WINTER 2011/12

ONTARIO

GREAT WAYS TO CELEBRATE WINTER

KIDS + SNOW = FUN

ONTARIO
Yours to discover

ontariotravel.net

WELCOME TO WINTER

Barrie

Experience Ontario's winter playground! Swoosh down slopes at a ski resort and warm your spirits indoors by the fireplace or at the spa. Celebrate the season at a winter carnival. Dial up the family fun on a March Break excursion. Delight in the performing arts. Sample Ontario's renowned Icewine. And be sure to share your experiences with family and friends on Facebook and Twitter. Visit **ontariotravel.net** to explore great getaway ideas and packages.



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Warm up to winter when you enter to win this all-inclusive package from The Rosseau, a JW Marriott Resort & Spa.

Cover image: Toronto

CONTRIBUTORS



Kate Pocock is a Toronto-based writer who specializes in family travel. As a mom faced with ice and snow for months, she encourages her three kids to enjoy the outdoors. Special memories together include skating under the lights after homework was done, hot chocolate with marshmallows and visiting groundhog Wiarton Willie, Ontario's official predictor of spring.
See her story on page 44



No stranger to the frozen wilderness, photographer/writer **James Smedley** brings an enthusiasm to his work that has earned him close to 50 national and international awards for writing and photography. James embraces the winter season with a soft spot for snowshoeing, snowmobiling and, of course, northern lakes loaded with trout and walleye.
See his story on page 20



Margaret Swaine is the weekly wine columnist for the *National Post*, the spa columnist for *Best Health* and writes the 'Global Gourmet' column for *Travel Industry Today*. In winter months, Margaret loves outdoor sports – though of late has found much pleasure après ski by a warm hearth, with a flavourful drink in hand.
See her story on page 24



Two-time winner of Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership's award for best travel journalism, Toronto writer **Betty Zyvatkauskas** is happiest exploring her own backyard. She never walks past the T.O. Tix outlet at Yonge and Dundas Square without checking which discount theatre tickets are on sale.
See her story on page 31

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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For more information, visit www.international.gc.ca/ciw-cdm/embassies-ambassades.aspx
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Ontario

Canadian Online Publishing Awards Gold 2011

NEW & NOTABLE



Sault Ste. Marie

JOIN THE 'SOO'-LEBRATION
It's celebrating 100 years of being a city and at this point, Sault Ste. Marie has perfected its parties. The whole city's in on the festivities, featuring free family skating events, hockey tournaments and coinciding with legendary winter carnival Bon Soo (February 3–12, 2012). You won't need to bundle up too much – there'll be lots of fun and energy for the whole family.
saulttourism.com



WATCH THE ALL-STARS ON ICE
Get set to see the NHL's top hockey players face off in Ottawa during the 2012 NHL All-Star Celebration. Join hockey fans from all over the world at the All-Star Game on January 29, pitting NHL greats against one another in Scotiabank Place and broadcasting live to more than 150 countries. There are lots of events happening around the city starting on January 26, including skating on the Rideau Canal and previewing some Winterlude attractions.
senators.nhl.com

RAISE A STANDING OVATION

The National Ballet of Canada is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year! In honour of this achievement, November 14–20 has been named the National Ballet of Canada Week. Visit Toronto City Hall to see an archival display of ballet paraphernalia from the company's history, and see the world premiere performance of *Romeo and Juliet* on November 16, the hallmark event of the 2011/12 season.

national.ballet.ca



Artists of the Ballet. Photo by Aleksandar Antonijevic



Sports field Timmins 1912



Third Avenue, 1917, Timmins



Timmins Museum

NORTHERN SPIRIT

The Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre, has lots to celebrate – it has reopened at its new home and is helping celebrate the city's 100th anniversary. A new permanent gallery dedicated to the history of Timmins is slated to open January 2012, just in time to mark the momentous occasion.

tourismtimmins.com

LET'S FLY AWAY

Make getting to your northern destination a breeze – Porter Airlines now offers daily flights to Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Sudbury, and as of January 2012, will also be servicing Timmins from Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

Browse the calendar for just a taste of all the fun and exciting things you can see and do in Ontario. Find many more great events and festivals online at **ontariotravel.net**



Midland

CALENDAR

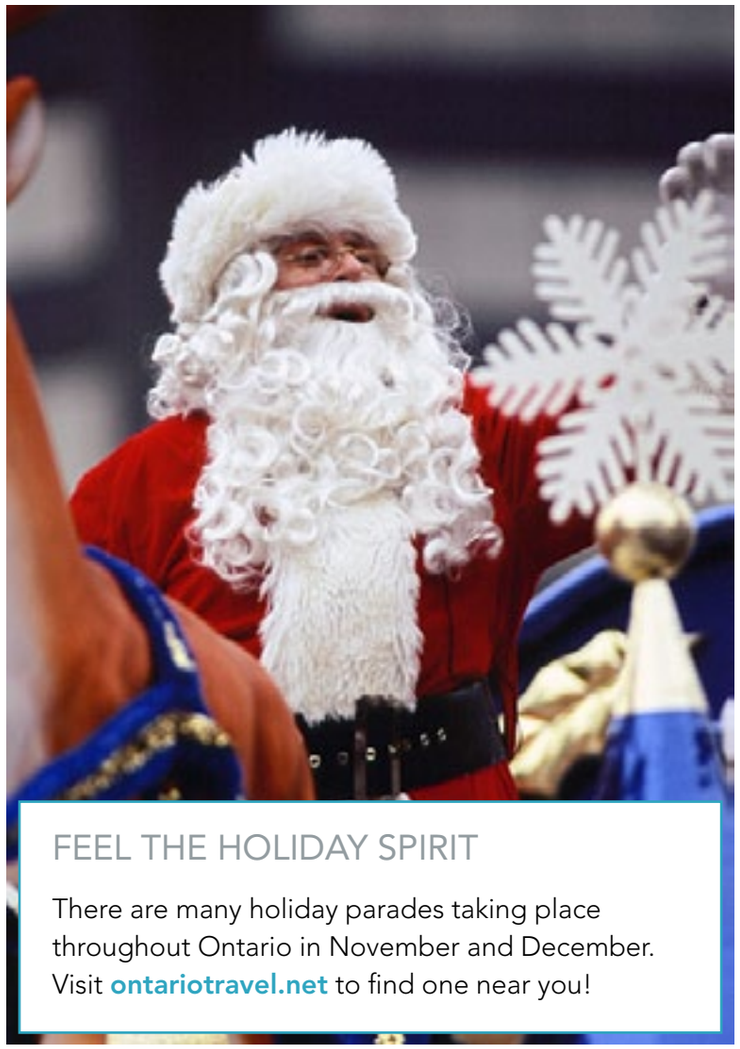
NOVEMBER

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MARCH



FEEL THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

There are many holiday parades taking place throughout Ontario in November and December. Visit **ontariotravel.net** to find one near you!

November 5 – January 31
WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Niagara Falls

See Niagara Falls lit up like a winter wonderland, with three million tree and ground lights, nightly illumination of the falls, and way-cool activities like the TD RINK at the Brink.
wfol.com

November 11
REMEMBRANCE DAY
Across Ontario

Take part in a local Remembrance Day ceremony to honour those who served our country.
ontariotravel.net

November 18 – January 3
FESTIVAL OF NORTHERN LIGHTS
Owen Sound

Enjoy the beauty of this holiday display, where more than 18 km of lights wind their way along riverbanks, harbour, downtown and parks of Owen Sound.
festivallights.ca

November 20
THE SANTA CLAUS PARADE
Toronto

Join in the festive fun at one of the longest parades in the world, the Toronto Santa Claus Parade! You'll see floats, marching bands, dancers, elves and much more – with Jolly Ol' Saint Nick presiding over all the festivities. **thesantaclausparade.ca**

November 23–27
PETERBOROUGH FESTIVAL OF TREES
Peterborough

Watch this bustling downtown core filled with holiday spirit at the 21st anniversary of this charity fundraising event.
pfot.org

November 24–26
SAINTE-MARIE AMONG THE HURONS: FIRST LIGHT
Midland

Feel transported back in time on this very special weekend – the grounds are lit up with more than 3,000 candles while you enjoy traditional activities, Aboriginal performances and more.
saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca

November 25
BLOOMFIELD FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Bloomfield

Join the Prince Edward County community and be dazzled by this annual nighttime parade, covered in glittering holiday lights.
prince-edward-county.com

November 26 – January 1
SIMCOE CHRISTMAS PANORAMA
Simcoe

See thousands of lights reflecting upon the Lynn River and take a horse-drawn trolley through beautiful wintry parks.
simcoepanorama.ca

November 26 – December 31
DUNDURN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS
Hamilton

Celebrate the holiday season in a 19th-century castle, decorated in true Victorian style with cedar boughs, ribbons and dried flowers.
hamilton.ca

FOR A FULL LISTING OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT ONTARIO
ontariotravel.net

CALENDAR

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MARCH



December 2–18
TORONTO CHRISTMAS MARKET
Distillery District, Toronto

December 1
CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE
Millbrook

Visit this picturesque village fully decked out in the holiday spirit with an old-fashioned sweet shop, carollers and a tree lighting ceremony.
thekawarthas.net

December 1–4
CHRISTKINDL MARKET
Kitchener

Enjoy the tastes, sounds and smells of the holiday season at Canada's original German Christmas festival.
christkindl.ca

December 1 – January 3
LIGHT UP THE HILLS
Georgetown

The theme of this year's lights festival is Ignition – this festival just keeps growing bigger, and has recently expanded to showcase the Acton community as well.
lightupthehills.com

December 2
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Bracebridge

Bring your letters for Santa as you enjoy the colourful holiday displays and a moonlight shopping party.
bracebridge.ca

December 2
WHITBY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

Gather at Celebration Square and watch the community tree light up in a dazzling display.
downtownwhitby.ca

December 2–4
A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED
Spencerville

You'll never run out of things to do at this holiday festival – not with dog agility competitions, dance shows, puppet shows, Santa's workshop, skating parties and much more to see.
acountrychristmas.ca

December 2 – January 7
ALIGHT AT NIGHT FESTIVAL
Morrisburg

Experience the magic of this glowing festival, featuring more than half a million lights strung around the village and old-fashioned holiday activities.
uppercanadavillage.com

December 2–18
FORT HENRY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
Kingston

Light shows and animatronics tell tales of a traditional Victorian Christmas at this annual holiday display.
forthenry.com

December 2 – 18
TORONTO CHRISTMAS MARKET
Toronto

Find gifts for everyone as you browse artisan stalls in the historic Distillery District, listen to carollers and choirs, and visit with Santa and his reindeer.
torontochristmasmarket.com

December 4
STARBRIGHT CHRISTMAS
Stratford

Feel swept away by the soaring voices of this performance, featuring choirs and soloists of spectacular range.
starbright.ca

December 9–31
WINTER WONDERLAND
Newmarket

Marvel at holiday light displays and take a (free!) train ride on the Tim Hortons Express.
newmarket.ca

December 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Across Ontario

Ring in 2012 with a bang – find a celebration near you and join in the fun!
ontariotravel.net

FOR A FULL LISTING OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT ONTARIO
ontariotravel.net

CALENDAR

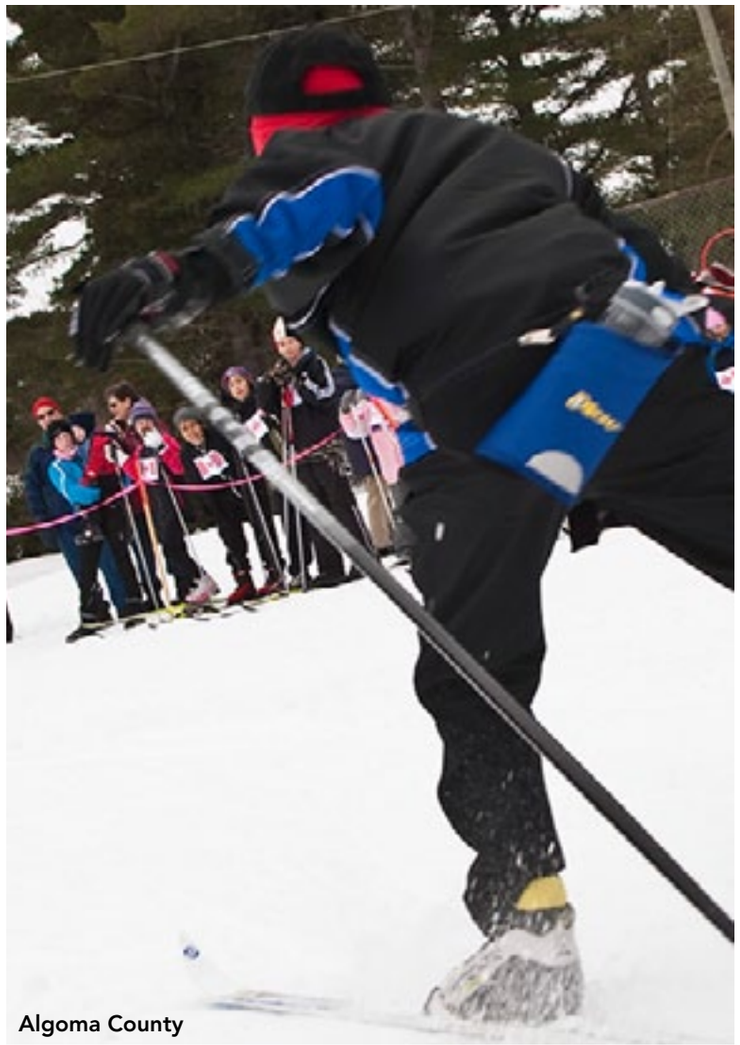
NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH



Algoma County

January 4–15
NEXT STAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL
Toronto

Applaud at the fifth anniversary of this festival supporting the best of independent theatre.
fringetoronto.com

January 14–29
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ICEWINE CELEBRATIONS
Niagara-on-the-Lake

This hub of the Icewine Festival brings together 25 wineries, chefs creating food pairings, Icewine samples and a live jazz soundtrack to enjoy, in the centre of town all weekend long. **niagaraonthelake.com**

January 21 & 22, 28 & 29
BURLINGTON WINTER CARNIVAL
Burlington

Find something for everyone at the 45th anniversary of this winter carnival, from outdoor activities to great indoor attractions.
burlington.ca

January 27 – February 9
WINTERLICIOUS
Toronto

Discover your new favourite restaurant at this festival that highlights some of Toronto's best culinary destinations – all at prix fixe menus.
toronto.ca

January 14
SAWMILL LAKE CLASSIC SKI TOUR
Atikokan

Traverse frozen ponds, creeks and the groomed trails of Quetico Provincial Park on this cross-country ski tour, with loops of 10 km or 24 km.
atikokancanoe.tripod.com

January 16–22
WINTER BITES
Windsor

Dine in style at the first foodie festival of its kind in Essex County – each restaurant offers a prix fixe 3-course menu for lunch or dinner.
windsoreats.com

January 27 – February 5
POLARFEST 2012
Lakefield

Make the most of winter's chill with free public ice skating, guided nature hikes, sleigh rides, artisan markets and much more.
polarfest.ca

January 28 & 29
8TH ANNUAL CANNINGTON DOG-SLED RACES AND WINTER FESTIVAL
Cannington

Watch more than 70 dogsled teams compete, then enjoy pancake breakfasts, ice sculptures and outdoor activities for the whole family.
canningtondogsledraces.com

January 14 –22
SNOWFEST 2012
Sarnia

Watch sculptors from all over the world artfully carve 2.4 m (8 ft.) columns of snow at this outdoor festival, and try cool outdoor activities like zorbing!
snow-sculpting.com

January 20 & 21
SAUBLE BEACH WINTERFEST
Sauble Beach

Enjoy activities of the winter season both indoors and out – cross-country ski on trails, play sno-golf, attend a youth dance and more.
saublebeach.com

January 27–29, February 3–5
CANADIAN NATIONAL POND HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Huntsville

Lace up your skates on a team or just head out to watch the games – this is sure to be a tournament filled with thrilling moments and great goals.
canadapondhockey.ca

FOR A FULL LISTING OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT ONTARIO
ontariotravel.net

CALENDAR

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MARCH



February 3–12
BON SOO WINTER CARNIVAL
Sault Ste. Marie

February (throughout)
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Across Ontario

The Underground Railroad is an important part of our heritage, and there's no better time to visit some of the historic sites on the path to freedom.
ontariotravel.net

