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IDEAS

Discover a summer
full of family fun

REACH
THE BEACH

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playground near you



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Yours to discover

ONTARIO
MAGAZINE

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Terrace Bay

ontariotravel.net

MORE
than just a
GAME.

GAME
ON 2.0

AN EXHIBITION
MARCH 9 TO
SEPTEMBER 2, 2013



Exhibition Organized by
Barbican International Enterprises,
London



The City of London Corporation is
the founder and principal funder
of the Barbican Centre



From Sonic to Samus. From Pong to Guitar Hero. **Game On 2.0** is a hands-on exploration of video game history and culture. Visitors will experience more than 60 years of gaming entertainment and technology through more than 150 playable games; from the very first commercial coin-operated game to the latest in virtual reality and 3D gaming. **Included with your admission to the Science Centre.**

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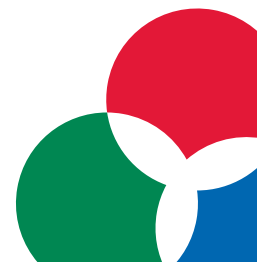


OntarioScienceCentre.ca

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ONTARIO
SCIENCE
CENTRE

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Experience the sheer joy of summer

Every region of Ontario is bursting with exciting discoveries for every member of the family. See the gallant TALL SHIPS® 1812 Tour sail into provincial ports of call. Applaud a dynamic theatre production. Make discoveries at marvellous galleries and museums. Join the fun at countless fairs and festivals. And try something completely new: be a train engineer for a day, slip into a kayak for the first time, go on a literary tour or explore a winery on a Segway. From urban adventures to wilderness escapes, you'll find hundreds of getaway ideas and packages online at www.ontariotravel.net. Be sure to stay connected and share your new memories with family and friends on our **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **YouTube**, **Flickr** and **Pinterest** pages.

ONTARIO
MAGAZINE

Look for this icon for expanded
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CONTRIBUTORS

Nigel Beale is a writer/broadcaster who specializes in literary journalism. He owns and edits the Literary Tourist (literarytourist.com), a website designed to help those who love books get the most out of their literary travels. Go on a local literary tour with him in By The Book on page 58.

Born into a musical family whose weeknights were reserved for piano lessons and weekends for dance practice, it’s no surprise award-winning writer **Iлона Kauremszky** finds bliss in the theatre. Read about Ontario’s summer theatre scene on page 29.

Jennifer Merrick is a Toronto-based freelance writer who enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for travel with her kids. Summers are a time for exploring and this year she looks forward to hiking more of the Bruce Trail with her children (see her story on page 50) and lakeside relaxing at Ontario’s resorts (see page 24).

An award-winning adventure travel writer who specializes in travel, sport and environmental writing, **Nicola Ross** became a ‘paddling chick’ after canoeing down Northern Canada’s challenging Mountain River, and falling in love with her kayak on Georgian Bay. Read Paddling Playbook on page 54.

Professional photographer and writer **James Smedley** has earned over 40 National and International awards, contributing more than 400 written pieces and close to 1,000 images to U.S. and Canadian books, magazines and newspapers. In addition to teaching photography workshops, James is Travel Editor at *Ontario OUT OF DOORS* Magazine. Check out his fish tales on page 48.

Margaret Swaine is the spa columnist for *Best Health* magazine, contributes monthly to *WineAlign* and writes the *Global Gourmet* column for *Travel Industry Today*. She loves nothing better than to hit the road for great golf, tasty regional food and a pampering spa treatment après activities. Read Getaways for Two on page 32.

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English: 1-800-ONTARIO or 1-800-668-2746
From Canada: French: 1-800-268-3736
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Contact the appropriate Canadian embassy or overseas consulate for information on Ontario.
For more information, visit www.international.gc.ca/ciw-cdm/embassies-ambassades.aspx
International visitors can also obtain information on Ontario through www.ontariotravel.net

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Veuillez composer le 905 754-1963 et il nous fera plaisir de vous aider.

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Front Cover: Terrace Bay



The AGO is your inspiration destination

The Art Gallery of Ontario is among the most distinguished art museums in North America. Situated in downtown Toronto, it offers something for everyone, from the extensive Group of Seven collection, to the cutting-edge works in the contemporary tower, to the legendary Thomson Collection of European art.

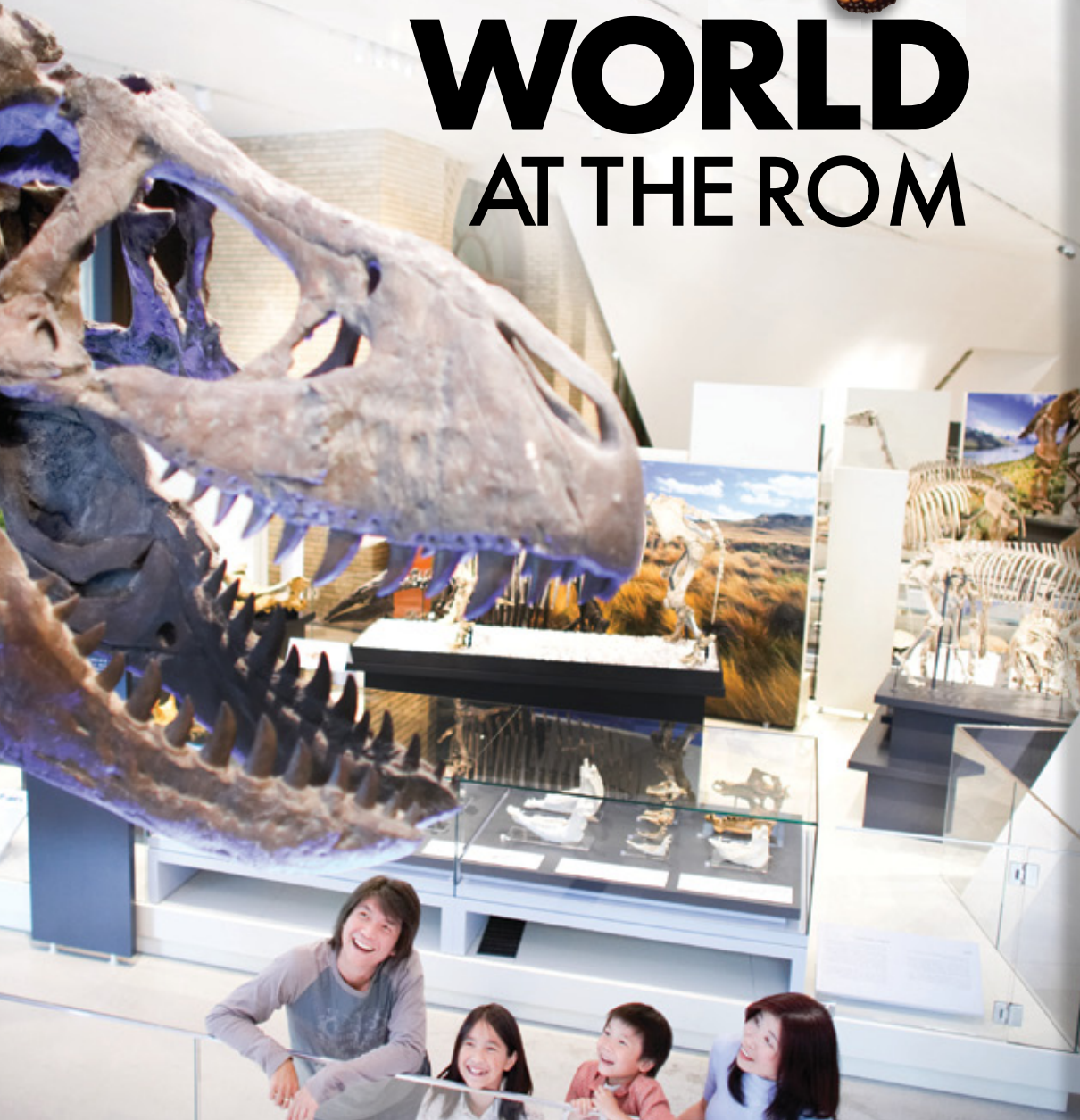
Start planning your visit today at ago.net.
Visiting with a group? Call 416 979 6626.

AGO

Art Gallery of Ontario | AGO.net

J.E.H. MacDonald, *The Little Falls* (detail), 1918. Oil on composite board. Purchase 1933. © 2012 Art Gallery of Ontario.

SEE THE WORLD AT THE ROM



NEW & NOTABLE



HAPPY GLAMPING!

Take a guided adventure deep into the wilderness while enjoying luxury accommodations. This glamorous camping is called 'glamping.' Eat authentic Aboriginal dishes, learn survival techniques, observe Ontario wildlife and explore the forest.

www.borealforest.travel/glamping

No trip to Toronto is complete without a visit to the Royal Ontario Museum
– Canada's largest museum of world cultures and natural history.

**FEATURED
EXHIBITION**

MESOPOTAMIA

June 22, 2013 to January 5, 2014

www.rom.on.ca

Royal Ontario
Museum

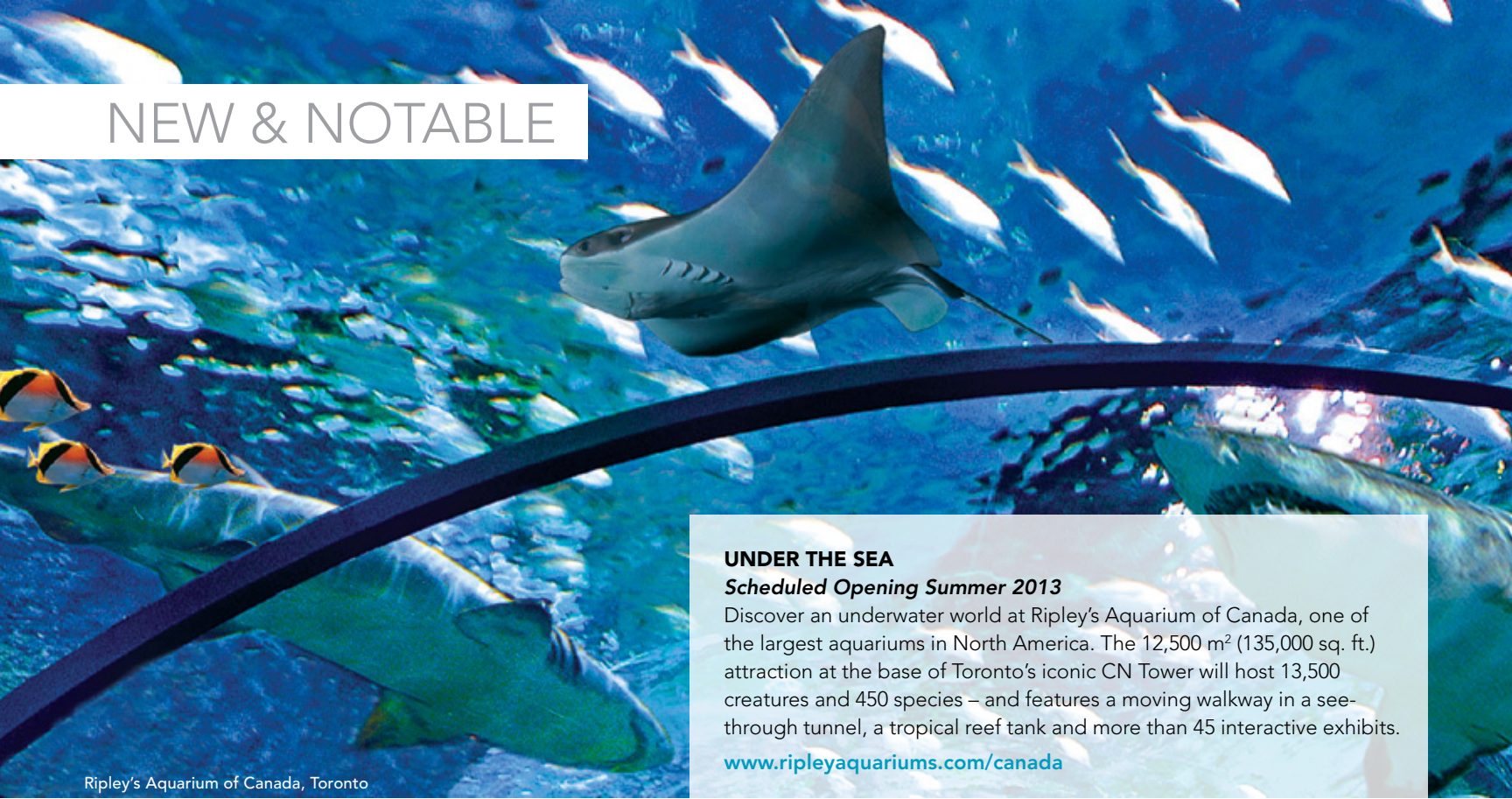


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NEW & NOTABLE



UNDER THE SEA

Scheduled Opening Summer 2013

Discover an underwater world at Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, one of the largest aquariums in North America. The 12,500 m² (135,000 sq. ft.) attraction at the base of Toronto's iconic CN Tower will host 13,500 creatures and 450 species – and features a moving walkway in a see-through tunnel, a tropical reef tank and more than 45 interactive exhibits.

www.ripleyaquariums.com/canada

Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, Toronto



ALL ABOARD!

Climb aboard the SS Keewatin and sail back in time. Built in Scotland in 1905 and now based in Port McNicoll, this historic ship is fully restored and ready for public tours. Complete with original linens, woodwork and furniture, this piece of history is ready for you to explore.

www.sskeewatin.com

Photo: Phil Conory/Keewatin Archives

THE HEIGHT OF ADVENTURE

Get your adrenaline pumping at Treetop Eco-Adventure Park in Oshawa. Climb through rope courses including ziplines, suspended bridges, Tarzan swings and more. The whole family can get into the swing of it with courses for all ages and abilities.

www.treetopeco-adventurepark.com



Photo: Karen Richards, Treetop Eco-Adventure Park



Ontario Science Centre, Toronto

GAME ON!

Gets hands-on with *Game On 2.0* at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto. Experience 60 years of gaming history with more than 150 playable games from Pong to Guitar Hero! Free with general admission.

www.ontariosciencecentre.ca

FUN PASS

Every elementary school-aged student is entitled to a Fun Pass, featuring special money-saving discounts at many of Ontario's great attractions. For more information on the program visit www.ontario.ca/funpass



BUILDING BLOCKS

Apply your creative energy to more than 3 million LEGO® bricks at the imagination-boggling LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre in Vaughan. Enjoy the 4D cinema, brick pool and party rooms for birthdays – it's a LEGO®-lover's dream come true.

www.legolanddiscoverycentre.ca/toronto

LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre, Vaughan

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NEW & NOTABLE

MAKE YOUR ESCAPE

Immerse yourself in the warm ambience of The Manse Boutique Inn in picturesque Picton. Savour meals prepared by the in-house chef using local, fresh produce. Pamper yourself at the spa and soak in the history of this 1906 limestone classic.

www.themanse.ca



Photo: ©Daniel Vaughan 2012 (Vaughan Group).

SHANGRI-LA TORONTO

Relax in the lap of urban luxury in the heart of Toronto with 202 guest rooms, a sumptuous day spa with saltwater lap pool, a 42-seat screening room and a wall graced with raw silk. Spend an evening sipping cocktails and enjoying live music in the chic lobby. Tempt your taste buds at newly opened Momofuku Noodle Bar nearby.

www.shangri-la.com/toronto



Toronto

MEET ON MANITOULIN

Opening May 2013

Experience this unique, luxurious full-service hotel located on the North Channel of Lake Huron. It offers traditional guest rooms and suites, and meeting room facilities accommodating up to 350 guests. Visit the largest freshwater island in the world and enjoy Manitoulin hospitality!

www.circletrail.com



Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre. ©Great Spirit Circle Trail.



Manitoulin Island

MINE OF INFORMATION

Visit Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum in Northern Ontario and learn the history of the area once known as the 'Uranium Capital of the World.' The museum celebrates the area's proud mining heritage through quality presentations and interactive exhibits.

www.cityofelliottlake.com/en/recreation/museum.asp

LEARN A VINTNER'S SECRETS

Get your hands (and boots) dirty at Flat Rock Cellars winery in Jordan. Spend a day with winemaker Jay Johnston as he guides you through the process of making wine. Find out what he does, how it's done and why he does it. Then toast your hard work with a well-deserved glass of fine Ontario wine.

www.flatrockcellars.com



Jordan

NEW & NOTABLE ANNIVERSARIES

400
YEARS



Photo: Ottawa Tourism

CELEBRATE A CANADIAN ICON

Mark the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's voyage of discovery up the Ottawa River with festivities to celebrate this historic event throughout 2013 in the Ottawa area. The 'Father of New France' played an important role in Canadian history by being the first European to explore inland and create the first accurate maps of Canada's Great Lakes.

www.ottawatourism.ca

100
YEARS



Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, Dresden

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD ICON

Commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passing of Harriet Tubman, who escaped from slavery and rescued more than 70 slaves using the Underground Railroad. Learn more about Tubman and Canadian Black History with a Niagara Bound Tour through Southwestern Ontario. Retrace the journey of emancipated slaves along the secret network that helped thousands of enslaved African-Americans find freedom in Canada. Discover Uncle Tom's Cabin, home of Josiah Henson, the inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; tour the North American Black Historical Museum in Amherstburg; and visit Buxton National Historic Site – the northern terminus of the Underground Railroad.

www.niagaraboundtours.com

www.heritagetrust.on.ca

20
YEARS



PARTY ON THE STREETS

July 19–28

Gather up the kids, dog and lawn chairs and head out to the 25th Annual Beaches International Jazz Festival in Toronto. Be sure to check out the new World Beat Stage for great and grooving global beats.

www.beachesjazz.com

HEAR ... HERE!

July 25 – August 8

Enjoy beautiful music as the Ottawa International Chamber of Music celebrates its 20th anniversary. Enjoy live performances in inspiring venues throughout Ottawa, including the historic Dominion-Chalmers United Church.

www.ottawachamberfest.com

25
YEARS



Beaches International Jazz Festival, Toronto



Luminato, Toronto

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 www.ontariotravel.net

APRIL

April to October
DOORS OPEN ONTARIO
Across Ontario

Satisfy your curiosity and discover intriguing and historical sites across the province while the doors are open wide for you to explore at your own pace.
www.doorsopenontario.on.ca

April 20 & 21, 27 & 28, and May 4 & 5
GET FRESH IN THE VALLEY
Vineland

Celebrate spring in Niagara's Twenty Valley at more than 20 wineries. Pick up a winery passport to sample new vintage and aromatic wines paired with fresh spring flavours from the area's finest chefs.
www.twentyvalley.ca

April 20 – May 11
32ND ANNUAL ORILLIA PERCH FESTIVAL
Orillia

Go fishing at one of Canada's largest registered fishing derbies on Lake Simcoe and Couchiching.
www.orillia.com

April 25–30
OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL WRITERS FESTIVAL – SPRING EDITION
Ottawa

Celebrate the word in all its forms at this gathering of pre-eminent authors and thinkers from across Canada.
www.writersfestival.org

April 25 – May 4
NORTHERN SCENE AT THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
Ottawa

Celebrate the culture of Canada's North as 250+ artists from the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut present their unique talents to audiences throughout the Ottawa region.
www.northernscene.ca

April 25 – May 5
HOT DOCS
Toronto

Catch a few of the more than 180 films representing more than 40 countries at North America's largest documentary festival.
www.hotdocs.ca

April 27
FESTIVAL OF THE MAPLES
Perth

Take part in the grand finale of this month-long homage to all things maple – including taffy, syrup and candy. Find entertainment, petting zoo and children's activities too!
www.perthchamber.com

April 27
POWASSAN MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL
Powassan

Start the day with a delicious pancake breakfast before enjoying live music, crafts and family events.
www.powassansyrupfestival.ca

May 26
THUNDER BAY KITE FESTIVAL
Thunder Bay

Fly your own kite or relax and watch as a sea of colour fills the sky.
www.thunderbay.ca/kitefestival

May 28 – June 2
OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
Ottawa

Catch award-winning and imaginative theatre, dance and musical performances from around the world at this five-day extravaganza.
www.ottawachildrensfestival.ca

May 30 – June 2
ORANGEVILLE BLUES AND JAZZ FESTIVAL
Orangeville

Hear some of the top blues and jazz musicians in the world – from delta blues to big band jazz.
www.objf.org



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MORE THAN 1,000 EVENTS!

