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ONTARIO TRAVEL DISCOVERIES Fall 2007 Volume 4, Issue 1

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FALL 2007

SEARCHING FOR THE GROUP OF SEVEN • COUPLE ON A CRUISE • AN AUTUMN NIGHT DISTILLED

IT'S A FALL WORLD AFTER ALL

Fall has been called the most wonderful season of the year – and rightfully so. It combines the warm days of summer, the coziness of winter and the brilliant colours of spring.

In Ontario, there are any number of ways to take it all in – leaf-peeping tours, romantic weekend drives, country inns and resorts, and cooking classes that celebrate Ontario's fresh, local bounty.

There's always something new and exciting to do – and this season's edition of *Ontario Travel Discoveries* (OTD) only scratches the surface (a 1,000-page magazine wouldn't be very environmentally friendly, would it?). So, if you want to find out more about what interests you, give us a ring or visit us online and we'll make it our mission to find something that does. It's that easy to discover Ontario this fall.

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- | | | | |
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| Belleville | Hawkesbury | Orangeville | Smiths Falls |
| Brampton | Huntsville | Orillia (2) | Sudbury |
| Brantford | Jordan | Oshawa | Thunder Bay (2) |
| Brockville | Kenora | Ottawa (3) | Toronto (3) |
| Cambridge | Kincardine | Owen Sound | Toronto Airport Area |
| Cobourg | Kingston | Pembroke | (Mississauga) (2) |
| Cochrane | London (2) | Peterborough | Toronto Airport Area (Toronto) |
| Cornwall | Midland (Georgian Bay Area) | Renfrew | Toronto Area (Richmond Hill) |
| Dryden | Newmarket | Sarnia | Waterloo (St. Jacobs Area) |
| Gananoque | Niagara Falls (3) | Sault Ste. Marie | Windsor |
| (Canadian 1000 Islands Area) | Niagara-on-the-Lake | | |

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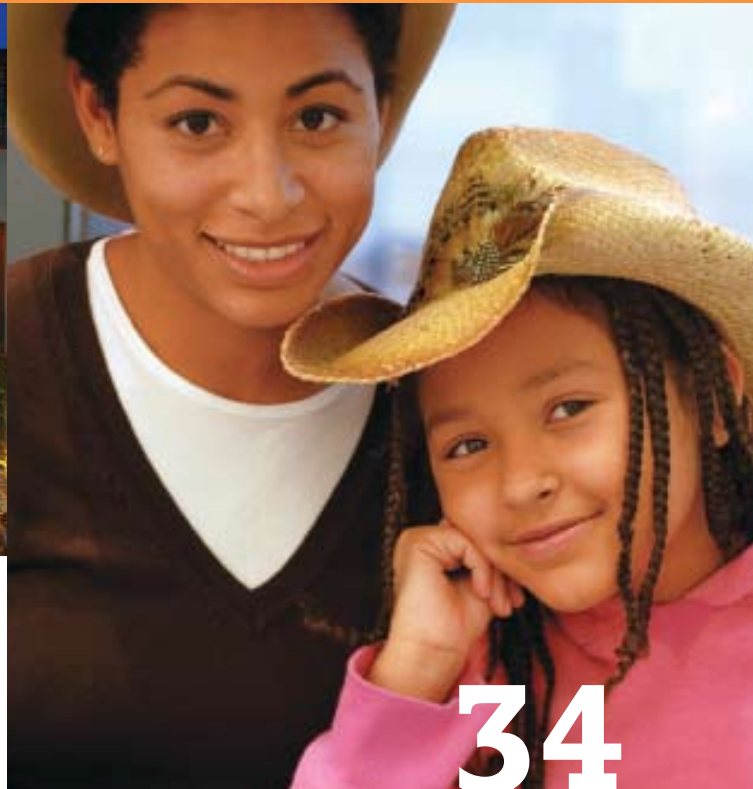
Get a taste of rural life in the heart of Toronto at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

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You don't have to choose between golfing and 'spa-ing' at Taboo. Here, you can do both – in spectacular Ontario style.

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Do the 'new' on the Greenbelt this fall: see what rock climbing's like at Rattlesnake Point.



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There are so many ways to enjoy the fall – what many say is Ontario's most wonderful season.

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This season's Great Guys' Golfing Getaway packages will have your friends turn 'greens' with envy.

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It's *Ontario Travel Discoveries'* version of the popular number game that everyone's talking about.



A calm morning on Georgian Bay

My Ontario moment began when my sister and I went on an early morning hike at Awenda Provincial Park on Georgian Bay. We were going in search of the new family of loons living on the lake. The morning was cool but the day promised to be one of the few remaining warm days of October. We didn't see the loons as they probably had already left for southern climates but we did see the beavers.

What a wonderful gift, to hear the slap-slap of their tails on the still lake. Can't think of a better place to be, than our Ontario.

Jane MacArthur, Ottawa

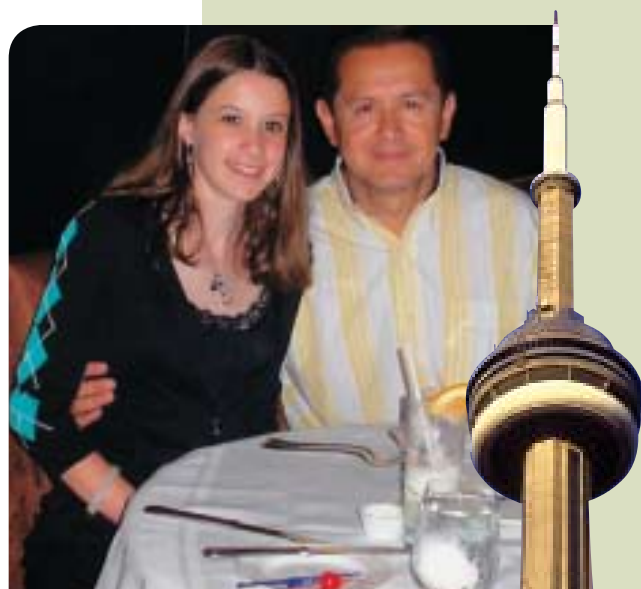
Seein' our tower

My favourite Ontario moment has to be going to the CN Tower for its 30th birthday with my dad. It was great seeing the city from high up. We ate at 360 Restaurant, which was amazing. There were many other great Ontario moments, but if I had to choose, the CN Tower was one of the best!

While I was up in Ontario, I enjoyed every minute of it. The people are so nice and there's always something to do! I can't wait to go back again!

Sara Monica Gaona, Howell, New Jersey

ABOVE: Awenda Provincial Park;
Photo: Jane MacArthur **RIGHT:**
Sara Monica Gaona and her dad;
Photo: Sara Monica Gaona



Send us your stories

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

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

Mail:

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Partnership Corporation
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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 cannot be returned. Thank you in advance for your story and we hope to share your Ontario moments with **OTD** readers soon!



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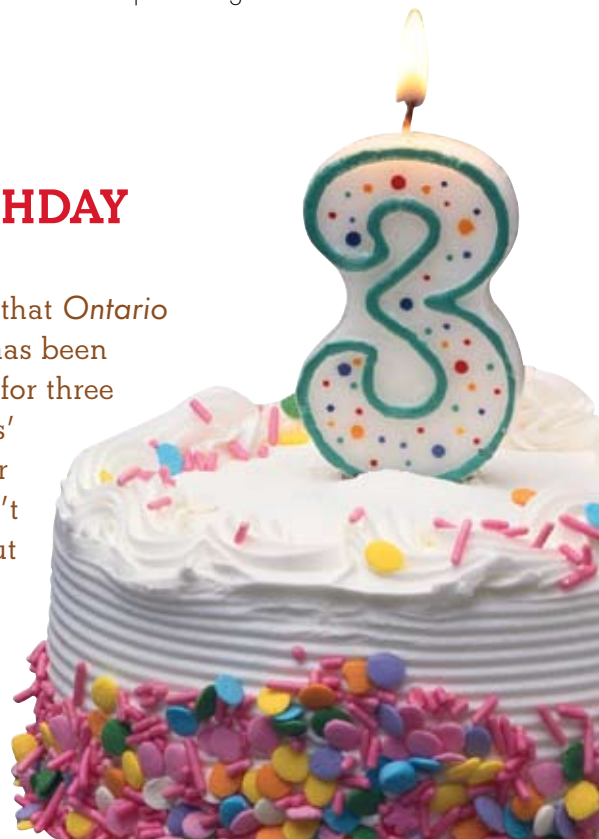
PATRICIA NOONAN'S seduction into the 'spirit' world began more than three decades ago while reading a story about martinis. An educator in the hospitality field, she has transferred her love and curiosity about the pleasures of the grain, grape and table into words for magazines like *Wine Access*, *Tidings*, *City Bites*, *Dining Out* and *Ontario Travel Discoveries* (see page 70). Patricia studied with the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (with distinction) and has taught legions of students bar and product knowledge at George Brown College in Toronto.

ANDY SHEPPARD has travelled the world as a performing musician and radio broadcaster. For three years, he was the host of the flagship national jazz program *After Hours* on CBC Radio. In 2006, he was awarded the Colleen Peterson Songwriting Award by the Ontario Arts Council. Andy presently produces a contemporary music show on CBC called *The Signal*, which he created with host Laurie Brown. In 2007, he completed a successful solo musical tour of Germany and France. Andy lives in Toronto with his wife and two cats. How does he relax when not performing? Find out on page 24.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

It's hard to believe that *Ontario Travel Discoveries* has been inspiring travellers for three years. A big 'thanks' goes out to you, our readers. We couldn't have done it without you!



ontario

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Partnership Corporation (OTMPC)
Ontario Ministry of Tourism
Magazine Design and Layout: FUEL

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

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

ADVERTISING SALES

Please visit www.tourismpartners.com (click on partnership opportunities). Or call Nicole Papineau,
OTMPC – Sales, toll-free 1-888-365-4422 or
(416) 212-1886. E-mail otmp.sales@ontario.ca

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

FROM TORONTO CALLING AREA:

English: (905) 282-1721 French: (905) 612-8776

FROM CANADA, CONTINENTAL

U.S.A. AND HAWAII:

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

INTERNATIONAL INQUIRIES

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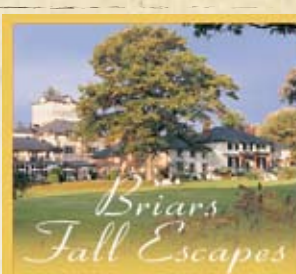
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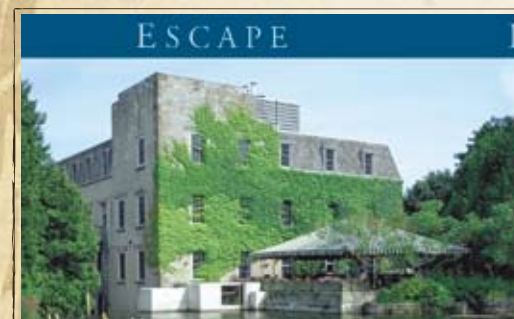
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MAKE A DATE WITH TORONTO

The fall and winter seasons are enchanting times to be in Toronto. After you're done shopping downtown and dining at one of Toronto's world-class restaurants, you can experience events taking place throughout the city, each one a perfect opportunity to reconnect with someone special. You could take a midnight walk through the Scotiabank Nuit Blanche contemporary art event on September 29. For one night, Toronto's artists take over the streets from dusk until

dawn. There is no telling what you might see, but you can be sure you won't see it anywhere else. When fall gives way to winter, events like the Scotiabank Cavalcade of Lights set the perfect atmosphere for the holidays. Join in as thousands of people fill Nathan Phillips Square on November 24 and December 1, 8 & 15 to take in the fireworks and live music. Toronto is the perfect place to rediscover each other and make memories that will last long after your weekend getaway is over.



A unique piece from the One of a Kind Craft Show.

SO MUCH TO DO YOU'LL HAVE TO BOOK ANOTHER NIGHT.

ROGERS CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL

Until October 7

Ontario Place hosts the largest lantern festival outside of Asia.

TITANIC: THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION.

Until January 6

Step back in time to the historic ship through artifacts and remarkable recreations at the Ontario Science Centre.

SCOTIABANK NUIT BLANCHE

September 29

Toronto's all-night contemporary art event.

MISSISSAUGA INTERNATIONAL HOME SHOW

October 5 - 8

Explore close to 500 exhibits at Canada's largest Fall Home Show.

160th ANNUAL WOODBRIDGE FAIR

October 6 - 8

A great family fair since 1847.

KORTRIGHT FALL COLOURS

September 22 - October 21

Celebrate the spirit of the fall season near one of our boutique towns.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

November 2 - 11

The largest indoor agricultural, horticultural, canine and equestrian event in the world.

ONE OF A KIND CRAFT SHOW

Nov. 22 - Dec. 2

Canada's finest craft show and one-of-a-kind shopping experience.

SCOTIABANK CAVALCADE OF LIGHTS

Nov. 17 - Dec. 31

Toronto's citywide holiday lighting celebration.



For more information on events around Toronto or information on booking bed and breakfast packages, go to torontotourism.com or call 1-800-499-2514.



