

Ontario

T R A V E L D I S C O V E R I E S

Walking the Talk

Have fun and stay fit
during the Hike
Haliburton Festival

Fall by the Rail-wayside

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ON THE ROAD TO happiness

It's the road everyone wants to be on. Here in Ontario, this road is a lot shorter, and can take you to a potpourri of places, whether you have a craving for romantic escapes, culinary events, great drives, natural wonders or arts and culture.

In this, our second anniversary edition, we'll once again inspire you to leave home – if just for a day – and make a trip to 'happiness' by exploring Ontario.

Invite your special someone to join you on an escape into the great outdoors. We're proud to say that our glorious fall colour season is world-renowned, with hundreds of ways to take it all in. In this issue we're focusing on a few gems. Have you ever thought of hiking? Or embarking on a scenic, tour train? You can even have an Aboriginal petroglyph adventure.

We always aim to please, so for those of you who aren't nature nuts, but still enjoy a day or two in the sun (or three!), we'll indulge you with Ontario's favourite fall festivals, covering everything from foods to farms.

On the urban side of things, find out the best of what's happening through your local hotel concierge, take an antiquing road trip and stay 'inn' Kingston.

But remember, these are all but a taste of what you can experience this fall travelling down Ontario's blissful roads.

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

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Cover photo: Toronto



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your Ontario

Ultimate weekend in the ultimate province

Lisa and Benjamin Yip of Scarborough were the proud winners of the 2005 Ultimate Weekend in Wine Country contest. The prize, two incredible days in the Bench and Niagara wine region, included cooking classes, wine tours and helicopter rides. “It was unforgettable – the most remarkable trip of our lives,” effused Lisa.

Lisa and Benjamin Yip, Scarborough

A gorgeous drive along Lake Superior

Well, I already know that Ontario is beautiful. I was born and raised there for 32 years and didn’t do much travelling outside of the province.

Two years ago, my family and I moved to Saskatchewan. I didn’t realize how big Ontario was until we started driving away from our home in Oshawa. Our drive along Lake Superior was just absolutely gorgeous – there was just so much natural beauty. I loved how the rock cuts were on one side of the highway and Lake Superior was on the other side. It’s a good thing I wasn’t driving; I was looking everywhere but the road ahead of me.

Northwestern Ontario had so much to see, including Terry Fox’s tribute monument in Thunder Bay. As a little girl, I remember seeing Terry doing his run across Canada. It was hard to understand as a child then what cancer was. Now as an adult I do understand what cancer does and what Terry’s run meant to so many people. It felt incredible to be around his memory right there in my province I still call HOME!

Jeannie Kolyntko, Saskatchewan

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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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!

Thunder Bay



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contributors



BARBARA RAMSAY ORR is a freelance journalist who specializes in travel, food, gardens and art. She is the vice-president of the Travel Media Association of Canada, a member of the Society of American Travel Writers, and a member of the Garden Writers Association. She has received several awards for her writing, and her work appears in major publications in Canada and the United States. Her affection for Kingston was triggered by visits to her daughter who was studying at Queen's University. Since her daughter has graduated, she's come up with other reasons to visit, like seeing the newly-acquired Rembrandt at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, or a trip to the Penitentiary Museum. Please see her story on Page 28.

SUSAN SCOTT says no visit to any large city or small village is really complete unless she stops at each and every antique shop. "I love talking to dealers about what they themselves collect. They also seem to know the best places to eat, bakeries with pastries to die for, and great bookstores where you can spend the day. And you never know when you're going to find a piece of bakelite." Susan has spent the last 20 years driving the back roads of Ontario looking for treasures. Her writing reflects both her knowledge of antiques and her fascination with the eclectic mix of people and enthusiasms that make up the world of antiques and collectibles. Her articles appear in *Canadian House & Home*, *Cottage Style*, *The Antique Trader* and *Antique Showcase*. Please see her story on Page 78.



D'ARCY JENISH is a journalist and author who has won many awards for his work. He lives in the Toronto area and was a Senior Writer at *Maclean's* for 15 years. Jenish now writes features, reviews and commentary for Canada's leading newspapers and magazines. He is the author of five books, including *Epic Wanderer: David Thompson and the Mapping of the Canadian West*, and is writing the history of the Montreal Canadiens to commemorate the team's centennial in 2009–2010. Please see his story on Page 75.

Ontario

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or editor@ontariotravel.net

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For additional travel information on Ontario please call the following numbers.

FROM TORONTO CALLING AREA:
English: (905) 282-1721 French: (905) 612-8776

FROM CANADA, CONTINENTAL U.S.A. AND HAWAII:

English: 1-800-ONTARIO or 1-800-668-2746
From Canada: French: 1-800-268-3736
Teletypewriter – TTY/Telecommunications Device
for the Deaf (TDD): (905) 612-0870

INTERNATIONAL INQUIRIES

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

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

RENSEIGNEMENTS EN FRANÇAIS

Nous sommes heureux de vous offrir un service d'information touristique en français. Veuillez composer le (905) 612-8776 et il nous fera plaisir de vous aider.

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fall things



L-R: Toronto, Brampton

bright & beautiful

The colours of fall grace Ontario but once a year. Choose to escape the sounds of the city to revel in the serenity of the outdoors. Trek a meandering trail through forested hills as blankets of leaves crunch beneath your feet. Saddle up for a horseback riding adventure. And when the outdoor fun is done, freshen-up and get ready for a gourmet dinner for two with some of the world's greatest scenery as the backdrop. What a weekend. What a season!

To discover Ontario's prime colours at their most brilliant, be sure to read the bi-weekly fall colour report online at www.ontariotravel.net/fall or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

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Toronto

ACCOMMODATION

Über eco

Cree Village EcoLodge on Moose Factory Island is a rare treasure in Ontario. The \$7 million lodge was built mainly with local materials and captures Cree traditions with much of the furniture created from natural woods. The centrepiece is the dining hall that is built to look like a teepee and serves traditional Aboriginal food in season.

Cree Village EcoLodge

www.creevillage.com

1-888-CREEWAY (273-3929)

Cree Village EcoLodge

Photo: Cree Village EcoLodge

Attraction

Ontario’s hippest hops

Artist studio tours. Fall colour routes. Wine tours. Ontario has them all. And as of last year, there’s now a new one on the block...The Ontario Craft Beer Route. Think of it as a passionate collective of 30 breweries with one distinct thing in common: creating great beer. The route gives beer lovers a chance to stop off at each location and sample fresh, naturally-aged brews. Breweries like Church-Key Brewing, housed in an 1878 Methodist church and the Walkerville Brewing Company, named ‘Canadian Brewery of the Year’ in January 2005, are just a couple ‘must-visits’ on this route stretching from Windsor to Ottawa. One of Church-Key’s best-selling beers is Holy Smoke, which boasts an award-winning smoked whisky malt flavour that you can purchase at their Campbellford location or at Beerbistro in Toronto (among others).

Ontario Craft Brewers
www.ontariocraftbrewers.ca

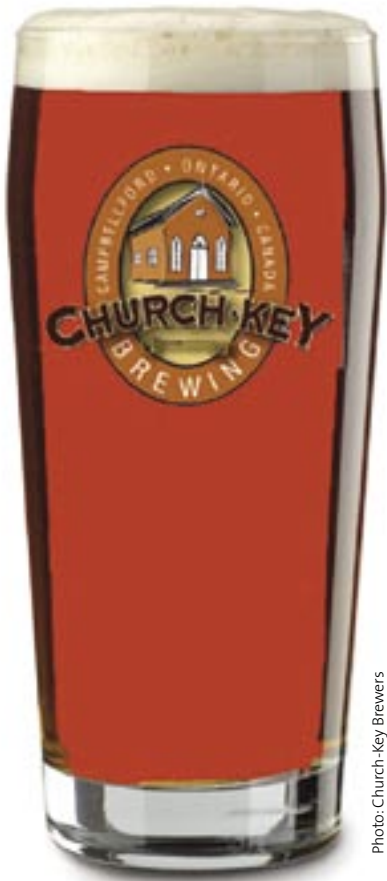


Photo: Church-Key Brewers

GOLF

Perfection running its course

What happens when PGA pro Tom Lehman and Canada’s premier golf course architect Thomas McBroom get together? New golf course designs, such as the 18-hole course now overlooking Georgian Bay: The Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay. It’s the crowning piece of a new planned community near Blue Mountain and heralded as one of Ontario’s finest new courses.

The Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay, Thornbury
www.ravengolf.com
(519) 599-7500



The Raven Golf Club



THE ARTS

It’s the most one-of-a-kind time of year

If you’re looking for a unique Christmas gift for that extra-special person, try the One of a Kind Show and Sale. Hundreds of Canadian artisans display their handiwork, including mouth-watering treats, at Toronto’s National Trade Centre from November 23 to December 3.

One of a Kind Show and Sale, Toronto
www.oneofakindshow.com
(416) 960-3680

THE ARTS



Photo: Collection of Elizabeth Bierk

David Bierk, *Prairie Dream (Road to Regina)*, 1990, Oil on photographs on canvas

Contemporary photography has really developed

Two fascinating exhibitions are running at the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography until November 19. Six photographers have works in *The Street* which focuses on public places as well as private spaces. *The Painted Photograph* presents the works of three Canadians – David Bierk, Sarah Nind and Jaclyn Shoub – who combine photography and painting.

Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Ottawa
www.cmcp.gallery.ca
(613) 990-8257

EVENT

Why did the chicken cross the road?



Photo: David Leyes

2005 Canadian Comedy Awards

To get to the Canadian Comedy Awards and Festival, of course. The festival’s jokes are much better than this one, saluting the best comedy in film, TV and stand up.

Canadian Comedy Awards and Festival, London
October 25–28
www.canadiancomedyawards.ca
(519) 672-1967

EVENT

A Royal wine bar

The Royal Vineyard has been one of the most popular new additions to the historic Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, November 3 to 12. There is a massive wine tasting bar in the Heritage Court that pays tribute to Canadian wine producers and every day there are celebrity cooking demonstrations.

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto
www.royalfair.org
(416) 263-3400



The Royal Vineyard

in the know



Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area

Photo: Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

Mission possible to view birds

Mission Island Marsh is the largest marsh on Thunder Bay’s waterfront. It’s great to stroll anytime of year, but best in spring and fall when many migrating birds fly through this area. On Waterfowl Viewing Day, October 14, join the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists and you may see up to 40 species in one day!

Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area, Thunder Bay
www.lakeheadca.com
(807) 344-5857

EVENT

A sleepless night with the arts

From sunset on September 30 to sunrise on October 1, you’re invited to Toronto for a contemporary art experience called Nuit Blanche. During this night, select cultural attractions across Toronto will offer free, that’s right, FREE admission.

Live With Culture, Toronto
www.livewithculture.ca
1-800-499-2514

STYLE

Fired up for pottery

His high school teacher said he’d never make it as a professional potter, but when Donn Zver’s pottery studio dream became reality in 1972, he could only think of this one person to cut the ribbon. And she was honoured to do so.

Now, 34 years later, he’s still the proud owner of one of southwestern Ontario’s favourite places to pick up pottery.

If you use it in the kitchen, Donn can make it. From bowls to casserole dishes, milk jugs to veggie plates. And according to Donn, each piece is “dishwasher safe, microwave safe and you can use it in the oven.”

You may be wondering, with all the pieces of pottery he makes, what’s his number one seller? “The coffee mug,” Donn told *Ontario*. “Because it’s a very personal item. I make a couple thousand of them a year.”

So whether you’re after a unique table setting for dinner, or simply a conversation-starting coffee mug, visit Donn Zver in Troy.

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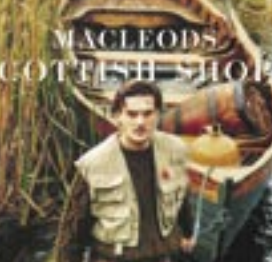
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EVENT

Ghoul’s out for October

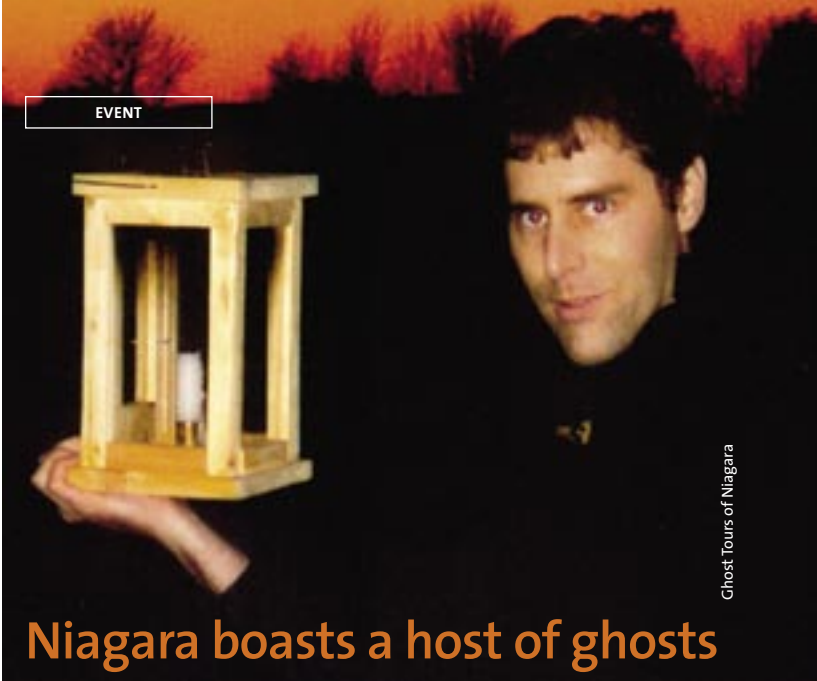
Ghosts, goblins, ghouls and monsters of all kinds are taking over Elora during October and calling it Monster Month. Good thing the locals don’t spook easily! Monster Month is a spooky month for self-guided ghost tours, historic walking tours, Lantern Walking Tours, silent movies, scary movies and an outdoor Halloween party.

But it’s the monsters themselves that make Monster Month unlike anywhere else! Tim Murton, the local artist behind the wire and paper creations ‘hanging’ out around town, got the idea after “scheming” and “listening to the little voices” for years. During last year’s spectacle, Tim cleverly positioned his 32 spooky monsters above doors, in barrels, on roofs and on lampposts. He proudly proclaims that “Elora is now the scariest town in Ontario.”

