Ontario

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editor's note

Wasaga Beach

Summer is about fun.

It's playing in the sun. It's walking through breaking waves with your kids. Experiencing a family resort for the first time. And spotting animals as you take a father-and-son hiking trip in the wild. It's finding peace lying on a sandy, white beach. Feeling young again as you sing along at an outdoor concert. Unearthing history. Soaring over a giant canyon. And riding a Ferris wheel with your closest friends.

Fun. It's the one word that nicely sums up the season. And the thing is, you can have fun to your heart's content – right here in Ontario.

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

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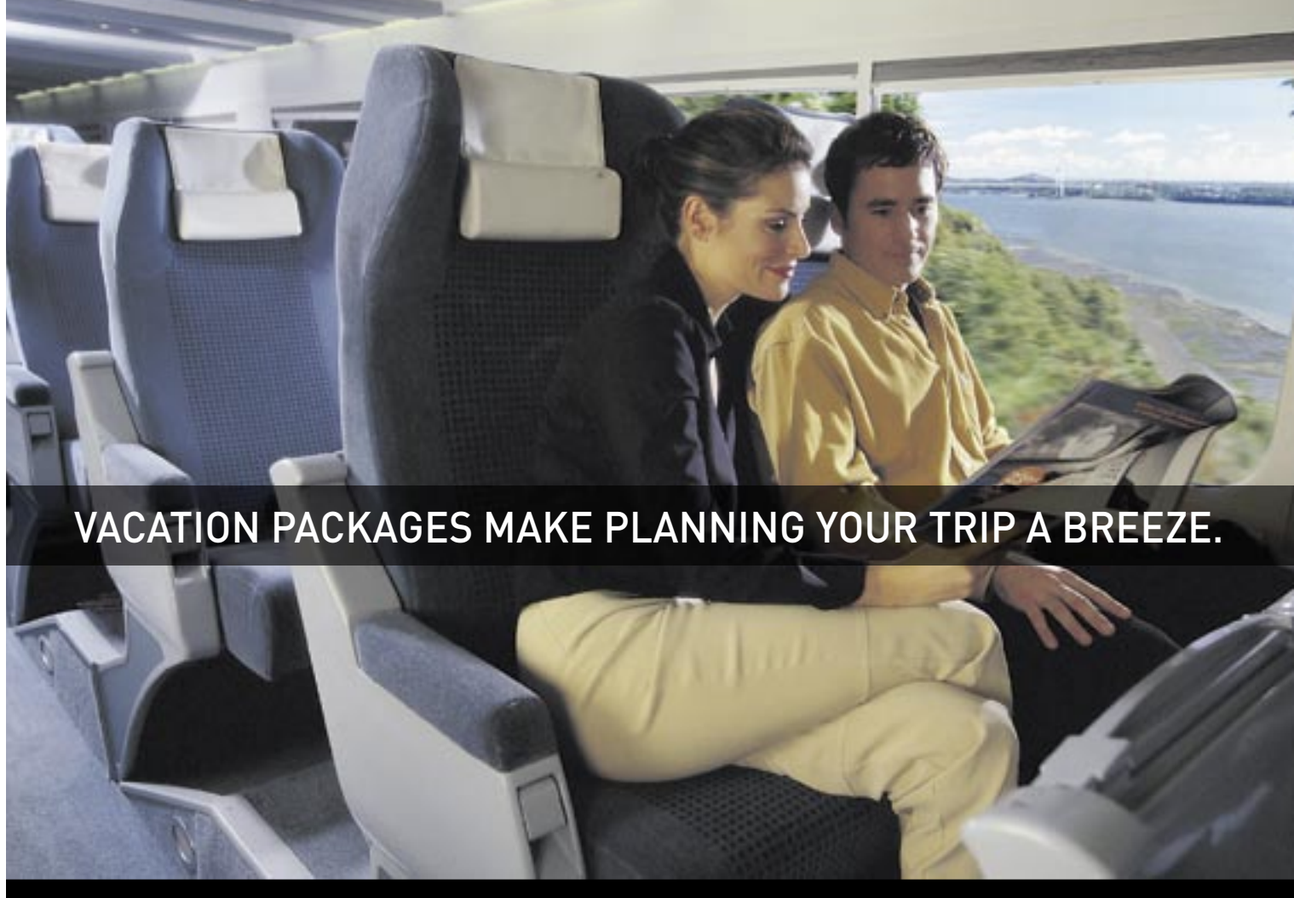

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Cover photo: Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), Toronto

The place to stay when you're Far Far Away

(especially with ogre-sized prizes!)

DAYS INN

Visit www.daysinnontario.com for your chance to win a trip for 4 to the next DreamWorks Animation movie premiere or one of 100 Shrek the Third Travel Prize Packs. Plus, check into a Days Inn this summer and receive an exclusive Shrek the Third Welcome Package featuring an activity book, Shrek playing cards, stickers and more. Just think: clean, comfortable rooms, free Daybreak Cafe breakfast*, free high-speed Internet access and TripRewards®. Visit daysinnontario.com today for your chance to win DREAMsized prizes!

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No purchase necessary. See full contest rules and regulations at daysinn.ca. *While supplies last after June 30, 2007, one package per family per stay at participating Canadian hotels. See participating hotels. Shrek is a registered trademark of DreamWorks Animation L.L.C. Shrek the Third ™ & © 2007 DreamWorks Animation L.L.C.

DREAMWORKS SHREK THE THIRD

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your Ontario

Photo: Margaret Hoops

Bon Echo Provincial Park

Longing for days at Lake Mazinaw

Our family came to Canada from Holland in 1954 and settled in Kingston. We enjoyed Sunday drives and one day discovered Bon Echo Provincial Park on Lake Mazinaw, near Cloyne. We started camping there most weekends beginning in 1955 when there were only 17 campsites. Now there are more than 500.

To our family that was Ontario with its lakes, rocks and forests – real wilderness. My parents continued to visit Bon Echo well into their 80s. Now in his 90th year and a widower, my dad still longs for those times at Lake Mazinaw.

Since he no longer drives, we asked him recently where he would like to go for a picnic. "Lake Mazinaw," he said.

So off we went. He was in his bathing suit and in the water before we had the camp stove set up. He swam like a seal for a good hour in the chilly water and came out sparkling. The rest of the day he sat in the sunshine at the picnic table enjoying Mazinaw's famous rocks and Ontario's great outdoors.

Margaret Hoops, Toronto

Send us your stories

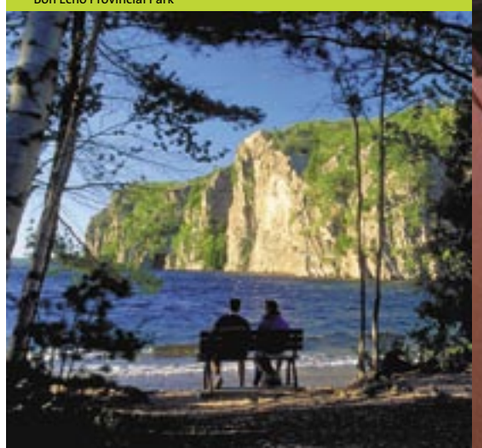
Ontario is bursting with adventures around every corner, wherever you find yourself. If you have had a unique and colourful moment travelling our beautiful province, let us know in 150 words or less and you may see it in an upcoming issue of *Ontario*. Send us a picture that captures the moment and we may include that too.

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

Mail:
Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation
Attention: *Ontario* Editor
10th Floor, Hearst Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1
Fax:
(416) 314-7563
E-mail:
editor@ontariotravel.net

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

Bon Echo Provincial Park



ONTARIO PARKS

In no time, the kayak and you are one.

A lake trout sizzles in the frying pan.

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by calling 1 800 ONTARIO for your copy of the Ontario Parks Guide.

Reserve your campsite at www.OntarioParks.com or by calling 1 800 ONT PARK.

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Ontario

contributors

The world of travel came early to **ELLE ANDRA-WARNER**, living in three countries before her sixth birthday. Estonian by heritage, she was born in a post-Second World War displaced persons camp in West Germany. Elle is an author, journalist and photographer based in Thunder Bay, where she grew up, and shares with us on page 134 some points of interest along Highway 11/17. Her award-winning work appears regularly in major publications around the world. She is the best-selling author of four books about Canadian history.

RISHA GOTLIEB is a Toronto-based freelance writer who, in addition to travel destinations, covers a gamut of topics from business and finance to technology to home décor and lifestyles. Her work appears in *The Toronto Star*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The Washington Post*, as well as an array of magazines. Risha's also fearless and loves the thrill of rides that challenge gravity. See how wild and crazy things were when she visited Niagara Falls on page 122.

MICHELE PETERSON is a Toronto-based writer and international consultant who has travelled to more than 40 countries providing services for non-profit organizations, governments and businesses. She is a regular contributor to many publications and her writing has appeared in best-selling travel anthologies such as *Sand in My Bra*, *A Woman's Asia* and *The Risks of Sunbathing Topless*. Wanting to relive a childhood memory, Michele took her grandson fishing. How did she do? Please see page 100.

ISOBEL WARREN likes nothing better than discovering little known nuggets of Ontario history to share with readers and listeners. A lifelong Ontario resident, she roams the world to produce stories for both print and broadcast. Co-founder of the Travel Media Association of Canada, Isobel is the author of three travel books. For her tribute to the 175th birthday of the Rideau Canal, please see page 86. She also outlines dozens of ways we can all celebrate this anniversary.

Ontario

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EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES
For editorial enquiries please contact Nicole Leaper, Publications Manager, OTMPC at (416) 314-7378 or editor@ontariotravel.net

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

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

The dew clings to the lush fairway as it always does on sunny, summer mornings – picture perfect. We've seen so much on our Muskokan vacation, but it's my young golfer teeing off that becomes the highlight. "Remember pal, bend your knees. Keep your eyes on the ball, but watch your stance." Look out Mike Weir, here comes my son.

L–R: Port Dover, Toronto, Georgian Bay

Minett

Soak up some sun this summer in Ontario. For more on the season, visit **ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO** today.

in the know

What's new under summer's sun?

Plenty! This year has seen some really cool, new things pop onto the Ontario map. Add in our annual favourites and you have one amazing season to look forward to. For summer getaway ideas, flip through the next few pages, then visit **ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO** today.

Toronto

EVENT

Freeing Ontario's treasures

Take a big step into the past as you set foot into Ontario's coolest cultural places during Doors Open Ontario. Communities across Ontario open up their cultural and historic treasures to you – for free! Visit or call for specific locations and dates.

Doors Open Ontario
www.doorsopenontario.on.ca
(416) 325-5000

Toronto

Rock On-tario

EVENT

Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy? Oh, it's real – the music of legendary British rock group Queen has been crafted into an award-winning musical that's dazzling Toronto's audiences. *We Will Rock You*, created across the pond by playwright Ben Elton and Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor, and brought here by our very own Mirvish Productions, is this year's spectacular, futuristic, rockin' show!

Mirvish Productions
www.mirvish.com
www.wewillrockyou.ca
TicketKing: **1-800-461-3333**

Photo: Brinkhoff/Mögenburg, Hamburg

in the know

EVENT

Artist rendering, BMO Field, home of Toronto FC

The ball's in our field now

Stock up on face paint. Clip your favourite country's flag to your car window. Dust off your football fan wear. But most importantly – buy your tickets now if you haven't snatched them yet. Soccer is coming to Canada! Not just any soccer, but the second largest soccer event in the world. From June 30 – July 22, the FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007 is happening!

At the rate that tickets are selling, it will become the largest, single-sport, sporting event ever to be held in Canada, with worldwide TV audience pegged at half a billion. It's big. For the icing on the cake, more than 20 of the 52 games will be held at the new BMO Field in Toronto, home to the Toronto FC, the city's first Major League Soccer team, and Frank Clair Stadium in Ottawa.

FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007
Tickets: **1-800-265-5566**
www.fifa.com

Toronto FC
Tickets: **(416) 360-GOAL**
www.torontofc.ca

THE ARTS

Into Peru

Photo: Y. Yoshi/PAS

Vase with Sicán Lord, Middle Sicán (AD 900–1100).
Height: 13.4 cm, diameter: 10.0 cm, weight: 63.5 g

Forget your travel plans to Peru right now. The treasures of its ancient Sicán civilization are now proudly on display at the Royal Ontario Museum until August 6. *Ancient Peru Unearthed: Golden Treasures of a Lost Civilization* boasts approximately 120 beautiful artefacts discovered in a royal tomb at the famed Batan Grande, considered the religious centre of the entire Sicán civilization.

Ancient Peru Unearthed: Golden Treasures of a Lost Civilization
March 10 – August 6
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
www.rom.on.ca
(416) 586-8000

Photo: Y. Yoshi/PAS

Sicán Lord's mask
Middle Sicán (AD 900–1100)
Main mask piece, gold
Height: 29 cm; Width: 52.9 cm; Weight: 1006 g

FOOD

Harvest time

Join a hands-on cooking class with famed chef Michael Potters at Harvest Restaurant, one of Canada's top 10 (2006) new restaurants as rated by *enRoute Magazine*. Let Prince Edward County's local produce inspire you to create then savour your own delicious works of art.

Harvest Restaurant, Picton
www.harvestrestaurant.ca
(613) 476-6763

Photo: Albert Botha

Chef Michael Potters and wife, Karen

Kids love showing off their 'Berry' beads

SHOPPING

Beading peaks at Blue Mountain

We know it's not always easy finding that perfect fashion accessory – something that boldly says 'you' without everyone in town owning one too. Drive over to Q Berry Beading at Blue and you'll be selecting from thousands of beads from around the world to create just that – the ultimate, original fashion piece. Join a fun beading class led by pro beaders, and you'll be making your own funky accessories like you've been doing it your whole life.

Blue Mountain Resort
www.bluemountain.ca
1-877-445-0231 (Reservations)

Q Berry Beading at Blue
(705) 443-8322

in the know

A berry fun party

Sure, there'll be games and musical guests, but the best part about Spadina Museum's Strawberry Festival are the strawberries – lots of them. On June 24, from 12–4 p.m., the berry lover in us all will rejoice as this delicious fruit is devoured all afternoon. If you can't wait until that delightful day (not many of us can), get a taste today with this strawberry shortcake recipe, courtesy of the Spadina Museum.

Spadina Museum: Historic House & Gardens, Toronto
www.toronto.ca/culture/spadina.htm
(416) 392-6910

EVENT
Photo: City of Toronto Culture

Strawberry desserts are just one of the festival's highlights

RECIPE

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Strawberries:
1 L (1 ½ qt.) ripe strawberries, hulled
25 mL (2 tbsp.) white sugar

Shortcakes:
500 mL (2 cups) all purpose white flour
10 mL (2 tsp.) white sugar
20 mL (4 tsp.) baking powder
2½ mL (½ tsp.) salt
60 mL (¼ cup) sweet butter, cool but not hard
180 mL (¾ cup) rich milk (more than 2% butterfat)
60 mL (¼ cup) soft sweet butter (optional)

Cream Sauce:
180 mL (¾ cup) 35% (or more) cream
60 mL (¼ cup) rich milk
80 mL (⅓ cup) powdered sugar
2½ mL (½ tsp.) vanilla essence

Begin by sweetening strawberries with sugar; set aside in a warm place. Sift together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Work butter into dry ingredients using fingertips until completely absorbed. Blend milk into dry ingredients using fork until rough ball of dough forms (adding more milk if necessary). Toss on floured board to fully blend ingredients. Divide into two equal parts. Roll into rough flat circles about 2 cm (¾") thick with floured rolling pin. Bake in 200°C (400°F) on greased baking sheets for 10–12 minutes or until lightly golden. Split each cake and spread with butter while still warm (optional).

Crush strawberries slightly and put between and on top of sliced shortcakes. Combine cream, milk, sugar and vanilla in medium bowl. Beat until almost stiff. Spoon cream sauce over strawberries. Yields two large shortcakes and 500 mL (2 cups) cream sauce. Enjoy!

Recipe courtesy of Spadina Museum Historic House and Gardens

Photo: City of Toronto Culture

Wooden it be nice...

GOLF

Golfers, this one's for you. Imagine the world's favourite courses at your doorstep. At Wooden Sticks Golf, your two-bedroom, four-bed, two-bathroom cabin is merely steps from 18 holes of great golf, 12 of which are lovingly inspired by famous PGA holes at St. Andrews, Augusta and Pine Valley. Truly, a golfer's heaven.

Wooden Sticks Golf, Uxbridge
www.woodensticks.com
(905) 852-4379

Photo: Wooden Sticks Golf Club

Home away from home at Wooden Sticks

Photo: Artur Kantemirov

Cirque Niagara's performers bring art to a bold, new life

EVENT

Horsing around the Horseshoe Falls

Beautiful horses and colourful acrobats create the latest dazzling spectacle to hit Niagara Falls: Avaia. Breathed into life by the Kantemirov family, the famed Russian circus team that, for the past 100 years, has been entertaining families around the world, this show has already become one of Niagara Falls' must-sees!

Avaia – Cirque Niagara, Niagara Falls
www.cirqueniagara.com
1-877-CIRQUE-1

Photo: Cirque Niagara

in the know

Photo: Festival of the Sound

These wind musicians come together each summer for the Festival of the Sound.

THE ARTS

Parry Sounds great

Classical numbers and new favourites are celebrated on a grand scale at Parry Sound's 28th Annual Festival of the Sound. The three-week-long festival includes international pianists, string quartets and symphony orchestras. Be sure to book a musical cruise on the 550-passenger Island Queen.

Festival of the Sound, Parry Sound
July 20–August 12
www.festivalofthesound.ca
1-866-364-0061

ACCOMMODATION

Hippest hangout

The artist-designed rooms are finished. The hand-operated Victorian elevator, refurbished. The hardwood floors, polished. The 18-month restoration, complete.

Built in 1889, the Gladstone Hotel, the oldest continuously operating hotel in Toronto, is now one of the hippest hangouts to hit the west end. Especially for those art-centric among us who enjoy a lively ambience incorporating old and new. Inside, three bars and 51 hotel rooms and suites (37 of which were designed by local artists) offer creative new ways to catch a few zzzzzs in Toronto's Art and Design District.

The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto
www.gladstonehotel.com
(416) 531-4635

Photo: Cat O'Neil

Flight316.ca designed by Adam Berkowitz and George Simionopoulos gives guests the experience of "sleeping in the clouds".

THE ARTS

Check our newest museum 'wing'

It's time, all you budding ornithologists. The new Bird Gallery at the Canadian Museum of Nature reopened late last year, complete with kid-friendly interactive stations. With 500 specimens on display, you'll never be closer to so many of Canada's birds. While you're at it, explore the link between birds and dinos at the new Talisman Energy Fossil Gallery and check out its 300 specimens.

Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa
www.nature.ca
1-800-263-4433

Talisman Energy Fossil Gallery

Photo: Martin Lipman, Canadian Museum of Nature

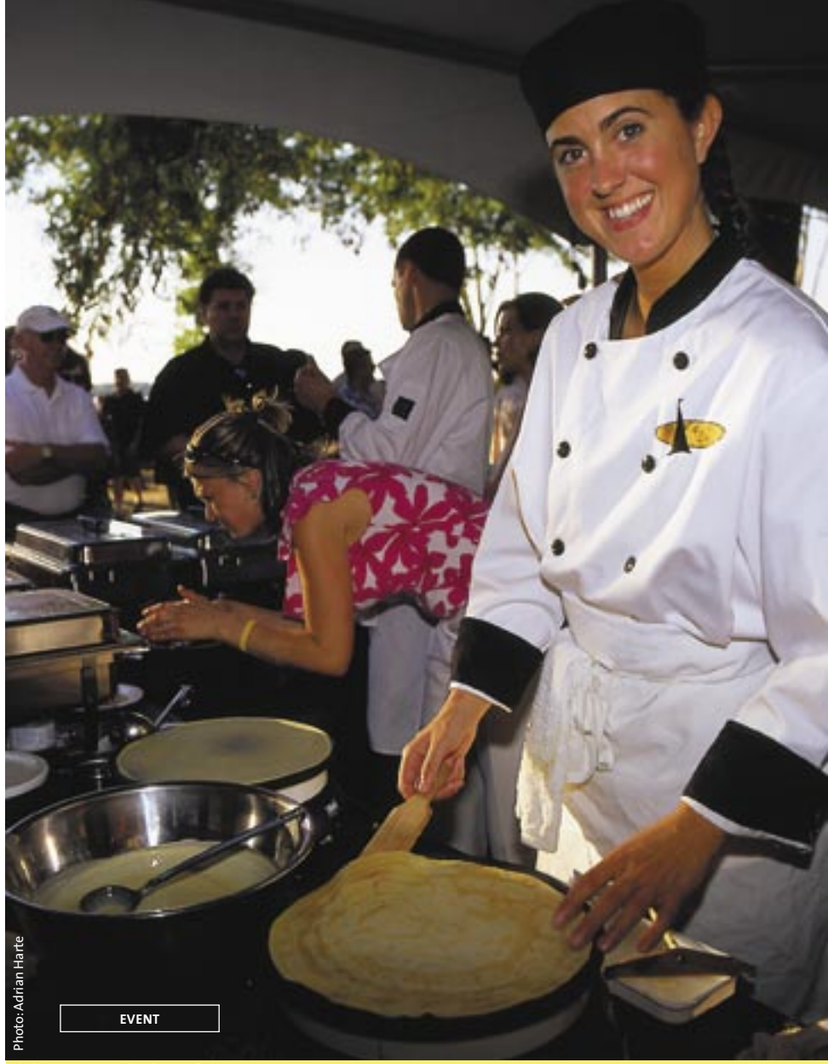

Photo: Adrian Harte

EVENT

Making a crêpe on the shores of Erie

Erie's Days of Wine and Rosés

Breathe in bouquets from a dozen wineries. Nibble on culinary goodness. And absorb the storied heritage of Fort Malden National Historic Site during the Shores of Erie International Wine Festival. As you stroll the grounds, get a tip or two from sommeliers, master winemakers and executive chefs.

