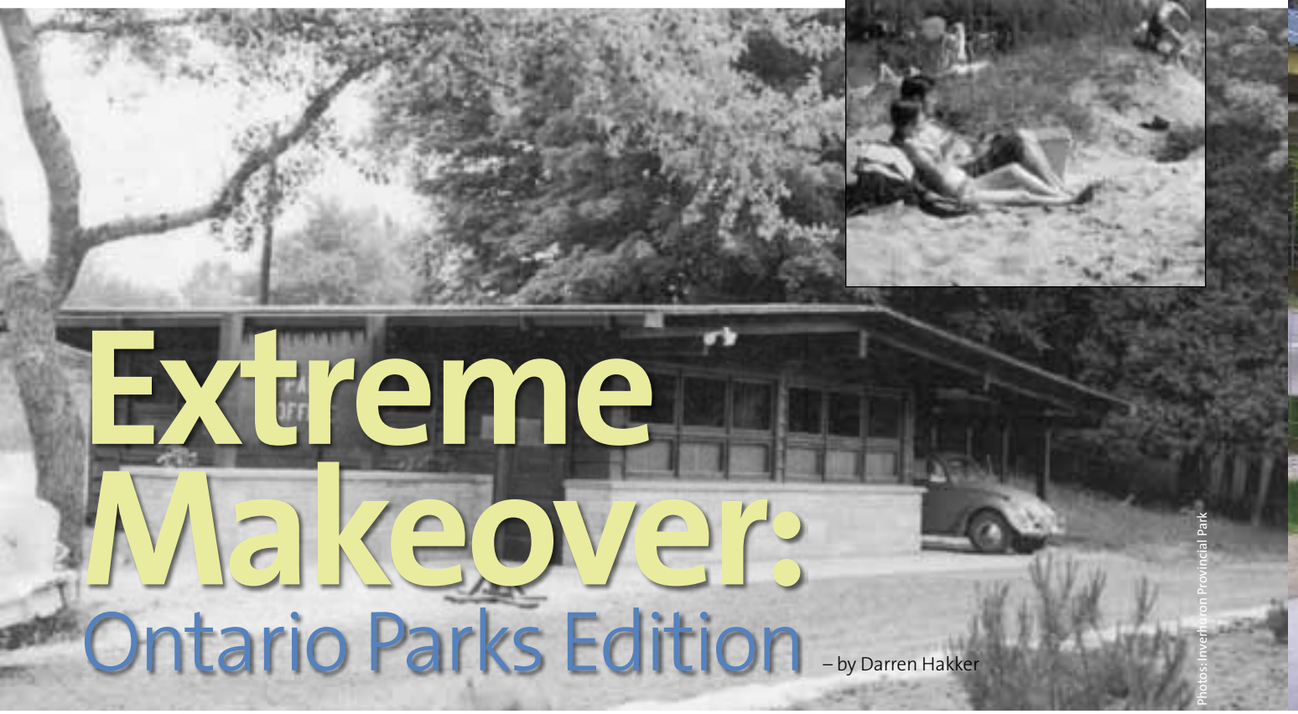

Extreme Makeover: Ontario Parks Edition

– by Darren Hakker

Photos: Inverhuron Provincial Park

Big changes have been made at Inverhuron Provincial Park; Inset: catching rays on the dunes

Just to let all those know who once camped in Inverhuron Provincial Park: it's quite different now.

All 300 campsites in Inverhuron were closed to overnight guests from 1976 to 2005 until last summer when the park reopened to tents, trailers and motorhomes.

And guests who last visited the park in 1976 are eager to return. "They have families of their own," Jenny Lee Learn, Head Gate Attendant, said of those who visited the park late last summer. Scott Davidson, Assistant Park Superintendent added, "Almost everybody who comes here remembers it from when they were children."

Are you one of those visitors? If you are, you may remember a few of these: the tree stump that used to be at the entrance of the park with branches pointing in the direction of the campgrounds; the gorgeous sandy beach; the pitcher's thistle, an endangered flowering plant in the dunes; Lime Kiln and Gunn Point campgrounds; the amphitheatre with educational films; the picnic shelter; and the $3 seasonal vehicle permit – good for any provincial park.

Norah Toth, an Ontario Parks Natural Heritage Education Specialist, dug up some great photos of what the park looked like then and now, and Jenny offered to tell me a little about the improvements.

First, there are 125 campsites available this year with plans for 125 more. That's a little less than the 300 originally at the park to make room for trailers and motorhomes (which weren't nearly as prevalent back in the 60s and 70s). All the sites have electricity. And the park has a modern gatehouse. In the words of Scott Davidson, "We're rolling with the times."

Everything in the park was beautified right down to the welcome sign

A brand new gatehouse tops off the extensive park renovations

As I flipped through a newspaper scrapbook documenting the park's history from 1959 to present day, Jenny informed me of some of the improvements: a trail now runs through the wetlands; the Scenic Drive which was once a roadway along the shoreline, is transformed into a hiking and cycling route; and there's also a boardwalk that now rises over the dunes from the parking lot, offering guests a non-invasive way to cross this fragile ecosystem and a close-up view of the endangered pitcher's thistle.

There are other things that haven't changed and hopefully never will. The Little Sauble River is still sparkling, the dunes and beaches are still sandy as ever, the clean air is still refreshing and the water is just as calm.

And of course the guests are just as friendly. Perhaps partly because they finally get to return to the park where they spent many a summer growing up.

Inverhuron is well known for its rolling sand dunes, treed campsites and sandy beach

– Darren Hakker is a writer with FUEL Advertising. His work appears regularly in this magazine.

Inverhuron Provincial Park (Ontario Parks)
www.OntarioParks.com
1-888-ONT-PARK (668-7275) Reservations

For more information on staying overnight in Ontario's provincial parks visit **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN BANCROFT

– By Cyndy Carruthers

It was a blistering hot day in late July 2005 when I set out on my annual trek from Toronto to Bancroft. The kind of heat that Americans don't believe we ever have in Canada. And just the kind of heat that dials up the anticipation of a trip to Canada's mecca for minerals and gems.

Rocks! Almost everyone collected them as a kid. I rediscovered their lure a few years back because of my passion for stunning jewellery. As I met with Canada's talented jewellery designers, I learned about the stones they work with; each stone unique, each formed by some special confluence of fire and water with base rock.

Photo: Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce

So once a year, I join thousands of rockhounders who converge on the town of Bancroft, Ontario to pore over earth's bounty at the 'Rockhound Gemboree.' It's Canada's largest gem and mineral show and sale, with over 100 dealers on site. You can purchase rough – the unworked material from which polished gems emerge – or buy the gems themselves, loose or worked into every conceivable kind of setting. And don't miss the special activities the show is known for, including panning for gold, stone carving, and artist workshops.

Bancroft isn't the site of the Gemboree by accident. It's nestled in the York River Valley, on the southern edge of the Canadian Shield – a 'belt' of rock that extends from Lake Huron to the Labrador coast. The Bancroft/Hastings region itself is renowned worldwide for both its huge diversity and quality of minerals.

Standing in Bancroft on that hot day in July, I mused on the rock beneath my feet: over one billion years old, uniquely formed by great upheavals of volcanic activity, glacial thrust, and the subsequent flow and folding of the earth's crust. No wonder they call Bancroft the 'Mineral Capital of Canada!' Just some of the minerals mined there include gold, marble, sodalite, corundum, apatite, fluorite, beryl and uranium.

But don't visit Bancroft just for the rocks and minerals. Go for the journey itself. The two and half hour road trip from Toronto (take Highway 115 to Peterborough, then Highway 28 right into town), transports you to another world gradually, through quaint towns, past antique shops and farm-fresh food stands, over sparkling rivers and alongside sky blue ponds and lakes. Just remember, as you start to see the great granite slabs sliced to accommodate the road you're travelling, you are moving back in time to the beginning of time.

Bancroft's 2006 Rockhound Gemboree runs from August 3–6. While on your Bancroft road trip, be sure to check out: the Hastings Heritage Trail, open year-round; the Eagle's Nest, which offers a panoramic view of the York River Valley; the High Falls Dam; the McGeachie Conservation Area; and Kaminiskeg Lookout.

– Cyndy Carruthers, who is a journalist by education, balances her passion for jewellery, gems and all things Ontario with her role as President of FUEL Advertising.

ROCKIN' OUT

Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce
www.bancroftdistrict.com
(613) 332-1513

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Migration, 1973. Painting by Norval Morrisseau. Gift of the Estate of Dr. Bernhard Ostrander; Certified by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board under the terms of the Cultural Property Export and Import Act. Architectural rendering by Miller Hare. All images © Royal Ontario Museum, 2005. All rights reserved. The ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

ROM Royal Ontario Museum
World Cultures | Natural History

www.rom.on.ca

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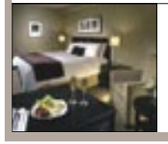

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Andy Warhol, *Elvis I and II*, 1964. silkscreen ink and acrylic on linen (blue canvas); 1963. silkscreen ink and spray paint on linen (silver canvas). Gift from the Women's Committee Fund, 1966. © Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts / SODRAC (2005)

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Cultural Evolution

We've been peeking through the hoarding, listening to the cement mixers, and eagerly awaiting our new theatres and galleries. Now that the openings have begun, the excitement is palpable. New stages, expanded museums, exciting exhibits and a theatrical world premiere make this a hot summer on Toronto's cultural scene.

– By Betty Zyvatkauskas

Rendering: TO Live with Culture

Artist's rendering of the new Royal Ontario Museum

This summer marks the halfway point in the City of Toronto's Live With Culture campaign, an official underscoring of all the annual cultural celebrations and to mark some major building in the city's pre-eminent cultural institutions: a glittering new home for the opera and ballet, a striking new wing for the Royal Ontario Museum and a new theatre in a restored historic facility for the city's acclaimed classical theatre company.

A Building Boom in Museums and Galleries

When it opened 20-odd years ago few of us anticipated how quickly the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art would become Toronto's darling. It thoroughly charmed us with its delicate treasures and special exhibits and has been so successful that it quickly outgrew its space. Renowned architects Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg were enlisted to add new studios and three new galleries including a third floor 325 sq m (3,500 sq. ft.) special exhibit gallery that will open with an exhibit of ceramic sculpture and drawings by Jean-Pierre Larocque. The Gardiner may have many pretty plates, but it also has the stuff to put on them. When it reopens this summer foodies will be eagerly booking tables for chef Jamie Kennedy's new restaurant in the museum. "The renewed Gardiner Museum is intimate, distinctive, and includes a new third level with spectacular city views...and elegant facilities for the collections, clay-based programs and shop," said architect Shirley Blumberg.

Across the street, on University Avenue, the building boom continues at the Royal Ontario Museum with a provocative design by Daniel Libeskind that has created a lot of interest that will reorient the ROM's main entrance to Bloor Street, while creating airy new galleries to display even more of the museum's vast collections. The three-stage opening began in December 2005, revealing 10 new, impressive galleries with a strong focus on Asia, enabling the museum to highlight its outstanding collection of Chinese artefacts ranging from 4,000-year-old bronze vessels to a section of a 17th century imperial palace. New Japanese and Korean galleries round out the Asian section. Two of the new galleries focus on the ancient Mediterranean, while a third, the Gallery of Canada: First Peoples, features a collection of 1,000 early artefacts and Canada's largest collection of Paul Kane's 19th century art documenting his travels and meetings with indigenous people. Long-time favourites like the Egyptian gallery and the replica bat cave remain in the renovated ROM, but youngsters can look forward to a bright new gallery for the dinosaurs that will remove the specimens from their old dioramas and remount them according to the most current scientific knowledge.

The same architects responsible for the new opera house (Diamond and Schmitt) are working on renovations that will transform the Ontario Science Centre. "The science centre's external appearance will remain largely unchanged. But inside, more than 30 per cent of the public space will be radically altered to give it a totally new look and feel," said architect Jack Diamond.

"This effort is to realize the exceptional initiative the Ontario Science

Continued on page 62.

Photo: © Bertrand Carrière, 2005

Jean-Pierre Larocque working on ceramic figure for his upcoming Gardiner Museum exhibition, 2006

TO Live with Culture

Artist's drawing of the new Gardiner Museum

Photo: © Bertrand Carrière, 2005

"The pieces I make in clay are often evocative of a narrative of wandering and desire. They tell stories with missing pages and titles lost along the way."

Jean-Pierre Larocque

Ceramic head, work in progress for Jean-Pierre Larocque's Gardiner Museum exhibition, 2006

Centre has taken in the development of a new model of visitor participation. It is equal in importance to the benchmark step the institution took at its inception," he said.

Traditionally a family favourite, the Ontario Science Centre is winning over an all-ages audience with new galleries opening this summer including a Challenge Zone with a design-and-build workshop; a Media Studios area that melds music, art, fashion and technology; and Citizen Science in which visitors become scientists by contributing to research projects. Kids will be delighted to discover the Ontario Science Centre's new outdoor space where they can choreograph a fountain by controlling its water jets and explore sculptures that react to the weather.

Building is underway at the Art Gallery of Ontario where the new Frank Gehry-designed expansion will increase exhibition space by 47 per cent, making it one of the significant galleries in North America. Although the project won't be completed until spring 2008, the gallery remains open this summer with David Milne water colours in the spring, followed by an Andy Warhol exhibit.

Photo: TO Live with Culture

Ontario Science Centre Expansion

Traditionally a family favourite, the Ontario Science Centre is winning over an all-ages audience...

Opera and Ballet Find a New Home

This summer both the National Ballet and the Canadian Opera Company gear up for the big move to the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, which opens in September with a production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* featuring the premiere of Das Rheingold directed by Michael Levine. The 2,000-seat venue at the corner of Queen and University promises to be one of the finest opera houses in North America, with five levels of wrap-around seating designed to bring audiences closer to the action on stage, and provide both great sight lines and optimum acoustics.

The Canadian Opera Company (COC) has seen its attendance soar to 95 per cent of capacity in recent years as loyal opera audiences, enthused by the critically acclaimed productions of recent years, jockey for the top seating. At the time of publication there were still *Ring Cycle* tickets available, but this will certainly be a sellout. This spring the COC will perform its final season at the Hummingbird Centre with productions of *Norma* and *Wozzek*.

Under the leadership of its new Artistic Director, Karen Kain, the National Ballet of Canada says goodbye to its old stage at the Hummingbird this spring with performances of its much-loved production of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, and a newly-designed Petrouchka.

Both the ballet and the COC are planning summer galas at the new Four Season Centre for the Performing Arts.

Theatre Indoors and Out

Some are calling this "Toronto's Year of the Ring." Not only is this the year that the COC performs Wagner's *Ring Cycle* in the new Four Seasons, it is also the year when a blockbuster musical of *The Lord of the Rings* gets its world premiere at the Princess of

Photo: Michael Cooper

(L-R) Wendy Nielsen as Fiordiligi and Charlotte Hellekant as Dorabella in the COC's 1992 production of Cosi fan tutte

Time is on our side

*Note: These are the anticipated dates of opening and are subject to change. Please contact them directly for more information.

Summer 2006*

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts
- Opening of the new $181 million centre for ballet and opera

Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art
- Reopening after an $18 million expansion

Ontario Science Centre
- New galleries and outdoor areas open

Fall/Winter 2006*

Royal Ontario Museum
- Phase One of the $200 million Renaissance ROM project
- Opening of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal Gallery

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts
- The National Ballet of Canada and the Canadian Opera Company perform their first season

2007*

Royal Conservatory of Music's TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning
- 1,140-seat concert hall opens

Royal Ontario Museum
- Phase Two – Opening of 10 new and renovated galleries

2008*

Art Gallery of Ontario
- Completing a $24 million transformation

The Toronto International Film Festival Group's Festival Centre
- Opens offering year-round screening

Wales Theatre. At $27million its producers say the three-hour, three-act adaptation of Tolkien's trilogy is the grandest production ever mounted in a theatre. Fans of the Tolkien trilogy are eager to see how writer Shaun McKenna has adapted 1,000-plus pages of text into a blockbuster musical with a 55-actor cast, including Tony award winner Brent Carver as Gandalf and Michael Therriault as Gollum. They will be pleased to discover that all the major characters remain and the effects are suitably grand, from the automated stage floor to the stilt-walking Black Riders. The musical score by Bollywood composer A.R. Rahman and the Finnish group Värttinä uses Tolkien's rich panoply of fantasy cultures to seamlessly integrate songs into the story, from an elfin lullaby to a dwarfish lament. "The conceit is that these are old songs from Middle-earth that have been sung for generations," said director Matthew Warchus.

At $27 million its producers say the three-hour, three-act adaption of Tolkien's trilogy is the grandest production ever mounted in theatre.

The Lord of the Rings production

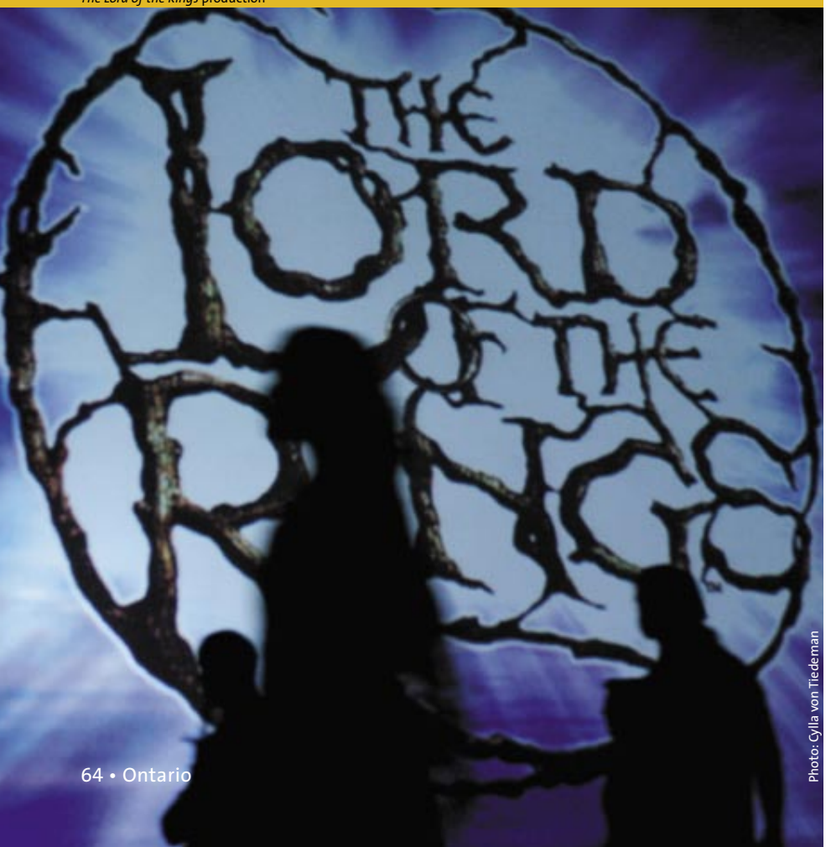

Photo: Gylla von Tiedeman

Earlier this year Soulpepper, the city's acclaimed classical theatre company performed its first works at its new home in the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, a new theatre complex created in a renovated warehouse in the historic Distillery District.