February 2–5
KINGSTON FEBFEST
Kingston

Get outdoors during this cool festival – watch a sledge hockey game or figure skating show, see a 24-hour snow sculpting competition and explore the snow maze.
febfestkingston.com

February 3–5
GODERICH WINTERFEST
Goderich

Beat the winter blahs at this bustling fest – sample chili at a cook-off, throw in a snow-pitch tournament, or take a walk by candlelight, for starters.
huroncounty.ca

February 3–12
BON SOO WINTER CARNIVAL
Sault Ste. Marie

Slide on down to this legendary winter carnival, featuring a Tim Hortons winter playground, live concerts and lots of great outdoor activities in the kid zone.
bonsoo.on.ca

February 3–20 (weekends)
WINTERLUDE
Ottawa

Skate on the world's largest rink, play in North America's largest snow playground, listen to live music at concerts or marvel at spectacular carved ice sculptures at this three-week long annual celebration.
winterlude.gc.ca

February 4
ST. BERNARDIN WINTER CARNIVAL
St. Bernardin

Warm up to winter in both languages – this bilingual carnival features comedy shows, tobogganing, sleigh rides and more.
st-bernardin.ca

February 4–5
BARRIE WINTERFEST AND FESTIVAL OF ICE
Barrie

Chill on sleigh rides, mini-tube runs, a giant snow slide, a polar bear dip or in the ice maze – or watch more than 300 pounds of ice blocks being carved into beautiful sculptures. **barrie.ca**

February 4–12
COCHRANE WINTER CARNIVAL
Cochrane

With lots of events like hockey games, horseshoe competitions and outdoor dances, Ontario's oldest winter carnival will get everyone in the family moving.
town.cochrane.on.ca

February 11
PARRY SOUND SNOWFEST
Parry Sound

Stay cool at this winter fest, with tobogganing and skating parties, dogsled races and mini Olympics, then warm up by a huge bonfire.
townofparrysound.com

February 11 & 12
(rain dates February 19 & 20)
MONSTER POND HOCKEY
North Bay

They shoot, they score! Join in the excitement of this huge pond hockey tournament with games for kids and adults alike.
monsterpondhockey.ca

February 12
MURPHY'S POINT PROVINCIAL PARK: TAY VALLEY LOPPET
Perth

This cross-country loppet offers events for skiers of every age and ability – sign up for a day of fun on the powder!
tayvalleyskiclub.wordpress.com

February 17 & 18
DORSET SNOWBALL WINTER CARNIVAL
Dorset

This event is all about community – join a skating party, see snow sculptures and snow parades, throw snowballs, eat pancakes and much more.
dorsetsnowball.com

February 17–20
BEAVER VALLEY FAMILY DAY WEEKEND
Grey Highlands

Find fun activities galore at this weekend-long family festival, including a huge Saturday night Mexican Family Party Fiesta.
beavervalley.ca

February 18
BRIDGENORTH WINTER PANFISH FESTIVAL
Ennismore

Dress warmly and come ready to angle – this festival provides all the gear, so it's perfect to try ice fishing for the first time!
clearvieworganizing.com

February 18–20
FORT WILLIAM HISTORICAL PARK: VOYAGEUR WINTER CARNIVAL
Thunder Bay

Have a good time that is anything but old fashioned – try sweets at a sugar shack, listen to great concerts, watch dogsled races, try snowshoeing and shoot a musket.
fwhp.ca

February 18–20
TORONTO'S KIDS-FEST
Toronto

Let your kids loose in Canada's largest indoor inflatable show – they'll have 24,384 m^2 (80,000 sq. ft.) to bounce, jump and climb to their hearts' content.
kids-fest.ca

February 23–25
DWIGHT WINTER CARNIVAL
Dwight

It's the 43rd annual carnival, so there's bound to be some fun. Join a pancake breakfast, try winter activities like a 3-legged race and dogsled rides, then keep the beat at a drum circle.
dwightwintercarnival.com

FOR A FULL LISTING OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT ONTARIO
ontariotravel.net

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH



Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Midland

Every weekend in March and March Break
BRONTE CREEK MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL
Oakville

Once the sweet stuff starts flowing, it's time to head out to the woods – watch 1890s costumed interpreters tap trees, make syrup and share historic artefacts in the maple museum. **brontecreek.org**

March 3 – April 16
SUGAR BUSH AT PROULX FARM
Cumberland

You'll love heading out to the sugar shack – take a horse-drawn hay ride through the maple bush, try freshly made maple taffy, visit the petting zoo and eat your fill of fluffy pancakes.
proulxberryfarm.com

March 4, 11, 14 & 15, 18, 25
SWEET TASTE OF SPRING MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL
Rockton

Enjoy one of Canada's greatest traditions – the making of maple syrup. Learn how Aboriginal people and early settlers prepared syrup, and sample loads of the sweet stuff. **westfieldheritage.ca**

March 10 & 11
NORFOLK WILDLIFE FESTIVAL & ADVENTURE SHOW
Simcoe

Celebrate nature when the great outdoors move indoors for a weekend. Watch nature shows, see demonstrations and get some hands-on experience with creatures.
norfolkcountyfair.com

March 12–16
MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION: MARCH BREAK
Kleinburg

Budding artists (and their parents) love the wide range of activities at this gallery, including art camps, nature walks, musical performances and lots of drop-in activities.
mcmichael.com

March 16–25
CANADA BLOOMS: THE FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL
Toronto

See the first hints of spring at this huge indoor garden show that puts its best blooms on display in competitions, exhibitions and a marketplace.
canadablooms.com

March 17 – April 1 (weekends)
BUCKHORN MAPLEFEST, MCLEAN BERRY FARM
Lakefield

Savour spring's sweetest syrup at these weekend events – hear live music and tree tapping demonstrations, and try fresh taffy made on snow.
mcleanberryfarm.com

March 21–25
CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK
Toronto

Listen to some of Canada's best musicians from across the country at this showcase of music from every genre.
canadianmusicfest.com

March 26 – April 1
MAPLE SUGARFEST
Ottawa

Located just 10 minutes from Parliament Hill, this urban sugar festival is the perfect first taste of spring. Eat a big stack of pancakes and watch sugar shack demonstrations.
maplesugarfest.ca

Late March – Early April
LITTLE CATARAQUI CONSERVATION AREA: MAPLE MADNESS
Kingston

Sip, sample and snack at the demonstration sugar bush, then wander the trails of this picturesque conservation area.
cataraquiregion.on.ca

March 31
ELMIRA MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL
Elmira

There's a lot more to explore here besides sugar shacks – watch dogs perform in shows, browse quilts and crafts for sale, eat stacks of fresh pancakes and ride in hay wagons.
elmiramaplesyrup.com

March 31, April 1
MAPLE IN THE COUNTY 2012
Prince Edward County

This sugary sweet festival spans a whole county – explore sugar shacks to see how maple syrup is made, and join in the music, dancing, cuisine, shopping and celebrations throughout the community.
mapleinthecounty.ca

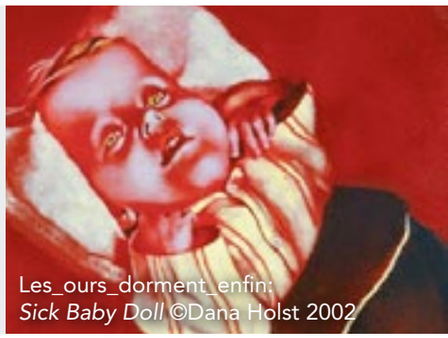
FOR A FULL LISTING OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT ONTARIO
ontariotravel.net

JOIE DE VIVRE


North Bay

FOR FRIENDS, BOTH NEW AND OLD
For 49 years, Le Carnaval des Compagnons has been uniting North Bay's Francophone community and welcoming Franco-Ontarians and francophiles from all over the province. This carnival features everything wintry and wonderful, including snow sculptures, live entertainment, pancake breakfasts, dance contests, and a book festival.
Runs February 5–12.
lecarnaval.info

TWO LITTLE BEARS
Did you know that Ottawa's National Arts Centre has a theatre program dedicated to young Francophone audiences? Discover the poetic and physical beauty of the Eldorado Theatre company's stunningly original production *Les Ours Dorment Enfin*, where a zookeeper and orphan find an unlikely match in one another. Runs February 29 – March 4.
nac-cna.ca


Les_ours_dorment_enfin:
Sick Baby Doll ©Dana Holst 2002

LOOK TO THE SKIES
Sudbury's Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario has unique performances for young and old alike. In Claudie Gagnon's *Les mécaniques célestes*, the performance-installation show produced by le Théâtre des Confettis, children aged 4 to 8 will be delighted by a whimsical gallery sized to their height before marvelling at the cave filled with the stars, moon and other wonders. Runs March 31.
letno.ca


Photo: Louise Leblanc

TAKE A POWDER TRIP

A pair of skis or a snowboard can turn any family snow day into a mountain of fun. With so many great spots to enjoy the slopes, you'll find a place that suits your experience level. Or challenge yourself – try a new sport or take some lessons from a pro.

Downhill Skiing

BLUE MOUNTAIN RESORT, THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
The slopes at Blue Mountain Resort are some of Ontario's best known and most frequented. With 34 trails ranging from beginner to double black diamond, you'll find a slope that's just right for you. And if you're looking to brush up on your skills, the pros at the Blue Mountain Snow School can help – whether that's on the hill or in the Parks n' Pipes terrain park.

Après Adventures – After a day on the slopes you can soak it up at Plunge! Aquatic Centre, explore the village or dine at one of the many fine eateries.
bluemountain.ca

MOUNT ST. LOUIS MOONSTONE RESORT, COLDWATER (NORTH OF BARRIE)
As one of the largest family operated ski resorts in Ontario, Mount St. Louis Moonstone knows how to make skiing accessible for all ages. There are more than 40 different slopes to try with daily and weekly ski or snowboard programs for kids and adults alike. Swoosh down the hills or practice your fly moves in Moonstone's two terrain parks, the Outback and the Junkyard.
mountstlouis.com

KAMISKOTIA SNOW RESORT, TIMMINS
Hit the hills of this skier's paradise – Kamiskotia has 12 runs of varying difficulties to challenge snow bunnies of every expertise. Or try the KamPark Terrain Park, where skiers and snowboarders can grind and sidewind to their heart's content. Reward your hard work with a break at the chalet and watch all the action in the terrain park while sipping a mug of hot chocolate.
kamiskotia.com

Blue Mountain Resort, The Blue Mountains

LEARN MORE ABOUT
SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING
ontariotravel.net/family

TAKE A POWDER TRIP

A pair of skis or a snowboard can turn any family snow day into a mountain of fun. With so many great spots to enjoy the slopes, you'll find a place that suits your experience level. Or challenge yourself – try a new sport or take some lessons from a pro.

Snowboarding

HORSESHOE RESORT, BARRIE
With 29 downhill runs and a fully decked terrain park, Horseshoe Resort is a boarder's delight. Alley-oop and grind your way over rails, jumps, pipes and boxes, or get pointers from the team riders out for the season. Every year Horseshoe makes new additions and upgrades to the park, so you'll be surprised on every outing.

Off the Slopes – Stay overnight or the weekend and enjoy more activities at the resort.
horseshoeresort.com

BUTTERMILK MOUNTAIN RESORT, GOULAIS RIVER (NEAR SAULT STE. MARIE)
This resort boasts the new addition of the Super-Pipe, the biggest of its kind in the mid-west of Canada and the U.S. At 500 feet long and 85 feet wide, this behemoth of a snowboarder's dream also features two 25-foot pedestals along either side and finishes in two 10-foot high jumps. It's time to strap in and game on.
buttermilkresort.com

DAGMAR RESORT, UXBRIDGE
Buckle up your helmet and take off on the table tops, rolls, rails and spines of Dagmar Resort's terrain parks, the coolest places to play. Designed for intermediate and expert riders, the park is perfect for snowboarding or skiing. And when you just want to go downhill, there are 17 runs of varied terrain to explore.
skidagmar.com

Horseshoe Resort, Barrie

LEARN MORE ABOUT
SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING
ontariotravel.net/family

TAKE A POWDER TRIP

A pair of skis or a snowboard can turn any family snow day into a mountain of fun. With so many great spots to enjoy the slopes, you'll find a place that suits your experience level. Or challenge yourself – try a new sport or take some lessons from a pro.

Cross-country

ONTARIO'S CONSERVATION AREAS
These natural spaces are perfect for cross-country skiing – many have lots of picturesque trails that are well groomed for skiers and outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds, and some even offer equipment rentals. Head out for an afternoon of wildlife spotting and cool, fresh air.
ontarioconservationareas.ca

NORDIC ADVENTURES AT SCENIC CAVES, COLLINGWOOD
Enjoy a unique winter experience when you cross-country ski across Ontario's longest suspension footbridge. Traverse the narrow bridge that's 130 m (427 ft.) long, and enjoy the long views from 300 m (984 ft.) above Georgian Bay. Don't forget to explore all of the surrounding trails, then enjoy an après-ski snack at the chalet in front of the fire.
sceniccaves.com

SLEEPING GIANT LOPPET, THUNDER BAY
The 35th annual Sleeping Giant Provincial Park event is one of the largest cross-country skiing events in Ontario, and includes an 8 km (5 mi.) mini-loppet perfect for families. This year, there are a lot of nostalgic events, like awards for every skier using wooden skis, a retro skiing clothing show and more. It all happens on March 3, 2012 – sign up and join in!
sleepinggiantloppet.ca

WYE MARSH WILDLIFE CENTRE, MIDLAND
Bring or rent your skis and explore 22 km (13.5 mi.) of groomed and track-set trails at this wildlife reserve. Enjoy scenic hardwood forests and cedar groves, or head out on a moonlit ski, where guides will lead you even farther in the woods to experience a calm evening on the snow. You'll love warming up with a mug of hot chocolate by the fire afterward.
wyemarsh.com

Algoma County

LEARN MORE ABOUT SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING
ontariotravel.net/family

TAKE A POWDER TRIP

A pair of skis or a snowboard can turn any family snow day into a mountain of fun. With so many great spots to enjoy the slopes, you'll find a place that suits your experience level. Or challenge yourself – try a new sport or take some lessons from a pro.

Did you know?

THE GRADE 4 & 5 SNOWPASS
If your kids are 9 or 10 years old (born in 2001 or 2002) and currently attending school in Canada, they can hit the slopes for free this year! For more details and to sign up for a SnowPass, visit **snowpass.ca**.

KIDS CAMPS
Most ski resorts and clubs have programs available for kids. Sign up the kids for a fun winter or March Break course – they'll love learning new skills and spending time out on the hills!

- Hockley Valley Resort, Orangeville – for the more experienced skier or snowboarder the 8-week program is the perfect choice.
  hockley.com
- Snow Valley, Barrie – check out their Half Day Ski or Snowboard session during March Break Camp, perfect for kids ages 3 to 15.
  skisnowvalley.com
- Calabogie Peaks Resort, Calabogie – sign up the young 'uns to the Ski Wee Program for kids 5 and under – a one hour lesson followed by 30 minutes of fun snow play.
  calabogie.com

STAY AND PLAY
Make the most of your winter vacation by staying at a winter resort! Not only will you be close to all kinds of great outdoor activities, but you can rent equipment easily, have a cosy place nearby to warm up, and enjoy all the luxuries of a relaxing vacation. Whether it's for a weekend or holiday, a resort is the perfect getaway. To find great places to stay and vacation packages, visit **resortsofontario.com**.

The Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain. Photo: courtesy of The Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain.

LEARN MORE ABOUT
SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING
ontariotravel.net/family

GREAT WINTER getaways



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Your winter adventure begins at Blue Mountain. Whether you crave all day action, relaxation or some of both, a Blue Mountain package is the best way to save this winter! With incredible accommodation, activities, shops, dining & entertainment, Blue Mountain has plenty of options for creating your perfect getaway.

Find out more at bluemountain.ca/stayskisave

bluemountain.ca

877.445.0231

BLUE MOUNTAIN

by James Smedley

ON FROZEN LAKE

FORMULA FOR FAMILY ICE FISHING

Weather and the appetite of fish are tough to predict but as we wait with our gear at the Algoma Central Railway Station in Hawk Junction, we're confident our ice fishing plans will unfold swimmingly.



Tatnall Camp's on-ice bungalow at the north end of Northern Ontario's Oba Lake.



Waiting for the train at Mileage 215.5 along the Algoma Central Railway.