Shores of Erie International Wine Festival, Amherstburg
September 7–9
www.soewinefestival.com
(519) 730-1001

in the know

THE ARTS

Renoir: strokes of genius

What better way to show off the vibrant landscape paintings of Renoir than in one of Ontario's most beautifully landscaped cities: Ottawa. For a limited time at the National Gallery of Canada, 60 of the famed French impressionist artist's masterpieces will dazzle spectators with their revolutionary combinations of light and colour. A stroke of genius.

Renoir Landscapes
June 8 – September 9
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
www.national.gallery.ca
1-800-319-2787

Pierre-Auguste Renoir, The Frog Pond, c. 1870, oil on canvas, Milwaukee Art Museum, gift of Jane Bradley Pettit
Photo: John R. Glembin

'Cedar' Moose

Moose feeding

ATTRACTION

If you live in Northern Ontario, chances are you've seen a moose in the wild – perhaps at the side of a road.

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Cedar Meadows Resort, Timmins
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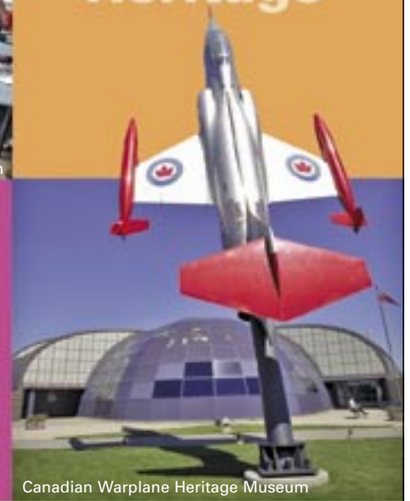
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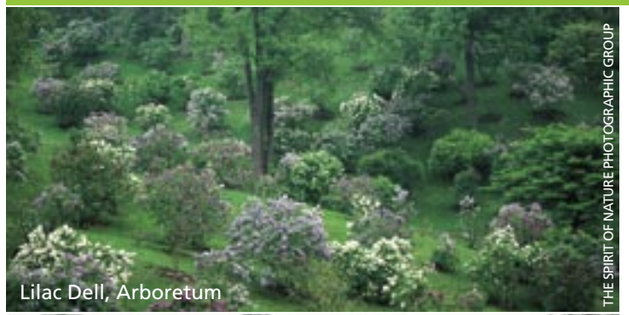
Lilac Dell, Arboretum

THE SPIRIT OF NATURE PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

Laking Garden

Café

Rock Garden

Hendrie Park Gardens

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- TULIP Celebration in Rock Garden (April/May)
- LILAC Celebration in the Arboretum (May/June)
- IRIS and PEONY Celebration in Laking Garden (June)
- ROSE Celebration in Hendrie Park Gardens (July)

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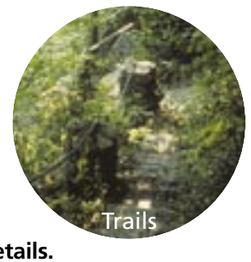
1-800-694-4769


Trails

Call or visit www.rbg.ca for details.

Toronto

SULTRY SUMMER'S

festival fun

What's better than enjoying a festival in Ontario? How about two festivals? Or three? Every weekend (and many weekdays) there's something extraordinary being celebrated: food, music, more food, art and cultures. Start by visiting **ontariotravel.net/summer** to view a list of this summer's favourite events.

SUMMER EVENTS LISTING

May

1000 Islands Jazz Festival
Brockville, May 3–12

Canadian Tulip Festival
Ottawa, May 4–21

Springfest
Toronto, May 5

The Living Green Fair
Port Hope, May 5

38th Annual Niagara Folk Arts Festival
St. Catharines, May 11–27

Sheep Shearing Festival
Ottawa, May 19–21

Lilac Festival
Hamilton, May 19–27

Waterloo County International Quilt Festival
Waterloo, May 23–26

Carassauga Festival
Mississauga, May 25–27

Colborne Cramahe Apple Blossom Tyme Festival
Colborne, May 26, 27

Gregor's Crossing Medieval Faire
Chatham, May 31 – June 3

June

Luminato
Toronto, June 1–10

Welland Rose Festival
Welland, June 2–17

Burlington Sound of Music Festival
Burlington, June 14–17

Distillery Blues Festival
Toronto, June 15–17

Festival Franco-ontarien
Ottawa, June 15–17

Mississauga Waterfront Festival
Mississauga, June 15–17

Canadian Tulip Festival, Ottawa

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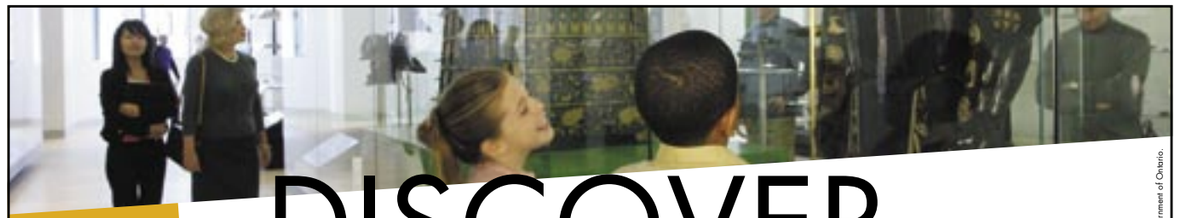

DISCOVER

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ROM Royal Ontario Museum
www.rom.on.ca

Festival Franco-ontarien, Ottawa

Photo: François Lachapelle

Photo: François Lachapelle

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Festival Franco-ontarien, Ottawa

SUMMER EVENTS LISTING continued

Pride Week 2007
Toronto, June 15–24

Harbourfront Centre World Routes Summer 2007
Toronto, June 15 – September 3

Flower City Parade
Brampton, June 16

Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival
Toronto, June 16, 17

TD Canada Trust Ottawa International Jazz Festival
Ottawa, June 21 – July 1

Festival de la St. Jean Baptiste de la region de Kapuskasing
Kapuskasing, June 22, 23

Oakville Waterfront Festival
Oakville, June 22–24

Kingfest Music Celebration
King City, June 23, 24

Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Festival
Kitchener, June 23, 24

Peterborough Summer Festival of Lights
Peterborough, June 23–August 25

It's Your Festival
Hamilton, June 29 – July 2

July

Canada Day Celebrations
Ottawa, July 1

Fringe of Toronto Theatre Festival
Toronto, July 4–15

World Famous Sunset Ceremonies
Kingston, July 4 – August 29

Italian Festival
Sudbury, July 5–8

Grand Prix of Toronto
Toronto, July 6–8

Kincardine Scottish Festival
Kincardine, July 6–8

Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition
Toronto, July 6–8

Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest
Ottawa, July 6–15

Kingston Buskers Rendezvous
Kingston, July 12–15

Great Rendezvous Festival
Thunder Bay, July 12–16

Belleville Waterfront and Ethnic Festival
Belleville, July 13–15

Art of Being Green Festival
Lanark, July 14, 15

Rotary Fest, The Sault's Summer Festival
Sault Ste. Marie, July 19–21

Bayfest Concert Weekend
Sarnia, July 19–22

Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival
Toronto, July 19 – October 7

Beaches International Jazz Festival
Toronto, July 20–29

Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival
Ottawa, July 21 – August 4

Collingwood Elvis Festival
Collingwood, July 26–29

Fergus Truck Show
Fergus, July 26–29

Mattawa Voyageur Days
Mattawa, July 26–29

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ONTARIO CANADA

culture crunch

Photo: Caruso Club

Sudbury Italian Festival

Luminato

Toronto's first ever festival of arts and creativity looks like a keeper. You can attend dazzling events, like burlesque shows, slam poetry competitions, live concerts in Yorkville and a new 'comedy oratorio' from Eric Idle, based on Monty Python's *Life of Brian* (just to name a few).

Luminato, Toronto
June 1–10
www.luminato.ca
(416) 368-3100

Italian Festival

Give boredom 'the boot' this weekend, as you celebrate everything Italian in Sudbury. Cheer on young Italian talent, devour fresh pasta and release your inner child on carnival rides.

Italian Festival, Sudbury
July 5–8
www.mysudbury.ca
(705) 675-1357

L: Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Fergus

SUMMER EVENTS LISTING continued

Hillside Festival
Guelph, July 27–29

Kapuskasing Annual Lumberjack Heritage Festival
Kapuskasing, July 27–29

August

Rockhound Gemboree
Bancroft, August 2–5

London Balloon Festival
London, August 2–6

Glengarry Highland Games
Maxville, August 3, 4

Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival
Port Colborne, August 3–6

North Bay Heritage Festival
North Bay, August 3–6

Kempenfest 2007
Barrie, August 4–6

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games
Fergus, August 10–12

14th Annual Ottawa Folk Festival
Ottawa, August 16–19

Havelock Country Jamboree
Havelock, August 16–19

Summerfolk 2007
Owen Sound, August 17–19

Canadian National Exhibition
Toronto, August 17 – September 3

Tecumseh Corn Festival
Tecumseh, August 23–26

Toronto International BuskerFest
Toronto, August 23–26

Limestone City Blues Festival
Kingston, August 23–27

Ukrainian Culture Festival
Toronto, August 31 – September 3

Caribana, Toronto

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

We're doing Moore at the AGO!

Henry Moore, *Draped Reclining Woman*, 1952–53, original plaster. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, gift of Henry Moore, 1974. © 2007 Art Gallery of Ontario

Henry Moore had new ideas about the human form. We also have new ideas about experiencing art and we invite you to test them out. Visit, try on a few and tell us what you think. You can help shape tomorrow's AGO today!

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06/43

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Buckhorn

OUR PROVINCIAL PARKS HAVE MORE SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS

May

Festival of Flight
Rondeau Provincial Park
April 28–May 21

Mother's Day Spring Celebration
Sandbanks Provincial Park
May 13

Norm Chesterfield Birding Day
Wheatley Provincial Park
May 16

Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend
Presqu'ile Provincial Park
May 19, 20

Huron Fringe Birding Festival
MacGregor Point Provincial Park
May 25 – June 3

Spring Loon Count
Killarney Provincial Park
May 26

June

Art Centre Opening
Algonquin Provincial Park
June 23

July

Canoe Quest
Quetico Provincial Park
To September 30

Park Daze
Rushing River Provincial Park
July 2

Family Fishing Weekend
All parks
July 6–8

Superior, Sand & Sun Celebration
Neys Provincial Park
July 13–15

Water and Wetlands Weekend
Blue Lake Provincial Park
July 20

Art Exhibition and Sale
Bon Echo Provincial Park
July 27–29

Wasaga Under Siege
Wasaga Beach Provincial Park
July 27–29

Annual Canoe Regatta
Rainbow Falls Provincial Park
July 28

Logging Days
Halfway Lake Provincial Park
July 29

August

50th Anniversary
Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park
August 3–6

History Weekend
Presqu'ile Provincial Park
August 4, 5

Festival of the Giant
Sleeping Giant Provincial Park
August 10–12

Annual Kids' Fishing Derby
Wheatley Provincial Park
August 25, 26

Photo: Ontario Parks

Wasaga Under Siege – A War of 1812 Experience

For a complete listing of all park events and to make reservations visit **www.OntarioParks.com**

Nick & Emily's
Vacation Guide
to Northern Ontario Canada

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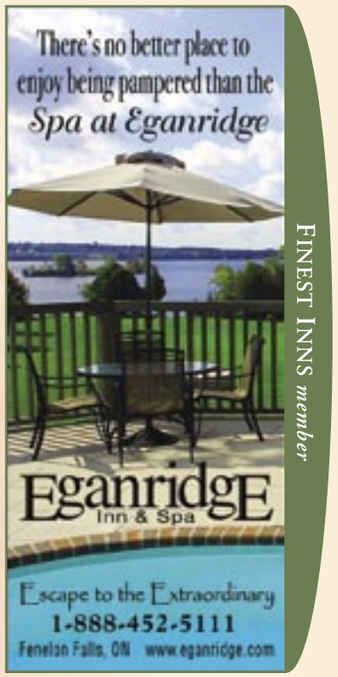
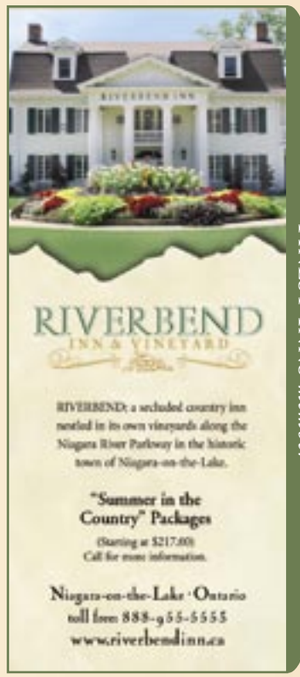


FINEST INNS *member*

FINEST INNS *member*



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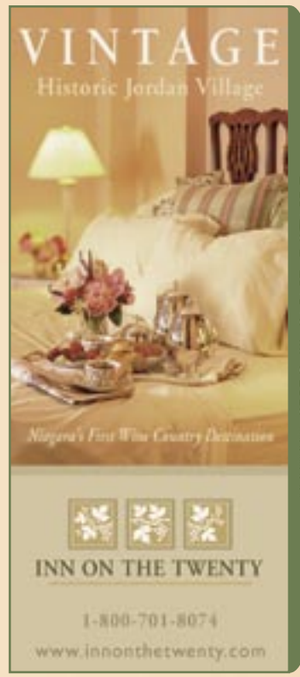

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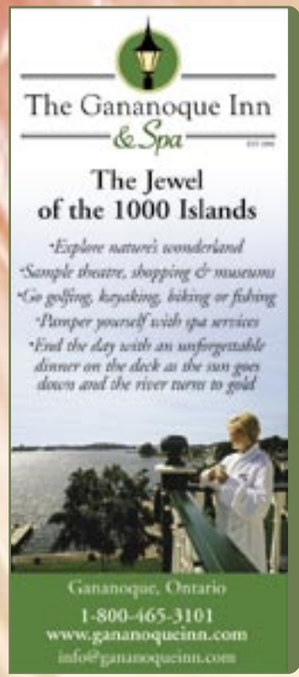

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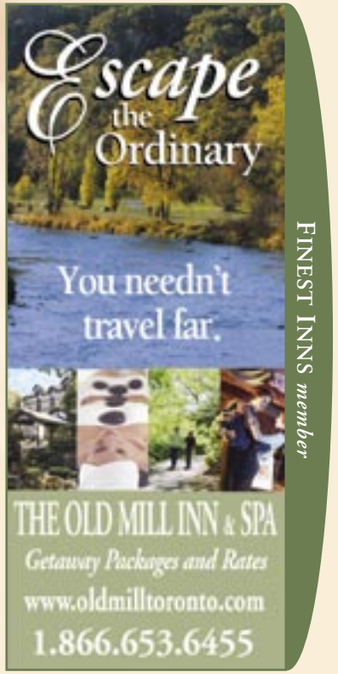

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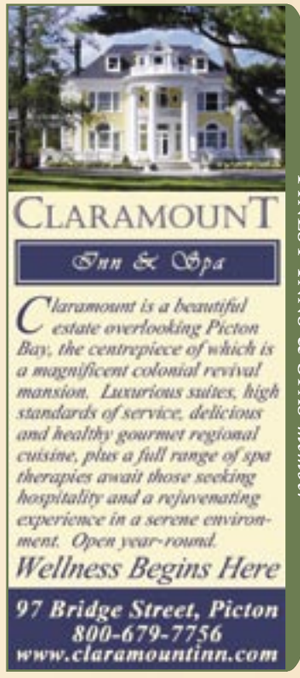

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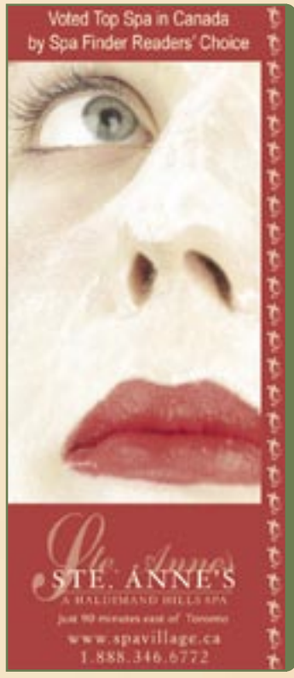

FINEST INNS & SPAS *member*

FINEST INNS & SPAS *member*

cool kids hot resorts

Photo: Terry Scott-White

Fern Resort

Becoming a teenager is a turning point for many girls and boys. Not just physically and emotionally. Their ideas of dream summer vacations change too. Sorry mom and dad, they probably don't like singing camp songs around a fire with the family as much as they used to. Consider switching up your travel plans to accommodate their growing desire to hang out on their own or with friends.

Ontario's resorts have extensive programs geared towards this fickle age group. Best part for your budding adults? They get to meet new friends their own age. Best part for you? Peace of mind knowing that your kids are having a blast while you do too.

Photo: Clevelands House Resort

Waterskiing, Lake Rosseau, Muskoka

The Delawana Inn & Resort, rated the Best Summer Resort in Canada by *City Parent* readers, should be one of the top ones on your 'resorts that teens dig' list. This Honey Harbour resort has a flexible summer program that's geared specifically to 13–17 year olds. Like the teens themselves, there's not much of a rigid schedule – every day is different. They can pick and choose from a ton of awesome things to do with teens just like themselves. They have just about every summer activity imaginable including an overnight teen camp on Royal Island, Delawana's own island on Georgian Bay. If they want to mix it up with a new sport, they can take in a sweet game of koob, an adrenaline-rushing outdoor game using simple wooden pegs and blocks. Google it to find out more.

If your teens can't get enough of water activities, Orillia's Fern Resort on Lake Couchiching is heavenly. Here, teens often find themselves flirting with new friends lakeside, getting soaked in one of the three pools, playing beach or water volleyball, or chilling on a teen cruise. Back on dry land, there's wall climbing and a choreographer-led dance session which they show to parents on Thursday nights. When they need to re-energize, they head to their kid-friendly dining

Teen mountain

With plenty of activities for teens on a pay-per-use system, Blue Mountain Activity Central has golfing, rock climbing, mountain biking, Humvee riding, kayaking, jet skiing, windsurfing, and a lot of other 'stuff'ing.

Blue Mountain Resort
www.bluemountain.ca
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Photo: Sportography

More vertical thrills at Blue Mountain

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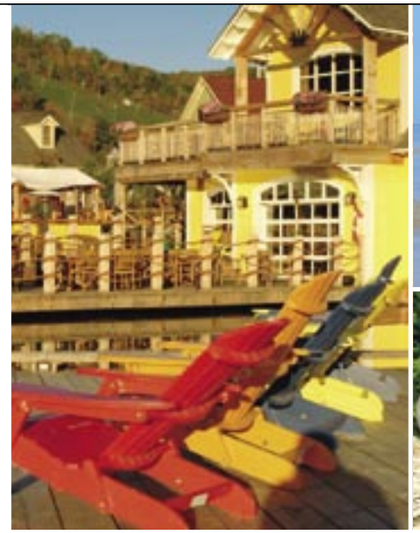

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Photo: Terry Scott-White

Photo: Clevelands House Resort

L–R: Archery; Fern Resort; Golfing at Maple Hills Golf Course, Muskoka

Photo: Terry Scott-White

Teen Squad gathers on the main steps, Delawana Inn

Kewl Resorts

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www.delawana.com
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Clevelands House Resort
www.clevelandshouse.com
1-888-567-1177

Fern Resort
www.fernresort.com
1-800-567-3376

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

For more summer ideas, resort to **ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

room and get to know each other better. Oh, and Fern is family run, so you know that the people here know first-hand how to make sure your kid has a blast.

Yet another sweet kids' program is at Minett's Clevelands House, where 55 counsellors and four directors make it their job to entertain kids from one to 18. To start each day, teens sleep in until 11 a.m. or hang out in the 'no grown-ups allowed' room, watch some TV, play foosball – whatever. Activities like cheerleading workshops, tie-dye workshops and teen lunch dates take up the rest. Off-site, they can take an ice cream cruise and shop-until-they-drop on a trip in Port Carling. Hanging out dockside is commonplace, as is spending time at the beachfront pool.

There's only so much we can say in 500 words, though. Each of these resorts has a lot more to offer your teens.

Radical sports on and off the water, Fern Resort

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EAGLE'S EARTH

SOARS

– By John Farrington

Eagle's Earth is North America's only Aboriginal experience that looks at life prior to European contact in the 1600s.

Photo: Eagle's Earth

Decorative paddles

Photo: John Farrington

Chief Moore in full regalia

The Cree and Ojibway from Constance Lake First Nation have opened up 102 hectares (252 acres) of their traditional hunting grounds, near their reserve on Highway 11 North about 50 kilometres (31 miles) west of Hearst, for this $12 million project expected to be ready by June 2007.

A fabulous interpretive centre, shaped like a feather, blows you away. You just don't expect a building like this in a bush setting.

Multi-coloured banners tell a story of First Nations people; there's a 7,000-year-old arrowhead on display that was found on the site.

Photo: Eagle's Earth

Teepees will sleep four to six people

Photo: Eagle's Earth

Traditional colourful artwork is plentiful

Chief Arthur Moore said, "I can't believe how well everything has come together. All the First Nations people I have spoken with are thrilled with this unique interpretive centre. They say 'it's about time' that a centre was built to look at our heritage – our history before Europeans came to North America.

"Everyone who comes here will be amazed at all we have done to make this as authentic as it can possibly be. We have all learned a lot. We are a people, a nation, that reveres its ancestors. We are really pleased with what has been accomplished right here on our traditional territory," said Chief Moore.

Culturally modified trees – cedars used for paddles and toolmaking – are nearby and there will be tours to see them. They are at least 300 years old. Rather than chop down the cedars to make paddles and tools, huge blocks were cut from the trees hundreds of years ago. The paddles were then made from the blocks. The trees are still standing – and still living.

There's so much here for all the family and it can't be seen in an hour, even a day. That's why they have cabins available for overnight stays and if you really want the Aboriginal experience, there are 20 teepees that sleep up to six each. Adding a true flavour of Aboriginal living, the restaurant will be serving traditional foods, plans are to include moose, goose, rabbit and beaver. It is a major Aboriginal experience with all kinds of things to see and do. Those who run the interpretive centre want to introduce you to their language as well as their way of life, and teach you about their 7,000 years on this land before the Europeans arrived. There are legends and stories that have only been told to members of the Constance Lake community in the past. Now they are ready to share their history and talk about their heritage.