"For the architecture of the Young Centre we used the 19th century brick warehouse buildings of the Distillery District as found objects," said architect Thomas Payne of the firm Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg. "The original masonry walls act as backdrops for a series of dynamic platforms for teaching and performance that together form a unique paradigm for cultural activity in the city and in Canada."

Beginning this spring, Soulpepper will perform works by Thornton Wilder, Nikolai Gogol, Tom Stoppard, Eugene Ionesco, David Mamet and Oscar Wilde.

Summer in this city has become synonymous with Shakespeare. CanStage's annual Dream in the Park production is eagerly awaited by residents and visitors alike, both for the quality of its staging and the beauty of its setting amid the towering oaks and maples of the city's stately west end High Park. In the east end, Shakespeare Works enjoys its third summer in a beautiful 500-seat tent theatre with a view of Lake Ontario on Ashbridges Bay. Free parking and affordable tickets help make this a family favourite.

The tribal love rock musical *Hair* comes to the Bluma Appel Theatre in a CanStage Production this spring that should appeal to both Boomers and their teenage kids, although the nudity that caused such uproar in 1968 looks a lot less shocking now that the Age of Aquarius is in the rearview mirror.

– Betty Zyvatkauskas is author of two Ontario travel guidebooks and a contributing editor to Toronto Life's *annual* Getaways and Day Trips *guide.*

Distillery District

CULTURE ON THE WATERFRONT

Harbourfront Festival

When cooling lake breezes beckon on a hot summer day culture seekers head to Harbourfront Centre, the city's waterfront park designed to highlight the arts. The four-hectare (10-acre) site comprises galleries, gardens, theatres and artists' studios, and presents hundreds of events every year.

Summer in the city is never complete without taking in one of the outdoor classical music concerts at the Toronto Music Garden, a waterfront parkette designed by Julie Moir Messery and Yo Yo Ma. Whether it's a string quartet, a virtuoso marimba player or a traditional Japanese Taiko drum ensemble, the performances are always compelling and the setting is enchanting: paths wind through flower beds and groves of conifers, yachts bob at their moorings, and the lake glistens in the sunshine.

TORONTO'S CULTURAL SCENE

Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art
www.gardinermuseum.com
(416) 586-8080

Royal Ontario Museum
www.rom.on.ca
(416) 586-5549

Art Gallery of Ontario
www.ago.net
(416) 979-6660

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts
www.fourseasonscentre.ca
(416) 642-5679

The Lord of the Rings
www.lotr.com
(416) 593-0351

Soulpepper Theatre Company
www.soulpepper.ca
(416) 866-8666

Ontario Science Centre
www.ontariosciencecentre.ca
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www.livewithculture.ca
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For more cultural events celebrating our performing arts, visual arts and heritage, please visit **www.ontarioculture.ca**

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

Kingston Creates a Lasting Impression

Moments in time...

Nearby, yet feeling worlds away, Kingston is located about halfway between Montreal and Toronto and an easy two-hour drive from Ottawa. Nestled on the eastern end of Lake Ontario where the waters of the Great Lakes begin their long journey down the St. Lawrence River, Kingston celebrates its historic past as Canada's First Capital city. It boasts a magnificent downtown area replete with heritage buildings and award-winning limestone architecture.

Kingston's vibrant city core with hundreds of local, owner-operated boutiques and restaurants is easily accessible, and best experienced, on foot. Live music flows from a waterside park, bordered by historic City Hall and Lake Ontario, providing a great place to sit and enjoy a summer day. The market square seasonally boasts local farm produce and crafters' wares, while in the winter it houses a new outdoor skating rink, complete with a winter festival – Feb Fest, where you can watch NHL players have friendly games for charity while you sip hot chocolate.

There are plenty of summer festivals to enjoy, including the world-famous Buskers' Rendezvous and Limestone City Blues Festival. Streets are closed off, pub and café doors open and festival-goers wander about, stopping for a bite to eat on a patio so they can keep an eye on the action.

It's easy to become immersed in local history. Centuries-old buildings hiding historic alleyways are waiting to be admired and explored. Relive bygone ceremonies at Fort Henry National Historic Site

Enjoy timeless expressions of heritage and culture. See history come alive. Sail, cruise, sit and reflect over sparkling waters. Experience Kingston.

and let the children dress up as 19th century soldiers to march around the parade square. Witness a battle re-enactment and spectacular fireworks at the Sunset Ceremonies in July and August.

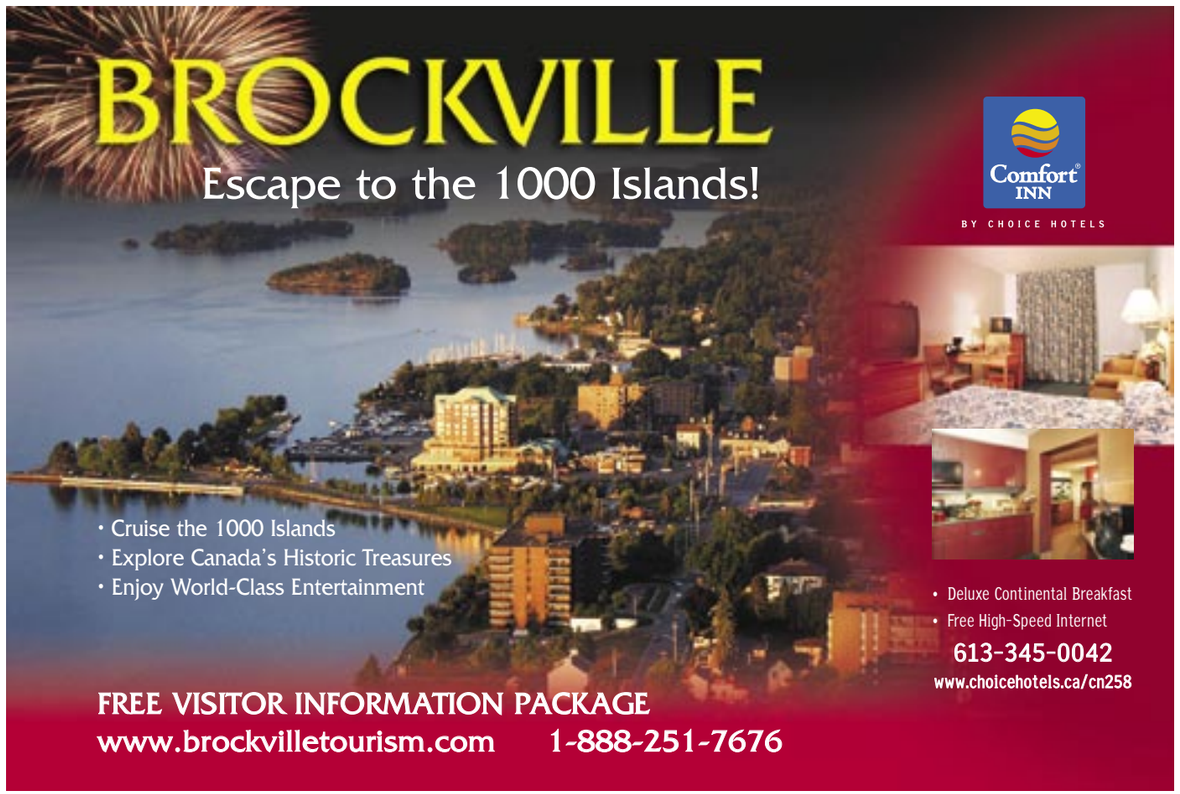
The local museums and galleries are sure to suit everyone's interests: geology, communications, archaeology, the history of health care, and the penitentiaries. Learn about shipping and shipwrecks, the historic craft of woodworking, and see steam engine technology in action. Examine a Rembrandt – belonging to one of the most notable visual arts collections in Canada – in an uncrowded gallery.

Water activities abound. Go scuba-diving and discover the underwater graveyard of over 100 vessels. Rent a sailboat and experience Canada's best freshwater sailing. And no trip is complete without a cruise through the world-famous 1000 Islands from Kingston's downtown dock. Sailings throughout the day include one-hour harbour cruises, lunch and dinner cruises where live entertainment serenades the sunset.

Kingston has all the amenities of a big city, yet operates at a leisurely pace. The friendly atmosphere, creative culture and rich traditions combine to create an incomparable impression. Visit once and your memories will bring you back again.

Stunning. Dramatic. Original. Breathtaking.

www.visitkingston.ca 1.866.251.4688



ATTEN-SHUN TO DETAIL

– By John Farrington

It's 32°C (90°F).

You're wearing a top hat, long overcoat and a cravat. You can't take them off.

You are a British gentleman with the North West Company. It is 1815 and you've got to look the part as you trade with the Ojibway and Voyageurs.

Even on these scorching hot days of summer, the students who are overdressed for the weather don't have second thoughts about the summer job they have taken. They would rather be sweltering in the duds of gentlemen from a bygone era than serving ice cream or hamburgers in a local air-conditioned restaurant.

Photo: John Farrington

R: Jayson Gil on parade at Fort Henry

What is a fort?

Fortifications have been constructed by warriors for centuries to protect themselves and their property from the enemy. Canadian forts were designed differently from European forts – and this has to do with Canadian winters. Moats and water hazards were not used in Canada because they lost their protective value when the water froze. Because of the snow in Canada, the main gates at forts were built to open inwards. In Europe the main gates of a fort always open outwards to prevent the enemy from smashing them and gaining easy access. What happened in Canada is that when the gates opened out the soldiers became trapped in the fort when it snowed. They could not open the gates without first climbing over them and clearing the snow so the gate could be opened. That exposed the soldiers to the enemy.

Fort Henry Guard enters the parade square

Photo: Fort Henry

The students interviewed for this article all thought they had the best summer job in the country. Many of them have worked every summer during their high school years, some even keep at it during their summer break from university.

These summer jobs demand much from them. But everyone who can take the discipline that is necessary…the precision that is required and the devotion that brings reality to their efforts, makes re-enactments that take place throughout Ontario a good representation of what life was like in the 19th century.

Whether playing the part of fur traders and Voyageurs at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay or British soldiers on parade at Fort Henry in Kingston, students take these summer jobs very seriously.

It is a big deal to them to be chosen

Photo: John Farrington

Photo: John Farrington

Top–bottom: Matt Roy – the gentleman and the Voyageur

to bring the 1800s to life. And when they put on their costume or uniform it doesn't matter whether it is 32°C (90°F) and the park is full of visitors, or raining and cool, these students keep playing their role. And they stay in character from when they start each day to when they finish.

When there aren't any visitors in view, those who play the gentlemen go to the on-site library to read some of the journals of the people they are portraying. If they aren't close to the library, they test each other. When you see them talking to each other, don't for a second think it is normal small talk. No, these students are telling stories they have learned about life at the fort in 1815. Stories about the people they portray.

Matt Roy, a 25-year-old from Thunder Bay, now teaching in South America, spent the past seven summers working as a gentleman and as a Voyageur at Fort William Historical Park. He wouldn't have it any other way. "People who work here live their jobs. They even talk about their jobs outside of work. We challenge one another to share interesting facts about what they have read in the library about the fort. You know, it is cool to be good at your job and to care about your job," said Matt.

At Fort Henry, Kingston, where it's 1867 – the year of Canada's Confederation – and everyone is a British soldier, the same kind of commitment is prevalent among the troops, who are all students.

Third-year soldier Michael Kalimin, an English major and drama minor at Queen's University calls it "the best job ever." "It's like being on the stage," he says, "we wear costumes and we are constantly playing roles. We train like actors."

For the younger ones in the crowd, sometimes the re-enactments that constantly take place take on a reality role. Michael explains, "there's been a couple of times when I have been taken off to the cells and the little children think I am going to be whipped. I have to come out again just so they can see I'm okay. Then they cheer and you can see on their

Photo: John Farrington

Michael Kalimin is ready to load the cannonballs

THE BOTTOM LINE

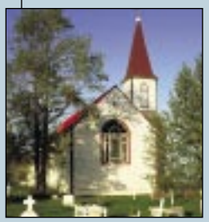
1500s

Southwold Earthworks, Iona: An Attiwandaronk Indian fortified village.

1639-1649

Fort Sainte Marie, Midland. Also known as Sainte-Marie among the Hurons. It is a recreation of a palisaded Jesuit Mission and native structures.

1673-1970



Moose Factory. A Hudson's Bay Company post, also known as Moose Fort. The French captured it several times between 1686 and 1730, naming it Fort St. Louis in 1740.

1673-present

Fort Frontenac, Kingston. A log fort originally called Fort Cataraqui. Rebuilt by the French in 1675, the British in 1783 and 1819, it is now the home of Canadian Land Force Command.

1793-1840

Fort York, Toronto. Destroyed by retreating British soldiers in 1813 to prevent its capture by Americans. Today Fort York stages daily drills reminiscent of the War of 1812.

1796-1824

Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake. This fort was bombarded by Fort Niagara in New York in a rare duel between forts.

1796-1840s

Fort Malden, Amherstburg. It was an earthen fort with four bastions with a large blockhouse and barracks. Now you can see earthworks from the 1840s and a restored 1819 barracks.

1812

Queenston Heights Battlefield, Queenston. Site of major British victory against the Americans in 1812.

1812-1891

Fort Henry, Kingston. Originally built by the British, it was a camp for political prisoners during World War I and was a prisoner-of-war camp in World War II.

1813

Stoney Creek Battlefield, Stoney Creek. Thirty metre (100-foot) monument on site of a British victory over the Americans.

1813-1923

Fort Wellington, Prescott. Originally an earthworks fort. The Stockade Barracks (1810 – 1818) nearby, is the oldest standing military structure in Ontario.

1815-1918

Old Fort William, Thunder Bay. Now known as Fort William Historical Park, it was the headquarters of the North West Company and later the Hudson's Bay Company.

Fort Henry, Kingston

faces that they are happy that nothing really happened to me."

Tim Martin, 23, has been at Fort Henry a few years and is proud of his Guard Number FHG 1867 because that is the year they portray. He and his friends look at it as a special number.

Another long-time officer at Fort Henry is Jayson Gil, 24, from Kingston, whose father is now retired as a career soldier with the Canadian Forces. He remembers his dad coming to see him on parade one day. Jayson said he thought he did a pretty good job as an officer barking out orders at the Fort Henry Guard. His dad came over to him afterwards and didn't tell him what a great job he had done, he simply remarked that his belt was twisted.

That's how serious all this re-enactment stuff really is. But obviously, with this sort of attention to detail it makes it all the more real for the visitors. Jayson would have preferred another comment from his dad, but the fact is that these shows must be real to be believed. You can rest assured that Jayson always checks his belt now before going out on parade.

– John Farrington has been the editor and publisher of a number of daily newspapers across Canada.

Fort Henry

Fort Henry is a National Historic Site and one of 800 sites across Canada that help define Canada's historic identity. It is a magnificent setting and a glorious glimpse of Canada at its birth in 1867.

There is a museum, guided tours, musical performances by a military band and marching demonstrations that are so well done and precise that they are a credit to the students who take their duty so seriously.

Fort Henry, Kingston

Fort Henry
www.forthenry.com
(613) 542-7388

Fort William Historical Park

Fort William Historical Park shows us what life was like in 1815 when this was the inland headquarters of the North West Company, then based in Montreal and a fierce competitor of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Besides the British gentlemen, who are represented at Fort William Historical Park, you will meet others who made the fort so successful as a fur trading post – French Canadian Voyageurs and Ojibway natives.

Fort William Historical Park, Thunder Bay

Fort William Historical Park
www.fwhp.ca
(807) 473-2344

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Fort Wellington, Prescott

For more about forts and living history in Ontario
visit **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Kids just gotta have fun

– By Jacquelyn Waller-Vintar

It's summertime, the kids are out of school and the living is easy, particularly if you live in Ontario. I had a meeting of the minds with my little team of three, 14-year-old daughter, 12-year-old and four-year-old sons, and we came up with our **6** favourite places to visit.

Ontario Place

OTTAWA

Oh Canada!

It's option overload every time a family lands in Ottawa, especially our family. We are able to fill an entire day with free activities.

The Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada offers young Donald Trumps and Bill Gates a look at what makes the world go round – money. Coins, notes, signed playing cards, beads, teeth, even a three-tonne stone doughnut from the South Pacific Island of Yap are on display. The hour-long guided tour, should you choose to take it, is free too.

We particularly loved that our visit coincided with the International Busker Festival – fire-eaters, jugglers, magicians, balloon-twisting clowns and street theatre – making us feel that we'd just walked into a Fellini film set. This summer, the Festival runs from August 3 to 7.

In the evening our family was captivated by the Sound and Light Show on Parliament Hill.

Every day in Ottawa for us ends at the pedestrian-friendly Spark Street Mall because the kids can't get over being able to walk on the street.

Ottawa
www.capitaleducanada.gc.ca
1-800-465-1867

Parliament Buildings, Ottawa

Ontario Place

ONTARIO PLACE

Great Fun!

In Toronto there is plenty of fun to be enjoyed at Ontario Place. The park already has every family member covered, starting at the youngest with the Pre-School Kids Play and Microkids areas, the mini bumper boats and O.P. Driving School (electric cars on a course, with instructors). There's daily entertainment at Treehouse Live! Stage. Kids love the LEGO area (try to keep the parents away from LEGO when they know they don't have to clean up every last piece!), and the Atom Blaster, a super cool foam-ball-firing frenzy, as well as rides that include an all-new 3-D motion sensor ride, mini golf, mazes, go-carts, an arcade, whew!

In addition to all that, as the city's only in-town waterpark, everyone can cool-off at Soak City with its Rush River Raft Ride, Purple Pipeline, the Pink Twister, the Hydrofuge and an area for the littlest guys.

Ontario Place
www.ontarioplace.com
1-866-663-4386

TORONTO ZOO

Call of the Wild

To really experience the wildness of the Toronto Zoo, consider booking for an overnight at the Serengeti Bush Camp. You get to sleep in tents on the zoo grounds and hear the night time and morning sounds of the wild. By far the most heart-stopping fun is the mini-safari on foot that takes place after sundown, with flashlights in hand. Keep your eyes peeled! It's a must-do with children in the summer, whether you stay overnight or not. The zoo has made the experience even more fun for young kids with the recent addition of the Zellers Discovery Zone. There's a massive tree structure that can hold tons of kids, at ground level and up in the lookouts. Other favourites include Splash Island play area, Waterside Theatre, and Close Encounters, a meet-and-touch-the-animals area. My offspring's favourite feature was the prairie dog habitat. They live on this rocky, hilly, grassy surface while the humans can go underground inside the hill and pop up under plexiglass domes to see the prairie dogs up close and personal. It's lots of fun for all ages. The Meet the Zoo Keeper program is fascinating and educational at the same time. At specified times, animal keepers will discuss their charges, sometimes feeding them and doing small demonstrations, and they'll field questions from the audience at the end. It is the professional solution to: why is that giraffe so tall? Do seals really bark? Can a komodo dragon really breathe fire?