For starters we're going to the pike and walleye-rich waters of a remote Northern Ontario lake. And we're going in mid-March when seasonable temperatures mean crisp nights and long warm days. Accessible only by train, the lodge at the north end of 18 km-long Oba Lake waits with winterized cabins and an on-ice bungalow to accommodate our angling expectations.

GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN

Sharing the adventure is always a step in the right direction, and my wife Francine and daughters Islay, 15, and Lillian, 13, are joined by Jamie and Carol-Anne Robinson and their children Lindsay, 12, and Brett, 10. "It looks like the set from an old movie," says Islay pointing to the vintage red brick train station just as a whistle heralds the appearance of the locomotive in the distance.

After creaking and groaning to a stop, a ramp is lowered from the baggage car and we load the snowmobiles, sleds, ice fishing gear and food before sinking into the reclining seats of the passenger car. As the snow-blanketed landscape rolls by large picture windows, the conductor walks the aisles checking tickets and chatting with passengers about the lakes and the land. He sees that we're getting off at Oba Lake and nods knowingly "Oh boy, good fishing up there!"

After an hour and a half the train approaches Mileage 215.5, slowing to a stop at the head of a snowy trail. Ramps are lowered and people and gear spill out, and we're welcomed by Jason Lebrun from Tatnall Camp. As the train rumbles into the distance Lebrun leads our small convoy of snowmobiles and sleds about a kilometre across the lake to a group of cabins perched on a snow-covered point.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION
The mild overcast day is deteriorating to rain but the inhospitable conditions outside only accentuate the cosiness of the wood-stove-heated cabins. By the time Francine and I have unpacked our gear and the girls have claimed the best bedroom, the sky is clearing – pointing the way to a warm evening of angling off the point about 500 metres from the cabin.

Holes are drilled, lines set and as if on cue, one of the short jigging rods plunges toward the ice. Islay grabs it to deftly reel in a fat 20-inch walleye. With the warm sun reddening as it nears the tops of pine and spruce, the Smedley and Robinson children take turns pulling in fat walleye under encroaching darkness. As we take up our lines Jason starts the generator and we head back toward the glow of the camp lights.

In the morning I throw a few pieces of wood in the stove and the quiet of the clear frosty morning is broken by the sound of the Robinsons' snowmobile as Jamie and son Brett head out to the fishing grounds. By the time I arrive the action has started. "I caught the big one jigging a lure," says Brett nodding to the healthy specimen lying on the crystalline snow at his feet.

The warming sun is quick to take the chill out of the crisp morning and slowly the rest of the crew trickle out of the cabins. I set up a line for Lillian in tight to shore – close to where she and Lindsay have hollowed out a fort under the overhanging branches of a large spruce. The line is attached to a flexible stick with a clip-on bell.

Within the hour the bell rings and I see Lillian and Lindsay racing from their fort towards the active hole. Drama ensues when the line is pulled from the end of the stick and the bell is flung into the air. Lillian slides into home plate to see the spool of line being pulled down the hole. Flinging her gloves she grabs the spool and the pair play and land a five pound pike. "We got him!" they shout in unison, admiring the glistening green fish.

FRUITS OF OUR LABOUR
Exclamations of starvation from the children prompt quick action with the filet knife as Jamie Robinson tosses the seasoned flesh of several walleye into a pan of hot oil. After lunch the crew disperses to various activities including relaxing in the sauna, reading, napping and snowshoeing.

In the late afternoon sunshine the adults return to fish off the point while the children come and go as they please. The train isn't due back for a few more days and with the fish biting and the promise of mild spring weather on a remote Northern Ontario lake, our successful family angling adventure is guaranteed.



Lindsay Robinson, Lillian Smedley and Brett Robinson running in the snow after leaving Tatnall Camp's sauna.

GREAT ICE FISHING TIPS

LEARN MORE ABOUT
FAMILY ICE FISHING
ontariotravel.net/family

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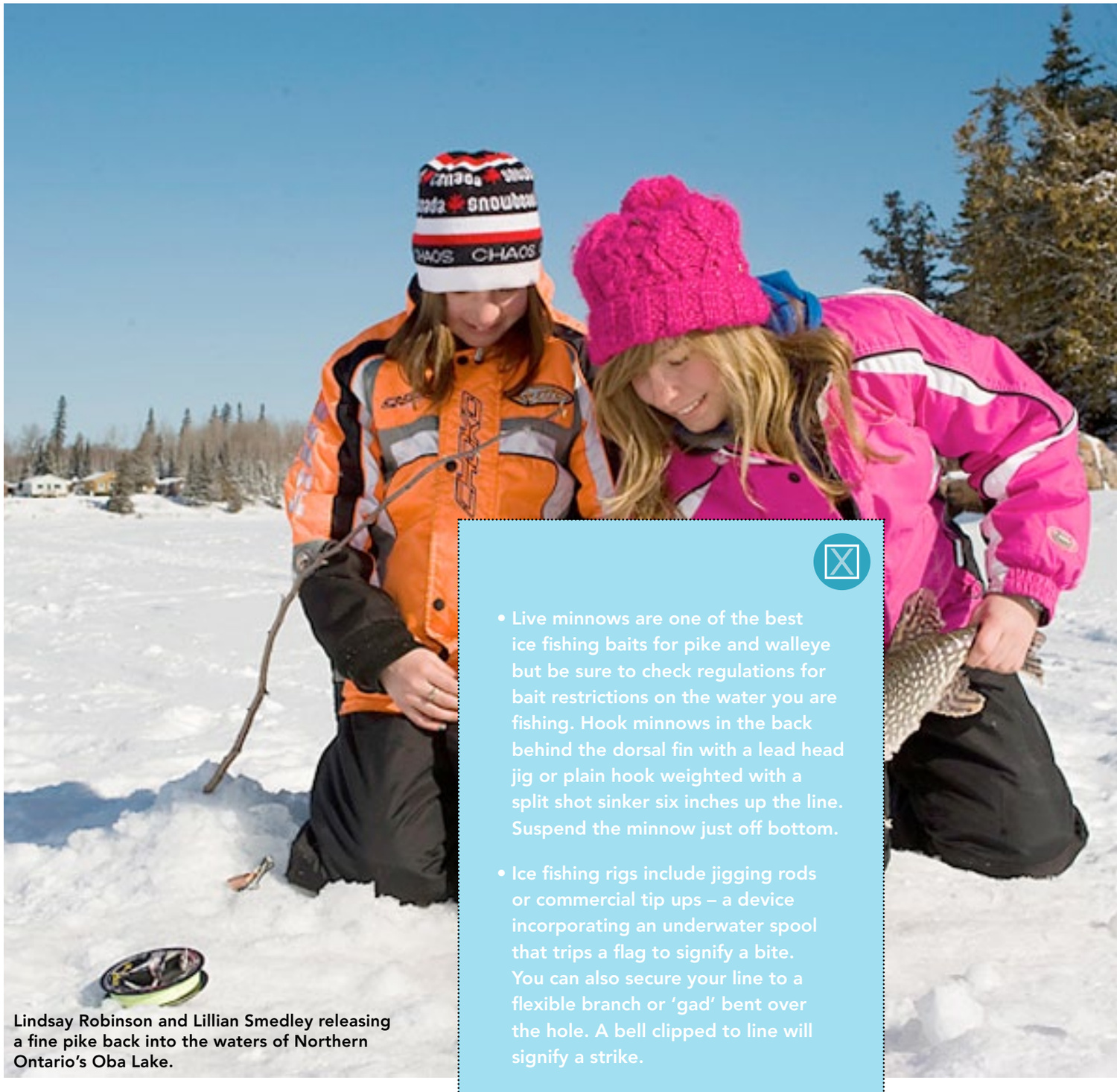
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Lindsay Robinson and Lillian Smedley releasing a fine pike back into the waters of Northern Ontario's Oba Lake.

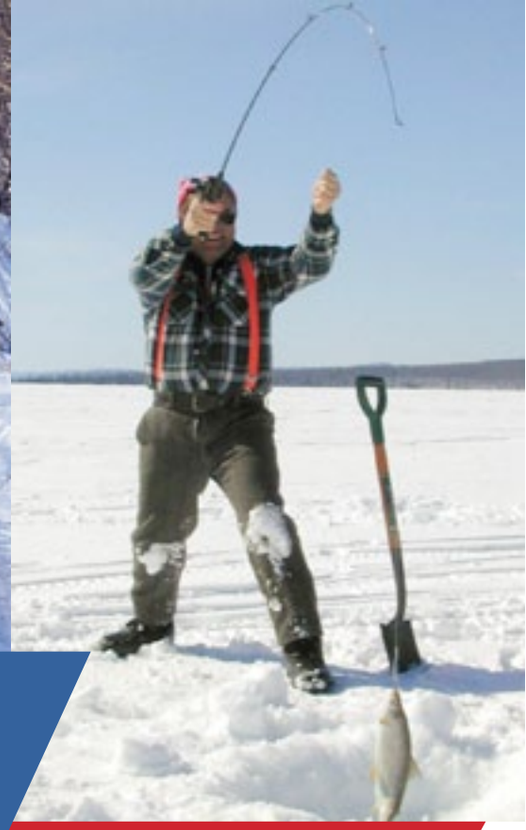
- Live minnows are one of the best ice fishing baits for pike and walleye but be sure to check regulations for bait restrictions on the water you are fishing. Hook minnows in the back behind the dorsal fin with a lead head jig or plain hook weighted with a split shot sinker six inches up the line. Suspend the minnow just off bottom.
- Ice fishing rigs include jigging rods or commercial tip ups – a device incorporating an underwater spool that trips a flag to signify a bite. You can also secure your line to a flexible branch or 'gad' bent over the hole. A bell clipped to line will signify a strike.

GREAT ICE FISHING TIPS

LEARN MORE ABOUT
FAMILY ICE FISHING
ontariotravel.net/family







Up here, snow time is fun time.



In Ontario's northern cities, when the temperature drops the excitement heats up. Our five major communities offer plenty of winter activities for those who crave the white stuff. Choose a favourite—from snowmobiling, snowshoeing or dog sledding to ice fishing, downhill or cross-country skiing. Besides our incredible outdoors, you'll also enjoy extraordinary attractions and excellent hospitality.

Learn more

Ontario's North

ONTARIO Yours to discover

SUDBURY • TIMMINS • NORTH BAY • THUNDER BAY • SAULT STE. MARIE

ICEWINE:
A TASTE OF GOLD

by Margaret Swaine

My first in-depth experience with Icewine was picking at Inniskillin's vines in the dead of winter. Maybe the idea of picking grapes in the dark at below freezing temperatures makes your blood run cold, but for me and for other volunteers, it's worth the frozen fingers.

Niagara-on-the-Lake

FREEZING YOUR FINGERS

Canadian Icewine is so coveted and delicious, people will do just about anything to get it, and Niagara is the country's top producer. When the temperature drops below -8˚ Celsius, the calls go out to each winery's volunteer list – the time to pick is now. It may be New Year's Day or Christmas Eve, but there are no excuses. The precious bunches of grapes hanging for so long after the regular harvest need immediate picking in their frozen state, lest the weather warm up. They're pressed frozen too, so only a precious few drops of pure nectar come from each grape. It's worthwhile – the minimum sugar levels for this juice is a whopping 35 per cent. For the volunteer pickers, the reward is often a bottle of Icewine and at some wineries, their name listed on the label as a picker that year.

GRABBING THE WORLD STAGE

The spotlight first shone on our Icewine in the 1991 VinExpo in Bordeaux, France, where Inniskillin's 1989 Vidal Icewine captured the Grand Prix d'Honneur. "This was a pivotal moment for a Canadian wine to win the top award, similar to winning a Gold at the Olympics, in the heart of such an established wine region," says Debi Pratt, Winery Public Relations for Niagara Estates. "With this international attention and the natural association with ice and cold in Canada, Canadian Icewine was positioned beautifully for success."

Inniskillin is currently Canada's largest producer, and while not the first in Ontario to bottle it (that honour belongs to Walter Strehn in 1983, the winemaker at Pelee Island), they put Canadian Icewine on the map.

Over and over, our Icewines have swept up the golds and 'best of the best' in international competitions. In 2010, Monde Selection, the prestigious and oldest quality selection institute in the world, honoured Niagara-on-the-Lake's Ice House Winery with two of the rarely awarded Grand Gold medals. It was the only winery among thousands of entries from more than 20 countries to win the coveted accolades.

WHY WE ARE NUMBER ONE?



Niagara Region

FREEZING YOUR FINGERS

Canadian Icewine is so coveted and delicious, people will do just about anything to get it, and Niagara is the country's top producer. When the temperature drops below -8˚ Celsius, the calls go out to each winery's volunteer list – the time to pick is now. It may be New Year's Day or Christmas Eve, but there are no excuses. The precious bunches of grapes hanging for so long …en state, lest the …us few drops of …mum sugar le… pickers, the rewa… …e listed on the la…

GRAB…

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Inniskilli… …t in Ontar… …he winemak…

Over an… …best' in intern… …us and oldest q… …e-Lake's Ic… …edals. It was th… 20 count…

NUMERO UNO

Canada is number one in Icewine production in the world. We have perfected the techniques and have the climate for the temperamental wine. Some wineries even pick at lower temperatures than regulation requires for a higher concentration of flavour. Henry of Pelham Winery usually leaves a bigger yield per vine to delay the Icewine grape's ripening, and achieve a high natural acidity and low sugar per berry. To do this they must pick at -11° Celsius. Germany, the birthplace of modern Icewine in 1794, and Austria are the only other producers of note.



WHY WE ARE NUMBER ONE?

Niagara Region



Niagara Region







PICK YOUR GRAPE

Ontario's main grape is Vidal, a thick-skinned hybrid that's remarkably good for Icewine. Vidal yields a rich nectar, full bodied with tastes of tropical fruit, apricot and brown sugar. Next in popularity is the elegant Riesling, with a refined acidity of citrus and mineral tones with peach flavours. The red varietal Cabernet Franc is third most used in the province. However, at last count, 13 different varieties were used in Ontario's Icewines, including Shiraz, Merlot and Chardonnay.

A FURTHER TWIST

Traditionally, Icewine is a non-oaked product. Now, winemakers produce batches barrel-aged in both French and Canadian oak, as well as sparkling versions. For example, Peller Estates' Ice Cuvée is a traditional sparkling wine with the addition of a little Vidal Icewine. Include these mixes to the winemaker's expanded grape options, and you'll find a huge number of Icewines available, ranging in bottle size from minis to magnums.

MAKE IT A MEAL

Today Icewine is used in chocolates, martinis, desserts and even main courses, such as Icewine marinated pork medallions. It's often paired with foods such as foie gras, strong cheeses and seafood. I love to pour it over ice cream, add it to fruit salads and make an Icewine Royale by pouring an ounce into a flute glass of Ontario sparkling wine.

CHOOSE YOUR NECTAR

Wineries that consistently produce excellent Icewines include Inniskillin, Royal DeMaria Wines, Reif Estate, Thirty Bench, Cave Spring Cellars, Jackson-Triggs, Château des Charmes, Vineland Estates, Hillebrand Estates, Stratus and Malivoire. But that's just the beginning. Generally, you can't go wrong buying one of the sweetest nectars in the world. Just pick a grape variety and a style based on your personal preference.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WINE AND CULINARY EXPERIENCES
ontariotravel.net/getaway

THE FESTIVALS

Take in a wine festival, event or celebration this winter. It's another cool way to sample and sip one of Ontario's most cherished beverages.