How do you fish without a hook and a line? The Aboriginal people will show you how they used to catch fish by placing rocks in shallow water and trapping the fish. The Shekak River, which flows north to the Arctic, runs through the Eagle's Earth Centre site. There will also be opportunities to canoe and kayak on the river.

You'll be able to make tea from leaves found on the site and there will be workshops about the plants in the area that are used for medicinal purposes and the berries that have been part of their diet for centuries will even be on the dessert plate in season.

Exhibitions of arts, crafts as well as poetry readings and story-telling will happen regularly. There will be live ceremonies and the religious significance of them will be shared. Colourful ceremonial clothing and regalia, such as the dreamcatcher, will be explained. You can also make your own dreamcatcher.

Photo: Eagle's Earth

R: Locally made slippers in the gift shop

Most of the tools and materials used in the displays and workshops will be as authentic as possible. For instance, instead of using knives to work with furs and fish, bones and stones will be the tools. Flints will be used to start fire. All participants will be dressed as their ancestors were more than 300 years ago before styles were introduced by the European fur traders and explorers.

Many of the displays will be in a First Nations village under construction near the feather building. Fourteen interpretive pods are being created in the village using birch bark, held together with gum and roots. "We have harvested 2,700 sheets of birch bark from trees at a nearby birch colony," said Chief Moore, adding, "tonnes of tree gum from spruce and roots from other specialty plants will be harvested and used in the construction of the historical village dwellings."

Pow Wows and festivals featuring music, dance, theatre and film will be a staple of the activities.

You'll be talking about this one-of-a-kind experience around the water cooler at work and the kids will have plenty of things to write about for that first-week-of-school essay 'What I did on my summer vacation.'

This will be a national treasure for years to come.

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

Eagle's Earth
www.eaglesearth.com
(705) 262-2020

For more interesting activities and for all your travel and accommodation needs visit **ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

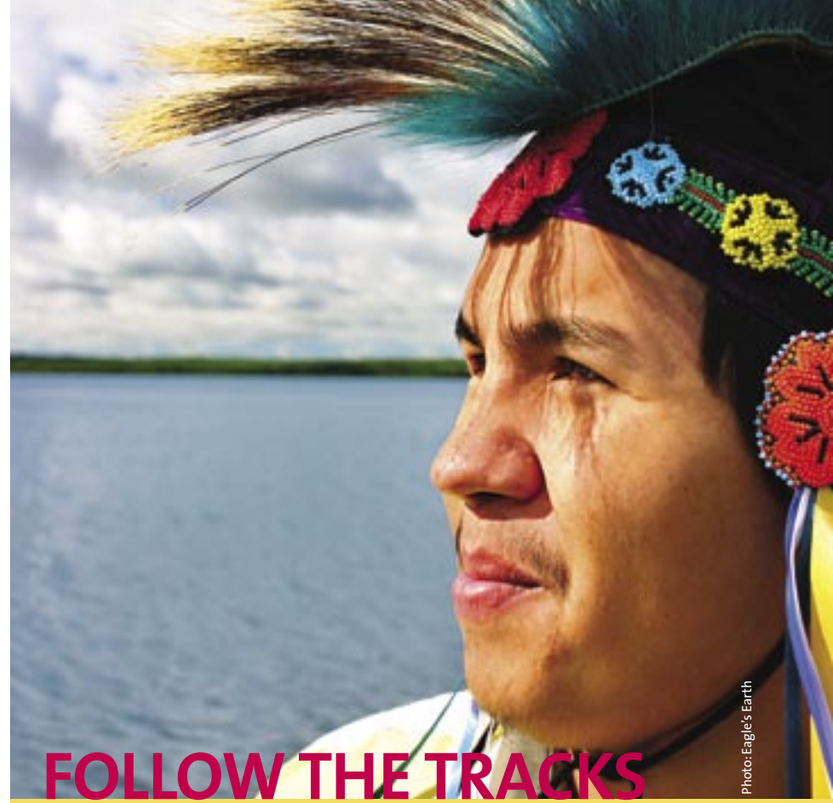

Photo: Eagle's Earth

FOLLOW THE TRACKS

For years Algoma Central Railway has been running a train several times a week year-round from Sault Ste. Marie to Hearst, a 476 km (296 mile) journey.

Many travellers are expected to take this rail trip to visit Eagle's Earth and stay at hotels and motels in Hearst, even at Eagle's Earth where accommodation will be available in cabins and teepees.

The train goes through the spectacular Agawa Canyon, a popular visitor attraction for many years. Also on the way is the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve, the world's largest wildlife sanctuary. It covers 8,000 square kilometres (3,000 square miles). Remember to watch out for moose, after all at the end of the rails is Hearst, a community that proudly calls itself the Moose Capital of Canada.

This train has been serving hunters, fishermen, and more lately ATVers and snowmobilers, for many years. It's a train that stops anywhere the travellers want to start their vacation. Birding, hiking and mountain biking are prevalent. Don't forget to pack your camera. Remember, this is the train the Group of Seven artists used to take to get into untouched, even unseen countryside.

The train ride is a major part of the trip. Coupled with a day or two at Eagle's Earth – here's a one-of-a-kind vacation that exposes you to wildlife, culture and heritage in the remote beauty that is Northern Ontario.

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

check out the Centre OF ALGONQUIN

"Algonquin is just this huge playground," said Rick Stronks, Chief Park Naturalist of Algonquin Provincial Park. It's his simple way to sum up everything about one of Canada's most popular parks – where deciduous and coniferous trees blend, where thousands of life forms share lush habitats and where countless visitors come to reconnect with the great outdoors with canoes, fishing rods and hiking shoes.

Algonquin Provincial Park

Algonquin Park Visitor Centre

Occasionally, animals such as bears, moose and wolves will make an appearance just outside of the centre.

A first stop in the park for wilderness enthusiasts is the popular Algonquin Park Visitor Centre, located 43 km (27 mi.) from the West Gate on Highway 60, the main road running through the park.

"The restaurant has a great view of the valley...there is Algonquin art...and there are trails right in the area," said Rick of this beautiful building, opened in 1993 to celebrate Algonquin's centennial year.

The Spruce Bog Boardwalk, just a stone's throw from the visitor centre, is one of 14 walking trails along the Highway 60 corridor. At 1.5 km, it's an easy hour-long walk affording great views of birds, animals and a marshy landscape. Occasionally, animals such as bears, moose and wolves will make an appearance just outside of the centre.

Also on-site is a museum, detailing the park's natural and human history, from logging days through to kids' camps and the various resorts that have called this breathtaking wilderness home.

But a visitor's experience doesn't end there.

"A 12-minute video presentation really sums up the whole park: the cultural and natural histories and why the park is special

Fresh look at **the wild**

If you haven't realized it yet, visitors' centres are great spots to start exploring Ontario's most fascinating parks. The new Bruce Peninsula and Fathom Five Visitors Centre in Tobermory has a high-definition theatre, local artists' gallery and a 20-metre (66-foot) tower where the stunning beauty of its islands fully reveal themselves. On the east coast of Georgian Bay, Killbear Provincial Park's eco-friendly centre is turning heads. It uses a ground-source pump for heating and cooling and other really neat things you'll have to see to believe. And, just last summer, French River Provincial Park's Visitor Centre opened, packed with fresh perspectives on the diverse people who used this historic waterway.

The new visitor centre for Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park, opened summer 2006 in Tobermory.

The visitor centre features a 20 m tower, offering a birds-eye-view of the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

Photo: Parks Canada/Ethan Meleg

Photo: Parks Canada/Ethan Meleg

Kids enjoying the dynamic exhibits that show the wildlife that live throughout the Bruce Peninsula.

Photo: Parks Canada/Ethan Meleg

to people all over the world." Rick continues, "And in July and August, there are kids' programs." And not the boring kind, by any means – stuff like *Algonquin Underwater* and *Death, Decay and Dung Beetles*.

Just one of the many Ontarians who flocked to Algonquin last summer, Lisa D. spoke to *Ontario Travel Discoveries* about her experience. "It's really nice…one of the nicest visitor's centres I've ever been to." She took in the whole experience with her fiancé, sampling the food, taking in the panoramic vistas and admiring the wildlife displays.

So, when you visit Algonquin this summer, stop by the centre and get a sneak peek into this piece of Ontario's history before you begin an historic adventure of your own.

Killbear Provincial Park's new Visitor Centre

Algonquin Provincial Park

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Visitor Centre: **(613) 637-2828**
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The Friends of Algonquin Park
www.algonquinpark.on.ca

Bruce Peninsula National Park (Parks Canada)
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For more on discovering Ontario's provincial parks, visit **ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

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wild ride

– By Sue Lebrecht

Being a little off-centre, balance is not my strong point. It's an aspect of myself that's quite apparent when I'm on a bike trying to ride a straight line along a plank that's raised knee-high off the ground.

My boyfriend Morris and I are scoping out the 30 different technical features that highlight the trails at Bruce Peninsula Mountain Bike Adventure Park north of Wiarton. I'm intrigued, transfixed even, by both the challenge and the ingenuity of the various features. Amidst the cedar and hardwood forest, we're encountering roller coaster-like boardwalks, suspended bridges between boulders, steep ramps, teeter-totters, rock ladders and more.

Balance isn't all that's being put to the test here; the park is challenging my very composure. For every feature that's easy, wide, fun and doable, there are others that are beyond my ability. In facing this latter group I find myself sitting stopped on my bike staring with absolute helplessness.

There's a 12-metre (40-foot) long beam with a teeter-totter at its end. It is an exercise in concentration, riding an endless straight line to an up-angled plank that swings down

Photo: © Mark Landry for Blue Mountain Resort

Blue Mountain, Collingwood

At Ewok Village, 'skinnys' (very narrow planks) span devilish gaps between boulders.

Photo: Bruce County Tourism

Photo: Bruce County Tourism

L–R: Ewok Village and Junk Yard Dog; Bruce Peninsula Mountain Bike Adventure Park

downhill thriller

Riding up the gondola at Blue Mountain I catch brief glimpses of the thrill to come. Below me on the edge of a strip of forest, mountain bikers are careening around tight turns on high berms, whooping and hollering as if on a roller coaster. Energy radiates, even on the lift with fellow passengers regaling their experiences.

Facing my first run, however, I'm unnerved. The steeps, roots, rocks, drops and tight angles are pushing my buttons. Downhilling is far more intense than biking on cross-country trails I realize, though I am taking delight in the downhill-specific rental bike.

Its tires bite on corners, the full suspension absorbs the bumps, and the hydraulic brakes respond forcefully to my lightest touch. Indeed, it's as sturdy and capable as can be. It's fun. Perhaps the only thing holding me back is my own inhibitions. Hmm, time will tell.

Photo: © Sportography, courtesy Blue Mountain Resort

R: Gondola, Blue Mountain

Photo: Sue Lebrecht

Bruce Peninsula Mountain Bike Adventure Park

when you reach its apex. At Ewok Village 'skinnys' (very narrow planks) span devilish gaps between boulders.

I regain my ego on the looped trails that penetrate the farther reaches, though these too are challenging, keeping me in constant alertness, maneuvering the bike over roots and rocks. Reaching Boulder City, I park again and watch as Morris tackles and conquers the drops. It's in moments like these, watching him, when I just want to reach out and give him a shove.

– Adventure writer Sue Lebrecht is the author of 11 guidebooks.

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1-800-ONTARIO.

Blue Mountain Bike Park

Photo: © Marc Landy, courtesy Blue Mountain Resort

Hooked on fishing

– By James Smedley

I've always wondered if it would be possible to tire from catching brook trout on a fly. It's never happened and I strongly suspect it never will. But, as an insatiable trout angler, it's fun trying. And if there's any place to overdose on 'big brookies' it's the far north's Sutton River: fabled trout waters flowing 100 km (62 mi.) from Hawley Lake north to Hudson Bay.

Photo: James Smedley

Hawley Lake

Photo: James Smedley

Photo: James Smedley

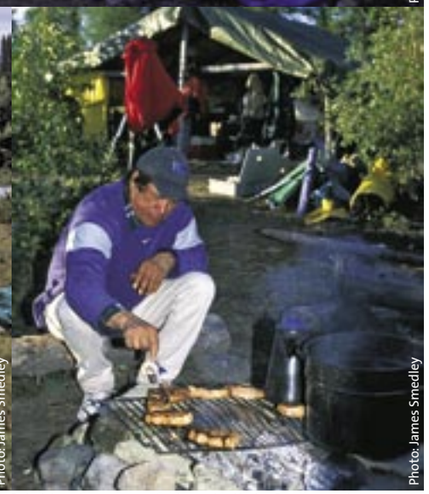
Photo: James Smedley

Top: Outpost cooking facilities, Canoe Frontier; Bottom L–R: Arriving at base camp; fishing guide Xavier Chookomoulin

So after 330 air miles from Pickle Lake, I board a freighter canoe with Cree guide Xavier Chookomoulin and a trio of anglers from Maine for a four-hour downstream run to a shoreline base camp central to the Sutton's best water. We remain at the pine-shrouded tent camp long enough to stash our gear and rig rods before climbing back into the big, wood-canvas canoe.

Chookomoolin lands along a grassy bank, points to a series of gravel riffles emptying into darkening pools and says, "Fish here." I tie on a Joe's Hopper and let it dead drift with the current. Just as it enters the darkening water at the head of a shallow pool, a three-pound brook trout is airborne. I let out an involuntary yelp as it crashes down on my fly. It's several minutes before I tail the be-speckled creature and pop out the barbless hook.

It's the first in a procession of brazen trout that club my fly with reckless

Fly-fishing in Grand style

Mention of fly-fishing in Southern Ontario instantly evokes images of the Grand River. Annual stocking of 20,000 brown trout and the habitat enhancement of tributary streams have meshed with the rich natural food base to elevate the Grand to one of the best trout streams in North America. Prime trout waters extend 30 km (19 mi.) downstream from the Shand Dam near Fergus, south to the village of West Montrose.

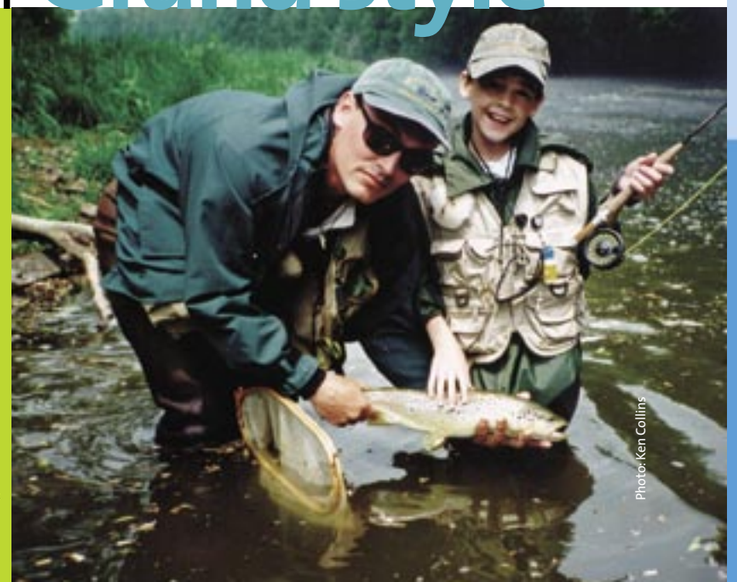
Photo: Ken Collins

Grand River Troutfitters

abandon and indicative of the next four days fishing this definitive trout stream. Shores of grass, sand, rock and pine funnel clear water through shallow riffles, swift runs and deep swirling pools. Legions of two to five-pound brook trout are everywhere they should be, displaying an aggressiveness and naiveté that transforms the novice fly angler to expert.

As expected, I never tire of catching brook trout on a fly but I do reach a level of contentment that allows me to put down my rod and relax along the riverbank without worrying about catching another fish. This is indeed a rare occurrence, a sign of true angling satisfaction, as rare and precious as the Sutton River itself.

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

Photo: James Smedley

ON THE fly

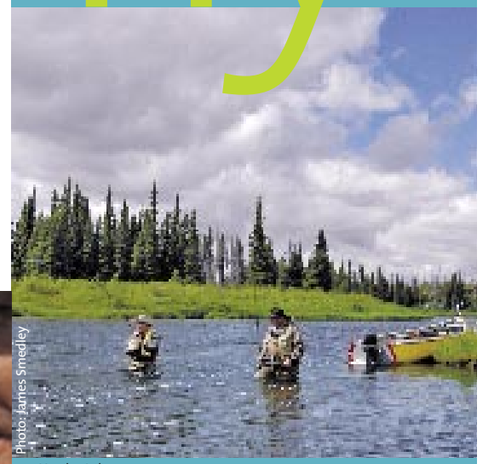

Photo: James Smedley

Hawley Lake

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L: Sutton River brook trout

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Next, experience something entirely different: the cutting edge in interactive adventure-gaming at **Playdium**. Treat the kids — imaginations grow when young minds can become action heroes, dancers, musicians, race car drivers and fighter pilots in the same place.

If a relaxing dip in the lazy river or a thrilling slide-ride inspires you, **Wild Water Kingdom** awaits — there's no better retreat from the summer heat. A refreshing reprieve from the sun can also be found at **Paramount Canada's Wonderland's** sensational 20-acre Splash Works waterpark — ride the waves with the kids and then dry off on one (or all) of the 200 adrenalin-charged roller coasters and amusement rides.

For adventurous young minds, Toronto is a cavalcade of wonderful destinations designed to inspire, engage and invigorate. For adventurous parents, it's a place where you can enjoy your children's excitement while playing right alongside — it's a recipe for a dynamic family experience like nowhere else.

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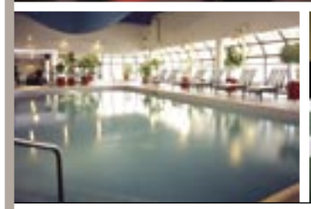

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L–R: ChumCity building; CBC Museum

unlimited fun in TORONTO'S ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

– By Betty Zyvatkauskas

"Hey, mom, can we go downtown?"

When my youngest daughter, Amelia, was 12 years old nothing held more appeal than a trip downtown. Invariably that meant hanging out in Toronto's Entertainment District, that eight-by-eight-square-block neighbourhood between Yonge and Spadina, south of Queen, that encapsulates all the elements of big city entertainment: theatres, dining, pro sports, great shopping and major hotels and attractions. There's so much here that virtually everyone who visits Toronto, visits the Entertainment District.

L: Fans greet their favourite icons and VJs at MuchMusic

We used to walk down Queen Street to see the CityPulse news car seemingly bursting from the side of the ChumCity building or watch for her favourite VJs and music celebrities arriving for a MuchMusic show. When she was older, getting on one of the music shows, like *Much on Demand* was always a thrill. Others seek their fleeting moment of television fame at Speakers Corner where anyone with a loonie can use the 24-hour video booth to record a message that may make it to air.

My style is more CBC, preferring a visit to the national broadcaster's museum on Front Street for a nostalgic look at the Friendly Giant's castle, or the nifty gadgets used to produce radio drama sound effects before digital recording.

Ace, the popular Blue Jays mascot

Whatever we are in the mood for, from ballet to ball games, we find it in the Entertainment District. Evenings of high culture at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts or summer afternoons at the Rogers Centre (formerly the SkyDome) with hot dogs and home runs.

Before the game, many ball fans head for the city's favourite microbrewery, located in a 1929 railway roundhouse virtually across the street from the stadium. Steam Whistle Brewery tours and its pilsner samples are popular with the pre-game set. Kids are enchanted with the little bags of free popcorn. "Sure you can help yourself."

For special nights we love dressing up in our best downtown duds to see a big musical at the Princess of Wales or Royal Alexandra theatres. Theatre is at the heart of the Entertainment District, from the intimate Glenn Gould Theatre in the CBC building, favoured for classical or jazz concerts, to the Second

A 1929 railway roundhouse is now the city's favourite microbrewery

Cheering on the Jays is a family affair

City's newest venue, Diesel Playhouse, for a comedy cabaret.

Sometimes the fun is in doing nothing more than hanging out. We look through the Queen Street shops, visiting our favourites in turn and laughing at our different tastes. Amelia searches for skate shoes at So Hip It Hurts, then I seek out the perfect walking shoes at Mountain Equipment Co-Op. She examines shelves of collector comics at Silver Snail, and then I peruse Victorian pottery at the Toronto Antique Centre on King Street West (formerly the Harbourfront Antique Market).

This is a neighbourhood of surprises: a place where the city's historic buildings butt up against some of its newest, like the 1876 St. Andrew's Church whose Romanesque revival stone walls are reflected in the glass office towers next door. The church, known for its work with the homeless, is also a charming concert venue.

Some of the most delightful discoveries are the 22 sculptures to be found on these streets. We love Cynthia

Top–bottom: Hummingbird Centre; Queen West shopping

Royal Alexandra Theatre

100 THE ROYAL ALEX TURNS

It could be said that the Entertainment District began when the Royal Alexandra Theatre first opened its King Street doors in 1907. In the century that followed, a steady stream of great performers, from the Marx Brothers to Sir John Gielgud, has graced her stage, and generations of audiences have enjoyed the luxury of her gilded plaster and red velvet seats.

Although today's audiences love her as a comfortable Edwardian grande dame, with all her period finery – from crystal chandeliers to hand-carved woodwork – the young Royal Alex was an architectural innovation. Industrialist Cawthra Mulock set out to create the finest theatre on the continent, spending lavishly and hiring prominent Canadian architect John M. Lyle whose design called for the first steel frame-supported theatre, thereby enabling cantilevered balconies and dispensing with support pillars that obstructed sightlines. Its audiences were among the first to enjoy an early form of air conditioning, thanks to a massive ice pit.

When Ed Mirvish took over the theatre in the 1960s, the area had become run down and the once-grand venue was scheduled for demolition. Its restoration spurred the proliferation of restaurants and attractions that revitalized the area now known as the Entertainment District.