Elora
www.elora.info
(519) 846-2563

To scare up more spooky celebrations visit
www.ontariotravel.net/fall or call 1-800-ONTARIO.

Chef Alex Sgroi of Alex’s Kitchen shows off Tim’s art



Kyle Upton, founder of Ghost Tours of Niagara

A mysterious man dressed in black leads the tour, an antique lantern, his only light. It’s here at Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Fort George (‘the most haunted place in the most haunted town at the most haunting time of year’) where he intrigues audiences with true ghost stories on these historic grounds.

The founder of this ghostly walk, Kyle Upton didn’t want this tour to be just any ghost walk with costumed people jumping out of bushes and fake stories. Kyle did some research. Then researched some more. And pulled out dozens of true ghostly nuggets about this 19th century fort on the shores of the Niagara River. How scary is it? Unless your kids realize ghosts exist, don’t bring them, he suggests. Contact with a ghost isn’t unheard of here.

Being such ghost magnets, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Kingston and Ottawa both have their own ghost walks, where those daring to join will hear haunted tales of spirits still roaming these historic streets.

Ghost Tours of Niagara
Fort George National Historic
Site of Canada
www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca
(905) 468-6621

Haunted Walks, Ottawa
and Kingston
www.hauntedwalk.com
(613) 232-0344 Ottawa
(613) 549-6366 Kingston

Haunted Hamilton
Ghost Walks
Niagara, Hamilton and
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www.ghostwalks.com
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It's studio tour season! Celebrate the talent and creativity of Ontario's artists by visiting them in their workshops. Pottery, watercolour paintings, tapestries, etchings, glass and other cool arts are being put on display during some of the best fall studio tours. Even mother nature dresses in spectacular colour at this time of year.



Knots and Burls to Bowls, part of the Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour

Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour
www.muskoka.com/tour
(705) 635-1996

Perth Autumn Studio Tour
www.perthstudiotour.com
(613) 267-5237

For more on Ontario's autumn studio tours,
visit www.ontariotravel.net/fall or call 1-800-ONTARIO.

BRUSHING UP ON THE SEASON

Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour September 23, 24

Canada's oldest studio tour never fails to surprise and delight art admirers with something new around every corner. More than 25 of Muskoka's greatest artists open their doors, welcoming inquisitive visitors. A few also treat guests with bite-sized cuisine from the region's favourite chefs.

Perth Autumn Studio Tour October 7-9

Follow the scenic country roads of Eastern Ontario to Perth for three days of local art. Here are just a few of the artisans to chat with: a hand-made soap maker, a cedar furniture artist, clothing designers, plus the region's finest acrylic, watercolour and oil painters.

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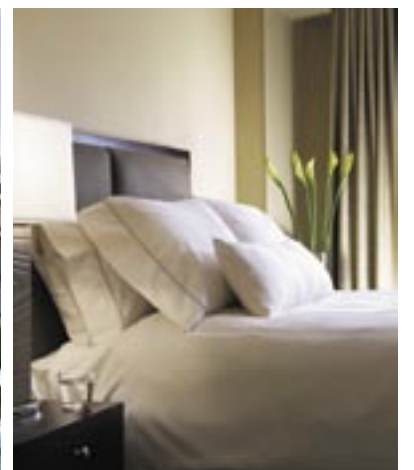


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september

Cirque Niagara
Niagara Falls, to October 8

Andy Warhol
Art Gallery of Ontario,
Toronto, to October 22

2006 World Cup Freestyle Kayaking
Championships – Canada Cup
Beachburg, September 1–3

Millbrook Festival of Art & Music
Millbrook, September 1–3

Spencerville Fair
Spencerville, September 7–10

Taste of the Toronto
Entertainment District
Toronto, September 7–10

Shores of Erie International
Wine Festival
Amherstburg, September 8–10

6th Annual Traditional Pow Wow
Midland, September 8–10

Western Fair
London, September 8–17

Carlos Garaicoa: Capablanca’s
Real Passion
Toronto, September 9 – December 31

Festival National de l’Humour
de Hearst
Hearst, September 14–16

Super Cruise 2006
Belton, September 15–16

Fall Festival
Downsview Park, Toronto, September 17

International Plowing Match &
Rural Expo 2006
Peterborough, September 19–23

Stratford Fall Fair
Stratford, September 21–24

All Canadian Jazz Festival
Port Hope, September 22–24

Niagara Wine Festival
St. Catharines, September 22 – October 1

Colours ‘n’ Crows Scarecrow Festival
Buckhorn/Burleigh Falls,
September 23 – October 9

Markham Fair
Markham, September 28 – October 1

Fall Rhapsody
Ottawa, September 29 – October 15

october

The Sunfest / VIA Rail World Music
and Dance Series 2006/2007 Season
London, October 1

Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show
Simcoe, October 3–9

Ball’s Falls Thanksgiving Festival
Jordan, October 6–9

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest
Kitchener-Waterloo, October 6–14

Mnjikaning Annual Thanksgiving
Pow Wow
Orillia, October 7–8

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
Port Elgin, October 7–8

Scarlet Maple Fall Tour
Lanark, October 7–8

Bala Cranberry Festival
Bala, October 13–15

15th Annual Orillia Jazz Festival
Orillia, October 20

Waterford Pumpkinfest
Waterford, October 20–22

Kawartha Settlers’ Village
Haunted Village
Lindsay, October 27–29

Scream Works
Peterborough, October 27

november

Winter Festival of Lights
Niagara Falls, November 4 – January 8

Under the Covers Weekend: The Quilt:
A Breast Cancer Support Event
Stratford, November 11–12

Radio City Music Hall
Christmas Spectacular
Hummingbird Centre, Toronto,
November 14 – December 31

Festival of Northern Lights
Owen Sound, November 17 – January 21

Homes for the Holidays
Unionville, November 17

Peterborough Festival of Trees
Peterborough, November 22–26

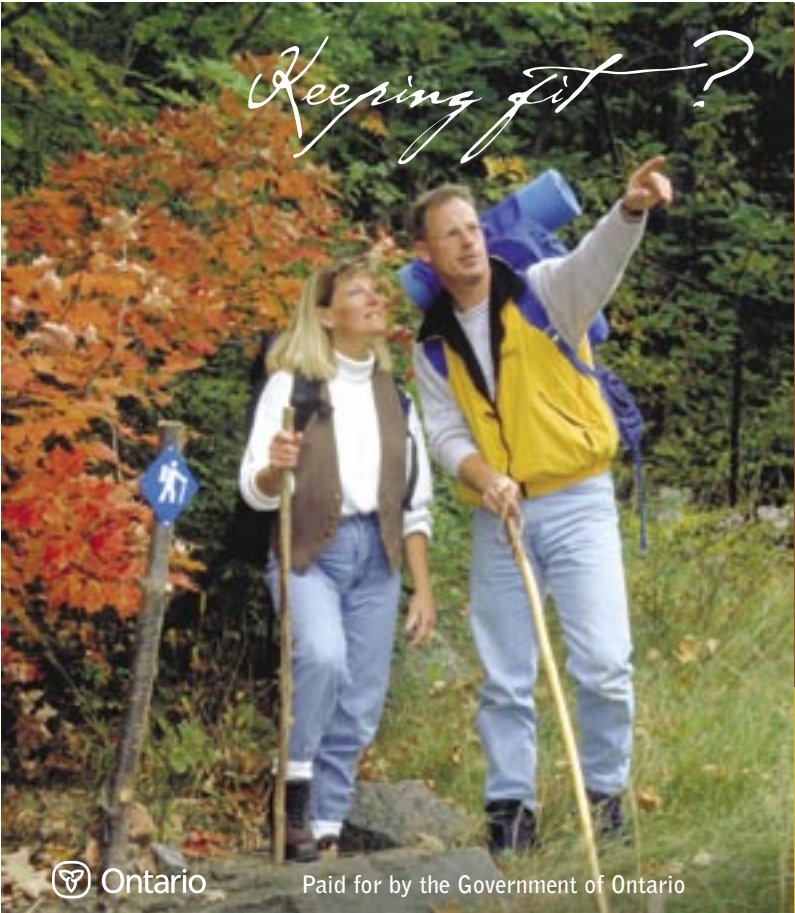
Cavalcade of Lights
Toronto, November 25 – December 17

Festive Food & Décor
Sudbury, November 25

Winterlights Parade & Celebrations
Espanola, November 25

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works including furniture, glass, ceramics, textiles, painting, and photography,
showing at the ROM from October 2006 to January 2007.

This exhibition was produced by the Martini Museum of Fine Arts in collaboration with the Royal Ontario Museum and the Museo Martini, Rovereto, Italy.



www.rom.on.ca



Open Daily | Free Guided Tours | Bloor St. W. at Avenue Rd.
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The ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario. All images © ROM 2006.

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Photo: Robert Orr

Top: The historic Rosemount Inn, unique limestone architecture in the heart of the city. Bottom, L-R: The Secret Garden Inn is a restored Queen Ann Victorian building dating from 1888; A historic inn in Kingston; Frontenac Inn; The Secret Garden

SPEND SOME TIME

Inn Kingston

— By Barbara Ramsay Orr



Photo: The Secret Garden B&B Inn



Kingston is a city whose authentic character is sometimes overshadowed. As the home to Queen’s, one of Canada’s highest ranked universities, and to the Royal Military College, as well as the Kingston Penitentiary, the true character of this historic and multi-layered city gets a bit lost. But discerning visitors, and especially those who know a bit about Canadian history, find fascination on every corner. Add to that the fact that Kingston has a collection of distinctively different and historically important inns that have paired with local restaurants to showcase the vibrant culinary scene, and you have a destination that is well worth savouring.

I fell in love with this city, slowly, over several years as my daughter attended Queen’s. I have always felt welcomed in the inns that dot the town, and the authentic preservation of the history at its heart has made Kingston a destination that has never failed to teach me something new.

Holly Doughty is the innkeeper of the Rosemount, a 10-room Tuscan-style villa built in 1850 that is one of five inns in the Historic Inns of Kingston group. This renovated but still authentically

charming inn retains the high ceilings and architectural grace of its origins, but also supplies all the modern comforts. Beds are large and luxuriously comfortable, the décor is Victorian without going over the top, and the breakfast is decadent. I felt completely at home here.

There’s also a small day spa where guests can arrange to have a heavenly array of treatments from the masseuse, appropriately named Angel Martin.

This is a great town for walking and for photography. The sky here has a special sharpness – I call it Kingston blue

Holly has time to chat with her guests and is a knowledgeable guide to the city. She claims that most of her guests get their greatest pleasure in scouring the neighbourhoods on foot, to absorb the architectural beauty and occasional quirkiness of the city.

“This is a great town for walking and for photography. The sky here has a

special sharpness – I call it Kingston blue – and the limestone buildings, especially the great churches, seem to glow against that intense colour,” said Holly.

On almost any street in the downtown core are homes that are historically significant or architecturally important. I agree with Holly. Walking through the streets of Kingston allows you to feel the layers of history that exist here, side by side with the bustling contemporary life of the university.

Just a short walk from the Rosemount, along Sydenham Street, is another historic inn, The Secret Garden. This Queen Anne Victorian home was built in 1888 by fur and leather merchant John McKay. Generous fireplaces, stained glass windows and antiques recreate an era that was more sedate and stately.

Another short walk takes you to the Hochelaga Inn, at 24 Sydenham, or to the Frontenac Club Inn on King Street. The fifth member of the group is outside the city, an 1854 Victorian country home called the Green Woods Inn, with lovely gardens set on one hectare (two acres).

To give their guests an insider’s guide to the dining possibilities of Kingston,



Photo: Sobule Design



Photo: Tessa Dearsley, Green Woods Inn



L-R: Serving Indian dishes at Curry Original; Le Chien Noir features classic French bistro dishes and a long zinc bar; Tango is a funky restaurant and tapas bar in downtown Kingston

the innkeepers have formed an alliance with some of the best restaurants. Each offers a special menu for guests of the inns, and the innkeepers are happy to make suggestions and reservations. Gourmet Kingston includes cafés like Pan Chanco, for example, a spunky bakery and café that serves original dishes, like Cumin Spiced Lamb Pita with Aegean Sauce or Sri Lankan samosas, as well as its famous breads. The more formal partner of Pan Chanco, Chez Piggy, has an equally varied, slightly more sophisticated menu. Try the

delicious Panzanella, a Tuscan bread salad made with their house-baked bread.

Le Chien Noir is a sophisticated bistro, with a zinc bar, tin ceiling and exposed brick that serves classic French dishes with a contemporary twist. I love their famous Poutine Chien Noir (which includes frites, shredded duck confit, five-year-old cheddar, peppercorns, cognac sauce and triple smoked bacon).

Curry Original specializes in authentic Indian cuisine in one of the city's historic limestone buildings. Restaurant Luigina serves upscale Italian, Tango

specializes in tapas and the River Mill Restaurant presents classic dishes like grilled venison and roasted breast of pheasant along with lovely waterfront views. Historic surroundings, comfort and fine cuisine – these inns and restaurant have formed an attractive alliance in the heart of Kingston. 🍁

– *Barbara Ramsay Orr is an award-winning freelance writer who specializes in food, travel and gardens. She's always on the lookout for those special places that still retain their unique 'terroir'.*

River boots

For three years, the original Kingston General Hospital, now mainly devoted to classrooms, was the home of Canada's first parliament.

On a walking tour of the Museum of Health Care you see artefacts from early surgical and pharmaceutical practices, preserved early uniforms of the nurses and some strangely fascinating exhibits, like the early attempts to create joint replacements out of wood.

Mary-Kathleen Dunn, manager of the museum, shows a pair of black high-laced boots. "We are very lucky to have a pair of these. All the nursing students had to wear the boots and black stockings for their probationary year, and they hated them. At the end of their year, it was a custom to cheerily throw your boots and stockings into the river."

KINGSTON CONNECTIONS

Kingston Tourism
www.tourism.kingstoncanada.com
 1-888-855-4555

Historic Inns of Kingston
www.historicinnskingston.com

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Ansel Adams, *Monolith – The Face of the Half Dome*, Yosemite National Park, 1927, gelatin silver print. The Lane Collection. Used with permission of the Trustees of the Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust. All rights reserved.

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TORONTO

Experience Toronto's

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As autumn colours Toronto with brilliant shades of gold and russet, the city looks and feels vibrant — outdoors, on canvas, on stage, and in architecture.