Explore festivals | >



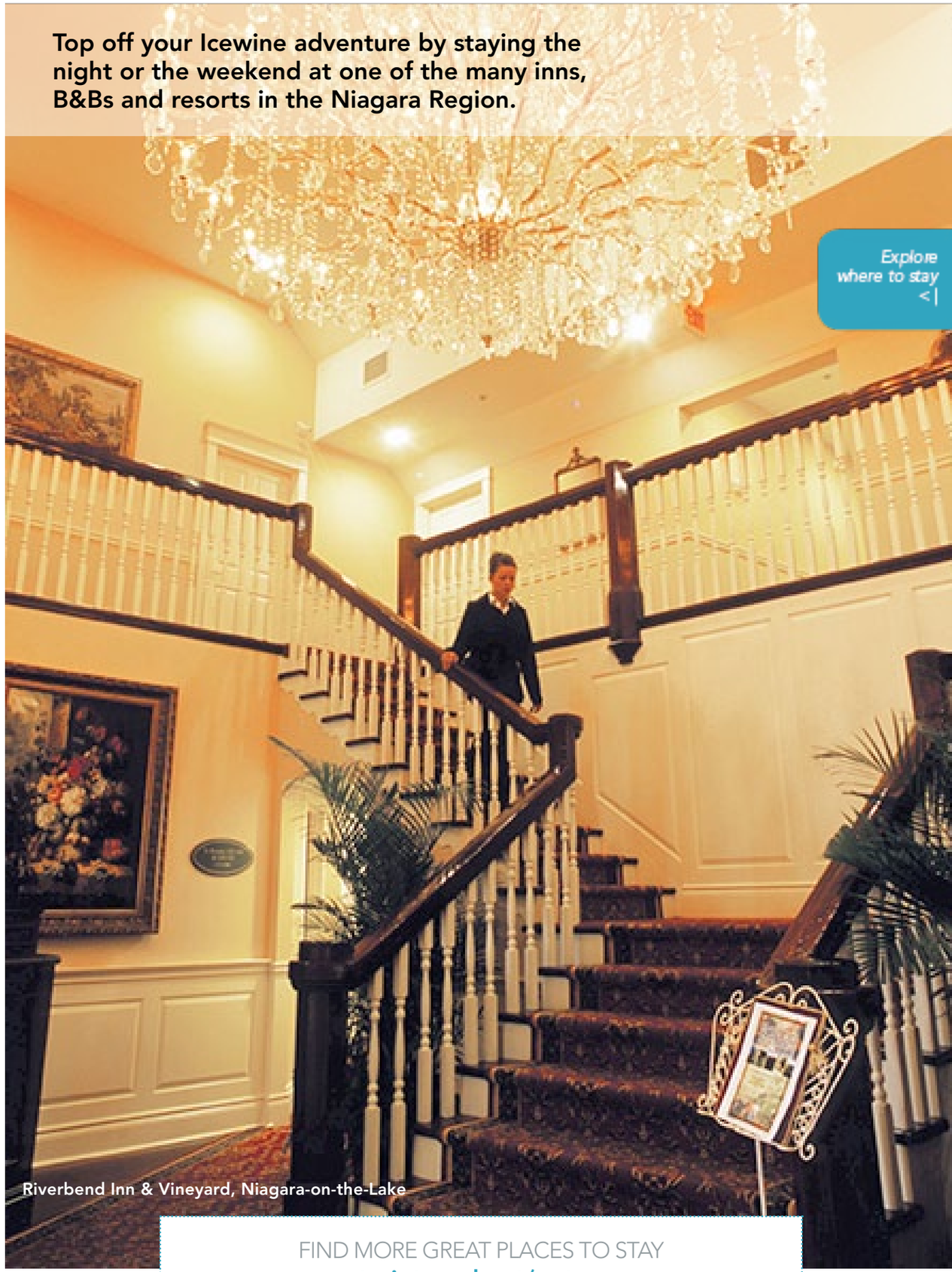
Niagara Icewine Festival, Niagara Region

FIND MORE FESTIVAL AND EVENTS
ontariotravel.net/getaway

WHERE TO STAY IN THE NIAGARA REGION

Top off your Icewine adventure by staying the night or the weekend at one of the many inns, B&Bs and resorts in the Niagara Region.

Explore where to stay <|



Riverbend Inn & Vineyard, Niagara-on-the-Lake

FIND MORE GREAT PLACES TO STAY
ontariotravel.net/getaway

THE FESTIVALS

NIAGARA ICEWINE FESTIVAL
January 13–29
The 17th annual Icewine Festival has festivities planned for three weekends in January in the Niagara Region. A highlight every year is The Xerox Icewine Gala, which is held on opening night at the Fallsview Casino Resort – this year's theme is Masquerade. Join 800 guests for a luxurious evening of VQA wine, Icewine and an incredible culinary showcase.
icewinefestival.com

WINTERFEST IN MARKET SQUARE
January 14
Enjoy a casual evening of VQA wine, local culinary partners and live entertainment in St. Catharines Market Square.
niagarawinefestival.com

TWENTY VALLEY WINTER WINEFEST
January 14 & 15
Jordan Village will be transformed into a unique winter showcase of VQA wines, food and outdoor entertainment on this magical weekend.
twentyvalley.ca

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ICEWINE CELEBRATIONS
January 21 & 22
The streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake sparkle during the main event of the Icewine Festival. On stunning historic Queen Street, the wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake pour liquid gold all weekend long. A multi-sensory experience, Icewine is paired with beautiful ice sculptures, the swinging sounds of Canadian jazz and the town's finest restaurants, serving up Icewine-inspired culinary pairings.
wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com

PELLER ESTATES: INTENSE ICEWINE WEEKEND
January 21 & 22
Try your hand at harvesting Icewine grapes while you learn all about it.
peller.com

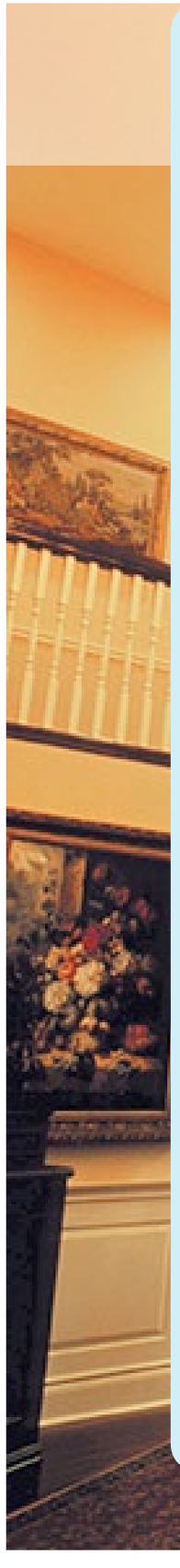
INNISKILLIN: ICEWINE EXPERIENCE
Be greeted with a glass of Inniskillin Sparkling Vidal Icewine and taken on an informative tour which ends with a structured Icewine tasting with food pairings. Available year-round.
inniskillin.com

NIAGARA ICEWINE DISCOVERY PASS
Explore 35 wineries across the Niagara Region and experience six decadent wine and culinary pairings using your Discovery Pass. Runs January 14 & 15, 21& 22, 28 & 29.
icewinefestival.com



FIND MORE FESTIVAL AND EVENTS
ontariotravel.net/getaway

WHERE TO STAY IN THE NIAGARA REGION



INN ON THE TWENTY,
Jordan Village
The Pennachetti family literally put the town of Jordan on the map. They opened the region's first winery restaurant, On the Twenty, in 1993 (named after Twenty Mile Creek which it overlooks). A few years later, they opened Inn on the Twenty. Each room features a unique mix of private gardens, spacious whirlpool tubs or original wooden beamed ceilings. Its spa offers vinotherapy as well as the more standard massage and beauty treatments.
innonthetwenty.com

JORDAN HOUSE,
Jordan Village
Jordan House is a practical place to stay while visiting wine country, providing all the comforts at a sensible price.
jordanhouse.ca

RIVERBEND INN & VINEYARD,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Situated within a working vineyard just a few minutes from town along the Niagara Parkway, Riverbend looks out upon the Niagara River. A classically elegant 21-room country inn, it radiates old-world charm in an historic Georgian style.
riverbendinn.ca

SHAW CLUB HOTEL & SPA,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
This sleekly modern and hip hotel is just a two-minute walk from the Shaw Festival Theatre.
shawclub.com

STERLING INN & SPA,
Niagara Falls
Each room at Niagara Falls boutique hotel The Sterling Inn & Spa is unique and spacious. Their restaurant, AG, is inspired by the growers and producers of Niagara.
sterlingniagara.com

VINTAGE HOTELS,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Vintage Hotels owns four lovely properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake: the Prince of Wales, the Pillar and Post, Queen's Landing and Moffat Inn. The first is a well-known landmark with Victorian architecture. Queen's Landing built like a Georgian-style mansion lies near the banks of the Niagara River while the Pillar and Post is more country in its charm. The sunlight-filled Tiara restaurant at Queen's Landing offers a panoramic view of historic Niagara-on-the-Lake harbour.
vintage-hotels.com

WHITE OAKS RESORT & SPA,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
The largest hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it's a full-service resort and spa with well appointed rooms, a fine dining restaurant LIV and an extensive breakfast buffet.
whiteoaksresort.com

FIND MORE GREAT PLACES TO STAY
ontariotravel.net/getaway



WARMING UP TO A WINTER STAY IN ONTARIO — FAR FROM YOUR DAILY ROUTINE.

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A GREEN CHOICE

A MORE HUMAN WAY TO TRAVEL VIA Rail Canada

BRIGHT NIGHTS, BIG CITY

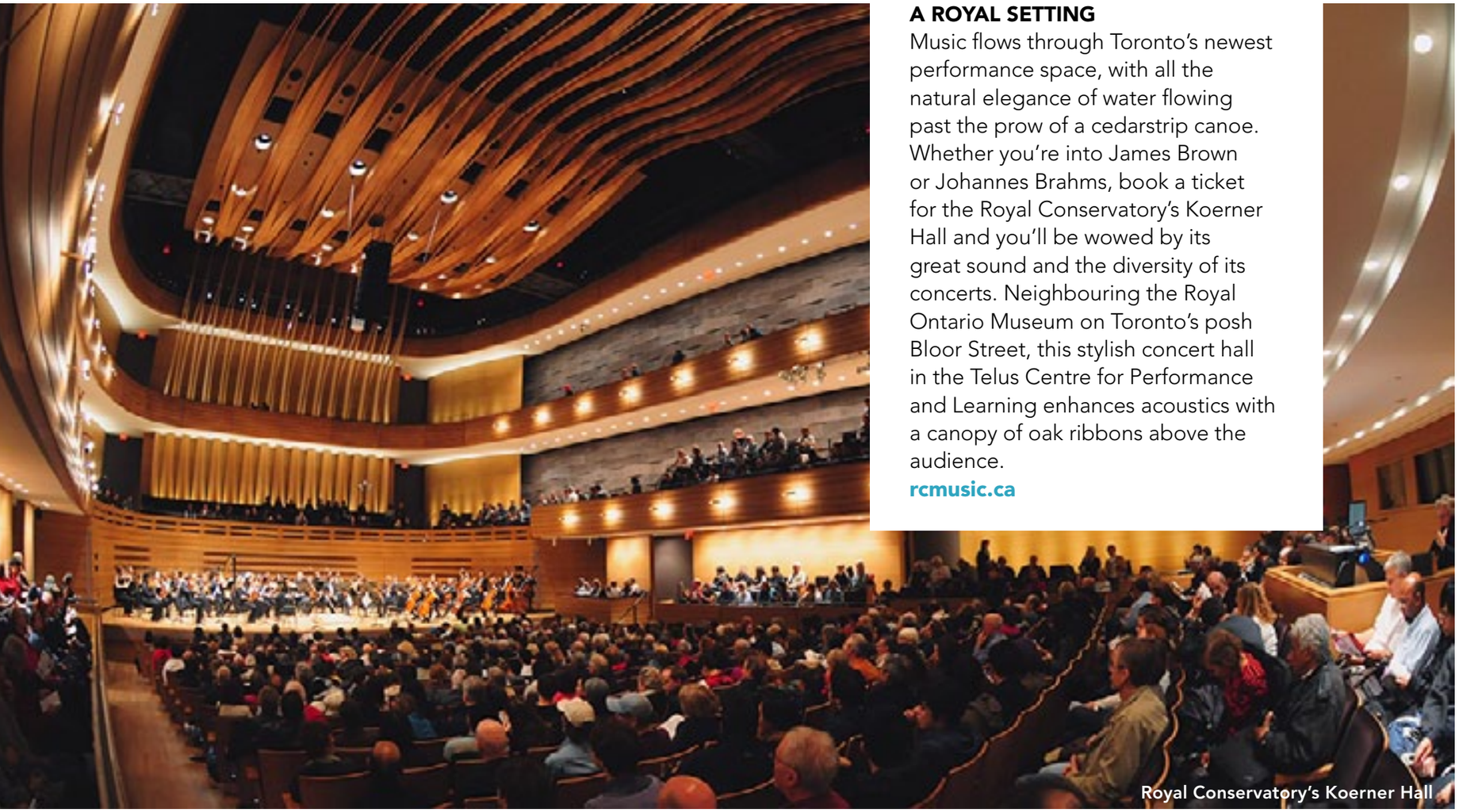
by Betty Zyvatkauskas

There's a bustle behind the curtain.

The lights begin to dim as a family settles into the theatre seats and surveys their magnificent surroundings.

Dad: This is a welcome break from video games and Friday night TV.
Mom: Maybe we should do this more often.
Daughter: Are we going to see a princess?
Son: This place is awesome!

Winter nights are never long wherever theatre marquees brighten city streets. After the final curtain, we'll chat about the night's performance over after-theatre cocktails and Shirley Temples, and share our favourite moments. Then we'll go home humming our favourite tunes. Across Ontario, it's time for a night out.



Royal Conservatory's Koerner Hall

A ROYAL SETTING

Music flows through Toronto's newest performance space, with all the natural elegance of water flowing past the prow of a cedarstrip canoe. Whether you're into James Brown or Johannes Brahms, book a ticket for the Royal Conservatory's Koerner Hall and you'll be wowed by its great sound and the diversity of its concerts. Neighbouring the Royal Ontario Museum on Toronto's posh Bloor Street, this stylish concert hall in the Telus Centre for Performance and Learning enhances acoustics with a canopy of oak ribbons above the audience.

rcmusic.ca



Patricia Fagan, Oliver Dennis in *Parfumerie*.
Production photos by Cylla von Tiedemann

SPICE UP THE STAGE

From its multi-stage venue in the Victorian-era Distillery District, Soulpepper Theatre Company stakes its reputation on finely crafted classics. Just in time for Christmas, comes *Parfumerie*, the charming Hungarian comedy on which so many feel-good Hollywood films (*You've Got Mail*, *In The Good Old Summertime*) have been modelled.

soulpepper.ca

BLOCKBUSTER THEATRE

For decades Mirvish Productions has filled Toronto's top stages with a striking range of mega-musicals and daring dramas. This season is no different, with the cutting-edge tech wizardry of Robert LePage in *The Blue Dragon* on stage at the Royal Alexandra and a magical *Mary Poppins* from Disney at the Princess of Wales. All musicals, all the time Dancap Productions brings a roster of Broadway biggies to Toronto stages including *The Addams Family* and *Memphis*.

mirvish.com

dancaptickets.com



Nicolas Dromard as 'Bert' performs "Step In Time" with the National Tour Company of *MARY POPPINS*. ©Disney/CML. Photo by Joan Marcus.