ADVERTORIAL

WHAT'S HOT

Fall in Ontario is back! With it comes all the new and wonderful ways to explore the most colourful season of the year. **Have fun exploring!**

For more great fall ideas, visit ontariotravel.net/fall or call 1-800-ONTARIO.



CALLING ALL PUMPKINEERS!

Pumpkin growers from all over North America flock to Pumpkinfest's annual Bruce Power Weigh Off, where the winning pumpkin may be named the world's heaviest. Also part of the Pumpkinfest tradition, The Cinderella Carriage Antique and Classic Car Show fills the streets of Port Elgin during the festival. More than 45 events and attractions make Pumpkinfest a weekend with something for everyone. Bring Fido along for the ride and enter him into the Port Elgin Veterinary Clinic pet show or you can sing in front of thousands at the Bruce Telecom Harvest Star Search.

Pumpkinfest, Port Elgin

October 6-7

pumpkinfest.org

1-800-387-3456

WHAT'S HOT

POINT OF MANY RETURNS

Considered 'Ontario's first cottage country,' Jackson's Point has been a magnet for the social elite for generations, including Irving Robertson, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Evening Telegram*, once one of Canada's largest newspapers. The summer home he built, aptly named Jackson's Landing, was recently purchased by John and Lynn Gilbank, who, after searching the world over, decided that Lake Simcoe is the place for them. They restored the home's charm and elegance to reflect its original 1920s feel, much to the adoration of B&Bers yearning to escape hectic urban lifestyles.

Jackson's Landing Bed and Breakfast, Jackson's Point
jacksonslandingbb.com
(905) 722-7752

ABOVE: Jackson's Landing Bed and Breakfast.
Photo: G. Cameron

REMEMBERING FREEDOM

On Remembrance Day, November 11, honour those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, at the birthplace of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, the author of the poem *In Flanders Fields*. The ceremonies at Guelph's McCrae House, built in 1858, begin at 9:30 a.m. with a flag-raising ceremony.

Remembrance Week at McCrae House, Guelph
guelpharts.ca/mccraehouse
(519) 836-1482

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

John McCrae



TAKE A HIKE

Hike like you've never hiked before during Ontario Hiking Week. Find a new trail on your own or join other hikers at more than 100 events occurring the week of September 24. It's a free, eco-friendly way to explore nature. Your body will thank you and you're guaranteed to have fun!

For a list of hiking events, go online.
Hike Ontario
Ontario Hiking Week
September 24–30
hikeontario.com
1-800-894-7249

STREET ART SMARTS

Michelangelo would be proud. The Massey Street Painting Festival is once again bringing the best Madonnari (fancy name for street painters) to this town southwest of Sudbury, where new- and old-world art collide – on pavement. Bring your camera!

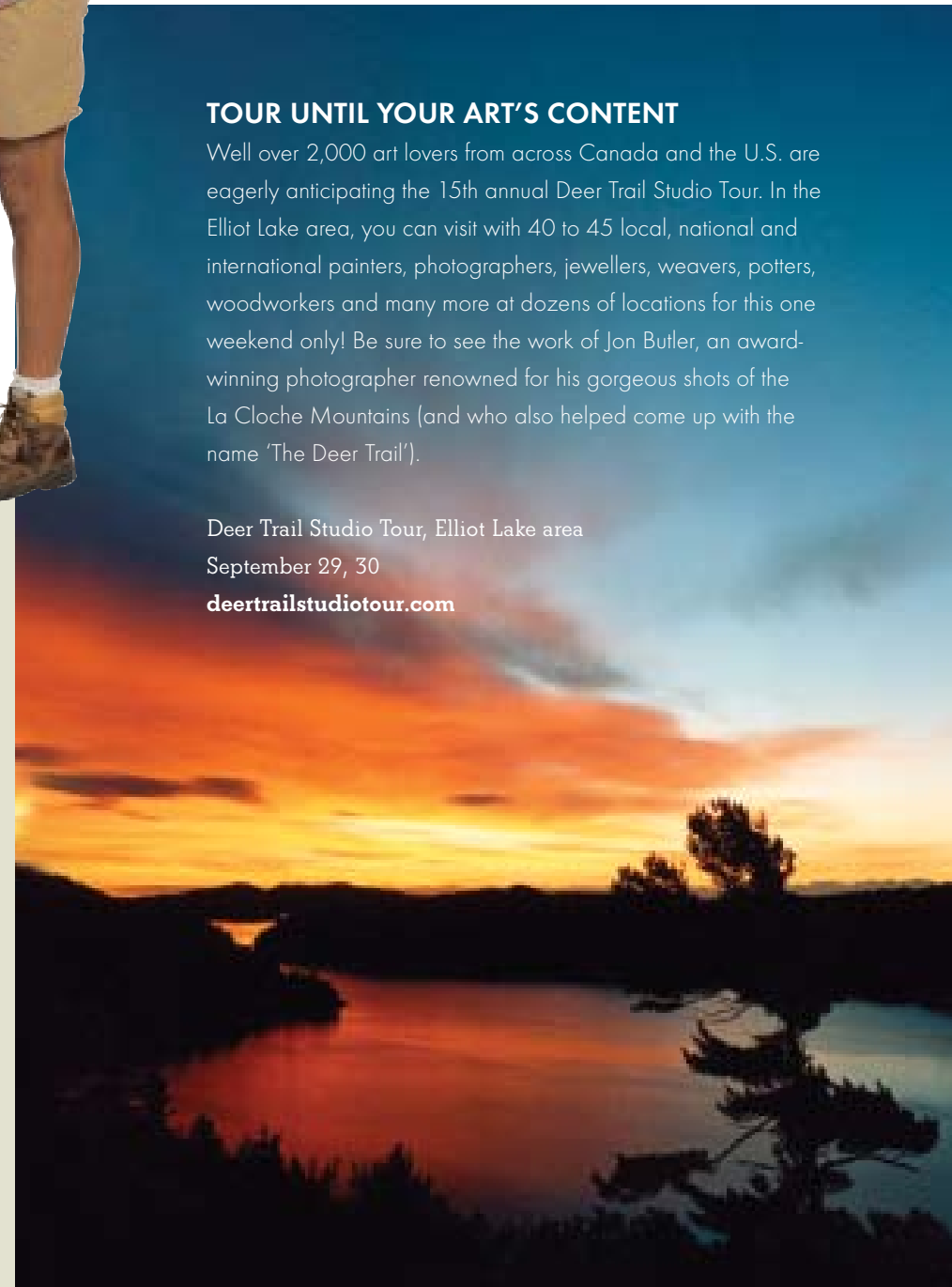
Massey Street Painting Festival, Massey
September 15, 16
masseystreetpaintingfestival.com
(705) 865-2657

BELOW: Transcendental Pine. Photo: Jon Butler

TOUR UNTIL YOUR ART'S CONTENT

Well over 2,000 art lovers from across Canada and the U.S. are eagerly anticipating the 15th annual Deer Trail Studio Tour. In the Elliot Lake area, you can visit with 40 to 45 local, national and international painters, photographers, jewellers, weavers, potters, woodworkers and many more at dozens of locations for this one weekend only! Be sure to see the work of Jon Butler, an award-winning photographer renowned for his gorgeous shots of the La Cloche Mountains (and who also helped come up with the name 'The Deer Trail').

Deer Trail Studio Tour, Elliot Lake area
September 29, 30
deertrailstudiotour.com



WHAT'S HOT



GOLFING BETWEEN ROCKS AND A WET PLACE

Georgian Bay just upped its world-class appeal. The new Cobble Beach Golf Links in Owen Sound has opened, inspired by one of the best courses in the world, Pebble Beach Golf Links in California! Add to that the 13 heritage sites throughout the property honouring the Ojibway, English and Scottish past, and you'll have a truly unique golfing experience.

Cobble Beach Golf Links,
Owen Sound
cobblebeach.com
1-888-278-8112

SCREAM YOUR HEAD OFF

When he's not running a marathon, practicing martial arts or farming, Peter Camani is perfecting his lifelong project just west of Burk's Falls. It's his Eternal Plan, consisting of 'Screaming Heads' made of cement, a 19th century farmhouse turned castle, an Enchanted Forest and more. It's so fascinating, you may want to stick around forever...and you can! For about \$11,000, your ashes can become part of his screaming creations after passing on.

Screaming Heads – Midlothian Ridge,
Burk's Falls
mmage.com/screamingheads
(705) 382-6413

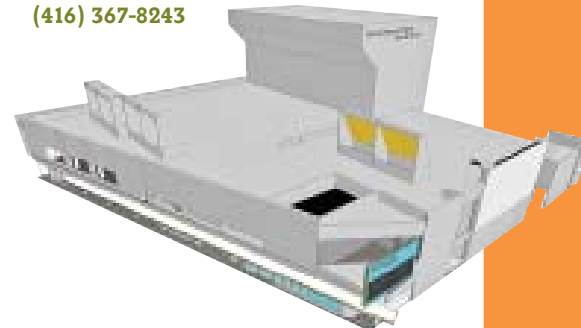


TOP: Cobble Beach Golf Links. Photo: Gallow Studios
BOTTOM: Screaming Heads. Photo: Peter Camani

THE CANSTAGE IS SET

CanStage is reinstating its founding name, The Canadian Stage Company, in celebration of its 20th anniversary. Many other exciting changes are also in the works during its 2007–08 season, including the completion of the \$3 million renovation project at the Bluma Appel Theatre. When completed in October, it will boast new auditorium seating, a new staircase, plasma screens in the lobby and new decor. A gala reopening celebration is scheduled, as well as the premiere of *The Elephant Man*, written by Bernard Pomerance and based on real-life events.

The Canadian Stage Company
(CanStage)
canstage.com
(416) 367-8243



ESCAPE TO SCANDINAVIA

And you won't even need a passport. Its renowned spa techniques have made their way to Ontario's new Le Scandinave Spa™ Blue Mountain. The new \$6.5 million, 2,323 square metre (25,000 square feet), indoor/outdoor oasis boasts Scandinavian baths, a Finnish sauna, Norwegian steam room and views of the Niagara Escarpment. If you're bringing along your spouse, don't fret – 60-minute Duo Swedish Massages are sure to please.

Le Scandinave Spa™ Blue Mountain
scandinaveblue.com
(705) 443-8484

A-MAZING PLACE

Driving down a country road in Newton, just north of Stratford, you'd never think that you're approaching one of the largest corn mazes in the world. Past years have seen the cornfield shaped as the world, Milky Way and even RMS Titanic. But this year, the 18-hectare (45-acre) colossal cornfield will have a shape like an Egyptian pyramid – the perfect place for your kids to get lost.

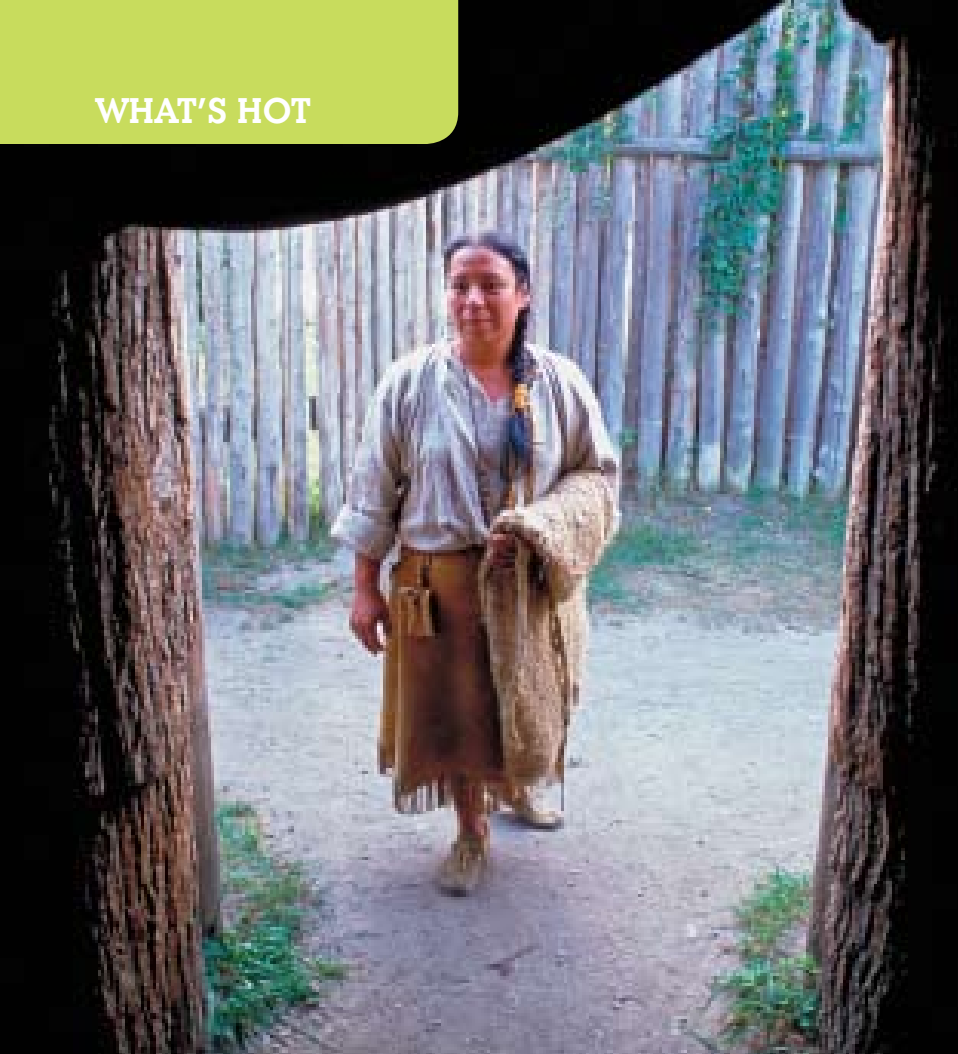
Ontario Maze, Newton
ontariomaze.com
(519) 595-8967

Maze Craze
mazecraze.ca

ABOVE: St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts, home of the Bluma Appel Theatre **TOP RIGHT:** Le Scandinave Spa™ Blue Mountain, Photo: John Avery
BOTTOM RIGHT: Ontario Maze from a previous year



WHAT'S HOT



SAINTE-MARIE'S TWISTED SISTERS

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons knows the key to a great party: bring family! During the Thanksgiving Harvest Festival, one of the highlights is planting the 'three sisters' (corn, beans and squash) in a cup you can take home, then transplant into your garden. The method of planting these three together began with Aboriginals, enabling the beans to shade the squash and the corn to provide a stalk for beans and squash to climb.