MAY

May – October
ARTS TRAIL
Prince Edward County

Pick up a handcrafted keepsake created by a local artist, and then pause and soak in the beauty of a Prince Edward County spring day.
www.artstrail.ca

May 3–20
CANADIAN TULIP FESTIVAL
Ottawa

See our nation's capital in bloom as one million tulips grace its downtown streets and landmarks. Adults and kids will love the Great Canadian Tulip Treasure Hunt.
www.tulipfestival.ca

May 11
RUBBER BOOTS FESTIVAL
Noelville

Head to the Land of the Voyageurs and celebrate maple syrup and the coming of spring. Artisans, vendors, games, music and dancing are all on the bill.
www.rubberbootsfestival.com/festival-2013

May 18 – June 2
NIAGARA FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL
St. Catharines

Experience the diversity of many cultures and enjoy different ethnic traditions, art, music and food.
www.folk-arts.ca

May 18 & 19
WARBLERS AND WHIMBRELS WEEKEND
Presqu'île Provincial Park – Brighton

Observe the spring migrations of small birds, with the help of amateur naturalists. It's an ideal way for beginner birders to experience the joy of birding.
www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca

May 20
SPRING TYME ON THE FARM
Bronte Creek Provincial Park – Oakville

Bake in an antique wood stove, sew on a treadle machine and play pioneer children's games – then take a self-guided hike along the Trillium Trail.
www.brontecreek.org

May 22
RHUBARB SPRING FLING
Peterborough

Enjoy a slice of history as Hutchison House Museum celebrates its 35th anniversary! Savour a piece of delicious homemade rhubarb pie, topped off with a sweet dollop of ice cream. 1–4 p.m.
www.hutchisonhouse.ca

May 24–25
RETROFEST
Chatham

Rev up the excitement at this annual celebration of classic car culture and vintage motorcycles. Cap it off with music and dancing at the Rock 'n' Retrofest.
www.downtownchatham.com

May 24–26
CARASSAUGA: MISSISSAUGA'S FESTIVAL OF CULTURES
Mississauga

Travel to more than 64 countries with your festival passport at this cultural celebration. Sample the tastes, sights and sounds of the world in one stop.
www.carassauga.com

May 24–26
THE DANDELION FESTIVAL
Kemptville

Check out the artistic talent in this three-day celebration of art, music and fun. Don't miss the Reptile Rainforest in the Kids Zone.
www.thedandelionfestival.ca

May 24 – June 2
HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL
Saugeen Shores

Journey to prime birding spots to observe a wide variety of winged wonders, led by interpretive naturalists and educators.
www.friendsofmacgregor.org

May 25 – June 2
WARKWORTH LILAC FESTIVAL
Warkworth

See a stunning display of purple along the lilac trail.
www.warkworthlilacfestival.com

JUNE



June 1–23
WELLAND ROSE FESTIVAL
Welland
Come to the 'Rose City' and celebrate this lovely, perfect flower with juried art shows, children's fishing derby, Dragon Boat Race and the Grande Parade on June 23.
www.wellandrosefestival.on.ca

June 7–9
GUELPH & DISTRICT MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL
Guelph
Celebrate the culture and diversity of the community as you sample delicious food, browse the marketplace and take in a fashion show.
www.gdmf.ca

June 7–9, 14–16, 21–23
CARROUSEL OF THE NATIONS
Windsor
Sample tantalizing dishes from all over the world and enjoy the music, dance and traditions of a wide variety of cultures. Visit the Children's Village for games, crafts and entertainment.
www.carrouselofnations.ca

June 8 & 9
CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TATTOO
Hamilton
Honour ancient military traditions and Canada's rich cultural heritage with powerful music, dancing, pipes and drums at the 22nd annual Tattoo.
www.canadianmilitarytattoo.ca

June 13–16
BURLINGTON'S SOUND OF MUSIC FESTIVAL
Burlington
Attention music lovers! Make your way to Canada's largest free music festival featuring music for all tastes – from jazz, rock and blues to Latin, big band, Celtic and country.
www.soundofmusic.ca

June 14 & 15
HEIRLOOMS – THE SUEING EVENT
Welland
Find one-of-a-kind, handcrafted items, enjoy the crafting area or taste gastronomic specialties that will delight everyone's appetite.
www.heirloomshow.blogspot.ca

June 14–16
3RD ANNUAL BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS KEMPTVILLE RIBFEST
Kemptville
Savour mouth-watering ribs, and appreciate amazing music and gifted artisans at this free family food festival.
www.kemptvilleribfest.weebly.com

June 14–23
LUMINATO
Toronto
Celebrate the power of creativity with a spectacular array of performance art on stage and in the street. Enjoy art installations, literary readings and free events.
www.luminato.com

June 15–23
NIAGARA NEW VINTAGE FESTIVAL
St. Catharines
Discover the fresh taste of the newest vintages. Pick up a New Vintage Discovery Pass and gain access to the wineries taking part in the festival.
www.newvintagefestival.com

June 20
TASTE OF GLENHYRST
Brantford
Savour gourmet food, enjoy beer and wine tasting, see art exhibits and take part in a silent auction – all in support of the Glenhyrst Gallery of Brant.
www.glenhyrst.ca

June 21–23
SALSA AT BLUE MOUNTAIN
The Village at Blue Mountain
Bust your best moves at this Latin-themed family street party! There'll be plenty of food, fireworks, hot music and naturally – passionate dancing.
www.bluemountain.ca/salsa_weekend.htm

June 28 – July 1
FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL
Fort Erie
Celebrate the camaraderie between Canada and the United States at this annual event marking both countries' birthdays.
www.friendshipfestival.com

June 28–30
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
Whitchurch-Stouffville
Enjoy a fun family weekend with a parade, crafts and, of course, delicious berries.
www.strawberryfestival.ca

June 29 & 30
KALEIDOSCOPE CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
Minett
Bring the family to this vibrant arts community for the Kaleidoscope Children's Festival. See artists and performers, enjoy music and face painting, and take part in interactive workshops.
www.muskokachautauqua.ca/events

June 29 – July 1
COBOURG WATERFRONT FESTIVAL
Cobourg
Discover something for everyone with musical performances, vendors, midway rides and a teddy bear picnic. Browse the creations of hundreds of artists at open-air fine art and craft shows.
www.waterfrontfestival.ca

June 29 – July 27
HUNTSVILLE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
Huntsville
See an array of contemporary and interactive artists and performers at this award-winning festival. Enjoy buskers, Jazz in the Garden, children's Art Splash and much more.
www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca

JULY



Ontario Family Fishing Week, Buckhorn

July 1
CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS
Ottawa
Join millions in wishing Canada a Happy 146th Birthday in the nation's capital. Live performances and fireworks will mark Canada's big day in style.
www.canadascapital.gc.ca

July 5–7
NORTHERN LIGHTS FESTIVAL BORÉAL
Sudbury
Immerse yourself in the diverse sounds of great musicians and browse the handiwork of arts and crafters – all on the shores of scenic Lake Ramsey.
www.nlfsudbury.com

July 6–14
ONTARIO FAMILY FISHING EVENTS
Across Ontario
Take a friend fishing during this week when Ontario residents can fish without a licence.
www.ontariofamilyfishing.com

July 6 & 7
ANISHNAWBE KEESHIGUN ABORIGINAL FESTIVAL
Thunder Bay
Discover local first nations culture through its art, food and history. Play traditional games, participate in a Pow Wow and talk to Aboriginal re-enactors at Fort William Historical Park.
www.fwhp.ca

July 9 – August 4
SCOTIABANK TORONTO CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL
Toronto
Feel the city's cultural beat at North America's largest Caribbean carnival. Feast your eyes on colourful costumes and lend an ear to the rhythmic sounds of steel bands while you dance up a storm.
www.torontocaribbeancarnival.com

July 11–14
KINGSTON BUSKERS
Kingston
Enjoy juggling, music and magic performances during this four-day busking festival.
www.kingstonbuskers.com

July 11–14
KINSMEN LIFT-OFF 2013
Cornwall
Take a ride in a hot air balloon and experience new sights with a bird's-eye view of the shores of the St. Lawrence River.
www.lift-off.ca

July 12–14
HONDA INDY TORONTO
Toronto
Feel the roar of the IndyCars as they motor through downtown streets. This year, enjoy a rare event: the IZOD IndyCar Series doubleheader – full-length races on both Saturday and Sunday.
www.hondaindytoronto.com

July 18–20
ROTARYFEST: THE SAULT SUMMER FESTIVAL
Sault Ste. Marie
Enjoy a parade, live music, a midway, a sports zone and delicious food at this popular summer favourite.
www.rotaryfest.com

July 19–21
MUSKOKA ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
Bracebridge
Featuring more than 200 creative artists from across Canada, the Muskoka Arts & Crafts Summer Show is the region's oldest and largest outdoor art show.
www.muskokaartsandcrafts.com

July 25–28
COLLINGWOOD ELVIS FESTIVAL
Collingwood
Find the King of Rock 'N Roll alive and well at this famous tribute fest. Live music, talented impersonators and throwback styles are all mainstays of this annual event.
www.collingwoodelvisfestival.com

July 25–28
LUMBERJACK HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Kapuskasing
Cheer on heavy horse pulls, watch professional lumberjacks hard at work and enjoy helicopter rides at this hearty festival.
www.kapuskasing.ca/lumberjack

July 25–28
MATTAWA VOYAGEUR DAYS
Mattawa/North Bay
Jump into the children's zone, featuring a climbing wall and face painting or enjoy some of the best musical acts around.
www.voyageurdays.com

July 25–28
PALMER RAPIDS TWIN MUSIC FESTIVAL
Palmer Rapids
Country and bluegrass have never sounded so good! On the banks of the beautiful Madawaska River, this festival will have you humming along.
www.palmerrapids.ca



DOWNLOAD THE **DISCOVER ONTARIO** MOBILE APP TO ACCESS MORE THAN 1,000 EVENTS!

AUGUST



Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto

August 1–4
50th ROCKHOUND GEMBOREE
Bancroft
Pan for gold and trade gems with dealers of gemstones, jewellery and lapidary supplies in Canada's mineral capital.
www.bancroftdistrict.com/gemboree.php

August 2–5
KEMPENFEST
Barrie
Ring in the Civic Holiday weekend with this huge outdoor arts and crafts festival, which also features an antique show, kids' activities, a midway plus an amazing lineup of entertainment.
www.kempenfest.com

August 3–11
ROGERS CUP PRESENTED BY NATIONAL BANK
Toronto
See your favourite tennis stars at the top of their form. All the action is served up in the Rexall Centre at York University.
www.rogerscup.com

August 7–11
CANADIAN OPEN OLD TIME FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP
Shelburne
Bring out your fiddles at this annual competition where the Canadian Open Champion is crowned!
www.shelburnefiddlecontest.on.ca

August 8–11
13TH ANNUAL TD KITCHENER BLUES FESTIVAL
Kitchener
Applaud at the biggest free blues festival in Canada – a great event for both connoisseurs and those new to the blues.
www.kitchenerbluesfestival.com

August 9–11
FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND HIGHLAND GAMES
Fergus
Enjoy the best of Scotland without the airfare. There's plaid and pageantry galore at this Scottish fest with dancing, storytelling, sword fighting and – of course – piping.
www.fergusscottishfestival.com

August 10 & 11
PUPPETS UP!
Almonte
This two-day international festival is devoted to the art of puppetry. Guests of all ages will be entertained all weekend long.
www.puppetsup.ca

August 10 & 11
WAR OF 1812 BICENTENNIAL SALUTE
Fort William Historical Park, Thunder Bay
Hear the crack of the muskets and the roar of the cannon as re-enactors demonstrate battlefield strategy in this tribute to the War of 1812.
www.fwhp.ca

August 15–18
24TH HAVELOCK COUNTRY JAMBOREE
Havelock
Enjoy the festive, family atmosphere of Canada's largest live country music and camping festival. See headliners like Reba McEntire and Wynonna Judd perform – plus catch the newest stars from across Canada and the United States.
www.havelockjamboree.com

August 16 – September 2
CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION
Toronto
Head to the CNE to experience the newest food variations, deep fried goodness, midway games and rides. It's a summer tradition, so let's go to The EX!
www.theex.com

August 23 & 24
LUCKNOW'S MUSIC IN THE FIELDS
Lucknow
Camp out with family and friends, and see some of Canada's brightest country music stars perform in a great setting.
www.musicinthefields.ca

August 23–25
GUELPH RIBFEST
Guelph
Have a deliciously good time with live entertainment, kids' activities and a classic car show.
www.ribfestguelph.com

August 23–25
CANADIAN WAKEBOARD FESTIVAL
Peterborough
Thrill to the athletic exploits of wakeboarders or bring a team to the beach volleyball tournament. Family day passes are available for craft areas, bouncy castles, adventures and games.
www.wakeboardfestival.ca

August 23–25
WINONA PEACH FESTIVAL
Winona
Life's a peach at this festival packed with magicians, a Fun Factory for kids and a Grand Peach Ball.
www.winonapeach.com

August 24 & 25
MORSON BASS INTERNATIONAL
Morson
Join in this annual catch-and-release tournament on the beautiful waters of Lake of the Woods. Afterward, reel in your appetite with a delicious meal at the delectable fish fry.
www.morsonbass.com

August 30 – September 1
2ND ANNUAL NIAGARA FALLS BUSKERFEST
Downtown Niagara Falls – Queen Street
Bring on the fun at this annual fest with stunts and entertainment from a myriad of fantastic street performers.
www.lyndesfarnetheatreprojects.com

SEPTEMBER



Niagara Region

September 5–8
OTTAWA FOLK FESTIVAL
Ottawa
Enjoy this celebration of music, dance, visual arts and community with Ottawa's beautiful Hog's Back Park as a backdrop. Check out music workshops and special performances tailored for the kids.
www.ottawafolk.org

September 5–8
SHORES OF ERIE INTERNATIONAL WINE FESTIVAL
Amherstburg
Sample award-winning wines paired with culinary creations made from local ingredients that celebrate the best of Lake Erie's North Shore. Fun entertainment and a great selection of vendors round out the weekend.
www.soewinefestival.com

September 5–15
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Toronto
Stargazers take note – a who's who of the world's film industry descends upon Toronto as more than 300 films from 60+ countries are showcased.
www.tiff.net

September 6 & 7
TRENTON SCOTTISH IRISH FESTIVAL
Trenton
Watch a military tattoo, see traditional games like the caber toss, and party hearty at the end-of-the-day ceilidhs in this celebration of all things Celtic.
www.trentonscottishirish.com

September 6–15
WESTERN FAIR
London
Southwestern Ontario's favourite fair returns with exhibits, a petting zoo, live entertainment and a midway that features the exhilarating Nitro rollercoaster!
www.westernfair.com

September 7
FORT WILLIAM FALL STREET FESTIVAL
Thunder Bay
The streets of Thunder Bay's south core come alive with family entertainment and street vendors. The annual lineup also features live stage shows, clowns, antique car displays and more.
www.fortwilliambusinessdistrict.com

September 13–15
BRACEBRIDGE FALL FAIR AND HORSE SHOW
Bracebridge
Check out quality livestock, fresh produce and handicrafts at this historic fair founded in 1867. New for this year are a winemaking competition and sport pony show.
www.bracebridgefair.com

September 14
DRUM NATION FESTIVAL
Madoc
Follow the beat of creative expression as the magic of drums brings people of all races and nationalities together through rhythm and song.
www.drumnationfestival.com

September 14–22
CINÉFEST SUDBURY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Sudbury
See highly acclaimed Canadian and international shorts and feature films, and sit in on seminars and lectures that will fascinate film buffs and casual film-goers alike.
www.cinefest.com

September 14–29
NIAGARA WINE FESTIVAL
St. Catharines
Toast a 'Vintage Harvest' with wine tastings, fine cuisine, exciting live entertainment and a not-to-be-missed Grande Parade.
www.niagarawinefestival.com

September 15
TELLING TALES: A FAMILY FESTIVAL OF STORIES
Rockton
Give the kids a computer-free day and return to the simple things – storytelling, listening, learning and laughter – at this event that champions the joys of reading.
www.tellingtales.org

September 20–22
ALL-CANADIAN JAZZ FESTIVAL
Port Hope
Bop to the beats of leading jazz musicians from across Canada. Check out the up-and-comers at the Young Jazz Showcase and march in the Walton Street Jazz Parade.
www.allcanadianjazz.ca

September 20–22
SAVOUR STRATFORD PERTH COUNTY CULINARY FESTIVAL
Stratford
Celebrate the harvest as Stratford-area chefs, producers, artisans and innovators gather to share their passion, knowledge and love of food.
www.savourstratford.com

September 21 & 22
BUSHPLANE DAYS
Sault Ste. Marie
Take off to this festival that celebrates bushplane culture. Check out aviation exhibits, see a water bombing demonstration and catch a train ride with the Algoma Model Engineers Society.
www.bushplane.com

September 28 & 29
TASTE! A CELEBRATION OF REGIONAL CUISINE
Picton
Join Prince Edward County's finest chefs, winemakers, growers and artists as they gather on the grounds of Picton's historic Crystal Palace. Then toast the good food, drink, music and culture!
www.tastecelebration.ca

September 28 – October 31
DOWNEY'S FARM PUMPKINFEST
Brampton
Get back to the land and pet farm animals, explore a cool corn maze and stop by the bakery for a homemade treat. Hang out in the Play Areas and go on a wagon ride.
www.downeysfarm.com

JOIE DE VIVRE

Whether you're exploring 'à la carte' or 'prix fixe,' you'll find compelling events at every turn



LE TEMP DES MUFFINS, SUDBURY

Children will love seeing this magical kitchen come to life at Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario. April 20.
www.letno.ca

Photo: Mathieu Dupuis

NORTHERN LIGHTS FESTIVAL BORÉAL, SUDBURY

Lend an ear to the soulful, rhythmic sounds of an array of artists and local musicians next to beautiful Ramsey Lake. Runs July 5–7.
www.nlfbsudbury.com



Canailles Main Stage. Photo: Erik Lovin

FESTIVAL FRANCO-ONTARIEN, OTTAWA

Celebrate all things Francophone at this Ottawa event showcasing the province's rich entertainment and artistic community. June 13–15.
www.ffo.ca



Photo: Franco-Ontarien Festival

FRANCO-FÊTE DE TORONTO, TORONTO

Enjoy a weekend of French-Canadian culture with music, performance art and magic at Yonge-Dundas Square. June 21–23.
www.franco-fete.ca



Photo: Martin Lalonde

FESTIVAL DU LOUP, LAFONTAINE

Celebrate the art, culture and French Canadian heritage of Lafontaine with live performances, art and historical exhibits and outdoor family events. July 12–14.
www.festivalduloup.on.ca



STAY CLOSER, PLAY LONGER

Discover resorts close to home when planning your next family trip by Jennifer Merrick

Ontario resorts offer family entertainment, adventure and well-deserved R&R. And they are all right here in our own gorgeous backyard.