HOMETOWN FAVOURITES

Great playwrights and directors often cut their teeth on Toronto's thriving smaller stages where original Canadian plays take precedence: Tarragon Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille and Factory Theatre. Look for pay-what-you-can matinees to make theatre-going affordable.

tarragontheatre.com

passemuraille.on.ca

factorytheatre.ca



Pennsylvania Ballet – George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™.
Laura Bowman & Soloist Abigail Mentzer. Photo: Erin Baiano for Paul Kolnik

OTTAWA: ON THE NATIONAL STAGE
No matter when you find yourself in Ottawa, you can always count on the National Arts Centre (NAC) for a great night out. The best performances from across Canada inevitably find their way to this venerable venue. French theatre, English theatre, dance series, Broadway shows and symphony orchestra – it's all here. Among this season's highlights look for the NAC's own production of *Oliver!*, a special presentation of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker™*, and the TD Bank Group Family Adventures with the NAC Orchestra. In January, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra meets the NAC Orchestra under the baton of Pinchas Zukerman for a tour-de-force concert of Bruch and Berlioz.
nac-cna.ca

Less well-known by tourists but much loved by locals, the Great Canadian Theatre Company produces new Canadian works by both established and emerging playwrights in an intimate 262-seat venue. Just in time for Christmas comes a reprise of the Shakespearean clowning mash-up, *A Midwinter's Dream Tale*, followed in February by six new independent productions in the undercurrents festival.
gctc.ca

LONDON: THE SPIRIT OF THEATRE
Legend has it that the ghost of impresario Ambrose Small still haunts the Grand Theatre, the opulent venue he opened in 1901. Greats from Sarah Bernhardt to Michael Burgess have walked its lavishly decorated stage. Christmas brings a production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical, *Cinderella*. But Canadian works are never far from the forefront including January's production of *Ed's Garage*, written by Dan Needles and starring Rod Beattie – the same winning pair that had audiences doubled over with laughter in the *Wingfield* series.
grandtheatre.com

Accessibility is the key to Orchestra London's success, whether they are playing a Valentine's Day brunch at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn Crystal Ballroom or performing the *Messiah* at St. Paul's Cathedral.
orchestralondon.ca

KINGSTON: A GRAND NIGHT OUT
From its sleek modern exterior, you'd hardly know that the Grand Theatre has been entertaining audiences for more than a century. Another Ambrose Small venue, the recently renovated Grand is central to the city's cultural scene, bringing in a wide range of Canadian and international performers and, thanks to its mid-point location, many touring artists from both Toronto (Toronto Dance Theatre) and Montreal (La La La Human Steps).
kingstongrand.ca

HOLIDAY CLASSICS
(AND NOT-SO CLASSIC)

The National Ballet's *The Nutcracker* has enchanted audiences ever since Santo Loquasto's lavish sets and costumes first cast their spell in 1995.
national.ballet.ca

Ballet Jorgen's *The Nutcracker* gets a Canadian twist, with Group of Seven backdrops, canoes, lumberjacks and woodland creatures.
balletjorgen.ca

It's big and it's back. The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir joins the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in Handel's *Messiah* at Roy Thompson Hall.
tso.ca

A casino-style Christmas with plenty of glitz and a high-kicking chorus line comes to Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort, called *Spirit of Christmas*.
fallsviewcasinoresort.com



Heather Ogden in *The Nutcracker*.
Photo: Bruce Zinger

LEARN MORE ABOUT
ARTS AND CULTURE
ontariotravel.net

TOP 10 REASONS TO VISIT OTTAWA THIS WINTER



1 The Ottawa Wine & Food Festival, November 9 - 13!

WANT TO PUT SOME WOW
IN YOUR WINTER?

Then you'll want to get away to Ottawa! Choose from over 40 hotels plus great packaged getaway deals and offers by visiting online.

OTTAWA WINTER GETAWAY PACKAGES

1 NIGHT HOTEL FROM **$135**†

2 NIGHT GETAWAY PACKAGES FROM **$117**† *per night*

3RD NIGHT **HALF PRICE**† *at participating hotels*

WWW.OTTAWATOURISM.CA

OTTAWA
CANADA'S CAPITAL

ESCAPE TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

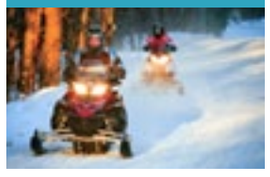
Ontario is your winter playground! Snow abounds and there are thousands of things to try. For the true Ontario adventurer, winter just isn't winter without carving fresh powder on one of Ontario's ski slopes, or gliding along groomed Nordic trails through a forest. Go on a winter adventure – whether you're a first timer or it's an annual tradition, everyone loves a snow day.

Algonquin Provincial Park

Ice Fishing



Snowmobiling



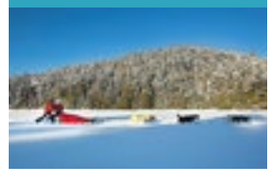
Downhill Skiing



Ice Climbing



Dogsledding



Winter Camping



LEARN MORE ABOUT
WINTER IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS
ontariotravel.net/outdoor



Sault Ste. Marie

GO ICE FISHING

Antler's Kingfisher Lodge, Deux Rivieres
Birch Hill Camp, North Bay
Floyd Hales Fish Huts, Beaverton
Harris Hill Resort, Rainy River
Snowfari Adventures, Callander

CAST OFF

Angle away on an ice fishing adventure – Ontario's waterways have plenty of fish for the catching! It's a refreshing way to enjoy one of your favourite summer activities. Don't worry about being cold – rent an ice fishing cabin with amenities and bunks, and you'll be toasty and warm while you fish for your dinner. And keep in mind: you can fish licence-free on Ontario's Family Fishing Weekend, February 18–20, 2012. Read about James Smedley's ice fishing adventure with his family.

ontariotravel.net/gofish



TOP C Trail, North of Parry Sound. Photo: Virgil Knapp

GUIDED RIDES

Back Country Tours Inc., Haliburton

Cottage Country Tours, Orillia

Extreme Tours, Cochrane

Northern Spirit Adventures, Smooth Rock Falls

Ride On Rentals, Collingwood

GET ALL REVVED UP

You don't need to own a snowmobile to enjoy the exhilaration of snowmobiling. Professionally guided tours or snowmobile rentals are available across Ontario. With more than 43,000 km (26,000 mi.) of groomed and interconnected trails to explore, you'll be able to see something new every time you head out. Ride under towering evergreens and alongside ice-covered waterways. Find routes near your own backyard or explore a new part of the province. Thrill-seekers, start your engines!

ontariotravel.net/goride



Blue Mountain Resort, The Blue Mountains

ZOOM DOWNHILL

Blue Mountain Resort, The Blue Mountains

Laurentian Ski Hill, North Bay

Madawaska Valley Radcliffe Hills Ski Area, Barry's Bay

Mount St. Louis Moonstone, Coldwater

Searchmont Resort, Sault Ste. Marie

See the Ontario Ski Report

EXPERIENCE A MOUNTAINTOP THRILL

Strap on your skis and get ready to fly – Ontarians love to downhill ski, and there are so many places to hit the hills. Experienced skiers will love challenging black diamond courses, while intermediate slopes and bunny hills offer options for learners of every level. And of course, most venues offer lessons with ski pros if you want to improve your skills. You'll be slaloming down the slopes in no time.

Find a package for your getaway – discover it at **ontariotravel.net/outdoor**



Algoma Region

PICK YOUR CLIMB

Adventure Seeker Tours, Ancaster

Muskoka Outfitters, Bracebridge

North of Superior Climbing Company, Batchawana Bay

One Axe Pursuits, Ancaster

GRIP TO IT

Experience ice in a whole new way – climb it! Grab some ice picks, spiked boots and an ice climbing pro to show you the ropes, and you're off. The ice may be steep but the learning curve is not – you'll be scaling frozen waterfalls and ice walls within a few hours time. Make it a fun day-trip, or stay in a nearby B&B to extend your excursion and have a warm up spot close by.

Find a package for your getaway – discover it at
ontariotravel.net/outdoor



Algonquin Provincial Park

HARNESS THE HUSKIES

Algonquin Dog Sled Adventures, South River
Borealis Dogsled Adventures, Vermilion Bay
Snow Forest Adventures, Huntsville
Winterdance Dogsled Tours, Haliburton
Wolf Within Adventures, Temagami

FEEL THE CALL OF THE WILD

Get ready to have so 'mush' fun! Enjoy a thrilling race over hills and valleys, pulled by an energetic dogsled team, while you're cosy and warm in the sled. This no-skills-required activity is fun for everyone, and you'll even learn how to control the reins yourself. Bundle up and try this exciting winter adventure – whether it's for a half-day or a multi-day excursion. Some outfitters even offer a helicopter ride in for your trip!

Find a package for your getaway – discover it at
ontariotravel.net/outdoor



Algonquin Provincial Park

SET UP CAMP

Mew Lake Campground at Algonquin Provincial Park, Hwy. 60 Corridor

MacGregor Point Provincial Park, Port Elgin

Quetico Provincial Park, Atikokan

The Pinery Provincial Park, Grand Bend

Valens Conservation Area, Flamborough

*Note: not all parks offer yurts. Please check with **Ontario Parks** for a full listing of yurts and amenities.

SLEEP IN THE SNOW

Try a getaway unlike any other and go winter camping! Rent a yurt or pitch a tent at one of Ontario's provincial parks* and be right in the action – have a home base close to all the snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities you're longing to try. Yurts can be equipped with everything you need for a comfortable stay, including electricity and bunk beds. Gather some friends and family – you'll love having some good ol' bonding time in these cosy quarters.

OntarioParks.com
conservation-ontario.on.ca

Winter is the coolest season at Ontario Parks!

Make time this winter to head out for an invigorating adventure and enjoy the peace of the great outdoors!

Here are five great reasons to explore Ontario Parks this winter!

1 Trails that beckon

With equipment rentals and more than 450 km of groomed and track-set cross-country ski and snowshoe trails, you'll be in snowy paradise. Check out our regularly updated ski trail report **parkreports.com/skireport/**

2 Warm-up inside

Stay in heated roofed accommodations in spectacular park settings. This is the year to try sleeping in a yurt! **OntarioParks.com**

3 Take in a special event

Take your moppet to a loppet! Use our event finder to find out what's going on in your favourite park! **parkreports.com/events**

4 Build a family tradition

From New Year's Eve coyote howls to skating parties and tubing – you'll find ways of creating new memories with family and friends! **parkreports.com/parksblog**

5 Stay close to home

Find just the right experience close to home with our handy park locator. **OntarioParks.com**



MacGregor Point Provincial Park

Stay in touch!

Sign up to receive regular updates via our blog **parkreports.com/parksblog/**, follow us on twitter **@ontarioparks** and you can also subscribe to our enewsletter at **OntarioParks.com/signup/**

ONTARIO PARKS

HOP TO IT

Have great fun in the snow on a pair of snowshoes. Find places in Ontario to try this low-impact activity!

Algoma Region

HOP TO IT

Have great fun in the snow on a pair of snowshoes. Find places in Ontario to try this low-impact activity!

GET EQUIPPED

You can rent snowshoes in four Ontario Provincial Parks, including:

- Arrowhead Provincial Park
- Killarney Provincial Park
- The Pinery Provincial Park
- Wasaga Beach Provincial Park
- or you can purchase them at MacGregor Point Provincial Park

Many conservation areas also offer snowshoe rentals. Learn more at **ontarioconservationareas.ca**

TIP: Don't forget to check with your local outdoor outfitter! There are a few styles of snowshoes to choose from depending on use and weather conditions, so talk to a staff member about what kind of shoe you should rent or purchase.

HOW SNOWSHOES WORK

SNOWSHOES ALLOW YOU TO WALK ON TOP OF SNOW, and have been used for thousands of years. They distribute your weight over a larger surface area so you do not sink. They are great for hiking through woods or fields where there are no groomed trails. Newer models are lightweight and allow you to stride more easily, and often have metal teeth called crampons on the underside to give you more traction.

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Snowshoeing is a great low-impact cardio activity that works your whole body, especially your legs. You can burn up to 500 calories per hour! Use walking sticks or ski poles while you snowshoe to add stability and even more calorie burning.

COOL TIP

Don't forget to check the weather before you head out! **Ontario Ski Report** will keep you updated on trail conditions, trail distances and local weather reports.

HAVE FUN AT FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

DION FRONTENAC PROVINCIAL PARK SNOWSHOE RACE – ***January 21***
This 7 km snowshoe race has a little bit of everything – rolling terrain, deep snow and packed trails. Don't forget to bring your own snowshoes!
OntarioParks.com

KILLARNEY PROVINCIAL PARK WINTER ACTIVITY WEEKEND – ***February 18–20***
Head to George Lake campground and join in the fun – try snowshoeing, skiing and educational activities, and enjoy a tasty BBQ lunch.
OntarioParks.com

WYE MARSH FULL MOON NIGHTS – ***Fridays closest to the full moon (check dates online)***
Snowshoe the trails by only the light of the full moon, then warm up with a mug of hot chocolate by the fire afterward. You can rent your snowshoes here if you don't have your own.
wyemarsh.com

Algoma Region

by Kate Pocock

PRIME TIME FOR FAMILY FUN

So school is out and the kids are keen for action and adventure. Well, here's help: a dozen family outings and sleepover suggestions for the winter holidays, Ontario Family Day (February 20) or March Break (March 12–16), that are guaranteed to elicit fun – and smiles – from all ages.

Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. Photos: Chris Hutcheson

FAB WINTER FESTIVALS

Even better than enjoying the movie *Groundhog Day* is visiting Willie, Wiarton's resident albino groundhog who will predict on February 2 whether Ontarians will have six more weeks of winter – or not. The 55th annual Wiarton Willie Festival in Wiarton features ice sculptures, street hockey games, rollicking music and dancing in the snow. Runs February 1–5.
wiartonwillie.com

Celebrate Chinese New Year (January 23) with A Taste of the World Tours, where culinary historian Shirley Lum guides families through Toronto's Second Chinatown. The tour begins with a delicious dim sum brunch and chopstick etiquette, then continues in bakeries serving New Year pastries, herbalists offering teas and bustling Asian grocery stores. Runs January 14–29.
torontowalksbikes.com

This year, thrill to the new musical fireworks set to kickoff Winterlude, Ottawa's annual winter celebration. Whizz down a giant snow slide in North America's largest snow playground, hug the furry Ice Hog mascots, devour a Banana Chocolate BeaverTails pastry or skate along the world's largest skating rink, the Rideau Canal Skateway. It's winter at its best! Runs weekends February 3–20.
winterlude.gc.ca



Rideau Canal. Photo: © Ottawa Tourism



Ontario Science Centre, Toronto

ARTS AND MINDS

Entertain tweens and teens with awesome walking tours. In Ottawa, choose between the chilling Ghost and the Gallows, or the thrilling Crime and Punishment Jail tours. In Toronto, discover spicy samosas in Little India or bouzouki in Greektown with a local resident. Or saunter down Rick Mercer's famous Graffiti Alley with the Tour Guys. Parents welcome too!
hauntedwalk.com **toronto.ca/tapto** **tourguys.ca**

The Art Gallery of Ontario loves kids! The new Weston Family Learning Centre is 3,252 m^2 (35,000 sq. ft.) dedicated to inspiring creativity, community and learning. Under eights can create and perform with costumes, puppets and art materials in the Dr. Mariano Elia Hands-On Centre. All ages can grab an activity pack – think finding African masks or imitating a musical loon call – and head to a related gallery. Monthly Family Sundays and family art lessons embellish the AGO's imaginative programming.
ago.net

"Have a little fun with the grey matter," advise staff at Toronto's Ontario Science Centre. Grey matter indeed, as the hands-on centre presents *Leonardo da Vinci's Workshop – The Exhibition*. Wonder at the artist's inventions including the Great Kite flying machine and mechanical lion. Watch centuries-old drawings come to life on touch screens. Guaranteed to boost brain power! Exhibit runs October 13 – March 18.
ontariosciencecentre.ca



Great Wolf Lodge, Niagara Falls

FAMILY-FRIENDLY RESORTS
What better way to escape winter than to head to the heated indoor water park at Niagara Falls' Great Wolf Lodge, boasting super-soaking spray stations, tipping bucket, plunge pools, awesome water slides, lily pads and more. Later, the girls can slip away to the spa (kids sit on a giant banana split throne for Scooops Kid Spa pedicures) while the guys practice putting skills at Wacky Wilderness Minigolf. And if you visit between November 24 – January 6, you can dine in a life sized gingerbread house!
greatwolf.com

For winter enthusiasts, the Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain near Collingwood offers snowy fun at the doorstep: Ontario's largest ski hills, plus excellent skating and broomball on the Mill Pond just outside. Add in the Westin Heavenly Bed, a heated outdoor pool, indoor Plunge! Aquatic Centre and a bustling pedestrian village, and your snow bunnies will be charmed.
westinbluemountain.com

Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville is non-stop wintertime family action. During long weekends and school breaks, families can try mushing a dogsled with pint-size sleds, exploring snowy trails on horseback, tubing down the nearby hills or riding in an old-fashioned horse-drawn carriage. When it's time to head inside, it won't be hard to warm up by the blazing fire while enjoying a gourmet dinner.
deerhurstresort.com


Waterfowl Weekend,
Presqu'ile Provincial Park

FRIENDLY CRITTERS
During Waterfowl Weekend at Presqu'ile Provincial Park near Brighton, marvel at hundreds of ducks, geese and swans as they touch down onto the shore before heading north for spring. Embark on a nature scavenger hunt, peer through a proper spy scope or let a birding naturalist point out a spectacular Canvasback duck with rusty red head and white feathers. Runs March 17 & 18.
friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Butterflies fly free at the world's largest glass-enclosed Butterfly Conservatory in Niagara Falls. As kids walk the winding path through the steamy hothouse of colour and scent, they'll certainly spot a few of the 2,000 winged creatures flitting amongst the tropical flowers. Wear red or purple; butterflies might land for a friendly encounter.
niagaraparks.com

Kids will recognize the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa from the giant woolly mammoths outside. Once inside, however, it's the 1,000 dazzling rocks and minerals, the ferocious dinosaurs and the creepy crawlies in the Animalium gallery that occupy their attention. Watch for *Whales: Tohorā* to listen to whale music, view two huge whale skeletons and crawl through a model blue-whale heart. Exhibit runs March 2 – September 3, 2012.
nature.ca



Indoor water parks are a great way to let the kids blow off some steam during snowy months. Take your pick of some great spots across Ontario where your little ones can get wet n' wild!