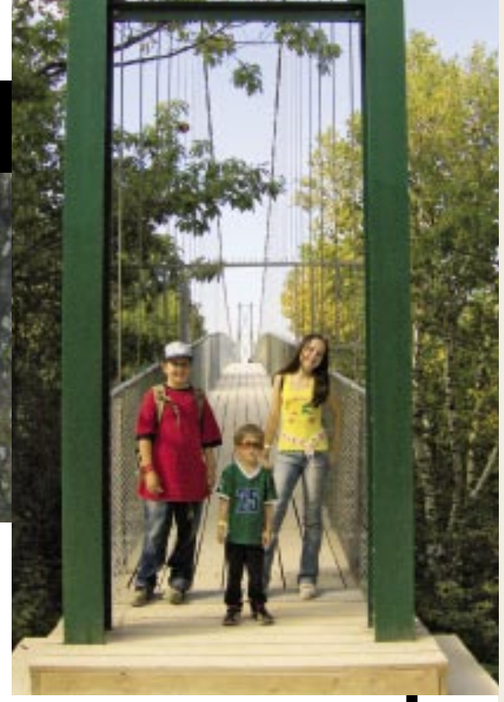
Toronto Zoo
www.torontozoo.com
(416) 392-5900

Toronto Zoo

Photo: Jacquelyn Waller-Vintar

4

L–R: Exploring the Scenic Caves; poised at the Suspension Bridge



COLLINGWOOD

Hello Down There!

Still taking advantage of the fabulous summer weather, I take the kiddies to an Ontario attraction I remembered as a child.

The Scenic Caves Nature Adventures in Collingwood was the first and only time my dad allowed us to put a bumper sticker on our station wagon. I thought that was so cool, and the caves were even cooler. Well, the caves have withstood the test of time, because my kids have chosen them as the best hike ever.

There are plenty of new additions to the self-guided cave, crevass and trail experience – Southern Ontario's longest suspension bridge that allows you to see Georgian Bay and the depths of the cracks in the mountain, treetop walking complete with full harnesses, and a trout pond where you feed the fish.

The biggest hit was an unexpected one. Before you head up to the trails, there is a sluicing set-up with water running down a series of troughs. Inside the gift shop you buy a bag of 'mining rough,' carry it back outside and pan for treasure in the rushing water. It didn't take 10 seconds before all three kids were crowding around the pan ooohing and aaahing over what was turning up. Labradorite, felspar, several kinds of quartz, pyrite, or fool's gold, two nice amethyst crystals, agate and a three-centimetre sliced-open geode, plus lots of other pieces not yet identified. A major coup for $7!

If you happen to be in Collingwood in late July, don't be alarmed by the locals. It's the Collingwood Elvis Festival, one of the best of its ilk.

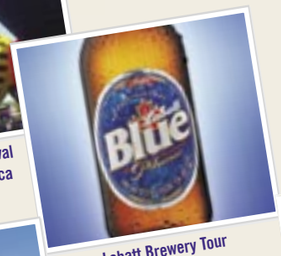
Blue Mountain also has some tremendous programs for kids, with hiking, mountain biking, golf and tennis. They have camps with a special theme every week, including silly science and crazy cooking.

Scenic Caves Nature Adventures
www.sceniccaves.com
(705) 446-0256

Blue Mountain
www.bluemountain.ca
(705) 4445-0231

Take a closer look at London, Ontario, Canada

London Balloon Festival
www.londontourism.ca



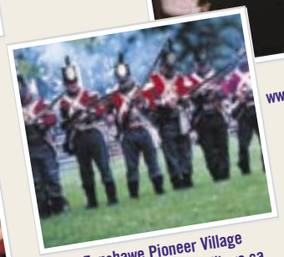
Labatt Brewery Tour
www.labatt.com

Covent Garden Market
www.coventmarket.com

Banting House
www.diabetes.ca

London Museum of Archaeology
www.uwo.ca/museum

Western Fair
www.westernfair.com


Fanshawe Pioneer Village
www.fanshawepioneervillage.ca

Bellamere Winery
www.bellamere.com

London Childrens Museum
www.londonchildrensmuseum.ca

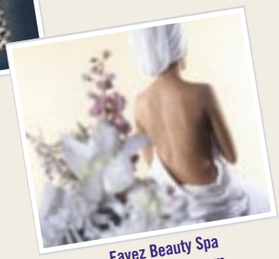
Double Decker Bus Tours
www.londontourism.ca

East Park Golf Gardens
www.eastparkgolf.com

Grand Theatre
www.grandtheatre.com

Museum London
www.museumlondon.ca

The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum
www.rcrmuseum.ca


Fayez Beauty Spa
www.fayezspa.com

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or visit www.londontourism.ca
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TOURISM LONDON CANADA

make a date

NIAGARA FALLS

Extreme Excitement

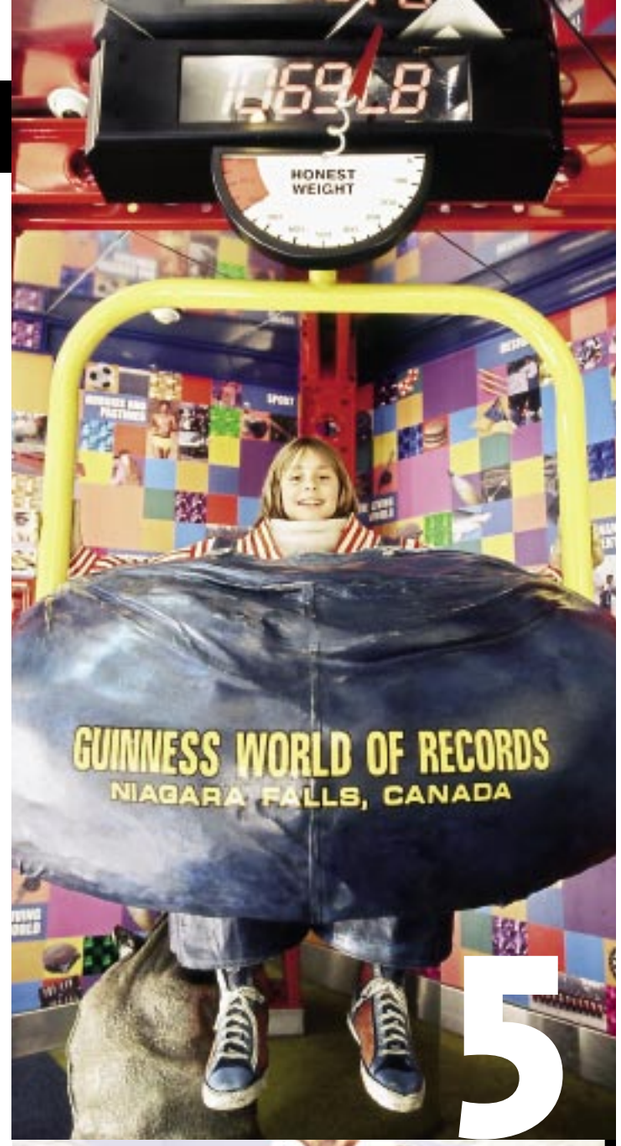
Our family votes Niagara Falls as one of the most awesome sights we have ever seen. We went for what my family calls the Extreme Contrast Day that had us experiencing the delicacy of butterflies, the incredible natural power of the falls and then the bizarre non-natural neon world of Clifton Hill, all in one day.

At the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory, located in the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens, we saw the most beautiful live butterflies any of us had ever seen. One landed on my shoulder, then moved to my hair and hung on for quite a while. Another landed on my daughter's wrist, looking like quite the fashion accessory.

At the falls we all donned yellow plastic rain ponchos (OK, yellow garbage bags with hoods) for the Journey Behind The Falls trip. We rode down an elevator then scuttled down a passageway to emerge under the white wall of crashing water, and then again right beside the falls. Three children, speechless. That's what priceless really is.

Then it was time to cruise Clifton Hill where Movieland Wax Museum vies with Tussaud's Waxworks; Ripley's Believe It Or Not with Guinness World of Records; and Dinosaur Miniature Golf with FX Thrill Ride. But be sure to head back to the falls, because it lights up with fabulous colours from 9 p.m. to midnight every night.

Niagara Falls Tourism
www.discoverniagara.com
1-800-563-2557



Clifton Hill

make a date

AFRICAN LION SAFARI

Go Wild!

African Lion Safari is a consistent favourite. You can drive your own vehicle through the preserve (obey the signs to keep all windows up and doors locked) or for a small fee, go in their bus where you'll get a commentary. But according to my kids, nothing beats driving your own car through.

We were charged and mounted by at least 12 baboons, babies and mommies, swinging around the aerial, lounging on the hood, sticking their noses up to ours through the windshield.

A giraffe licked the passenger-side front door. We were close enough to a rhino to touch it (but didn't!). After the safari, you can switch to foot, rail or boat power to explore the rest of the grounds where there are parrot and birds of prey demonstrations throughout the day, a petting zoo (finally the four-year-old gets to touch an animal) and a chance to see the elephants go for their daily bath in the lake.

African Lion Safari
www.lionsafari.com
1-800-461-WILD (9453)

The cheetah can be seen while driving through the Game Reserves at African Lion Safari

For more activities for children visit
www.ontariotravel.net/summer or call **1-800-ONTARIO.**

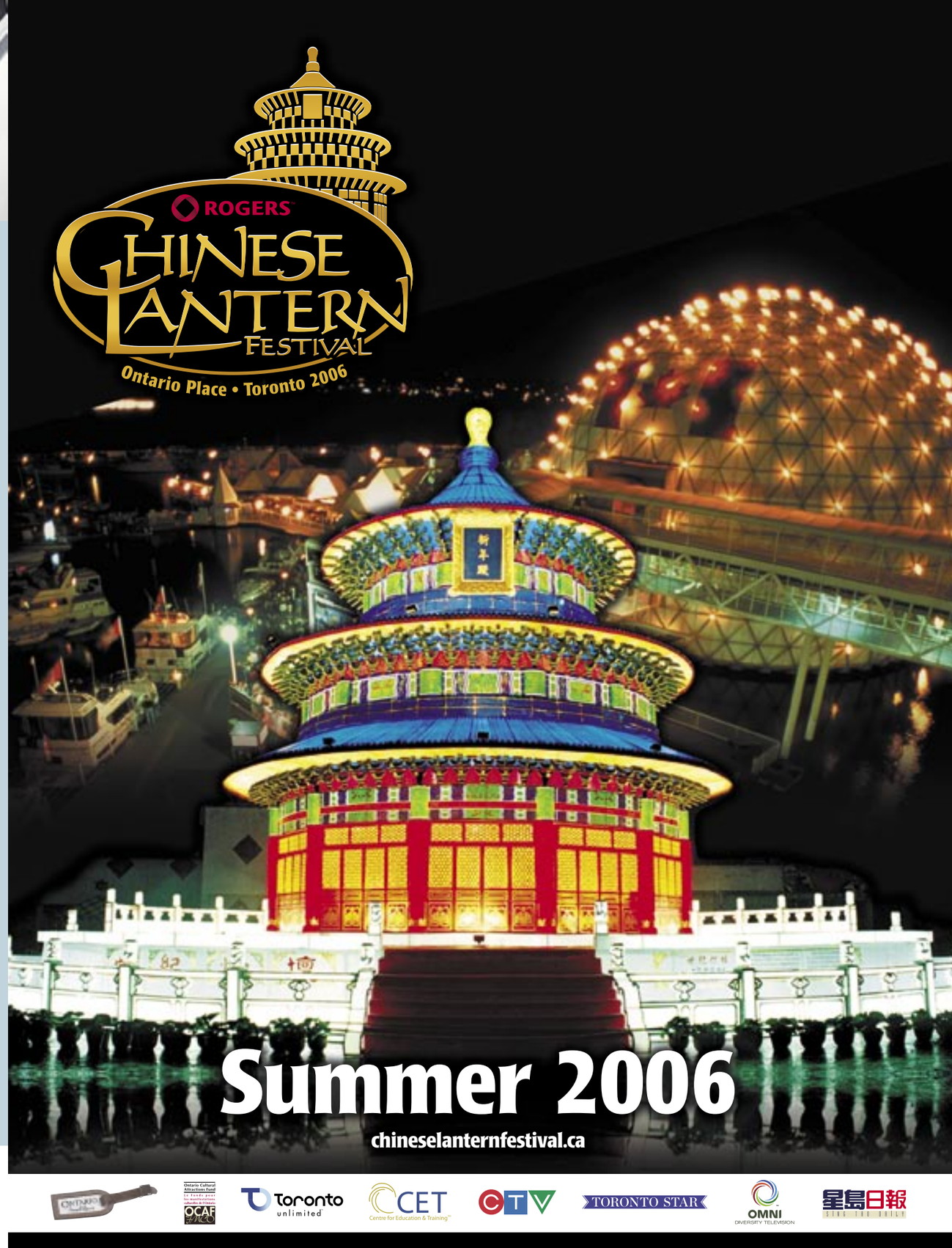
Around the World in a Day or Two

This is a silly road trip, but if your family enjoys time in the car, it will give you the material for a clever scrapbook. The premise is simple, and you and the family do the planning. The idea is to travel to as many small Ontario communities that share names with world-class towns and cities as you can, stopping the car, piling out and posing with the town or city's population sign. That, of course, is the bare minimum, and many of these towns afford more than that for a few hours of exploring. The last time we did it, we were able to cram Palermo, Paris, Scotland, Oakland, Boston, Waterford, Delhi, Vienna, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Cairo, Florence, Dresden, Wyoming, Zurich, Brussels, Damascus and Brisbane into two days!

To make sure you don't miss any spots on your 'world' tour pick up a copy of the Official Ontario Road Map. Please turn to page 154 for more information.

If you'd like more information on great summer driving tours, get geared up at **www.ontariotravel.net/greatdrives** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

– Jacquelyn Waller-Vintar has been a writer and editor with Toronto Life *and* WHERE Toronto *magazines for many years.*



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Canada

Photo: Beverly McMullen

Boats and cottages go hand in hand here in Muskoka

L–R: This fine launch looks like it was just handcrafted yesterday; Every great boat needs an equally great name. Photos: Beverly McMullen

The waves, wharf and warmth of MUSKOKA

R: The Disappearing Propeller Boat

If you were to come up with one thing that captures the essence of Muskoka, that encapsulates its freedom and beauty, a classic made-in-Muskoka mahogany boat would come to mind.

There's nothing like them. Hand-made with the mastery of an artist. Glistening wood. Polished chrome. Purring engine. And everything spotless – right down to the dashboard gauges.

It was the builders of these boats (launches as they are called) who also 'built' Muskoka. The first of the great vessels were built in the late 1860s to help visitors navigate the lakes. William Joseph Johnston is credited with kick-starting the boat-building business from his shop in Port Carling, renting out his custom crafts to visitors.

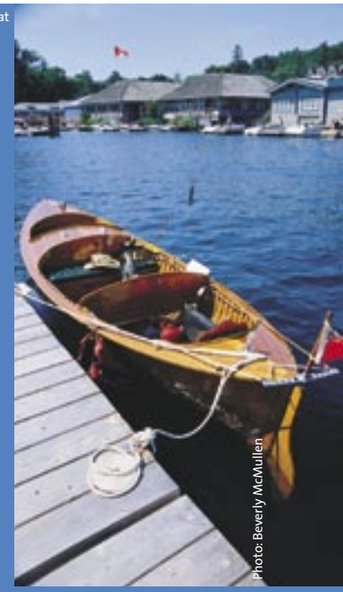

Photo: Beverly McMullen

The Royal Mail Ship Segwun plying Muskoka's clear blue waters

Within a few years, his nephew, W.J. Johnston Jr., invented the revolutionary Disappearing Propeller Boat. Nicknamed 'dippies' or 'dispros,' they're shaped somewhat like canoes, but with an engine in the centre allowing the propeller and shaft to be pulled out of the water should underwater obstacles appear (which wasn't uncommon in the early 1900s). By 1922, he was running Canada's largest motorboat building business. Now, classic dispros can be found from Muskoka to Florida to England.

As the 1900s progressed, boat builders made their launches faster, more comfortable and stylish – and made more of them too. Matheson, Ditchburn, Minett, Greavette and Duke became household names. It was their boats that popularized the tourism industry and helped it grow into what we experience today.

If you've cruised in one of their launches or even seen one, consider yourself lucky – their boats are works of art.

But not all restored boats plying the Muskoka waters today are personal watercraft. The Royal Mail Ship Segwun, all 38 m (125 ft.) of her, is the oldest vessel powered by a steam engine in North America. Once used to ferry passengers across Muskoka's lakes, it's now a cruise ship for those seeking a nostalgic voyage on an authentic 1887 masterpiece.

The Segwun is one of three gracious cruise ships to be docked at the new Muskoka Wharf development in Gravenhurst. Hotel

The Royal Mail Ship Segwun is the oldest vessel powered by a steam engine in North America

and restaurants won't be fully completed for a few more years, but the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, showcasing antique boats and marine information, is scheduled to open in June. The Annual Antique and Classic Boat Show, the largest in-water antique and classic boat show in Canada, will also be hosted here.

Much like the antique boats, the resorts of Muskoka keep on chugging. And look better with age too. Over the years, resorts such as Deerhurst Resort have constantly outdone themselves. After its construction in 1896, Deerhurst has expanded again and again – all to keep more and more guests happier and happier.

Now more than 100 years in the making, today's Deerhurst Resort will literally take your breath away.

Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville

R: Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville

Being able to reconnect with nature is just one reason why Deerhurst is a favoured summertime destination.

From the moment you wind down its private road, past one of its two world-class golf courses, past sprawling villas, to the breathtaking Pavilion. Then step inside your lakeview suite – complete with fireplace and kitchen. Even before you slip into one of the pools. Or use the onsite spa services. Or go golfing. Or paddling. Or anything else on your list of 'must-dos.'

Guests find something new with every visit – just one reason why they keep returning to the resorts of Muskoka.