While you're soaking in the 17th century at the fest, enjoy a bowl of Three Sisters Soup, a Bertha Skye original recipe, or try this simple recipe at home courtesy of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons.

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, Midland
Thanksgiving Harvest Festival
October 6-7
saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca
(705) 526-7838

ABOVE: Costumed interpreter at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
RIGHT: Three Sisters Soup, Photo: Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

18 • Ontario

THREE SISTERS SOUP

1.25 L (5 cups) water
500 mL (2 cups) corn kernels
500 mL (2 cups) chopped green beans
500 mL (2 cups) cubed peeled
butternut squash
375 mL (1 ½ cups) diced peeled potatoes
30 mL (2 tbsp) all-purpose flour
30 mL (2 tbsp) butter, softened
3¾ mL (¾ tsp) salt
3 mL (½ tsp) pepper

In a large pot over high heat, combine 1.25 L water with corn, green beans, squash and potatoes; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 10 minutes or until vegetables are almost tender. Blend together flour and butter; stir into soup. Increase heat to medium; cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in salt and pepper. | *Makes 4 to 6 servings.*

This recipe, which will be served at this year's Thanksgiving Harvest Festival, earned Bertha Skye her gold medal in the 1992 Culinary Olympics in Germany.



FIVE STAR TORONTO

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The Hazelton Hotel
1-866-473-6301
thehazeltonhotel.com

ABOVE: Suite at The Hazelton Hotel, Photo: Leonardo Frusteri;
Gucci, steps from The Hazelton Hotel, Photo: The Hazelton Hotel
RIGHT: Pennie Downie in rehearsal, Photo: Ellie Kurttz.

ATWOOD BOOK COMES ALIVE

What a collaboration – Canada's National Arts Centre working with England's Royal Shakespeare Company. And that's not all. Canada's world-famous author Margaret Atwood adapted her 2005 book, *The Penelopiad* for these two great theatre companies. It premiered on Stratford-Upon-Avon's stage this summer and judging from the British reviews we are in for a memorable night of entertainment at the National Arts Centre this fall, enjoying Margaret Atwood's brilliant version of Homer's myth *The Odyssey*, and the faithful Penelope waiting 20 years for Odysseus to return from the Trojan Wars.

National Arts Centre
Previews September 19, 20
September 19 – October 6
nac-can.ca
1-866-850-ARTS



Events that engage. Book your accommodations and tickets now for the non-stop festivities of some of Ontario’s limited-time events this fall!



Adrienne Pieczonka (r) and Nathalie Paulin (l) in *Don Carlos*. PHOTO: Michael Cooper

OPERA LOVERS

The Canadian Opera Company begins another fantastic season this fall with Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro* and Verdi’s *Don Carlos* in its new home modeled after the greatest European opera houses, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Canadian Opera Company,
The Four Seasons Centre for
the Performing Arts
coc.ca
1-800-250-4653
(416) 363-8231

SPORTS FANS

The Air Canada Centre in downtown Toronto is back with the hometown favourites, the Raptors. Current stars on the squad include NBA All-Star Chris Bosh; two-time winner of the Eastern Conference Rookie of the Month, Andrea Bargnani; and 2006–07 NBA Coach of the Year, Sam Mitchell.

Toronto Raptors
Season begins this October
nba.com/raptors
(416) 872-5000

The Toronto Raptors, Air Canada Centre, Toronto



CONNECT



Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show

SEPTEMBER

Toronto International Film Festival
Toronto, September 6–15

Western Fair
London, September 7–16

Festival National de l’Humour
Hearst, September 13–15

Owen Sound Celtic Festival
Owen Sound, September 14, 15

148th Annual Harriston-Minto Fall Fair
Harriston, September 14–16

Fergus Fall Fair
Fergus, September 14–16

Fall Fair at Upper Canada Village
Morrisburg, September 15, 16

Cinefest Sudbury International Film Festival
Sudbury, September 15–23

Leeds-Grenville International Plowing Match & Country Festival
Township of Rideau Lakes, September 18–22

153rd Annual Lindsay Central Exhibition
Lindsay, September 19–23

Ottawa International Animation Festival
Ottawa, September 19–23

The Penelopiad
National Arts Centre
Ottawa, September 19 – October 6

Prince Edward County Music Festival
Picton, September 20–22

Stratford Fall Fair
Stratford, September 20–23

All-Canadian Jazz Festival
Port Hope, September 21–23

Barrie’s 5th Colours of Music
Barrie, September 21–30

Niagara Wine Festival
St. Catharines, September 21–30

Flesherton Split Rail Festival
Flesherton, September 22, 23

Markham Fair
Markham, September 27–30

Applefest
Brighton, September 28–30

Nuit Blanche
Toronto, September 29

Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon
Toronto, September 30

The Word on the Street
Toronto, September 30

OCTOBER

Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show
Simcoe, October 2–8

Ball’s Falls Thanksgiving Festival
Jordan, October 5–8

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest
Kitchener, October 5–13

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
Port Elgin, October 6, 7

Rama Thanksgiving Pow Wow
Rama, October 6, 7

Woodbridge Agricultural Fair
Woodbridge, October 6–8

Bala Cranberry Festival
Bala, October 12–14

Algoma Fall Festival
Sault Ste. Marie, October 12 – November 4

imagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts Festival
Toronto, October 17–21

International Festival of Authors
Toronto, October 17–27

Waterford Pumpkin Festival
Waterford, October 19–21

The Chrysanthemum Show
Hamilton, October 19–28

Barrie Film Festival
Barrie, October 20–28

Vintage Film Festival
Cobourg, October 26–28

Toronto International Art Fair
Toronto, October 26–29

NOVEMBER

Words Aloud Spoken Word & Storytelling Festival
Durham, November 1–4

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Toronto, November 2–11

Winter Festival of Lights
Niagara Falls, November 3 – January 7

Festival of Northern Lights
Owen Sound, November 16 – January 6

Espanola Winter Lights
Espanola, November 17 – December 26

Celebration of Lights
Sarnia, November 17 – January 2

Annual Festival of Lights 2007
Kapuskasing, November 17 – January 7

The Santa Claus Parade
Toronto, November 18

Peterborough Festival of Trees
Peterborough, November 20–25

Cavalcade of Lights
Toronto, November 24 – December 15

First Light
Midland, November 29 – December 1

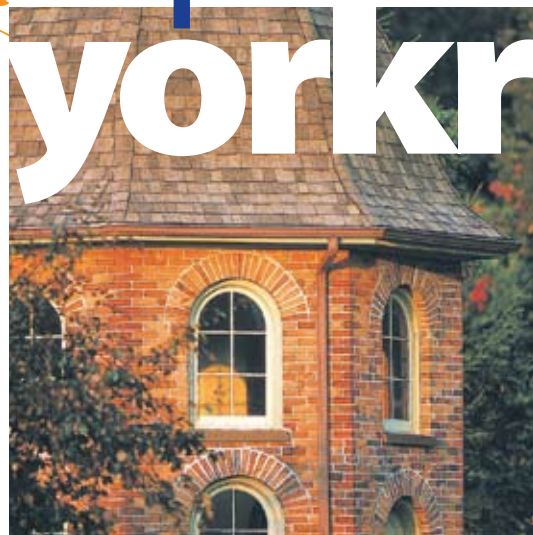
Alight at Night Festival
Morrisburg, November 29 – January 5

Canadian Aboriginal Festival
Toronto, November 30 – December 2

Winter Wonderland
London, November 30 – January 1



experience york region



discover fall...

Autumn is a great time to take to the road and **explore** the countryside...and fall in York Region is spectacular! **Hop** in the car, **grab** your camera and **take off** for a few hours or an **entire** weekend. Tucked into the landscape of the beautiful Oak Ridges Moraine, less than an hour north of Toronto, York Region is just the place to **savour the season**.



savour the season...

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View the changing colours in over 5,000 acres of forests on one of our Great Fall Drives. Include a visit to historic villages such as Unionville, Markham, and Kleinburg, where shops and restaurants are nestled in quaint 200-year old buildings - then rest

your feet in a cosy café or at a luxurious hotel & spa and sample the best in local cuisine.

From fantastic fall festivals and great outdoor recreation to fabulous shopping, theatre and attractions, the area is alive with great autumn adventures. Enjoy special offers as part of Festifall in York Region, a ten-week celebration of fall events, fall colour driving tours and exhibitions across the region. **Come celebrate with us!**



September Festivals

- McMichael Canadian Art Collection - The Art of Robert Bateman September 1 to October 28
- Unionville Heritage & Big Band Festival - September 3
- The Illumination - Historic Sharon Temple - September 7
- Kleinburg Binder Twine Festival - September 8
- Markham Village Olden Days Antique Cars Festival - September 9
- York Region Forest Fall Festival - September 15
- Thornhill Village Festival - September 15
- Markham Fall Fair - Canada's largest! - September 27-30

October Festivals

- Magic Hill's Haunted Adventure - October weekends
- Jack Soul, Markham Theatre - October 6
- Woodbridge Fall Fair - October 6
- Unionville Little Oktoberfest - October 9
- Savour Vaughan - October 17-30
- Kortright Fall Colour Tours - October 21-29
- Haunted Halloween Village - Markham Museum - October 26-28



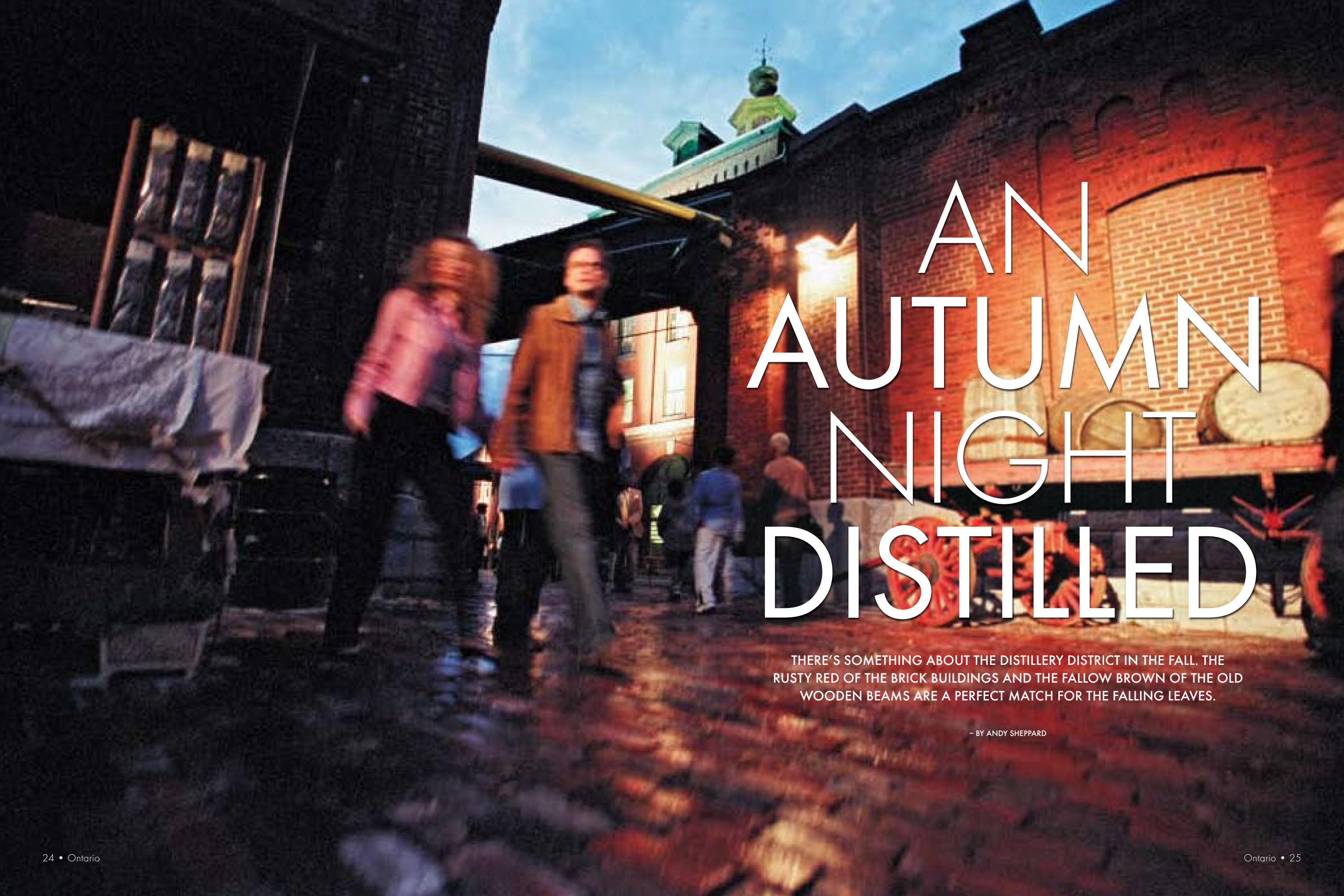
Studio Tours

- King Township Photography Tour - September 21
- Markham 48 Studio Tour & Sale - September 22
- Georgina Studio Tour - September 29 & 30
- Richmond Hill Studio Tour & Art Sale - October 13 & 14
- Stouffville Studio Tour & Sale - October 13 & 14
- Vaughan Festival of the Arts - October 13 & 14



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AN AUTUMN NIGHT DISTILLED

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE DISTILLERY DISTRICT IN THE FALL. THE RUSTY RED OF THE BRICK BUILDINGS AND THE FALLOW BROWN OF THE OLD WOODEN BEAMS ARE A PERFECT MATCH FOR THE FALLING LEAVES.