Photo: The Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain



Voted
Readers' Choice
TOP 20
Canadian Resort
by Condé Nast
Traveler

WESTIN TRILLIUM HOUSE Blue Mountain

Please everyone in the family with this luxurious but kid-friendly property, ranked as a Readers' Choice Top 20 Canadian Resort by *Condé Nast Traveler*. Obstacle courses, a mountain roller coaster, gondola rides and an aquatic centre are sure to put a smile on your kids' faces. Let's not forget mom and dad, who can take advantage of shopping and dining in the village, and two nearby 18-hole golf courses. And because it's all so close by, families can easily escape to their rooms for nap time (kids or grown-ups) in the Westin's decadently comfy beds.

www.westinbluemountain.com

What Families Like: "I could live here," says Cheryl Tiongson, who vacations here with her family. "It's the best of both worlds – I can have my coffee and enjoy the outdoors."

Not to be Missed: With dark caves to descend into and crevices to squeeze through, hide-and-seek has never been so much fun as it is at Scenic Caves Nature Adventures. The 126-metre (415-foot) suspension bridge features one of the best views of Georgian Bay.



Photo: Carriage Ridge Resort



What Families Like: A home away from home with plenty of space for everybody; good value for money.

Not to be Missed: Travel back in time at **Sainte-Marie among the Hurons** near Midland, an interpretive historical site that recreates a 1648 French settlement that illustrates the interaction between the Europeans and Wendat Nations. Get the kids involved in activities including storytelling, crafts and lacrosse.

CARRIAGE RIDGE RESORT

Horseshoe Valley

Spread out here in spacious, affordable suites with fireplaces, private balconies and fully equipped kitchens – all just one hour north of Toronto! With a heated indoor swimming pool, children’s pool, hot tub and daily activities, quality family time has never been so easy.

Need an adrenalin pickup after all that pool time? Go to nearby Horseshoe Adventure Park and try out zorbing (rolling in a giant hamster ball), rock climbing, euro bungee (think extreme trampolining) or ziplining.

www.shellhospitality.com/Carriage-Ridge-Resort



Photo: Anne Marshall



What Families Like: A retreat all generations appreciate. “Grandparents share old traditions and create new ones,” says Anne Marshall, the resort’s spokesperson. “This is who we are.”

Not to be Missed: Do your kids hate doing chores? Just wait until they see how things used to be done in the 19th century at **Lang Pioneer Village!** This living history museum features 20 restored buildings, a working gristmill, and hands-on activities and demonstrations.

ELMHIRST RESORT

Keene

With a working farm on its 100-hectare (240-acre) property near Peterborough, chefs at this resort serve up free-range eggs, Black Angus beef from the property’s own cattle, and fresh-picked produce and herbs. Fortunately, families can work off the superb food on the courts (volleyball, basketball, tennis), trails (hiking, biking and horseback riding) and the water (indoor/outdoor pools, canoeing, kayaking). Prefer more relaxing pursuits? Try the princess manicure or pedicure at the spa for some mother/daughter time or the giant outdoor chess set in the gardens.

www.elmhirst.ca



Photo: Darren Lum

BONNIE VIEW INN

Haliburton

Say hi to Daisy when you visit this 28-room inn on Lake Kashagawigamog. She’s a Vietnamese potbellied pig who loves kids and will welcome you to this resort known for its friendly, homey atmosphere and amazing food. Kids’ playgrounds, bikes, hiking trails, a sandy beach with water slides and trampolines make it a popular choice for families. The Summer Kids Club runs supervised kids’ programs nightly from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m., which gives parents a chance to enjoy the gourmet three-course dinner in peace.

www.bonnieviewinn.com

What Families Like: The feeling that you’ve come home when you’ve just arrived, as well as warm hospitality, staff attentiveness and, of course, the food.

Not to be Missed: Observe an unsocialized pack of wolves through one-way glass at the Wolf Centre in the Haliburton Forest, a 283,000-hectare (700,000-acre) wilderness tract that offers numerous recreational activities including hiking and biking trails, a treetop canopy tour, fishing and astronomy.

Make your next family getaway close to home! Ontario resorts offer so many fun activities for kids and parents, you won't want to waste any time getting to your family vacation destination.



2012
Travellers' Choice®
AWARD
presented by
TripAdvisor®



SHAMROCK LODGE

Port Carling

Embrace the tradition of the all-inclusive Muskoka vacation at this family-run resort on Lake Rosseau, winner of the prestigious 2012 Travellers' Choice® Award, presented by TripAdvisor.® Seventy per cent of guests are return visitors, who appreciate the Shamrock's warm hospitality, lakefront accommodation, and indoor and outdoor activities.

No extra charges means all stays include three chef-prepared meals a day, the fully supervised Fun Klub that runs from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., daily water skiing and nightly entertainment. Be sure to sign up the kids for the Ice Cream Boat Ride!

www.shamrocklodge.com

What Families Like: "As cliché as it may seem, people here really do come as guests and leave as friends," says resort owner Tim Bryant.

Not to be Missed: Visit St. Nick himself at **Santa's Village** in Bracebridge. Kids have delighted in its rides (including the kid-favourite Rudolph roller coaster), splash pads, minigolf, climbing structures and reindeer for generations.

TO DISCOVER MORE:
ontariotravel.net
+ CLICK FAMILY FUN

Dim the lights – it's curtain time. Theatres across Ontario are presenting both classic favourites and avant-garde shows guaranteed to generate buzz around the dinner table at your next summer soirée

by Ilona Kauremszky

Raise the Curtain



STRATFORD

Sure, Justin Bieber might be the biggest star from Stratford these days, but the velvet curtains framing Stratford's four fabulous stages also have much to reveal.

Look no further than Stratford's Avon Theatre for Broadway hits plus eloquent dialogue penned by the Bard himself. Summer spells young love, and hot and steamy romance. Shakespeare lovers won't be disappointed with *Othello* or *Romeo and Juliet*.

See more classics like *Mary Stuart* – in a new version directed by artistic director Antoni Cimolino – showcasing the life of the former Queen of Scots, as well as Noel Coward's comic play, *Blithe Spirit* and Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. Watch the acclaimed *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Festival Theatre. The renowned open stage is perfect for up-close and personal encounters.

Press rewind for a trip back to the psychedelic sixties as the spectacular rock opera *Tommy* is resurrected in all its glory. Tony Award-winning director Des McAnuff co-wrote the Broadway hit 20 years ago with Pete Townsend. The multi-generational crowd-pleaser is a thrill for all.

Between performances, get out and about in Stratford – its idyllic setting is picture-perfect and so are the trumpeter swans that reside along the banks of the beautiful Avon River. Or spend the morning in St. Jacobs or on the shores of Lake Huron before an afternoon of theatrical delight.

TAKE THE EXPRESS BUS TO STRATFORD!

The Stratford Festival now offers a quick and direct bus link from Toronto for just \$10 each way! Book your tickets through the Festival's box office or website.

www.stratfordfestival.ca

Learn more about this region. See page 75.

Learn more about the regions in this story ► Shamrock Resort; see page 87. Carriage Ridge Resort; see page 80. Elmhurst Resort; see page 81. Westin Trillium House; see page 80. Bonnie View Inn; see page 86.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Just a short drive from Niagara Falls, the dramatic antics of playwright George Bernard Shaw's plays and those of his contemporaries are uncorked in bold, rich bravado – much like the local wines around Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Explore the four stages at the Shaw Festival Theatre to see a rich spectrum of expressions performed in true Shaw Festival style. At the intimate Studio Theatre, the riveting Tom Stoppard production *Arcadia* is a must-see.

With Downton Abbey-ish overtones, Somerset Maugham's *Our Betters* is a Roaring Twenties classic about rich American women in pursuit of poor British guys with titles. Writer Graham Greene once hailed it "the best social comedy of this century."

At the Festival Theatre, Polish director Tadeusz Bradecki gives an artful Shavian twist to the sensational *Guys and Dolls*, starring musical veteran Shawn Wright alongside actor Thom Allison, fresh from his judging stint on CBC's *Over the Rainbow*.

No doubt Oscar Wilde fans will embrace his 1892 comedy *Lady Windermere's Fan*, helmed by Peter Hinton (of National Arts Centre fame). Also playing is the Tony-nominated *Enchanted April*, directed by artistic director Jackie Maxwell.

Unquestionably one of Shaw's all-time hits, *Major Barbara* – also directed by Maxwell – is fuelled with wit and poignantly examines the complex relationship between a father and daughter. It stars Nicole Underhay in the powerhouse lead and Benedict Campbell as dear old dad.

www.shawfest.com

Learn more about this region. See page 71.



Photo illustration for *Guys and Dolls* by Emily Cooper

TORONTO – SOULPEPPER THEATRE COMPANY

The hum of the big city is dizzying at times but once the theatre doors are shut, a whole new world mesmerizes our imagination.

Set amid the cobbled stones of Toronto's Distillery Historic District, Soulpepper Theatre Company unearths an eclectic collection that tugs the heart strings. Revisit the company's 2012 smash hit *Kim's Convenience*; watch Joe Orton's riveting *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* about a naughty lodger; and hear the familiar catchy tune *Figaro qua, Figaro la* during the updated musical, *The Barber of Seville*.

www.thedistillerydistrict.com

Learn more about this region. See page 77.



Young Centre for the Performing Arts, home to Soulpepper Theatre Company. Photo: Tom Arban

TORONTO – CANADIAN STAGE COMPANY

Shakespeare in the Park returns this summer to High Park with powerful tragedy *Macbeth* and comedy *The Taming of the Shrew*, each appearing on alternate nights.

July 2 – September 1.

www.canadianstage.com

Learn more about this region. See page 77.

Visit T.O. TIX at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto for discounted tickets on the day of a performance, as well as full-price and discount advance tickets, in-person and online.

www.totix.ca

More theatre in Cottage Country

Slip away from the nightly campfires and starry nights and see other stars strutting their stuff in unique theatre settings.

Near Lake Huron in bucolic farm country, the hamlet of Blyth is home to The Blyth Festival, which showcases original Canadian plays. Prepare for the world premiere of *Beyond The Farm Show*, chronicling personal stories around Huron County's countryside.

www.blythfestival.com

Dubbed the 'Hub of the Kawarthas,' for its location on the Trent-Severn Waterway, Bobcaygeon is steeped in old lumbering lore, but also has a burgeoning arts scene at the Globus Theatre. In its 10th season, this summer's playbill includes *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, a Sir Arthur Conan Doyle favourite, and the hilarious *Shirley Valentine* by Willy Russell.

www.globustheatre.com

With seven unique theatres – many of them in sweet country hamlets – theatre company Drayton Entertainment offers a variety of plays that appeal to a wide audience. In quaint Drayton, home to Mennonites and their beautiful horse-drawn buggies, musicals and comedies headline the Drayton Festival Theatre. Immerse yourself in *The Songs of Sinatra*; *Tuesdays with Morrie*; *Too Many Cooks*; and *Oliver!*

www.draytonentertainment.com

Cruise the St. Lawrence River through Thousand Islands country over to a majestic nautical theatre housed in a former canoe club.

www.1000islandsplayhouse.com

Find more theatre ideas at www.summertheatre.ca

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!

Catch live music at festivals, clubs and concerts right across Ontario. Be part of the scene and find out more by downloading the Ontario Travel Magazine Tablet app!



DOWNLOAD THE **ONTARIO TRAVEL MAGAZINE TABLET APP** TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:

• Artistic director Antoni Cimolino's commentary on *Romeo and Juliet*

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ontariotravel.net
+ CLICK THINGS TO DO

Getaways

FOR TWO

by Margaret Swaine

Couples wanting a weekend getaway can fulfill both spouses' preferences at these resorts. One wants to golf and the other wants to spa? Do it together! One wants to run on a trail while the other craves a delicious local meal and wine? These resorts deliver on all counts and they offer packages that combine elements of romance, epicurean delights, golf and spa.

COBBLE BEACH RESORT & SPA, Kemble, Georgian Bay

SCOREGolf ranks Cobble Beach Golf Links as one of the highest rated courses in Ontario. The 18-hole links-style facility offers challenges and aesthetics with strenuous uphill, elevated tee shots, sweeping views of Georgian Bay and mature woodlands. Designed by Doug Carrick, it challenges experienced players to expand their game. The 10-room boutique inn is Nantucket style in decor with designer bathrooms.

Savour the Perfect Pairing: Chef Tim Johnston, born in Owen Sound, designed menus that feature organic, local and seasonal ingredients. Wine tasting dinners are a customer favourite with regional themes such as Bordeaux, which pairs the food of that area with the wine. The regular menu pays homage to Ontario products such as Georgian Bay fish cakes, heirloom beet salad with Woolwich goat cheese, and Wellington County beef – dry aged in-house. The wine list has more than 120 selections.

Rejuvenate and Retreat: Book in advance to ensure a treatment at the popular spa. The resort's rejuvenating couples retreat package includes a 60-minute couples massage, a four-course tasting menu and an overnight stay in a luxurious suite with breakfast.

www.cobblebeach.com

Learn more about this region. See page 80.

Photo courtesy of Cobble Beach Golf Links Resort & Spa

EGANRIDGE INN & SPA, Fenelon Falls

This heritage estate overlooks Sturgeon Lake in the heart of the Trent-Severn Waterway. The Dunsford House log manor home, named for the family who settled here in 1837, is a square-timbered structure with rooms that offer contemporary luxury. Cottages and terrace rooms offer other accommodation options, each with its own charm. Golf is a scenic par-35, impeccably maintained nine-hole course that winds 3,003 yards through pristine forests and wetland areas.

Delight in the Delicious: The pine-panelled dining room and screened-in deck offer panoramic views of the splendid Kawarthas while diners feast on classic French cuisine. Chef Kevin Olinger cooks up dishes such as escargot au gratin, braised lamb shank and maple/sesame glazed pan-seared salmon. Inn keeper and wine buyer, France Benoit, has chosen a tempting selection of Ontario VQA wines by the glass to match the dishes, as well as international options.

Work Out and Chill Out: The spa's approach is holistic with a focus on healing. After-sport massage uses techniques to reduce the stress and strain of muscles, après activities. The wide range of other treatments includes lymphatic detoxifying seaweed wraps, Swiss shower cures and natural restorative facials.

www.eganridge.com

Learn more about this region. See page 81.



SAWMILL CREEK GOLF RESORT & SPA, Camlachie

Located east of Sarnia and minutes from the sparkling waters of Lake Huron, this picturesque resort features a par-71 links-style 6,445-yard championship course designed by Rene Muylaert. Doug Carrick has also added his deft touch to several holes. It's all about rest and relaxation at Sawmill with a state-of-the-art spa facility, heated saltwater pool and well-appointed bed and breakfast suites.

Explore the Menu: Chef Beau O'Dell is a local guy who travelled throughout Europe to perfect his culinary techniques. Guests love his prime rib, dry aged in-house for 60 days. Fine dining is a bargain here where \$35 gets you an appetizer, main and dessert – one of the options might be a half rack of lamb. Ingredients are sourced locally as much as possible. All desserts such as cheesecakes, crème brûlée and chocolate brownies are made in-house by the chef. The wine list features local boutique wineries of Lake Erie's North Shore.

Pamper Yourself: The newly renovated Spa Retreat facility has been expanded to include three levels and offers state-of-the-art equipment. Soothing earth tones ensure a harmonious relaxing atmosphere. The meditation pods make use of light and sound to assist in guided visualization. Hydro therapy experiences include vichy steam showers and colour therapy hydrotubs.

www.sawmill-creek.com

Learn more about this region. See page 69.

OAKWOOD INN RESORT, Grand Bend

Oakwood Resort just completed a multi-million dollar refurbishment of their accommodations with some suites now offering Jacuzzis, fireplaces, infinity tubs and other amenities to enhance a romantic getaway. This 127-unit resort in Grand Bend on the shores of Lake Huron has four modern lodges and seven spacious suites as well as cottages by the lake. The 18-hole, par-70 golf course is enhanced by mature trees, which on many holes play a part in narrowing the fairways and increasing the challenges. The greens are the prime feature with a mixture of poa and bent grass that has created a carpet-like cushion.

Dine with a View: The Oak Room dates back to the late 1920s and offers a pleasing view of Lake Huron. A large fieldstone fireplace and logged interior create an ambience ideal for enjoying a romantic dinner, expertly prepared by Chef Mark Graham.

Double your Bliss: the Lakeside Spa's Duet package is a sweet retreat for couples, beginning with a relaxing 60-minute aromatherapy couples massage and continuing with a spa manicure and pedicure for two. Their team of certified estheticians and Ontario registered massage therapists make sure all treatments are top notch.

www.oakwoodinnresort.com

Learn more about this region. See page 69.



TO DISCOVER MORE:
ontariotravel.net
+ CLICK ON GETAWAY COLLECTIONS

WISH YOU WERE HERE

Ontario's postcard-perfect scenery will inspire you to discover new destinations.

Visit favourite places in your own backyard this summer. Don't forget your camera!

SLEEPING GIANT, SUPERIOR VIEW

Off in the distance lies the Sleeping Giant. The waves from the freshwater sea that crash up against him never disturb his repose. But sleep will be the last thing on your mind as you savour a view you'll never forget.

www.ontarioparks.com

Learn more about this region. See page 93.



NIAGARA LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT

Look down at the rough-and-tumble river. Although you share the view of those intrepid tightrope walkers, you're safely ensconced in a charming cable car. The giant whirlpool below is mesmerizing and will leave an imprint on your summer memories.

www.niagaraparks.com

Learn more about this region. See page 71.



ANOTHER SIDE OF THE CAPITAL

Take a sunset boat cruise along Ottawa's scenic Rideau Canal. As night falls, the city seems to shed its modern urban skin and transform into an old-world burg, revealing a glittering otherworldly charm.

www.ottawatourism.ca

Learn more about this region. See page 85.

HIDDEN GEM

Two worlds merge here where quaint village meets quiet, family getaway. Warm, shallow water and the longest stretch of sandy beach on Lake Erie's north shore keep families returning year after year.

www.portstanley.ca

Learn more about this region. See page 69.





HAVE YOU MET CLIFF?

Get to know Rattlesnake Point in a most intimate way: dance cheek-to-cheek with a face you'll never forget. You didn't know you had it in you.

www.conservationhalton.on.ca

Learn more about this region. See page 73.