One of the most recent resort projects is the Red Leaves Resort in Minett. It will be home to the Muskoka Theatre Project, which will occupy a temporary stage until the Muskoka Playhouse is completed in 2007. Playwright, cartoonist and Muskoka Theatre Project founder Vince Gritani (also known as TV's *The Weekend Guy*) says, "We've been playing in community centres because there are no theatre venues." Red Leaves also saw the need for a permanent stage and asked Vince if he was interested. He didn't hesitate in exclaiming "yes!" This summer's production will be *Scenes From My Dock 2: The Lake-quel*. "It's about the classic cottage wedding," but to the extreme, says Vince. "You can guess what happens when you mix relatives with booze surrounded by water."

So there you have it: Muskoka is a classic summer destination. Reminisce during a boat ride, explore a steamship, relax in a resort and witness actors bring a stage to life. Then do it all again the following day.

the rest is history

Antique and Classic Wooden Boat Show
July 8, Gravenhurst
www.acbs.ca
(705) 687-1007

Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst
www.muskokawharf.ca
(705) 687-3412

RMS Segwun, Gravenhurst
www.segwun.com
(705) 687-6667

Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville
www.deerhurstresort.com
1-800-461-4393

Muskoka Theatre Project, Minett
www.muskokatheatreproject.com
Ticket Web **1-888-222-6608**

Muskoka Tourism
www.muskokatourism.ca
1-800-267-9700

Resorts Ontario
www.resorts-ontario.com
1-800-363-7227

Looking for more Muskoka? Visit
www.ontariotravel.net/summer
or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

R: The Muskoka chair is an essential addition to any Muskoka dock

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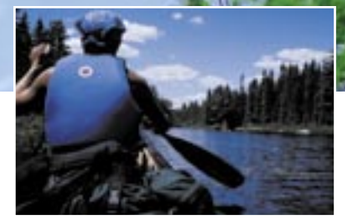

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WWW.KILLARNEYLODGE.COM

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WWW.MUSKOKAHERITAGEPLACE.ORG

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BEAR PAUSE!

– By John Farrington

The three polar bears at Cochrane's new tourist attraction have been attracting some unexpected visitors.

Up close and personal with the polar bears at Cochrane

A black bear appears at the perimeter fence about 11 metres (35 feet) away from the polar bears, probably attracted by the Cheerios and marshallows the polar bears get to munch on.

A lynx, moose and fox have all been seen on the outside of the perimeter fence bravely counting on their agility and speed to keep them safe. Groundhogs and squirrels have also taken up home inside the Polar Bear Habitat.

And what an enclosure it is. It is the kind of facility that you'd expect to see in a big city. It is a marvellous attraction and a fitting tribute to the polar bear from Cochrane, a community that has built its economy – particularly the tourism variety – on the polar bear.

Cochrane as a polar bear centre? It was a bit of a stretch at first, 40 years ago, when the Ontario Northland Railway started running the Polar Bear Express to Moosonee. Cochrane soon realized the visitors' love for the polar bear, and over the years many polar bear statues, murals and signs have cropped up all over the community – even though the natural habitat of the polar bear is at least 500 kilometres (310 miles) way up at the northern reaches of James Bay and southern coastline of Hudson Bay. Now Cochrane has a facility where visitors can see real polar bears, rather than just have their pictures taken next to statues in the community.

It probably seems unfair to the black bear, who is native to the Cochrane area, that the polar bears from miles away have become a star attraction. They don't have to forage for food like the black bear. No dining at the town dump on leftovers for the polar bears.

Captivity has its upside. The polar bears get fed several times a day. Food magically appears – all-you-can-eat fish, as well as carrots and lettuce. The polar bears love the lettuce – they each get 10 pounds of romaine leaves a day. It used to be head lettuce, but their keeper, Patricia Morin learned that romaine was much healthier for them. And it's fresh. Their black bear friend on the outside never even sees fresh lettuce.

Then there's dessert. At every meal the polar bears get a treat. They don't get bear-sized portions of sweets. Just a taste. In fact, the treats are not meant to satisfy a sweet tooth. Desserts are part of an enrichment program for them to keep them active, to stimulate their coordination and their smell.

Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat also offers "swimming with the polar bears." You are not in the same pool, but are separated only by glass. The bears like to swim to the area and often put their paws up to the glass just as the visitors do with their hands in 'high-five' style.

You don't have to be in the water – wading pool – to get close to the bears. There is a viewing area where you can see the bears in the water diving for food, swimming and

BEAR FACTS

It is believed polar bears evolved from black bear ancestors more than 200,000 years ago.

	POLAR BEAR	BLACK BEAR
WEIGHT: Male	350 kg to 680 kg 775 to 1,500 pounds	57 to 272 kg 125 to 600 pounds
Female	150 kg to 250 kg 330 to 550 pounds	40 kg to 136 kg 90 to 300 pounds
HEAVIEST RECORDED:	1,002 kg 2,209 pounds	370 kg 816 pounds
HEIGHT:	Up to 1.6 metres Up to 5.3 feet	0.7 to 1 metre 2.3 to 3.3 feet
BODY LENGTH:	2.5 to 3.5 metres 8.2 to 11.5 feet	1.5 metres 5 feet
LIFE SPAN:	20 to 30 years	20 to 30 years
TEETH:	42	42

Photo: John Farrington

A mother and her cub at the ONR station in Cochrane

Photo: John Farrington

White Rose gas station at Heritage Village

Photo: John Farrington

Jerry L. Miller Sr. with his collection of tire repair kits

A GREAT BONUS

When you pay for the Polar Bear Habitat, you get a wonderful bonus – a trip back in time, to a Heritage Village on the same grounds, courtesy of Jerry. L. Miller Sr.

Jerry, who spent 30 years as a brakeman/conductor with the Ontario Northland Railway, has brought his museum from his home at Hunta. He was 15 kilometres (10 miles) off the Trans-Canada Highway, but still had 5,000 visitors a year, including bus tours.

In fact, there is so much stuff to see that he has arranged it in a Heritage Village. Everything is close to mint condition. His policy is that if it doesn't work he doesn't want it. And, even more finicky, he only repairs things with the original spare parts. No knock-offs, or substitutes for him. If it can't be restored with factory parts it won't be fixed.

Jerry has never charged admission to his museum. Visitors made donations so that he could continue to buy more treasures. Now when you pay to go into the Polar Bear Habitat you automatically gain admission to the Heritage Village.

Jerry has built this village with a house, doctor's office, barbershop, stable, machinery shop, snowmobile garage and White Rose garage, complete with huge 1927-vintage pumps.

A schoolhouse, barn, church, working farm, trappers cabin, firehall and small motel may all be added to the village in the years to come. And the amazing thing is that Jerry already has all the artefacts to furnish all of these additions.

Also in the plans are an Indian Village, to be built around the lake next to the on the Polar Bear Habitat and Heritage Village.

Photo: John Farrington

Aurora and Nakita, five-year-old twins, at play

having fun playing with plastic pails that are their toys.

It is fascinating to see the bears swim up to the windows, particularly in the wading pool area where visitors are in the water.

– John Farrington has been the editor and publisher of a number of daily newspapers throughout Canada.

Polar Bear Habitat and Heritage Village
www.polarbearhabitat.ca
(705) 272-2327

James Bay Frontier Travel Association
www.jamesbayfrontier.com
1-800-461-3766

Polar Bear Park Expeditions
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POLAR BEARS AU NATUREL

If you want to see polar bears in their natural habitat, Sam Hunter can help you. He's spent a lifetime studying them and shooting them (no guns! Cameras only!).

You'll have to fly to Peawanuck, on the outskirts of Polar Bear Provincial Park and he'll take you to Hudson Bay to see them on the beaches and on several islands they call home.

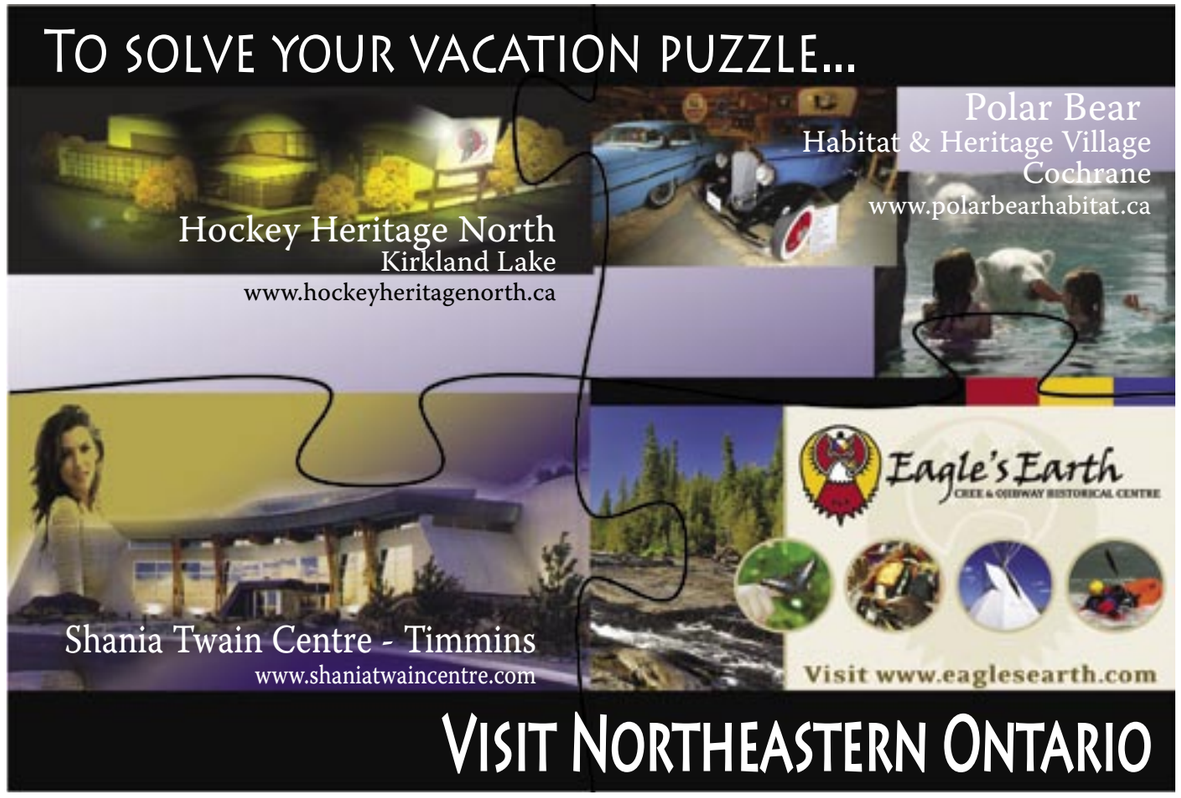
Sam lives in Peawanuck and travels by canoe 35 km (22 mi.) down the Winisk River to reach Hudson Bay.

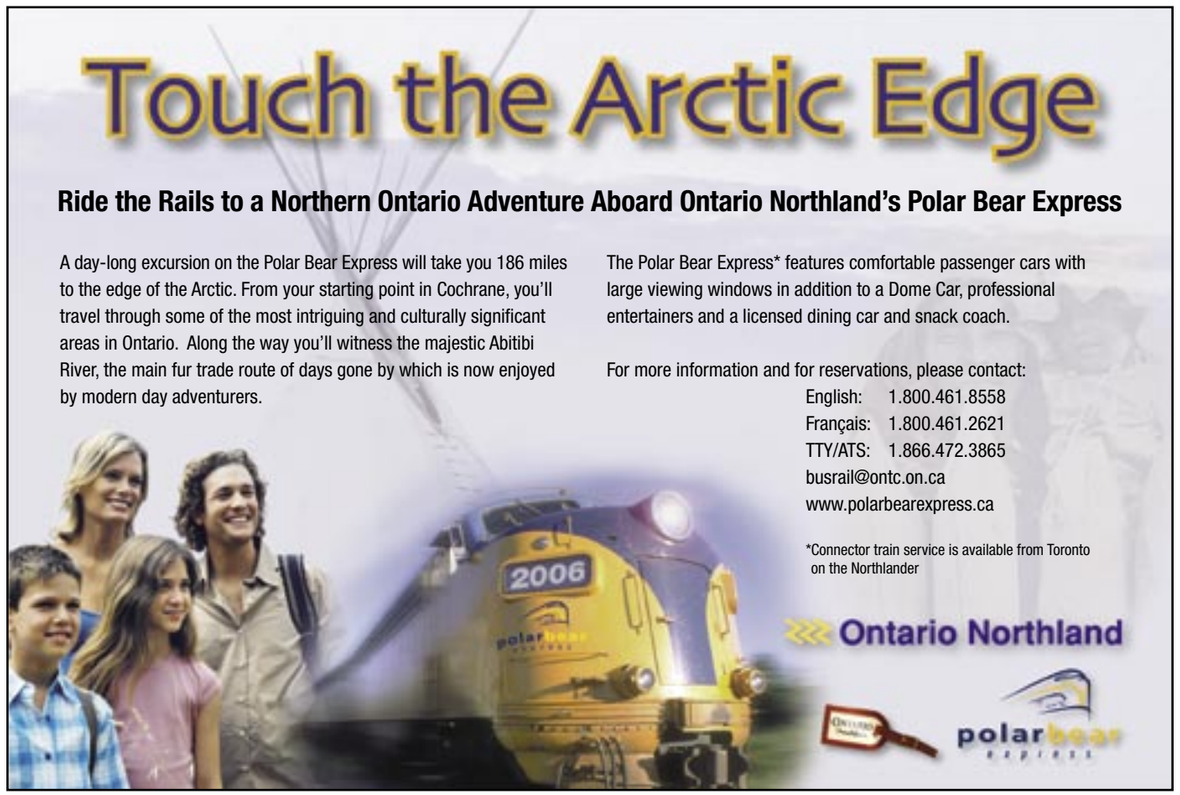
You pitch a tent near the bay and travel by canoe or across the tundra on snowmachines, provided by the outfitters. It's not that there is snow year-round, but when the polar bear expeditions are held, in July and August, the land is not frozen, but is carpeted with muskeg, peat soils and bogs. Trees, mainly willow, spruce and tamarack are little more than shrubbery. The snowmobile skims across the soggy, mossy land, whereas an all-terrain vehicle would get bogged down.

Besides the polar bear, black bear, moose and caribou can be seen up here, as well as beluga whales, seals and walruses.

Even way up here, on the shore of Hudson Bay, you are still more than 4,000 km (2,500 mi.) from the North Pole (in fact, you are closer to Mexico than the North Pole). It's a barren but beautiful land. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience to look at the Ontario very few people ever see. It's priceless.

It is believed that at certain times of the year, there are as many as 500 beluga whales off the Hudson Bay/James Bay coast of Ontario.





POW WOW drums

HEARTBEAT OF THE NATION

– Photo essay by Jeff Speed

"The atmosphere is a fusion of spiritual renewal, honoured sacred traditions and the gathering of family and friends."

Six Nations grass dancer Leroy Eshkawkogan

It has been a quiet desire of mine to professionally photograph one of these ceremonies ever since going to my first Pow Wow along the picturesque banks of the Grand River at the Six Nations Reserve over a decade ago. Pow Wows are important and beautiful entry points for non-natives to be welcomed into First Nations culture. For me, as I walk closer to the Pow Wow circle, the powerful pulse of drums starts to take hold and suddenly I realize why they call this the heartbeat of the nation – and why I am here. ❁

– Jeff Speed is an award-winning photographer whose work has appeared in many magazines, including GQ *and* Maclean's. *Photography by Jeff Speed.*

There are many Aboriginal Pow Wows and festivals across Ontario. For more information visit **www.ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Main photo: Smoke Trail Singers drummers at Wikwemikong Pow Wow on Manitoulin Island
L–R: Fancy dancer Sam Left Hand of Walpole Island; drums and drum beaters; marketplace

Bottom: Women's traditional dance competition at Champion of Champions Pow Wow at Six Nations Reserve

Stay overnight at accommodations throughout Ontario for the complete Aboriginal experience! Choose from sleeping in an authentic teepee, an award-winning eco-lodge and more. Simply visit **www.ontariotravel.net/outdoor** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

running circles

AROUND OTTAWA

– By Barb and Ron Kroll

Our assignment was clear. Find Ottawa's lesser-known attractions. We searched back into history, up in the sky, underground and followed the lead of our stomachs and animal friends. Here are our six discoveries:

A Musical Ride

Retired Mountie, Dave Stewart, loves giving visitors free tours of the RCMP Musical Ride Centre stables, in northeast Ottawa. He introduces us to Kanada, a black thoroughbred. "Schoolchildren name the first six foals born annually at the stables," says Dave, who gives visitors a fascinating glimpse of RCMP horse care and training grounds, including the farrier station, where horses are shoed and the tack room where officers store and clean saddles.

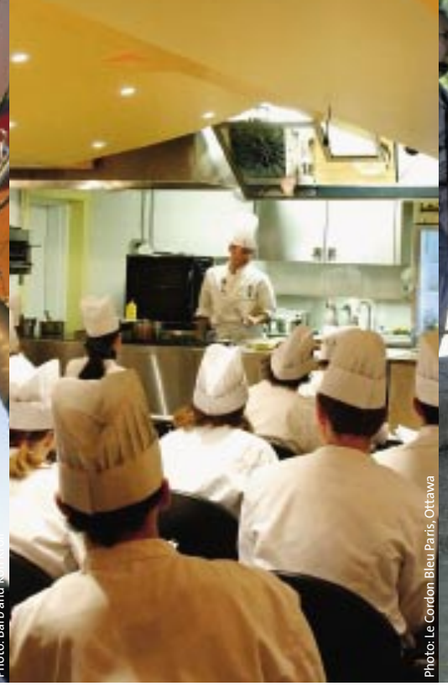
There's a modern interpretive centre to explain the Musical Ride, that comprises 32 horses and riders who perform a variety of intricate figures and cavalry drills choreographed to music. From June 28–July 2, you can see the horses and riders put through their precision paces in their Sunset Ceremony musical rides.

Tea with the Prime Minister

"I support Great Britain," says the Prime Minister, as he sips tea with us in his home. In summer, anyone can meet the seventh Prime Minister, Wilfrid Laurier, played by Claude Lavoie. We are in the yellow brick Laurier House, which he occupied 1897–1919. His successor, William Lyon Mackenzie King, lived here from 1923 to 1950. It's now a National Historic Site. After tea, Parks Canada interpreters recreate the past with music from Laurier's player piano and tours, which include King's study. Here he met Churchill, DeGaulle and

Photo: Barb and Ron Kroll

The RCMP Musical Ride performs at festivals and fairs across Canada every summer



L–R: Sundance Balloons pilot, Frank Bellantoni over Ottawa; Demonstration room at Le Cordon Bleu Paris Ottawa; René Chartrand pets Fluffy the cat

Roosevelt. We even see King's infamous crystal ball which he used to seek the help of spirits in decision-making. Laurier is best known for his prediction that "the 20th century would belong to Canada," that Canada would replace the U.S. as the world power and that our population would be 60 million by the year 2000. (It was about 30 million).