— BY ANDY SHEPPARD

RIGHT PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Boiler House; live music; The Boiler House; art show; Balzac's Coffee



**The
Distillery
District has
a different
rhythm from
the rest of
Toronto.**



It's an architectural ode to the season. And while this is a time of year when many places are closing up shop, the Distillery District remains as warm and inviting as a Thanksgiving dinner.

Every month or two, my wife and I take some time out from our busy lives, and we go on a little adventure in the city. Just the two of us. And this is one of our favourite spots to visit on a cool autumn night.

The Distillery District has a different rhythm from the rest of Toronto. We like to walk the cobbled streets at a more leisurely pace. We pretend that we're somewhere in Europe, taking in the sights. The streetlamps remind me of Victorian England, though my wife feels that the art galleries lend the place a more contemporary feel. There's a brilliant Martha Henrickson photograph in the Corkin Gallery that would look perfect in our living room, but we're just browsing tonight. That's because we have reservations at the The Boiler House restaurant, and we don't want to be late.

The air is a bit crisp, so it's wonderful to step inside where we can cozy up to the candlelight in one of the heavy timber booths.

We arrive just in time to catch the first set from a small group of local jazz musicians. They're perched up on a platform, which overlooks the dining room. The sounds of a double bass and a muted trumpet mingle with the clinking of wine glasses as

our roasted steelhead trout and northern venison appear at our table. The food makes us giddy, it's so good.

As we leave, the air outside feels a bit warmer for some reason (perhaps it's the wine), so we take a short stroll down to Balzac's Coffee (one of the most beautiful cafés we've ever seen). We decide to share a cappuccino as we plan our next autumn holiday to the Distillery District. **OTD**

— Andy Sheppard is a winner of the prestigious Colleen Peterson Songwriting Award and enjoys exploring Toronto's historic neighbourhoods.

CONNECT

The Distillery District
thedistillerydistrict.com
(416) 364-1177

Tourism Toronto
torontotourism.com/visitor
1-800-499-2514

ontariotravel.net/fall



À LA CARTE IN OTTAWA

– BY LAURA BYRNE PAQUET



FOR THE MODEST PRICE OF A SANDWICH AND A SODA, I'm dining in a restaurant with one of the most spectacular views in Ottawa. Spread out beyond the soaring glass windows of the cafeteria at the National Gallery of Canada is a vista encompassing Parliament Hill, the Ottawa River and beyond.

Eventually I tear myself away from the view to explore the gallery itself. Across the corridor from the cafeteria, an enormous fibreglass infant's face beckons me into the contemporary art galleries. Logically enough, the strangely compelling piece by Australian artist Ron Mueck is called *Head of a Baby*. Iconic works in this section of the gallery include reproduction Brillo pad boxes by Andy Warhol and Barnett Newman's red-and-blue-striped *Voice of Fire*.

I could spend all day at the National Gallery, strolling through the perpetually popular Group of Seven galleries,

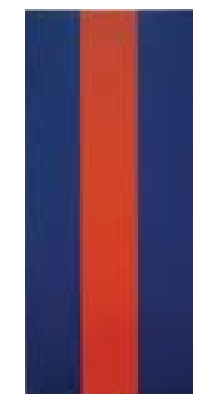
enjoying an audio installation in the reconstructed Rideau Street Convent Chapel with its magnificent fan-vaulted ceiling, or browsing through the spacious bookstore. But the gallery should be just the beginning of any art lover's visit to Ottawa. The historic ByWard Market neighbourhood is next.

Just south of the gallery along busy Sussex Drive is one of the city's most moving pieces of public art. *Reconciliation*, a monument erected in 1992, features statues of three Canadian peacekeepers atop two jagged stone slabs.

A less prominent piece of public art pokes its trumpet out of the bushes of a tiny parkette on the opposite side of Sussex. The Roman Catholic Church donated this charming metal angel to the National Capital Commission three decades ago, and it found a home here.

For several streets in either direction, you'll find art galleries galore. I discover ceramics and paintings by new artists in the tiny shop at the Ottawa School of Art, prints at Galerie d'art Jean-Claude-Bergeron, contemporary Canadian works at gallery four.seven.nine, art from across Canada and around the world at the

ABOVE: National Gallery of Canada at dusk, Ottawa **BELOW:** ©Estate of Barnett Newman/SODRAC (2007) Barnett Newman's *Voice of Fire* (1967), Photo: ©National Gallery of Canada





Sussex Studio and pieces in a wide range of styles at the large Art Mode Gallery.

After a few hours spent trolling the city's galleries, I even stumble on a quiet spot to savour a gourmet snack while enjoying art of yet another sort. The Carisse Studio Café displays and sells photographs by Jean-Marc Carisse, who has created captivating portraits of world celebrities ranging from Pierre Trudeau and Bill Clinton to the Dalai Lama and the Rolling Stones.

Sipping Italian bottled water from a cobalt-blue glass, I relax into my seat. It seems like a suitably stylish end to an artistic afternoon. **OTD**

— Laura Byrne Paquet is an award-winning freelance travel writer whose work has appeared in many major publications, including National Geographic Traveler. She is the author of a guidebook, *Secret Ottawa*.

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE: Interior, National Gallery of Canada; Ron Mueck, *Head of a Baby* (2003), ©The Artist, courtesy Anthony d'Offay, London, Photo: ©National Gallery of Canada; Window shopping on Sussex Drive, Photo: Ottawa Tourism



CONNECT

Art Mode Gallery
artmode.com
(613) 241-1511

ByWard Market
byward-market.com
(613) 562-3325

National Gallery of Canada
gallery.ca
1-800-319-2787

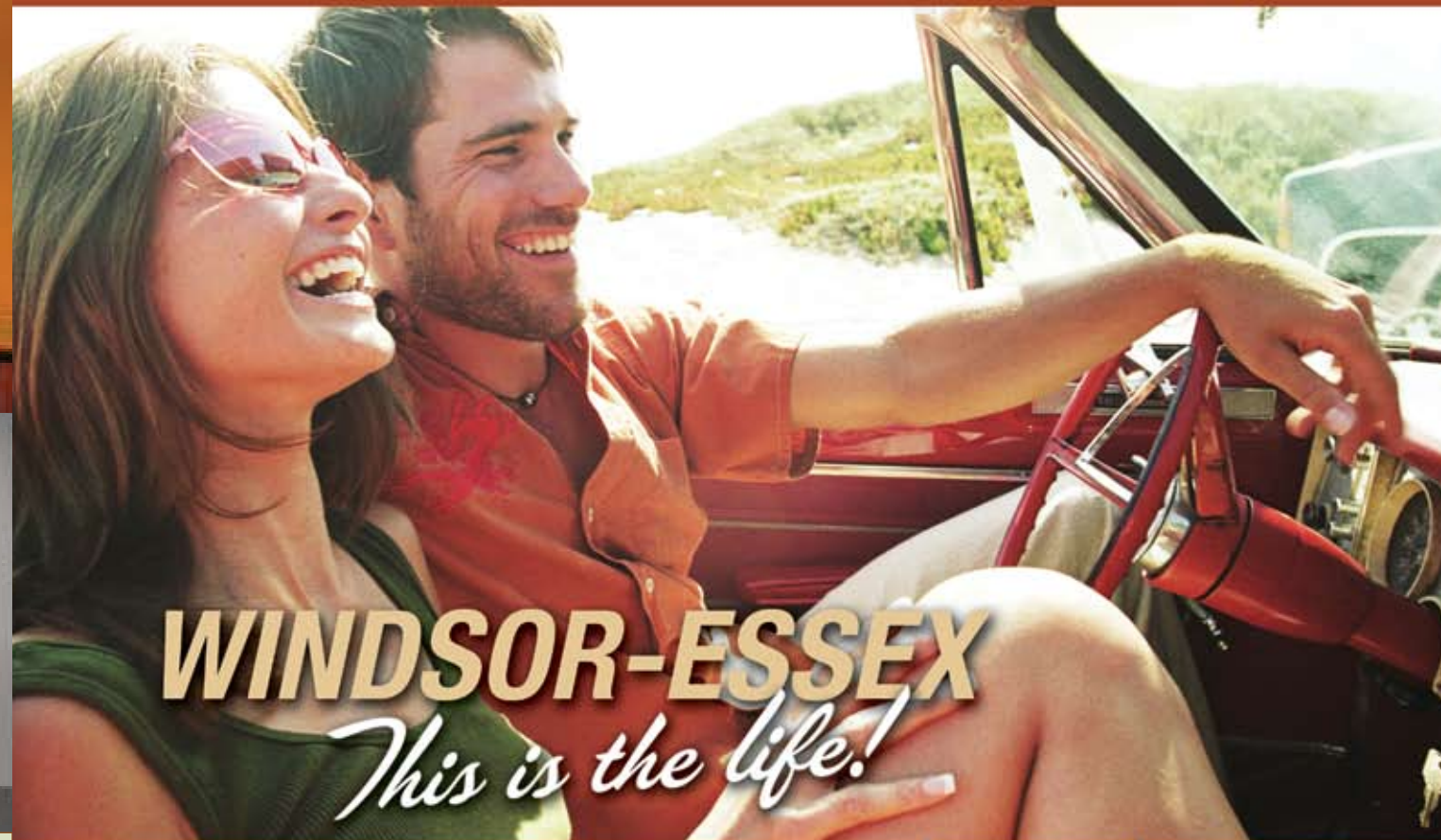
The Sussex Studio
thesussexstudio.com
(613) 244-0777

Ottawa School of Art
artottawa.ca
(613) 241-7471

Ottawa Tourism
ottawatourism.ca
1-888-688-2928

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ramadaleamington.com

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Cookin' County Cookery

AT THE

— BY NICOLE LEAPER



COOKING, FOR A TRUE NOVICE, CAN BE A VERY INTIMIDATING

enterprise. Especially if your first exposure to the culinary arts is with a kitchen full of foodies and experienced cooks. Nonetheless, my friend Sarah, a self-described “newbie in the kitchen,” bravely accompanied me to The Waring House in Prince Edward County to attend one of the very popular classes at its Cookery School.

In preparation for our upcoming cooking lessons, we treated ourselves to the six-course Blind Tasting dining experience at Harvest Restaurant, paired with wine. Each of Chef Michael Potter’s dishes was a delightful surprise and, like many establishments

in the County, the menu celebrated the local bounty of the land.

After an afternoon of tasting, we moved on to The Waring House, just a few minutes outside of Picton. You can’t miss it – it’s the only stone building in the area. In 1860, the Irish farmer Joshua Waring imported the stone and built the house for his son, Thomas. Thankfully, the current innkeepers, Christopher and Norah Rogers, have lovingly maintained the original spirit of the home by furnishing it with Victorian-era antiques. At the same time, they’ve expanded the building and added new accommodation separate from the house to make The Waring House a popular spot for everything from couples’ getaways to corporate retreats. There were even two weddings in the 24 hours that we were there!

There is always something happening at The Waring House, be it live music in The Barley Room Pub, a private function in The Prince Edward Room or classes at the Cookery School. Seems everything

emanates from Chef Luis De Sousa’s kitchen – and it’s all delicious. Breakfast alone is worth the visit; their omelettes are fabulous, packed with locally produced Black River cheddar cheese, mushrooms, smoked ham and sausage. And I dare you to leave without a jar of their jam.

After a hearty breakfast in the sunny dining room looking out on the garden, we ventured next door to the Cookery School. There are many courses to choose from; too many to mention, but they are all \$75 and include a meal and wine. This is no demo kitchen where you watch a chef show off their skills. Here, everyone cooks, everyone has lots of fun and then, the best part, everyone enjoys the fruits of their labour in the dining room.