Royal Alexandra Theatre
www.mirvish.com
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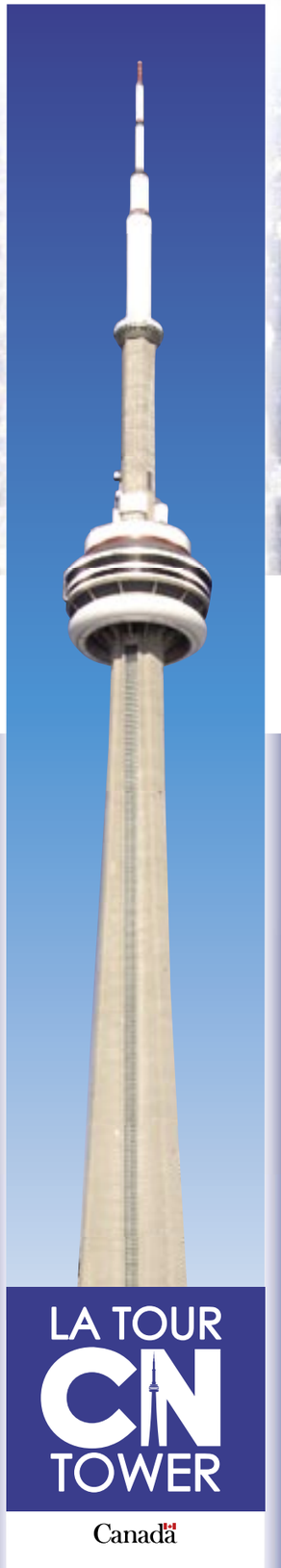

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Hurley's little herd of bronze figures that inhabits the tiny lawn on John Street south of Metro Hall and Eldon Garnet's moving Memorial to Commemorate the Chinese Railway Workers in Canada.

With dozens of restaurants to choose from, you'd think we could agree on a lunch spot. If my daughter picks it's likely to be pizza slices to go, but if I have my choice we're heading for an Indian buffet lunch. When out-of-town friends join us, we choose the CN Tower's revolving restaurant, 360, for views all the way to Niagara Falls.

Now my daughter has her first job, working in a record shop on the edge of the Entertainment District, but we still find time to hang out. "Hey, mom, can you meet me downtown after work for dinner and an IMAX® movie?"

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

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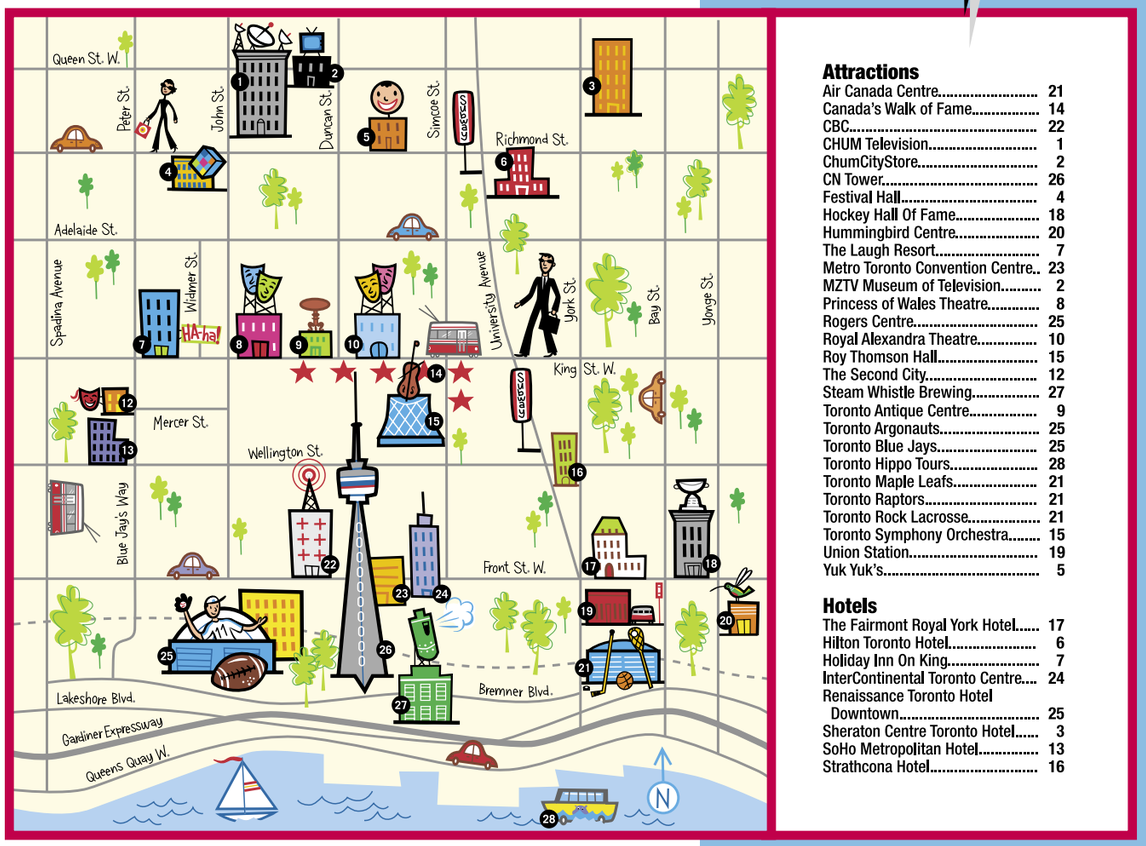
For more exciting things to do in the Entertainment District and throughout Toronto, visit **ontariotravel.net/summer** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Toronto Entertainment District



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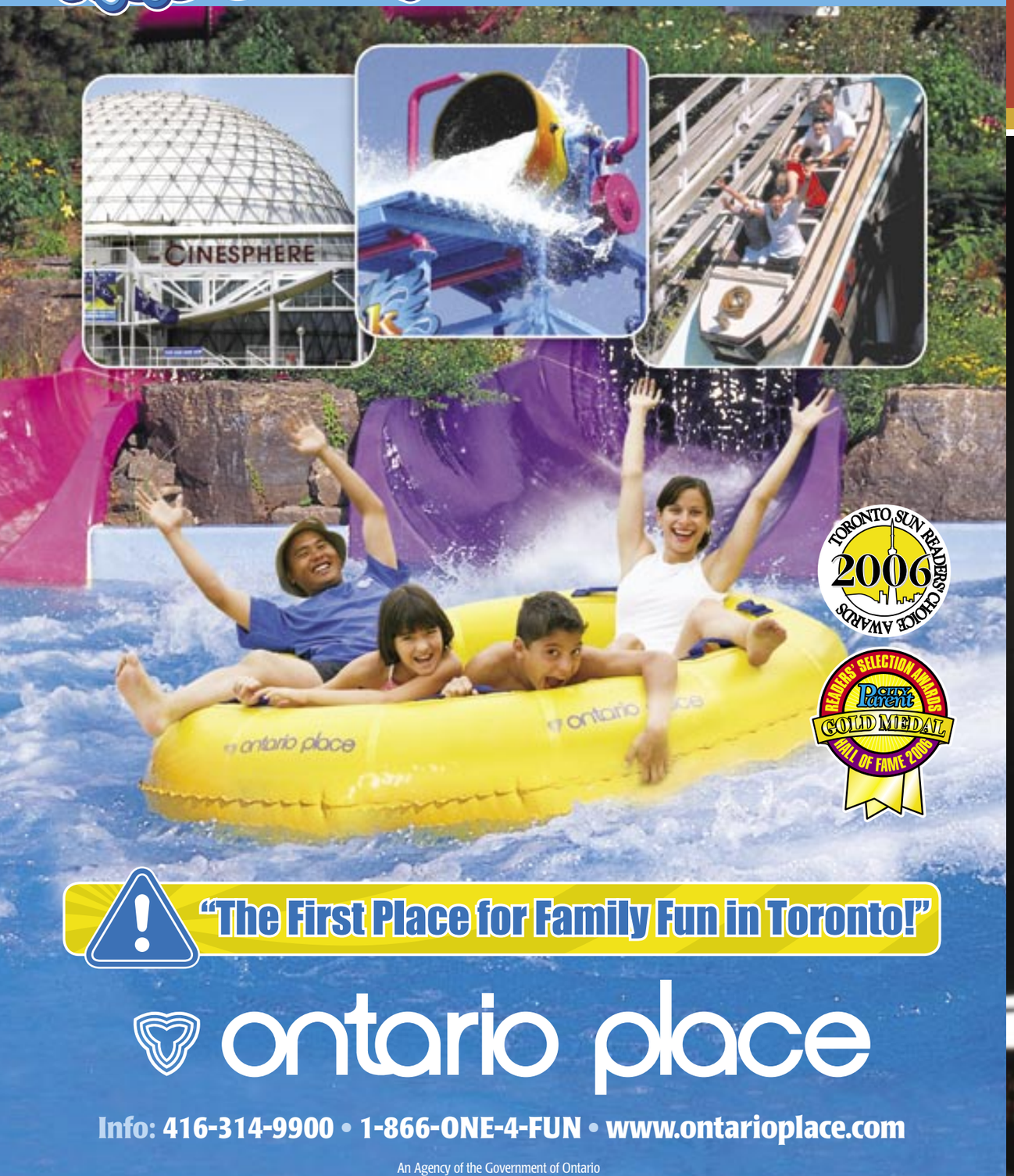

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– By Jacquelyn Waller-Vintar

Photo: Jacquelyn Waller-Vintar

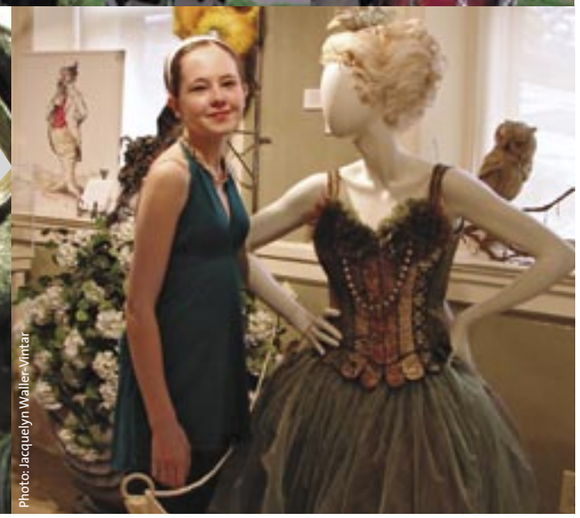

Photo: Jacquelyn Waller-Vintar

Top: Stratford; bottom L–R: Knight enjoying the backstage tour; Princess pleased with the selection of gowns

I had the privilege of growing up in Stratford, Ontario, home to the then-named Stratford Shakespearean Theatre. I learned early on that hundreds of kids are brought in by the busload every year to see plays. You knew them when you saw them: sullen-faced, shoe scuffing hordes of dressed-up victims, roped into two-and-a-half hours of the bard.

My, have things changed!

Theatre for kids has exploded in Ontario where the stage now comes to the kids. The quality of touring productions that come to our schools has grown by leaps and bounds, and there really is no rival to the outstanding Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People (LKTYP) in Toronto. But come the end of June, when schools close and LKTYP works on its upcoming season, summer theatre for kids abounds.

I now live in Toronto, with three very theatrical children: my Princess, age 15, my Knight, age 13, and my Jester, age 5. We made our summer theatre plan to include the two biggies, Stratford Festival Theatre and Shaw Festival, and The Dream in High Park. These three offer special family experiences, as you will soon see.

STRATFORD

The Festival Theatre has long been savvy to theatre-going families, and the Family Experience is a carefully honed collection of features designed to promote understanding and fun for all ages, from age recommendations for each show, special ticket prices for kids under 18 (up to four kids per family), coupons for businesses in town, a house program geared to young viewers, an ambitious chance to participate in staging and singing, even sword-play lessons for 15 to 18 year olds (hopefully more dates will be added this year!). We picked a tour of the new (relatively speaking) costume warehouse, a backstage tour and *Twelfth Night*.

The warehouse tour began with a nice introduction while sitting down beside massive iron horses from *Arms and the Man*, and ended with a very nicely framed reading of the riot act. No touching, no squeezing, no brushing up against any of the costumes. All three children got the hairy eyeball from me,

Photo: Richard Bain, 2005

Young Family room participant

and it rested on the five-year-old Jester longest of all.

Then we began the tour of more than 150,000 costumes, weapons, boots, hats, belts and more. Jester tugged my sleeve and pointed out a 50-ish man running his thumb along the length of a black boot, then a star-struck 20-something fingering a piece of lace, and finally a woman brazenly holding out a cloak like she was considering asking for it in her size! "Is it tough to police this collection?" I asked the volunteer tour leader. "Oh yes," she said, "and the children are usually the best behaved." Smug mother moment. Once we got to the back of the warehouse though, the real fun began. There were three big racks with cloaks and capes, dresses and vests, every manner of theatrical garb, all for the trying on. Princess slid into a golden gown, the Knight into a puffed-up jacket, and the Jester, pretty tiny for most of the outfits, contented himself with a headpiece and attached beard. We even saw the anatomically correct severed head from Henry VI. It was invaluable for the kids to be able to handle the clothing, see how tough and well constructed they are, and to get an idea of what it would be like to wear one of those costumes under the lights for even five minutes.

Photo: Shin Sugino Studios

Ric Reid (centre) and members of the company, *Mack and Mabel*

Next day we did the backstage tour, which starts off with a very kid-oriented fact: the two exits at the lower front of the stage lead to the vomitorium. This led to much giggling from my Jester, and thanks to the recall of my Knight, started a discussion on something we had learned the day before at the warehouse tour: that sometimes, when costumes are a bit stained and sweaty, but cannot be dry cleaned too frequently, they simply get sprayed with pure vodka! After some shushing, the tour continued.

The play we saw was *Twelfth Night*, a weird coincidence that served us well, since the similarities between it and *A Comedy of Errors* (see sidebar, next page) made it seem very easy for Jester to understand (never mind now that he thinks most plays involve a shipwreck, drinking and very confused actors).

Where to go?
Check ASTRO

No matter where your travels in Ontario take you this summer, you can catch local theatre, an activity made all the more accessible by ASTRO, the Association of Summer Theatres 'Round Ontario. This group now numbers over 30 theatres. From the Blyth Festival to the Red Barn Theatre to The Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, you can plan your trip yourself, or explore one of the getaway packages of theatre, meals and accommodations.

Photo: Robert Burcher

Theatre Collingwood's 2006 production of *They're Playing Our Song*. Grant Tilly, Regan Thiel, Andrew Hodwitz, Natalie Baillargeon

Again, the backstage tour proved a success, since the kids recognized various pieces of scenery, and knew exactly where the actors went when they exited the stage.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

What did we do in Niagara-on-the-Lake that the kids loved and had nothing to do with theatre? Well, we stayed in a hotel owned by Paris Hilton's family! Princess and Knight were pretty impressed with that, and with the hot tub just three steps from the pool.

The Shaw Festival, dedicated to 'plays about the beginning of the modern world by George Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries,' has three theatres. We were in luck that we were seeing Cole Porter's *High Society*, because it was being performed at the Festival Theatre, the same theatre where backstage tours are given three days a week.

Throughout the tour of the new facilities (completed 2005) Princess marvelled at the completed costumes set out for display, and the tiny replicas being made by the apprentices.

The Jester commented on how there "must be about a million stairs back here," while the Knight was surprised to learn that the actors did all their own makeup, right down to adding beards, mustaches, stubble and wigs.

We saw the incredibly huge doors that open to the back of the stage, and plenty of scenery up-close.

I had asked Odette Yazbeck, the director of publicity at Shaw (and a longtime colleague) for a dinner suggestion that was very family friendly

Dream of being 25

This year, Toronto's The Dream in High Park is celebrating its 25th season. And it has been a blast for every one of them. Can you imagine hurtling insults back and forth before sitting down to dinner? At The Dream in High Park, that's exactly what we did.

We signed up for Family Sunday Nights at The Dream, a free program that brings families together with one of the actors in the evening's play to do fun theatrical stuff. First we introduced ourselves, and yes, almost everyone was self-conscious. Through the expert direction of our teacher, though, it was no time before we were hobbling or striding around the clearing, drawing pictures on the grass, and yes, bellowing things at each other like "stale old mouse-eaten dry cheese!" "scurvy jack-dog priest!" "head of a bodkin!" "foul fiend flibbertigibbet!" "thou disease of a friend!" "whining mammet!" and "freckled whelp hag-born!" Under all that fun was some excellent teaching about the art of the stage.

When our actor-instructor took his leave, we wandered back to the semicircular seating built into the hillside, spread out our blankets and took out our picnic dinner. The play, *A Comedy of Errors*, was the one we talked about in the workshop, so even Jester could follow the plot. There were plenty of laughs, and while I couldn't say it for sure, the play ended within a very tidy time frame. There wasn't a snoozing child in the audience.

A Comedy of Errors production

Photo: Lucas Oleniuk

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and outside the downtown core. We had a tremendous comfort food meal at The Little Red Rooster, and a priceless experience: our booth was sandwiched between two booths filled with actors! We got to eavesdrop on all kinds of theatre gossip (which really meant nothing to us, but gave us lots to speculate about later), and it really put us in the mood for a play.

Imagine the excitement of my little Jester when, close to the beginning of the show, he pointed and gasped, "Hey! We saw him at supper!" We saw plenty of our fellow diners on stage! And each of the kids elbowed and swatted me as, throughout the show, all the scenery and props we'd seen backstage appeared on stage.

I had one nagging question at the end of our theatrical investigations, and that was: did all the insider knowledge kill any of the mystery of the plays for them? The answer from all three was a resounding "No!" Trying on the costumes, talking with a real actor, trying to speak with emotion, learning about the playwrights and seeing the backstage happenings just made the play more fun and special, "more real and unreal." Bravo!

– Jacquelyn Waller-Vintar was a writer and editor with Toronto Life *and* WHERE Toronto *magazine for many years.*

Jellicle Cats Come Out Tonight from *Cats*, 2006 Season, Drayton Entertainment

Photo: Drayton Entertainment

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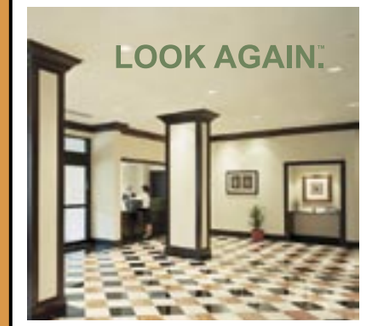

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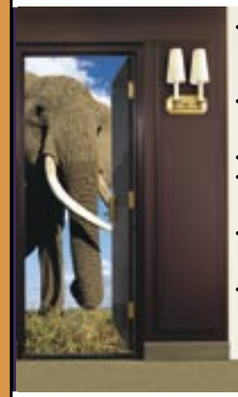

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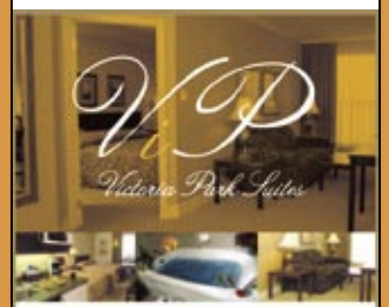

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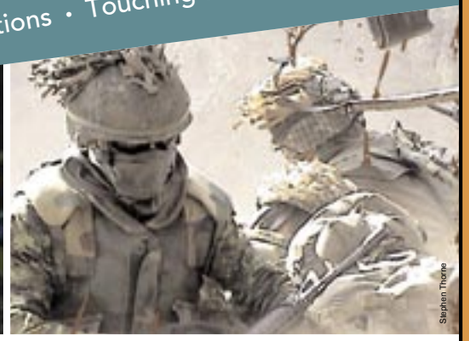
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Canal Knowledge

– By Isobel Warren

OUR BELOVED RIDEAU CANAL IS AGING GRACEFULLY AT 175

Falling in love with a canal may seem far-fetched, even for me, but when you meet the Rideau, you'll understand. Handsome, serene, mature – well…old, actually. But cultured and fun loving.

Rideau Canal, Ottawa

Photo: Ottawa Tourism

Rideau Canal, Ottawa

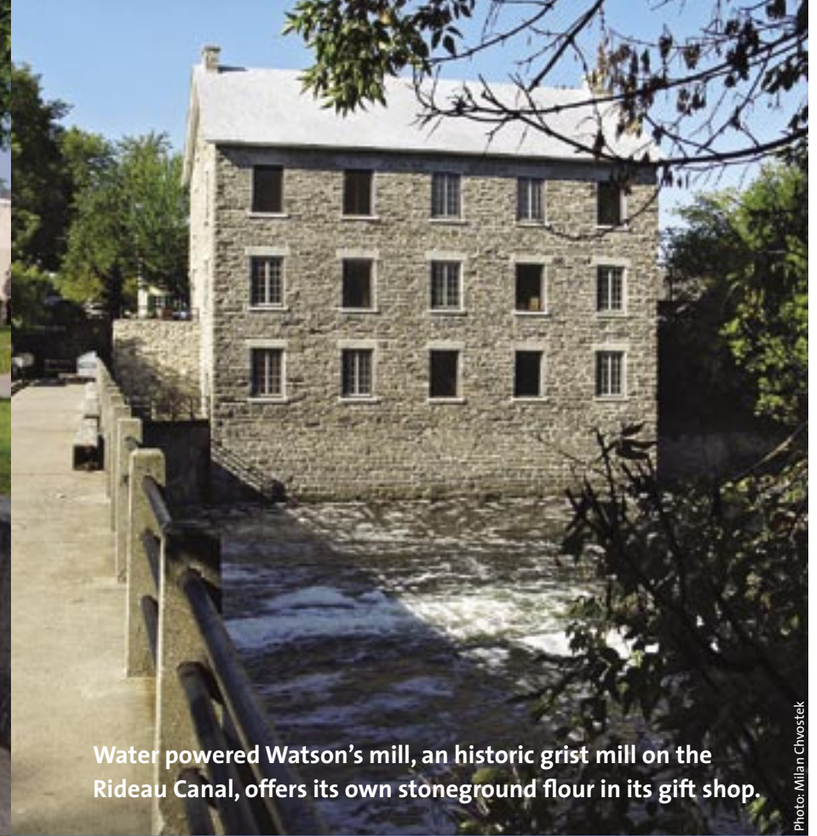


Photo: Milan Chvostek

Water powered Watson's mill, an historic grist mill on the Rideau Canal, offers its own stoneground flour in its gift shop.