Hot Air Over Ottawa

It's an incredible aerial view. Sunshine glints off Parliament Hill's green roofs and the Ottawa River. Fairmont Château Laurier rises castle-like above the Rideau Canal. We're in a wicker basket, dangling from a eight-storey nylon balloon. Sundance Balloons pilot, Frank Bellantoni, heats the air with propane burners. We rise, married to the wind. Universities, museums and homes scroll by like movie scenes until we gently land beside the Aviation Museum and share a traditional post-flight champagne toast.

A Taste of Paris

Le Cordon Bleu Chef Armando Baisas whisks eggs, chops lobster, shells mussels and sautés shallots in a spotless stainless steel kitchen. Mouth-watering aromas fill the air. We're learning to prepare nine canapé recipes with culinary arts students at the prestigious institute. These three-hour demonstration classes in the kitchen, with the students, are a real treat. There are also one and four-day workshops, on topics ranging from pastry to vegetarian cooking, for visitors only.

That evening, we savour snow crab with parsnip rémoulade, flounder with baby vegetables, and chocolate-covered walnut cream at Signatures, Le Cordon Bleu's award-winning restaurant. Who has to visit Paris?

Parliament Hill – 'purrfect'

Most visitors go to Parliament Hill to admire the architecture, to walk through the historical grounds and hallways and to hopefully catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister or one of the federal leaders. But one of the most interesting people on The Hill is René Chartrand. He's not a politician. He fills dishes with cat food and water. "I haven't missed a day in 16 years," says the 84-year-old, who feeds feral felines behind Parliament Hill. "I've named them all." He pets black-and-white Fluffy. Lulu peers from the shelter he built.

Top secret Cold War Bunker

"It's Canada's strongest building," says Doug Beaton. The four-storey nuclear bomb shelter, built 1959–1961, hides underground in Carp, west of Ottawa. "Its 350 rooms could house 535 military and government officials, with one month's provisions," says Diefenbunker's president.

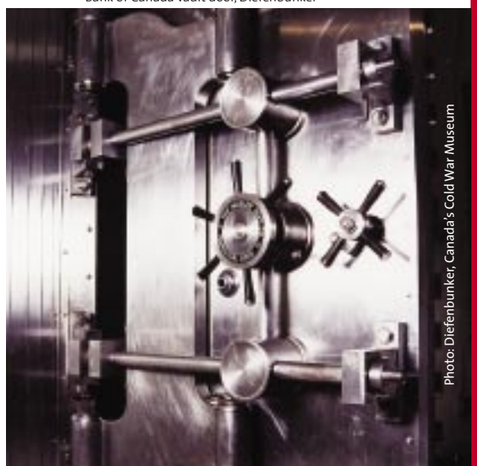
Doug opens a massive door to a vault built to secure Canada's gold reserves. Our eyes widen further as he leads us past decontamination rooms, a hospital, cafeteria, dental clinic, CBC radio studio, bedrooms, meeting and machinery rooms.

Diefenbunker impressed Hollywood too. Film-makers shot scenes from *Sum of all Fears*, with Morgan Freeman, here.

Ottawa's hidden attractions are as much fun as its must-see sights such as the Parliament Buildings, museums and galleries. If you're an adventurer, animal-lover, gourmand or history buff, you'll want to include them on your next visit to the capital region.

– Barb and Ron Kroll are travel writers whose stories and photographs appear in major publications throughout the world.

Bank of Canada vault door, Diefenbunker



UNCOVERING OTTAWA'S SECRETS

Aerial view of Ottawa, from hot air balloon, showing the Parliament Buildings and Ottawa River

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greener & GREATER SUDBURY

How many cities can you name that have been undergoing an urban greening project for more than 25 years? Well, now you know at least one – Greater Sudbury. And 'greater' it certainly is.

The Northern Lights Festival Boreal

Photo: Mike Grandmaison

Lily Creek Boardwalk

Photo: Science North

Landings Restaurant, Science North

Within Sudbury's borders are more than 330 lakes including two of the largest lakes in the world contained within one city. It's also the largest city in Ontario in land area and boasts some of Canada's best attractions.

Notably, Science North is Northern Ontario's most popular place to play. One of many visitors' favourite areas is the Nature Exchange, where your kids collect and bring in things they find in the wild, then exchange them for points to be redeemed for something even better.Then there's Grossology – running March 4–September 4. If there's one thing kids like more than collecting things, it's finding gross stuff. The good thing here, is that they can get their fill of everything 'icky' and 'slimy' without making a mess (that mom and dad have to clean up, anyway). Encourage them to crawl through a giant model of a digestive system and don't be afraid to say the 'L' word – 'learn' – they will and they'll love it.

Any Science North experience requires a visit to Landings Restaurant. Now this is dining like nature intended – surrounded with pine lodge décor and overlooking beautiful Lake Ramsey.

Weaving from Science North along Lake Ramsey for two km (1.2 mi.), the Jim Gordon Boardwalk, named after Sudbury's celebrated former mayor, is one of the finest walks in the city. Also nearby, The Lily Creek Boardwalk affords remarkable views of a wetland habitat.

If your visit coincides with The Northern Lights Festival Boréal, stick around the shores of Lake Ramsey for this remarkable event – Canada's longest running outdoor festival of music and arts. It's held July 7–9, and has 100 concerts.

The following weekend, head back to Lake Ramsey for the Sudbury Dragon Boat Festival, July 14 and 15. More than 100 rowing teams take part in this 2,000-year-old Chinese celebration.

Also on Lake Ramsey, Sudbury Discoveries has prepared a terrific paddling lesson package on the lake – no experience necessary. With a paddling instructor in tow, you will learn how to perform all the basics, and a little more, without ever getting lost in the wilderness. What a great idea! Check out their booth at Science North.

After all this focus on water, there's nothing like a bit of land to balance out your experience. At Dynamic Earth, watch a multimedia show as you take a glass elevator down to a labyrinth of mine tunnels. Don a miner's helmet and trace the nickel mining history from 1900 on. Don't expect one yawn out of the kids – they'll be running ahead wondering what's around the next corner!

The region's rocky landscape is also perfect for golfers looking for scenic greens. One of the finest golf courses in the Greater Sudbury area is Timberwolf Golf Course. Among its honours, they won Golf Digest's 'Best New Canadian Course in 2000' and in 2004 received their 4 ½ star rating – the highest awarded to a Canadian golf course that year.

If woods, irons and drivers are too confusing, Dinosaur Valley Mini Golf is certainly the answer. Thirty mammoth dinosaurs and insects dot its six courses, including a 10-foot tall Tyrannosaurus rex. Scary? Nah. Will the kids love it? For sure!

Go see Greater Sudbury for yourself. Blue water. Green grass. And a wealth of wild attractions.

Timberwolf Golf Course

Photo: Sudbury Tourism

Photo: Sudbury Tourism

The Northern Lights Festival Boréal

SEEK AND FIND

Science North
www.sciencenorth.ca
1-800-461-4898

Northern Lights Festival Boréal
July 7–9
www.northernlightsfestival.com
1-800-465-6655

Sudbury Dragon Boat Festival
July 14, 15
www.sudburydragonboats.org
(705) 671-6067

Sudbury Discoveries
www.sudburydiscoveries.ca
1-800-708-2505

Timberwolf Golf Course
www.timberwolfgolf.com
(705) 524-9653

Dinosaur Valley Mini Golf
www.dinosaursudbury.ca
(705) 897-6302

Sudbury Tourism
www.sudburytourism.ca
1-800-304-8222

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Congratulations to Lloyd Lasher of Chicago, Illinois, who won an all-expense paid fishing trip with three friends and seven of television's celebrity pros to Northern Ontario. Lloyd and his friends picked the Guardian Eagle Fly-in Resort out of a list of six resorts, then spent five extraordinary days having the best outdoor time of their lives.

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Hamilton is the official host city of the 2006 Bell Canadian Open.

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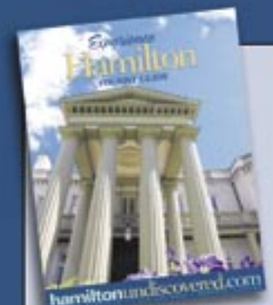

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Photo: Credit Valley Conservation Authority

Island Lake

Photo: Grey-Sauble Conservation Authority

Sydenham River

Photo: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

ONE OUT OF THE park

1 Here's a neat program the insectophiles in the family will love: the Junior Conservationist Badge Program at Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville. Your lucky kids will explore the life of a dead tree and find out that those rotting pieces of wood aren't as pointless as they look – they're feeding the soil (among many other things).

2 Your kids will get a kick out of The Great Outdoors Adventure Day Camp at Grey Sauble Conservation Authority in Owen Sound. On weekdays in July and August, kids 8–12 will have a blast becoming eco-keeners on the escarpment. Nature walks, swimming, building forts and scavenger hunts will surely keep minds piqued.

3 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Family Fishing Weekend at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area in Niagara is a family angling adventure reconnecting the family to the wild. BYOB (Bring Your Own Boat); there's a boat launch available. If you're a landlubber, simply keep to the banks of the lake or river. Either way, you're spending quality time with your kids reeling-in largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill and yellow perch.

This is just a taste of Greenbelt conservation area activities for you and your kids. Check out Conservation Ontario online or call them for more information on programs near you.

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Greenbelt
www.tourism.gov.on.ca

Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville
www.creditvalleycons.com
(519) 941-6329

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Owen Sound
www.greysauble.on.ca
(519) 376-3076

Chippawa Creek Conservation Area, Wellandport
www.conservation-niagara.on.ca
(905) 386-6387

Conservation Ontario
www.conservation-ontario.on.ca
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L: Chippawa Creek

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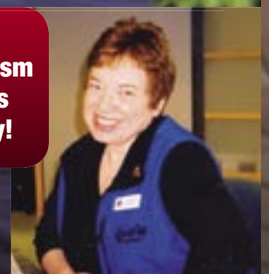

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Ottawa-Downtown ▼
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Kayaking Killarney

Killarney Provincial Park

The summer day that you've been waiting for has finally arrived. Only a few details remain: slipping on your swimwear, slapping on the sunscreen, strapping on sandals and slinging a pair of binoculars around your neck. Now you're ready. Ready for sea kayaking on the rugged northern shores of Georgian Bay.

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Capitol Delight

– By Betty Zyvatkauskas

In 1930, when talking pictures were still a novelty, Port Hope's Capitol Theatre was the first movie theatre in Canada built expressly to show them. Its Depression-era audience watched a swashbuckling Errol Flynn and the zany Marx Brothers in a fantasy setting.

The Capitol's *trompe l'œil* murals surround the audience with the impression of a medieval courtyard. The ceiling was painted like a sky that gradually changed from daylight to dusk with twinkling stars that emerged as the lights dimmed. The effect is still magical 76 years later, in the beautifully restored theatre.

Although it still shows movies occasionally, today the Capitol is known for its live theatre. It is home to the Port Hope Festival Theatre, a professional company that presents its ninth season this summer with a crowd-pleasing roster of comedy, farce and musicals. The season starts with *Storm Warning* from one of Canada's most popular summer stock playwrights, Norm Foster, followed by a romantic comedy *Honeymoon for Three*, and a farce, *Who's Under Where*. *The Sound of Music* rounds out the summer.

– Betty Zyvatkauskas is author of two Ontario travel guidebooks and a contributing editor to Toronto Life's *annual* Getaways and Day Trips *guide.*

Take your seat:

The Just the Ticket package costs $215 per couple and includes: two theatre tickets, one night at a B&B, afternoon cream tea and a gift package with vouchers for discount dinners.

Port Hope Festival Theatre
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Photo: Ted Amsden

Inside the Capitol Theatre

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'round *the* bay

– By George Czerny

Georgian Bay, sometimes called The Sixth Great Lake, excites and entertains me. It has also educated and inspired me, as I have travelled all around this huge bay more times than I can remember.

I could write a book about Georgian Bay – and, in fact, I did. There's so much to see and do. Here are some of my favourite places around the bay.

Wasaga Beach, at 14-kilometres (8.7 miles), is the world's longest freshwater beach. I love to stroll the sands, splash in the shallow waters with my grandchildren, or picnic in one of the nearby parks. At Nancy Island Historic Site, I've danced on the grassy walkways at free jazz concerts and marvelled how nature created this island in the Nottawasaga River. It all started during the War of 1812 when the schooner, Nancy, a private cargo vessel was pressed into service as a British supply ship. American forces destroyed the Nancy and her sunken hull formed an obstruction in the river. During the next 100 years silt covered it and created the island. Great story. Great island.

Collingwood, my home town, offers an interesting waterfront and a network of cycling trails. I enjoy the link to the 32-kilometre (20-mile) Georgian Trail which

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Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

Discovery Harbour

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Photo: Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

runs west to Meaford. The Blue Mountain beckons with the Village at Blue. There, you can take a gondola ride to the top of the hills and go mountain biking. Plenty of opportunities to capture the splendid views of Georgian Bay.

I never host out-of-town guests without taking them on one of the boat cruises through the 30,000 Islands, leaving from Midland or Penetanguishene. I also like stepping back in time at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and walking through the reconstruction of a Huron longhouse and experiencing the way the Hurons lived so long ago.

I always park my vehicle and walk along the waterfront at Parry Sound. It's the best way to see everything. Boat cruises are available aboard the 550-passenger Island Queen, Canada's largest sightseeing cruise ship. An aviation company offers a bird's-eye view of Georgian Bay's 30,000 Island region. But don't try counting the islands, just enjoy the view.

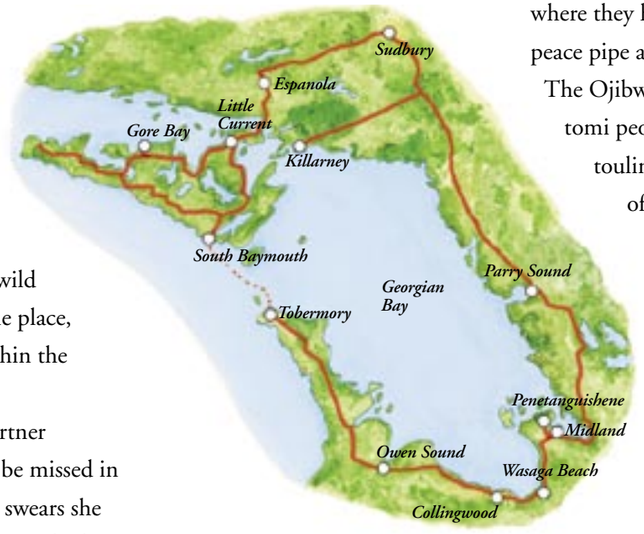
great escapes

L–R: Chi-Cheemaun, Tobermory; Manitoulin Island; Grotto, Tobermory

Killarney Provincial Park gave me my best, single day of roadside wildlife sightings. I marvelled at a mother bear and her two cubs, two moose, a small herd of deer and a wild turkey. Not all at the same place, but I did see them all within the same hour.

Dynamic Earth and partner Science North are not to be missed in Sudbury. My wife Nancy swears she could smell the aftershave inside the Generations Barbershop at Dynamic Earth with its simulation of a mine. At Science North we learn about wildlife, fly a bush plane simulator and step gingerly into the tropical butterfly gallery.

On Manitoulin Island, the world's largest freshwater island, I hear the pounding of drums and watch the Aboriginal dancers. I recommend the annual cultural festival in Wikwemikong. Experience Aboriginal culture and cuisine first-hand by travelling The Great Spirit Circle Trail throughout the island and along the North Shore. Sleep in a teepee, take a canoe trip along the Spanish River, or hike the M'Chigeeng (formerly West Bay) Trail on the bluffs overlooking the community. And you won't want to miss the photo opportunity at Zhiibaahaasing First Nation where they have the world's biggest peace pipe and largest dream catcher.



The Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomi people have made Manitoulin home for thousands of years and their guides like to share stories and legends passed down over the centuries.

The most popular way between South Baymouth and Tobermory, is the Chi-Cheemaun ferry. I could sail her day after day, listening to the throb of her engines and watching the waves. On fine summer days, it's like a mini-cruise.

At 'The Tub,' Tobermory's inner harbour, the marine hub-bub includes the sound of boat motors and the clang of divers' tanks being loaded and unloaded from boats. The tanks are used at Fathom Five National Marine Park, an underwater mecca to scuba divers from all over

Just 90 minutes north of Toronto!

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
Midland

A nationally significant historic site, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons was the 17th-century French Jesuit mission to the Huron people. Site maps available in 10 languages.

2006 Highlights
• Iroquois Beadwork Exhibit: May 1-June 8
• National Aboriginal Weekend: June 17-18
• National Aboriginal Day: June 21
• Paddlefest: July 22-Aug 7
• Thanksgiving Harvest Festival & Arts and Crafts Show & Sale: Oct. 7-8
• First Light: Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2

Discovery Harbour
Penetanguishene

Explore Discovery Harbour, a picturesque 19th-century British naval and military base built to defend Upper Canada. Site maps available in English and French. Home of King's Wharf Theatre.

2006 Highlights
(July-August)
• Historic demonstrations including 19th-century cooking, sailor's ropework, quill pen writing, dockyard demonstrations and soldier's life
• Roving Naval Captain
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Fathom Five National Marine Park, Tobermory

the world. Bruce Peninsula National Park offers cedar-lined hiking trails past Cyprus Lake and to the Grotto, a waterside cavern with a diameter of approximately 10 metres (36 ft.) that has been scoured from limestone cliffs by Georgian Bay's persistent wave action.

As you can imagine, there are dozens, if not hundreds of great places to picnic, and among my favourites are Owen Sound's waterfront, Kelso Beach, Harrison Park and Inglis Falls.

Explorers arrived at the shore of Georgian Bay in the mid-1600s. Today, there is still so much to explore and enjoy around this huge bay, with its Caribbean-like turquoise waters and the spectacular crimson sunsets. I never tire of it. It's always a thrill to me.