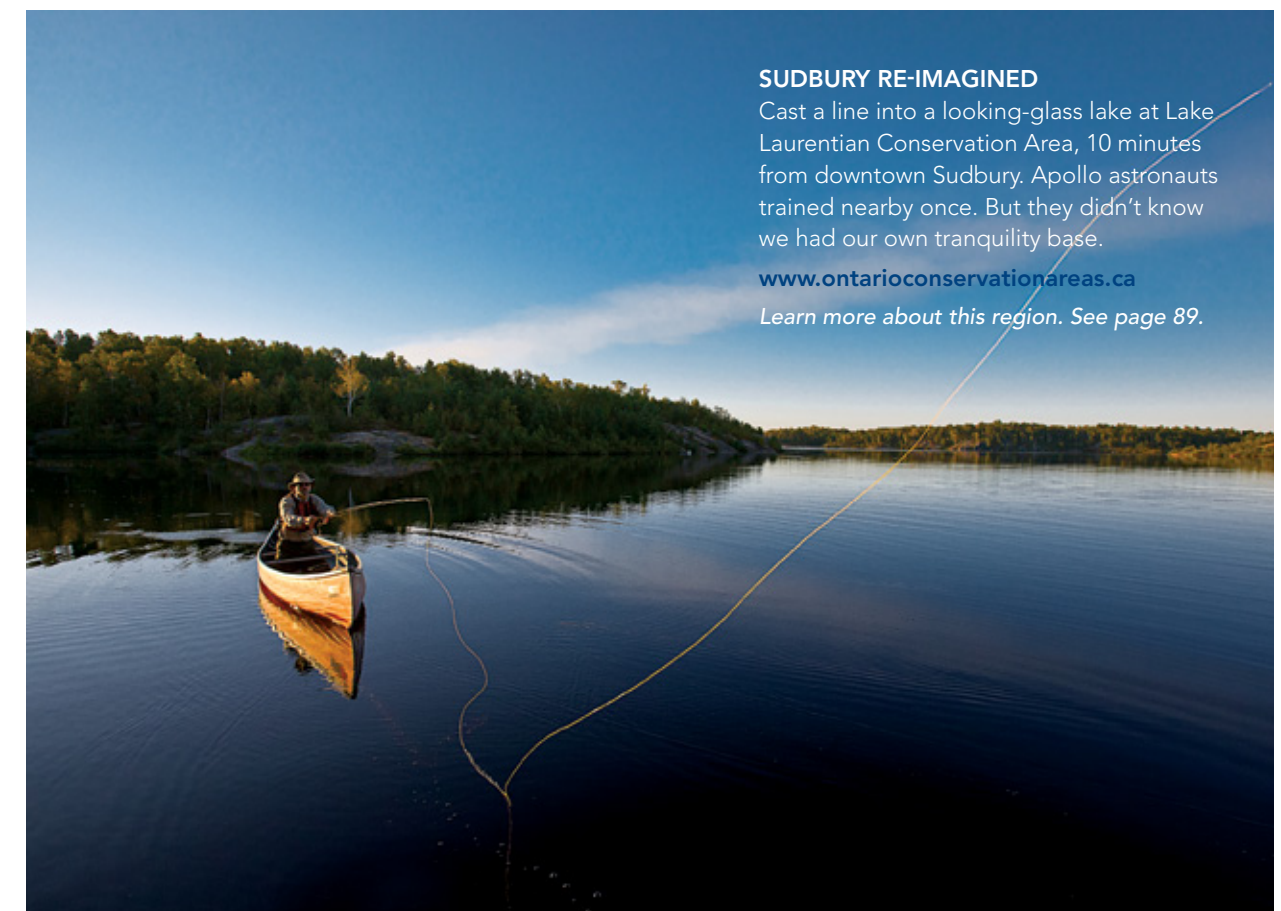


A NEW POINT OF VIEW

Lucky peregrine falcons! Nestled in urban aeries of glass and steel, they have the best seats in the house to watch the big show unfold below. Ascend the CN Tower and see for yourself.

www.edgewalkcntower.ca

Learn more about this region. See page 77.

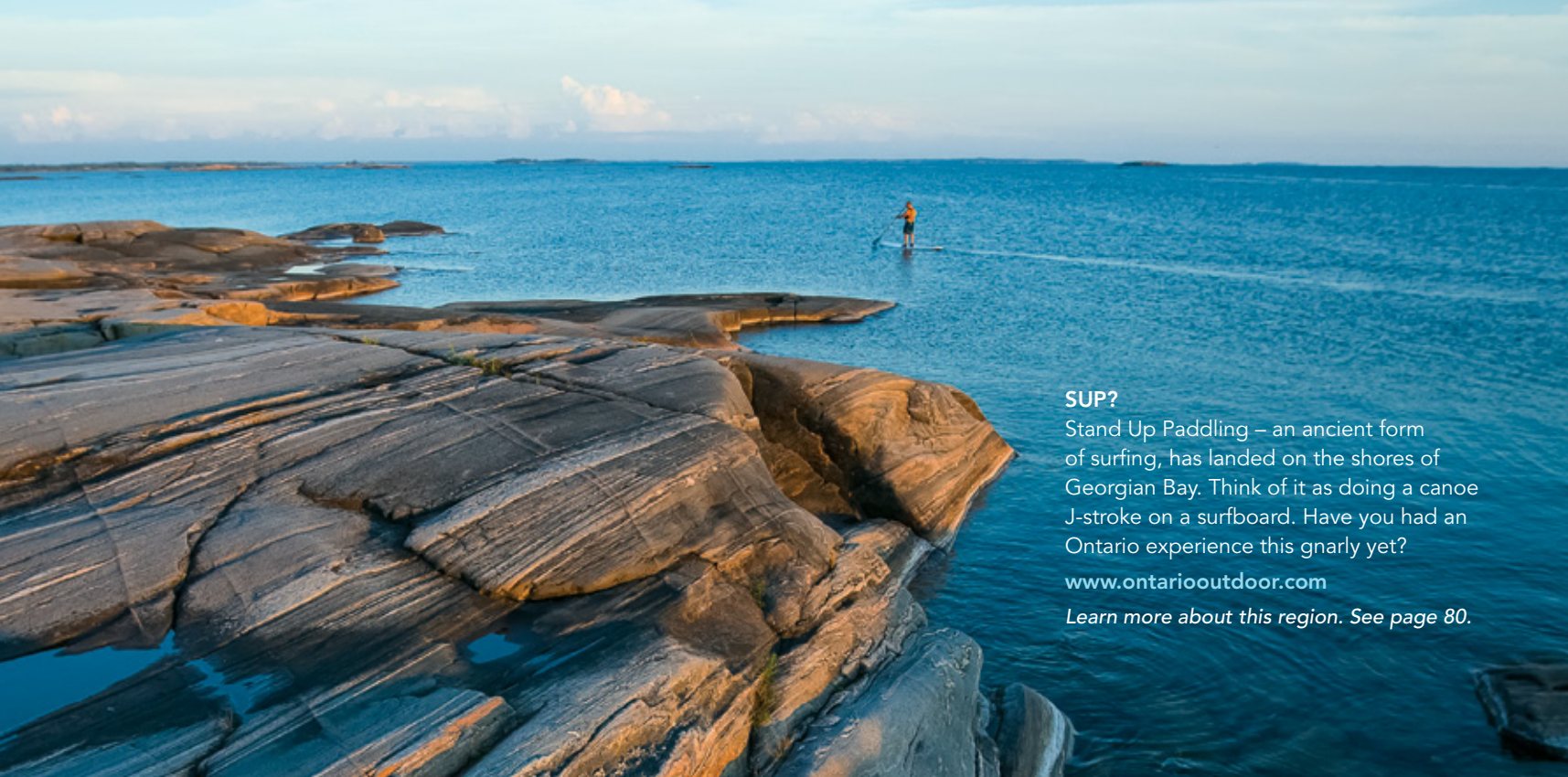


SUDBURY RE-IMAGINED

Cast a line into a looking-glass lake at Lake Laurentian Conservation Area, 10 minutes from downtown Sudbury. Apollo astronauts trained nearby once. But they didn't know we had our own tranquility base.

www.ontarioconservationareas.ca

Learn more about this region. See page 89.



SUP?

Stand Up Paddling – an ancient form of surfing, has landed on the shores of Georgian Bay. Think of it as doing a canoe J-stroke on a surfboard. Have you had an Ontario experience this gnarly yet?

www.ontariooutdoor.com

Learn more about this region. See page 80.

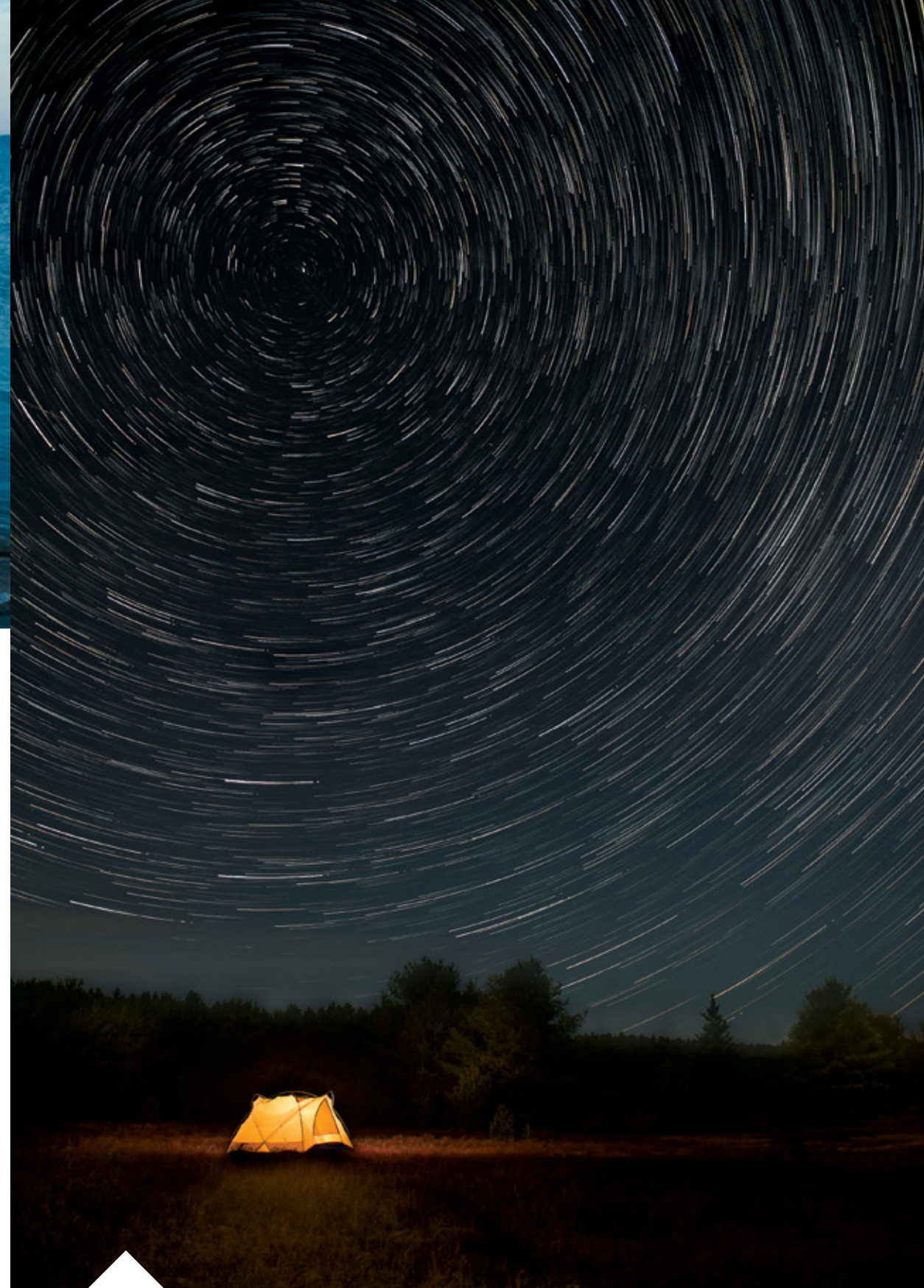


SANDBANKS IS NO MIRAGE

You could be in a desert or on a South Pacific beach. With soaring sand dunes and kilometres of sandy beaches, you'd be excused for thinking that. No, there are no pyramids here. But with local soils yielding a rich bounty, it is an oasis.

www.ontarioparks.com

Learn more about this region. See page 83.



FACEBOOK PHOTO CHALLENGE WINNER

Steve Elms created this stunning image by taking one hundred, 30-second exposures for the star trails and combining them as layers. After exposing one shot for the tent and another for the ambient light around it, he then combined all layers.

www.Facebook.com/OntarioTravel

Learn more about this region. See page 87.



THE GREAT FACEBOOK PHOTO CHALLENGE

To see more contest photos and to submit your own favourite Ontario memories, download the Ontario Travel Magazine app and connect with us on

www.Facebook.com/OntarioTravel



DOWNLOAD THE
ONTARIO TRAVEL
MAGAZINE TABLET
APP TO SEE:

- More amazing photos from the Great Facebook Photo Challenge

TO DISCOVER MORE:
ontariotravel.net
+ CLICK THINGS TO DO

making tracks

ACROSS ONTARIO

by Katherine Low

There's one in nearly every family – the train enthusiast who knows it all, from engine to caboose. Whether it's your grandfather with historic knowledge of the local tracks or your toddler obsessed with Thomas the Tank Engine, Ontario offers an incredible variety of historic and tourist railways that railroad buffs will love visiting this summer. You can even take a turn as engineer for the day!

**A AGAWA CANYON TOUR TRAIN
SAULT STE. MARIE**

Take a 182-kilometre (114-mile) ride across the stunning Canadian Shield and catch breathtaking views of pristine northern lakes, incredible granite rock formations, dense forest and native wildlife. Relax and embrace the rugged landscapes that inspired the Group of Seven's famous landscapes. Enjoy the audio tour to spot points of interest and hear about the region's rich history of the Ojibway, fur traders, explorers and entrepreneurs who called this region home. Descend 150 metres (500 feet) to the floor of the Agawa Canyon, created more than 1.2 billion years ago. There's no better way to travel to the heart of Ontario's wilderness!

www.agawacanyontourtrain.com

**B CREDIT VALLEY EXPLORER,
ORANGEVILLE**

Explore the Credit Valley and Hills of Headwaters in the heart of Ontario's Greenbelt along a rail route established more than 130 years ago. Travel a 74-kilometre (45-mile) route along the Niagara Escarpment, including a 343-metre (1,146-ft.) long railway trestle bridge crossing the Credit Valley, the Forks of the Credit River and the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park at Cataract. Take in the rolling hills and deep valleys through large picture windows and enjoy a stop in the village of Inglewood.

www.creditvalleyexplorer.com

Agawa Canyon Tour Train, Sault Ste. Marie



Portage Flyer, Muskoka Heritage Place, Huntsville



Engineer for a Day, Muskoka Heritage Place, Huntsville



Day Out with Thomas, St. Thomas



Agawa Canyon Tour Train, Sault Ste. Marie

Museums That Go

Trains, planes, automobiles...and canoes? Ontario boasts a number of museums exploring how we travel from A to B and in between, so plan a trip this summer to find out more about how traditional and modern transportation methods have shaped Ontario's rich history. How you get there is up to you!

- Canada Aviation Museum www.aviation.technomuses.ca
- Canadian Automotive Museum www.oshawa.ca/tourism/can_mus.asp
- Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre www.bushplane.com
- Canadian Canoe Museum www.canoemuseum.ca
- Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum www.warplane.com
- Fathom Five National Marine Park www.pc.gc.ca/amnc-nmca/on/fathomfive/index.aspx
- Grace and Speed Boathouse www.segwun.com/pub/grace-and-speed-boathouse.html
- Marine Museum of the Great Lakes www.marmuseum.ca
- Train and Steam Museum www.muskokaheritageplace.org

C PORTAGE FLYER, MUSKOKA HERITAGE PLACE, HUNTSVILLE

Travel along the scenic Muskoka River to Fairy Lake Station in a vintage open-sided coach pulled by a steam engine. The Portage Flyer was once the world's shortest commercial railway, operating between 1904 and 1959. Back at the station, the steam museum provides a re-creation of a typical 1920s train station and features exhibits and interactive displays of local steamships and locomotives.

For a truly unique experience, engineer the train yourself as part of the Engineer for a Day program. Get behind the controls of an historic 1926 steam locomotive or a 1949 diesel electric locomotive for a day in the life of an engineer.

www.muskokaheritageplace.org

D HALTON COUNTY RADIAL RAILWAY, MILTON

Ride in an historic streetcar along two kilometres (1.5 miles) of the preserved Guelph line to the station's ice cream shop. Explore display barns and the historic Rockwood Station at this museum commemorating Toronto's radial railroads. The museum displays and operates a variety of historic streetcars, radial cars and work cars, and maintains a collection of photographs, memorabilia and archival materials. The oldest rail car in the collection dates from the late 1800s.

www.hcry.org

E CANADA'S RAILWAY CAPITAL, ST. THOMAS

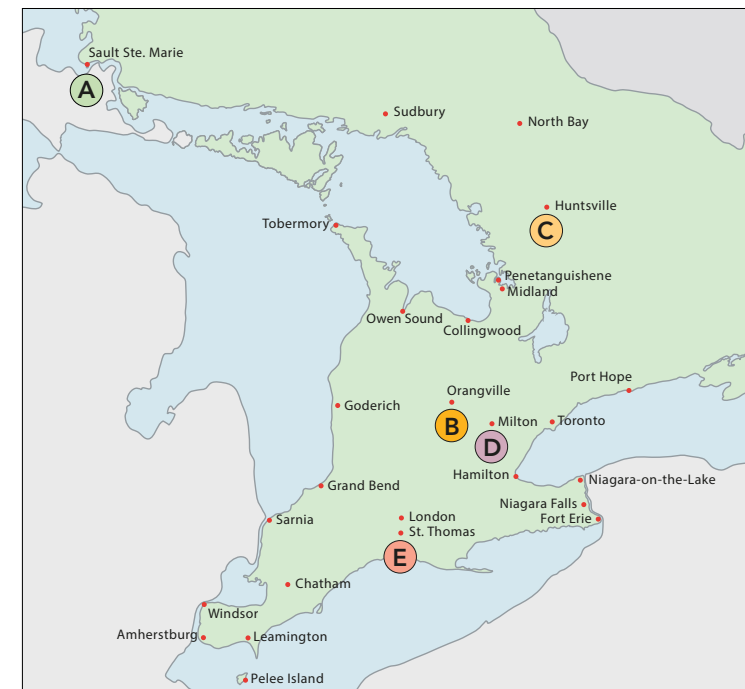
St. Thomas offers several unique train experiences for all generations. Visit the newly restored Canada Southern Railway Station, built in 1871, to see what a grand station looked like in the heart of the province's rail crossings. Across the tracks, visit the Elgin County Railway Museum to see vintage railway maps and photographs, communication devices and shop tools. The 'History in Motion' model railway exhibit simulates the mid-20th century operations of Southern Ontario railways between Windsor and Niagara Falls – all displayed in a 365 m² (3,927 sq. ft.) room.

Aspiring engineers young and old alike will love riding the rails with Thomas the Tank Engine on a Day Out With Thomas. On or off the tracks, enjoy a variety of Thomas and Friends entertainment, including storytelling, temporary tattoos of the Island of Sodor friends, and an Imagination Station with arts and crafts. Lucky fans might even meet Sir Topham Hatt, the Controller of the Railway on the Island of Sodor.

www.narhf.org

www.ecrm5700.org

www.thomasandfriends.com/dowt



Learn more about these regions. See page 67.



Grace and Speed Boathouse, Gravenhurst. Photo: John McQuarrie

TO DISCOVER MORE:
ontariotravel.net
+ CLICK THINGS TO DO



Makoop Lake

Go Fish!

Ontario's fishing lodges offer R & R for everyone

by James Smedley

Just a Short Flight Away

Fishing rates high on my list of things to do on a warm summer day. And fishing for several days in a row rates even higher. Whether with friends or family, there is no destination like a remote Ontario fly-in fishing lodge. Stretching north to the shores of Hudson's Bay, Ontario is vast and remote, dappled with secluded lodges offering some of the best sport fishing in the world. Add luxury accommodations sequestered in wilderness and a world-class fishing vacation is just a short flight away.

Friends and Fishing: A Winning Combination

Flying over the wilderness in a single-engine float plane is strong medicine. It seems to absolve the tension and stress of everyday life. When my friends and I step off the plane and onto the dock at Esnagi Lake in

Northern Ontario, we are accompanied by the boyish joy that comes from knowing we have little else to do but fish for the next five days. And fish we do.

A friendly competition on which boat can catch the most fish ends early on the first day because we've all lost count. In fact, with the presence of fish confirmed, counting doesn't seem important anymore. Instead we slow down, take deep breaths and look around at the pristine shoreline of pine-capped sloping granite. No jet skis, no boat traffic, just kilometres of islands, bays and narrows. Endless possibilities.

Two bald eagles sit like sentinels in a gnarled white pine while our guide cooks us a shore lunch of deep-fried walleye over an open fire. Lunch and leisure bolsters our angling reserves and we tangle with big northern pike along a weed edge and hoist chunky walleye until pangs of hunger drive us back

to the lodge. No loading boats on trailers, no long drive home, we don't even have to clean fish. Just dock the boat, walk up to our cabin and get ready for dinner in the main lodge.

Let's Make It a Date

I'm one of the lucky ones whose wife enjoys fishing. Actually she enjoys *catching* more than she does *fishing* so after the float plane lands on Makoop Lake, Francine sends me out to "find the fish" while she settles in to our sprawling horizontal log cabin.