Art Matters

It's a celebration of creativity as bastions of culture like the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Royal Ontario Museum sport edgy new spaces and exhibits. Splashy light-filled galleries at the AGO are perfect to showcase the dramatic photographs of Ansel Adams. The ROM's new interlocking prisms stretch to the street — fitting for an exhibit of 20th Century Italian design, and its signature piece, a curvaceous Vespa scooter.

Inspired Creativity

Across the street, the revamped Gardiner Museum fires the imagination with its bold good looks. Transformed with glass and limestone, the Museum's inaugural exhibit features large enigmatic clay pieces by Canadian sculptor Jean-Pierre Larocque. The brand new third floor boasts a restaurant headed by acclaimed chef Jamie Kennedy.

Celebrate the Word **abc**

Renowned authors such as Margaret Atwood, Cynthia Ozick and Val Ross converge at Harbourfront for the International Festival of Authors. From October 18 to 28, booklovers can hear and meet over 80 authors from 15 countries. The world's first LongPen signing (a Margaret Atwood creation) on October 28 will link authors in Toronto to their fans in Montreal, using computer technology and an automated "pen".

Bookworms have more reason to rejoice in the printed word as Word On The Street transforms Queen Street West into a literary theme park on September 24. Get lost in a magazine or book, with over 250 publishing and literacy booths in the Word marketplace. For curious young minds, avid fans or just literary surfers, it's a reader's paradise.

Something New

Further east along Queen Street, the stunning new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts has opened its doors. New home to the Canadian Opera Company and The National Ballet of Canada, the Centre's acoustically perfect walls will resound with Wagner's Ring Cycle, starting in September.

Toronto's Nuit Blanche (French slang for "sleepless night") dedicates the night of September 30 to art and is free of charge. From sundown to sunup, galleries and museums throughout the city will be open and 45 commissioned works will be on display, as artists everywhere celebrate, create and inspire.

Plan your creative city adventure at
www.torontotourism.com

The Art Gallery of Ontario —
South Façade © Gehry International, Architects, Inc.



Rose and Driftwood, San Francisco
About 1932, Gelatin silver print
22.9 x 28.9 cm, The Lane Collection
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Vespa 125, 1955
Corradino D'Ascanio (1891-1981)
Pressed steel monocoque
Scootart, Montreal
Photo: Christine Guest, MMFA



Nuit Blanche
Photo: Fog Sculpture by Fujiko Nakaya

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TORONTO

Colourful festivities celebrate imagination

INSPIRE YOUR CALENDAR

There's always a buzz of creative activity in Toronto, no matter what the season. Craft shows, an agricultural fair, performance art, Broadway shows and more — there's something sure to tickle your fancy.

Nuit Blanche

September 30–October 1

Various Venues

Spend a sleepless night rediscovering Toronto through public art commissions, all-night exhibitions and live performances.

Wicked

October 7–November 19

Canon Theatre

Be sure to catch the return engagement of the sold-out Broadway hit!

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

November 3–12

Exhibition Place

Country comes to the city. It's the largest indoor combined agricultural, horticultural, canine and equestrian event in the world.

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular

November 14–December 31

Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts

The famous Radio City Rockettes star in the Toronto debut of this beloved holiday production.

One of a Kind Show

November 23–December 3

Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place

Innovative artists, craftspeople and designers display and sell their wares.

Cavalcade of Lights

November/December

Throughout the city

Toronto is aglow with a month-long calendar of spellbinding events, sparkling lighting displays and one-of-a-kind tours of the city's picturesque neighbourhoods. At Nathan Phillips Square on November 25 and every Saturday until December 16, live music fills revellers with the spirit of the season and a vivid fireworks display illuminates Toronto City Hall.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

The National Ballet of Canada's production of *The Nutcracker*.
Outdoor skating and hot chocolate at Harbourfront.
Rockette legs at the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.
High voltage at the month-long Cavalcade of Lights celebration.
Original gift at the One of a Kind Christmas show and sale.

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Cavalcade of Lights: Greentown

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Photo: Ontario Tourism, 2006

Hummingbird Centre for the
Performing Arts



THE Concierge



Guest Suite, Cosmopolitan Hotel, Toronto

Photo: Cosmopolitan Hotel, Toronto

Connection

When you think of a concierge you think of someone who can get you the best tickets in the house.

How do they do it? Number one, they know their city and all have their special contacts.

Why do they do it? They are out to please their hotel guests. They take customer service to the nth degree. These eager-to-please Jeeves types perch in hotel lobbies and help urban travellers see sights, experience culture and savour local flavours.

At the Cosmopolitan, concierge Darren is known as the Lifestyle Manager. He's worked as a concierge at a number of Toronto hotels since discovering he liked the hotel industry while on an extended backpacking trip in Australia. He prides himself on providing what he simply calls "service, service and service."

When *Ontario* writer Andrew Sardone arranged to stay at the Cosmo, Darren e-mailed him a few days before to ask what he wanted out of his visit. "Toronto is my hometown so I requested something artsy and dinner at a fun downtown restaurant," said Andrew.

Here's what happened. "Darren greets me the second I spin through the Cosmo's front door and presents me with a smart itinerary," says Andrew. If my stay was longer or my travel party larger, Darren could have hooked up sports tickets, dog walking, out-of-the-city tours, a personal trainer and, as the last line in the hotel's list of Lifestyle Manager amenities mentions, 'anything else I can think of.'

"He's organized a busy day. My first stop is the Power Plant on the city's

Cosmo's hot!



Photo: Cosmopolitan Hotel, Toronto

Exterior, Cosmopolitan Hotel, Toronto

The Cosmopolitan Hotel is a sky-high sliver of glass and steel tucked into Toronto's financial district. Its lobby is as slick as boutique hotel ante-rooms get. But it's the human element – good, old-fashioned customer service – that is winning the Cosmopolitan kudos. Its Lifestyle Manager – a version of the classic concierge – who is paid to please and pamper, was one of the reasons the Cosmo placed 10th on *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2006 Hot List of new hotel openings.

Just ask!



Soho Hotel

Canada has been a member of the international concierge association for 30 years. Today 100 members belonging to Les Clefs d'Or Canada, strive to uphold their motto – “in service through friendship” – with every hotel guest.

waterfront. It's Toronto's boldest gallery space and the exhibits that come to hang always get the city's art crowd chattering. To unwind from my cultured afternoon, Darren has scheduled a visit with Erit at the Cosmo's Shizen spa for an energizing massage. Then it's time to dress for dinner at one of Toronto's culinary stars which usually means an hour's wait in line,” says Andrew. “However, Darren has called ahead and I'm rushed to a table as soon as I arrive.” It's this kind of service that makes the concierge a vital part of your vacation. Darren says sending flowers, meals and drinks to the room at a moment's notice are normal. One of the most unusual requests Darren had was by a guest who wanted a goldfish in a bowl delivered to her room while she was on an extended stay at a hotel. He also had to feed the fish every day. When the guest checked out there was a special draw prize for all hotel employees – the winner got to take home the goldfish! 🐟



Photo: Cosmopolitan Hotel, Toronto



Top - bottom: Hotel Exterior, Cosmopolitan Toronto; Hotel Le Germain

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great escapes...

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Whatever your great escape, you'll find hundreds of ways to get away from it all this fall in York Region and the neighbourhoods above Toronto.

From fantastic fall festivals and great outdoor recreation to fabulous shopping, theatre and attractions, the area is alive with great autumn adventures perfect for sharing with family and friends.

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| Farmers' Markets | Toronto Zoo |
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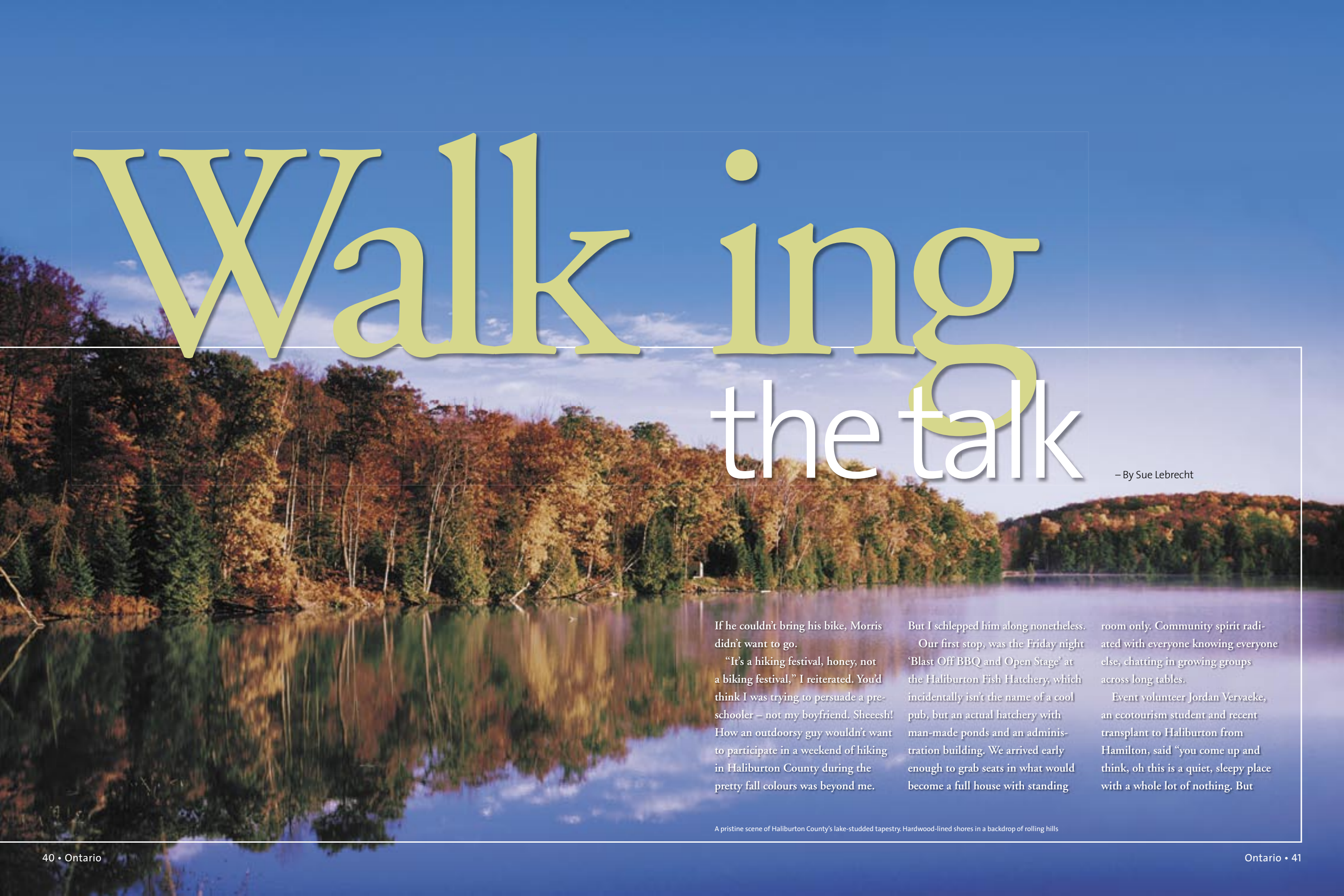
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Walking the talk

— By Sue Lebrecht

If he couldn't bring his bike, Morris didn't want to go.

"It's a hiking festival, honey, not a biking festival," I reiterated. You'd think I was trying to persuade a preschooler — not my boyfriend. Sheesh! How an outdoorsy guy wouldn't want to participate in a weekend of hiking in Haliburton County during the pretty fall colours was beyond me.

But I schlepped him along nonetheless.

Our first stop, was the Friday night 'Blast Off BBQ and Open Stage' at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery, which incidentally isn't the name of a cool pub, but an actual hatchery with man-made ponds and an administration building. We arrived early enough to grab seats in what would become a full house with standing

room only. Community spirit radiated with everyone knowing everyone else, chatting in growing groups across long tables.

Event volunteer Jordan Vervaeke, an ecotourism student and recent transplant to Haliburton from Hamilton, said "you come up and think, oh this is a quiet, sleepy place with a whole lot of nothing. But

A pristine scene of Haliburton County's lake-studded tapestry. Hardwood-lined shores in a backdrop of rolling hills



Photo: Sue Lebrecht

Writer Sue Lebrecht with boyfriend Morris Martini stop for lunch and a photo during a guided hike



...the hills here are formed of bedrock, and it's the jagged topography of the bedrock that controls the character of the landscape.

then you find there's always something happening. It's a very active, tight-knit community."

The evening was alcohol-free but interaction got louder and livelier just the same. Then when local folk musicians took to the stage, everyone transformed into an appreciative audience.

The first hike Morris and I joined was Night Manoeuvres, that evening, with more than 50 others. It was actually more of an educational journey than a jaunt, with environmental educator John Etches providing insights on bats and fireflies, nocturnal mating, predator ways and how Wintergreen Lifesavers spark blue when you bite down on them.

By outing's end, my senses had been

tweaked. The stars were brilliant, the air crisp, and in the darkness, I reached for Morris' hand. Morris, in all his sarcastic charm, said, "Whew, I hope all the hikes aren't this challenging."

Our first challenging trek was the following day along the 8 km (5 mi.) -long Ridge Trail in the company of 25 keeners, primarily members of the Durham Outdoor Club who had car-pooled in from Oshawa. Up and down, we followed the leader through mixed forest, past exposed rock walls, tracing a ridge to lookouts with views of lake-studded tapestry. I learned from John Etches that the hills here are formed of bedrock, and it's the jagged topography of the bedrock that controls

the character of the landscape – and conversely, I guess, gives the landscape its character.

"This trail didn't exist two years ago; it's one of six new trails we've built," said Barrie Martin, one of the founding members of the Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network, the non-profit organization behind the Hike Haliburton Festival.

Established in 1998, Trails and Tours has a mission to develop and promote Haliburton County as a premier trails destination. "Everyone now is realizing the value of trails," said Martin.

"Trail networks for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are already well established, and now we're working towards doing the same for hiking, biking and other endeavours."

Besides creating new trails, the organization has been upgrading a dozen existing trails – more than 127 km (79 mi.) worth – while also developing maps and trailheads with signboards. A backpacking trail is in the works, and plans include the establishment of a hiking club, guided tours, and roadway and interpretive signage.

Back on the Ridge Trail, I'm snapping

Stream crossing near mid-point on the 8-km-long Ridge Trail in Haliburton County



Photo: Sue Lebrecht

'Hike for the health of it'

Hike Ontario promotes Ontario Hiking Week every fall, encouraging people of all ages to 'hike for the health of it.'