Sarah and I chose the Pre-Holiday Supper Solutions class. Chef Andrea Mut gave the group an overview of the four make-ahead casseroles, which can be frozen and saved for days when you don’t have the time to create a fabulous meal. We broke into pairs, donned aprons and tackled a recipe. We chose the savoury jambalaya, then went to the station where all the ingredients were neatly prearranged for us. To add to the fun, the day we attended, there was a group of teachers who called themselves ‘teachers with appeal.’ They came really prepared, complete with their own homemade chefs’ hats.

To revisit an old saying: you can teach an old cook new tricks. There were several experienced chefs at the class who said they did learn some new pointers from Andrea. But what about the novice? Well, turns out, after learning how to slice an onion and getting comfortable in the kitchen, Sarah had a newfound enthusiasm for cooking. She has vowed to explore her own kitchen and surprise her family with some Thai meatballs in the near future. **OTD**

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



CONNECT

Harvest Restaurant
harvestrestaurant.ca
 (613) 476-6763

Taste The County™ Taste Trail
tastetrail.ca
 1-866-845-6644

The Waring House
waringshouse.com
 1-800-621-4956

ontariotravel.net/fall



Do some pre-cooking class shopping in Bloomfield. Walk along the main street and stop at Carruther’s, The County Chocolatier.

Bloomfield
pec.on.ca/bloomfield
 1-800-640-4717

Celebrate the harvest with regional food producers when you attend the annual Taste! event on the Saturday of the Thanksgiving weekend.

Taste! A Celebration of
 Regional Cuisine
 October 6
thecounty.ca/taste
 1-866-845-6644

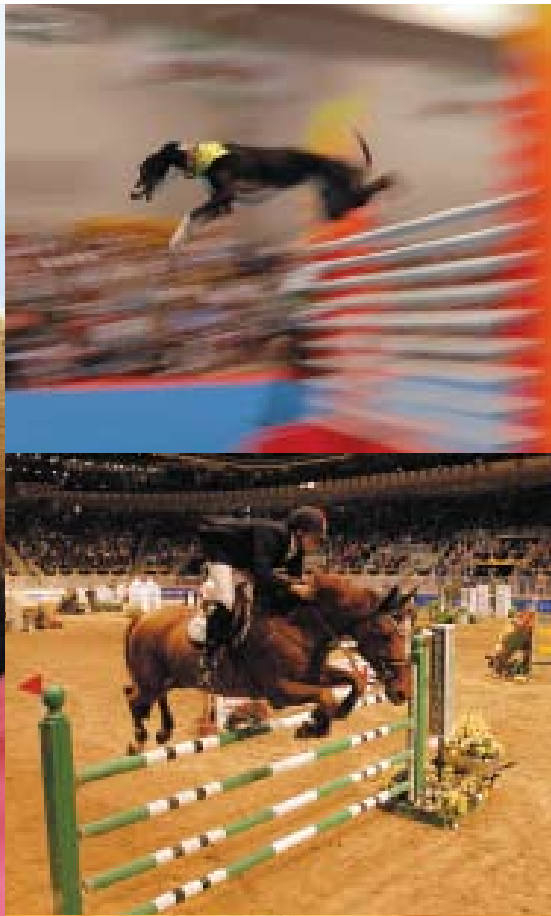
LEFT PAGE L-R: It’s fun learning to make Pad Thai. Photo: Ginny Merritt; Shrimp and cilantro make this soup very special. Photo: Ian Taylor **TOP L-R:** Barley Room Pub, Picton; Taste Trail, Bloomfield



A photograph of a family visiting a petting zoo. In the foreground, a young girl with dark hair and a yellow flower in it is looking at a small, fluffy yellow chick in a wire cage. She is wearing a dark jacket and a blue beaded necklace. Behind her, a young boy in a blue and white striped shirt is also looking at the chick. In the background, a man is partially visible. The cage is filled with many other similar yellow chicks. The background is a red wall.

The Royal Treatment

Visiting the country in the heart of the city is a family affair. Only held in fall, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair showcases the best of the 'countriest' at Exhibition Place in Toronto.



It's for all – the youngest to the oldest. Be awed during the Royal Horse Show, the Toronto Mounted Police Ride and the kid-popular Superdogs extravaganza. Then pass by the pens and meet some of our four-legged friends first-hand.



CONNECT

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

ontariotravel.net/fall



COUPLE ON A CRUISE

My official, completely authorized journal
of an epic voyage through the 1000 Islands

(slightly abridged). — BY DARREN HAKKER

I JUST COULDN'T RESIST;

I had to ask. "Wanna take a cruise?"

Darlene, my bride, greeted me with skepticism at first, but when she saw that I wasn't kidding (which is rare), the obvious excuses for not taking a cruise began: expensive airfare, scheduling time off work, airport security, heat stroke, gastrointestinal illnesses, etc., etc.

There would be none of the above, I assured her. "Let's cruise the 1000 Islands."

A sparkle in her eye showed that it was a great idea. We googled a few places and found a three-night fall cruise that would take us through the heart of the islands, plus stop for cool shore excursions along the way.

Thus began our epic adventure.

ABOVE: The Canadian Empress



Half expecting Jack Jones to greet us singing *Love Boat*, we both walked up the gangplank and aboard our home for the next three days.

RIGHT PAGE, CLOCKWISE: Captain Terry Thomas; Lighthouse, Kingston; Fall colour viewing from the 1000 Islands Skydeck

DAY ONE

We soon found ourselves soaking in the setting sun on Kingston’s waterfront, home berth to the M/V Canadian Empress: a replica 1908-style steamship – designed to reflect the classic style of North American turn-of-the-century riverboats. The brainchild of Bob Clark, founder of St. Lawrence Cruise Lines, the Canadian Empress was built as a faithful composite of historic vessels – with all the modern conveniences, to boot.

Half expecting Jack Jones to greet us singing *Love Boat*, we both walked up the gangplank and aboard our home for the next three days. We unpacked and headed to the Grand Saloon (a.k.a. dining room, a.k.a. fall-colour viewing room, a.k.a. games room).

Here, we got to know some of our fellow cruisers and where they’re from, before the Cruise Director, Rob Douglas, formally welcomed everyone aboard. Rob was our cruise version of a hotel concierge; if we needed anything, we just had to say the magic word and he could get it done.

We chatted with new friends during a prime rib buffet, then followed it up with a surprisingly fun “mass Trivial Pursuit game” as Rob called it...1970s edition (the game is actually from the early 80s).

DAY TWO

With the colourful 1000 Islands as our backdrop, we enjoyed eggs Benedict with a couple from Alaska who have cruised all over the world: the Nile, Yangtze and Antarctica, where they had penguins nipping at their pants. And now they are here – having the time of their lives. I was beginning to understand that this cruise is even more than about the fall colours and 1000 Islands – it’s also about stories.

After a morning of meandering around rocky islands dotted with beautiful cottages, the Canadian Empress docked at Gananoque’s Heritage Centre for our first shore excursion. Here, we acquainted ourselves with the islands before popping into a couple of touristy shops just next door.

“Darlene, don’t spend all your money in one place,” I quipped. A smile proved that she found a deal on clothes. Actually, it seemed like everyone was finding a little piece of Gananoque to take home with them. I managed to scoop up some fudge – a wiser investment than clothes, anytime.

Back on the ship, we cruised past islands of every shape and size – including Heart Island, home to the grand Boldt Castle – as we sipped away the afternoon with tea.

Before long, we docked in Prescott and Rob announced, jokingly, to “go to the pointy end of the ship and get off on the grassy side.” The deckhands helped everyone off the Empress and wished us a great time on our short bus ride to Fort Wellington. Built to defend our fledgling British colony during the War of 1812, this national historic site was an exhilarating jump into the past. Mike, our tour guide,



walked us through an enormous doorway leading through earthen ramparts, complete with wooden pikes protruding from its sides. The fort’s large blockhouse and massive cannons, still pointing to the river, brought chills.

Evening came quickly, almost too quickly, and back aboard the ship, live music entertained those not yet tired enough for bed.

DAY THREE

Breakfast gave us ample time to trade more stories before visiting Brockville’s Fulford Place, a restored mansion overlooking the St. Lawrence River. The mansion was built sparing no expense by the famous inventor of the Pink Pills for Pale People, George Taylor Fulford. Seeing how much time and effort went into restoring this place, I asked our guide Shirley, “What’s the next big renovation going to be?” She said, “The master bedroom curtains.” It didn’t seem like a major job to me, until she said it was going to cost \$27,000. Ouch. I wished her the best of luck.

After another terrific lunch, Darlene and I chatted it up with the ship’s bartender, Robyn Crawford, who, we learned, has served 18 tours on the Canadian Empress as of last fall,

and was still loving it. The Canadian Empress is smaller, and thus more personal than other cruises, she told us, giving her the chance to connect with passengers on a first-name basis.

Robyn has seen all sorts of people on her trips, “We’ve had people from Africa, Netherlands, Switzerland,” she recounted. “I had one gentleman wear pajamas...whatever floats your boat.” Born in Kingston, Robyn was also a wealth of knowledge when it comes to discovering the 1000 Islands area.

Next up on day three was Rockport – a quaint hamlet with a gorgeous white church overlooking the harbour. With fall’s bright colours surrounding it, the scene made for a perfect Kodak moment. Here, we disembarked and bused it to the spiralling 1000 Islands Skydeck. From a vantage point of 107 m (350 ft.) in the air, the enormity of the 1000 Islands made my jaw drop (literally), with views stretching for 65 km (40 mi.), according to one of the local enthusiasts.

As an unexpected surprise after a steak and salmon dinner, we made our way to the wheelhouse for a quick tour with Captain Terry Thomas. He has more than 36 years in the boat biz (22 on this ship alone) and knows pretty much every rock and bend in the river.

Then the Grand Saloon’s dance floor lights came alive with the big band sounds of The Carm Aube Trio. Sometime between *Beyond the Sea* and *True Love*, a passenger pointed to the complimentary snacks and asked a stewardess, “Are these low in fat?” She quickly replied, “Absolutely, there are no calories on the boat at all.” Gotta love that.

DAY FOUR

Our final day.

Since we passed through the Thousand Islands National Park twice on our voyage, it only seemed appropriate to learn a little more about it. (Did you know it’s Canada’s oldest national park east of the Rocky Mountains?) Jennifer Bond, Park Interpreter, gave us an onboard presentation about the wildlife that makes up the 1000 Islands. I don’t think anyone will forget when she held up a painted turtle shell and explained how the claws are used to rip its prey to shreds: “For those who like b-grade horror, it’s actually quite amusing.”

With images of endangered wildlife far removed, we savoured a pickerel lunch with salad drizzled with, you guessed it, Thousand Island dressing.

We listened to Cruise Director Rob as he gave a great thank-you speech, and shook hands with our new Alaskan, Ohioan and Californian friends. Then the inevitable came – “organized chaos” (as Captain Thomas called it) – as everyone disembarked and went on their separate ways, all a little more rested and enlightened from one of Ontario’s quintessential river cruises. **OTD**

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

Next up on day three was Rockport – a quaint hamlet with a gorgeous white church overlooking the harbour.



CONNECT

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

1000 Islands Gananoque
Chamber of Commerce
1000islandsgananoque.com
1-800-561-1595

St. Lawrence Cruise Lines
stlawrencecruiselines.com
1-800-267-7868

ontariotravel.net/fall

Ontario Fall Colour Report

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LEFT PAGE: Fort Wellington, Prescott
RIGHT: Rockport