SWAMP FEVER'S TOLL

Up to 1,000 Canal workers died of malaria and thousands more were sick from it. Even Colonel By suffered and survived a bout. Though neither cause nor cure were known, Colonel By suspected the area's fetid swamps, and had his men clear tracts along work areas to combat swamp fever.

Portrait of Col. By hangs in the Rideau Canal Museum at Smiths Falls

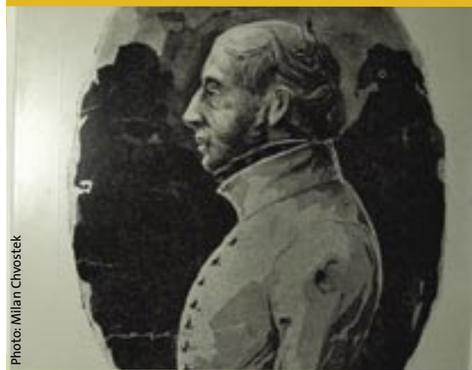


Photo: Milan Chvostek

Already a national historic site and nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status, my beloved Rideau celebrates its 175th birthday this year and plenty of parties and costumed festivities will recall the derring-do, tragedy and triumph of its past.

Tracing the Rideau Heritage Route, my husband and I fell in love – with the canal, its history, its fringe of charming towns and villages and its hospitable people. From its first locks in Ottawa to its final lock at Kingston, we drove, hiked, cruised and marvelled at this amazing engineering feat, an icon of Canadian history, now reinvented as a recreational paradise.

The affair began at Ottawa's Bytown Museum, originally the Canal commissariat, hunkered down between the parliament buildings and the Chateau Laurier. And there Jesse Alexander, elegant in top hat and red velvet jacket, posed as canal contractor (and later sugar mogul) Thomas Redpath, explaining that the project was born out of American zeal to rid the continent of the British. In the after-animosity of the War of 1812, American raids across the St. Lawrence were costing lives and interrupting traffic between Montreal and Toronto. Britain sent Lieutenant Colonel John By to find an alternative.

It's as well that I never met Colonel By because I'd probably have fallen for him too – a no-holds-barred genius, a courageous visionary, an incisive workaholic. And to boot, he was a natty dresser, fond of brass buttons and hats like overturned soup tureens.

Colonel By and his Royal Engineers, backed by about 10,000 Irish and French-Canadian labourers, slogged through swamps and scrub, wielding such advanced equipment as picks and shovels, to finish this incredible 202 km (125 mi.) route in just five years. They constructed 47 locks, lockmasters' houses and fortified blockhouses at the most vulnerable lock stations, from the ratty settlement he modestly named Bytown, now Ottawa, down the Rideau River, through various small lakes to the Cataraqui River, meeting Lake Ontario at Kingston.

Early estimates set the cost at £62,258

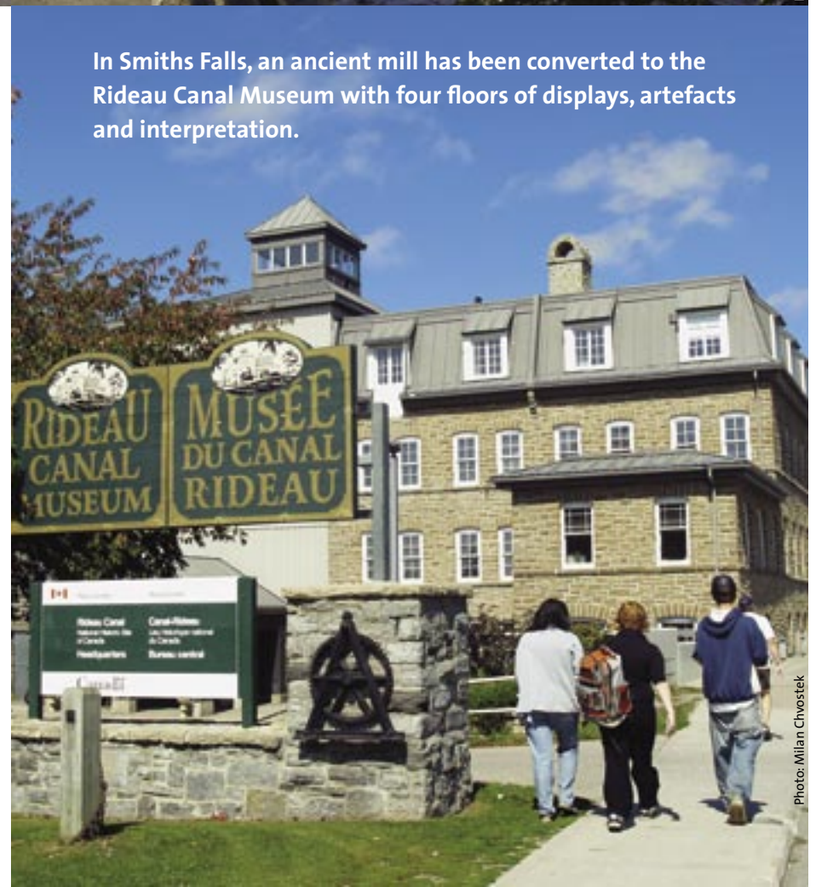


Photo: Milan Chvostek

In Smiths Falls, an ancient mill has been converted to the Rideau Canal Museum with four floors of displays, artefacts and interpretation.

LEGACY OF LOCKMASTERS

The Canal's first lockmasters were amongst 40 Royal Sappers and Miners who received land grants upon its completion. The position tended to pass from father to son and today several lockmasters trace their ancestry back several generations.

Lock masters put their backs to the task of turning the massive wheels that open lock gates, unchanged since 1832

Photo: Parks Canada

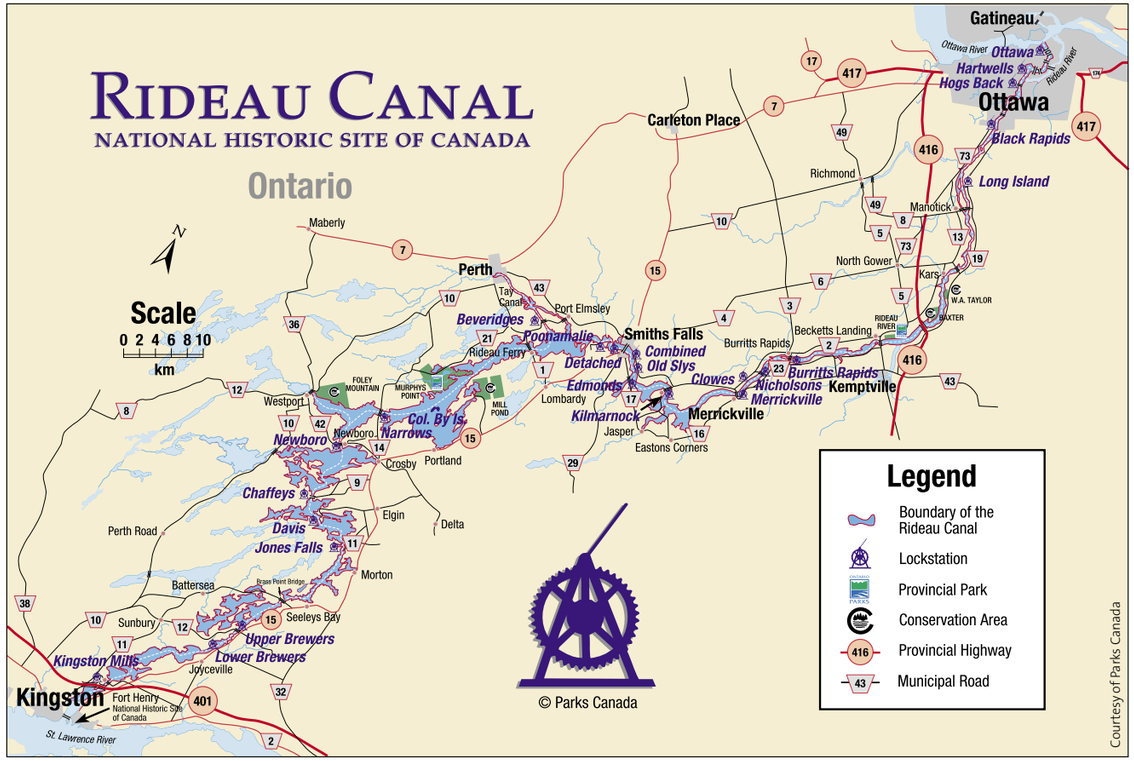
but accidents, extra fortifications plus Colonel By's insistence on accommodating the era's new steamships pushed the final tally 13 times more than that to £822,000. His British political bosses, snugly oblivious to swamps, rocks and Canadian weather, recoiled at the price, recalled By to Britain and accused him of misappropriating funds. His name was cleared but his heart was broken, and he died four years later, aged 53. Parks Canada currently estimates the Canal's replacement value at a cool $500 million.

The canal was and remains an engineering marvel. Just ask Ken Watson – Mr. Rideau to me. As a retirement project, Ken designed a canal website that documents every aspect of the canal – geological and environmental, historical and cultural, mechanical and recreational.

One of his favourite places is the arched Jones Falls dam, near his home. Built from local sandstone, it's 107 m (350 ft.) wide and 19 m (62 ft.) high – monumental for its day. It's flanked by four locks, a total lift of 18 m (59 ft.).

Photo: Parks Canada

Jones Falls Stone Arch Dam



THINGS TO DO ON THE RIDEAU

Special events to commemorate the Rideau Canal's 175th anniversary punctuate the summer calendar.

May 19, 20: The opening of the Rideau Canal's 175th season of navigation will be celebrated at Bytown Museum, Ottawa. Costumed animators, including Colonel John By and his Royal Engineers, demonstrations of musketry, blacksmithing and more.

May 20: Fort Henry's opening day with interpretive programs at the Fort Henry National Historic Site, Kingston.

May 22: Parks Canada's official opening ceremonies happen at Smiths Falls Lockstation. It includes presentations, music and ribbon cutting.

June 18: The Rideau 175 Steamboat Flotilla, a five-day event, starts at Chaffey's Lock, and proceeds to Smiths Falls and Perth.

June 30, July 1: The Rideau Lakes Studio and Garden Tour combines the canal's locks and sites with fine art and gardens. Includes various Rideau Lakes communities.

July 1 (Canada Day): Bytown Museum, Ottawa, plus Newboro, Chaffey's Lock, Portland, Westport and Kingston (our first capital city). Picnics, parades, music and fireworks highlight the day.

July 14, 15: Merrickville Canalfest celebrates the canal with canoe races, historical re-enactments, music, art, crafts, kids' activities, model boat displays and boat tours.

July 29: Creating a canal at Billings Estate National Historic Site, Ottawa – a family event with displays and tours plus hands-on events such as building dams and bridges, pumping water, raft and log cabin building, surveying and more. Demonstrations include blacksmithing, stone masonry, hearth cooking, maps and document exploration and Colonel By's Tea, a traditional Victorian tea served on the lawn.

August 6: Colonel By Day, Bytown Museum, Ottawa, celebrates Ottawa's founder and builder of the Rideau Canal.

August 6–10: The Rideau Canal Cruise from Kingston to Long Island Lock. A group of antique and classic boat owners cruise to the Manotick Classic Boat Show.

September 1: A Tribute to Labour at Jones Falls Lockstation highlights the lives of workers such as lockmasters, blacksmiths and Colonel By's men, who crafted the canal.

November 28: The Rideau Canal Symposium in Kingston, brings together stakeholders and the public to broaden understanding of the waterway and discuss its future.

All summer long

Rideau 175 – A monthly lecture series at Merrickville United Church, Merrickville, March 18 to November 18. Outstanding speakers review the canal's history, archaeology, construction, social life and future prospects.

Snapshot of Rideau Life – An exhibition by area photographers portraying Rideau people, structures, recreation and nature. From June 28 to October 28, daily, at the Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls.

Walking Tours – Walking Tours from Hog's Back Lockstation to Billings Estate National Historic Site, Ottawa. Runs Sundays in July, stopping at various historical sites along a 3 km (1.8 mi.) route.

Painting the canal

Also planned – Rideau 175 Calendar featuring 12 original paintings by Ben Babelowsky; the *Rideau Canal Jazz Suite*, by area composer/arranger Mark Ferguson; two new Rideau mystery books from Ottawa's Deadlock Press; a new Rideau book, *The Rideau Route*, by Rideau expert Ken W. Watson; several new Parks Canada exhibits; and a Rideau Canal passport to guide visitors through the system.

"It's one of the jewels of the Rideau," Watson says. "It epitomizes the triumph of engineering that the Rideau system represents."

There are other jewels. Now dotted with private cottages and nifty resorts, the waterway welcomes boaters, hikers, nature lovers and fishing enthusiasts including many Americans. "It was built to keep Americans out," commented one wag. "Now we spend millions to bring them back in."

What they find is a tranquil waterway and charming towns like Merrickville, awash with fine artisans and specialty shops, its lock still guarded by a moated stone blockhouse; Smiths Falls, where an old mill houses the excellent Rideau Canal Museum; Watson's Mill, near Manotick, a working grist mill turning out stone-ground flour (I bought a 50-pound bag); and Westport, an idyllic village on the Upper Rideau Lake where Spy Rock provides a panoramic view of the countryside. Legend says the Ojibway used the elevation to send smoke signals and to monitor river traffic.

And the crown jewels – Ottawa at the mouth of the Rideau and Kingston at the St. Lawrence. Both boast top-notch eateries and sleeperies, markets and shops galore plus historic sightseeing. In handsome and historic Kingston, Fort Henry still guards the Canal's access to the St. Lawrence. Ottawa's abundance of museums, galleries and ornate buildings, is capped by a 7.8 km (4.8 mi.) stretch of Rideau Canal, dubbed – at least in winter – the world's largest skating rink.

What's not to love?

– Isobel Warren is a Newmarket-based travel writer whose work appears in major publications.

Merrickville

Westport

Merrickville, Westport and Kingston – just some of the dozens of towns that dot the great canal.

Kingston

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IT'S 'CACHING ON'

all over Ontario

– By Nicole Leaper

Electronic games in the wilderness? Sounds like an oxymoron but it's the real thing and if you want to get kids away from the TV screen and out into the wilderness this is the way: GEOCACHING.

Discovering a cache

Eventually we found the cache at BIGFOOT ROCK, a geological mystery that has big footprints along the rock face.

Bigfoot Rock

Never heard of it? Well, you're not alone, this is one of the fastest growing fun activities around and it appeals to the whole family regardless of age. To add to the cool factor even Tony Hawk, skateboarding guru, lists it in his top 10 things to do on the weekend.

Geocaching is basically treasure hunting in a very organized fashion. It can be experienced in any rural, urban or wilderness area and can be as simple or complicated as you're willing to get. But the best way to get started is to go to one of the several Ontario resorts offering geocaching packages. They'll even provide the equipment.

My family arrived at Woodland Echoes Resort on the Magnetawan River to be greeted by the very enthusiastic Ken Turner and his family. The family has been operating the resort for 56 years and have stayed up to date. They were the first resort in Ontario to offer geocaching packages and have three caches right on their property to get you started.

Ken gave us a quick tutorial on how to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) and we were off to find our first cache. The two teenage boys were pretty unimpressed with the whole idea until they got hold of the GPS handset. All of a sudden they were off searching and following clues. It took no time to get the hang of it and we found our first cache on the property. Our teenage son Matt, and his cousin McKenzie, took a fridge magnet, replaced it with a dollar store item we'd brought along and recorded it in the logbook in the cache. We were all hooked and ready for cache number two. Ken provides a book of caches in the area with coordinates and details, but you can also get the info from the geocaching website.

After our first day of geocaching and three finds under our belts we retired to our cabin by the water. The boys took advantage of the beach, waterslide and a mean game of tetherball while we relaxed on our private deck. After a lovely dinner in the main lodge we enjoyed the peaceful evening on the Magnetawan River and planned our next day of geocaching. An unexpected highlight of the dining experience was the fantastic bird watching right

L–R: Finding a cache; Global Positioning System receiver

L–R: Enjoying the activities at Woodland Echoes

outside the picture window. There were even binoculars and field guides right on the table. Ken has bird feeders all over the property attracting many beautiful birds. His wife Carol has her award-winning bird sculptures on display in the dining room.

The next day we decided to tackle a more challenging cache. This one involved several stops, deciphering clues along the way and incorporating the history of the area. We travelled on the historic Old Nipissing Road and found an old limestone kiln along the way. Eventually we found the cache at Bigfoot Rock, a geological mystery that has big footprints along the rock face. We rewarded our efforts by stopping by the fish and chip stand in the charming town of Magnetawan on our way back to Woodland Echoes.

Postscript – the first week back to school and my son tells me he's already doing well in geography, this year's studies include the use of GPS.

– Nicole Leaper is Publications Manager at Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership, publisher of Ontario *magazine.*

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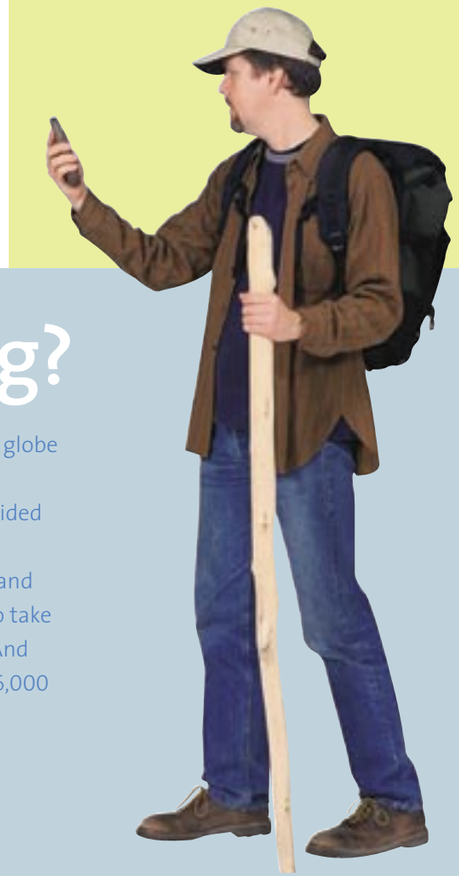

What is geocaching?

Geocaching was born in May 2000 when 24 satellites around the globe were activated, instantly making GPS (Global Positioning System) pinpoint accurate. One curious owner of a handheld GPS unit decided to test the accuracy of the system by hiding a bucket filled with inexpensive items and a logbook. He recorded the exact location and challenged other GPS users to find the cache. The only rule was to take something, leave something and record the visit in the logbook. And modern treasure hunting was born. There are now more than 346,000 active caches in 221 countries.

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a great line on family fun

– By Michele Peterson

Honey Harbour

Photo: Michele Peterson

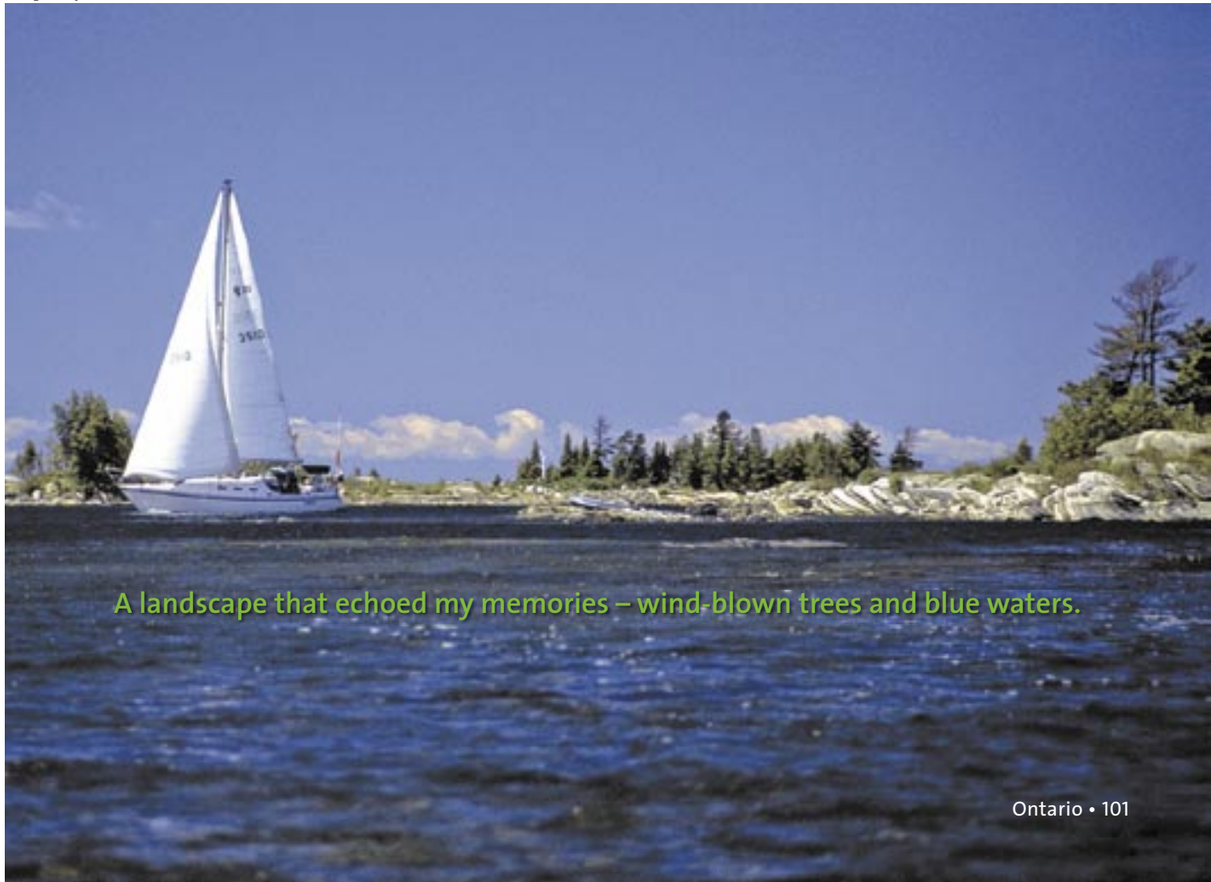
There is only one photograph of my grandmother and me. It's black and white and in it, she's wearing sensible pumps, a cardigan and a tailored dress.