Even under the hot July sun my fish-finding mission is complete within the hour and I return "home." At a narrows near the lodge, the fishing is just the way my wife likes it – a walleye with every cast. A large splash at a nearby weedy flat turns our attention to pike. Francine casts a huge bucktail spinner toward the diminishing ripples. "Got him,"

she says, setting the hook into what turns out to be one of the largest pike I have ever seen. She is visibly nervous hoisting the toothy four-foot northern but we make sure to keep him horizontal, to help ensure his successful release, while we get some great shots before slipping the giant back into the Lake. All this within the first few hours of the first day, within sight of the lodge.

I'm fortunate that great fishing is a key ingredient to a romantic holiday. Gourmet evening meals and long walks along deserted sandy beaches complete the recipe.

The Family That Fishes Together...

Francine clips on a large red and gold spoon and casts it into the churning water. We've just pulled the boats up on a smooth rock where the powerful flow of the Ogoki River divides around a large island before spilling over a series of ledges to reunite in a deep swirling pool. I'm about to tell her that walleye don't usually hit spoons but when her rod bends with the weight of a 20-inch fish, I keep that bit of angling wisdom to myself.

Our girls, Islay, 12, and Lillian, 10, are tempering the heat of the sunny August afternoon by lying in a narrow rock crevice, letting a rivulet of water gush over them. After a suitable cooling off period, they are ready to join the action. Lillian casts a jig and plastic minnow upstream into a small side eddy. "Let it sink for a sec, then give it a few little pulls," I say, and a fat walleye elicits a shrill cry of excitement from my youngest. Her sister casts to the same spot with similar results. My wife and I know the best way to nurture a growing angling instinct is to take children where the fishing is great. Francine looks over with a smile. "Let's save a few for lunch," she says, casting again into the unbelievably productive waters.

Three Generations of Anglers

My father-in-law's hip has bothered him for years but there's definitely a spring in Marcel's step as we walk from our cabin to the dock. My daughters jump in the boat with their grandparents, slathering on sunscreen as Marcel guides the cedarstrip boat to the spot. Once again the walleye, pike and perch are cooperative but the girls don't fish long before the growing heat initiates the first of many plunges into the cool water. Thrashing limbs and shrieking voices don't seem to affect the fishing and the long summer day slips by with fresh air and sunshine, producing huge appetites.

The aroma of fresh bread and roast beef wafts across the water as we approach the lodge. Without the need to prepare dinner, my mother-in-law is at a loss for what to do. But she adapts, relaxing in a Muskoka chair with a cold drink until we're called to dinner.

After our meal, songs shoot up to the night sky like the crackling sparks of the fire. Before bed, we all head down to the dock where true darkness illuminates the myriad of stars cast across the heavens. Silence is joined by lapping water and the eerie cry of the loon. A fitting accompaniment to true relaxation.

Learn more about this region. See page 91.



Apisabigo Lake

Ontario's remote
fly-in fishing
lodges – all just a
short flight away.
www.gofishinontario.com



Esnagi Lake

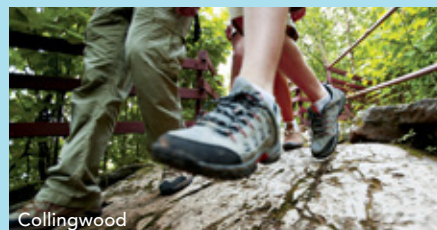
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IT'S ABOUT TIME

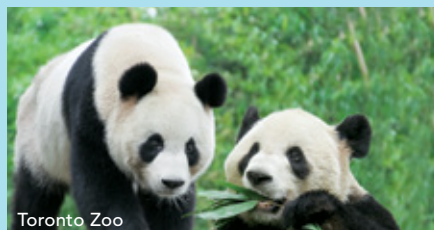
AND HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT THIS SUMMER

by Jennifer Merrick

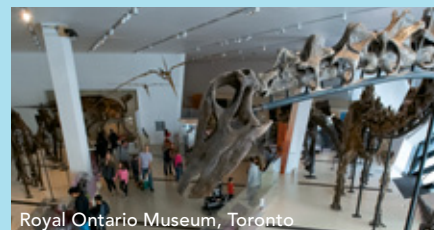
Ontario's amazing summer months come and go in a flash so make the most of every sunny moment. Wherever you are in Ontario, there are activities nearby for everyone in the family, no matter how much (or little) time you have.



Collingwood



Toronto Zoo



Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

a few hours

Only a bit of time to spare? Grab the kids and your bikes and hit the trails. Then try a different section of the trail every chance you get!

one day

Ahh, a day off! Sunscreen and water bottles – packed. Towels and beach toys – check. Sun, sandcastles and swimming – here we come!

overnight

From school's end to Labour Day, there are exactly 10 weekends, so this summer, resolve to do something a little daring and different for at least one of them.

a few hours

• HIKING • BIKING



North Bay

Walk the Rails

Rail trails offer peace and quiet and are perfect for nature-loving families. Explore the 47-km (29-mi.) **Elora Cataract Trail**, once the route of the Credit Valley Railway. Or check out sections of the **Cataraqui Trail** from Strathcona to Smiths Falls in Eastern Ontario, the **Victoria Railway** running from Lindsay to Haliburton or the **Oro-Medonte Rail Trail** near Orillia.

www.trailway.org
www.cataraquitrail.ca
www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca
www.ontariotrails.on.ca

Cycle a Great Lake

This year the **Waterfront Trail** doubled in length to 1,400 km (861 mi.) with an extension from Fort Erie to Windsor. Riders can now pedal along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario from the Quebec border to Niagara-on-the-Lake or along the shores of Lake Erie. Family-friendly stretches include the **St. Catharines Trail** from Port Weller to Port Dalhousie, the **Hamilton Waterfront Trail** from HMCS Haida to Dundurn Park, and Cornwall from Lamoureux Park to the Cornwall Canal.

www.waterfronttrail.org

Hike the Bruce

Some hike the 885-km (548-mi.) trail from Niagara to Tobermory for bragging rights, but for most it's to escape into the glacial landscape of the Niagara Escarpment. Bring the kids to **Ball's Falls Conservation Area** in Niagara, **Crawford Lake** in the Halton region or anywhere along the Bruce Peninsula. Connecting to the Bruce Trail near Collingwood is the 500-km (310-mi.) long **Ganaraska Hiking Trail**, which begins in Port Hope.

www.brucetrail.org
www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.ca



Pukaskwa National Park

Learn more about the regions in this story ► Ball's Falls Conservation Area, St. Catharines Trail; *see page 71.* Hamilton Waterfront Trail; *see page 73.* Elora Cataraqui Trail; *see page 75.* Oro-Medonte Rail Trail; *see page 80.* Ganaraska Hiking Trail, Victoria Railway; *see page 81.*

one day

• BEACH • ZOO • WATERPARK

Beach Bound

You may already know that **Wasaga Beach** is seemingly endless and that the sand dunes at **Sandbanks Provincial Park** are incredible. But have you visited **Cobourg beach** in Victoria Park with its refreshingly cool and shallow water? Or have you been to Sudbury's **Bell Park** on Lake Ramsey? It hosts annual events and connects to the scenic boardwalk that takes visitors to the snow-flake shaped, award-winning Science North.

www.wasagabeach.com
www.ontarioparks.com

Animal Encounters

Two giant pandas are the much-anticipated new additions to the **Toronto Zoo** this summer. At **African Lion Safari**, it feels as though your family is the one in the zoo as you drive through the reserve in your car, watching the playful antics of the primates or the lounging lions. Off the beaten track is the **Muskoka Wildlife Centre**, a refuge for hurt or neglected animals. Families return again and again to enjoy the shows, outdoor trails, tours, and to visit the animals that touch their hearts.

www.torontozoo.com
www.lionsafari.com
www.muskokawildlifecentre.com



Calypso Waterpark

Water Thrills

Dropping straight down a stomach-lurching seven storeys, *'The Cliff'* at **Wild Water Kingdom** in Brampton is probably the most daring ride at the park that features waterslides for all ages, a lazy river and wave pool. Another family favourite water park is **Calypso Waterpark** just east of Ottawa, with its monster-sized wave pool and more than 35 waterslides – including the *'Aqualoops,'* an extreme roller-coaster-like ride with a 2.5G loop.

www.wildwaterkingdom.com
www.calypsopark.com

Learn more about the regions in this story ► African Lion Safari; *see page 73*. Toronto Zoo, Wild Water Kingdom; *see page 77*. Wasaga Beach; *see page 80*. Sandbanks Provincial Park; *see page 83*. Calypso Waterpark; *see page 85*. Muskoka Wildlife Centre; *see page 87*. Bell Park; *see page 89*.



Sandbanks Provincial Park

overnight

• CAMPING • BIG CITY EXPLORING

Camp at Ontario Provincial Parks

Savvy campers book months in advance, setting early morning alarms to snag the prime spots at Algonquin and the Pinery Provincial parks. But many don't realize there are more than 330 protected areas in the province, which often have last-minute campsites available. Swim under a stunning waterfall at **Chutes Provincial Park** on Hwy. 17 between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, tour a restored mine at **Murphys Point** south of Perth, or swim at kid-friendly sandy beaches at **Arrowhead Provincial Park**, north of Huntsville.

www.ontarioparks.com



Elora Gorge Conservation Area

Ride the Rivers

Raft the **Ottawa River** with Wilderness Tours, River Run or Owl Rafting for an unforgettable experience with friends or family. Find a campground nearby to pitch a tent or stay at a local lodge. On the **Grand River** in Southwestern Ontario, float past the towering 22-metre (72-foot) limestone cliffs on inner tubes in the **Elora Gorge Conservation Area**.

www.wildernesstours.com
www.riverrunrafting.com
www.owl-mkc.ca
www.grandriver.ca



Rondeau Provincial Park

Learn more about the regions in this story ► Pinery Provincial Park; *see page 69*. Elora Gorge Conservation Area; *see page 75*. Medieval Times Dinner and Theatre, Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario Science Centre, Toronto Zoo; *see page 77*. LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre; *see page 79*. Murphys Point; *see page 86*. Ottawa River; *see page 85*. Algonquin Provincial Park, Arrowhead Provincial Park; *see page 87*. Chutes Provincial Park; *see page 89*.

Dream Big in T.O.

If your children are obsessed with dinosaurs, space, LEGO® and knights, they will be thrilled to meet Gordo, the largest dinosaur on display in Canada, at Toronto's **Royal Ontario Museum**. Or they can ride a rocket chair at the **Science Centre**, build a race car at the brand-new **LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre**, and then cheer for a jousting knight at **Medieval Times Dinner and Theatre**. Book a family package at a local hotel and stay a few days!

www.rom.on.ca
www.ontariosciencecentre.ca
www.legolanddiscoverycentre.ca
www.medievaltimes.com/toronto

TO DISCOVER MORE:
ontariotravel.net
 + CLICK FAMILY FUN

Paddle Playbook

by Nicola Ross

Get out on the water and learn to paddle this summer. Whether it's been a few years since you've paddled or you're brand new to the experience, here are some tips and ideas to make the most of your water journey.



Get started with a lesson or two or get back into the swing of things...then happy padding!

TO CANOE OR KAYAK?

The first thing to decide is whether you want to paddle a canoe or a kayak. Those unfamiliar with kayaks or canoes may not realize these watercrafts offer very different paddling experiences. Originally made by the Inuit who stretched sealskins over whalebone frames, kayaks are narrow, covered boats. They float lower in the water than canoes and the kayak paddle has a blade at each end. The origin of canoes can be traced to North American Indians who originally stretched birch bark over wooden frames. A canoe paddle also differs in that it has a blade only at one end.

CANOE:

- + carries up to three people
- + easy to get in and out
- + haul lots of gear
- + accommodate dogs

KAYAK:

- + stable
- + easy to paddle
- + fast

You need no previous experience and there are convenient paddling centres in most cities that offer instruction complete with the use of a canoe or kayak, a paddle and a PFD (personal flotation device). Check the Ontario Recreational Canoe and Kayak Association for the paddling centre nearest you. Joe Bourgeois, owner of Akuni Adventures says that it takes as few as two lessons to prepare someone to paddle comfortably on their own.

www.orcka.ca

PLACES TO PADDLE

Downtown Toronto's Harbourfront Canoe & Kayak Centre has an array of options ranging from evening-long introductory courses to multi-day trips, private lessons and even a full-moon outing. Meanwhile, Akuni Adventures uses the facilities at Earl Rowe Provincial Park near Alliston for its program. If you feel adventurous, consider some whitewater instruction from Black Feather Adventures in Parry Sound, Ontario.

www.paddletoronto.com

www.akuni.com

www.blackfeather.com

www.whitesquall.com

Once you get the basics down, it's time to head out to some of the province's finest wilderness paddling in Algonquin, Killarney or French River provincial parks, all of which have local outfitters where you can rent a boat and other equipment.

Algonquin North Wilderness Outfitter offers daylong guided paddling trips exploring some of Algonquin Park's 2,100 kilometres (1,300 miles) of canoe routes. French River Adventures offers a three-day learn-to-canoe package that includes equipment and instruction, as well as a guided trip and accommodations at the elegant Lodge at Pine Cove. Many resorts in Ontario offer canoe and kayaking right on-site, so you can learn at your own pace when you are on vacation.

www.resortsofontario.com

www.algonquinnorth.com

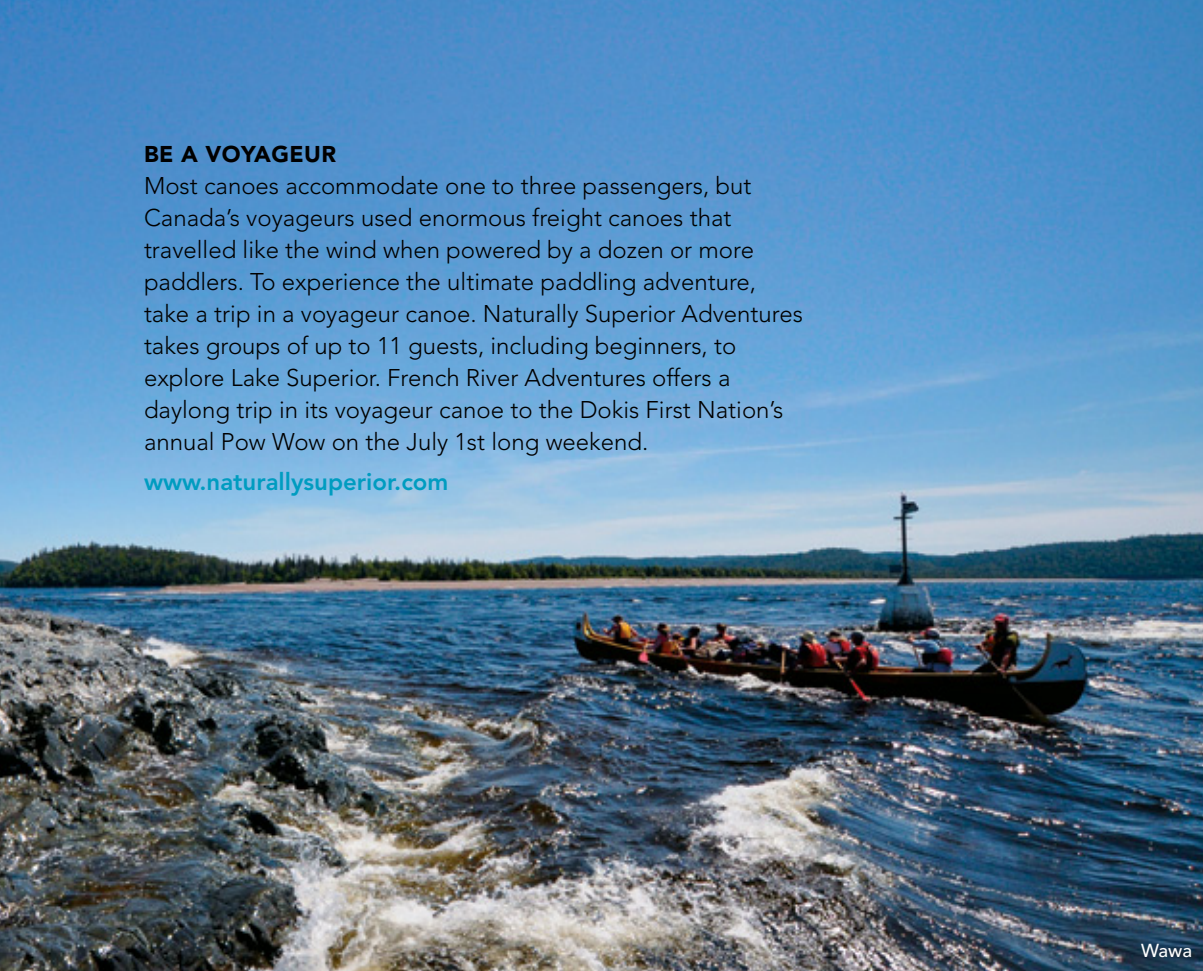
www.frenchriveradventures.com

www.frenchriver.com

BE A VOYAGEUR

Most canoes accommodate one to three passengers, but Canada's voyageurs used enormous freight canoes that travelled like the wind when powered by a dozen or more paddlers. To experience the ultimate paddling adventure, take a trip in a voyageur canoe. Naturally Superior Adventures takes groups of up to 11 guests, including beginners, to explore Lake Superior. French River Adventures offers a daylong trip in its voyageur canoe to the Dokis First Nation's annual Pow Wow on the July 1st long weekend.

www.naturallysuperior.com



Wawa

CANOE DINING ADVENTURE

Put that paddle to good use with your new skills and enjoy a summer dining adventure to the Toronto Islands. Paddle a heritage freighter canoe, a replica of those used by early Canadian settlers, across the beautiful Toronto harbour with a professional guide. Enjoy a gourmet dinner made from local Ontario products in the beautiful island parklands, with the Toronto skyline as a backdrop. Paddle back to the city at night, with the lights on the waterfront ahead and the stars above.

www.culinaryadventureco.com

STAND-UP PADDLING

Stand-Up Paddling, or SUP, involves paddling while standing on a surfboard. SUP has become popular because it offers a healthy workout that improves balance, strength and general fitness. SUP differs from canoeing or kayaking as it is more a form of exercise than a means of transportation.

For the novice, SUP lessons are always a good idea. The Harbourfront Canoe & Kayak Centre in Toronto offers a great lineup of lessons.



Kawawaymog Lake

ROW THE BOAT

Rowing is another great way to get out and explore the water and there are many outlets in Ontario where you can learn how. Hatchets Outdoor Centre in Port Carling can help you get started with a 1.5 hour beginner's session, which includes an introduction to equipment and safety. June through September.

www.hatchetsoutdoor.com

CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM

Located in Peterborough, the Canadian Canoe Museum has more than 100 canoes and kayaks on display, making it the world's largest collection. The museum charts Canada's history, demonstrating how early explorers used these versatile watercrafts. As well as canoes and kayaks, there are interactive displays, a puppet theatre and a canoe-themed store.

www.canoemuseum.ca



Canadian Canoe Museum, Peterborough

Visit www.ontariotravel.net/outdoor to find more paddling adventures and packages, many of them suitable for beginners.

Learn more about the regions in this story ► Harbourfront Canoe & Kayak Centre, The Culinary Adventure Company; *see page 77*. Akuni Adventures; *see page 80*. The Canadian Canoe Museum; *see page 81*. Black Feather Adventures, Algonquin North Wilderness Outfitter, French River Adventures, Hatchets Outdoor Centre; *see page 87*. Naturally Superior Adventures; *see page 91*.

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ENTER FOR
A CHANCE TO **WIN***
AN 8-DAY ALL-INCLUSIVE
**NORTHWEST CARIBOU
QUEST ADVENTURE**

Visit www.ontariotravel.net/outdoor
for contest details.

Hurry and enter today!
Contest closes May 30, 2013.

*Go online for details.



Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

By the Book

Making Literary Connections in Ontario

Ontario is home to many world-famous authors so it's only fitting that it's also the setting in many of their works. Discover these locations in person as you explore Ontario destinations and their literary connections this summer.

by Nigel Beale



While some literary tourists like to visit places that appear in novels, others like to walk the footpaths that inspired great poems. Some go on pilgrimages to honour their favourite authors; others seek out a rare book. Still others love good theatre and search out live stage performances and talks by renowned playwrights.

It's all about knowing how to mix together the right combination of literature and geography to come up with the perfect travel experience.

A JANE URQUHART AND PORT HOPE

Set in Port Hope in the 1840s, Jane Urquhart's Trillium Award-winning novel *Away* explores the Canadian immigrant experience. The town was a significant landing point for thousands of Irish settlers. Visit Port Hope and see where these settlers first stepped ashore, imagine the melee on the dock as they disembarked and sense the excitement and trepidation that Urquhart so expertly describes in her novel.

On Mill Street, head toward the lake until you arrive at the landing area. A short stroll east of the harbour sits the Canada House B&B at 168 King Street, perched next to the Waterfront Walking Trail. Gaze up at the second-floor window and just imagine characters Eileen and Aidan looking out onto Lake Ontario.

B After your day of discovery, try the Starlight restaurant on King Street in Cobourg for Moroccan treats and a chance sighting of Jane Urquhart, who is a fan.

www.ourfavouriteplace.ca



Cobourg

C ALICE MUNRO AND WINGHAM

Travel to Wingham and visit the Alice Munro Literary Garden on Main Street. Wingham's garden provides a quiet sanctuary which honours Munro – winner of the 2004 Giller Prize for her collection of short stories, *Runaway*. The garden makes for a lovely spot to read one of her short stories among towering trees, flower beds, and marble slabs that bear the titles of her books.

Be sure to pick up a pamphlet entitled *A Self-Guided Tour of Points of Interest in the Town of Wingham Relating to Alice Munro*. Two excursions are recommended – one to follow, on foot, the route Alice Laidlaw (Munro's maiden name) walked each day to school from the family farm down on West Street, up through the town's high-class neighbourhood; the other is to drive south from the junction of Highways 4 and 86 down through Blyth and across to Goderich where you can have lunch at Bailey's, 120 Court House Square, Munro's favourite local restaurant.

As author/biographer Charlie Foran puts it: "If [the] walk in Wingham enriches a reader's appreciation of Munro's imaginative sensibility, then a drive along this country highway may speak to the defining qualities of her prose – its flintiness and deliberate plain-speech, the cadences steady regardless of the often abrupt tonal shifts from light to dark."

www.betterweekending.ca

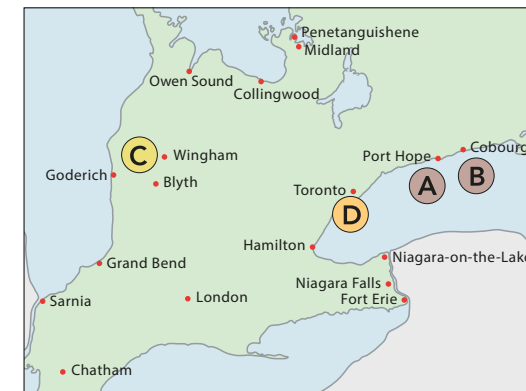
D MICHAEL REDHILL AND TORONTO

Michael Redhill's Toronto Book Award-winning novel *Consolation* presents two Torontos – one from the mid-19th century, the other from the late 1990s.

At the corner of York and King streets, the only common point of reference between the two time periods is Osgoode Hall on Queen Street. With photographs serving as the go-between, Redhill pushes the reader's face up against an urban window pane, showing how the human scale of 1850s Toronto has been paved over and displaced by today's towering monuments.

To see what remains of Toronto's City Hall, head to the St. Lawrence Market and trace the old outline. Walk westerly along King Street from Parliament to Bay through what would have been Toronto's 'High Street' in 1856. Most of the original buildings are lost, but there's a hint of what it all looked like at certain spots, such as the intersections of George and King and Jarvis and King, from which you can see, nearby, St. James, the oldest church in Toronto. Characters in the novel walk past it.

www.seetorontonow.com



Learn more about these regions. See page 67.



Storybook Gardens, London

KIDS LOVE BOOKS TOO!

Open up your child's imagination with reading events and fun parks dedicated to bringing kids' favourite fairy tale characters to life.

Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ – Toronto, May 15 & 16

Celebrate the joy of reading with your child at Canada's largest literary event for kids held at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto.

www.harbourfrontcentre.com

Storybook Gardens – London

Meet favourite storybook and nursery rhyme characters, enjoy rides and games, and then cool off in the splash pad.

www.storybook.london.ca

Story Book Park – Owen Sound

Hop the Tour Train and ride through Story Book Houses that feature popular fairytale characters like Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

www.storybookpark.com

Castle Village – Midland

Hike along an educational nature trail and discover fantasy cottages themed around beloved fairytale characters – don't miss Merlin's Tower!

www.castlevillage.ca



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TO DISCOVER MORE:
ontariotravel.net
+ CLICK FAMILY FUN

Sailing Tall

This year Ontario commemorates the War of 1812, a pivotal event that has forged centuries of peace between Canada and the United States. An important facet of the war was the Great Lakes naval campaign. The Age of Steam had yet to arrive, so wind power ruled and the silhouettes of tall ships graced the horizons of the Great Lakes. This summer, Ontario celebrates the vital role played by those legendary tall ships in the War of 1812.



Discovery Harbour Historic Site, Penetanguishene

AHOY! THE TALL SHIPS ARE COMING!

Get ready for TALL SHIPS® 1812 Tour presented by Redpath Sugar, commemorating the major military battles that occurred on the Great Lakes during the War of 1812. From June through September, this flotilla of grand sailing vessels will visit ports of call – big and small – on all five Great Lakes in Canada and the United States. The ships will engage in races between ports with crews that will include young people from all over the world. This once-in-a-lifetime event will also help raise awareness about the health of the Great Lakes ecosystems.

LEARN THE ROPES!

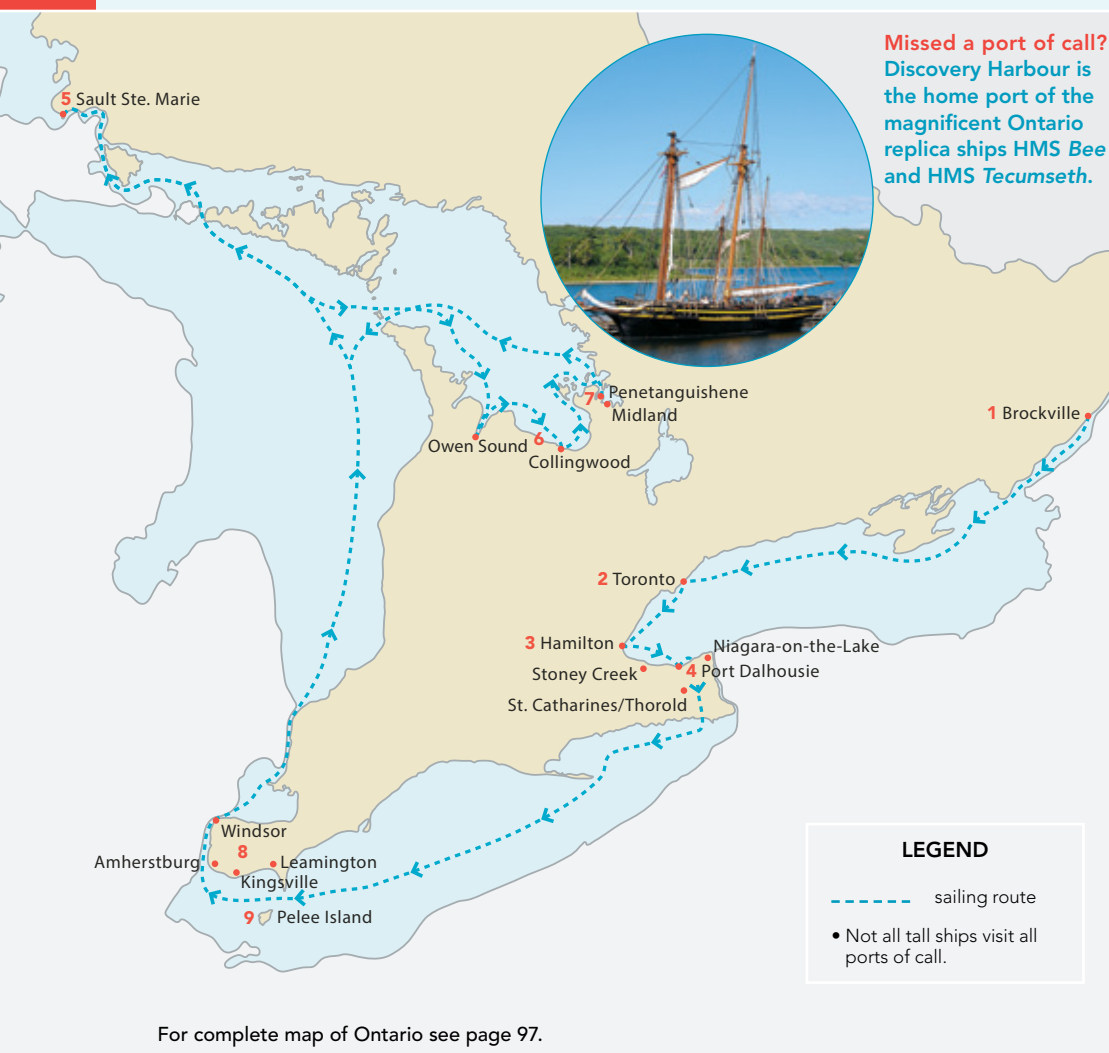
Board a Tall Ship and tour these magnificent vessels. Chat with crew members and find out the scuttlebutt. Learn about the teamwork it takes to sail smoothly under wind power. Back on land, take part in interactive activities. Witness an historical naval battle re-enactment. Be awed by the dramatic Parade of Sails and watch the fleet of tall ships sails as one.

Did you know?

According to legend, the women of Amherstburg marched to confront invading American forces face-to-face, resulting in the sparing of their town from a fiery end. The Women's March celebrates this brave action – see it come alive in Amherstburg during the Tall Ships Festival.

SEE THE TALL SHIPS 1812 Bicentennial Tour

Marvel at the majestic Tall Ships as they navigate their way through the Great Lakes, sharing their fascinating heritage with thousands of visitors in ports of call along the way.



Learn more about the War of 1812 – scan the QR code to download the Route 1812 mobile app.

www.1812.myweeverapp.com

1 BROCKVILLE June 14–16

Welcome the flotilla of Tall Ships to its first port of call as the ships launch their blockbuster tour of Ontario. Enjoy deck tours and sailing dinner tours. See a military encampment and experience a First Nations Pow Wow. Celtic entertainment, a wine festival, a children's pirate play area and fireworks are also on the menu.

www.celebrate1812.ca

2 TORONTO June 20–23

Come hang with your friends when the Redpath Waterfront Festival Toronto officially launches the TALL SHIPS® 1812 Tour. Tour the decks and meet the crews of these majestic historic ships. Enjoy live music, dance, 1812 interactive theatre, food and urban beach fun along with a host of other great things to do for adults, kids, families and lovers of all things nautical. Toronto is also the launch port of the TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® Great Lakes 2013, a series of sailing races between the ports of call. This will be your only chance to see the entire fleet of Tall Ships as they make their way through the Great Lakes.

www.towaterfrontfest.com

3 HAMILTON June 28–30

Be part of the Canada Day excitement as the Tall Ships arrive in Hamilton harbour. See the opening ceremonies and take part in a deck tour. There'll be plenty of free on-land activities for the family, music and refreshments. Enjoy the Parade of Sail and of course, the fireworks display finale.

www.1812hamilton.com



Discovery Harbour Historic Site, Penetanguishene

4 PORT DALHOUSIE June 29 & 30

Tour a trio of beautiful tall ships visiting St. Catharines. Meet the captain and deckhands of the *Unicorn*, the only all-female crewed tall ship in the world. Enjoy free programming and interactive entertainment. Go on rides at the Canada Day Carnival and cool off at Port Dalhousie's family-friendly beach.

www.niagara1812tallships.com

5 SAULT STE. MARIE July 19–21

Experience the 'Sails on the St. Marys' as the Tall Ships visit 'The Soo,' their only official Northern Ontario port of call. Tour a tall ship, and meet the crew. Learn local shipbuilding history. Check out HistoryFest at the Roberta Bondar Marina and Pavilion, and mingle with period re-enactors, visit encampments and listen to music from an earlier era.

www.algoma1812.com

6 OWEN SOUND/COLLINGWOOD August 16–18

The Tall Ships are coming! Get up close and personal with them using a convenient two-day boarding pass that allows you to take deck tours to all visiting ships. It also includes access to displays, theatre performances and a live entertainment tent. Plus you receive a souvenir passport with pictures and profiles of each ship.

www.1812bicentennial.com

7 PENETANGUISHENE, MIDLAND, DISCOVERY HARBOUR August 24 & 25

Experience the return of the Tall Ships to Southern Georgian Bay for an exciting weekend that celebrates marine heritage in the region. Check out the War of 1812 exhibits and displays at the Huronia Museum. Don't miss the Travelling War of 1812 Exhibit, which highlights the events and impact of the war in Simcoe County. Witness the stirring Parade of Sail, board the ships for a tour, and watch re-enactments. See the Tall Ships *Lynx* and *Friends Good Will* join the HMS *Tecumseth* and HMS *Bee*, which are permanently stationed at King's Wharf at Discovery Harbour Historic Site.

www.1812bicentennial.com

8 WINDSOR/AMHERSTBURG/ KINGSVILLE/LEAMINGTON/ August 30 – September 2

Four Windsor-Essex ports play host to the Tall Ships with a weekend of activities including tall ship tours, theatrical performances, the Officers' Ball and a parade. Don't miss the highlight – a dramatic re-enactment of the Battle of Lake Erie.

www.coastaltrails.ca

9 PEELEE ISLAND August 30 – September 2

Mainlanders...come to the island for an exciting weekend of War of 1812 festivities! Enjoy family activities and see local heritage performances at the Historic Vin Villa winery. Sip wine at the Pelee Island Winery Pavilion and watch a live streaming of the Re-enactment of the Battle of Lake Erie, or go out on a tall ship and witness the action first hand.

www.coastaltrails.ca



Festivals & Events

Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek

Stoney Creek

Step back in time and witness a 'turning point' battle of the War of 1812. Mingle with 19th century settlers and meet First Nations hero, Tecumseh. Enjoy food, games and entertainment.

May 31 – June 2

www.battlefieldhouse.ca

Emancipation Days

Dresden

Celebrate the dramatic life story of abolitionist Rev. Josiah Henson. Among many things, he led a Black militia in the Rebellion of 1837, following in the footsteps of Richard Pierpont, a former slave who helped raise the 'Colour Corp' to fight against the Americans in the War of 1812.

August 3

www.ontariosouthwest.com

Battle of Lake Erie Bicentennial Commemoration

Amherstburg

Travel two centuries back in time as Amherstburg transforms itself into an 1813 town with costumed re-enactors on every corner and tall ships in the harbour.

August 30 – September 2

www.1812ontario.ca



DOWNLOAD THE
**ONTARIO TRAVEL
MAGAZINE TABLET
APP** TO DIG DEEPER
INTO THE WAR OF 1812.

TO DISCOVER MORE:
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DISCOVER OUR Music Scene



FESTIVALS

NXNE (NORTH BY NORTHEAST) June 10–16

Hit the clubs, theatres and streets of Toronto for a colourful cultural mash-up of music and art. More than 900 bands playing alternative, hip-hop, indie/alt, folk and rock are showcased – plus check out films, comedy, art installations and interactive seminars.

www.nxne.com

THE SOUND OF MUSIC FESTIVAL June 13–16

Make your way to Canada's largest free music festival in Burlington featuring a mixed menu of musical styles. Aficionados of jazz, rock, folk, blues, Latin, big band, country and Celtic will all be glad they made the trip.

www.soundofmusic.ca

RBC ROYAL BANK BLUESFEST July 4–14

Catch some of the biggest names in blues, pop and rock at this popular outdoor festival in Ottawa featuring hundreds of acts performing on five stages. Don't miss headliner BB King – the King of the Blues!

www.ottawabluesfest.ca

CONCERTS

K-ROCK CENTRE

Kingston's premier entertainment venue hosts a variety of musical, sports and family-themed events. This summer's bill includes country legend Merle Haggard and former Police front man, Sting.

www.k-rockcentre.com

MASSEY HALL

For more than 115 years, this renowned Toronto landmark has been a very special place to see and hear dynamic musicians and performances. Its intimate ambience makes it a favourite of the performing artists too.

www.masseyhall.com

MOLSON AMPHITHEATRE Open yearly, May – September

Although it seats 16,000, this venue still offers an intimate feel with seats under the roof, under the sky and even on the lawn! Enjoy the relaxing open-air vibe while you watch some of the biggest acts in rock, pop and jazz.

www.molsonamphitheatre.net



CLUBS

CALL THE OFFICE

Billing itself as 'London's home of original live music,' this local landmark is a long-time supporter of indie underground bands. 'CTO' is great venue to catch up-and-coming acts from all over Canada, the United States and the world.

www.calltheoffice.com

HORSESHOE TAVERN

Open since 1947, this popular Toronto institution has been a springboard for many bands including Blue Rodeo and Our Lady Peace. Today 'The Shoe' continues to be a great place to catch rising country, indie and rock acts.

www.horseshoetavern.com

SOUND ACADEMY

One of Toronto's premier concert venues to catch rock and punk acts, Sound Academy also showcases top DJs from around the world.

www.sound-academy.com

Learn more about these regions. See pages 69, 73, 77, 83 and 85.

PERFORMING ARTS

CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY

Enjoy world-class opera at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Don't miss *Salome* by Richard Strauss, based on the scandalous play by Oscar Wilde. April 21 – May 22.

Dialogues des Carmélites. May 8–25.

www.coc.ca

PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE

South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone and *Avenue Q* co-creator Robert Lopez put their heads together for their adaptation of *The Book of Mormon*. This nine-time Tony Award-winning musical is brilliantly staged by Mirvish Productions. April 30 – June 9.

www.mirvish.com



Heather Ogden and Noah Long with Artists of the Ballet in *Carmen*. Photo: Sian Richards

DANCE

NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA

Unleash emotions at this new full-length version of *Carmen*, George Bizet's popular classic opera. June 5–16. *Pur ti Miro & No. 24 & The Man in Black & Theme and Variations*. June 19–23.

www.national.ballet.ca

TO DISCOVER MORE:
ontariotravel.net
+ CLICK THINGS TO DO

Ontario by Region

Discover adventures in every corner of Ontario. Step back in time at historic forts and heritage sites. Get active outdoors and paddle down rivers, ride ziplines, hit the links and hike historic trails. Be dazzled by the colour and culture of the big city or unwind at resorts and spas in the quiet of the countryside. Explore fascinating museums and galleries, and witness great stage performances. With so many great things to see and do, Ontario gives you a world of getaway choices.



SOUTHWEST ONTARIO

See a vintage car collection, go ‘beaching’ with the family or paddle down the Grand River. Learn about the Underground Railroad. Experience a Wilderness Mushroom Foray Adventure. Tour around Essex Pelee Island Coast Wine Country.

NIAGARA

Take a Journey Behind the Falls or hover above them from a View to a Thrill with Niagara Helicopters. Splash away the afternoon at a water park. Take a Segway tour of a winery and later, hit the spa.

HAMILTON, HALTON AND BRANT

Explore a 19th century castle. Take in the Highland Games or a music festival. Explore charming downtowns and browse antique stores. Visit the lush Royal Botanical Gardens.