– *George Czerny is author of* George's Georgian Bay. *You can connect with him and photos he has taken around Georgian Bay at www.georgesgeorgianbay.com*

Around the Bay

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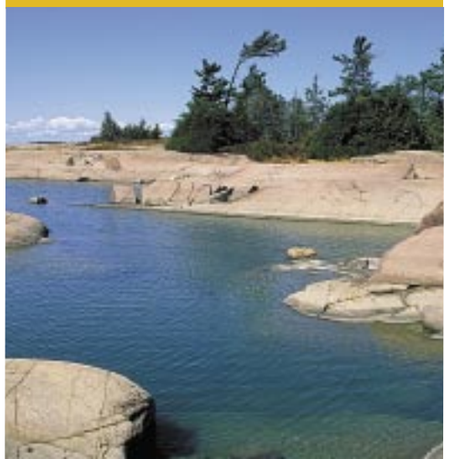

R: Killarney Provincial Park

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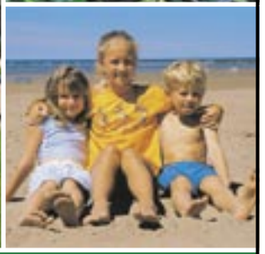

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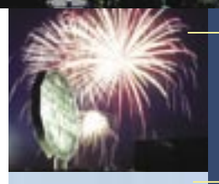

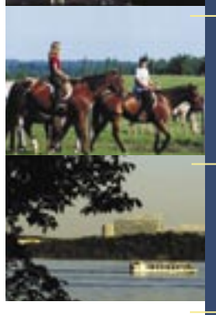

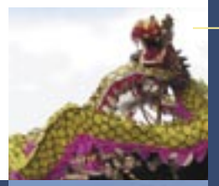

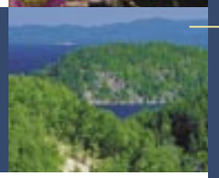

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Outdoor adventure

Saddle-up at dawn and ride out for a "cowboy" breakfast. Climb for the sheer joy of it. Learn to Eskimo roll in a sea kayak. Push off for a full-moon paddle. Enjoy dozens of fun, affordable day adventures with Sudbury Discoveries.

City of lakes

Explore Ramsey, one of 330 fresh-water lakes within the city. Stroll the boardwalk at Bell Park. Enjoy the beaches and supervised swimming areas. Tour the lake aboard the Cortina cruise boat from the Science North dock.

Joie de vivre

Sudbury is the centre of franco-Ontarien culture. Explore Le Centre franco-ontarien de folklore and La Galerie du Nouvel Ontario. Catch a performance at Le Théâtre du Nouvel Ontario. Don't miss La Nuit sur L'étang. Passe la nuit avec nous!

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Our multi-cultural heritage sets the stage for an entertaining line-up of annual festivals. Experience Northern Lights Festival Boréal, the Dragon Boat and Garlic festivals, Whitefish Lake Pow Wow, Cinéfest, Ontario's second largest international film festival, and more.

Changing landscape

What ever happened to Sudbury's infamous moonscape? Years of regreening continue to change the landscape. These efforts have earned Sudbury international recognition. You'll be amazed at the transformation.

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great escapes

the FRENCH CONNECTION

– By Cathy Bennett

One of the plaques at the Highway 69 suspension bridge reads like a who's who of Canadian history – Brulé, Champlain, Brébeuf, MacKenzie and Thompson, to name but a few.

And as my husband John and I make the trek over the bridge that spans the spectacular French River Gorge, a great blue heron soars overhead as if to remind us that the Ojibway paddled this mighty trade route that connects Lake Nipissing to Lake Huron for hundreds of years before the explorers, Voyageurs and missionaries.

We are now on our third foray into the French River region, a love affair that began a few years ago when we decided to take the 'long way home' from North Bay – a glorious drive on Highway 64 that took us along the western shore of Lake Nipissing and into farming and logging country dotted with quaint little towns until we eventually reached the Lower French and Highway 69.

Since then, our love affair has grown into a passion for this land, which is as pristine and unspoiled as any place you'll find in Canada. Thankfully, it will stay this way because it was designated as the first Canadian Heritage River in 1986. Also, most of the corridor was made into the French River Provincial Park in 1989, which means development of any kind is strictly regulated.

Photo: John Molnar

French River Gorge

great escapes

French River Provincial Park is an operating park, but has no campgrounds. It does, however, have several designated campsites, but they are only reachable by water. Land accommodations include a variety of privately owned lodges and resorts such as the Sand Beach Lodge Resort, which we have chosen for our visit.

Built in 1927, the Sand Beach Lodge Resort was the original summer home of the famous Seagram family. Delectable four-course dinners and breakfasts are served in the original Seagram lodge which is chocked to the rafters with memorabilia. The original boathouse is still in use and has its own resident otters that resort owner Vicki Henderson says "love to munch on styrofoam." Go figure!

During our stay we meet up with the Abbott family from Toronto whose children regale us with fish stories – the real kind – about their shore lunch of freshly caught walleye and bass, fried potatoes, and pork and beans cooked over an open fire by Ojibway guide Bob Williams. An adventure that's definitely on our agenda for next year!

In addition to being renowned for its fishing, which is excellent on nearly all of the streams, lakes and rivers of the French River region, the area's challenging rapids and portages is a magnet for canoeists and kayakers from around the world. And it's also a haven for avian, wildlife and nature viewing.

At the lodge, we witness ducks, mergansers, loons, chipmunks, red squirrels and a pileated woodpecker digging into a pine tree with a ferocity that power drilling pales by comparison. Later, we catch sight of white tail deer and a flock of sandhill cranes foraging for dinner at the side of the road. The area also supports an incredible variety of coniferous and deciduous trees as well as 450 different plant species, some of them rare.

All this and more is what has fuelled our passion for the French River. A passion which John and I think is beautifully encapsulated in the words Alex Strachan, the owner of the Lodge at Pine Cove "...so beautiful, so much space, and with a sense of no one else's hands."

– Cathy Bennett is a travel writer whose work regularly appears in major publications. She is often found cruising the beautiful back roads of Ontario with her artist husband, John, helping her find the treasures that are not always on the beaten path.

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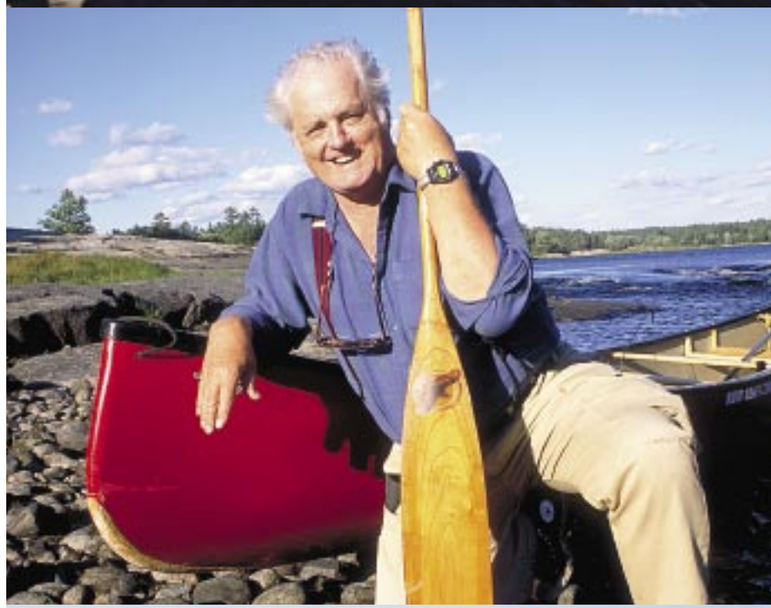
Top–bottom: The Lodge at Pine Cove, French River; Getting ready for a day on the French River; Looking out on Dry Pine Bay from Sand Beach Lodge Resort



Photos: John Molnar

French River, Bass Lake

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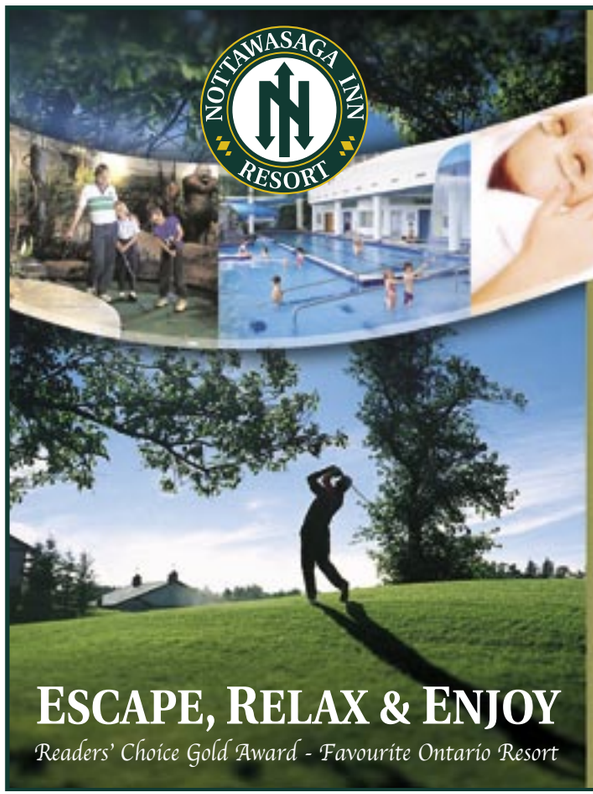

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"It's quite possibly the **greatest folk festival** on the planet."

– Brian McNeill, head of the Scottish Music Department at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, Scotland.

When the sun began to set, everyone headed to the main stage for a Celtic bash like no other

– By Darren Hakker

The stage was large, but when the band asked the audience to join them for a traditional Celtic dance, my wife Darlene and I weren't sure there'd be enough room for us all. It seemed like everyone wanted to learn a hop and skip or two.

We were midway through day one of Goderich's Celtic Roots Festival and our hands were worn out from clapping. The previous day was spent celebrating Stratford's Summer Music Festival with a cabaret at the stunning Church Restaurant, a reading accompanied by classical music at city hall, and hip tunes from a barge alongside the Avon.

From Stratford, we followed Highway 8 northwest through Mitchell and Seaforth, then turned onto County Road 3 to Bayfield to recharge on muffins and coffee before heading to our main destination: Goderich. And now we had three days of Celtic arts ahead of us.

After the audience had their fun being the centre of attention, students of the Celtic College hit the stage. The college courses, which ran the previous week, were taught

by professional performers who come from as far away as Ireland, Scotland and England to teach dances, songs and numerous instruments during the week and perform during the festival on the weekend.

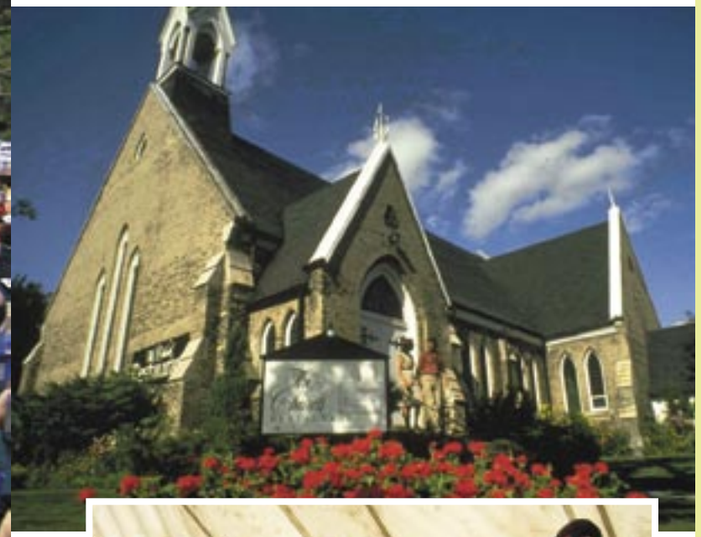
This was the students' chance to show off their new-found talent. They were good, but it was their masters who stole the show.

These included more than 50 groups and performers such as Sean Keane – "The greatest Irish musical find of the '90s" (*London Independent*), Anna Massie – the winner of the *BBC Radio Scotland* Young Traditional Musician Award 2003 and Crucible – a British band excelling at bringing youthful energy to traditional Celtic tunes.

When we weren't applauding or keeping the beat, we happily browsed the marketplace. All the vendors here are the craftspeople themselves, all handpicked from hundreds of applicants. Darlene picked up a pewter Celtic necklace; I bought Crucible's latest CD.

But just as quickly as it rose, the sun set over Lake Huron with a musical finale worthy of the Celtic Roots Festival – quite possibly the greatest folk festival on the planet.

– Darren Hakker is a writer with FUEL Advertising. His work appears regularly in this magazine.



Top–bottom: The Church Restaurant was one of the many unique performance venues during the Stratford Summer Music Festival; Crucible always drew a crowd when they hit the stage

R: Benmiller Inn & Spa, a short drive from Goderich, is perched on the lush banks of Sharpe's Creek

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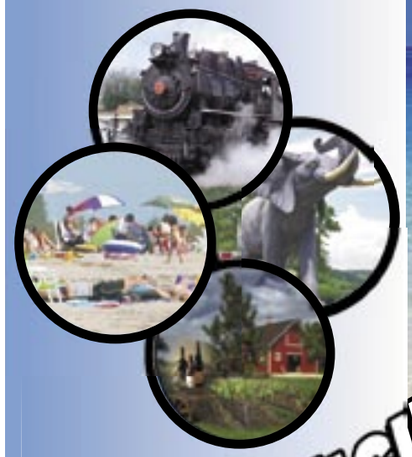

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ANTIQUE SPREE
—ON HIGHWAY 3—

– By Susan Scott

One of my favourite places for antiquing in Ontario is only a few kilometres from the teeming traffic of the Highway 401 corridor between Windsor and Toronto where Highway 3 wends its way along the north shore of Lake Erie.

The scenery is beautiful, with birds, wildlife and undiscovered beaches. Each small village, town or city has its own distinctive flavour and local history.

Derby Road, Crystal Beach includes a row of brilliantly painted antique shops

great escapes

L–R: Folk art biplane and antique telephone, Talbot Antiques, Morpeth; Susan Scott in front of Antiques of the Viking Shop, Port Colborne; Dionne Quintuplets collectibles at Springridge Antiques

I started with Lyle Archbold at Erieau Antiques and Collectibles. Erieau's miles of sandy beaches are just off Highway 3. After a walk along the beach, I bought some 1950s children's furniture from Lyle while he showed my husband his collection of cowboy memorabilia. Lyle recommended the yellow perch dinner at Molly & O.J.'s Restaurant next door, and now I would recommend it, too.

John Costuk runs Talbot Antiques in Morpeth's old general store. His passion is military memorabilia starting with the local 24th regiment dating back to late 1700s. His store offers antiques, books and cottage furniture. Up the way, I spotted Old Highway 3 Antiques. I spent an hour poking through the bins of ephemera while my husband enjoyed looking at the sports collectibles including a hand-carved 1890 hockey stick for $750.

At St. Thomas – the railway capital of Canada – I admire the statue of Jumbo the circus elephant, killed by a locomotive in 1885. Doug Walker, of Antiques on the Side, says railway memorabilia plus low prices make Elgin County antique shops a magnet for collectors. He told me that he has one vintage watch collector who comes in twice a week so that he won't miss a possible treasure. Courtland Antique & Collectibles Warehouse houses Richard Vank's "Grate Restoration Stoveworks" – a unique collection of antique stoves from wood and coal burners to early gas and electric models. It is definitely worth a walk up the street to the Courtland Bakery – try the 'cheese crowns'; I get one every time I pass through town. In nearby Waterford,

great escapes

Tracy Winkworth's 'Chocolate is a Food Group' cooking class draws a crowd. Fittingly, you'll find antique chocolate molds at the Waterford Antique Market. The Market's owner Dave Smith collects World War I memorabilia and early Ontario pottery; he showed me his local stoneware pots on the wall above the cash register.

I tried on several vintage hats at Molly's Back Porch in Caledonia and then crossed the Grand River for great fries at Canada's oldest fast food restaurant – the Oasis Drive-In. Jim Gibson, at Towpath on the Grand in Cayuga, is always happy to chat about Six Nations' Indian carvings. He showed me a few examples from his vast collection of Haldimand County postcards; he recently paid $150 for a 1930s photo card of Highway 3 as it passes through Cayuga. Tammy Logan's Hometown Treasures shop on Lock Street, Dunnville combines antiques and more (I bought my new favourite hat from Tammy – a Panama Jack hat).

Crystal Beach was 'Buffalo's Coney Island' in the 1920s. These days Antiques on Erie occupies the old roller rink just across from where the Cyclone Coaster attracted 75,000 screaming riders the day it opened in 1927. The amusement park is long gone, but I swear I could still hear the screams as I walked around town from one brightly painted antique shop to another.

Bridgeburg Antique Village in Fort Erie is the end of the road. Owner Mary Dimerio collects and displays local memorabilia relating to her building. She told me the old building was once a factory producing patent medicine "to make weak women strong." Sadly, the recipe has been lost.

– Susan Scott is a freelance writer, specializing in travel and antiques. She has written about the experience of antiquing throughout North America and England.

Photography by Susan Scott

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Naturally Superior

– By James Smedley

We're never far from water in Northern Ontario and on the Slate Islands we're surrounded. Cold, clear waters caress the rocky shores of this remote cluster of 17 islands resting 12 kilometres (eight miles) off the coast of Lake Superior's northern shore, just south of Terrace Bay.

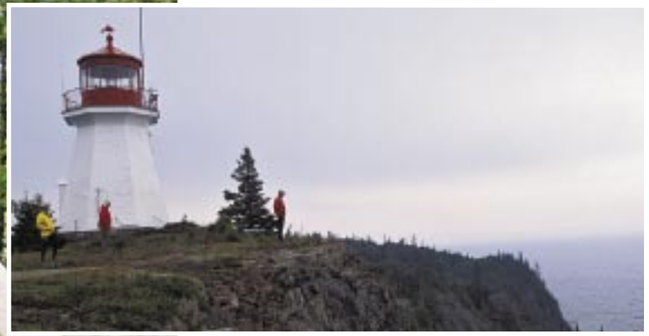
A premier sea kayaking destination, the islands are also home to a thriving herd of some 400 woodland caribou. Naturally Superior Adventures offers week-long trips amid the Slates where paddling the protected waters of the inner passages is joined by riding Superior's challenging swells along the windward coast. Experiencing this ever-changing union of land and water from the low slung saddle of a sea kayak is as exhilarating as it is humbling. And, at 13 caribou per square kilometre the chances of spotting one of the shy creatures is as good as finding hidden campsites along a wild and rugged shoreline.

– over

Sculpted rock of Superior's Slate Islands

Stairs scale the steepest grades of the Palisades Trail

The Slate Islands Lighthouse was constructed in 1903 on the south coast of Patterson Island



One of several idyllic log structures at the Beckwith site, Wabakimi Provincial Park

At the foot of the Palisades Hiking Trail, towering pillars of rock appear through a break in the trees. But I don't fully appreciate the height of the Pijitawabik Palisades until I'm navigating accumulations of broken rock and tilting my head back to see a series of wooden stairs stretching toward the summit.

Once on top, my heart rate slows as I hike over a gently rolling flatland of blueberries, birch, spruce and pine, hardly reminiscent of the climb up. I'm given a stark reminder when I arrive at the first of five lookouts atop a precipitous cliff face. Here my senses are buffeted by a mixture of fear and awe at being perched on the upper edge of a cavernous landscape jutting almost 151 metres (500 feet) above the southern reaches of Lake Nipigon's Orient Bay.