I'm wearing pedal pushers, a cotton blouse, sneakers and a big smile. I'm nine years old and we're fishing on a dock. Moments later, we will land a huge walleye.

That day is inscribed in my memory. The crisp fresh air. The waves hitting the dock. The excitement. But most of all, what remains is the memory of time spent together.

Since then I haven't fished much. But when my grandson was born, I somehow knew we'd go fishing. When I heard of the Ontario Family Fishing Weekend, I thought, 'Why wait?' Although he's still a toddler, it seemed like the perfect opportunity. For three days each summer, Canadian residents can fish in Ontario without a fishing licence.

Georgian Bay



A landscape that echoed my memories – wind-blown trees and blue waters.

I was hoping to find a landscape that echoed my memories. The rocks of the Canadian Shield, wind-blown trees and blue waters of Georgian Bay seemed ideal. So, we chose the Delawana Inn's Fishing Derby at Honey Harbour, 90 minutes north of Toronto.

After check-in, we borrowed a pair of shiny fishing rods from the tackle shop and headed to the dock. Members of the Ontario Provincial Police were there to welcome us and help families learn to fish.

We joined the group, baited our hooks and dropped our lines in the water. My little grandson could hardly hold onto his rod, but his face shone with delight. Soon, we got a few bites. The fish we caught were measured and then released. Although my grandson was definitely the youngest angler, he was thrilled to receive a participant fishing hat just like the bigger kids.

As the morning progressed, the sun rose above the towering pine trees and we cooled our feet off in the clear water. While we didn't win the fishing derby prize, my grandson did treasure the pocketful of acorn caps he'd gathered near shore. Our few hours fishing had provided an opportunity to connect with nature and each other.

– Michele Peterson is a Toronto-based freelance writer.

Jennifer Standaert and her daughter Kaelynn Yaworski enjoying time together during Family Fishing Weekend

Photo: Italo Labignan

Catch the fun

Many provincial parks have special events tied to fishing, especially during Ontario Family Fishing Weekend. You can learn about fish species in the local area, good fishing spots within the park and children's programs on how to make a fishing rod. Some have a fishing derby, but all promote catch and release fishing.

The Ontario Family Fishing Weekend takes place July 6–8 in cities, provincial parks and resorts across the province. For a listing of events, registration details and a copy of the *Take a Kid Fishing Guide* visit **www.familyfishingweekend.com**

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For more information about fishing in Ontario year-round visit **ontariotravel.net/gofish** or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Far East light feast

Visitors first may have realized when they arrived and walked beneath the Majestic Arches; or when they strolled down the path at the Asian Dragons; possibly at the Dragon Lair. But the Great Wall of China may have given it away: they weren't in Ontario anymore – they were now in the brightly-lit and colourful world of China, where an ancient culture surrounded bodies, filled minds and dazzled spirits.

Now in its second year, the Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival, the world's largest lantern festival outside of China, will open at Ontario Place to dazzle crowds with the fabulous colour, light and magic of mammoth works of glowing art. Recreating the ancient tradition begun in China thousands of years ago, more than 40 elaborate grand-scale lantern displays, designed and built by master craftsmen, tell the story of China's celebrated dynasties.

But calling these works of arts 'lanterns' is quite an understatement. They're absolutely beautiful in every way and must be seen firsthand to be fully appreciated. This year's mammoth festival will have all-new lanterns, but to get a taste of what the lantern festival experience is like, here's what happened last year:

The adventure began by walking through the appropriately named Majestic Arches, leading over a bridge to a Peach Orchard (peach-themed lanterns are standard additions to Chinese lantern festivals, representing wealth and longevity).

Following the path, the Nine-Dragon Mural, inspired by the famed historic artefact near the Forbidden City in Beijing, was within steps of the bustling Chinese marketplace. Here, culinary goodness was displayed (and devoured) at booths set up by Toronto's popular Chinese restaurants. Once tummies were filled, it was time to fill empty hands with keepsakes. That was after visitors bartered for the best deals, in this atmosphere reminiscent of an actual Chinese market.

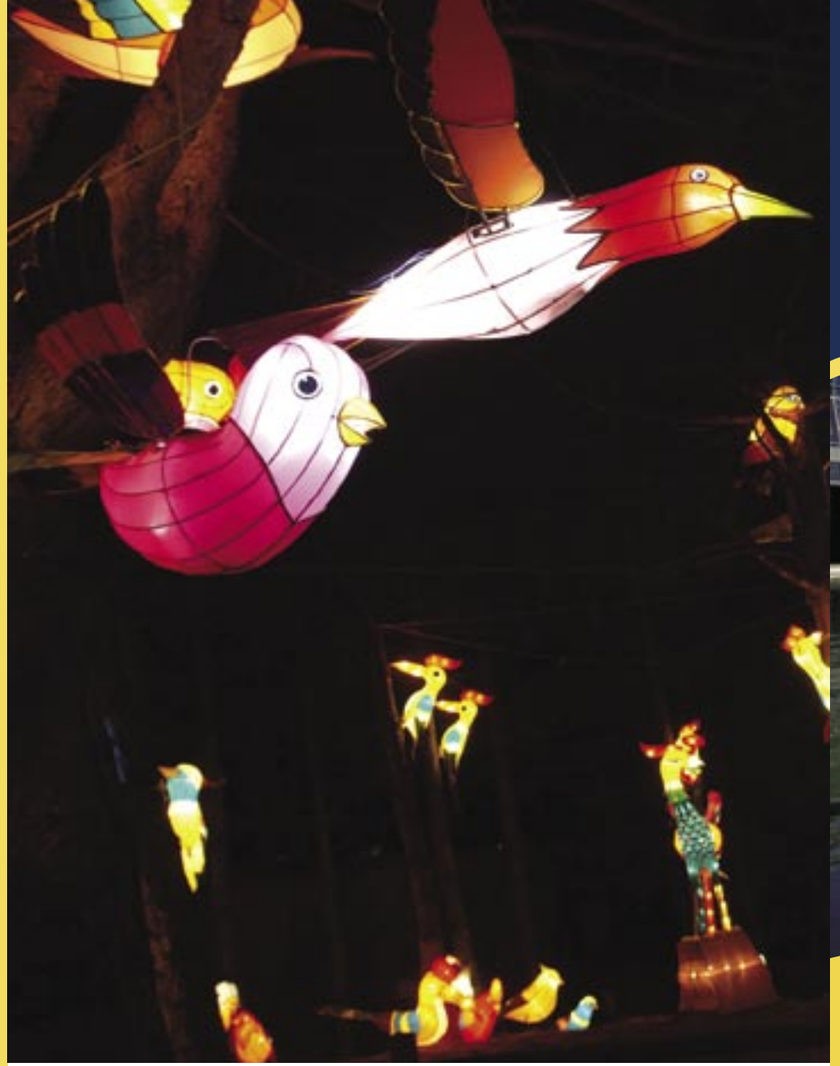
A popular hit was the Entertainment Stage, which had little to do with the lanterns themselves. It was alive nightly with local performing acts and groups from China, which included dragon dances, traditionally performed by trained kung fu artists. A great place to sit back, rest and soak in the culture.

Continuing the self-guided tour, it was hard to miss the glowing, majestic Heavenly Temple. Based on the gorgeous Temple of Heaven's Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest, this temple was one of the most popular attractions at the festival. From here, the flow of people followed the pathway to the animated Dragon Lair (with 16 large dragons and eight smaller ones poking out of the water) before they checked out the Cinesphere, where films dug deeper into China's mystery (all included with admission).

Other not-to-be-missed lantern displays included the very Great Wall of China and A Chamber of Immortals that showed 'a gathering of heavenly fairies in a palace' (built using traditional architectural style). And a great way to round off the visit was with a close-up look at the 80 m (262 ft.) long Hectometer Porcelain Dragon crafted entirely out of Chinese ceramics? That's right – ceramics.

The Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival breathed a dragon's breath of new life into an ancient art and kept kids and adults feeling amazed, literally around every colourful corner. This year's fest looks to trump last year's, which will use lanterns to follow the time periods of China's past.

Images courtesy of Ontario Place



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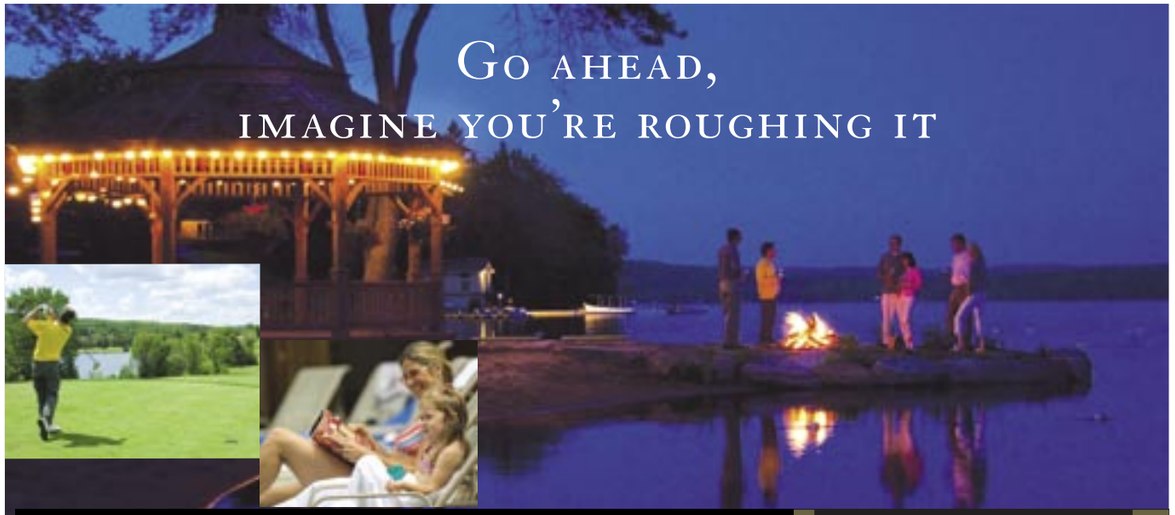

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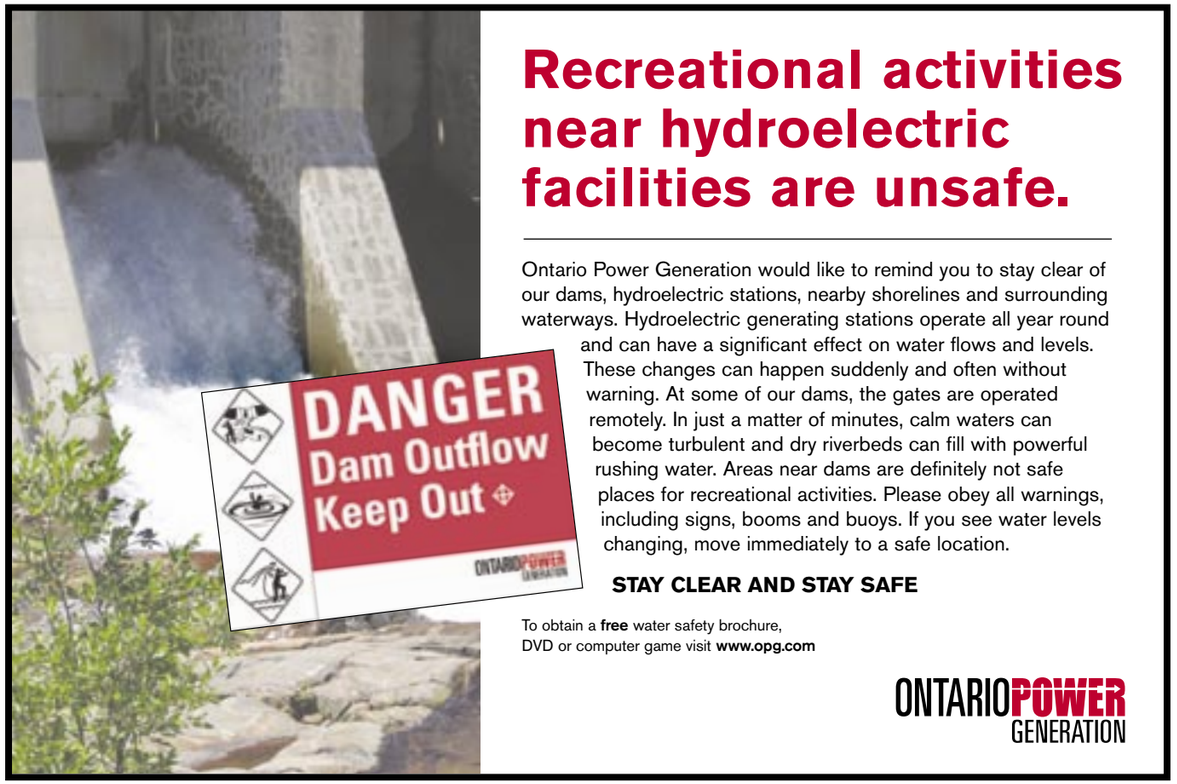

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Photo: John Overmeyer

Photo: Blimp Pics

Valens Conservation Area's swimming area is perfect for the whole family

You'll be calling the Greenbelt 'the Bluebelt' after you find out just how many great places it has to take a refreshing dip.

Valens Conservation Area

Albion Hills Conservation Area

Photo: Albion Hills Conservation Area

The Greenbelt is a swath of protected land stretching from Niagara to the Bruce Peninsula to Rice Lake. It's home to fragile habitats for hundreds of species of plants and animals, doubling as a tranquil landscape for us to respect, enjoy and treasure for future generations.

If you live for swimming, you're heading to the Greenbelt's conservation areas and provincial parks this summer – no ifs, ands or buts. Slip on your Speedo, grab a pool noodle and slap on a dollop of sunscreen. Here we go...

Valens Conservation Area near Cambridge is stop number one. They've netted off a section of their lake and beachfront to create a safe and sandy swimming area. If tubes and flutter boards float your boat, they're available at the beach house.

A 35-hectare (86.5-acre) reservoir doubles as a great, big swimming hole at Kelso Conservation Area in Milton. You can use the on-site change rooms, then have a blast on the large beach while certified lifeguards keep watch. Bring a picnic or pick up something delicious at one of the food concession buildings.

A great way to cool off after taking the kids fishing, paddle boating and hiking at Albion Hills Conservation Area, north of Bolton, is to take a splash in its clean swimming area. Dry off and take the kids to the playground, then, if you can't get enough of this natural oasis, roast marshmallows at the Albion Hills Campground, steps away.

Affordable admittance, clean parks and close proximity to major Ontario centres make these perfect all-day destinations in the Greenbelt.

Kelso Conservation Area

Photo: Courtesy of Conservation Halton

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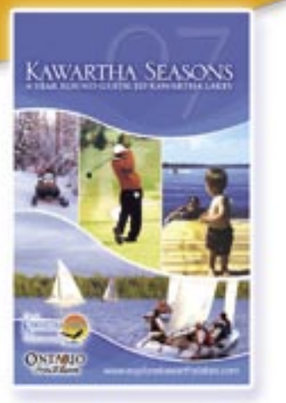

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Paddling through HISTORY

– By Nicole Leaper

Arguably one of Canada's most iconic and oldest activities, paddling is on its way to becoming one of Canada's most popular too. But you don't need to own a canoe to join in the fun, as I found out this past summer. To get to know this historic sport better, I spent a day with my teenage son and his friend at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre in Midland.

We visited Sainte-Marie just as Paddlefest began. Once home to one-fifth of New France's population, this 17th century French Jesuit mission still felt like the bustling centre it once was, especially since the week-long festival celebrating the history of paddling from 1639 to the present, was in full swing.

The talented costumed staff and dramatic wooden reconstruction made us feel like we were part of the past. The atmosphere was bustling with paddle-making, corn roasts, cooking demonstrations, First Nations games and more. In the refectory, we tested our penmanship skills as we wrote a letter home with a quill pen. The exit shelter was a popular stop, where we applied pitch to a birch bark canoe. But the hungry boys' favourite place was in the cookhouse, where they toasted bannock over a fire pit, dipped it in maple syrup and quickly devoured it.

For a modern-day look at paddling, we head next door to Wye Marsh. Here, we had the option to explore by foot or canoe, but seeking out an especially special experience, we signed up for a paddling eco-tour. The three-hour tour, which runs at dawn and dusk, takes

Top: Wye Marsh, Midland; Bottom: Paddlefest, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
Photos: Courtesy of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

guests much deeper into the marsh than a daytime trip, offering a greater chance of seeing wildlife.

We opted for the dusk tour with program manager and naturalist, Adrian Philpot. Adrian is passionate about the conservation of the wetlands and the wildlife that call it home. Along with the other novices, he kept two jaded teenage boys enthralled with his knowledge for the entire eye-opening paddling adventure.

– Nicole Leaper is Publications Manager at Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership, publisher of Ontario *magazine.*

Trumpeting
Wye's Swan Success

Wye Marsh is famous for their magnificent trumpeter swans, which were common sights in the 1600s. But by 1988, they became an endangered species with less than 48 still alive. In response, the Wye Marsh Re-Introduction Program was initiated and now 141 swans call the marsh home, with more on the way – last year was a record year for cygnets (baby swans). The best way to view these magnificent creatures is to paddle quietly by canoe at dawn or dusk.

Photo: Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

Trumpeter swans

Photo: Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

Paddlefest

Canoeing contacts

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
www.wyemarsh.com
(705) 526-7809

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
Paddlefest, July 21–29
www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca
(705) 526-7838

Southern Georgian Bay
Chamber of Commerce
www.southerngeorgianbay.on.ca
(705) 526-7884

Huronia Tourism Association
www.discoversimcoe.com
1-800-487-6642

For more festivals and outdoor adventures visit
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Photo: 'Schoolhouse,' courtesy of Grant Curtis

Schoolhouse IS IN FOR Summer

Now in its 16th year of developing and staging regional based dramas, 4th Line Theatre is making summer school cool as it opens *Schoolhouse*. The play, written by Leanna Brodie and directed by Kim Blackwell, is set in 1937 and recalls the determination and passion of the young women who taught in these small rural schoolhouses.

The magical venue for this performance is at The Winslow Farm, the family farm of Robert Winslow, 4th Line's Artistic Director, famed playwright and recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Here, century old barns, rolling hills and fabulous stories all play their role in bringing audiences back to the heart of theatre in Ontario.

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Photo: Wayne Eardley, Brookside Studio

One of the outdoor stages at 4th Line Theatre

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Nestor Falls, Lake of the Woods

Photo: Boreal Forest Outdoor Adventures

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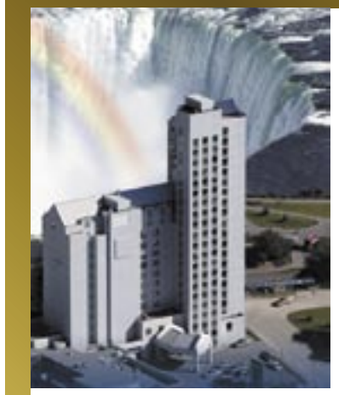

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Extreme NIAGARA

– By Risha Gotlieb

My husband and I set a challenge: how many wild and crazy things could we pack into a weekend at Niagara Falls?

The adventure began as we descended 45 metres (150 feet) below and behind the falls for a mystically intimate experience with the sheer thunderous power of over two million litres (600,000 gallons) of water per second cascading around us.

Table Rock, Niagara Falls

Clifton Hill

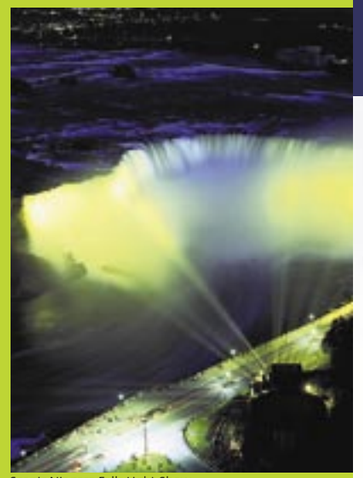
Heading downstream we took in the Maid of the Mist, the White Water Walk and the Whirlpool Aero Car, all historically Niagara's daredevil rides and each one serving up a unique thrill.

We headed back to our suite at the fabulous Fallsview Casino Resort to freshen up and received an unexpected surprise. The luxurious marble and glass shower enclosure offered up a stunning panoramic view of the falls.

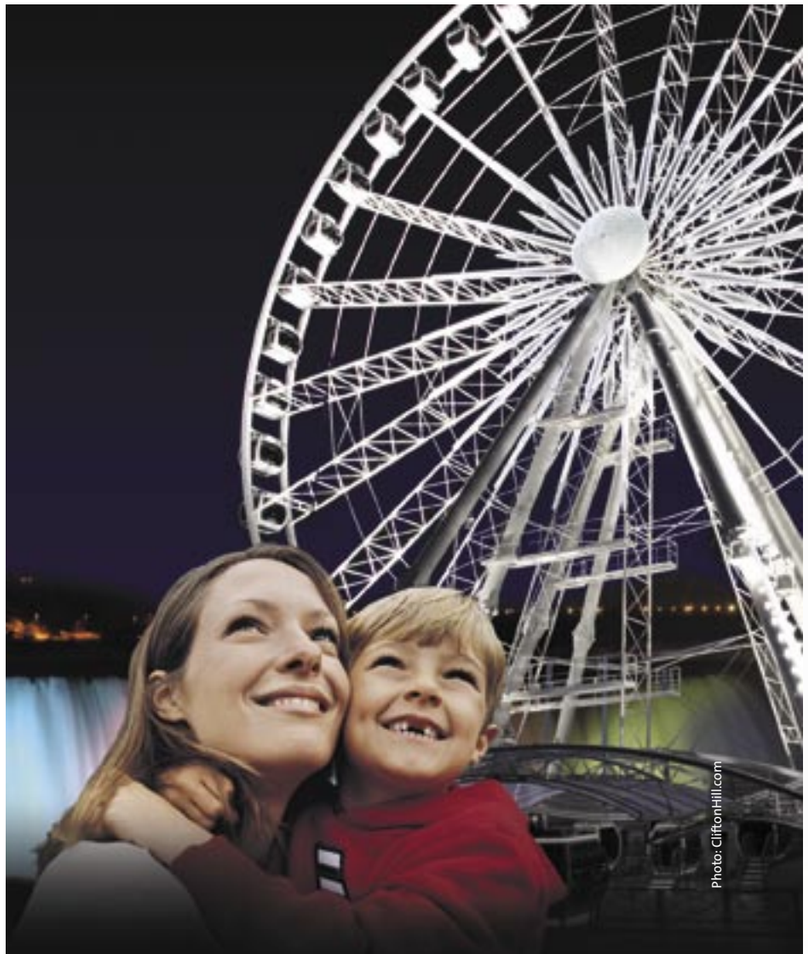
Before nightfall we became teenagers again when we walked over to the carnival-like entertainment district Clifton Hill. We soared 53 metres (173 feet) skyward on a massive Ferris wheel, took in the wax museum, Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum and their 4D Moving Theatre where the seats jolted our senses into larger-than-life action. We even squeezed in a visit to the spectacular Fallsview indoor water park and joined the chorus of children's laughter.