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of

Seven

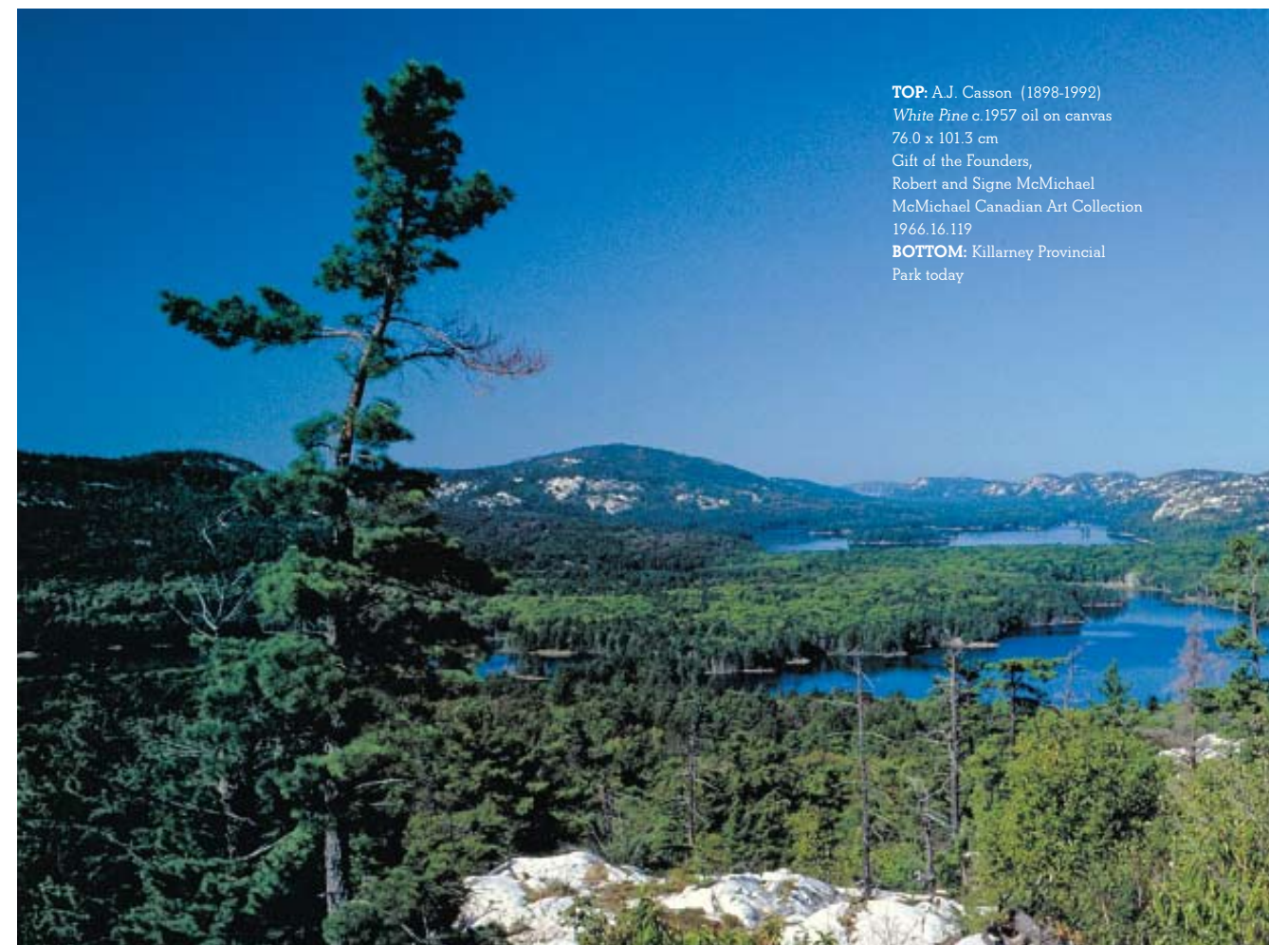
— BY HELEN LOVEKIN

QUICK: HOW MANY PAINTERS WERE IN THE GROUP OF SEVEN? IF YOU

answered ten, even eleven, or arguably twelve, you would be closer to the truth than had you replied with the obvious answer of a mere seven.

The general confusion over how many painters formed the original Group, and whether or not Tom Thomson was included as one of them, illustrates a central truth about Canada's first national arts movement: there is nothing obvious about the Group of Seven. Exploring their works is as much a personal journey as it is a study of Canada's most beloved landscape painters.

My own search for the Group of Seven revolved around a press trip for top American photojournalists. I brought them to Ontario to document a series of outdoor arts programs that connected would-be painters and photographers with the landscapes immortalized by Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven.



TOP: A.J. Casson (1898-1992)
White Pine c. 1957 oil on canvas
76.0 x 101.3 cm
Gift of the Founders,
Robert and Signe McMichael
McMichael Canadian Art Collection
1966.16.119
BOTTOM: Killarney Provincial
Park today

Our itinerary for the trip was simple: we would go where the Group had gone and photograph what the Group had painted. Presumably, the photos would resemble the paintings and a distinctive ‘Ontarian’ photo style would be achieved.

Although Algonquin Provincial Park is most commonly associated with the Group of Seven due to Thomson’s works, it was the beautiful Killarney area of Georgian Bay that seemed to provide the motherlode of inspiration for the Group.

Killarney Mountain Lodge became our home base, both for its setting on Georgian Bay and proximity to the La Cloche mountains, an unusual, glittering white quartzite range that was one of Lawren Harris’s favourite subjects to paint. We were joined in Killarney by Rob Stimpson, who runs Group-inspired landscape photography classes in Algonquin and Killarney provincial parks

Several of the photojournalists had already visited Group of Seven collections at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg, and the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. Impressive as these major collections are, I subsequently discovered many smaller art galleries, notably the Art Gallery of Hamilton and the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa, whose Group collections of field sketches, drawings and smaller paintings offer more intimate glimpses into the individual artists’ personalities.

Then the real adventure began. By day, we hiked up the La Cloche range, trekked the trails of Killarney Provincial Park and sailed the narrow channels of Georgian Bay in search of the right combination of light and vista. Some kayaked to the many islands dotting the water’s surface until the afternoon sun grew too bright for photography. Flurries of photographic activity during magnificent sunsets were

How Many Painters?

In 1920, seven Canadian landscape painters – Franklin Carmichael, Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, Frank Johnston, Arthur Lismer, J.E.H. MacDonald and Frederick Varley – held their first and only collective show of landscape paintings at the Art Gallery of Toronto. But their guiding creative force was missing. Tom Thomson had drowned in a canoeing accident in 1917, leaving Harris as the leader of the Group. Frank Johnston left the Group after that first showing, bringing their numbers down to six. Vancouver-based prodigy Emily Carr was invited to show with the Group, but was never invited to join, whereas A.J. Casson took Johnston’s place in 1926. Edwin Holgate joined in 1929 and Lionel LeMoine (L.L.) Fitzgerald joined in 1932. In 1933, the Group reformed into a larger society called The Canadian Group of Painters.



LEFT COLUMN: Tom Thomson; J.E.H. MacDonald; F.H. Varley, 1957, Photo by Robert McMichael Studios, Gift of the Founders, Robert and Signe McMichael; Franklin Carmichael, Photo by Fred Haines

RIGHT COLUMN: Lawren S. Harris, 1957, Photo by Robert McMichael Studios, Gift of the Founders, Robert and Signe McMichael; Arthur Lismer; Frank Johnston; A.Y. Jackson

All images from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection Archives



TOP: Birch trees and fall colour
LEFT: Tom Thomson (1877-1917)
Autumn Birches 1916
oil on wood panel adhered to plywood 21.6 x 26.7 cm
Gift of Mrs. H.P. de Pencier
McMichael Canadian Art Collection 1966.2.3

RIGHT: Huntsville

followed by sumptuous meals of fresh fish, berries and fine Ontario wines. Dinner conversations always got back to art.

We discussed how Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven's most iconic paintings are so powerful and so consuming that one can easily overlook how carefully they were planned and executed. The meticulous strips of pigment on Thomson's *Jack Pine* are laid on with the consistency of mosaic tiles. Harris's poetically sparse *Pic Island* has the still balance of a Zen garden. Frederick Varley's soft-focus landscapes flit across the eye like smoky clouds. And Franklin Carmichael's splashes of colour evoke fall's golden melancholy.

Eventually it occurred to us: we couldn't capture on film what the Group had captured on canvas. We arrived at this insight on our last night, during an after-dinner walk along the undulating red granite shoreline, just past the lodge's main building. My photographer companion and I stopped to watch, the sun melt into Georgian Bay. It struck us that a landscape can be experienced in a variety of ways, but it has to be interpreted from within. And it is the mark of a great painter to make a personal vision seem like an actual place.

When we are inspired to walk in the footsteps of Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven, sketch books, paints and easels or cameras in tow, we are ultimately going along our own path to interpret the beauty around us. **OTD**

– Helen Lovekin is Media Coordinator for North America at Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation.



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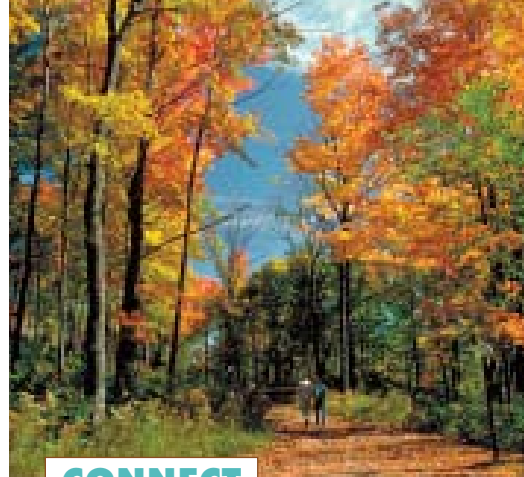
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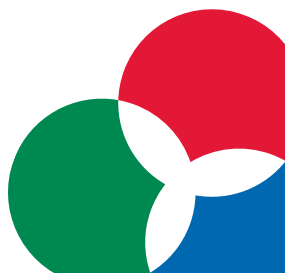
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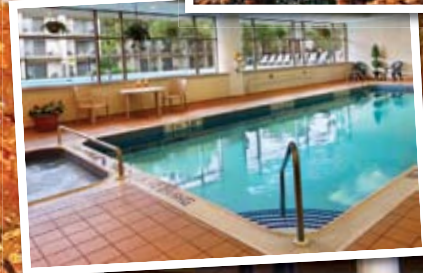
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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS!

FOUR ONTARIO-BASED MUSICIANS OPEN UP ABOUT
PLACES AND THINGS TO DO IN OUR PROVINCE.



Photo: Andrew McNaughton

Photo: Tass Angelo and Abby Carroen

“Ontario gave me my first break in music and it’s where I bought my first home and started my family. I was born in Newfoundland and I’ve travelled all over the world, but to choose Ontario as my home says something pretty significant.” – BRIAN BYRNE

One of Brian Byrne’s favourite memories, when he was only 14 years old, is when he raced down Blue Mountain during the Juvenile Championships for downhill skiing. Since then, Brian has grown to love so much more of Ontario.

Having toured from Windsor to Kingston to Thunder Bay, he’s grown attached to urban living. When Brian’s not touring Ontario, he’s touring Toronto, scooping up western fashions at Rockin’ Cowboy and vintage wear at The Black Market, both on Queen Street West. But even with the fame that comes with being one of Canada’s favourite rockers, Brian still loves the Southern Georgian Bay area – especially Meaford, where his mother-in-law lives, and Collingwood, where he spends time browsing through Fathom Sports’ surfer gear. A perfect getaway for Brian would be a trip with his family to a rustic cabin, where he can strum his guitar in front of a roaring fire and hike secluded woodland trails.

Being so knowledgeable about Ontario, Brian finds himself being somewhat of a tour guide when his family visits from Newfoundland. He fills them in on our urban attractions, like the Air Canada Centre, Toronto Zoo and the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, as well as outdoor escapes, such as the sparkling shores of Georgian Bay.

Don’t miss seeing Brian playing live this fall – he enjoys talking with his supportive and enthusiastic fans between songs.



Photo: Clint McLean

BRIAN BYRNE started his first band at the age of 12 and went on to become the lead singer for the Peterborough-based alternative rock band ‘I Mother Earth.’ He currently lives in Toronto with his wife and daughter.



Canada’s Wonderland. This fall, Keshia hopes to do some bike riding, rock climbing, hiking and lots of outdoor relaxing.

Are you a fan of Keshia? Visit her web site and send her an e-mail – they remind her of how much she loves to make music.

TOMI SWICK was a high-school football jock in Hamilton before being signed by Warner Music Canada. He won the New Artist of the Year award at the 2007 Juno Awards.



Photo: Ivan Otis

“Ontario is a beautiful province. It’s summers up north and fishing with my dad. It’s both as busy as it can get and as quiet as it can get in Canada.” – TOMI SWICK

Whether he’s playing in front of 75,000 people in Ottawa on Canada Day or simply fishing in cottage country, Tomi Swick loves living in Ontario.

He loves the people of Hamilton, his hometown, especially. They are so much of an influence on him that he proudly wears a ‘Hamilton’ T-shirt.



ON VENUES

BRIAN RECOMMENDS: Joy Supper Club in Kingston, **The Horseshoe Tavern** in Toronto and **The Red Rooster** in Burlington. His favourite place to see a show is Toronto’s **Massey Hall** – the vibe, the sounds and lines of sight are all perfect.

KESHIA RECOMMENDS: **Kool Haus, Guvernment** and different festival locations. She loved performing during the New Year’s Eve celebrations at **Nathan Phillips Square** last year – the crowd was very large and very supportive.

TOMI RECOMMENDS: **The Horseshoe Tavern** in Toronto is his favourite place to perform. **The Horseshoe, The Rivoli** and **Molson Amphitheatre** are great places to listen to live music.

MOLLY RECOMMENDS: **The Cameron Public House, Massey Hall** and the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts** – all in Toronto.



Photo: Tess Angelo and Abby Carroen

KESHIA CHANTÉ is one of Canada’s fastest-rising stars. At only 19 years old, Keshia has already won the ‘Best R&B Single’ award at the Canadian Urban Music Awards and the ‘R&B/Soul Recording of the Year’ award at the Juno Awards.

“Ontario means home, whether I’m in my hometown of Ottawa or where my family currently lives, Toronto. Ontario is the place that I’m most proud of.” – KESHIA CHANTÉ

Every person that Keshia Chanté has invited to Ontario has left the province, wanting to move here or come back. To her, you don’t need to travel anywhere else because Ontario is beautiful, clean, polite, friendly and you can travel the world right here. This speaks volumes of how much she loves her home.