HURON, PERTH, WATERLOO AND WELLINGTON

Soak up the warmth in this freshwater beach paradise. See a Shakespearean comedy and go deeper with Shakespeare Beyond the Stage. Go on a tubing adventure down a river.

GREATER TORONTO AREA

Get a bird’s-eye view of Toronto on EdgeWalk at the CN Tower. Explore the Royal Ontario Museum and the Art Gallery of Ontario, and discover the Ontario Science Centre.

YORK, DURHAM AND HILLS OF HEADWATERS

See life-size dinosaurs at Canada’s Wonderland. Get up close to nature at a wildlife reserve. Find organic produce at farmers’ markets. Visit the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

BRUCE PENINSULA, SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY AND LAKE SIMCOE

Walk barefoot along kilometres of sandy beaches. Take a ferry to the world’s largest freshwater island. Experience Scenic Caves Nature Adventures. Learn local heritage at Huronia Historical Parks.

KAWARTHA AND NORTHUMBERLAND

Take a boat cruise through the world’s highest hydraulic lift locks. Cycle down a rail trail. Lift off in a float plane with Free Spirit Air Adventures at Elmhirst’s Resort.

SOUTH EASTERN ONTARIO

Nibble on artisan cheeses and sample wines along the Taste Trail. Compete in a fishing derby. Explore Fort Henry National Historic Site. Take a scenic cruise with the 1000 Islands Rockport Boat Line.

OTTAWA AND COUNTRYSIDE

Wander museums and see the collections at the National Gallery of Canada. Learn culinary arts at Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa. Splash at a gigantic theme water park. Navigate a maze or stop by a roadside stand in the countryside.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS TO THE OTTAWA VALLEY

Fish, paddle and swim in thousands of lakes. Go caving or fossil hunting. Climb a lookout tower. Learn about Algonquin traditions and find authentic Aboriginal arts and crafts.

ALGONQUIN PARK, ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS, MUSKOKA AND PARRY SOUND

Chill out at a resort and spa. Hit the long ball on a designer golf course or play a round of disc golf. Visit a cranberry bog. Camp out at a provincial park. Experience an Algonquin Canoe and Log Cabin Adventure with Voyageur Quest.

NORTHERN ONTARIO – NORTHEAST

Experience a firefighting adventure in 4D at Science North. Stay at lodge on the world’s largest freshwater island and catch a northern pike or dance the night away at a Pow Wow. Board the Polar Bear Express to Moosonee and relax at an eco-lodge.

NORTHERN ONTARIO – NORTH CENTRAL

Enjoy the best of big city and pristine wilderness. Listen to the symphony or glimpse wildlife in a game preserve. Watch Tall Ships sail by. Get hands-on at a bush plane museum.

NORTHERN ONTARIO – NORTHWEST

Immerse yourself in true wilderness and go camping, canoeing, kayaking and hiking. Embark on a fly-in fishing adventure. Explore a lake with 14,000 islands. Step back in time at Fort William Historical Park, an 1800s fur trading post. Go on an eco-adventure and sleep in a yurt.



GO PLACES SOUTHWEST.

Set your destination for Ontario's Southwest and get ready for adventure at every turn.

Explore lush nature trails through a Carolinian forest oasis. Relax on sun-drenched sandy beaches. Cruise winding scenic coastline. Discover vineyards, apiaries, fragrant lavender farms and over 200 unforgettable music and arts festivals.



Experience a region shaped by nature.
OntariosSouthwest.com/GPS



ONTARIO
Yours to discover

Ontario's
Southwest
 Shaped by nature

SOUTHWEST ONTARIO



Point Pelee

Experience history, nature and lots of fun in Ontario's sunny south. Explore the great outdoors in Carolinian forests, marshlands and wide-open spaces. Trace the Underground Railroad through historic sites. Treat the kids to family-friendly parks and museums. Journey to the most southerly point in Canada.

LONDON

Explore and discover the London Regional Children's Museum. See a fairytale come to life at Storybook Gardens. Tour the historic Grand Theatre, a cultural gem that is Canada's longest-running live theatre.

NORFOLK COUNTY: PORT DOVER TO LONG POINT

Stroll along the Port Dover pier and soak up the sun on the sandy beach. Catch a play at the Lighthouse Festival Theatre. Sample the creations of the county's wineries and micro-breweries. See thousands of monarch butterflies at the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve.

WINDSOR – ESSEX – PEELEE ISLAND

Stroll along Windsor's Riverfront Trail and see the beautiful Peace Garden in Coventry Gardens. Hop on the ferry to Pelee Island, explore the island by bike and visit the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary.

ELGIN COUNTY

Ride the rails in Canada's Railway Capital, St. Thomas. Learn about local heritage at the Elgin Military Museum, and Port Burwell Marine Museum and Historic Lighthouse. Spend an afternoon at the beach in scenic Port Stanley.

HALDIMAND COUNTY

Pitch a tent by the Grand River and take a guided kayak tour down the river. Cast your line into Lake Erie, an angler's paradise. Visit heritage museums and learn about War of 1812 history in the area.

OXFORD COUNTY

Tour Amish countryside and browse farmers' markets for fresh, local Ontario produce. Enjoy dinner theatre in an intimate barn setting and stay overnight in a country inn and spa, or a charming B&B.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Hike the Carolinian forests of the Mosa Forest Conservation Trail or hit the links with a variety of golf courses suited to every level of golfer.

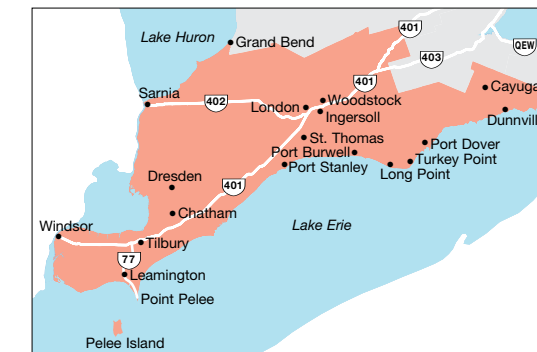
CHATHAM-KENT

Rest and relax on family-friendly beaches in Canada's 'sunny south.' Visit Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden and discover the history of the Underground Railroad. Be awed by more than 60 rare, vintage automobiles at the RM Classic Car Exhibit.

SARNIA-LAMBTON

Build sandcastles on the legendary sandy beach at Pinery Provincial Park in Grand Bend. Take a fascinating driving tour through the Oil Heritage District.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Art Gallery of Windsor
- Byng Island Conservation Area, Dunnville
- Covent Garden Market, London
- Essex Pelee Island Coast Wine Country
- Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London
- **NEW** International Children's Games, August 14–19, Windsor
- Long Point Eco-Adventures, Turkey Point
- North American Railway Hall of Fame, St. Thomas
- Woodstock Art Gallery



Port Stanley



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gostransit.com ou composer un des numéros ci-dessus.



NIAGARA



Look with wonder at the thundering Falls. Feel the spray from a boat below or get a bird's-eye view from a helicopter above. Hike greenbelt trails and wander War of 1812 battlefields. Sample Ontario's very own Icewine. Relax in welcoming inns and B&Bs, combined with a spa package.

NIAGARA REGION

Hear the roar of the cascading water on a Journey Behind the Falls. Make a splash at hotels and resorts with water parks like Great Wolf Lodge and Fallsview Indoor Waterpark. Marvel at dolphins, sea lions and killer whales as they perform at Marineland. Ramp up your adrenalin on a thrilling Whirlpool Jet Tour. Enjoy the wacky and the wonderful at Clifton Hill.

Follow the Niagara River by foot, bike or on rollerblades along the scenic Niagara River Parkway, featuring recreation trails, historic sites and gardens, including the Floral Clock. Be sure to visit the homestead of Canadian heroine, Laura Secord.

Watch Great Lakes tankers pass through the locks of the Welland Canal, a 19th century man-made marvel. Stroll the picturesque town of Niagara-on-the-Lake where you can see the plays of George Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries brought to life at the Shaw Festival. Take a swing on more than 40 local golf courses.

WINE COUNTRY

Journey along the Niagara Wine Route and discover some of Ontario's finest vintages at more than 70 local wineries. Savour wine and food pairings at Peller Estates Winery. Learn the finer points of organic winemaking at Frogpond Farm Organic Winery. Sip the latest vintages at Creekside Estate Winery or take a tour of Henry of Pelham Estates Winery.

Soothe body and soul with a Berries and Bliss body wrap treatment at The Spa at White Oaks in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Take a culinary vacation at the Wine Country Cooking School at Strewn Estate Winery. Rent a bike and take a winery tour. Stay at a charming B&B or vintage inn.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Butterfly Conservatory, Niagara Falls
- **NEW** Canoe Niagara 2013, August 1–4, Welland
- Family Backstage Tours, The Shaw Festival Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Floral Showhouse, Niagara River Parkway
- Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort, Niagara Falls
- Niagara's Fury, Niagara Falls
- Niagara Helicopters Ltd., Niagara Falls
- **NEW** Niagara Segway Tours, St. Catharines
- Queenston Heights Park, Queenston





find your way to the heart of ontario
and discover...



Rock Climbing and Trails



African Lion Safari,
Hamilton



War of 1812

knockout nature

Home to signature landscapes including the Niagara Escarpment, the Grand River, the Bruce Trail, Lake Ontario shorelines and a collection of more than 100 waterfalls, these unique natural settings create a beautiful backdrop for some of Ontario's best trails, recreational routes and outdoor activities.

rich history and culture

Celebrate and explore Canada's past at our interactive museums and beautifully preserved heritage sites. With hip galleries, quiet countryside studios, festivals, concerts and passionate small stage productions, our distinct range of cultural pursuits is sure to please.



Dundurn Castle, Hamilton

Natural beauty takes centre stage in this region. The scenic Niagara Escarpment (a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve) carves through the area while the tranquil Grand River offers a variety of recreational options. Hike the historic Bruce Trail or try geocaching at a conservation area. Enjoy the charms of local art galleries, museums and heritage homes

HAMILTON

Step back into the 19th century with a tour of Dundurn Castle. Test your flying skills in a flight combat simulator at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope. Visit the African Lion Safari and see lions, rhinos and many other exotic animals from the safety of your car. Appreciate works of art at the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

BURLINGTON

See rare plants and flowers at the Royal Botanical Gardens or visit during one of their annual floral festivals. Stroll along the city's scenic Waterfront Trail and discover parks and conservation areas. Join in at lively festivals like the Sound of Music and Canada's Largest Ribfest.

OAKVILLE

Hang out at a heritage farmhouse, let the kids loose in a children's playbarn or camp close to home at Bronte Creek Provincial Park. Check out the Oakville Jazz Festival for great shopping, dining and amazing music. Browse boutiques, art galleries and gourmet food purveyors.

COUNTY OF BRANT

Admire the cobblestone architecture and browse the specialty shops of Paris, one of Ontario's prettiest towns. Stop by farm gates and farmers' markets for local, fresh

produce. Make unique finds at antique stores in quaint St. George and be dazzled by the well-manicured gardens of tiny Glen Morris.

SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER TERRITORY

Enjoy the serenity of the historic Royal Chapel of the Mohawks. Be part of the fun of a traditional Aboriginal dance competition at the Grand River Champion of Champions Pow Wow.

HALTON HILLS

Practice your Scottish brogue at the Georgetown Highland Games. Take your pick of fresh produce and flowers at weekly farmers' markets.

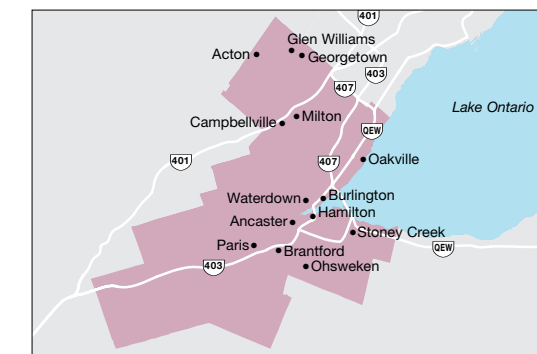
BRANTFORD

Raft or canoe down the mighty Grand River and encounter wildlife. Be amazed by locally grown and designed gardens. Visit Alexander Graham Bell's homestead and be greeted by guides in period costume.

MILTON

Learn about local heritage at an interactive museum. Find local food, crafts and collectibles at the Milton Farmers' Market. Enjoy hiking and wildlife viewing at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area in Milton.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- **NEW** Battle of Stoney Creek Re-enactment and Bicentennial Celebration, May 31 – June 2. See page 63.
- Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, Oakville
- Chiefswood National Historic Site, Ohsweken
- Chocolate Sensations, Paris
- Hamilton Air Show, June 15 & 16
- Joseph Brant Museum, Burlington
- Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre, Glen Williams



Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington

fantastic family fun

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ONTARIO
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*Preserving the Past
While Building the Future*



HURON, PERTH, WATERLOO AND WELLINGTON



St. Jacobs

Discover wonders from the natural world, from exotic animals to deep gorges. Enjoy theatre – from Shakespeare to summer stock. Stoke your adrenalin and tube down a rushing river. Savour locally grown cuisine. Cool off at a water park. The shores of Lake Huron offer history, fun and nature for all ages.

HURON COUNTY – ONTARIO'S WEST COAST

Relax on some of the best freshwater beaches in the world. Witness world-class sunsets from Amberly to Grand Bend. Enjoy performances from a quartet of theatres – Blyth Festival, Huron Country Playhouse, The Livery and the Town Hall Heritage Theatre – offering a playlist that spans Broadway performances to local Canadian productions.

PERTH COUNTY

Explore the Thames Nature Trail and Wetlands, a local mecca for outdoor enthusiasts. Spend time in Amish Country in the charming communities of Millbank, Newton, Milverton and Shakespeare. Browse local shops for crafts, collectibles and fresh local cheeses, meats and fruits.

STRATFORD

Revisit the story of the star-crossed lovers in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Take a Costume and Props tour. Meet growers of gourmet vegetables on an Epicurean Trek. Good food is big in Stratford with culinary classes, tastings, food festivals and some of Canada's finest chefs and dining experiences.

WATERLOO REGION

Sample the area's rich cultural heritage. Tour historic Castle Kilbride or check out arts, crafts and traditional folk music and dance at the Mill Race Folk Festival in Cambridge. Take the kids to Big Splash Waterpark in Kitchener for the day.

ST. JACOBS COUNTRY

Browse one of Canada's largest year-round farmers' markets for local produce and crafts. Discover the Mill Exhibits – five self-guided tours, which include a model railway of 1940s St. Jacobs.

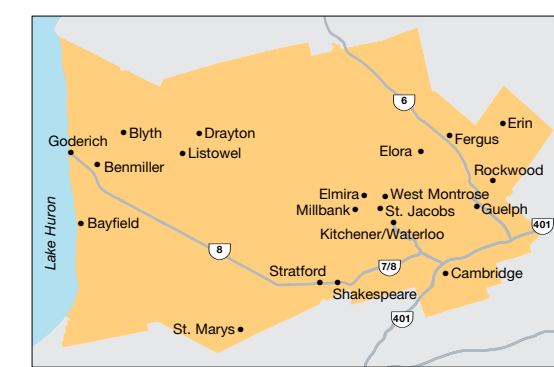
ELORA-FERGUS

Go tubing or just enjoy the view at the spectacular Elora Gorge. Sample the boutiques and shops of historic downtown Elora. Haggis, highland dancing and bagpipes are a treat for the senses at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games, North America's largest celebration of Scottish culture.

GUELPH-WELLINGTON

Enjoy family-favourite *The Sound of Music* at a Drayton Theatre playhouse. Tour a craft brewery and taste why the area has a reputation for brewing fine ales and lagers.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Elora Festival
- Maitland Trail, Huron County
- Quilt and Fibre Art Festival, St. Jacobs May 21–25
- Stratford Chefs School
- Thames Nature Trail, Perth County
- THEMUSEUM, Kitchener
- The Quarry swimming pool, St. Marys
- West Montrose Covered Bridge



Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory

DOWNLOADS OF FUN

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ONTARIO
Yours to discover

GREATER TORONTO AREA



Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival, Toronto

Discover Ontario's most dynamic and cosmopolitan city. See classic and contemporary masterpieces in museums, galleries and heritage buildings throughout the city. Watch performing arts at every turn, while a marvellous mosaic of neighbourhoods offers foods and festivals from all over the world.

TORONTO

Catch an amazing panorama of the city from the top of the iconic CN Tower and then put your nerves to the test on the thrilling EdgeWalk. Explore the mysteries of history and nature at the Royal Ontario Museum. Have 'aha!' moments at the Ontario Science Centre. Bag great buys at the Toronto Eaton Centre or browse the bohemian offerings of Kensington Market. See the giant pandas as they settle into their new home at the Toronto Zoo. Escape to the serenity of the Toronto Islands with a short ferry ride. Here, you'll also discover Centerville Amusement Park, a family favourite.

Marvel at the gardens and explore the secret passages and 98 decorated suites of historic Casa Loma. Stroll cobblestone streets and browse the artisans' galleries of the Distillery Historic District. Enjoy great dining on the patios and courtyards of Little Italy and Greektown on the Danforth. Witness world-class performances by the National Ballet of Canada and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. See great cinema – from the classics to the avant-garde – at the TIFF Bell Lightbox. Step out on Toronto's streets and enjoy Luminato, a festival that celebrates visual and performance arts, literature, food and fashion.

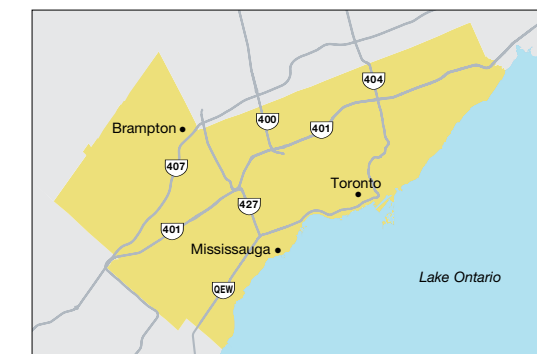
MISSISSAUGA

Explore the Waterfront Trail along 22 km (14 mi.) of interconnected park trails or rent a pedal boat from Lakefront Promenade Marina and explore the harbour. Dig the jazz and blues at Port Credit's Southside Shuffle. Explore charming boutiques and craft shops in Port Credit, Mississauga's Village on the Lake. Score great buys at Square One Shopping Centre, featuring more than 365 stores. Enjoy an exciting variety of performance arts at the Living Arts Centre and Stage West Theatre Restaurant.

BRAMPTON

Take a self-guided garden tour of Canada's Flower City. Enjoy a sunny day at Heart Lake Conservation Area with a swim and picnic lunch. Visit the Great War Flying Museum, which pays homage to the pilots and planes of the First World War. Hit the trails on horseback at Claireville Ranch or Creditview Stables. At Wild Water Kingdom, kick back on the Lazy River. See the works of local artists at Beaux-Arts Brampton and Art Gallery of the Rose Theatre.

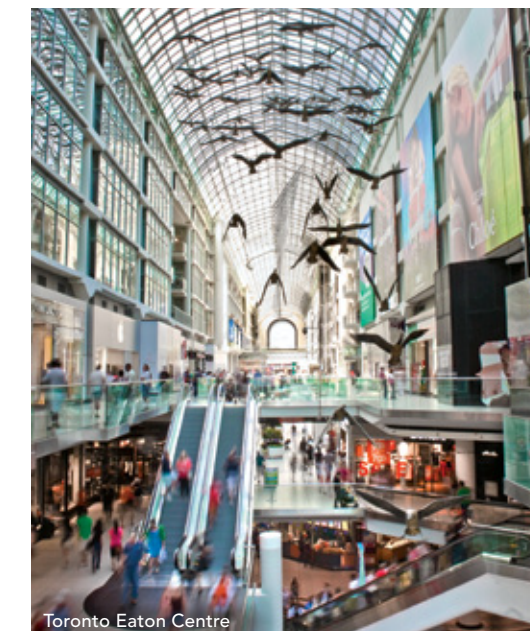
PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
- **NEW** Honda Indy (Doubleheader) July 12–14, Toronto
- **NEW** Giant Pandas, Toronto Zoo. See page 50.
- Mosaic South Asian Heritage Festival of Mississauga, August 16 & 17
- Ontario Science Centre, Toronto
- Pride Toronto, June 21–30
- **NEW** Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, Toronto. See page 10.
- Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival, July 9 – August 4, Toronto



Toronto Eaton Centre



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Outdoor Adventure



Golf & Recreation



Arts & Cuisine



Family Thrills

YORK, DURHAM AND HILLS OF HEADWATERS



Canada's Wonderland, Vaughan

Here you can experience the best of all worlds from urban sophistication to charming countryside. Sample farm-fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets, orchards and roadside stands. Browse one-of-a-kind keepsakes from local artisans. Ride giant roller coasters or visit zoos with the family.