DINNER WITH A FALLS VIEW

The gastronomic adventure of our daredevil weekend took place at the highly acclaimed, roulette-themed restaurant 17 Noir in the Fallsview Casino Resort. We started with appetizers of succulent tempura shrimp and fresh-shucked oysters served on ice followed by roasted rack of lamb and pan seared organic cod. As we shared a sinfully decadent banana split paired with an award-winning local Icewine, we watched the plunging waters of the falls dance in illuminated colour as the night sky exploded in fireworks.



Scenic Niagara Falls Light Show



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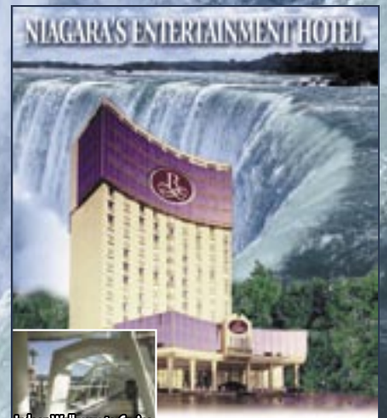

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The next day we cranked up the fear factor starting with a ride on Marineland's Sky Screamer where we were blasted at highway speeds straight up on the world's tallest triple tower ride. Perched high above and with a view of the Horseshoe Falls, we then experienced what it must be like to plummet over the falls as the ride dropped us in a gut-churning freefall, our limbs flailing in the open air.

Minutes later, with headphones on and door slammed shut, we were aboard a pulsating Niagara helicopter for a part tour, part adventure ride. As we dipped and rolled high above the rainbow-laden mist of the falls we surrendered to the euphoria afforded by unparalleled views of one of the world's greatest wonders.

Further down river we boarded the Whirlpool Jet Boat for a sheer white-knuckle, heart-stopping ride of a lifetime. As the boat sliced through bone-jarring Class 5 rapids, the most dangerous navigable in the world, the relentless invading torrents slapped our bodies. Thoroughly drenched and giddy we were already making plans for our next daredevil weekend.

– Risha Gotlieb is a fearless Toronto-based freelance writer.

Friends share a daredevil thrill aboard the Sky Screamer

Photo: Marineland

Going over the info

Maid of the Mist

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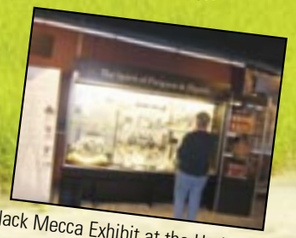
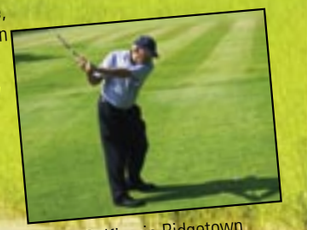

Black Mecca Exhibit at the Heritage Room in Chatham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Lake Erie North Shore And Pelee Island

The Lake Erie North Shore and Pelee Island Viticultural Areas of Ontario share at least one defining characteristic: the moderating influence of the warmest of the Great Lakes, which results in some of Canada's finest wines from a region rich in natural beauty. The North Shore offers a splendid wine route through rolling countryside and lush vineyards. And Pelee Island, an oasis of green 25 kilometres off the mainland, has 200 hectares under vine.

"Come for the wineries, experience the region" is the succinct advice given by wineries in Lake Erie North Shore and Pelee Island—and it's advice worth heeding. The Lake Erie North Shore region offers an array of events and attractions throughout the summer. For more information about wineries, log on to **www.winesofontario.ca/summer**

Niagara Region

The largest Viticultural Area in Canada, the Niagara Peninsula accounts for 75 per cent of the country's grape-growing volume. The climate during growing season is temperate—comparable to that of Burgundy, France—and thus conducive to the production of superior fruit, with better aromas and more intense flavours than those of warmer climates.

The list of Niagara's boutique wineries continues to grow. Many feature fine restaurants with breathtaking views, and most offer entertaining and informative tours.

An indispensable resource for travelers is the *Official Guide to the Wineries of Ontario,* available by calling 1-800-263-2988. Or visit **www.winesofontario.ca/summer** for more maps and travel ideas throughout Ontario wine country. And if you can't make it to a winery, be sure to stop by your local LCBO for a terrific bottle of Ontario wine.

Prince Edward County

Prince Edward County, Ontario's newest wine region, will be able to count more than 400 hectares of vineyards by the end of the decade, forecasts say. Not bad for a region that had more than 500,000 vines planted as of the spring of 2005. It is expected that it will soon become a Viticultural Area. Situated on the eastern end of Lake Ontario, the region enjoys a growing season similar to that of the Niagara region.

Ontario's newest up-and-coming wine region already boasts nine operating wineries, but you can be forgiven if you've yet to sample their vintages. That's because Prince Edward County wines are generally still available only to those who make the trip along Lake Ontario to this scenic spot 215 kilometres east of Toronto. For further information, visit **www.winesofontario.ca/summer**

Ontario boasts three Viticultural Areas (VAs), defined by the Vintners Quality Alliance of Ontario as capable of producing superior wine grapes: the Niagara Peninsula, Lake Erie North Shore and Pelee Island. Also, Prince Edward County is emerging as a quality wine region and is soon expected to receive the coveted VA designation.

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Striking it rich

IN LAMBTON COUNTY

- By Darren Hakker

Photo: Tourism Sarnia Lambton

Peering down the hole, I wondered how deep it was. I was standing on the site of the first commercial oil well in North America, at the Oil Museum of Canada in the small town of Oil Springs. I was born and raised only 20 minutes away, so I jumped at the chance to rediscover my home county's heritage.

It took me a minute to fully comprehend that this is where it all started – where the oil industry was born – way back in 1858. Walking the museum's grounds, I pictured the hundreds of oil wells that once dotted the landscape. It's too bad that in the late 1800s, the rush came to an end here. But as Connie Bell, the museum's supervisor told me, that just gave locals the chance to show places like Texas and Saudi Arabia how to do it themselves.

I wanted to see this oil drilling technology firsthand, so I headed to The Petrolia Discovery museum, where historic oil wells still pump 220 barrels of black gold every month.

In Petrolia's historic downtown, I shook hands with Charlie Fairbank, the great grandson of one of the area's oil pioneers, John Henry Fairbank. Charlie owns approximately 320 wells (even he doesn't know exactly how many), all using the same technology that his ancestors used.

"I'm making the same amount of oil my great grandfather was and he was the largest producer in Canada. Now I'm one of the smallest," Charlie said.

He also runs one of the oldest hardware stores in Canada, Van Tuyl and Fairbank Hardware, established in 1865, specializing in oil well technology. It's getting harder to find some things,

Top: Petrolia Discovery; Bottom L–R: Charlie Fairbanks at his historic hardware store; Site of the first commercial oil well in North America

great escapes

Charlie laments, having to import some materials from as far away as India.

But Petrolia's much more than just oil. Across the road, Victoria Playhouse's productions, acted and designed by Shaw and Stratford veterans, show off the town's playful side. Its patrons come from across Ontario. The playhouse underwent a massive renovation after a fire devastated it in 1989 and is now more beautiful than ever.

It wasn't long before I found myself clambering up the slope of a fossil-hewn cliff at Rock Glen Conservation Area. I clenched a small butterfly-shaped brachiopod in my hand, contemplating its 350-million-year existence entombed in the hardened mud. Then I snacked by the veil of a 10-metre (33-foot) high waterfall.

Standing on Lambton Shores' beachfront, I recalled visiting Pinery Provincial Park as a young boy playing on the beach, sheltered by towering sand dunes, watching deer through oak savannah woodlands.

Get just a taste of Lambton County and you'll be tempted to call it home too.

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

L–R: Victoria Hall, Petrolia; Rock Glen Conservation Area, Arkona

Photo: Carol Graham

Photo: Tourism Sarnia Lambton

Photo: Tourism Sarnia Lambton

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DID YOU KNOW? Charles Tripp, founder of the world's first oil company in 1851, heated gummy oil beds in Oil Springs to make asphalt, which paved the streets of Paris (France, not Ontario).

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ONTARIO'S 'Grand' CANYON

– By Elle Andra-Warner

Day trip on the 'adventure' Highway 11/17 into Lake Superior's largest city, Thunder Bay.

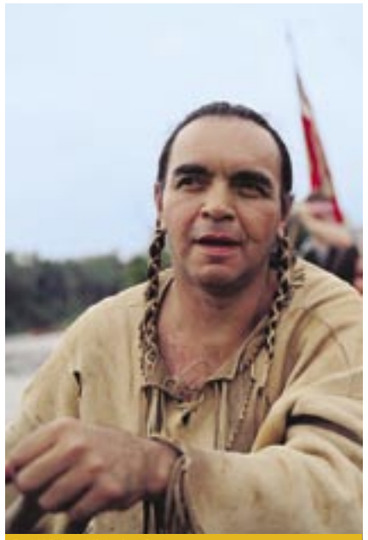
Ouimet Canyon

great escapes

For starters, northeast of Thunder Bay (off Highway 11/17) is Ontario's 'grand canyon' country and the spectacular Ouimet Canyon. You can explore it via an easy one kilometre (just over half-a-mile) network of boardwalks, bridges, wooden stairs and trails that loop from the parking lot to two viewing platforms that extend over the cliff face. Be prepared here for lots of 'wow' – the views of the sheer-walled canyon and deep narrow gorge are absolutely breathtaking. Like some extra adventure? Just down the road, try canyon sky-walking on Canada's longest suspension footbridge at Eagle Canyon Adventures.

Sheer cliffs also dominate Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, a wilderness haven perfect for camping, paddling and hiking on 80 kilometres (50 miles) of trails. My favourite treks are the short nature trails like the Ravine Lake Trail, which leads to one of Lake Superior's most photographed landmarks – the majestic Sea Lion. Later, drop in at nearby Silver Islet's General Store & Tea Room for some great home cooking.

Back on the main highway; turn off at East Loon Road and head to North America's largest amethyst deposit at the Amethyst Mine Panorama (did you know amethyst is Ontario's official gemstone?). Their walking mine tour and dig is a fascinating multi-adventure of geology, history, nature exploration and hands-on prospecting for amethyst in their pick-your-own rock field.



Fort William Historical Park

One simply can't come to Thunder Bay without spending time at Fort William Historical Park.

On the highway at the city's northeast entrance, stop in at the dramatic Terry Fox Monument. Located in a park-like setting (with pathways, benches and picnic tables), the bronze three-metre (nine-foot) statue towers on a rock cliff, overlooking Lake Superior.

One simply can't come to Thunder Bay without spending time at the world's largest reconstructed fur trade post at Fort William Historical Park (one of Canada's top 10 historic sites). Spread over 10 hectares (25 acres) are 42 historic buildings with costumed interpreters eager to give visitors a glimpse of the fur trade in 1815. Lots of rollicking historic adventures here for all ages (I paddled a voyageur's canoe last time). Summer weekends are abuzz with special festivals like The Great Rendezvous.

And then there's the must-see thundering Kakabeka Falls, a short drive west of Thunder Bay. Famous as the 'Niagara of the North,' it plunges 40 metres (131 feet) into a deep gorge on the Kaministiquia River. A barrier-free boardwalk and observation pods along

L–R: The Majestic Sea Lion at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park; Silver Islet's General Store & Tea Room; Terry Fox Monument

Photo: Elle Andra-Warner

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great escapes

the gorge's rim making it easy to get an up-close look at the historic waterfall steeped in Ojibway legends and fur trade history.

I could write much more about day tripping in Ontario's northern heartland…but best come see for yourself and collect some great adventures along Highway 11/17.

– Elle Andra-Warner is a freelance journalist and photographer, based in Thunder Bay, with a special interest in travel and historical writing.

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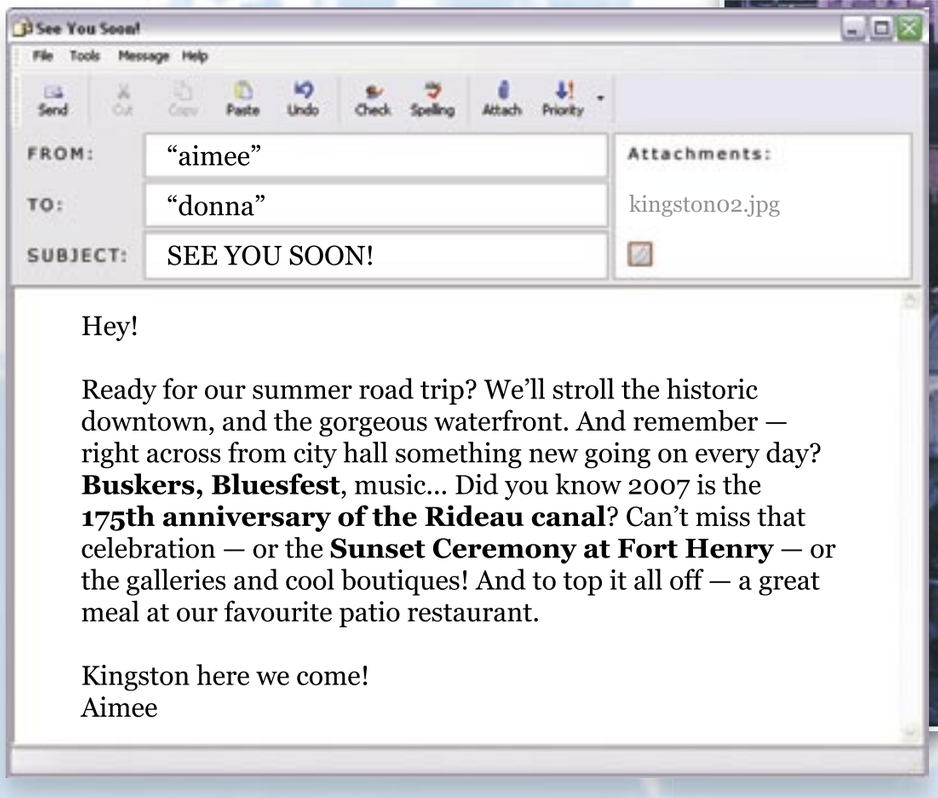

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TAKE TIME TO GO BACK IN TIME

– By John Farrington

History is around every corner when you take the scenic route from Kingston to Cornwall.

Highway 401 will get you between these two historic cities in a little more than two hours. But when you set aside time for a little R & R there's so much to see and do.

Make no mistake; this is a charming place. Quiet. Peaceful. It's not always been like this. In the 19th century, the British and the Americans were fighting regularly for control of this part of Ontario. It was Upper Canada back then and Canada was still 50 years away from becoming a country.

When you step onto any one of the many battle sites along the way you know that life two centuries ago was far from being the good ol' days. It was a hard life, told time and time again at a multitude of museums and re-enactments.

From Fort Henry in Kingston to Crysler's Farm Battlefield near Morrisburg there are more history lessons to be learned about Ontario's communities along the St. Lawrence than when you were taking history at school.

And the scenery is beautiful, with a hint of England's green and pleasant land. The Loyalist Parkway through Prince Edward County, also known as Highway 33, winds its way through the rolling countryside that occasionally

L: Fort Henry, Kingston

L–R: Slickers Ice Cream; Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg

kisses the banks of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Along the way is a free ferry ride at Glenora. The kids love it.

The highway runs through more than a dozen communities that all play up their part of the history. It's the kind of drive that you could stop several times an hour and enjoy the museums, each with their own niche, and specialty shops that are well worth a visit.

One of Prince Edward County's specialties; I'll go so far to call it a treasure, is Slickers Ice Cream. It started with one store in Bloomfield. Now Slickers has retail distribution throughout the county with many of the best restaurants in the area serving it. If you do happen to go home without trying it, they now ship all over Canada.

There are the spectacular 1000 Islands. Don't spend your time counting them, someone with a lot more time on their hands figures there are way more than 1,800. Some are big enough to live on; others are no more than rocks barely jutting out of the water.

Just down the road in Prescott you can visit The Battle of the Windmill and Fort Wellington. Another 20 or 25 minute drive and you're at Crysler's Farm, near Morrisburg, where the Americans made their last attempt to conquer us in the War of 1812. The battle site is now partially submerged as a result of the creation of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959, but you can't help but stop to smell the gunpowder. It must have been thick in the air all those years ago when combat was so close that bayonets were as deadly as the gun barrel.

Next stop, just a couple of minutes by car, is Upper Canada Village where you can catch a glimpse of 19th century life, with its blacksmith shop, sawmill, broom maker, cabinetmaker, dressmaker, a tin shop, a printing office, and some of the buildings that were saved from the Seaway flooding.

Along with a huge part of the Crysler's Farm Battlefield, six villages, three hamlets and a farming community were flooded to make the Seaway possible. The Lost Villages Museum at Long Sault tells the history of this area. Well worth a visit.

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

1000 Islands region

HISTORIC LINKS

Just across the road from Upper Canada Village is Upper Canada Golf Course, located in one of Canada's most historic and picturesque settings. Designed by renowned golf course architect Robbie Robinson, Upper Canada is one of seven four-star courses in Ontario, as rated by *Golf Digest* magazine. What does a four-star golf course mean? "Outstanding. Plan your vacation around it," says *Golf Digest*.

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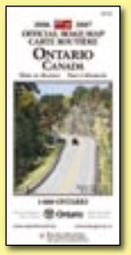

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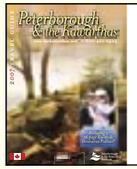
11 

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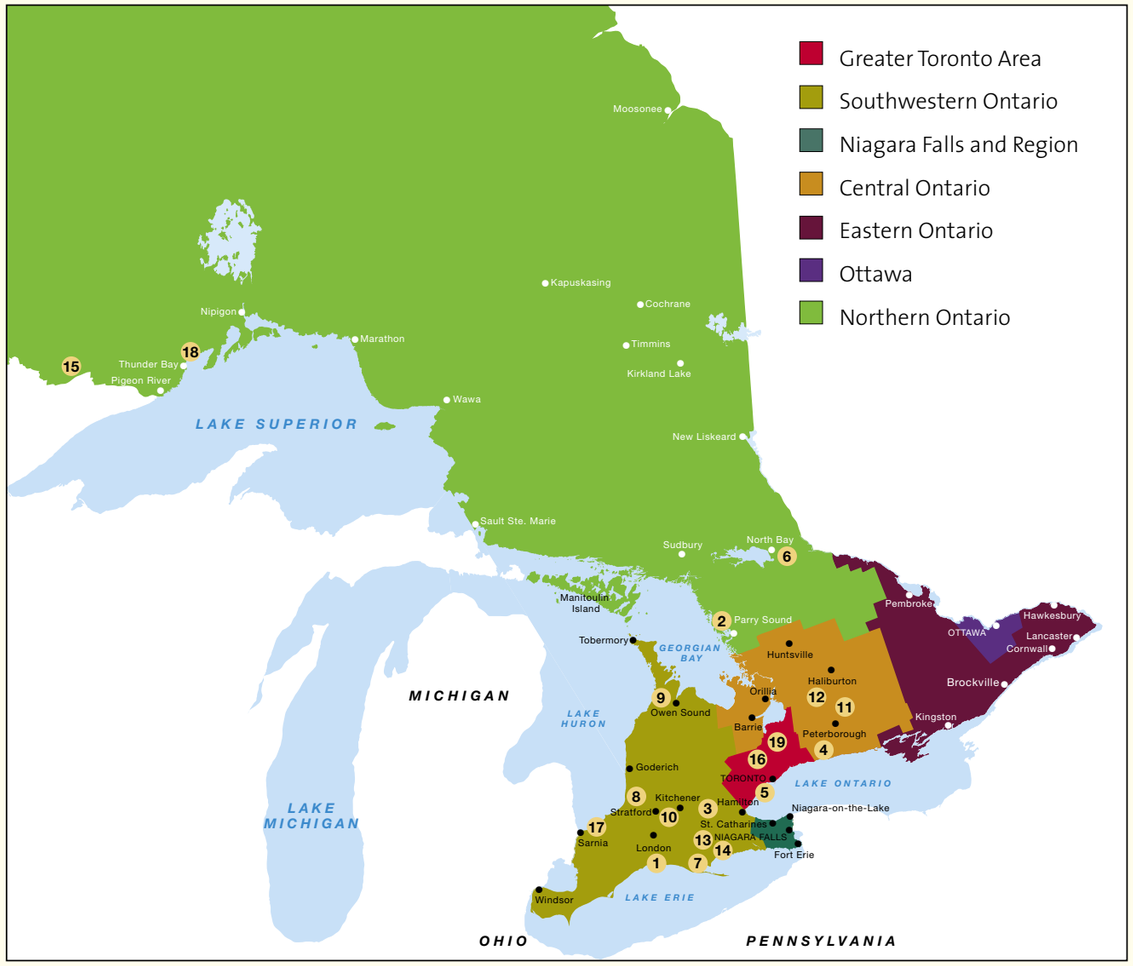

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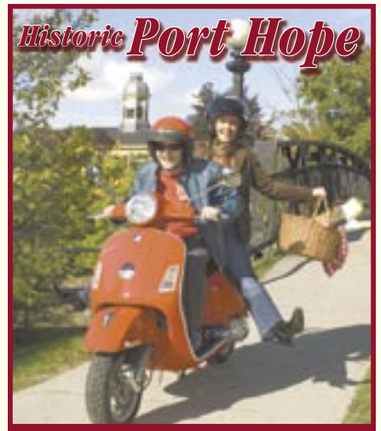

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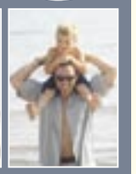

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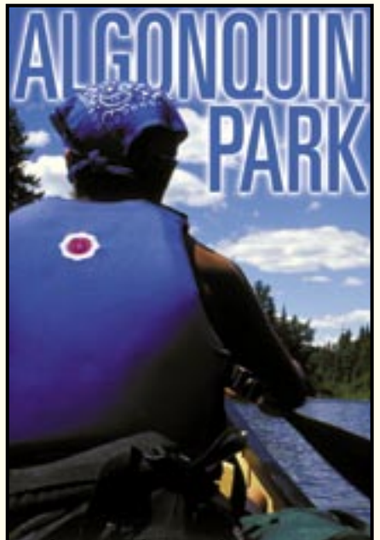

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Kids Just Wanna Have Fun! Visit our attractions and live children's entertainment all season long. Ontario Place delivers unbeatable value for family fun! Don't miss the Canada Dry Festival of Fire. Call 1-866-ONE-4-FUN or visit www.ontarioplace.com

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival
It returns to Ontario Place, July 19 to October 7, 2007. More than 40 hand-crafted lanterns will illuminate the Toronto waterfront. Don't miss the authentic Chinese marketplace. Call 1-866-666-8996 or visit www.chineselanternfestival.ca

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Canadian Canoe And Kayak Wilderness Adventure Trips
Exceptional Canadian wilderness experiences by canoe or kayak into Algonquin Park wilderness or the 30,000 Islands of Georgian Bay. Round-trip transportation from Toronto available. Call 1-866-383-9453 or 416-746-7427, e-mail adventurescanada@yahoo.ca or visit www.wildernessadventures.ca

White Squall Paddling Centre
Sun-baked granite, white pine, and sheltered freshwaters of Georgian Bay's World Biosphere Coastline. Explore in a stable touring kayak. Lessons, daytrips, adventures. Call 705-342-5324 or visit www.whitesquall.com

SPAS

Doubletree Resort Lodge & Spa Fallsview
Niagara Falls Day Spa – Five Lakes Spa AVEDA at Doubletree Fallsview – the art and science of pure plant & flower essences. Overnight packages, 4-diamond resort. Call 1-800-730-8609 or visit www.niagarafallsdoubletree.com

Scandinave Spa Blue Mountain
Within minutes of Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood, our Scandinavian Bath experience is open year-round. No reservations required. Massages available by appointment. Call 705-443-8484 or visit www.scandinaveblue.com

TOURING

Mary Morton Tours
'Toronto's Motorcoach Tour Specialist' offers a wide variety of specialty one-day and multi-day excursions for preformed groups or general public. Call 416-488-2674 or 1-800-263-5398.