Fallsview Indoor Waterpark, Niagara Falls
fallsviewwaterpark.com

Great Wolf Lodge, Niagara Falls
greatwolf.com

Plunge! Aquatic Centre, Blue Mountain
plungebluemountain.ca

The Wave Pool, Richmond Hill
wave.sites.toronto.com

Waves Indoor Water Park at the Americana Inn, Niagara Falls
americananiagara.com

FIND MORE FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES
ontariotravel.net/family

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Resorts of Ontario

Come on up to our place.

SNOW MATH

It's a simple equation: start with Ontario's hills, trails and rinks. Add snow, ice and a cool sense of adventure – it all equals outdoor winter family fun!



Barrie

TUBE + GRAVITY = WHOOPS OF DELIGHT

TUBING

It's time to go tubular in Ontario! All you need is a rubber tube and a hill – and then let gravity do the rest. It's a fun activity for the whole family and there's no skill required. Zip your way down a run at a dedicated tube park. Zoom down slopes where there's a tow to lift you back up the hill. Race down a super fun tubing run at a resort. There are hills all over the province of all sizes, perfect for the little ones or for the big kid in you!

Chicopee Tube Park, Kitchener
chicopeetubepark.com

Mount Pakenham, Pakenham (near Ottawa)
mountpakenham.com

Rock Ridge Recreation Park, Huntsville
rockridgetubing.com

Venture Centre Zoom Zone Tube Park, Timmins
kamiskotia.com



TUBE + GRAVITY • SLEIGH + TRAIL • FROZEN SHEET + STEEL BLADES

LEARN MORE AT
ontariotravel.net/family

SNOW MATH

It's a simple equation: start with Ontario's hills, trails and rinks. Add snow, ice and a cool sense of adventure – it all equals outdoor winter family fun!



Sault Ste. Marie

SLEIGH + TRAIL = OLD-SCHOOL FAMILY FUN

SLEIGH RIDES

For some good old-fashioned winter fun, try dashing through the snow on a horse-drawn sleigh! It's a perfect winter activity for all ages. The kids will squeal with delight as a team of friendly draft horses clip-clop through the powdered trails. Couples can cuddle on the hay-lined sleigh. And everybody can warm up with hot chocolate and a bonfire. You'll find sleigh rides at farms, winter carnivals and sugar bushes all over Ontario or as part of a winter package at a resort.

Cedar Meadows Resort, Timmins
cedarmeadows.com

Conestogo River Horseback Adventures, Waterloo
horsebackadventures.ca

Edencrest Farms, Minesing (near Barrie)
edencrestfarms.com



TUBE + GRAVITY • SLEIGH + TRAIL • FROZEN SHEET + STEEL BLADES

LEARN MORE AT
ontariotravel.net/family

SNOW MATH

It's a simple equation: start with Ontario's hills, trails and rinks. Add snow, ice and a cool sense of adventure – it all equals outdoor winter family fun!



Ottawa

FROZEN SHEET + STEEL BLADES = FIGURE 8 FUN

SKATING

Strap on the blades and glide over frozen rinks, pads and ponds throughout the province. Take a spin around an old-fashioned natural ice rink in the forest. Practice crossovers and figure eights. Play shinny on a rink at a resort. Skate laps around downtown rinks surrounded by glittering seasonal lights. Glide arm-in-arm down the world's largest skating rink. Skating in Ontario is the perfect outdoor activity for families and romantics alike!

TD RINK at the Brink, Niagara Falls
wfol.com/tdrinkatthebrink

Cedarena, Markham
cedarena.ca

The Natrel™ Rink at Harbourfront Centre, Toronto
harbourfrontcentre.com

Rideau Canal Skateway, Ottawa
canadascapital.gc.ca



TUBE + GRAVITY • SLEIGH + TRAIL • FROZEN SHEET + STEEL BLADES

LEARN MORE AT
ontariotravel.net/family

Refresh.
Rediscover.
Rekindle.
Muskoka.



Bundle up for **adventure** in Muskoka's winter wonderland. This **sparkling** region has discovered how to truly enjoy winter – by getting **outside** and having fun! Find snowy adventure on snowshoes, cross-country skis, toboggans, ice rinks and more. Join new **friends** at **winter** festivals and carnivals. And reconnect with loved ones during **memorable** getaways.

REDISCOVER:

- Snowmobiling
- Dogsledding
- Resorts

View an Interactive Map

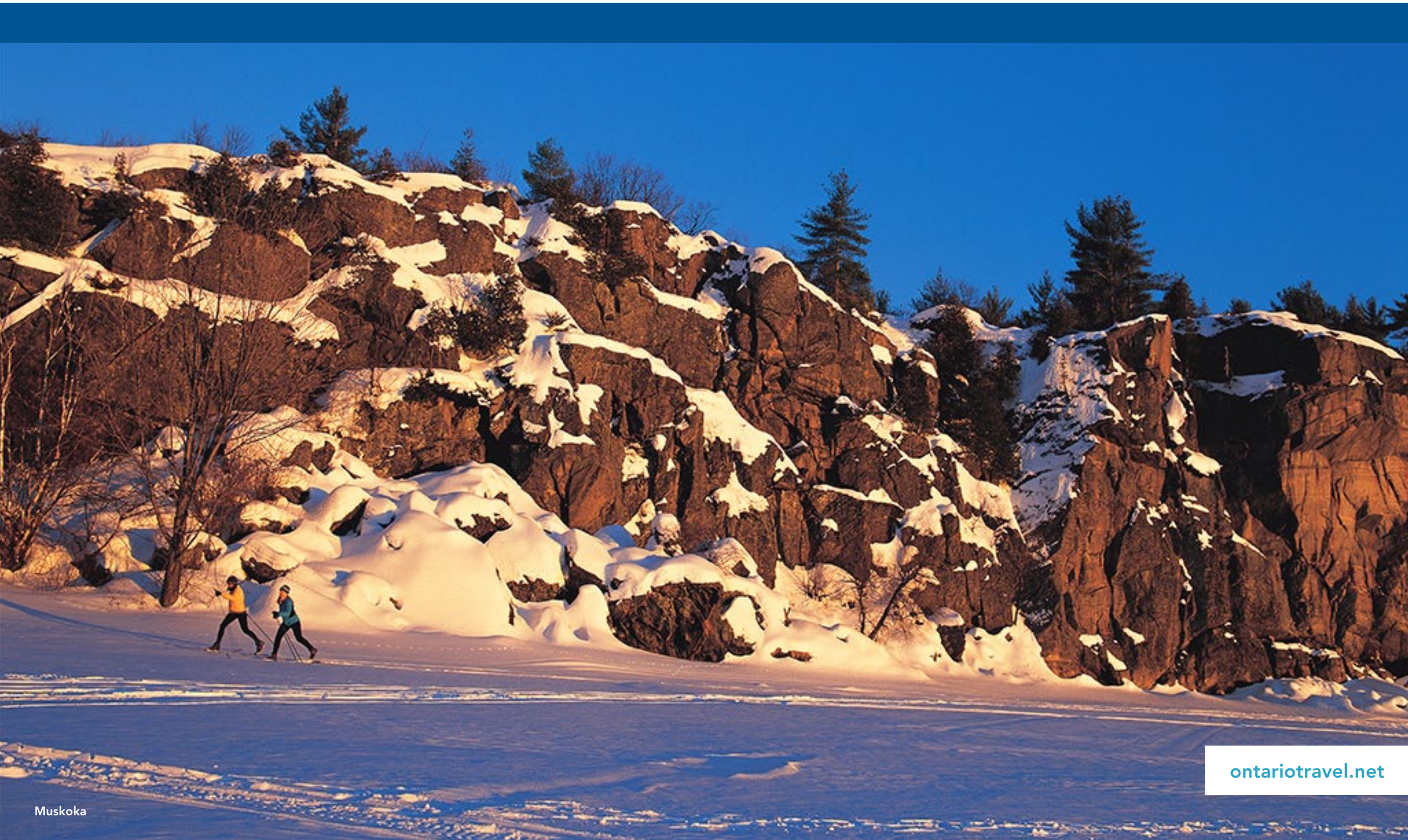
1-800-267-9700
discovermuskoka.ca

FedNor

MUSKOKA
Once Discovered, Never Forgotten

REGIONS

Ontario's regions offer something for everyone. Feel the rich history at forts and heritage sites around the province. Find outdoor adventures down snowy hills, across trails and frozen lakes. Discover arts and culture worth applauding on stage and in galleries. Whatever your interest, Ontario's got your destination.



Muskoka

ontariotravel.net

Regions

ONTARIO REGIONAL MAP

ONTARIO TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTRES

Tap each region for more information

Ontario's regions offer something for everyone. Feel the rich history at forts and heritage sites around the province. Find outdoor adventures down snowy hills, across trails and frozen lakes. Discover arts and culture worth applauding on stage and in galleries. Whatever your interest, Ontario's got your destination.

- Southwest Ontario
- Niagara Falls and Wine Country
- Hamilton, Halton and Brant
- Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Wellington
- Greater Toronto Area
- York, Durham and The Hills Of Headwaters
- Bruce Peninsula, Southern Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe
- Kawartha and Northumberland
- South Eastern Ontario
- Ottawa and Countryside
- Haliburton Highlands to the Ottawa Valley
- Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park
- Northern Ontario – North East
- Northern Ontario – North Central
- Northern Ontario – North West



Download an Official Road Map of Ontario

Find Your Way

ONTARIO REGIONAL MAP

ONTARIO TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTRES

Tap each OTIC for address and phone number

Visit one of the 18 Ontario Travel Information Centres (OTICs) and talk to a travel expert, familiar with local attractions and knowledgeable about all that our province has to offer.

YEAR ROUND CENTRES:

Bainsville
Barrie
Cornwall ($)
Fort Erie
Fort Frances
Niagara Falls ($)
St. Catharines ($)
Sarnia ($)
Sault Ste. Marie ($)
Tilbury ($)
Toronto Atrium on Bay
Windsor Park

SEASONAL CENTRES – (May to October)

Hawkesbury
Hill Island
Kenora
Pigeon River
Prescott
Rainy River

($) Denotes Currency Exchange Services Available



Download an Official Road Map of Ontario

Ontario's southernmost region is filled with adventure, history and entertainment. Discover snowy trails through forests and fields, and warm up in tropical greenhouses. Applaud exciting stage shows and live performances. Explore the historic sites of fascinating discoveries and the Underground Railroad.

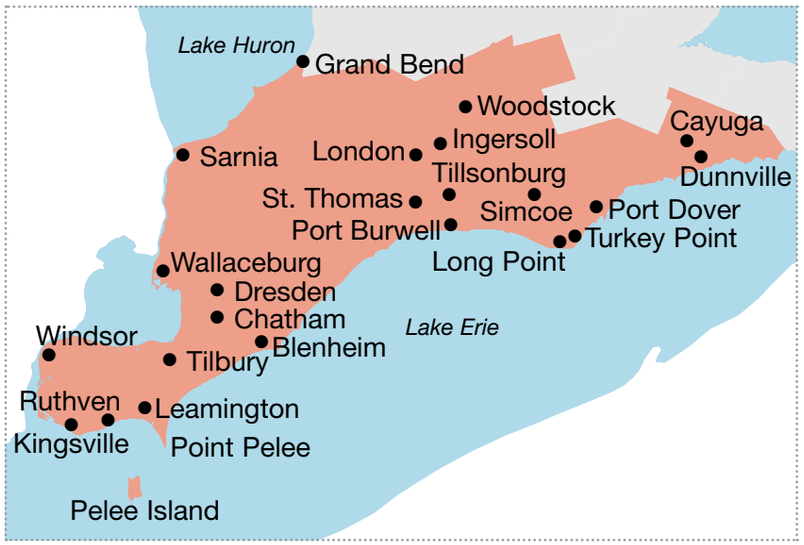


Uncle Tom's Cabin, Dresden

ontariotravel.net

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Banting House National Historic Site of Canada, London
2. Caesars Windsor
3. Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society
4. Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, Kingsville
5. Gallery Lambton, Sarnia
6. John Labatt Centre, London
7. Oil Museum of Canada, Oil Springs
8. Port Dover Harbour Museum
9. Stones 'N Bones Museum, Sarnia
10. The Grand Theatre, London
11. The Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary, Kingsville
12. Waterford Antique Market



NIAGARA FALLS AND WINE COUNTRY

REGION 2

The falls are just the beginning when it comes to this diverse region. Skate near the falls or see them illuminated with brilliant colours. Have a ball at wild and wacky attractions on Clifton Hill. Visit historic battlefields and charming small towns. Sample local cuisines and sip fine vintages on winery tours. Enjoy welcoming stays in cosy inns and B&Bs.

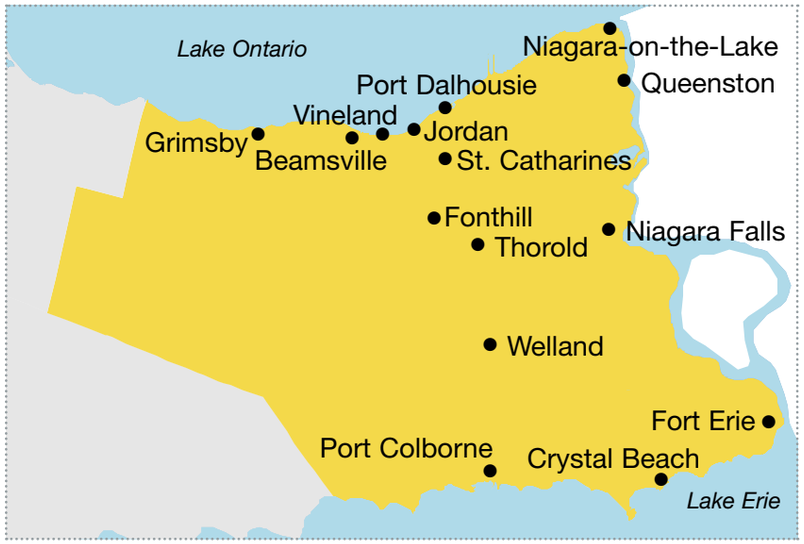


Niagara Falls

ontariotravel.net

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Bird Kingdom, Niagara Falls
2. Butterfly Conservatory, Niagara Falls
3. Casino Niagara, Niagara Falls
4. Clifton Hill, Niagara Falls
5. Fallsview Indoor Waterpark
6. Great Wolf Lodge, Niagara Falls
7. Greg Frewin Dinner Theatre, Niagara Falls
8. Niagara Falls Illumination
9. Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort, Niagara Falls
10. Niagara's Fury, Niagara Falls
11. Niagara SkyWheel, Niagara Falls
12. Rink at the Brink, Niagara Falls
13. Skylon Tower, Niagara Falls
14. White Meadows Farms, St. Catharines



HAMILTON, HALTON AND BRANT

REGION 3

The region just west of Lake Ontario has scenic vistas, cultural treasures and heritage discoveries to be enjoyed. Find natural beauty in conservation areas, provincial parks and the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Feel echoes from the past at heritage sites, museums and Mennonite markets.