Hike Ontario started in 1974 as a non-profit organization dedicated to hikers, walkers and health. It now has more than 13,000 members in 24 clubs walking more than 3,000 km (1,864 mi.) of public and private trails across the province.

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



Photo: Sue Lebrecht



Photo: Sue Lebrecht



Photo: Sue Lebrecht

L-R: Morris Martini enjoys the view from a rock outcrop near Harburn Wells; the scenic reward of High Falls at trail's end in Algonquin Provincial Park; South Algonquin Trails offers an alternative mode to hiking

photographs of red leaves. Morris is engaged in a conversation with the hiker in front of him. Everyone is talking and walking. It's a chain of chit-chat on everything from hiking socks to rainy experiences.

At trail's end we're in a restaurant at Little Hawk Lake, where those who didn't brown-bag it enjoy a hot lunch pre-ordered from a special menu. I'm truly appreciating some of the finer details that went into the organization of this festival.

Morris and I clink our hot chocolates. He leans over, a sparkle in his eye, and says, "I know why people like to hike." There's a pause, a smirk on this face. I'm all ears, anticipating profound revelation. He says, "So they can talk."

We scan the festival itinerary in search of our next escapade. The diversity of outings is as impressive as its line-up of leaders. You can hike with a poet, a storyteller, with lamas and troubadours; learn to identify scat with a naturalist,

I'm most captivated
by the cedars
that have managed
to take root in
awkward spots like
the tops and cracks
of boulders, ...

rocks and minerals with a geologist.

There's a wheelchair accessible trail, a boardwalk in the treetops, a labyrinth, and a 'sculpture forest' with 17 original sculptures. A spiritual therapist leads a Sacred Earth Walk, celebrity 'Hiker Mike' leads a long distance trek. The list continues with themes on flowers, wetland, old growth, botany, geology, geocaching, fitness, photography and more.

This is all thanks to three full-time staff, 90 volunteers and a board of

24 directors. Each hike has a 'meeter-greeter,' who welcomes participants (and ensures they sign a release form), and a 'sweep,' who pulls up the rear, making sure no one gets left behind.

Decision made. Morris and I head for Harburn Wells to see the phenomenon of 10,000-year-old glacier-formed, cylindrical holes in granite rock.

Haliburton County certainly is sizeable, embracing 4,500 sq km (1,737 sq. mi.) with Silent Lake Provincial Park to the southeast, Minden in the southwest, north to the border of Algonquin Provincial Park. Roads moreover are hilly and winding, and a regional map for directions is a necessity. The hike is filled with families and enthusiasm. We all marvel at the smooth, deep wells that are filled with rainwater, and also at the frog population in one – probably generations-old, unable to get out.

An event fundraiser, the Blister Ball, took place that evening at the Haliburton Legion. Again, community spirit

reigned; the place was packed and animated. There was live music, dancing, and a silent auction with 140 donated items, resort stays to barbecues. I gave up on the bid for a bird feeder but did manage to get Morris on the dance floor. That was score enough.

"Developing Haliburton into a trails destination is far more than just a matter of building trails," said Martin. "Foremost, it's about building community support, getting locals to use trails and see the value of them. We've spent a lot of time simply talking to people."

Sunday, we join the High Falls Hike

and Ride with South Algonquin Trails north of Harcourt. Despite the nervous sensation I always get when mounting a horse, I like the perch and the interaction with these wondrous, large creatures, and moreover, how I can look more at my surroundings, rather than at my feet and where I'm stepping.

Reaching the trailhead of High Falls at the southern boundary of Algonquin Provincial Park, we carry on by foot, leaving pine plantation for hardwood forest, then dense cedar grove and the riverside where water cascades across a wide rock slope. I'm most captivated by the cedars that have managed to take

root in awkward spots like the tops and cracks of boulders, their thick roots wrapping around rock walls like a bow.

Judy Davis looks up, way up. Some of the trees are enormous. She has also come with her boyfriend. They love the County so much they've purchased property here.

"Haliburton was sleepy for a long time," she says. "Now though, it's come into being." 🍁

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

Group hike on the newly-built Ridge Trail



Photo: Sue Lebrecht

FOR YOUR Body&Sole

The Hike Haliburton Festival, now in its fourth year, takes place the weekend after Thanksgiving.

County of Haliburton
www.haliburtoncounty.ca
1-866-886-8815

Greenbelt
www.tourism.gov.on.ca

Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network
www.trailsandtours.com
(705) 489-4049

For more outdoor getaways visit
www.ontariotravel.net/outdoor

For more hikes and all your travel needs visit www.ontariotravel.net/fall or call 1-800-ONTARIO.



Fabulous Fall Food Festivals

– By Barb and Ron Kroll

WHEN GRAPES, PUMPKINS AND APPLES RIPEN, WE LOVE TO CELEBRATE THE TASTY PLEASURES OF ONTARIO'S AUTUMN HARVEST AT FOOD FESTIVALS.

JOIN US AT THREE:



FEAST OF FIELDS

It looks like a garden party at Albion Hills Conservation Area, northwest of Toronto. Trees and awnings shade the stands on a lawn overlooking a pond. Warm September breezes carry background music. With couples and families, we stroll from stand to stand, to admire, discuss and taste Ontario's culinary bounty. We enjoy the samples at picnic tables and blankets spread on the grass.

At Feast of Fields, a concept that spread across Canada, the food is free of pesticides, antibiotics, hormones and preservatives. We find nothing genetically modified. Nor are there plastic plates or cutlery to pollute the environment. Instead, we sample Fun Guy Farm's grilled organic shiitake mushrooms and polenta, with Parmesan cheese, on a maple leaf 'dish.' Truffles Chef Jonathan Gushue, from the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto (now Executive Chef at Langdon Hall in Cambridge), serves us yummy torchon of wild boar, pickled chanterelles and walnut salad with huckleberry and wild blueberry sauce, on cedar 'plates.'

Ontario's only organic winery, Frogpond Farm, offers us samples. So does Dominic Spedaliere, who pours golden Louianna into our souvenir wine glasses. The world's only organic liquor is sweet and herb-scented.

Held annually since 1989, Feast of Fields unites those who eat and prepare organic food with those who produce it. "I love this event, because it supports farmers," says Christopher Ennew, executive chef at Ste. Anne's Country Inn & Spa in Grafton. "We chefs can be as creative as we want, but we couldn't do it without such incredible raw materials."

Jannette and Ted Eng proudly show us vegetables from their organic farm in Zephyr. Their best seller? Baby bokchoy. Jonathan Forbes displays wild foods, ranging from butternuts to puffball mushrooms. "People are asking for organic foods," says Toronto Whole Foods Market's Christine Van Humbeck, as she serves organic barbecued tofu ribs. "Organic bread sales are increasing, as people become aware of the health benefits," adds Phil Gaudet, from ACE Bakery, who arranges some appetizing loaves. We don't need convincing, as we munch and sip the samples. They may be healthy, but they're also delicious.

The diversity of participants amazes us – organic dairy farmers, heirloom seed distributors, solar cooker purveyors and a University of Guelph professor who teaches Canada's first organic agriculture course. Our all-inclusive afternoon tickets make it easy to meet them, to learn about environmentally-friendly healthy products and to enjoy the lip-smacking foods and drinks made with them.

Top-bottom: L: Chef Jonathan Gushue prepares torchon of wild boar; R: Fun Guy Farm's grilled organic shiitake mushrooms and polenta, with Parmesan cheese, on a maple leaf "plate"; Bridge leads to food and beverage stands at Albion Hills Conservation Area; Phil Gaudet, ACE Bakery, arranges display of breads
Photos: Barb and Ron Kroll



NIAGARA WINE FESTIVAL

“I ran out of chocolate desserts on parade day,” says Jean Molloy, master chocolatier at Chocolate Expressions, as he displays chocolate-covered strawberries at the Wine, Cheese & Food Experience. The September event is free, so thousands crowd St. Catharines’ Montebello Park.

We snare a table and join others watching on-stage performances. Food and wine beckon from tents, arranged in a U-shape around the lawn. Venison honey garlic sausages. Bison burgers. Chocolate caramel pecan delight. Where do we begin? Taster-size portions cost one or two tokens. On-site booths sell tokens for \$2.50. “Each restaurant is paired with two wineries,” says Mike Pillitteri from Riverview Cellars Estate Winery. “We’re matched with Fresco’s, which makes great crab dumplings. Before the festival, I met with them to decide whether our Chardonnay or Baco Noir best complemented the dish.”

This Niagara Wine Festival event is part food, part wine, part entertainment and (surprise!) part education. We learn about wine tasting from Jamie Evans, assistant winemaker at Strewn. A speaker at the festival’s Vines Magazine Wine Seminars, he trains our palates to identify grapefruit, rose, peach and apricot nuances in a Riesling.

Mouth-watering aromas draw us to the Niagara Culinary Institute stage. Greg Willis, chef at St. Catharines’ Twelve – A Waterfront Grill, shows us how to make a white wine mustard sauce for pastrami-cured salmon. All attendees get samples. Yum!

Montebello Park’s activities are appetizers for culinary events at Niagara’s wineries. “Konzelmann has a Harvestfest Barbecue with Oktoberfest sausages and sauerkraut,” says Bruno Reis, from his stand. “To entice people into Wine Country, wineries can serve only one white and one red in the park.” They also tempt us with food and wine pairings. Chardonnay and Camembert at Coyote’s Run. Icewine with Cabernet Franc Icewine chocolates at Inniskillin. A three-course Forager’s Feast at EastDell Estates Winery. Tastings are free or discounted for visitors with a \$20 Touring Passport. Designated drivers are essential.

Using Wine Route Maps and Winery Touring Guides, we view lush vineyards, meet winemakers and chefs, and sample their wares. The number of culinary events, celebrity luncheons, five-star restaurant walking and dining tours and VIP four-course VQA wine-and-dine extravaganzas overwhelms us. We regret planning only a two-day visit. There’s so much to see, do and taste.

Now we know why the Niagara Wine Festival lasts 10 days.



OTTAWA’S ORGANIC FEAST

More than 20 organic farmers provide the ingredients for delicious dishes prepared by top chefs during Ottawa’s Feast of Fields. Get your taste buds working overtime with cured and smoked Tamworth bacon and arugula, shaved slow-roasted hip of beef on toasted sourdough croustade with herbed goat cheese and grainy mustard, as well as smoked chicken bruschetta with horseradish sour cream and red pepper jelly. Desserts are all organic featuring home baking, apples and melons. Drinks are organic, too – milk and juices are brought in from farms around Ottawa.

Canadian Organic Growers
Feast of Fields, Ottawa
September 24
www.cog.ca/ottawa
1-613-244-4000



Using wine route maps and winery touring guides, we view lush vineyards, meet winemakers and chefs, and sample their wares.

Top L-R: Jean Molloy, master chocolatier at Chocolate Expressions, displays chocolate-covered strawberries; Bruno Reis, at Konzelmann Estate Winery stand, at Niagara Wine Festival’s Wine, Cheese & Food Experience; Mike Pillitteri, from Riverview Cellars Estate Winery, samples Baco Noir, as Danielle Fera displays a crab dumpling from Fresco’s. Bottom: Looking at Niagara Wine Route Map, with Malivoire Wine Company vineyards behind

Photos: Barb and Ron Kroll



Photo: Barb and Ron Kroll

Ted Maczka, the Fish Lake Garlic Man, wears garlic on his hat

TASTE! – A CELEBRATION OF REGIONAL CUISINE

Dried corn stalks, plump pumpkins, multi-coloured squash and an apple TASTE sign decorate the entrance to Picton’s Crystal Palace. The wooden heritage building and a large walled tent shelter all but three of the October festival’s 51 food and beverage stands.

Ted Maczka is the first person we meet after paying our \$12.50 admission. “I love garlic,” he says. We’re not surprised. Two fist-sized garlic heads bulge from the brim of his red baseball cap. The Fish Lake Garlic Man moved to Prince Edward County in 1978 to “grow garlic and spread the gospel of its goodness.” And its scent. He shows us a jar of pickled garlic, which he makes by blending garlic with vodka. A jazz band plays as we meet Sonja and Dino Iannuzzi at the Capricorn View Goat Farm stand. “Our pesto-stuffed ribs won first prize last year,” says Sonja (judges award annual trophies for the best dishes made with regional ingredients). They lift lids covering the ribs, goat steaks and meatballs. The aromas make our mouths water. We give Sonja six tickets for a tasty steak in wine sauce (samples are one to 10 tickets. Tickets cost 50 cents each).

Soon, visitors are elbow-to-elbow, sipping and sampling at stand-up tables. A camaraderie develops, as people recommend dishes. “You must try Waring House’s lamb ragout,” says one man. “I could’ve eaten a pot of Angeline’s lamb vegetable gratin,” says another. “I hope no one’s looking, because I’m going to lick the plate.”

The adult-only event attracts attendees from Ontario and visitors from as far as Florida. “I’m a county girl,” says Chrissy Poitras, who now lives in Kingston, “but I come home to eat foods that I can’t find elsewhere.” She smacks her lips as Paulo Dinkel serves her apple fritters.

In the adjoining building, Petra Cooper, from Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co., conducts one of three free seminars. Her topic? Making cheese from store-bought milk. Her garlic and chive, walnut and chilli oil white cheeses taste as good as they look.

Dessert time! Do we choose county apple cake, pumpkin roulade with buttercrunch cream, or Black River cheddar with Iced County Cider? We can’t resist Slickers’ great ice cream flavours, rich apple pie, Concord grape and campfire crème in two-ticket cones. The latter tastes just like toasted marshmallows. “We’ve made over 150 flavours,” says Marie Frye. “Try our basil and lavender ice creams,” adds co-owner, Pat Hacker. The aromatic flavours explode on our taste buds.

They’re perfect endings to our celebration of Prince Edward County’s cuisine. 🍁

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



Autumn produce, Prince Edward County

Celebrating Ontario’s Harvest

Organic Advocates Feast of Fields
September 17
www.feastoffields.org
(905) 859-3081

Niagara Wine Festival
September 22–October 1
www.grapeandwine.com
(905) 688-0212

Taste! – A Celebration of
Regional Cuisine
October 7
www.tastethecounty.ca
(613) 393-2796

For more Ontario fall food festivals
visit www.ontariotravel.net/fall
or call 1-800-ONTARIO.