WINE AND CULINARY

Reif Estate Winery
Visit the winery in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake and taste our award-winning Icewine. Tasting Bar open seven days a week, year-round. Call 905-468-7738 or visit www.reifwinery.com

the source • map

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

the source • travel information centres

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

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

YEAR-ROUND CENTRES

Barrie
Hwy. 400 and Mapleview
21 Mapleview Drive East L4N 9H5
Tel: (705) 725-7280
Toll-Free: 1-800-567-1140
Fax: (705) 725-7285

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

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

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

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

St. Catharines ($)
Westbound QEW at east end of
Garden City Skyway
RR 4, Niagara-on-the-Lake L0S 1J0
Tel: (905) 684-6354
Fax: (905) 684-3634

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

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

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

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

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

SEASONAL CENTRES (MAY TO SEPT.)

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

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

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

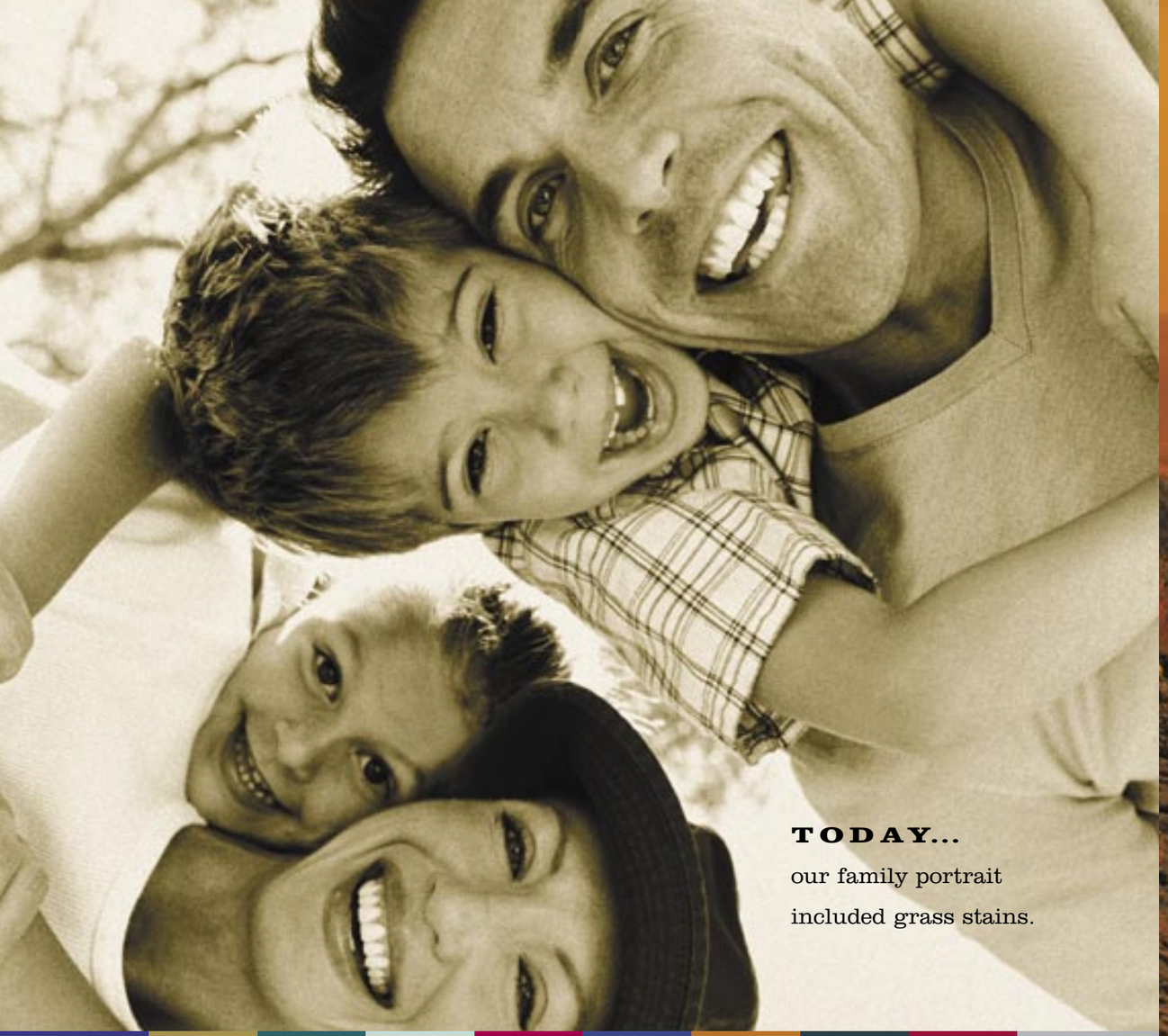
Lancaster
20806 County Rd. 2 and Hwy. 401
RR 1 K0C 1N0
Tel: (613) 347-3498
Fax: (613) 347-3435

Pigeon River ($)
7671 Hwy. 61
Neebing P7L 0A2
Tel: (807) 964-2094
Fax: (807) 964-2029

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

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

($) *Currency exchange on site*



TODAY...

our family portrait

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looking ahead

Fall's brilliance

The colours are coming! Ontario's brilliant colours are finally coming! That's not all, though. Dozens of dazzling festivals and events are also lighting up the province – from our bustling downtowns to winery vineyards to small town squares. Find them right now online at **ontariotravel.net** or simply call **1-800-ONTARIO**. Plan and book your fall getaway today.

Lake Superior Provincial Park

The stars are aligning

The second-largest film festival in the world, the Toronto International Film Festival, has done it again. The movie stars we know and love are coming to Toronto to join us in celebrating the best films of the coming year. Expect more than 300 films this year, at more than 20 screens over 10 days! But even with all these chances to take in a great flick, many of them will sell out quickly. Passes go on sale in July, so don't wait till the last minute to book.

Toronto International Film Festival
September 6–15
www.bell.ca/filmfest
(416) 968-FILM

looking ahead

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

The fruit of our farmers' labour

A whole season devoted to food – fall has got to be the greatest season ever! Harvest festivals celebrating our produce will soon be springing up, offering Ontario's perennially delicious fare. Crunch into apples. Devour cranberries galore. Then there's sweet corn. Huge pumpkins. And more. Fall food fests are great ways to celebrate the season – and our farmers. If you'd like a 'fair' suggestion, make a date for Toronto's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, where food and fun flow endlessly. For more, check out the helpful folks below.

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
November 2–11
www.royalfair.org
(416) 263-3400

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies
www.ontariofairs.com/fairs
(519) 287-3553

25 light years ahead

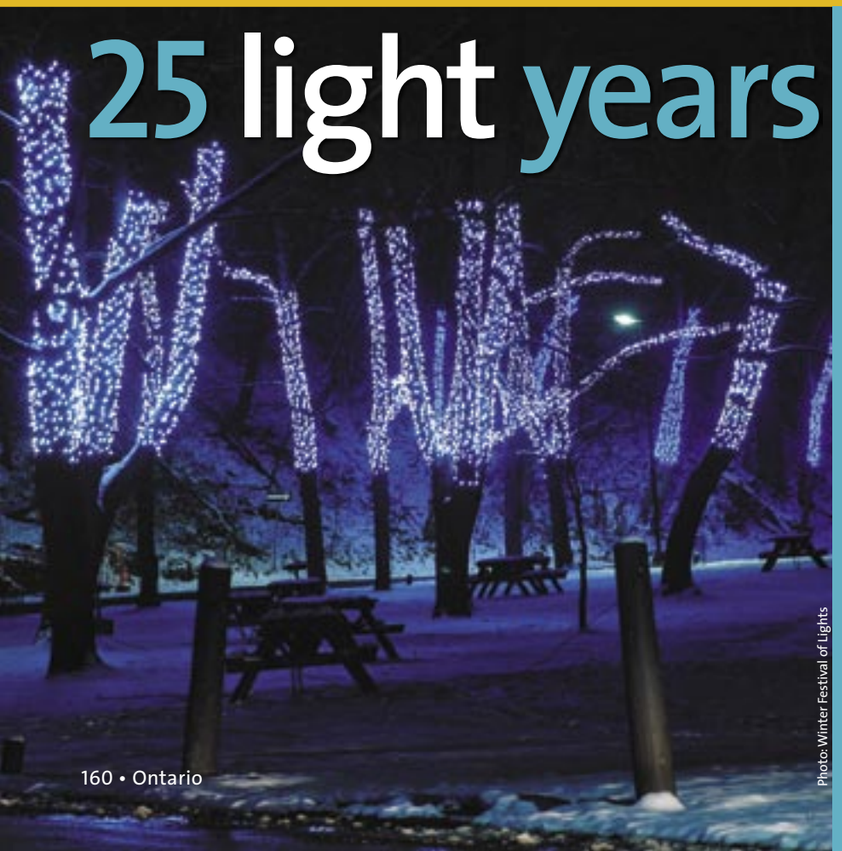

Photo: Winter Festival of Lights

It started in 1983 with what seemed like huge numbers for any winter festival: 250,000 people and 35 motor coaches. Now, with more than one million people and 900 motor coaches, the Winter Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls is one of the most dazzling winter festivals to ever hit Ontario! Don't miss it this year – their quarter-century anniversary.

Winter Festival of Lights
November 3 – January 7
www.wfol.com
1-800-563-2557

L: Winter Festival of Lights, Niagara Falls

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Enjoy our vinest season

If you love the fruit of the vine, you'll certainly enjoy Ontario's fall wine festivals. Larger than most, the Niagara Wine Festival has about 30 wineries welcoming guests along Niagara's famous wine route. Do tours and tastings. Catch concerts. Admire art. Or pop by a parade.

Mix art with wine as Niagara Wine Region artists paint, 'en plein air' at Willow Heights Estate Winery on September 15, 16. Here, you can watch acclaimed painters create works of art in the vineyard, followed by a chance to bid on their works during an auction.

Head east to Prince Edward County Jazz Festival and mix some great music with local wines. Four main stage areas throughout Ontario's newest wine region showcase hot jazz and the region's latest vintages.

Niagara Wine Festival
September 21–30
www.niagarawinefestival.com
(905) 688-0212

Niagara Wine Region
Painters' Alliance
www.tourismniagara.com

Prince Edward County Jazz Festival
August 16–19
www.pec.on.ca/jazzfest
1-877-411-4761

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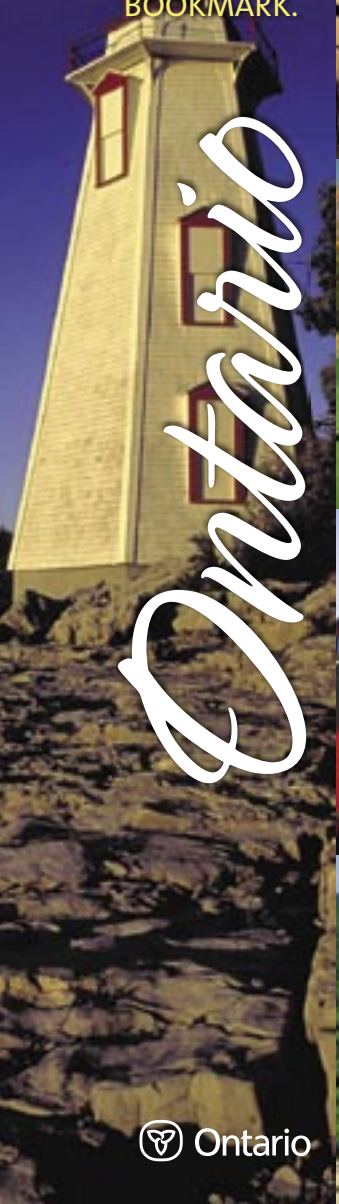

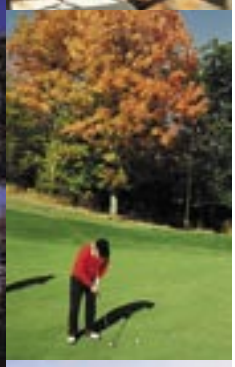

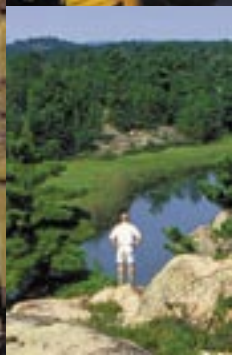

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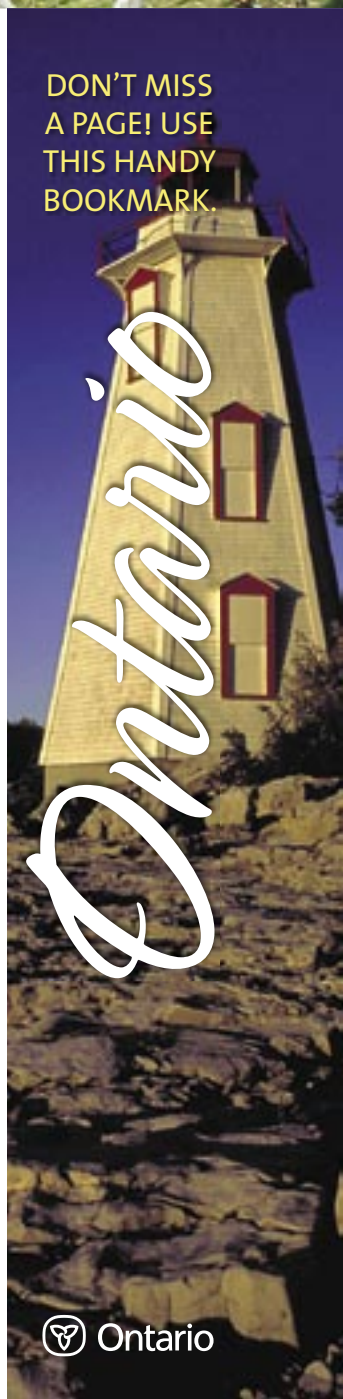


Ontario

did you know?

do you really know Ontario

Before selecting your answer, study each question closely. Phone a friend, if you like. Or ask the audience, if you have to. This could be the defining moment of your life – make it count.

1

You can sleep in one of 13 log ranger cabins – some dating back to the 1920s – in this scenic park:

a) Pinery Provincial Park
b) Algonquin Provincial Park
c) Bruce Peninsula National Park
d) Killarney Provincial Park

How many islands comprise the 1000 Islands:

a) 999
b) 1,865
c) 1,001
d) 1,000

2

3

Ontario has the world's longest freshwater beach. Which beach is it?

a) Grand Bend
b) Sauble Beach
c) Wasaga Beach
d) Sandbanks Provincial Park

Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg is home to this rare horse, brought from France to Canada in the 17th century.

a) Upper Canada horse
b) Canadian horse
c) Français cheval
d) Eastern Ontario Stallion

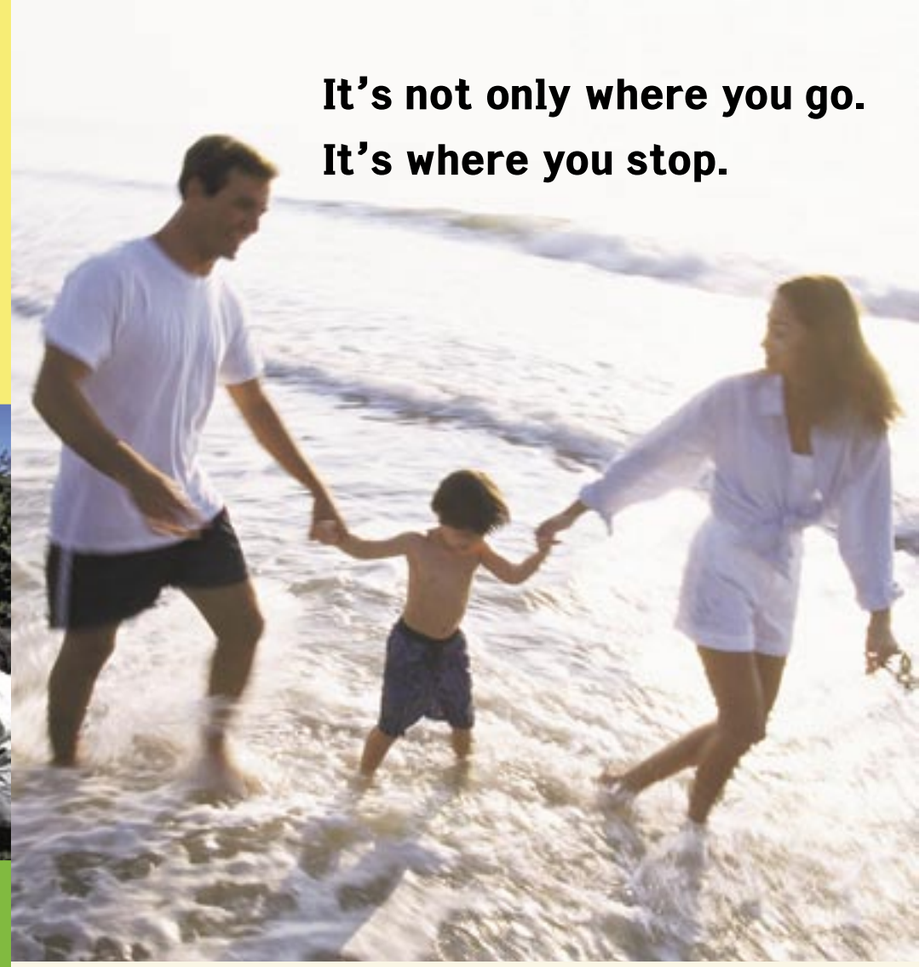
4

With more than 18,500 square metres (200,000 square feet) of dazzling gaming space, this is Ontario's largest casino.

a) Casino Rama
b) Casino Niagara
c) Fallsview Casino
d) Casino Windsor

5

ANSWERS: 1. b) Algonquin Provincial Park 2. b) 1,865 3. c) Wasaga Beach 4. b) Canadian horse 5. c) Fallsview Casino



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

- Barrie (2)
- Belleville (2)
- Bracebridge (2)
- Brantford
- Brockville (2)
- Burlington
- Cambridge
- Chatham
- Chatham/Ridgetown
- Cobourg
- Cornwall
- Dryden
- Gananoque
- Guelph
- Hamilton
- Huntsville
- Ingersoll
- Kapuskasing
- Kenora
- Kingston (2)
- Kirkland Lake
- Kitchener
- Leamington
- London (3)
- Midland
- New Liskeard
- Newmarket
- Niagara Falls (5)
- Niagara Falls/Fort Erie
- Niagara Falls/ St. Catharines (2)
- Niagara Falls/Welland
- North Bay (3)
- Orillia (3)
- Oshawa
- Oshawa/Whitby
- Ottawa (4)
- Ottawa/Arnprior
- Ottawa/Kanata
- Owen Sound
- Parry Sound (2)
- Pembroke
- Peterborough (2)
- Port Hope
- Sault Ste. Marie (3)
- Simcoe
- Smiths Falls
- Sturgeon Falls
- Sudbury (3)
- Thunder Bay
- Timmins
- Toronto (6)
- Toronto/Brampton
- Toronto/Markham
- Toronto/Mississauga (5)
- Toronto/North York
- Toronto/Oakville
- Toronto/Pickering
- Toronto/Scarborough
- Trenton
- Waterloo
- Windsor (5)
- Woodstock

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