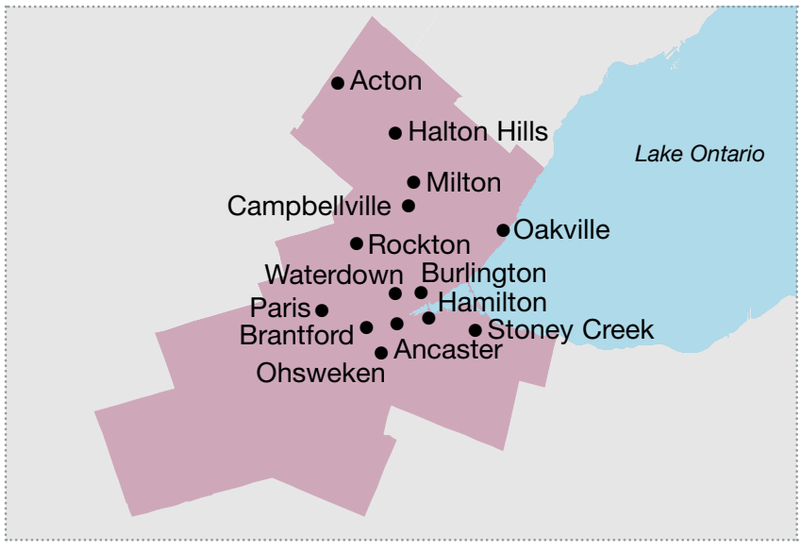


Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton

ontariotravel.net

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Art Gallery of Hamilton
2. Bell Homestead National Historic Site, Brantford
3. Bronte Creek Provincial Park
4. Burlington Art Centre
5. Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Mount Hope
6. Dundurn National Historic Site, Hamilton
7. Glen Eden Ski & Snowboard Centre, Milton
8. Hamilton Children's Museum
9. Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology
10. Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington/Hamilton
11. Village of Bronte
12. Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford



Find heritage, nature and fun on the shores of Lake Huron. Slide down tubing runs and go wild in indoor playlands. Find communities and artisans dedicated to keeping traditions alive. Savour handmade chocolates and world-class cuisine.

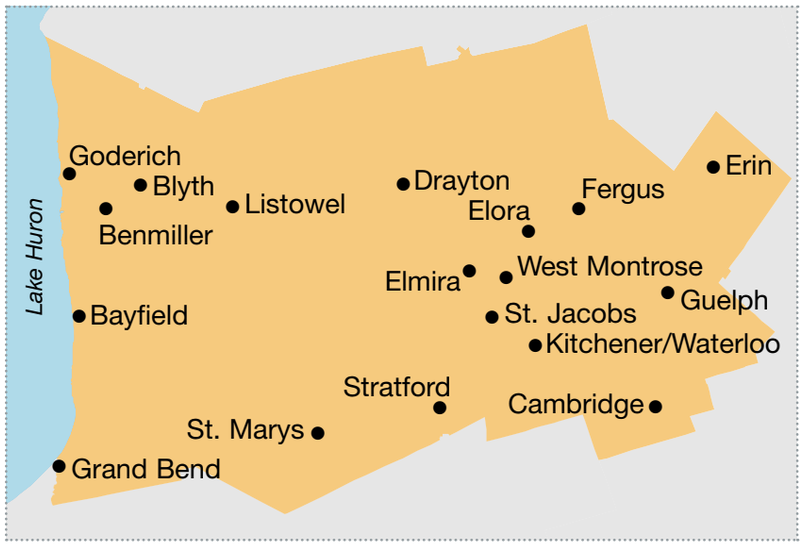


Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery.
Bi-weekly Sunday afternoon *Play with Clay* program

ontariotravel.net

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Bingemans FunworX, Kitchener
2. Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory
3. Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo
4. Gallery Stratford
5. GLT The Livery, Goderich
6. Hullet Provincial Wildlife Area, Clinton
7. Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol, Goderich
8. McCrae House, Guelph
9. OLG Slots at Clinton Raceway, Clinton
10. St. Jacobs Farmers' Market and Flea Market
11. THEMUSEUM, Kitchener
12. The Stratford Chocolate Trail



GREATER TORONTO AREA

REGION 5

Explore Ontario's most cosmopolitan area, filled with cultural diversity, emerging hot spots, and exciting exhibits and performances. See classic and contemporary masterpieces at museums, galleries and historic buildings. Find one-of-a-kind gifts and souvenirs in boutiques and beautiful shopping spaces. Have a night on the town at world-class performances, sporting events and concerts.



Toronto

ontariotravel.net

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Art Gallery of Mississauga
2. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
3. Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto
4. Hockey Hall of Fame, Toronto
5. Living Arts Centre, Mississauga
6. Ontario Science Centre, Toronto
7. Playdium, Mississauga
8. Rose Theatre, Brampton
9. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
10. Square One, Mississauga
11. The Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto
12. The Natrel Rink, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto
13. TIFF Bell Lightbox, Toronto
14. Toronto Zoo



YORK, DURHAM AND THE HILLS OF HEADWATERS

REGION 6

Find scenic countryside and savoury delights in this centralized region. Enjoy three-course meals in fine restaurants or sample wines aged to perfection at wineries. Go cross-country skiing through beautiful conservation areas or skate on an old-fashioned ice rink. Discover Canadian artwork at heritage-rich galleries. Unwind at relaxing spas and inns.

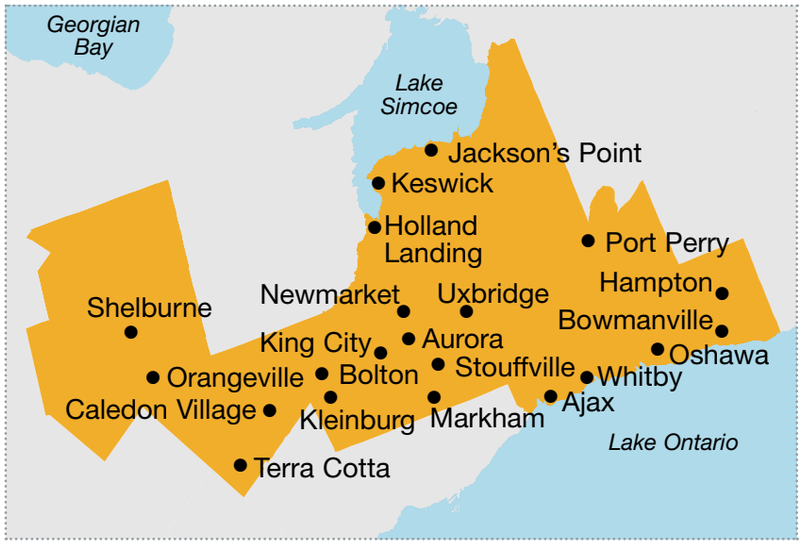


McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg

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EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Albion Hills Conservation Area, Palgrave
2. Dufferin County Museum and Archives, Rosemont
3. Hockley Valley Resort, Orangeville
4. Lakeridge Ski Resort, Uxbridge
5. McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg
6. Oshawa Little Theatre
7. Parkwood National Historic Site, Oshawa
8. Reptilia, Vaughan
9. Ski Dagmar, Ashburn
10. The Santa Train, Credit Valley Explorer, Orangeville
11. The Santa Train, York-Durham Heritage Railway, Uxbridge
12. Varley Art Centre, Unionville
13. Vaughan Mills, Vaughan



BRUCE PENINSULA, SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY AND LAKE SIMCOE

REGION 7

Welcome to nature's playground, a region brimming with natural discoveries and scenic spots. Bring history to life at heritage events and museums. Swoop down the slopes or snowshoe across Ontario's longest suspension footbridge. Indulge in the sensory delights of art galleries and live performances.



The Blue Mountains

ontariotravel.net

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Billy Bishop Home and Museum, Owen Sound
2. Blue Mountain Resort, The Blue Mountains
3. Casino Rama, Orillia
4. Dual Acres Horse Drawn Sleigh & Wagon Rides, Shallow Lake
5. Grey Roots Museum and Archives, Owen Sound
6. Hardwood Ski and Bike, Oro Station
7. Horseshoe Resort, Barrie
8. Le Scandinave Spa, Blue Mountain, The Blue Mountains
9. Mount St. Louis Moonstone, Coldwater
10. Nordic Centre at Scenic Caves, Collingwood
11. Singing Dogs Dog Sledding, Wiarton
12. Snow Valley Resort, Barrie
13. The Bruce Trail, Niagara Falls to Tobermory
14. Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Owen Sound
15. Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Midland



Experience it all in this scenic region. Enjoy live performances in theatres and arts centres. Watch for wildlife tracks when you snowshoe along quiet trails. Enjoy traditional craftsmanship in Aboriginal centres and museums. Curl up in front of the fire after a long day playing outside at a resort.

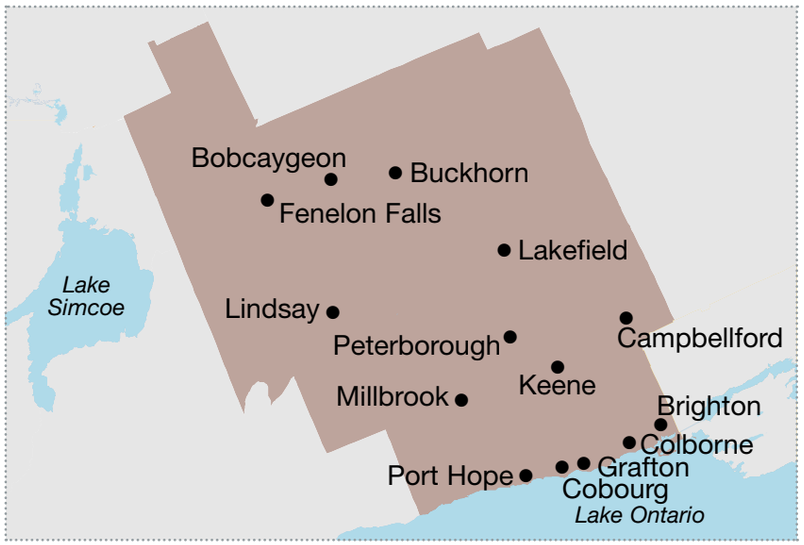


Campbellford

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EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Art Gallery of Northumberland, Cobourg
2. Art Gallery of Peterborough
3. Buckhorn District Snowmobile Club
4. Cameco Capitol Arts Centre, Port Hope
5. McLean Berry Farm, Lakefield
6. Merrylynd Farm, Peterborough
7. Proctor Park Conservation Area, north of Brighton
8. Sandy Flat Sugar Bush and Pancake House, Warkworth
9. The Concert Hall at Victoria Hall, Cobourg
10. The Gallery on the Lake, Buckhorn
11. Whetung Ojibwa Centre, Curve Lake Indian Reserve



SOUTH EASTERN ONTARIO

REGION 9

This scenic and historic region stretches along the St. Lawrence River and the northeastern shores of Lake Ontario. Enjoy the calm of a winter's day in provincial parks and wildlife areas. Savour local flavours at wineries, breweries and artisanal producers. Feel history come alive at pioneer villages and museums.



Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg

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EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Alight at Night at Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg
2. Bethune-Thompson House, Williamstown
3. Cross-country skiing, Sandbanks Provincial Park
4. Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Company, Picton
5. Ice fishing, Bay of Quinte
6. International Hockey Hall of Fame, Kingston
7. Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Glenburnie
8. Rideau Heritage Route
9. The Arts Trail, Prince Edward County
10. The Grand Theatre, Kingston
11. The Loyalist Parkway



Discover more in our nation's capital, a region full of culture, historic sites and unique activities. See the great buildings of Parliament where history is made daily. See cultural artefacts at museums and galleries of all kinds. Find food, fun and way-cool finds at one of Canada's oldest and largest public markets. Skate on the largest ice rink in the world.

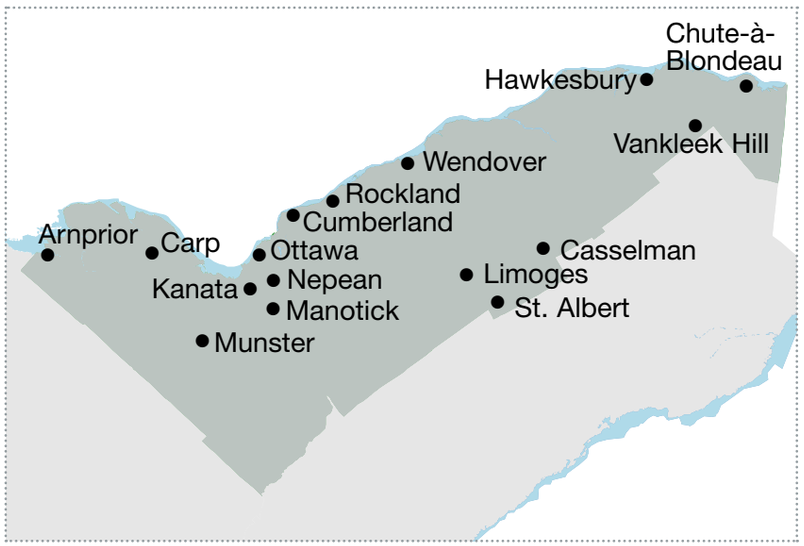


Winterlude, Ottawa

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EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

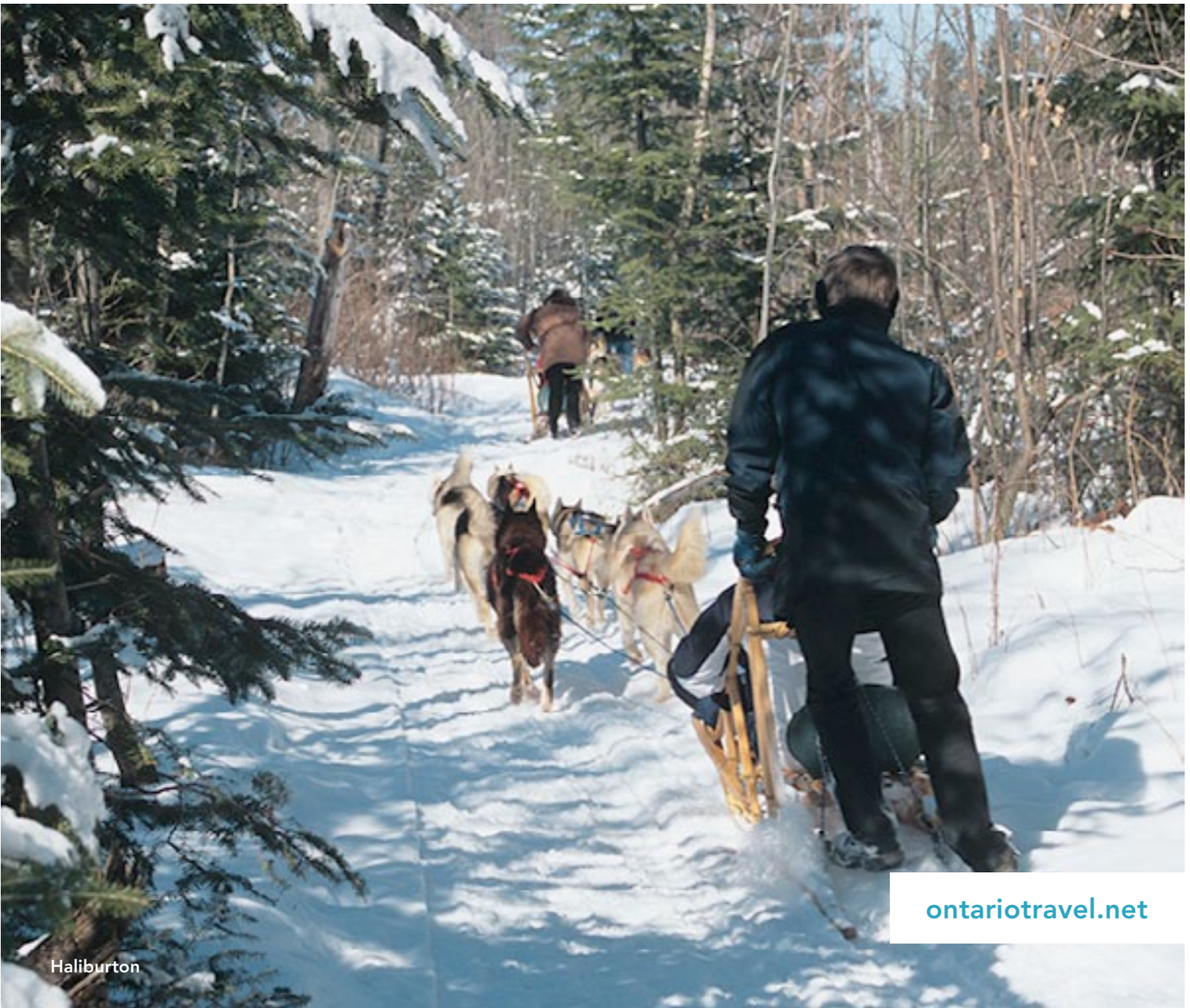
1. ByWard Market, Ottawa
2. Canada Agriculture Museum, Ottawa
3. Canada Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa
4. Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa
5. Canadian War Museum, Ottawa
6. Christmas Lights Across Canada, across Ottawa
7. Clarence-Rockland Museum, Rockland
8. Currency Museum, Ottawa
9. National Arts Centre, Ottawa
10. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
11. Skating, Rideau Canal, Ottawa
12. Snowshoeing, Voyageur Provincial Park, Chute-à-Blondeau
13. Winterlude, Ottawa



HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS TO THE OTTAWA VALLEY

REGION 11

Explore the natural and cultural gems of the Haliburton region. Take a walk on the wild side and go dogsledding or greet a resident wolf pack. Breathe in the fresh, cool air on snowshoeing trails. Find beautiful artisanal works in museums and studio tours.