A ‘Shore’ bet

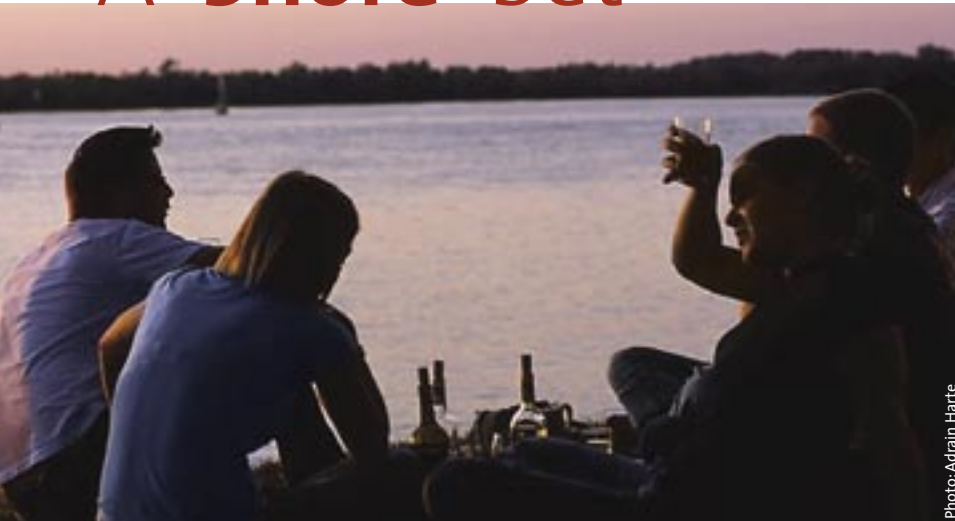


Photo: Adrain Harte

Here’s to another great festival...and a beautiful waterfront

Fort Malden National Historic site is the backdrop for the Shores of Erie International Wine Festival, which combines regional and international wines, fine

cuisine prepared by the area’s finest chefs and entertainment, predominantly jazz.

There’s an orientation centre and an interpretation centre with exhibits if

you want to linger after the wine and food festival. Discover the history of this outpost that was built by the British on the eastern bank of the Detroit River to defend the Canadian border from American attack in the early 19th century.

One of the most beautiful waterfronts in the province, Amherstburg has almost a dozen local wineries participating in this popular fall event, one of the highlights of the season in Southwestern Ontario.

Shores of Erie International
Wine Festival
www.soewinefestival.com
(519) 730-1001



Chef prepares food at Taste! – A Celebration of Regional Cuisine. Picton, Ontario

Expect adventure, picturesque scenery and warm hospitality



Hiking & Trails



Festivals



Aboriginal



Scenic Drives



Town & Country Shopping



Heritage & Arts

celebrate fall with us ...

ELORA-FERGUS STUDIO TOUR

September 22 to 23 & September 30 to October 1

GUELPH ARTS FESTIVAL ART WEEKENDS

October 14 to 15 & 21 to 22

BUTTERFLY EVENTS IN CAMBRIDGE

September 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24

BRANTFORD - DOORS OPEN BRANT

September 23

SIX NATIONS/NEW CREDIT INDIAN HANDICRAFTERS BAZAAR

November 4

HALDIMAND - CALEDONIA FAIR

September 28 to October 1

Come and explore the beauty and unique heritage that winds along the Grand River - one of Ontario's Great Fall Drives.

Grand River Country is a delightful combination of vibrant cities and cozy towns, all set along the historic Grand River. There are fantastic outdoor adventures, museums, shopping, and historic sites for you to discover - just hop in the car and go!

Log on to the Great Fall Drives website at www.ontariotravel.net/greatdrives and discover the Grand and other great trips throughout Ontario this fall.

www.grandrivercountry.com



1-877-242-6353
www.elorafergustourism.ca



1-800-334-4519
www.visitguelphwellington.ca



1-800-749-7560
www.cambridgetourism.com



1-800-265-6299
www.visitbrantford.ca



1-866-393-3001
www.sntourism.com



1-800-863-9607
www.tourismhaldimand.com

FALL BY THE railway side

One of the greatest ways to witness fall's glory is by train



Autumn never looks better than from the top of a railway trestle. Wide blue skies, hillsides burning with maples, and still lakes all slide past with a rhythmic clackety clack. But there's more than great scenery on these autumn train excursions. The nephews who've grown up with Thomas the Tank Engine are bursting with excitement at the prospect of being on a real train while grandma reminisces about the halcyon days of train travel. I'm just happy not to be driving. The scenery, when we notice it, is spectacular.



– By Betty Zvatkuskas

Greet friendly Ontario faces along the way

Credit Valley Explorer

Passengers gather alongside the railway tracks in Orangeville on an autumn afternoon to catch the Credit Valley Explorer on its scenic trip south through the Caledon Hills to Brampton. Cheerful attendants serve cheese and crackers, the first of several snacks, as we chat with fellow passengers. Many are retirees and railway buffs who reminisce about train rides long ago.

Children wave from their backyards as we start the 36.1 km (22.4 mi.) journey with its dramatic descent into Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. The railway trestle over the Credit River was the longest in Ontario when it was built in the late 1800s, measuring 349 m (1,146 ft.). Those were the days when sandstone was quarried here to build the Legislature at Queen's Park in downtown Toronto. Today the quarries and mills are long gone and much of the valley is returning to its natural state. Its wooded slopes are now parklands and its winding roads are favourites with thrill-seeking motorcyclists. As we pause on the

bridge to admire the view, the conductor tells us that water for the soft drink Canada Dry still comes from these hills.

We return north along the line, stopping in the village of Inglewood where the general store – as old as the railway line – sells massive ice cream cones. As dusk falls, we return past fields of soy and tall corn, apple trees gone wild and meadows coloured with goldenrod fade to purple. “When we win the 6/49 we’re going on all the train trips,” says one of the retirees.

Dream Catcher Express

From North Bay the Dream Catcher Express trundles north to Temagami’s celebrated old-growth forests through some of Ontario’s finest scenery. Using passenger cars that have just completed their summer service on the famed Polar Bear Express route from Cochrane to James Bay, the Ontario Northland’s newest venture, the Dream Catcher Express, is poised to become one of Ontario’s premier fall colour tours, thanks to its great on-board entertainment, passenger comforts and engaging destination excursions.

I was enjoying the view from an elegantly upholstered dome car when a young musician invited everyone to come up front to a performance in the entertainment car. A few minutes later we were tapping our toes while he flew through a fast fiddle medley of Stompin’ Tom, Johnny Cash and cartoon theme songs that had kids playing the air guitar and trying their best to dance while clutching onto the tables for balance. We were having such a good time we almost forgot to notice the landscape.



Passengers
can savour the
scenery in each
direction.



Top-bottom: Savour the sights aboard the Dream Catcher Express’ dome car; the teepee village

Luckily, the train travels slowly, covering the 115.5 km (71.8 mi.) in two hours, so passengers can savour the scenery in each direction.

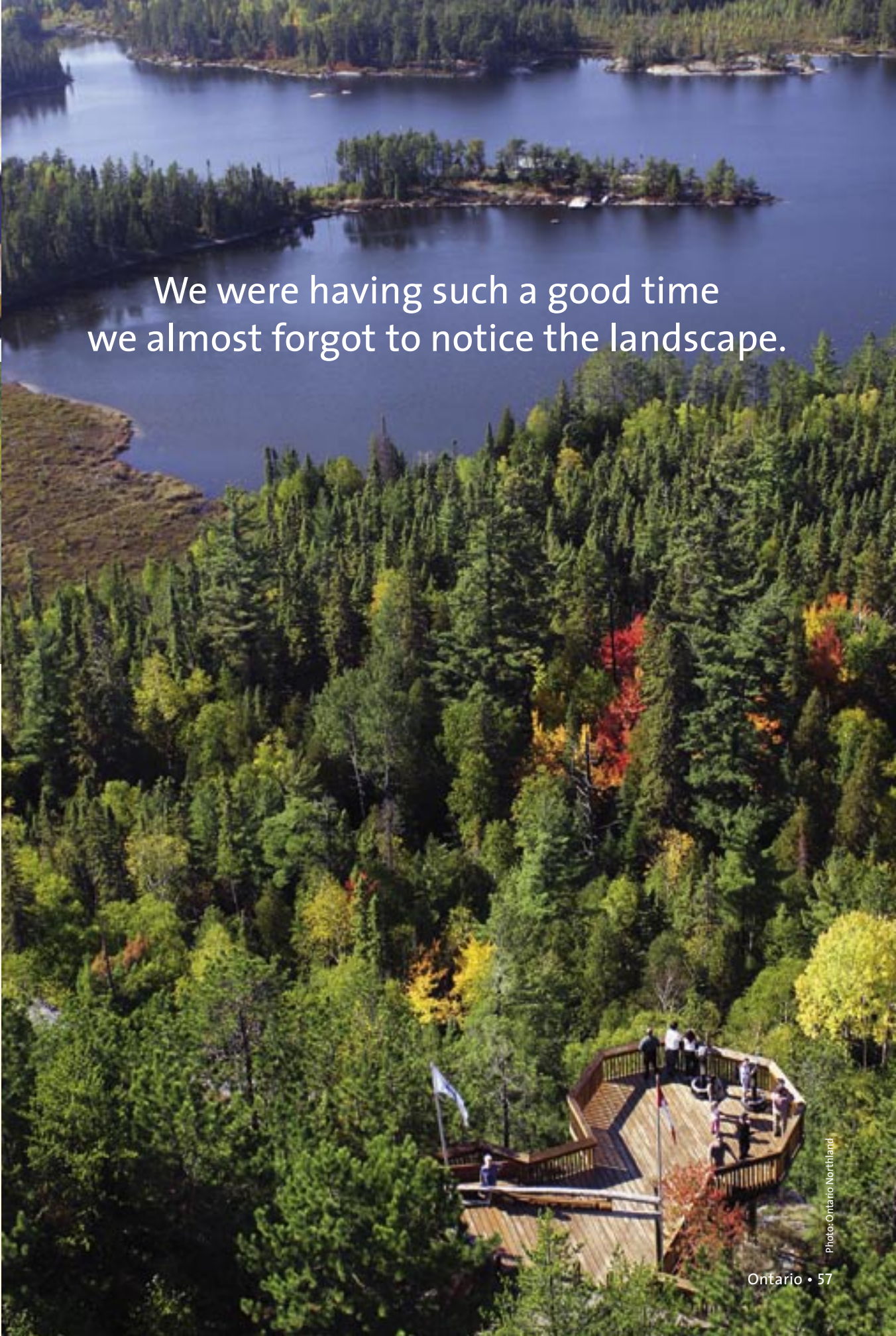
A four-hour stop in Temagami leaves plenty of time for one of the organized excursions: hiking in the old-growth forest, floatplane flights and houseboat tours on Lake Temagami, or just exploring on our own. Yellow school buses are waiting at the station to ferry us to our various excursions. The most popular option is the Caribou Mountain Experience: a tour of Temagami’s newly restored 1909 railway station, followed by a visit to the teepee village and a climb up the fire tower.

Virginia McKenzie welcomes us to the teepee village where three benches are clustered around a bonfire. “Our

people have been here for 7,000 years,” she tells us. She introduces her brother-in-law “the fried bread-king of Temagami” and shares her stories about life along the 6,000 kilometres (3,728 mi.) of shoreline that make Temagami such a canoeist’s paradise.

After a lunch of stew and salad, the bus hauls us up Caribou Mountain for great views of lakes and forests stretching to the far horizon. For the keeners, a 30 m (100 ft.) -high fire tower offers spectacular views in all directions. The wind seems to rattle the steps as we ascend. “My legs are sweating,” says the little girl in front of me, as we near the top, huffing and puffing.

A rugged two-hour hike from the top of Caribou Mountain goes into a small corner of 1,200-hectare (2,964-acre)



We were having such a good time
we almost forgot to notice the landscape.



Agawa Canyon Tour Train

White Bear old-growth forest. Our tour guide Michael O’Brien warns us to stick together. “There are a lot of black bears in the area looking for homes right now. In fall they come to the mountain to find dens for hibernation.” We instantly bunch up along the steep, narrow trail.

By the time we get back to the station most of the kids are too exhausted to dance, and parents sit serenely smiling as the scenery slips by on the return to North Bay.

Port Stanley Terminal Rail

In 1856, the Port Stanley Terminal Rail was the main link between the Lake Erie port and the city of London, bringing tourists to the sandy beaches and hauling coal from the port to London. Today, the trains only go as far north as the outskirts of St. Thomas, but they remain popular with visitors who relish the vintage rolling stock and the scenery.

In the fall, the trestle bridge over

Kettle Creek always draws “oohs” and “ahs” as the train heads north out of Port Stanley, following the river valley on the one-hour round-trip journey. At Whytes, on the outskirts of St. Thomas, everyone disembarks to inspect some of the 30-plus pieces of vintage rolling stock, including an old CN snow plow with a 5 m (16 ft.) -high blade and a former stock car repainted as a circus car. Youngsters are enchanted with the conductor’s stories of how children once rode the line to school, waiting at the tiny Union Station.

Adults love the murder mystery train, a three-hour trip on which a local theatre group stages a thriller in the handsome 1937 CN passenger cars noted for their original interiors.

South Simcoe Railway

The rare opportunity to ride an antique steam train lures rail aficionados from across North America to the South

SHE’LL BE COMIN’ ’ROUND THE CANYON

The soul-stirring scenery north of Sault Ste. Marie makes the day-long Agawa Canyon Tour Train trip along the Algoma Central Railway a perennial favourite.

Passengers travel 183 km (114 mi.) north, past rugged granite hills of pine and maple reflected in still lakes immortalized by Group of Seven painters. A lunchtime stopover in Canyon Park allows time to picnic or follow the trails to one of the four spectacular waterfalls and a scenic lookout.

Simcoe Railway in Tottenham, northwest of Toronto. Here, the long moan of the steam whistle still drifts over the rolling fields and hissing clouds of steam envelop passengers waiting on the platform.

Volunteer crews are now working to repair the railway’s star, Steam Locomotive 136, originally built when Sir John A. Macdonald was Prime Minister. This CPR locomotive was used in the actual building of the transcontinental railway, a role it reprised in *The National Dream*, the first of many television appearances, from Shining Times Station to Relic Hunters.