Although the youngest of the four *There’s No Place Like This* performers, Keshia has a long list of amazing Ontario memories: walking through Ottawa’s ByWard Market (“the greatest BeaverTails in the world”), paintballing in Toronto, hanging out with friends at a lake, dining at the CN Tower and spending days off at



Most people think about Ontario as Toronto and Ottawa, Tomi says, and he wants them to know that there's so much more to see and do than what the big cities offer: hiking in The Kawarthas, staying at a cottage on the Bruce Peninsula, touring Tobermory and taking advantage of some of the best freshwater fishing in the world.

Tomi says his fans are diverse and vary depending on the region he's playing in; venues fill with everyone from bikers to little kids to grandparents. If you're one of Tomi's fans, buy one of his iconic 'Hamilton' T-shirts for yourself at his online store.

“Ontario means gorgeous Great Lakes and accepting communities with wonderful people. I really do believe there is no place like this.” – MOLLY JOHNSON

When Molly Johnson isn't taking photos of her kids under sugar maple trees or performing for her loyal fans, she spends her time exploring Ontario: canoeing with friends, shopping in Toronto's Kensington Market, relaxing at her in-law's cottage or camping with friends and family.

But with a strict touring schedule, Molly doesn't get to see Ontario as much as she'd like – Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Stratford are just three cities on her 'must revisit' list. Visit these cities firsthand – who knows, you may just bump into her. **OTD**

Photo: Andrew McNaughton



MOLLY JOHNSON is a pop and jazz vocalist, born and raised in Toronto. She began her career as a child performer and was one of the children singing in the Ontario song, *A Place to Stand*.



ON RESTAURANTS

BRIAN RECOMMENDS: Toronto's **Southern Accent Restaurant**, known for its spicy blend of Cajun/Creole and Soul cuisine, Louisiana music and funky décor.

KESHIA RECOMMENDS: **Jack Astor's** every once in a while. But Ontario's best-kept dining secret is where she celebrated her 19th birthday – **Cabana** at The Docks, with breathtaking views of the city's skyline.

TOMI RECOMMENDS: **Golden Palace** in Ottawa – the best egg rolls in the world!

MOLLY RECOMMENDS: **La Palette**, a French bistro in Toronto's Kensington Market.

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par excellence on Lake Muskoka

— BY ANITA DRAYCOTT

AH, MUSKOKA. JUST SAYING IT LOWERS MY BLOOD PRESSURE.

It conjures up memories of lazy autumn weekends. A morning paddle on a lake of glass. The call of the loon. Toss in some championship golf, an indulgent spa treatment and a gastronomic adventure – and I’m packing my bags.

In May 2003, the Muskoka Sands Inn in Gravenhurst boldly changed its name to Taboo Resort Golf & Spa. A year before, when the management signed up Mike Weir to name Taboo as his home course, little did they know that the affable Canadian lefty would win the Masters at Augusta.

Even before Weir’s big win, golfers were already raving about architect Ron Garl’s deft design that seems to empathize with the natural environment. The 6,675 m (7,300-yard) track takes you through wetlands, Canadian Shield outcroppings and a forest of birch, pine and balsam. It’s like stepping into a Group of Seven painting, especially in the fall when the fairways are lined with crimson, gold and orange foliage. I won’t forget number seven, a long par three chiselled out of two walls of striated pink and gray granite, or the rocky road that runs across number four where a sign reads, “Taboo rocks – use at own risk.”

After your round, what could be more Canadian than a Maple Sugar Body Scrub, followed by a cranberry Jacuzzi soak at the resort’s Indulgence spa? Or, how about a romantic sunset couple’s massage in the private gazebo overlooking Lake Muskoka?

Gourmands have been known to drive the 90 minutes north from Toronto to sample Taboo’s ultra sophisticated cuisine, described as “everything from Japanese to French to Canadian.” Taking the spotlight in the centre of the Elements dining area is the Culinary Theatre where chef Jay Scarfe customizes a six-course, blind-tasting menu based on seasonality. My recent splurge included lobster tail with a foie gras and shiitake mushroom terrine, elk tenderloin with a chestnut mushroom and sweet corn emulsion, and a trio of pineapple desserts.

It seems that the best things in life are Taboo. **OTD**

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

LEFT PAGE: Taboo Golf Course
RIGHT: Indulgence, the spa at Taboo
Photos: Taboo Resort, Golf and Spa



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LEFT PAGE: Chef Stephen Treadwell outside of Treadwell, Port Dalhousie. Photo: Cheryl Thressen
THIS PAGE, L-R: Anna Olson, Olson Foods & Bakery; Wayne Philbrick, Upper Canada Cheese Company. Photo: Upper Canada Cheese Company

Local Heroes

IN THE NIAGARA REGION

– BY NICOLE LEAPER

We're hearing a lot these days about protecting the environment and helping local businesses by consuming food and other goods that are grown locally or made close to home. Well, what better way to experience new horizons than by living that philosophy while away from home?



Many chefs in Ontario and beyond are embracing the idea of working with local farmers and food producers to develop interesting menus that are unique to their region; none more so than in Niagara. With the wealth of locally harvested products available, the longer growing season and some very creative minds at work, Niagara's chefs are wowing patrons and critics alike.

Since opening last year, Treadwell, a new restaurant in Port Dalhousie, has already received accolades and awards,

including being honoured with the number three spot on the 2007 Best New Restaurant list from *Toronto Life* magazine. My husband and I savoured every bite of Chef Stephen Treadwell's creations while taking in a gorgeous view of Twelve Mile Creek. Chef Treadwell's 'farm to table' philosophy is not new – it's been around for decades in Europe – but he's taken it to delicious new heights here in the Niagara region.

We were very intrigued by one item on the menu: Walpole's Cabernet Flour Gnocchi. Turns out, Cabernet Flour is a new

product developed by local chef and entrepreneur Mark Walpole. He's taken a by-product of the local wine industry – the leftover skins and seeds of the grapes – and had them dried and ground into a powder that local chefs are using to develop a variety of baked goods. We sampled Cabernet Flour baguettes while touring the stunning Victorian mansion, Honsberger Estate, which Mark and his wife, Angie, operate as a B&B. It's also a great place to use as a base while touring the area by car or bicycle.

Honsberger Estate is in Jordan Station, a stone's throw from another local hero: cheesemaker Wally Grobb at the Upper Canada Cheese Company. Wally is indeed local. His family has been in the Grimsby area since 1799, and he is one of only a handful of artisan cheese makers in Ontario. Typical of the local food philosophy, he keeps it simple, making two kinds of

He's taken...the leftover skins and seeds of the grapes and had them dried and ground into a powder that local chefs are using to develop a variety of baked goods.

cheese every day: Niagara Gold, a nutty, buttery semi-soft cheese; and Comfort Cream, a camembert-style cheese named after the source of the rich Guernsey cow milk, the Comfort Farm, which traces its roots back to the United Empire Loyalist days.

After lunch in Port Dalhousie, we wandered along the waterfront and visited

the local shops. When you visit this charming Lake Ontario port, stop by Olson Foods & Bakery, where Pastry Chef Anna Olson is just as welcoming in person as in her popular television show, *Sugar*. Along with Anna's baked goods and cookbooks by her and husband, Chef Michael Olson, the shop carries many of the local items used by chefs in the region. Here you can buy products from local producers such as Niagara Vinegars and Upper Canada Cheeses, to help you recreate delicious



TEA TIME AT THE CHARMING PRINCE OF WALES

Treat yourself like a king or queen with English High Tea at the Prince of Wales hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Victorian decor in the Drawing Room will delight you as you sip teas from around the world in this historic town on the shores of Lake Ontario.

LEFT: Prince of Wales Hotel, Niagara-on-the-Lake



Niagara meals at home. The farm gate stands along Lakeshore Road are also great for picking up fresh local produce.

There are too many great local products to mention but a starting point is the list of local suppliers found on Treadwell's website. One of the suppliers, Dave Perkins at Wyndym Farms, is

definitely a local hero to many chefs in the region, including those at the luxurious Vintage Inn properties: Queen's Landing, Pillar and Post, and the Prince of Wales. All three are ideal accommodations where you can leave the car in 'park' for the weekend and experience the world-renowned Shaw Festival theatre, browse the shops of Niagara-on-the-Lake and sample the local fare – all on foot.

Another aspect of the local bounty you won't want to miss is, of course, the wine. Already famous for its many award-winning vintages, there are new wineries popping up all the time. They tend to be smaller and use organic methods of winemaking. Because of their limited production, you can often only enjoy their wine at the local restaurant or pick it up from the winery itself. At Treadwell's, Sommelier James Treadwell has many local wines available in 3 oz. (85 mL) and 6 oz. (170 mL) servings. It's a great way to sample a wide variety of vintages before visiting the wineries.

Just one of the many little secrets we discovered at Treadwell's is that up to six people can sit at a table right in the heart of the kitchen's action. Although Chef Treadwell can't promise you any *Hell's Kitchen* moments exactly, it's still well worth the experience.

Whether in the Niagara region or any of the many other bountiful regions in your travels, I recommend you seek out the homegrown ingredients and the local chefs that embrace this 'farm-to-table' philosophy for a truly unique, healthy and delicious getaway in Ontario. **OTD**

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

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It's Sedimentary, my dear climber

Although its name conjures up thoughts of our slithering friends, know that Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area, just outside of Milton, is nothing of the sort. It's perched on Ontario's Greenbelt, an environmentally protected belt of land around the Golden Horseshoe that also winds up through the Bruce Peninsula. And although rattlers are out of the question at Rattlesnake Point, it's a great place to get vertical on some of the best rock climbing cliffs in Southern Ontario.

Not familiar with rock climbing? The concept is quite simple: climb from A (the bottom of the cliff) to B (the top).

"The most important point to remember when climbing is to always use your legs as much as possible," Clint Searle, an Ontarian rock-climbing expert, says. "Most people think that climbing is all about upper body strength. Although this can be true at times, climbers always try to utilize their legs and feet as much as possible." Clint took up the sport in 1997 and now boasts his teaching certificate, among many other climbing accomplishments.

He stresses that "beginners should start with a certified teacher." The courses usually begin in a classroom, learning how to put on the harness correctly and learning how to tie into your harness with the correct knots. After the in-class session, the instructors usually arrange a time and a place to meet students for the first day on the rock.

And no worries about buying the right gear – most climbing schools will take care of that. All you need to bring is comfortable clothing, water, food and a strong sense of adventure.

So, why climb to the top...what's the point? As Clint puts it, "There is something extremely satisfying about reaching the top of a rock face. You push yourself harder and harder each time trying to surpass your last effort, trying to discover what your maximum potential is."

And to complement the ultimate purpose of the Greenbelt, when you're done climbing at Rattlesnake Point, there's no trace of your presence left behind; no tracks, no felled trees and no pollution. Nature may actually thank you for visiting. But before you begin rock climbing, heed this final piece of advice from the pro, "Beginners be warned: this sport is highly addictive." **OTD**



This permanently protected region follows the Bruce Trail from Niagara to Tobermory, and around the Golden Horseshoe to Rice Lake. It's a rich mosaic of forests, farms, vineyards, waterways, parks and wetlands created to protect the fragile ecosystems it contains. But at the same time, it encourages 'leave no trace' principles while hiking, cycling, rock climbing, wildlife viewing and camping.

CONNECT

For more great ways to discover Ontario's Greenbelt, simply visit gov.on.ca/tourism and click on Greenbelt or call **1-800-ONTARIO**.

Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area, Milton
conservationhalton.on.ca
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ABOVE: The Golf Hills at Hockley Valley Resort. Photo courtesy of Hockley Valley Resort
RIGHT: Hockley Valley Resort entrance at night. Photo courtesy of Hockley Valley Resort; Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay. Photo courtesy of The Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay

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• Seeking the simpler life

— BY DARREN HAKKER

ABOVE: Rural transportation, St. Jacobs
RIGHT PAGE, CLOCKWISE: Antique wheel, St. Jacobs; The West Montrose Covered Bridge; Mennonite children, St. Jacobs

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A TASTE OF THE 'SIMPLE LIFE' IN YOUR travels, head to the St. Jacobs Country area – they've been proclaiming the virtues of simplicity for generations.

It was back about 100 years ago that Old Order Mennonites began arriving from Pennsylvania, tilling the soil and raising their families in Jakobstettel (now St. Jacobs). It's what I like to call 'The Simplicity Capital of Ontario.' You can find everything your heart desires in fruits, veggies, history, crafts, art and all things pre-digital.

I'm a big supporter of the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market & Flea Market, which, on its own, is worthy of the trip to the area. Here, with horse-and-buggies parked outside and a fusion of flavours filling the air, you can see the results of time-honoured farming methods in Ontario's fall fruits and vegetables. Baskets of apples. Freshly butchered meat. Even furniture and crafts. It's always better when you buy it from the source.

I have yet to take the Mennonite Farm Tour, and I'm kicking myself for not doing it when I had the chance. It's a horse-drawn trolley tour that leaves from the market and rides through an Old Order Mennonite farm. You can see how the whole operation works and get an in-depth, personal look at the lives of local Mennonite farmers.

On your drive from St. Jacobs to nearby Elora, it's customary for visitors to stop at the bright red West Montrose Covered Bridge. Built in 1881, it's the second oldest bridge in the region and one of the last covered bridges in Ontario. Its nickname is 'The Kissing Bridge,' so when you stop with your special someone, a sign of affection is in store (but make it quick).