The 7 kilometre (4.3 mile) Palisades Hiking Trail traverses a land of extremes, where endangered Peregrine falcons ride the updrafts of sheer rock faces, moose roam the forests of the flat-topped tablelands and rivers spill into falls over the cusp of the 1.2 billion-year-old rock formations.

Moving along the coast of Lake Superior it is never without a touch of sadness and a large measure of respect that I pass the Terry Fox monument on the Trans-Canada Highway at Thunder Bay. A big town with northern flair, you can rent a canoe or kayak for some urban paddling along one of four rivers that flow through the city of 120,000.

There's plenty to discover on a

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great escapes

remote island in Wabakimi Provincial Park, where inventor, scientist and folk hero Wendell Beckwith settled in 1962.

On Best Island on Whitewater Lake, tall pines surround several ornate log structures including a circular underground dwelling known as 'the snail.' This was not simply the home of a recluse escaping civilization, but a laboratory, museum and observatory. Inside, home-made scientific instruments of wood and metal point to research that ranged from the pyramids to gravitation to astronomy.

In the years before his death in 1980, as many as 400 people a year visited Best Island. Even today the site is infused with an eerie presence that makes me glance around quickly for a glimpse of the man, wandering the grounds or bent over some experiment. It's this enduring aura that keeps visitors arriving by canoe and floatplane to experience Beckwith's legacy. Another great reason to take a few extra steps off the beaten path of Northern Ontario.

– James Smedley is a freelance writer/photographer who loves the outdoors. He is Backroads columnist and Field Editor for Ontario Out of Doors *magazine. He lives in Wawa.*

Photography by James Smedley

Hwy. 11 cowers under Pijitawabik Palisades

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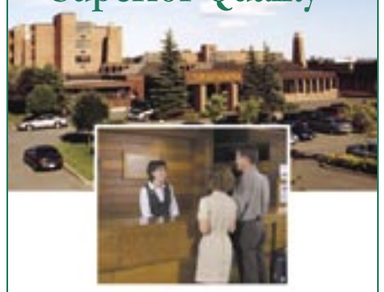

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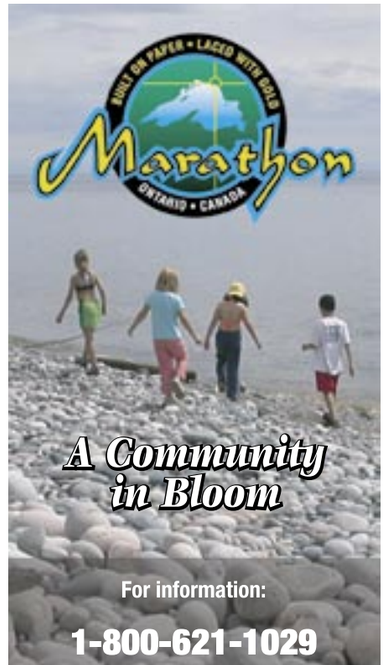

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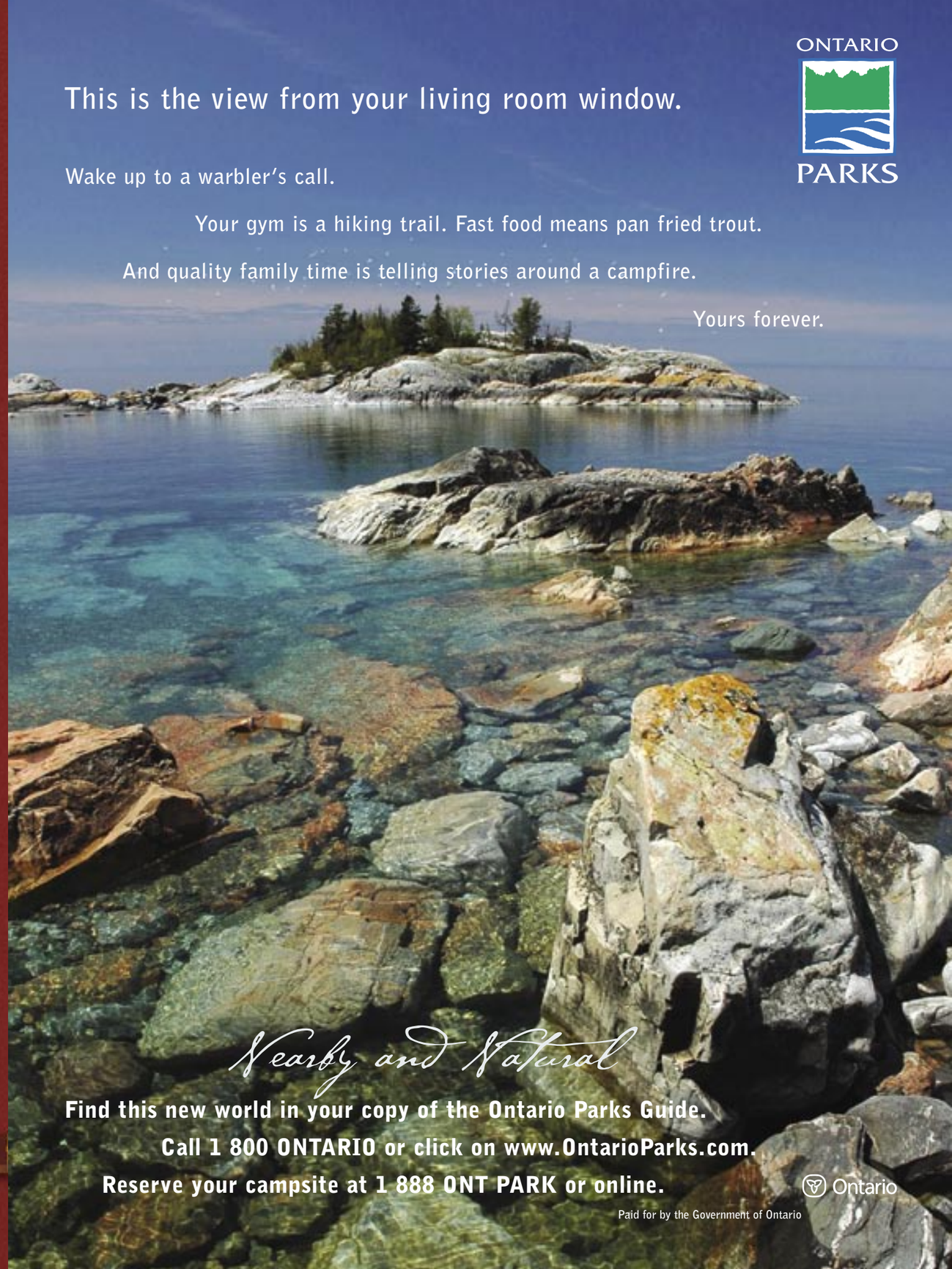
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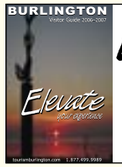

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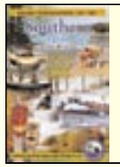

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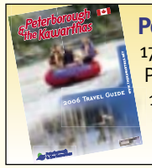

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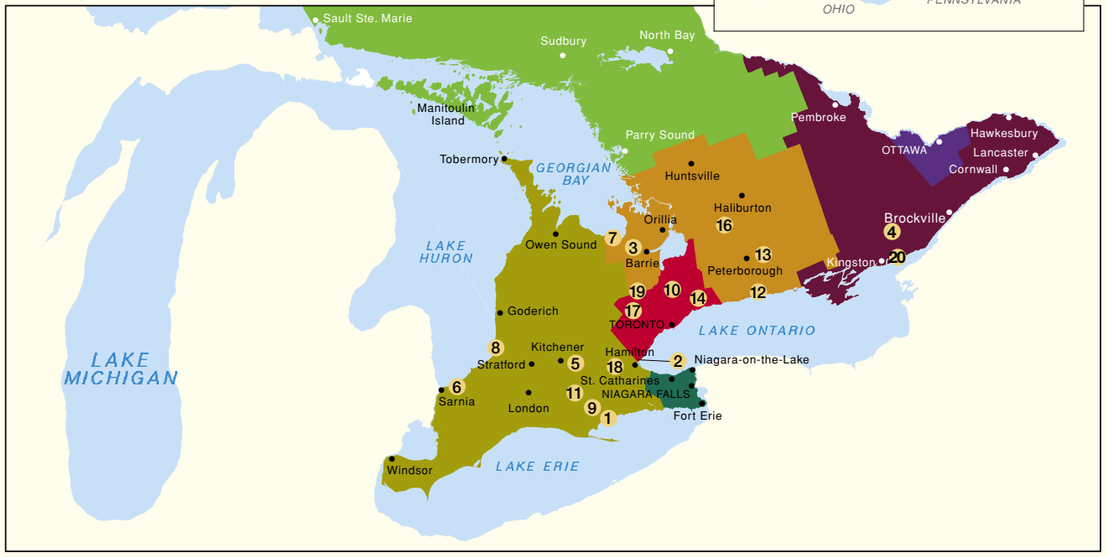

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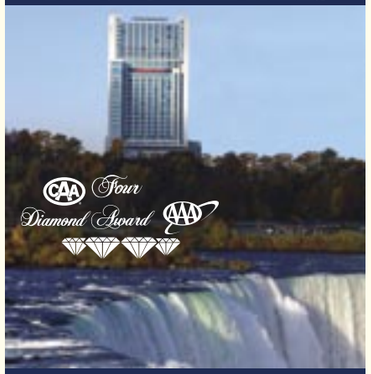

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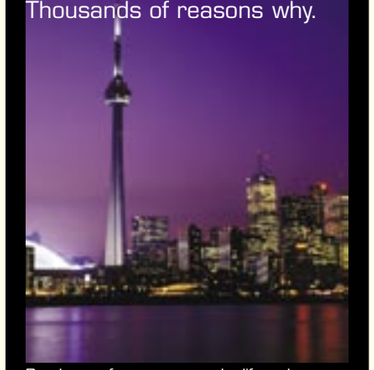

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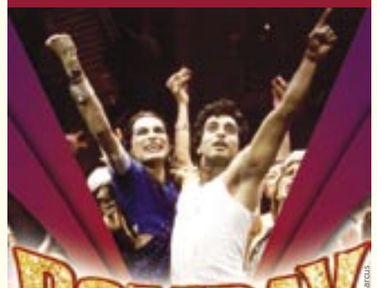

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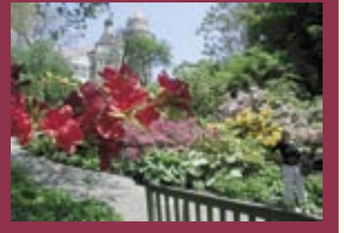

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No one treats families like Fern in Orillia. Fantastic programs for waterfront; sporting life; pampering and wellness; arts and crafts. Great food, entertainment, three pools, tennis, golf, fitness centre & spa, superb children's playvillage. Call 1-800-567-3376, e-mail getaway@fernresort.com or visit www.fernresort.com

Kashabowie River Resort
Fully-equipped fishing (walleye, northern, smallmouth, lake trout, and speckled trout) and hunting lodge on Shebandowan Lake. E-mail info@kashabowie.com or visit www.kashabowie.com

ATTRACTIONS

CBC Museum
Canadian Broadcasting Centre, 250 Front Street West, Toronto. Celebrate nearly 70 years of Canadian public broadcasting and discover the amazing behind-the-scenes sights and sounds of CBC Television and CBC Radio – fun for all ages! Call 416-205-5574 or visit www.cbc.ca/museum

Dinosaur Valley Mini Golf
Inaugural Tourism Innovation Award winner TFO, nominated by Attractions Ontario. 20 mammoth skeleton dinosaurs, 6 different mini golf courses, 54 holes total. Labyrinths. Located in Greater Sudbury. Call Josee at 705-897-6302 or visit www.dinosaursudbury.ca

Eagle's Earth Cree & Ojibway Historical Centre
For an authentic First Nations getaway experience, visit us at Eagle's Earth Cree & Ojibway Historical Centre. Immerse yourself in our culture, cuisine and traditions. Opening July 2006 near Timmins. Call 705-463-2288, e-mail info@eaglesearth.com or visit www.eaglesearth.com

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Best Western North Bay
Want to enjoy great outdoor recreation? Best Western is your best bet for fun and value. From hiking, golfing, and biking to ATVing, call our friendly staff for details. Call 1-800-461-6199, e-mail bwontheball@on.aibn.com or visit www.BestWesternNorthBay.ca

Wilderness Adventures – Canadian Canoe & Kayak Trips
Exceptional, all-inclusive Canadian wilderness experiences into the interior of Algonquin Park by canoe or the 30,000 Islands of Georgian Bay by kayak. Led by our CRCA/ORCA certified guides and instructors. Call 1-866-383-9453 or 416-746-7425 or visit www.wildernessadventures.ca

Georgian Summer Suites
Golf Barrie! Includes continental breakfast, golf gift and your own room. One night-one round: $73. Two nights-two rounds: $139. May–August/2006. Hwy. 400/Duckworth Street, exit 102. Call 705-722-5190, e-mail info@summersuites.ca or visit www.summersuites.ca

Smoothwater Outfitters and Ecolodge
Rejuvenate in Temagami canoe country. Hike, learn to paddle, watercolour paint, take an edible wild plant tour or attend a music festival. Savour regional, organic cuisine. Book your wilderness retreat with a difference. Call 1-888-569-4539 or 705-569-3539, e-mail temagami@ontera.net or visit www.smoothwater.com

SPA

Doubletree Resort Lodge & Spa
Five Lakes Spa AVEDA at Doubletree Fallsview in Niagara Falls gives you the art and science of pure plant and flower essences. Day and overnight packages available at this four diamond CAA/AAA resort. Call 1-800-730-8609 or visit www.niagarafallsdoubletree.com

THEATRE

Red Barn Theatre
Charming barn theatre one hour north of Toronto in Jackson's Point on the south shores of Lake Simcoe, features top Canadian talent. Open June to September. B&B and Dinner/Show packages available. Call 1-888-RED-BARN (733-2276), e-mail info@redbarntheatre.ca or visit www.redbarntheatre.ca

Theatre Collingwood
The stage is set with sensational comedy, romance, music and country humour. Fine dining and accommodation getaway packages complete the sizzling Georgian Bay live theatre scene throughout July and August 2006. Call 1-866-382-2200, e-mail info@theatrecollingwood.com or visit www.theatrecollingwood.com

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Colio Estate Wines
Come tour our cellars and taste "southern hospitality" at our winery in Harrow. Tours daily, retail boutique and year-round special events. Call 1-800-263-0802 or visit www.coliowines.com

Niagara Wine Tours International
Tour the Niagara wineries by bicycle or luxury van. Daily tours featuring private wine tasting and fine regional cuisine. Call 1-800-680-7006, e-mail winetours@idirect.com or visit www.niagaraworldwinetours.com

Reif Estate Winery
Located in the heart of historic Niagara-on-the-Lake, our 135-acre vineyard features estate bottlings and award-winning Icewines. Open year-round, seven days a week. Call 905-468-WINE, e-mail wine@reifwinery.com or visit www.reifwinery.com

Smith and Wilson Estate Wines
Sherry's Perennials and Lake Erie are the perfect backdrop for a casual tasting of our premium grape and fruit wines! Proud member of Southwestern Ontario Vintners Association! Visit www.smithandwilsonestatewines.ca

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

travel information centres

Come visit our knowledgeable staff at one of our 18 Travel Information Centres (OTICs). Together, we can help you plan your customized getaway experience in Ontario. Select centres also convert currency, reserve theatre tickets, sell attraction passes, gifts and souvenirs and have picnic/playground areas.

Core hours of operation: daily all year long from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. During the peak season from May–August, most centres have extended hours from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Check the hours of operation before you leave by calling the centre directly, by visiting **www.ontariotravel.net** or by calling **1-800-ONTARIO**.

YEAR-ROUND CENTRES

Barrie †
Hwy. 400 and Mapleview
21 Mapleview Drive East L4N 9A9
Tel: (705) 725-7280
Toll-Free: 1-800-567-1140
Fax: (705) 725-7285

Cornwall ($)
Seaway International Bridge
903 Brookdale Ave. K6J 4P3
Tel: (613) 933-2420
Fax: (613) 933-3387

Fort Erie ($)
Peace Bridge in the Ontario
Welcome Centre
350 Bertie Street, Unit 1 L2A 6S6
Tel: (905) 871-3505
Fax: (905) 871-6461

Fort Frances ($)
Fort Frances International Bridge
400 Central Ave. P9A 1X8
Tel: (807) 274-7566
Fax: (807) 274-7870

Niagara Falls ($)†
Rainbow Bridge
5355 Stanley Ave. L2E 7C2
Tel: (905) 358-3221
Fax: (905) 358-6441

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

Sarnia ($)
Blue Water Bridge
1455 Venetian Blvd. N7T 7W7
Tel: (519) 344-7403
Fax: (519) 332-4576

Sault Ste. Marie ($)
Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge
261 Queen St. West P6A 1A3
Tel: (705) 945-6941
Fax: (705) 945-6943

Toronto Atrium On Bay ($)†
Location:
20 Dundas Street West M5G 2C2
Mailing address:
Atrium on Bay, PO Box 162
595 Bay Street, Toronto M5G 2C2
Tel: (416) 314-5900
Fax: (416) 314-5901

Windsor Huron ($)
Ambassador Bridge
1235 Huron Church Rd. N9C 2K6
Tel: (519) 973-1310
Fax: (519) 973-1313

Windsor Park ($)
Detroit/Windsor Tunnel
110 Park St. East N9A 3A9
Tel: (519) 973-1338
Fax: (519) 973-1341

SEASONAL CENTRES

Hawkesbury
777 Hwy. 417, RR 1
Chute a Blondeau K0B 1B0
Tel: (613) 674-2000
Fax: (613) 674-2689

Hill Island ($)
700 Hwy. 137 (Lansdowne)
RR 1, Hill Island K0E 1L0
Tel: (613) 659-2108
Fax: (613) 659-2102

Kenora
Ontario/Manitoba Border
Hwy. 17
c/o General Delivery
Keewatin P0X 1C0
Tel: (807) 468-2495
Toll-Free: 1-800-468-2495
Fax: (204) 349-8339

Lancaster
20806 County Rd. 2 and Hwy. 401
RR 1 K0C 1N0
Tel: (613) 347-3498
Fax: (613) 347-3435

Pigeon River ($)
7671 Hwy. 61
RR 7, Pigeon River
Thunder Bay "F" P7C 5V5
Tel: (807) 964- 2094
Fax: (807) 964-2029

Prescott
1033 Hwy. 16
PO Box 1600 K0E 1T0
Tel: (613) 925-3346
Fax: (613) 925-1462

Rainy River
301 Atwood Ave.
PO Box 100 P0W 1L0
Tel: (807) 852-4449
Fax: (807) 852-3124