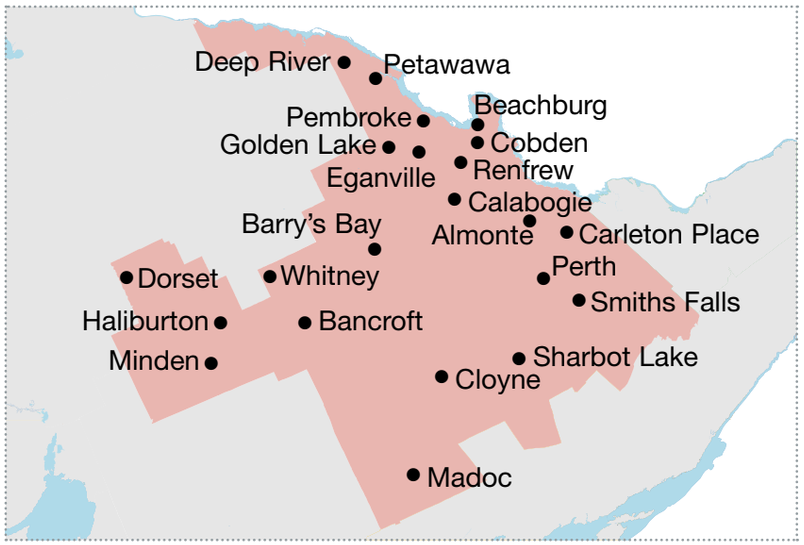


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Haliburton

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Back Country Tours, Haliburton
2. Calabogie Peaks Resort
3. Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival
4. Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush, Pakenham
5. Glebe Park Snowshoeing Trail, Haliburton
6. Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve
7. Madawaska Nordic Ski Club, west of Calabogie
8. Mount Pakenham
9. Pinto Valley Ranch, Fitzroy Harbour
10. Sir Sam's Ski Area, Haliburton
11. The Canadian Clock Museum, Deep River
12. Wheelers Pancake House & Sugar Camp, McDonalds Corners



MUSKOKA, PARRY SOUND AND ALGONQUIN PARK

REGION 12

Welcome to an adventurer's paradise, where Ontarians love to getaway. Discover a history intertwined with nature at museums and cultural centres. Try a new winter activity at an all-inclusive resort. Snowshoe or cross-country ski part of the longest trail in Canada or around frozen cranberry marshes.



Muskoka

ontariotravel.net

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Algonquin Visitor Centre, Algonquin Provincial Park
2. Arrowhead Provincial Park, Huntsville
3. Bobby Orr Hall of Fame, Parry Sound
4. Eaglecrest Aerial Park, Bracebridge
5. Hidden Valley Highlands Ski Area, Huntsville
6. Johnston's Cranberry Marsh, Bala
7. Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, Gravenhurst
8. Muskoka Heritage Place Museum, Huntsville
9. Muskoka Trails
10. Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst
11. Parry Sound Snowmobile District



Experience the rugged beauty and heritage of Ontario's northern wilderness. See soaring canyons and snow-capped trees on scenic train tours. Discover the treasures of the natural world in science centres. Explore the history of the fur trade at museums and heritage sites. See the wilderness up close aboard a snowmobile. Play outdoors at snowy winter carnivals.



Algoma Region

ontariotravel.net

EXPLORE MORE THIS WINTER

1. Agawa Canyon Snow Train, Sault Ste. Marie
2. Buttermilk Mountain Resort, Sault Ste. Marie
3. Fort William Historical Park, Thunder Bay
4. Gammondale Farm, Thunder Bay
5. Kamview Nordic Centre, Thunder Bay
6. Killarney Provincial Park, Killarney
7. Laurentian Ski Hill, North Bay
8. Mount Evergreen Ski Club, Kenora
9. Science North, Sudbury
10. Shania Twain Centre, Timmins
11. Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, Thunder Bay
12. Snowmobiling, Lake of the Woods
13. Stokely Creek Lodge, Sault Ste. Marie
14. The Capitol Centre, North Bay



MARKETPLACE



ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO

AN INCREDIBLE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE
With a permanent collection of more than 80,000 works of art, the Art Gallery of Ontario is among the most distinguished art museums in North America. In 2008, with a stunning new design by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry, the AGO opened its doors to the public amid international acclaim. From the extensive Group of Seven collection to the dramatic African art gallery, from the cutting-edge works in the contemporary tower to Peter Paul Rubens' masterpiece The Massacre of The Innocents, a highlight of the celebrated Thomson Collection, there is truly something for everyone at the AGO.

www.ago.net

Art Gallery of Ontario



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Ontario's Only 5-STAR Lakeside RESORT offers Perfect Winters. Includes: Jr. Suite with King Duvet Bed and a large double Jacuzzi both in front of a wood-burning fireplace. Five-Course Gourmet Dinner Daily. $15 Corkage Wine Fee. Served Breakfast or Breakfast in Bed Daily. 50% OFF Spa Treatments Monday to Friday and 30% off Sundays. UPGRADE to a HOT TUB room. See web for details. Extras: Dogsleding, Horse Back Riding, Skiing, Snowshoeing, Skating. New toll-free number 1-866-202-1179.

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MARKETPLACE



EXPLORERS' EDGE

SHRINK YOUR BUCKET LIST IN ONE TRIP
With Algonquin Park, Muskoka, Parry Sound and the Almaguin Highlands within its borders, the *Explorers' Edge* region of Ontario has something for everyone – especially that *something you always wanted to try*.
This winter, come to the Explorers' Edge region and tick off items on your bucket list in one incredible adventure.

Sign up for our e-news at **www.explorersedge.ca**

EXPLORERS' EDGE
Naturally Adventurous



FERN RESORT

YOUR CLOSER AT FERN
There is no time like this to getaway to regenerate and to rejuvenate! This does not mean however that it is time to hibernate. At Fern Resort you are sure to be immersed in the warmth of the season with more fun per snowflake outside as well as cosy and exciting activities inside. Renowned for unbelievable family vacations, Fern makes winter exciting for everyone no matter what temperature your internal thermometer requires. Enjoy your time together with the Fern family.

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ESTABLISHED 1895

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MARKETPLACE



FORT HENRY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

FORT HENRY'S VICTORIAN HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 2–18 (FRIDAY TO SUNDAY)
Enjoy Kingston, Ontario's most unique Victorian Marketplace at Fort Henry. Special gifts, local wine and foods will help to get you and your family into the holiday spirit. The Victorian Holiday Festival at Fort Henry will take you back to years gone by, explaining the origins of many of our holiday traditions and evening entertainment. Enjoy the holidays in the 1860s tradition. 1-800-437-2233

www.FortHenry.com

FORT HENRY
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



FULFORD PLACE

PRIME MINISTERS AND ROYALTY HAVE WALKED THESE HALLS. WILL YOU?
Discover the story behind this magnificent 20,000-square-foot Edwardian mansion – which overlooks the St. Lawrence River – and glimpse into the life of self-made millionaire and Senator George Taylor Fulford I.

Mention this ad to receive 2-for-1 admission! Call 613-498-3003 for details.

Fulford Place is owned and operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

www.heritagetrust.on.ca/fulfordplace

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
An agency of the Government of Ontario

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MARKETPLACE



THE GREAT WATERWAY

MEMORIES ARE MADE HERE!
Escape to Ontario's Great Waterway this winter. Go cross-country and discover miles of scenic groomed ski trails in our pristine countryside – unwind after with a roaring fire in a charming, cozy inn. If you're into wine and food you'll love Kingston and Prince Edward County's eclectic offering of great restaurants. Stroll and shop the main streets of Westport, Newboro and Cornwall for unique one-of-a-kind finds!

www.thegreatwaterway.com

The Great waterway
In every sense.™



HAMILTON, HALTON AND BRANT REGION – THE HEART OF ONTARIO

SNOW, SLOPES AND ICE – WINTER ADVENTURE IN THE HEART OF ONTARIO
The ideal winter fun getaway is closer than you think. For an outdoor escape, visit Hamilton, Halton and Brant region. Hike our snow-covered trails; skate waterfronts throughout the area, ski one of Glen Eden's challenging slopes or delight in our holiday traditions. Cap off your day inside one of the warm, fine dining restaurants we have to offer. Bundle up and let us show you what the heart of Ontario is all about.

www.theheartofontario.com

THE ♥ OF ONTARIO™

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MARKETPLACE



NORTHERN ONTARIO

WINTER IN LEGENDARY NORTHERN ONTARIO
Follow the Call of the Wild in Ontario's True North. There is a place that is as rich with myths and legends as it is with natural beauty. And from the moment the sunrise cracks the still horizon, lighting skies of impossible blue, until extended twilight gives way to an infinite blanket of stars, this magical land has the power to connect you to something bigger than yourself.

www.facebook.com/ontariosnorth

Northern Ontario CANADA



NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

FAMILY GETAWAY IN ROLLING HILLS – 1 HOUR EAST OF TORONTO
Your Family Discovery Package allows you to select one of our accommodations some of which are situated on or close to our waterways: Rice Lake, Trent-Severn Waterway and Lake Ontario. The kids can stay in bunk beds in a former jail cell at the King George Inn, or brag about staying in a former water tower at Windswept on the Trent. Add to the mix some items for the family to do like chewing on some squeaky cheese curds with a view of farm fields. Consider discovering a horseback riding excursion through the hills of Northumberland or visiting a fun eatery while you're at it! Your package also includes coupons for great discounts at the Brighton Deli, Empire Cheese and Butter Co-op and Boston Pizza.

www.northumberlandtourism.com

Northumberland county

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DA VINCI BELIEVED MORE THAN BIRDS COULD FLY.
Come explore the genius of history's greatest thinker. This special exhibition brings to life some of da Vinci's greatest works through 20 exclusive scale models that include his Harpsichord-Viola, Robot Soldier and the famous Great Kite flying machine. It's a must-see that is sure to ignite the imagination and curiosity of visitors of all ages.

www.OntarioScienceCentre.ca

ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE



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Journey through history and indulge yourself in the story of the tasty treat that we crave in *Chocolate*, an exciting new exhibition at the Royal Botanical Gardens. With sumptuous events and activities, Chocolate will transform this winter season into a veritable chocolate extravaganza!
Runs January 28 – April 15, 2012

www.rbg.ca

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS
www.rbg.ca

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STRATFORD

STRATFORD – YOUR VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS GETAWAY
Toast the holiday season in Stratford at festive tastings and pairings with our culinary experts. Stroll our bustling heritage streets amid sparkling lights and bright red bows. Breathe in the scent of fresh cedar boughs as you shop the Victorian Christmas Trail and sample our delicious Chocolate Trail. Plan your holiday celebration at the Victorian Inns of Stratford with packages starting at $199 plus taxes.

www.visitstratford.ca

visit STRATFORD



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Visit LONDON this Winter and experience the 111th birthday of the magnificent GRAND THEATRE. Built in 1901, this beautiful historic theatre is celebrating their season with an outstanding playbill that includes *Footloose, To Master The Art* (Julia Child), *Cinderella, Ed's Garage, The Great Gatsby, Tempting Providence* and *HAIR*. For information on the Grand Theatre go to www.grandtheatre.com.

www.londontourism.ca

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Discover our Spirit!

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MARKETPLACE



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AS WINTER APPROACHES, TORONTO HEATS UP!
Whether you're getting ready for the holidays or enjoying the winter season, Toronto has the hottest events to keep you warm and brighten your spirits! Experience Lowe's Toronto Christmas Market, a free annual event that captures the tradition, heritage and charm of a European Christmas Market. Warm up inside and step back in time at the Royal Ontario Museum, discover one of the most impressive civilizations in human history with their newest exhibit, Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World. Experience the Art Gallery of Ontario and enjoy the whimsy and wonder of a major exhibition organized by the Centre Pompidou: Chagall and the Russian Avant-Garde.

www.SeeTorontoNow.com

toronto™



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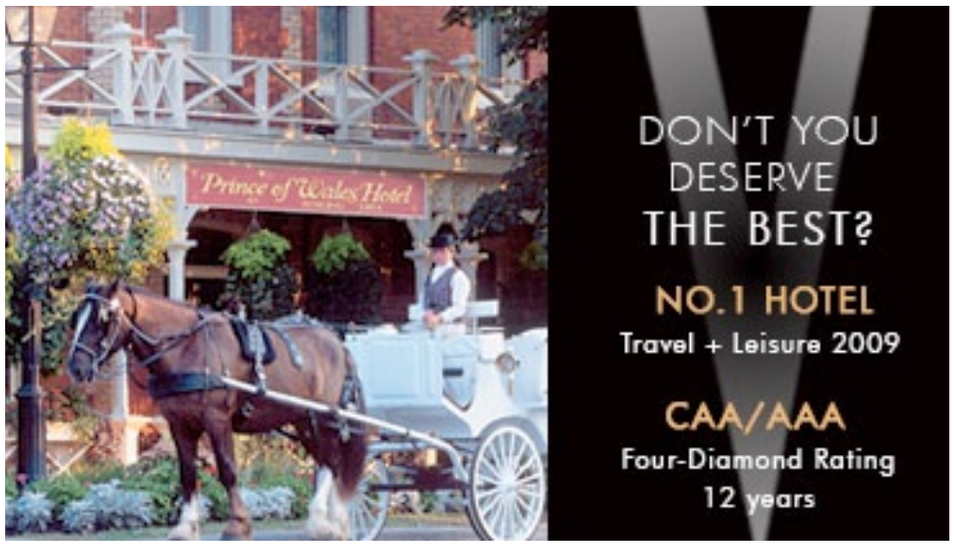
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MARKETPLACE



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Select from a variety of memorable getaways including food and wine pairing dinners, Spa treatments and seasonal packages. Call 1-888-669-5566 to book today.

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Vintage HOTELS

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Blue Mountain Resort, The Blue Mountains

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'Like' Ontario Travel at **facebook.com/OntarioTravel** to discover Ontario's cool spots and hidden gems, enter contests, and be the first to know about upcoming events and festivals.

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Follow **@ShareOntario** or use the hashtag **#ThisIsMyOntario** to share your memories and favourite vacation spots with fellow Ontario travellers.

youtube

Visit **youtube.com/ontariotourism** to see videos from all over the province or upload your own with the tag MyOntario.

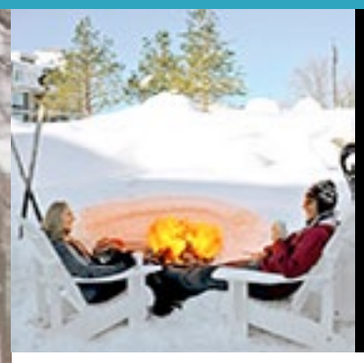
flickr

Add your photos to **flickr.com/groups/shareyourontario** and tell us about your favourite memories and places to visit in Ontario. Don't forget to include where your favourite shots were taken.



WARM UP TO WINTER CONTEST





JW MARRIOTT®
THE ROSSEAU
MUSKOKA

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Enter now and your family of four could enjoy:

- Three nights' accommodation for 4 people (2 adults, 2 children) in a 2 bedroom water-view suite, with fireplace, overlooking Lake Rosseau
- All meals plus nightly in-room snacks
- Guided snowmobiling, dogsledding, snowshoe hikes and ice fishing excursions
- Family chocolate-making workshop, arts & crafts workshop and yoga session
- 90-minute couple's spa experience
- Use of the indoor swimming pool and on-site skating rink
- **Plus a $2,000 travel allowance**

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*This package is valued at $8,500 CAD / $8,500 USD. Contest runs until April 1, 2012, and is open to legal residents of Canada and the United States over 21 years of age. See full contest rules for details.

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APPROXIMATE VALUE
$27,000 CDN*
CONTEST OPENS JANUARY 6, 2012

*See full contest details online.

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ONTARIO
Yours to discover

BON VOYAGE

We hope you enjoyed the winter 2011/12 edition of the *Ontario Magazine*! Visit **ontariotravel.net** to start planning your winter getaway today!

COMING SOON

Our summer 2012 edition is on its way!

ontariotravel.net

Thunder Bay