Next, Elora – packed with everything I love about Ontario: history, in its downtown; small-town theatre, in the Elora Community Theatre; and natural wonders, in the Elora Gorge. And the food here rivals that of the best urban restaurants. I recommend the 'Eat Your Heart Out!' package that Tynavon Bed

WHO ARE OLD ORDER MENNONITES?

The Old Order Mennonites arrived in St. Jacobs from Pennsylvania in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Today, they call the tranquil farmlands in this region home, maintaining the lifestyle of their forefathers. There are about 4,000 Old Order Mennonites in the St. Jacobs region. For more on their religion and unique way of life, experience *The Mennonite Story* at the St. Jacobs Visitor Centre.

GREAT ESCAPES

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



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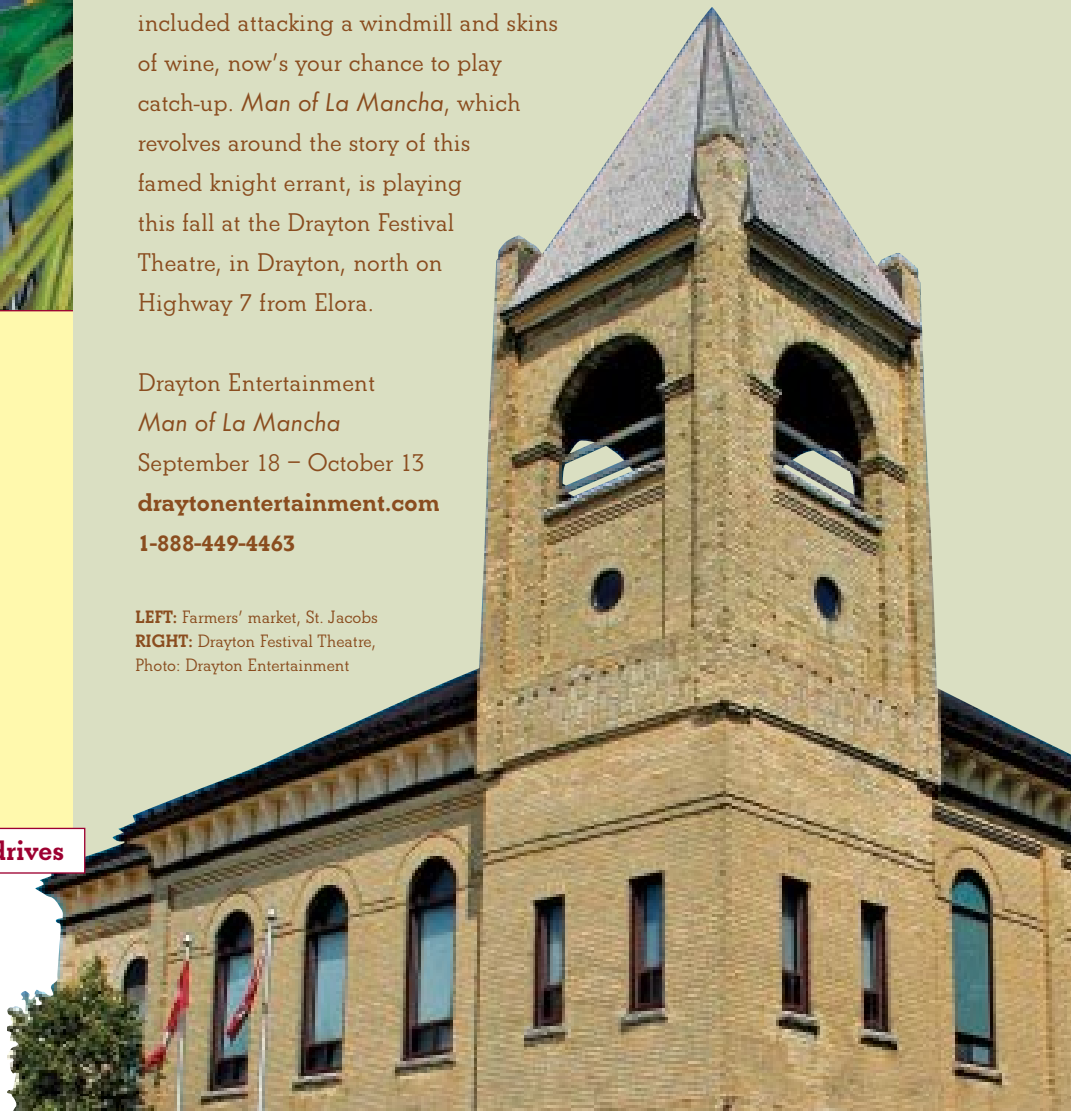


GOT ONE MORE DAY?
OTD also suggests:

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LEFT: Farmers' market, St. Jacobs
RIGHT: Drayton Festival Theatre,
Photo: Drayton Entertainment



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THE WHISKY

ABOVE: Enjoying the virtues of whisky.
Photo: Chad Johnston/Masterfile
RIGHT PAGE: Canadian Club
Tasting Room. Photo: Courtesy of
Canadian Club®

TRAIL TO WINDSOR

— BY PATRICIA NOONAN

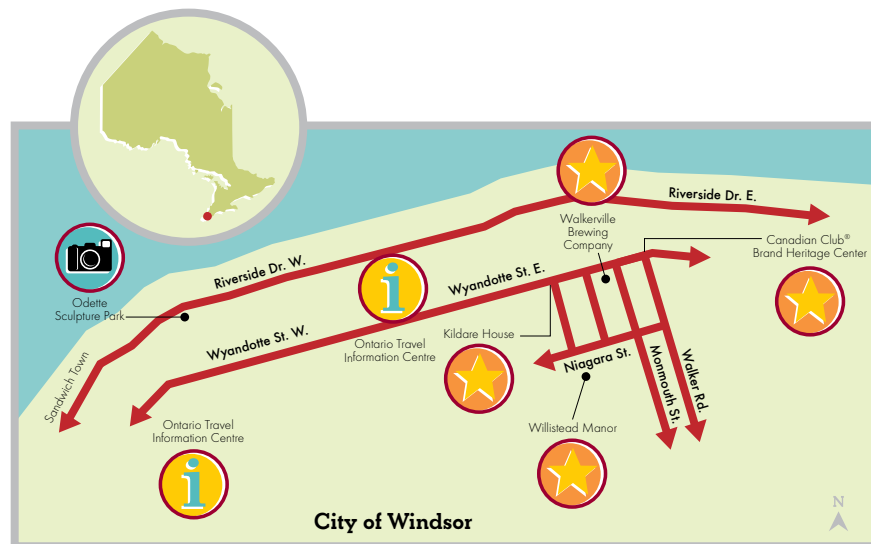


I'M LURED TO WINDSOR BY HIRAM WALKER'S CANADIAN CLUB® WHISKY, famed for its smoothness and mixability, much like Canadian culture itself. I'm a whisky fan and ever since hearing of Walkerville, I wanted to visit.

As I walked along the beautiful Detroit River parklands, I could smell the grain and yeast in the air and it gave me a sense of connection to the past, when Hiram started distilling in 1858. After lunch at Kildare House, a local historic spot, I headed out to explore. Where there's whisky, there's beer, so with that in mind, I stepped into the Walkerville Brewing Company for a look around. It was one of Hiram's four breweries that existed over a hundred years ago. I discovered it's the only craft brewery in the area resurrected from the past, and part of the informal Ale, Wine and Spirits Trail of Essex County.



GREAT ESCAPES



I moved on to the Canadian Club® Brand Heritage Center. My guide shared all the unique details of this elegant building, modelled after a Florentine palace, from the marble fireplaces in each office to the rare Circassian walnut panelling in the art gallery. Discovering the formal beauty of Walkerville was like stepping into a sepia-toned photograph. This Victorian/Edwardian era corporate town, the first of its kind in Ontario, housed all employees, from executives to distillery workers, including slaves fleeing to Canada via the Underground Railroad. From the Tudor beauty of Willistead Manor, the estate built by Hiram's eldest son, to the neat rows of semi-detached brick houses on Monmouth Street, the gentility of Walkerville echoes its past.

The next day, I walked through the Odette Sculpture Garden on the riverside. It led me to Sandwich Town (an historic neighbourhood in Windsor). The freedom of the sculptural styles contrasted with the fascinating stories the heritage plaques revealed of another pioneering era from the 1700s.

I came to Windsor for a sip of Walkerville's whisky history. I left with a grander sense of Canadian culture after exploring this historic, yet modern waterfront locale. **OTD**

— Patricia Noonan is a Toronto freelance writer and educator who loves the world of food, drink and travel.

BELOW: Pelee Island Winery



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canadianclubwhisky.com
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Kildare House
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Odette Sculpture Park and
Willistead Manor
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1-877-746-4311

Walkerville Brewing Company
walkervillebrew.com
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Convention and Visitors' Bureau
of Windsor, Essex County and
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The good old days

on Lake of Bays

— BY CATHY BENNETT



LEFT PAGE: Canoe builder
Graham England at Hurley Canoe
Photo: John Molnar
ABOVE: Lake of Bays

“THIS AREA HAS THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF CUSTOM CANOE builders in the world,” says Jack Hurley after we get through the formalities of why I’m calling him.

And why am I calling?

Because my husband John and I are headed to Lake of Bays and Hurley has been recommended as ‘the guy to see’ in Dwight, which is near the western entrance to Algonquin Provincial Park.

At Hurley’s shop, we are greeted by the unmistakably sweet smell of cedar, two clamouring hounds and a collection of memorabilia that covers practically every square inch of wall space.

“These things don’t grow on trees,” Hurley quips as he takes us through the laborious 120-hour process of building a handcrafted Chestnut Canoe – a canoe made of wood and canvas, which is the kind many of us probably first paddled at summer camp.

Although Hurley offers enough fodder for an entire article, we must be off to explore Dorset and Baysville, two of the other communities that make up the beautiful Lake of Bays – so named because of the many curves along its shoreline.



GREAT ESCAPES



A perennial favourite with photographers, the Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower soars 30 m (100 ft.) above the ground, offering an 802 km² (310 sq. mi.) viewing radius of the surrounding hills.

"Anyone who wants to climb this thing should wear rubber soled shoes," shouts John, who is definitely not wearing the recommended foot apparel.

As for me? I'm perfectly happy to admire the view from the hill, which is still mighty impressive despite the fact the fall colours peaked early this year.

Voted the "Best Country Store in Canada" by *Today Magazine*, Robinson's General Store is another local landmark. Dating back to 1921, it's not only chocked to the rafters with everything imaginable, it's also a museum of old photographs, lighting fixtures, bearskin rugs and other relics from the heyday of the logging industry.

Baysville is a pretty little town (they're all little) with a scenic dam and romantic waterfront located on the southern end of Lake of Bays. It's known for its antique shops, but since this is a Monday, most are closed and we have to content ourselves with admiring collectibles through shop windows.

Back at the Blue Spruce Resort on Oxtongue Lake where we have a wonderful housekeeping cottage, John and I curl up in front of the fire and agree that Lake of Bays is a very special part of Ontario – unspoiled, peaceful and in the words of Jack Hurley, "an area defined by the spirit of Tom Thomson." **OTD**

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

RIGHT: Bigwin Island Golf Club, Muskoka
Photo: Bigwin Island Golf Club

CONNECT

Blue Spruce Resort
bluespruce.ca
(705) 635-2330

Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower
algonquinhighlands.ca/tower
(705) 766-1242

Huntsville and
Lake of Bays Tourism
huntsvillelakeofbays.on.ca
(705) 789-4771

Hurley Canoe Company
greenval.com/hurley.html
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Muskoka Tourism
discovermuskoka.ca
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Robinson's General Store
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An extra day around Lake of Bays is a must – whether golf is your game or trains flip your switch.

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bigwinisland.com
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Muskoka Pioneer Village and the
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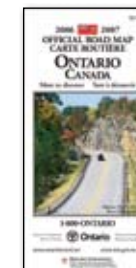


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Franklin Carmichael, 1890-1945, *Autumn, Orillia*, 1926, oil on panel, 25.1 x 30.4 cm
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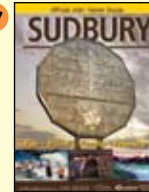
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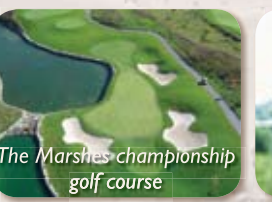


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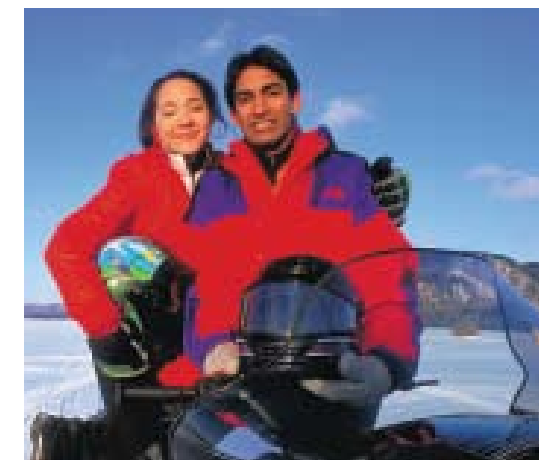
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