($) *Currency exchange on site*
† *Denotes Mirvish Production TicketKing outlet* TICKETKING

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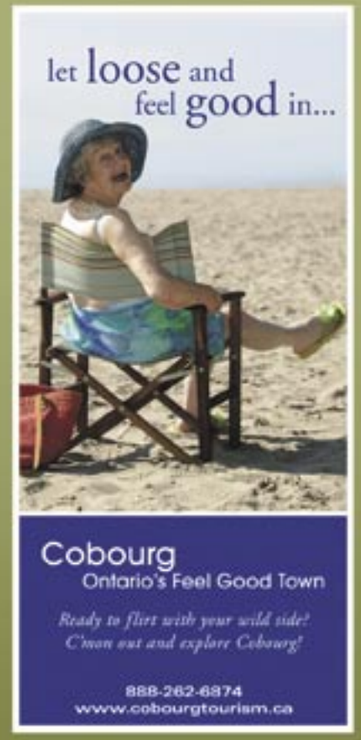
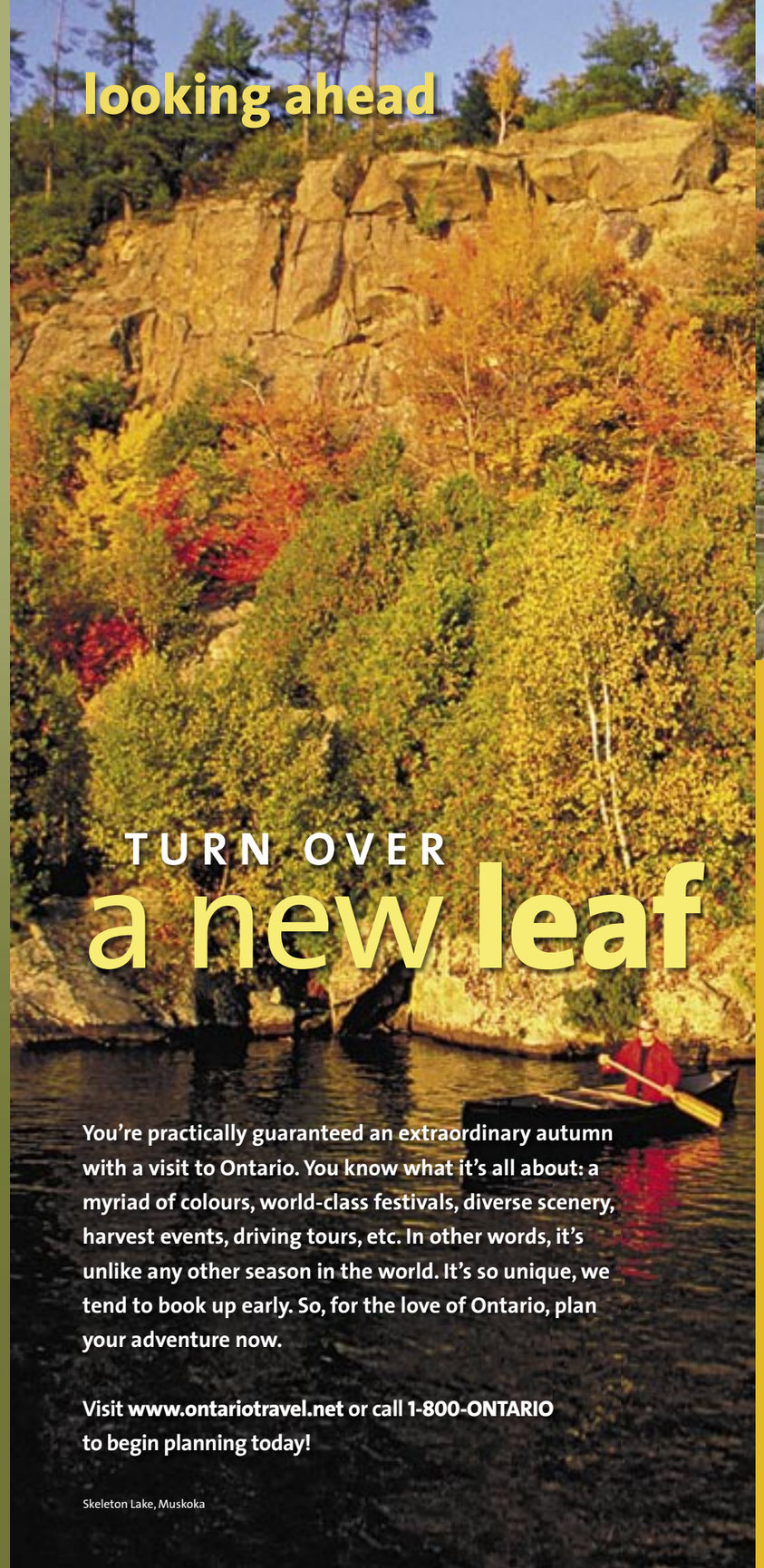


www.northumberlandtourism.com 1.866.401.EAST (3278)

looking ahead



Hop the rails

Agawa Canyon

First thing to know about witnessing Ontario's vast fall beauty via train: book your tickets now – these trips sell out fast! Visitors come from the far reaches of the world to catch a glimpse of the changing landscape in this wildly spectacular season of travel. Bring a camera and let its digital memory card be your blank canvas (no messy paint).

Agawa Canyon Tour Train
www.agawacanyontourtrain.com
1-800-242-9287

South Simcoe Railway
www.steamtrain.com
(905) 936-5815

Dream Catcher Express
www.northlander.ca
1-800-461-8558

Toronto International Film Festival

Urban stargazing

Okay, we say it a lot but it's for your own good – book early. The Toronto International Film Festival will be here faster than you can say "Two thumbs up!" And we don't want you to be stuck without a hotel room, film fest tickets or fancy-shmancy restaurant reservations. When you have the opportunity to stay in the same hotel as big-named actors, sit beside them during the preview of their movie and gaze at them in restaurant booths, it's so worth it.

For a truly star-studded Toronto experience, heed our advice and begin planning and booking your getaway to one of North America's largest film festival now.

Toronto International Film Festival
www.e.bell.ca/filmfest
(416) 968-FILM

The scent of the world

If anyone has ever said that it's too early to think about food, then they obviously haven't heard of our fall food festivals. Adding one (or two, depending on your appetite) to your fall getaway will most certainly add more spice than you've ever imagined.

Most food festivals celebrate regional cuisine. Others include wine pairings. Still others focus on a single, delicious culinary dish that your senses can explore.

Niagara Food Festival
www.niagarafoodfestival.on.ca
(905) 735-8696

TASTE! Prince Edward County

TASTE! A celebration of regional cuisine
www.taste.thecounty.ca
(613) 393-2796

Below: Stephanie J. Block as Elphaba

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Your room is ready

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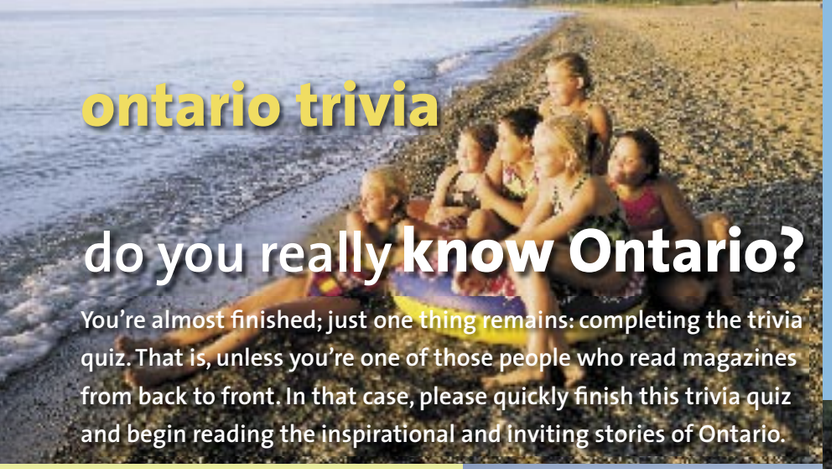
For more information, visit www.deltahotels.com or call 1-800-268-1133



ontario trivia

do you really know Ontario?

You're almost finished; just one thing remains: completing the trivia quiz. That is, unless you're one of those people who read magazines from back to front. In that case, please quickly finish this trivia quiz and begin reading the inspirational and inviting stories of Ontario.

Operating since 1846, _____ is one of the oldest tourist attractions in North America.

a) Maid of the Mist, Niagara Falls
b) Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club
c) Algonquin Provincial Park
d) CN Tower, Toronto

1

This Toronto street festival is North America's largest, attracting one million revellers annually.

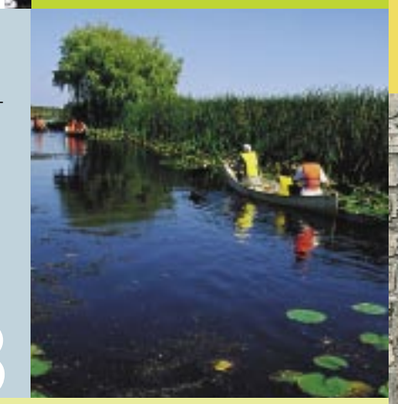
a) Caribana
b) Pride
c) Celebrate Toronto
d) Taste of the Danforth

2

Get some paddling in this summer! Ontario has _____ of canoe routes – the longest network in the world.

a) 25,000 km (15,500 mi.)
b) 50,000 km (31,000 mi.)
c) 100,000 km (62,000 mi.)
d) 500,000 km (311,000 mi.)

3

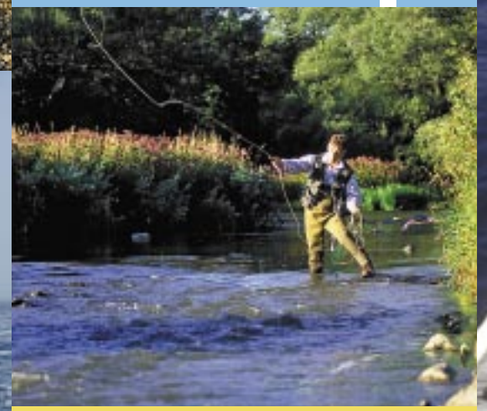


ANSWERS: 1. a) Maid of the Mist, Niagara Falls 2. a) Caribana 3. c) 100,000 km (62,000 mi.) 4. d) Grand River 5. c) Where North America's first commercial oil well was drilled

This river contains more than 50% of all the fish species found in Canada.

a) Ottawa River
b) French River
c) St. Clair River
d) Grand River

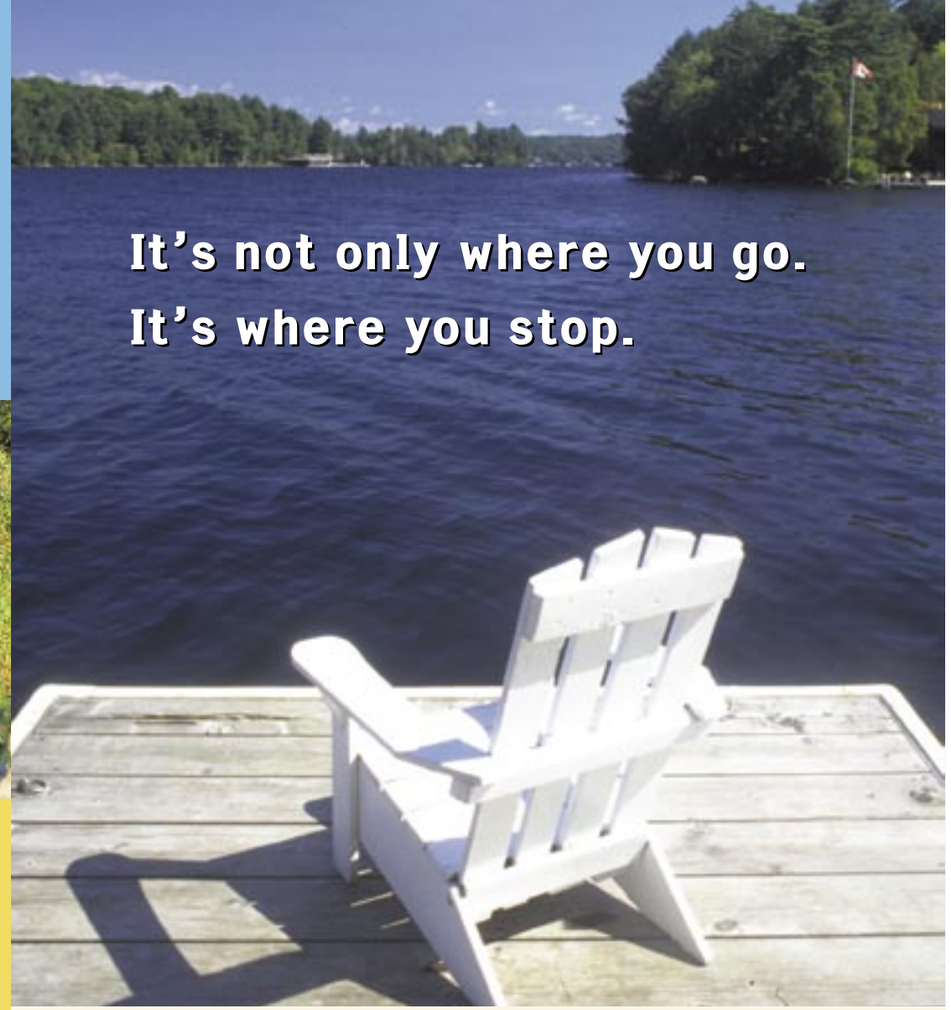
4



Which of the following is true regarding the small southwestern Ontario town of Oil Springs?

a) It was once visited by oil baron John D. Rockefeller
b) The world's first oil field was found here
c) It's where North America's first commercial oil well was drilled
d) The coil spring constructed mattress was invented here
e) All of the above

5



It's not only where you go. It's where you stop.

- Barrie (2)
- Belleville (2)
- Bracebridge
- Brantford
- Brockville (2)
- Burlington
- Cambridge
- Chatham
- Cobourg
- Cornwall
- Dryden
- Gananoque
- Guelph
- 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 (2)
- Pembroke
- Peterborough (2)
- Port Hope
- Sault Ste. Marie (3)
- Simcoe
- Sturgeon Falls
- Sudbury (3)
- Thunder Bay
- Timmins
- Toronto (6)
- Toronto/Brampton
- Toronto/Markham
- Toronto/Mississauga (4)
- Toronto/North York
- Toronto/Oakville
- Toronto/Pickering
- Toronto/Scarborough
- Trenton
- Waterloo
- Windsor (5)
- Woodstock

We'll see you there.

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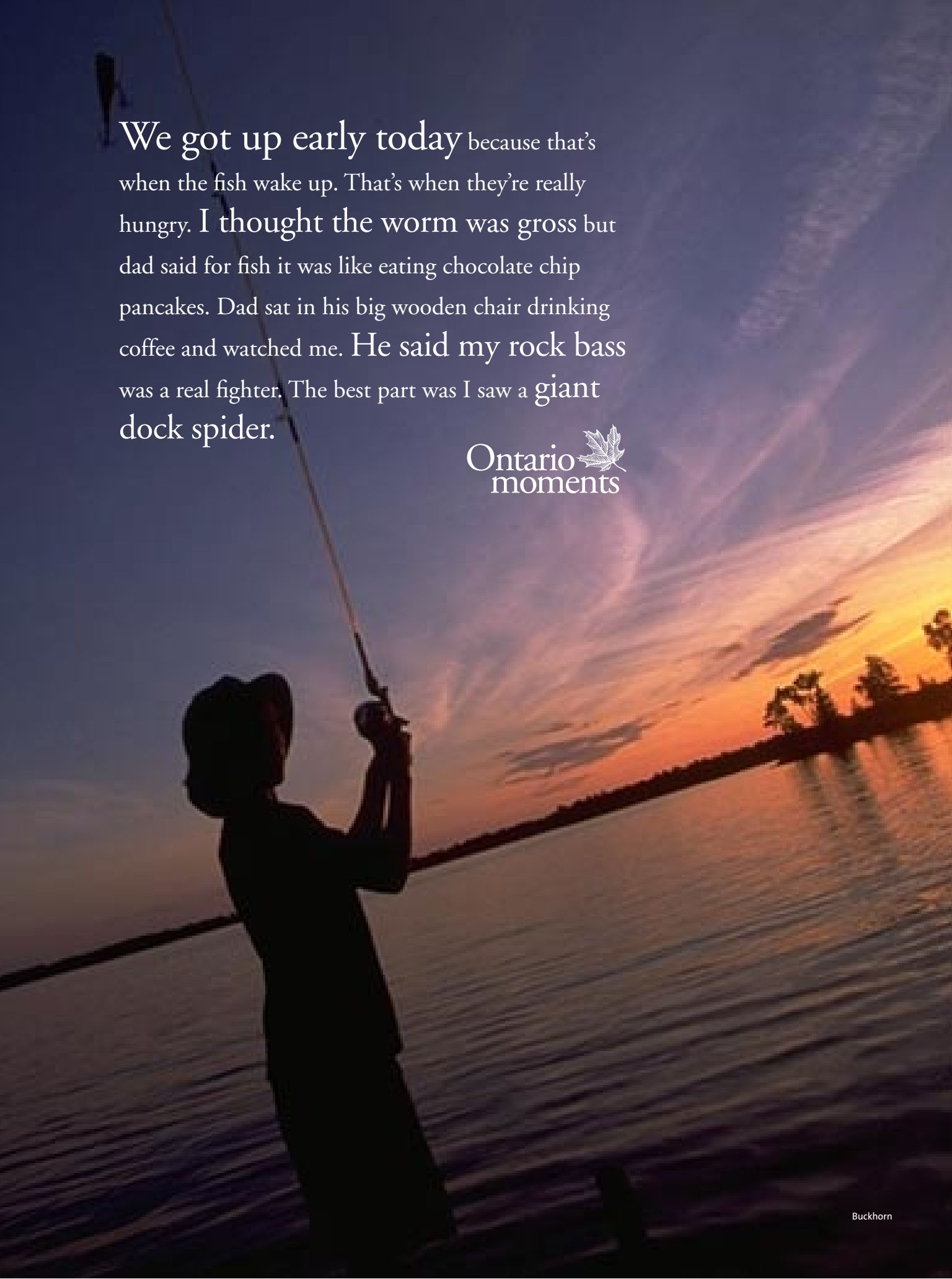
We got up early today because that's when the fish wake up. That's when they're really hungry. I thought the worm was gross but dad said for fish it was like eating chocolate chip pancakes. Dad sat in his big wooden chair drinking coffee and watched me. He said my rock bass was a real fighter. The best part was I saw a giant dock spider.
Ontario moments
Buckhorn