In the meantime, a coal-fired Steam Locomotive 1057, built in 1912, continues the tradition, pulling the restored 1920s passenger cars past farms and fields on its hour-long round-trip journey to Beeton and back.

When my kids were little we never passed up a train trip. This one was always one of their favourites and is still one of their fondest memories. Before the train even leaves the platform in Tottenham the youngsters are squealing with glee as the engine exhales great clouds of steam. The conductor keeps their rapt attention with his running commentary on the train’s history and the gentle landscape.

As we head north through rolling countryside, he tells the mysterious story of the Ghost of 99, a missing engine that jumped the track, landed in the creek and was never recovered. The steam whistle blows and kids’ eyes widen. “Is that true?” Well, maybe not, but he’s not telling and soon their attention is diverted by the giant snapping turtle that inhabits the creek, and tales of the old branch line that once ran between Hamilton and Barrie.



All aboard the York-Durham Heritage Railway

Youngsters are
enchanted with
the conductor’s
stories of how
children once
rode the line
to school.

York-Durham Heritage Railway.

They call this the moraine train, for the rolling landscape on the train’s journey between Stouffville and Uxbridge, northeast of Toronto. We can practically feel the engine straining as it climbs into the Oak Ridge’s Moraine up some of the steepest grades in Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. Passengers enjoy the novelty of riding a heavyweight 1920s coach with flipover seats, or hanging out in the baggage car for at least part of the 20 km (12 mile) round-trip excursion past farms and forests. 🍁

— Betty Zyvatskas is the author of two Ontario travel guidebooks and a regular contributor to Ontario magazine.

For more information:



Port Stanley’s scenic waterfront

Algoma Central Railway
www.agawacanyontourtrain.com
1-800-242-9287

Credit Valley Explorer Tour Train
www.creditvalleyexplorer.com
1-888-346-0046

Dream Catcher Express
www.ontc.on.ca
1-800-268-9281 ext. 390 or 489

Port Stanley Terminal Rail
www.pstr.on.ca
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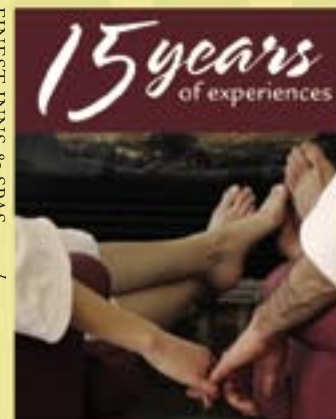
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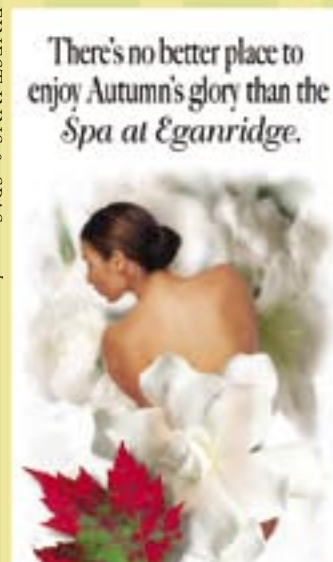
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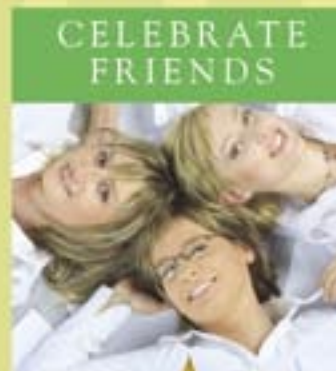
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GETAWAYS ARE A girls' BEST FRIEND

— By Ilona Kauremszky

It's a fall weekend in Toronto and some of the girls have made a getaway plan. We decided to ditch the big city stresses and head to the hills for some simple outdoor fun with a massage or manicure to go.

Outside the city, foliage of burgundy, crimson and blazing ochre was beautiful. In less than two hours we were at our own Shangri-la. The weekend has hardly started but already we're thinking we should do this more often.

Amid forest groves of maple and pine overlooking Peninsula Lake, the Grande Dame of Muskoka, the Deerhurst Resort appears. This historic landmark reflects rest and relaxation with its newly-renovated lobby's fireplace flanked by leather couches and sky-high vases of cascading florals.

"We can just relax in our room all weekend," suggests my girlfriend, Sandra, an HR manager, who's been craving some downtime for a while. "That's for later but first let's prepare for that badly needed massage," I reply. We descend a few flights to the Aveda concept spa located in the resort's inner sanctum tucked away from the week-ends. Afterwards with muscles loosened, we amble next door to The Pub for some casual dining. We make a toast and can't believe we finally managed to have our girls getaway.

Weary city folk for years have been making the exodus to the rugged beauty of the Canadian Shield. Today, Muskoka

still resonates with the glory of yesteryear. At Deerhurst, there are carefully-framed portraits of turn-of-the-century guests and a huge map mural showing the once popular train route that brought trainloads of American tourists through the backwoods of central Ontario.

Even Shania Twain was married here in mass seclusion *sans* paparazzi. "It was a simple wedding where our Executive Chef Rory Golden looked after the menu," said Terry Dyni, Deerhurst's PR guy of the celebrity nuptials. We imagined those Muskoka flavours of maple syrup, trout and cranberries but decided to sample them later.

Now it was time to get a dose of the big outdoors. We booked a 45-minute horseback ride on the property where the whispering pines and the occasional woodpecker made their presence known. With the autumn sunlight illuminating the palette of fall colours, we tipped our riding hats and continued to get away from it all but not too far as we had dinner reservations that evening for a real taste of Muskoka.

Divine Sisterhood

The prattle of children's voices and

Port Hope Pampering

The Hillcrest Victorian Inn in Port Hope offers a perfect getaway at its Victorian mansion overlooking Lake Ontario. Special spa packages are available or you can relax in the indoor or outdoor hot tubs, enjoy a sauna or take it really easy in the meditation room.



Photo: Harbour House Hotel

bouts of toddler wails were silent for now as my sister-in-law and I overnighted in one of Ontario's prettiest towns, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

As Niagara Falls natives, we knew too well the allure that draws tourists year-round to this fruit belt and wine capital. As kids we even worked at a winery one summer. But now with her children under the age of five it's impossible to find downtime unless you search in your own backyard, which is what we did.

It's off-season now so finding a retreat has never been easier. We chose the Harbour House Hotel for our dream getaway. In a cul-de-sac overlooking the mighty Niagara River sits a three-storey Eastern Seaboard style property that seems like it's been here forever.

Proprietor Sue Murray, who made her name as a hotel quality assurance advisor to some of the best hotels in North America, opened the town's newest and only boutique hotel a few years ago. Sue ensures all the fine details are met. Frette bathrobes hang in our closet, citrusy Judith Jackson spa products soothe the soul while a toasty fireplace warms our down duvet. "Hey, look at our bottle of red," I announce on finding a local Trius vintage from Hillebrand.

For R&R, massage therapist Scott Mooney arrives to perform a Swedish

massage, something he enjoyed as a former Canada Summer Games athlete. Scented candles and the tunes of Pachelbel wafted through our Marina suite creating calm while Scott unleashed those tangled knots festering in our shoulders.

Later that evening, we toasted our retreat over Peller Estates' fruity Baco Noir during Sue's intimate wine tasting reception she throws nightly for her guests. A complimentary library of DVDs, books and CDs tempted us too. We picked up Johnny Depp's *Neverland* then headed to Niagara-on-the-Lake's newest restaurant, Zees, a trendy California-style restaurant Sue opened recently which features locally harvested produce.

We toasted the night with a glass from Cave Springs Cellars. I chimed, "Here's to sisterhood and here's to the ultimate girls' getaway." Now if we could just get through the movie I thought later as we snuggled beneath the blankets with *Neverland* not so far away. 🍂

— *When not travelling across Ontario, Ilona Kauremszky is the editor of www.mycompass.ca, and a contributor to Fodor's Canada 2006 and Fodor's Toronto 2006. Her articles also appear in publications across North America.*

Deerhurst massage guest room

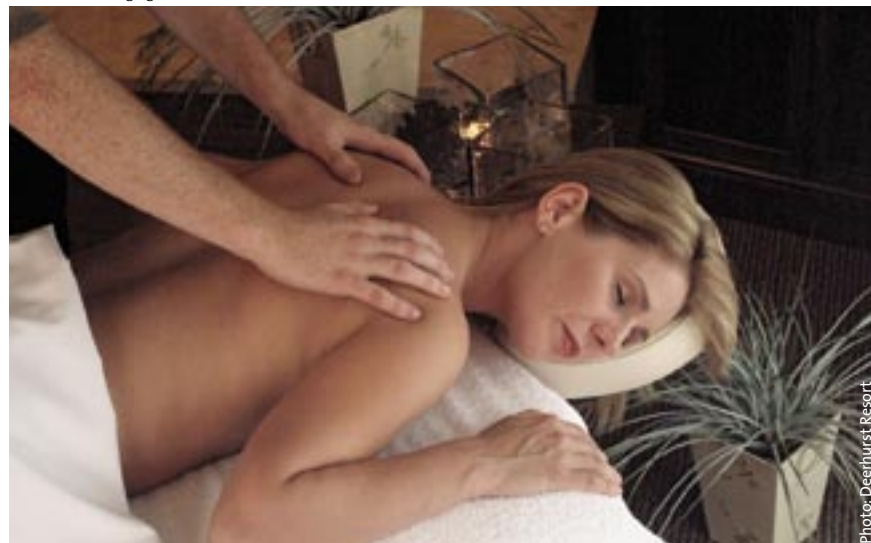


Photo: Deerhurst Resort



Photo: Harbour House Hotel

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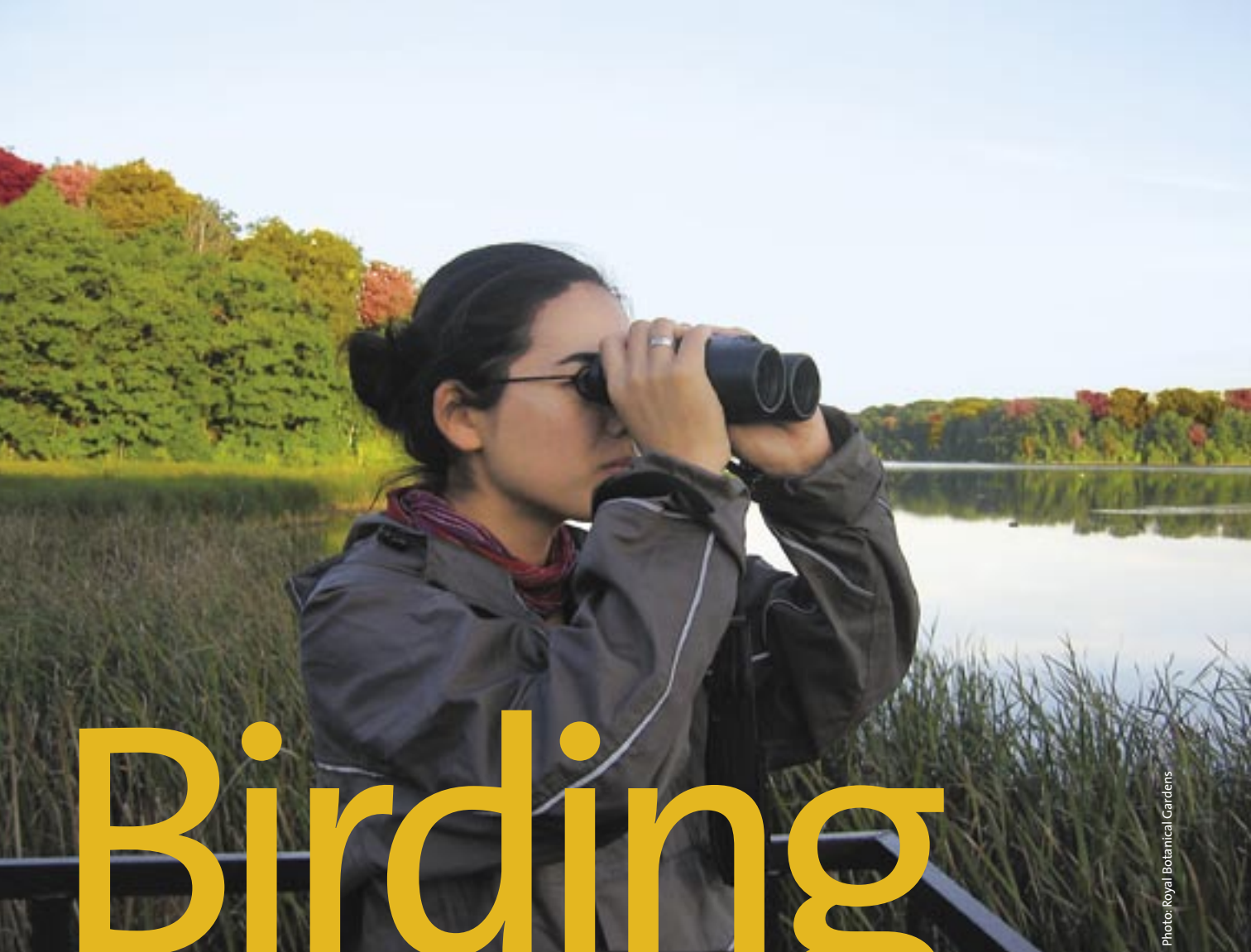


Photo: Royal Botanical Gardens

Binoculars enhance the bird watching experience

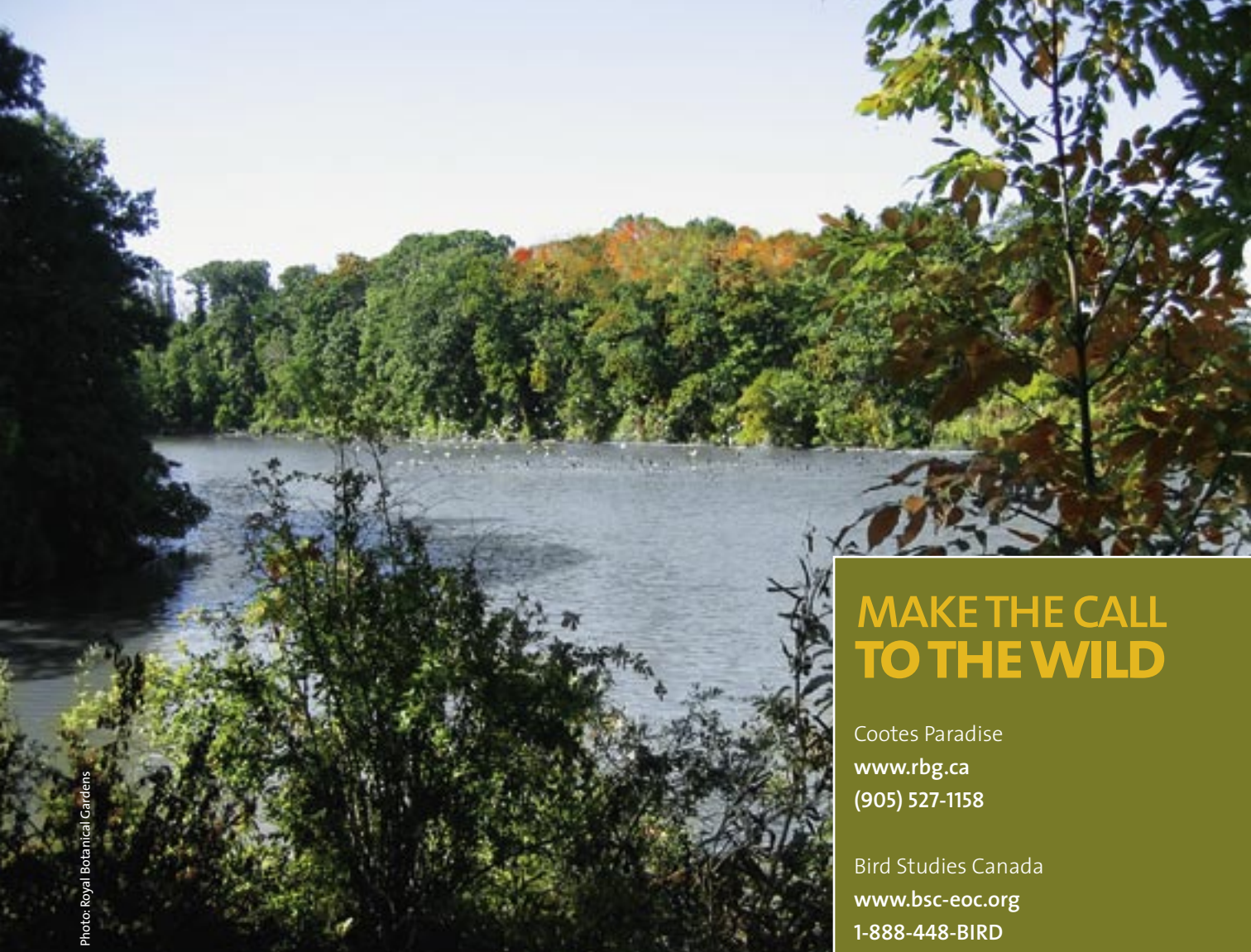


Photo: Royal Botanical Gardens

Cootes Paradise is home to thousands of birds

Birding

ON THE fly

Ontario's Greenbelt offers fantastic opportunities for the bird lover in you. The Greenbelt's natural habitats shelter hundreds of bird species, whose colourful markings, songs and antics are a source of endless entertainment.

For a day trip to see the beautiful birds that make Ontario their summer home, you don't need much – just a good pair of binoculars and a North American bird guide.

The best places to find our feathered friends are on the migration routes that streak through southern Ontario. The Greenbelt has lots of places, including Cootes Paradise, an 840-hectare (2,076 acre) plot of heaven on the outskirts of Hamilton. Bird watchers (or birders, as they're called) also flock here – to see this sensational bi-annual sight in person.

And not just in Cootes, bird watching is fun throughout the entire Greenbelt, which includes Beamer Memorial Conservation Area (east of Hamilton), Bruce Peninsula National Park (south of Tobermory), Forks of the Credit Conservation Area (south of Orangeville), Short Hills Provincial Park (south of St. Catharines) and Sibbald Point Provincial Park (on the southern shore of Lake Simcoe).

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Photo: Deerhurst Resort, Dwayne Brown

Executive Chef Rory Golden will join you on this fall's Gourmet Getaway

When Deerhurst Resort was built in 1896, Huntsville was only a few years old and 'cuisine' was something of a rare luxury that only a select few could afford. Today's Huntsville has many more resorts and chefs, yet Deerhurst is still going strong – special thanks to Executive Chef Rory Golden. Canadian representative at the prestigious American Harvest Workshop in California last year, he takes great pride in showing foodies a thing or two about the art of meal preparation, and sharing the creation of edible works of art.

During his exclusive fall culinary weekend, you'll follow this certified Chef de Cuisine on a journey which includes hiking through Deerhurst's on-site maple sugar bush, picking shiitake mushrooms from oak logs and watching a grilling demonstration in one of his five kitchens. These experiences will

never leave your mind, and the taste of Executive Chef Rory Golden's fresh fall food will never leave your palate.

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great escapes

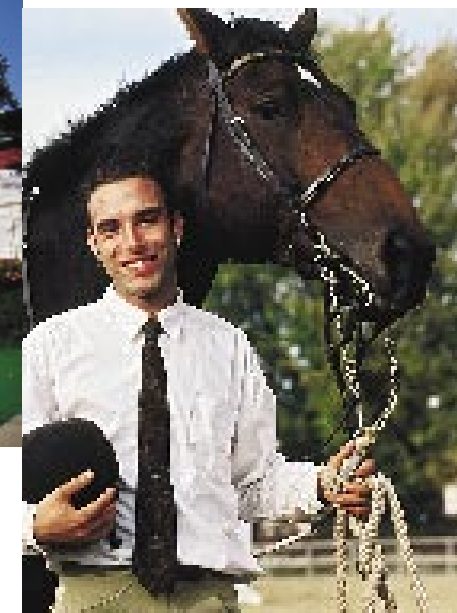
1 FARM charm

— By Darren Hakker

Their motto is ‘a community that works’ and after spending precious moments touring this eclectic agricultural region, I couldn’t agree with the friendly folk of Norfolk more.



L-R: The Erie Beach Hotel, Port Dover; the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show, Simcoe



I’ll begin in Port Dover, on the northern shores of Lake Erie. That’s where I found myself munching on a heaping basket of oh-so-good celery bread at the Erie Beach Hotel one afternoon. That bread, paired with a plate of famous Lake Erie pickerel, salads and veggies, was my lunch. I not only enjoyed this delicious meal, but the distinctly retro ambience of the Cove Room, was unlike anything I’ve recently seen.

The hotel and restaurant has been in owner Andrew Schneider’s family since his grandparents took it over in 1946. So much in the family, in fact, that when I asked for the famous celery bread recipe, Andrew didn’t give in to revealing anything about it. “We have

to keep a few secrets,” he said. “Families have been coming for generations.” Obviously, gorging the celery bread is just one reason why patrons return.

If you plan on visiting on October 13th, book ahead for dinner reservations. That’s because on every Friday the 13th, this small town blocks off its roads to everything but bikes as 100,000 motorcycling enthusiasts take over the town. Photos don’t do it justice – it’s something you have to experience. Just remember to bring a lawn chair.

Rides of a more natural style are to be had at The Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show, just outside Simcoe. Horses take centre stage for the largest

outdoor horse show in Canada while fruits and veggies vie for the elusive red ribbon. The fair’s demolition derby is something to behold, especially for a city boy like me.

I encountered sweeter aromas at the Country Home Candle Company in Delhi. “We have about 60 fragrances on hand,” said owner Peter Northgraves of his family-run candle business. Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the Northgraves family’s biz is attracting candle-lovers with such pleasing fragrances as Prairie Lilac and Norfolk Blueberry. Peter also mentioned that many of his customers come from the city. They’re most likely those who need the comfort from stress that only a Country Home Candle can provide.

Following Highway 59 south, I came upon the Long Point Bird Observatory & Bird Studies Canada centre in Port Rowan. During spring and fall migration, volunteers ‘flock’ here from around the world to band birds. More than 16,000 were banded last year – one of the busiest years ever!



L: The Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show, Simcoe

great escapes

Kernal Peanuts is yet another family-run business and next stop on my Norfolk tour. Nancy Racz is co-owner of the largest peanut growing operation in Canada. She started out with her husband Ernie in 1979 after farming tobacco for many years. “My husband loves to try new things,” she said. Kernal Peanuts produces approximately 170,000 kg (375,000 lbs.) of Valencia peanuts every year. That translates into many delicious products: salted peanuts, black peanuts, garlic peanuts, peanut butter, peanut brittle, chocolate peanut clusters, three kinds of beer nuts and well, just too many others to list here.

Think that’s nuts? It’s nothing compared to the ‘gourd-eous’ pyramid of carved pumpkins – 1,500 in all – at the Waterford Pumpkinfest, just off Highway 24 in north Norfolk. The whole community is involved in transforming Waterford into the pumpkin capital of Ontario. Pumpkinfest has all the weird and wonderful fall activities you could ask for, including the infamous Punkin’ Chunkin Contest.

I love Norfolk in the fall. And anyone who loves food, family and fun will certainly say the same. 🍂

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

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Waterford Pumpkinfest's tower of pumpkins



PLENTIFUL

Apples from Norfolk County Fair

So you’re probably wondering what farm products come from Norfolk County. Here are just a few: cucumbers, asparagus, zucchinis, shiitake mushrooms, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, apples, icicle pansies, ginseng, tobacco, blueberries, tomatoes, cabbages, strawberries, cereal grains, corn, rye, wheat, hay, milk, livestock, poultry, tomatoes, sweet corn, pickles, garlic, chick peas, evening primrose, peppermint, artichokes, okra, celeriac, oriental vegetables, collards and broccoli (pewh!).



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"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY"

IN THE KAWARTHAS

— By D'Arcy Jenish

The tea is piping hot and perfectly steeped. The scones and muffins are fresh-baked and fragrant. And the view of the lake, located in the heart of central Ontario's Kawartha Lakes district, is picture perfect.

Cold water, blazing colours and muskie to pursue

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The Whetung Gallery famous for Aboriginal art

On this fall afternoon, there are just three boats out there, carrying hardy fishermen in pursuit of muskellunge (or muskie), the big fish at the top of the food chain. In a quiet cove, a solitary loon minds its own business. And on the forested hills above the opposite shore, there are the radiant pastels of autumn – arrestingly beautiful to the contemporary visitor, just as they were to the Ojibway who inhabited these lands from time immemorial.

‘D’gwaagi’ is what they called this time of year and when they met fellow Ojibway on their travels they were likely to greet them by saying: “minwabhumen ahgwud” – “it’s a beautiful day.”

The descendants of those Aboriginal people today live at the Curve Lake Indian Reserve, home to the Whetung Gallery, one of the largest private galleries in the country devoted to Aboriginal art. The works of some 300 artists are

represented on its wooden walls, including striking paintings in a variety of styles, not to mention Iroquois false face masks and totemic west coast carvings. As I explored this gallery, I couldn’t help but be struck by the creative richness and diversity of these Aboriginal artists.

Fifteen minutes away by car, visitors find another reminder of Aboriginal heritage. Petroglyphs Provincial Park is home to one of Canada’s most captivating archeological sites and it has filled me with wonder and awe. The glyphs, or carvings, consist of approximately 300 distinct figures etched by ancient hands on flat slabs of white marble, and 600 others that are indecipherable. Viewing them reminded me that Canada has a rich history that pre-dates the arrival of European explorers. A sacred site to those who created it, this place is revered by contemporary Ojibway, who call it Kinomagewapkong – the rocks that teach.

8 Kawartha Lakes is made up of eight big lakes and a number of smaller ones – and most are long, narrow, irregular bodies of water gouged out of the landscape by the retreating glaciers of the last ice age.



Petroglyphs: A mysterious remnant of ancient first nations



Tranquility amid water, rock and forest at Buckhorn

I started my tour in the farming community of Lindsay and finished it in the manufacturing city of Peterborough. In between, I stopped for lunch in Fenelon Falls (particularly liked Fenelon’s stately old homes and lawns), stayed overnight at a cosy waterfront resort near Buckhorn and was amazed by Bobcaygeon’s bustling downtown.

While in Lakefield, be sure to visit the literary landmarks – the 1½-storey white clapboard house at 16 Smith Street where the pioneer writer

Catherine Parr Trail spent the last 37 years of her life. There’s a two-storey, beige brick house at 8 Regent Street where Margaret Laurence wrote some of the most powerful Canadian novels of the 20th century.

The Kawarthas have long proved inspiring to artistic souls. Painters, potters and sculptors reside around these lakes, and on the third weekend of September visitors can view their works during the Kawartha Autumn Studio Tour. Or take a lesson yourself. Several resorts

and galleries offer weekend or afternoon sessions with professional painters and sculptors.

There are also opportunities galore to explore the pioneer past. There are fall fairs, heritage home tours and quilt exhibits. Make time for afternoon tea, a once popular activity that has been revived at several resorts.

Overall, I was captivated by the beauty and tranquillity of the Kawarthas and left thinking it’s a sweet place to spend an autumn weekend. 🍁

– D’Arcy Jenish is an award-winning freelance writer and author in the Toronto area whose work appears in newspapers and magazines.



The Kawarthas provide inspiration for painters and writers

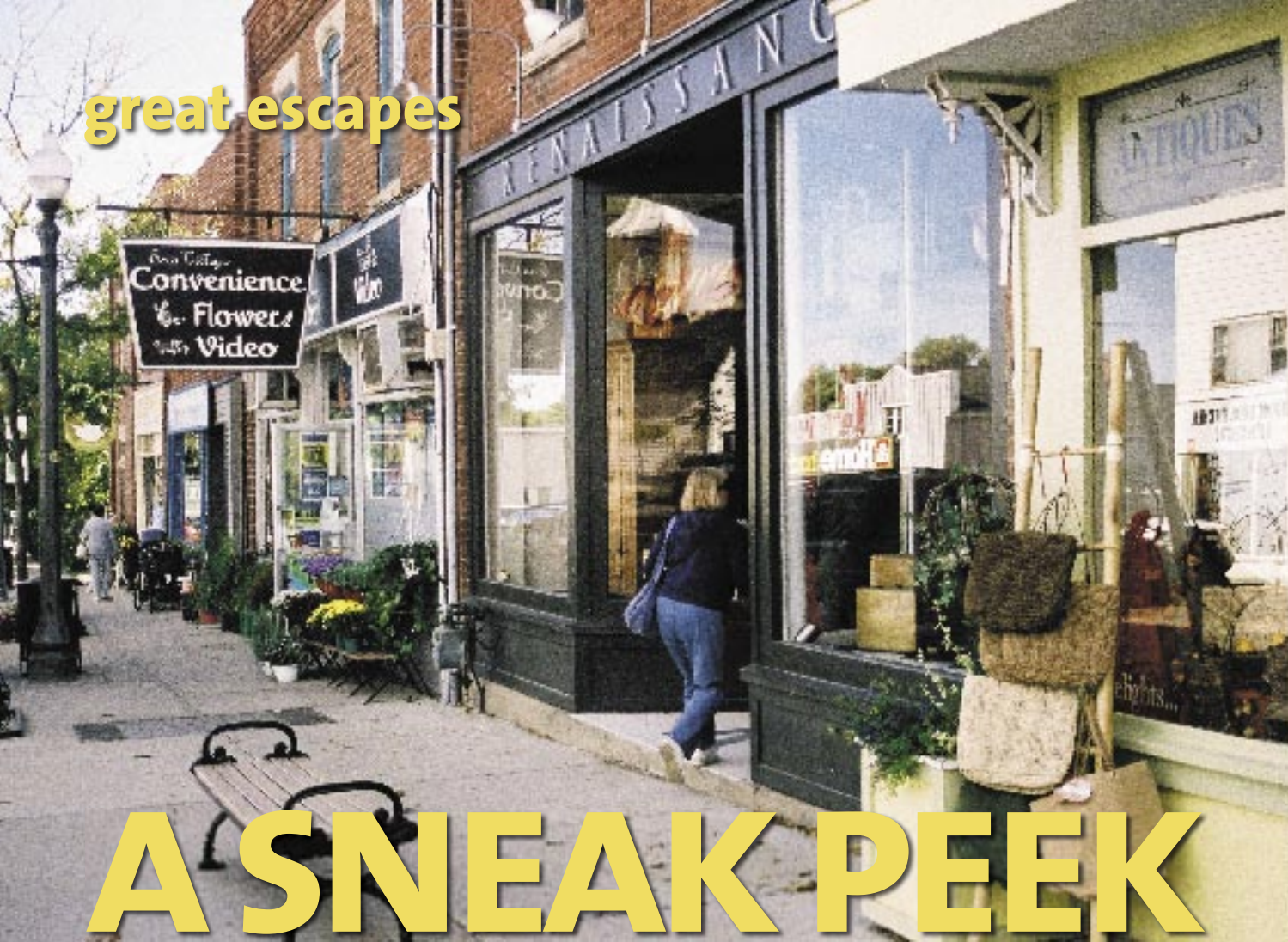
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great escapes



A SNEAK PEEK

AT CALEDON'S ANTIQUES

— By Susan Scott

Antique shops always have given me a sense of the past. As I wandered through the shops in Belfountain, Erin, Alton and Caledon, I could hear the rushing waters of the Nottawasaga, Credit, Humber and Grand rivers. And I could almost see the 19th century water-driven saw and flour mills that first drew people to these villages.

The mills are gone now, but the towns remain, with rolling hills and valleys and the same amazing fall colours those early settlers saw. Annette Turturici inherited cats Paisley and Plaid when she bought the Inglewood Antique Market on Highway 10 — a multi-dealer market

with formal and 'shabby chic' furniture, coal oil lamps, and showcases filled with dishes. Annette was happy to sit with a cat on her lap and give me suggestions on exploring the area.

Ten minutes up the road, at Helen McDaniel's Caledon Village Antique

Market, I found 1950s advertising signs as well as vintage fishing lures. I fell in love with a 1910 barber chair that somehow found its way to Caledon from Chicago; I was unable to convince my husband to squeeze it into the car.

We lunched on a surprisingly good

old-fashioned boiled hot dog at Curly's, followed by a double-scoop ice cream cone at the Belfountain General Store and then walked down the road to Moorcroft's Antiques. I once spent the night with Walter and Liz Moorcroft of Moorcroft Pottery fame in Stoke-on-Trent, England. Brian Moorcroft is a distant relative of the English family so we chatted for a few minutes about the factory while I admired his impressive display of Moorcroft Pottery.

On the outskirts of Erin, Rainbarrel Antiques is filled with architectural salvage; I spent an hour poking happily through stacks of old doors and windows in the dark corners of the former dance hall. Main Street, Erin is definitely worth a visit. I was surprised to see a familiar face behind the counter at Renaissance. Stephanie Gairdner was an active member of the Toronto antique scene. She moved to Erin some years ago and absolutely loves it. She showed me her selection of vintage costume jewellery, antique furniture and exotic 'lotions and potions' and then sent me off to Tintagel's Tea Room to try one of their amazing homemade scones.

I stumbled on St. James Lighting just south of Primrose on Highway 10 in what was once St. James Anglican

Church; Vanesa Dragicevic has used her theatre lighting skills and vintage chandeliers to create a marvellous room. Anyone who is looking for unusual lighting to warm up a large loft or condo should head to Vanesa's shop.

The Village of Shelburne hosts the annual Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championship. Although I didn't find any vintage fiddles during my visit, I did find Postman's Antiques. Diane and Martin Guyton bought what was once Shelburne's post office and turned it into a maze-like antique shop. I love little boxes and could not resist an Edwardian collar studs box still filled with studs. Across the way, I bought an 1884 English sterling silver watch chain and fob at Brian Harris' Antiques.

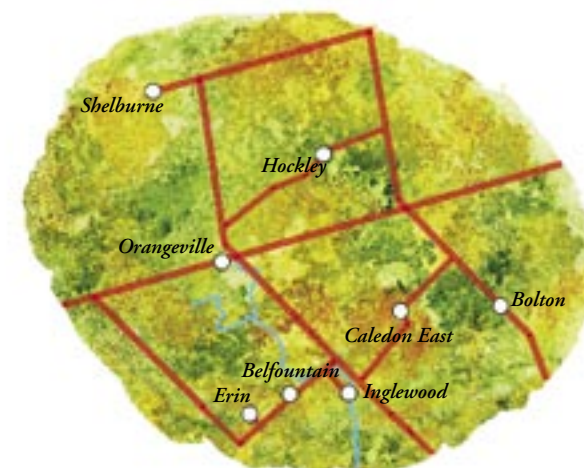
On Sunday morning, after a leisurely brunch at the Hockley Valley Resort and a very short hike, I wandered over to the Caledon Fair Grounds to see if I could find treasure at the weekly Caledon Antique & Flea Market. I left with a basket of freshly picked apples and a jar of local honey. 🍁

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

Photography by Susan Scott



Top-bottom: Antique shops and restaurants enliven Erin's historic Main Street; Caledon Antique & Flea Market at the Caledon fairgrounds



Inglewood Antique Market is housed in an old apple barn

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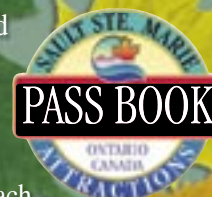
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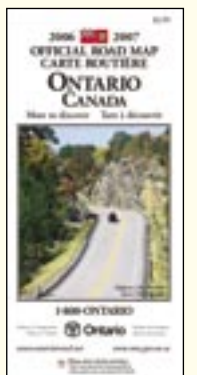


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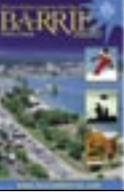
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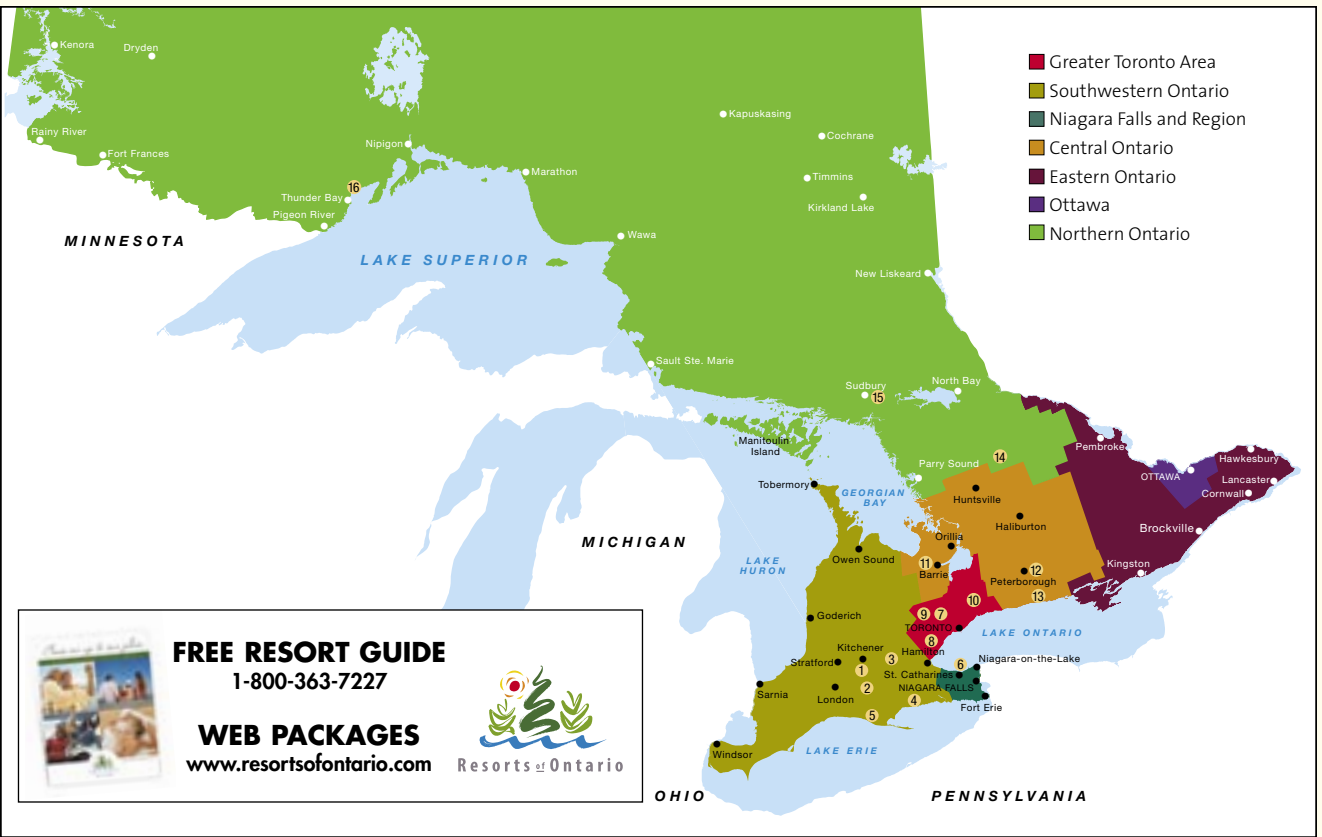
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Fax: (807) 964-2029

Prescott
1033 Hwy. 16
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Tel: (613) 925-3346
Fax: (613) 925-1462

Rainy River
301 Arwood Ave.
PO Box 100 P0W 1L0
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(\$) Currency exchange on site

† Denotes Mirvish Production TicketKing outlet





looking ahead

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It won't be long before Ontario transforms into a pretty white dreamland – where old-growth forests host snowshoers, lush mountains become paradise for skiers, hiking trails guide cross-country skiers and bustling metropolises welcome shoppers, opera-goers and more. Book your winter outdoor excursions and exciting indoor entertainment now. Visit www.ontariotravel.net or call **1-800-ONTARIO** to begin planning today!



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When you walk in, you'll feel like you're inside an ornate jewellery box. Toronto's new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts is a treasure, designed to delight opera and ballet lovers yearning for the finest performances in Canada. This winter, when you're watching the first performance of *The Nutcracker* in its new home, know that every seat has been computer-tested for the best possible sightlines. And the acoustics stringently tested for the best possible sound. There's no doubt demand for this ballet performance will be high, as well as the notes, so book your tickets today.

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts
www.fourseasonscentre.ca
(416) 363-6671

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Resorts Ontario
www.resortsofontario.com
1-800-363-7227

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R: Blue Mountain

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ontario trivia

do you really know Ontario?

Get ready for another round of enthralling Ontario Trivia. Warm up by doing a little yoga, brewing a fine cup of java and sitting quietly for a few minutes.

1

You're sure to have a 'berry' good time at this Muskoka festival, now in its 22nd year.

- a) Bala Cranberry Festival
- b) Stouffville Strawberry Festival
- c) Greater Sudbury Blueberry Festival
- d) Niagara Grape and Wine Festival

3

This is Canada's first and Ontario's only operating electric railway museum.

- a) South Simcoe Railway
- b) Algoma Central Railway
- c) Halton County Radial Railway
- d) Port Stanley Terminal Rail

Resorts Ontario represents more than ____ vacation destinations including country inns and fishing lodges.

- a) 100
- b) 150
- c) 200
- d) 400

4

Ontario boasts 2,000 _____ covering a distance of approximately 10,000 km (6,200 mi.).

- a) Hiking trails
- b) Cycling routes
- c) Bridges

5

Nobody ever said
you had to stay on
the highlighted route.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| •Barrie (2) | •Kenora | •Oshawa | •Timmins |
| •Belleville (2) | •Kingston (2) | •Oshawa/Whitby | •Toronto (7) |
| •Bracebridge | •Kirkland Lake | •Ottawa (4) | •Toronto/Brampton |
| •Brantford | •Kitchener | •Ottawa/Arnprior | •Toronto/Markham |
| •Brockville (2) | •Leamington | •Ottawa/Kanata | •Toronto/Mississauga (4) |
| •Burlington | •London (4) | •Ottawa/Smiths Falls | •Toronto/North York |
| •Cambridge | •Midland | •Owen Sound | •Toronto/Oakville |
| •Chatham | •New Liskeard | •Parry Sound (2) | •Toronto/Pickering |
| •Cobourg | •Newmarket | •Penbrooke | •Toronto/Scarborough |
| •Cornwall | •Niagara Falls (4) | •Peterborough (2) | •Trenton |
| •Dryden | •Niagara Falls/Fort Erie | •Port Hope | •Waterloo |
| •Gananoque | •Niagara Falls/St. Catharines (2) | •Sault Ste. Marie (3) | •Windsor (5) |
| •Guelph | •Niagara Falls/Welland | •Simcoe | •Woodstock |
| •Hamilton | •North Bay (3) | •Sturgeon Falls | |
| •Huntsville | •Orillia (3) | •Sudbury (3) | |
| •Kapuskasing | | •Thunder Bay | |

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