**HILLS OF HEADWATERS
(Dufferin and Peel Region)**

Take a studio tour and discover the artistry of potters, painters and woodcarvers in woodland studios or local galleries. Criss-cross the scenic back roads of Hockley Valley and picturesque Caledon Hills. Play a round of golf – the Niagara Escarpment's sloping terrain provides a range of memorable golfing experiences to challenge every level. Ride the rolling hills on horseback in one of the province's highest concentrations of horse breeders and stables. Have your pick of fresh locally grown fruits, vegetables and specialty products at Orangeville Farmers' Market on Broadway and Inglewood Farmers' Market. Visit the welcoming towns and villages of Caledon, Terra Cotta and Inglewood.

YORK REGION

Visit Reptilia, home to a 4.25 m (14 ft.) King Cobra named Elvis, plus 52 other large reptile exhibits. At Canada's Wonderland in Vaughan, ride the Leviathan – a 'gigacoaster' – and then cool off at the 8-hectare (20-acre) water park. Perfect your swing on more than 70 golf courses in the area, including Angus Glen, one of Ontario's top public courses. Enjoy the thrill of the bargain hunt at Vaughan Mills, a marvellous mix of factory outlets stores and concept stores.

DURHAM REGION

Harvest your favourite fruits and vegetables at pick-your-own farms. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife in the protected habitats of McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve in Oshawa. Hike the rolling hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Walk, jog, bike or in-line skate on the scenic Waterfront Trail along Lake Ontario's shoreline. Golf at a championship course. Go for a spin at Canada's largest motorsports complex, Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES
OF THE REGION

- Bowmanville Zoo
- Caledon Farmers' Market, Bolton
- **NEW** 'Dinosaurs Alive' at Canada's Wonderland, Vaughan
- **NEW** LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre, Vaughan. See page 11.
- McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg
- **NEW** Treetop Eco-Adventure Park, Oshawa. See page 11.
- Parkwood National Historic Site, Oshawa



LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre, Vaughan

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

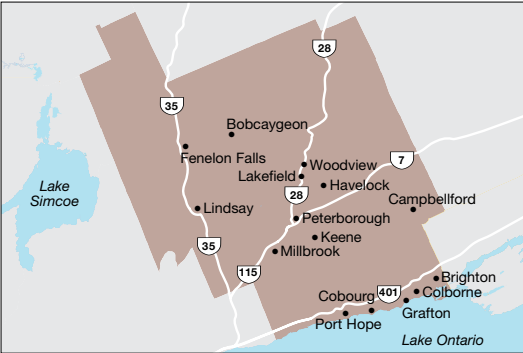
MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- **NEW** Blue Mountain Timber Challenge High Ropes, The Village at Blue Mountain
- Bruce Peninsula Mountain Bike Adventure Park, Wiarton
- Bruce’s Caves Conservation Area, Wiarton
- Fathom Five National Marine Park, Tobermory
- Sauble Falls Provincial Park, located near Sauble Falls
- Scenic Caves Nature Adventures, Collingwood



Bruce Peninsula

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- 4th Line Theatre, Millbrook
- Classics on Kent Car Show, July 14, Lindsay
- Cobourg Waterfront Festival, June 29 – July 1
- Havelock Country Jamboree, August 15–18
- Whetung Ojibwa Centre, Curve Lake
- World’s Finest Chocolate Canada Company, Campbellford



Lindsay



Blue Mountain Resort, The Village at Blue Mountain

Play on sun-soaked beaches with warm, shallow waters and kilometres of sand. Explore the trails and caves of the Niagara Escarpment. Enjoy a picnic beside a waterfall. Dive underwater and find shipwrecks and unique treasures. Stay awhile and enjoy the hospitality of quaint country inns and local B&Bs.

BRUCE COUNTY

Explore the 850 km (528 mi.) of the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron coastline. Hike and bike along its scenic shores or paddle and dive its clear waters. Take a ride from Tobermory to Manitoulin Island aboard the MS *Chi-Cheemaun*. Cool off in the clear turquoise water of the Grotto – a swimming hole with underwater caves – located in Bruce Peninsula National Park. Take a shoreline drive and discover historic lighthouses. Take the gang to a mountain bike park or try your skills at geocaching. Trek the famous Bruce Trail and stay in welcoming B&Bs along the way.

GREY COUNTY

Hike the ancient paths of the Niagara Escarpment and enjoy panoramic views. Take a tour of the escarpment’s many beautiful waterfalls. Challenge yourself by rock climbing. Cast your lines in local rivers and lakes and reel in a bass, pike or trout! View iconic paintings of Canadian landscapes at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery in Owen Sound. Soar above the treetops on a zipline. Go spelunking and explore caverns and grottoes in conservation areas and nature reserves. Hike or bike along the scenic Georgian Trail connecting Meaford to Collingwood. Visit a water park or take a gondola ride in the Village at Blue Mountain.

SIMCOE COUNTY

Build the world’s biggest sandcastles at Wasaga Beach, the world’s longest freshwater beach. At Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre in Midland, get closer to nature on a wildlife hike, or paddle through the marsh. Travel back to the 1600s to see how Aboriginal and early settler cultures came together at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland. Rent a houseboat and explore the Trent-Severn Waterway. Go treetop trekking in Barrie. Find a treasure at Kempenfest on Barrie’s waterfront with more than 350 arts and crafts exhibitors. Unwind at a resort on Lake Simcoe and enjoy swimming, boating and golfing, and then recharge at a spa.



Egan Houseboat Rentals, Omemee. Photo: Michel Julien

Experience the rich history and culture of this picturesque region that transforms from rolling hills in the south to forested Canadian Shield in the north. Look up and see winged migrations or climb down cool caves. Enjoy theatre in the great outdoors. Take in a music festival or take part in a Pow Wow. Learn about early Canadians at pioneer villages and historic sites.

PETERBOROUGH AND THE KAWARTHAS

Cruise the beautiful Trent-Severn Waterway aboard a double-deck replica side wheeler and experience the historic Peterborough Hydraulic Liftlock, the highest in the world. Or explore by bike along the Trent River Truckin’ trail, which runs for 63 km (39 mi.) adjacent to the waterway. See the world’s largest collection of canoes and kayaks at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough. View 1,000-year-old Aboriginal rock carvings at Petroglyphs Provincial Park in Woodview. Explore caves, trails and a beach by day, and then camp by night at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area and Campground. Slip back in time at the Lang Pioneer Village Museum.

CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES

Witness the engineering feats at the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site. Cruise the waterway’s picturesque lakes aboard the *Kawartha Spirit*. See a performance of the classic mystery *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, at the Lakeview Arts Barn in Bobcaygeon. Check out some of Canada’s oldest

running cars, plus other early automotive memorabilia at the Horseless Carriage Museum in Fenelon Falls. Visit the exhibits and historic homes of Kawarthas Settlers’ Village. Bike or hike along the Victoria Rail Trail Corridor and view the waterfalls at Lock 34.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Hear world-class music in an open barn setting at the Westben Arts Festival Theatre in Campbellford. Port Hope’s Cameco Capitol Arts Centre offers live theatre, concerts and film screenings. Hike along the Oak Ridges Trail, with more than 275 km (170 mi.) of main pathways. Visit Barnum House and see an example of fine neo-classical architecture.

Unwind and recharge at spas, inns and wellness studios dotted throughout the area. Go antiquing and shop for unique artefacts in Cobourg’s downtown district, then hit the beach just steps away from its vibrant main street. Camp, hike and cycle at Presqu’île Provincial Park, a mecca for birdwatchers, while picturesque Rice Lake is an ideal destination for swimmers, anglers and nature lovers.

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SOUTH EASTERN ONTARIO



Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg

Attention nature lovers, history buffs and connoisseurs of culture! You will absolutely love this region stretching along the St. Lawrence River and the northeastern shores of Lake Ontario. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife in provincial parks or cruise among the 1000 Islands. Savour local flavours on the Taste Trail. See Ontario's history come alive at forts and museums.

LAND O' LAKES

Swim, paddle or fish local lakes – there are 5,000 of them! Wind along the cycling trails through the countryside of the County of Lennox & Addington. Stay at a local B&B.

CORNWALL AND THE COUNTIES

Tour a working 1860s village at Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg. Face life-size dinosaurs at Prehistoric World. Trek along the St. Lawrence River on the scenic Waterfront Trail Recreational Path.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Immerse yourself in the flavours of the Taste Trail and discover local artisan cheeses, craft beers and award-winning wine. Follow the Arts Trail to the studios of local painters, sculptors and potters. Fish the waters of the walleye capital of Ontario.

KINGSTON

Visit Ontario's only World Heritage destination and be awed by the city's stunning Victorian limestone architecture. Browse the Kingston Public Market for crafts and antiques. Hear top musicians perform at the Limestone City Blues Festival. Delve into Kingston's many fascinating museums and historic sites and browse Princess Street boutiques for local treasures.

BAY OF QUINTE

Learn about Canada's military aviation history at the National Air Force Museum in Trenton. Join the fun at the Kiwanis Walleye World Fishing Derby and get tips from pro anglers.

LEEDS-GRENVILLE

Explore the islands of St. Lawrence National Park. Tour Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada.

BROCKVILLE

Sip and sample gourmet cuisine and wine at the 1000 Islands Wine & Food Festival. Read from a weatherman's teleprompter at the new AQUAtarium, featuring many interactive exhibits. Celebrate Canada Day at Riverfest, with Brockville's scenic waterfront as your backdrop.

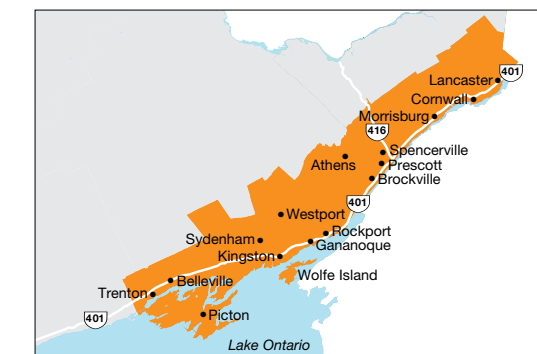
GANANOQUE

Relax on a Lost Ships of the 1000 Islands Cruise and see grand homes and tiny islands. Stroll Gananoque's impressive waterfront or hit the links for a round of golf.

RIDEAU HERITAGE ROUTE

Cruise the 202-km (126 mi.) Rideau Canal, Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit quaint towns and villages along the Historic Rideau Heritage Route.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- 1000 Islands Rockport Boat Line
- **NEW** AQUAtarium, Brockville
- Birding at Prince Edward Point
- Fort Henry National Historic Site, Kingston
- Frontenac Provincial Park, Sydenham
- Prehistoric World, Morrisburg
- Sandbanks Provincial Park, Picton
- Spencerville Mill



Prince Edward County

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Bring your significant other to Ottawa this summer and share what you love best. Art and culture at our national museums and galleries. Sightseeing and discovery at national landmarks and attractions. Fine dining, spas and shopping in the ByWard Market and other urban districts. Plus giant music festivals, celebration and recreation in the great outdoors. Visit online for great deals and getaway packages.

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OTTAWA AND COUNTRYSIDE



Take a trip to Canada's national capital and discover historic sites, cultural gems and natural wonders. Explore the great buildings of Parliament where history is made. Enjoy the peace and quiet of rural life without leaving the big city. Head to the country, where family fun abounds in mazes and wave pools. Join Ottawa in celebrating Samuel de Champlain's 400th anniversary of his voyage of discovery up the Ottawa River.

CITY OF OTTAWA

Hunt for treasures and enjoy fine dining at the ByWard Market, one of Canada's oldest public markets. Walk the cobblestones and browse the boutiques of pedestrian-friendly Sparks Street.

Discover a treasure trove of museums and galleries. Admire the masters at the National Gallery of Canada and enjoy the great outdoors indoors at the Canadian Museum of Nature. Go circulate at the Royal Canadian Mint. Bask in the beautiful colours of the Canadian Tulip Festival in May. Refine your cooking skills at Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa Culinary Arts.

Walk or bike along the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See Ottawa glitter at night on a boat cruise. Witness the majesty of the world-famous RCMP Musical Ride. On Parliament Hill, be awed by the inspirational outdoor sound and light show exploring Canada's history. Be sure to see the stirring Changing the Guard ceremony.

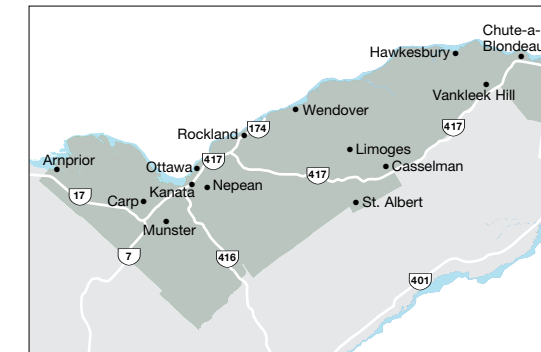
OTTAWA'S COUNTRYSIDE

Take a slippery ride down more than 35 water slides, splash in a giant wave pool and chill out on the lazy river at Calypso Waterpark, Canada's largest theme waterpark in Limoges. Lose yourself in the largest collection of hedge mazes in North America at Saunders Farm. At the Diefenbunker in Carp, descend into a Cold War-era bunker. Challenge yourself on some of the best whitewater rafting east of the Rockies.

Discover the work of talented artists on studio tours in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. Stop by farm gates and farmers' markets for fresh, local produce.

Challenge yourself on a championship golf course – there are more courses per capita here than any other city in Canada. Hit the spa for a relaxing, therapeutic massage.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

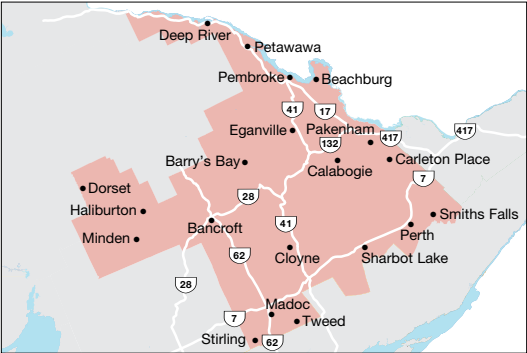
MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Aboriginal Voyageur – Aboriginal Experiences, Turtle Island, Ottawa
- Beau's All Natural Brewing Company, Vankleek Hill
- Canada Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa
- Canadian Aviation and Space Museum, Ottawa
- National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
- Parliament Buildings Tour, Ottawa
- RBC Ottawa Bluesfest, July 4–14
- TD Ottawa International Jazz Festival, June 20 – July 1



National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Annual Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn Traditional Pow Wow, Golden Lake, August 16–18
- Canadian Clock Museum, Deep River
- Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower
- Five-Span Stone Bridge, Pakenham
- Haliburton Sculpture Forest
- Mill of Kintail, Mississippi Mills
- O’Hara Mill Homestead and Conservation Area, Madoc



Minden



Head to Haliburton where outdoor adventures rule. Navigate the Ottawa Valley’s historic waterways and legendary whitewater rapids. Go fishing and land a luncker. Hike among towering hardwood forests and the rocky terrain of the Canadian Shield. Discover treasures in shops and boutiques in charming downtowns.

UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY
Ride the rapids – some of them Class V – on the Ottawa River, known as the Whitewater Capital of Canada. Trace the history of Pembroke in more than 30 heritage murals. Set out on a fossil hunt at Bonnechere Museum in Eganville – the Ordovician Fossil Capital of Canada.

OTTAWA VALLEY SOUTH
Hike to the top of Blueberry Mountain at cliffLAND and enjoy a spectacular view or take a tour of the Silver Queen Mica Mine. See rare orchids in bloom at Show Lady’s Slippers Orchids, Canada’s largest orchid colony. These are just three of the Seven Wonders of Lanark Country.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
Walk with your head in the clouds on boardwalks suspended in trees at the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve. Climb to the top of the Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower for a panoramic view of the Algonquin Highlands. Take the family on a horseback riding adventure. Hunt for a charming keepsake in arts and crafts shops.

NORTH HASTINGS
See a breathtaking panorama of the Bancroft area from 60 m (200 ft.) above ground at the Eagle’s Nest. Explore the quaint shops, studios and bistros of downtown Bancroft.

COMFORT COUNTRY
Applaud great performances at Stirling Festival Theatre. Discover the past and present at Tweed Heritage Centre and historic Tweed Jailhouse, North America’s smallest jailhouse.

ALGONQUIN NATION
Explore traditions through cultural activities and artefacts at The Algonquin Way Cultural Centre in Golden Lake. Find authentic Aboriginal arts and crafts at the Algonquin Trading Post.

LAND O’ LAKES
Paddle, swim or cast a line into a lake – there are thousands! See centuries-old Aboriginal pictographs drawn on 91 m (300 ft.) cliffs at Bon Echo Provincial Park. Explore the Canadian Shield by bike on the County Trail Cycling Trails.

Welcome to the Explorers’ Edge region of Ontario, a vast region of incomparable beauty, and home to iconic travel destinations. Slow down and relax in this vacation mecca. Stay at a local resort and spend the day on the local links or relax in a spa. Put your feet up dockside in a Muskoka chair. With more than 4,000 picturesque lakes and five major rivers, this region is perfect for cruising, camping and cooling off all summer long.

MUSKOKA
Relax at a lakeside resort or house-keeping cottage with lots of activities for the family. Play on the beach or take your pick of waters perfect for paddling, sailing or swimming. Hit the long ball on championship golf courses surrounded by gorgeous Canadian Shield landscapes. Shop for antiques and unique treasures in local towns.

Take a cruise on the RMS Segwun, North America’s oldest operating steamship and see Millionaires’ Row. View North America’s only in-water exhibit of working antique boats at the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre. Spend a day with the family at Santa’s Village and Sportsland or release your inner eagle at Eaglecrest Aerial Park.

GEORGIAN BAY COUNTRY – PARRY SOUND
Experience the 30,000 Islands of the Georgian Bay UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve – it’s ideal for hiking, boating and wildlife viewing. Trek, cycle or go by horseback along the Park to Park Trail that connects Killbear and Algonquin provincial parks. Camp out and fish for your supper at Georgian Bay Islands National Park or get a bird’s-eye view

with a flight from Georgian Bay Airways. Camp or park your trailer at one of seven provincial parks in the area.

ALGONQUIN PARK
Paddle more than 2,100 km (1,305 mi.) of rivers and lakes to spot wildlife and soak in the scenery. Visit a local outfitter or come prepared and camp in the park – by tent, yurt, ranger cabin or RV. Enjoy many family-friendly activities such as the Junior Rangers, and the Park Helper Children’s Program. At the Algonquin Provincial Park Visitor Centre, learn about the history of the park and head out to the viewing deck for a spectacular panorama of the park landscape. And don’t miss the public wolf howl!

ALMAGUIN
Hike the Trans-Canada Trail, the world’s longest network of recreational trails. Paddle a canoe down the mighty Magnetawan River. Let the fun fly at Algonquin Disc Golf, an 18-hole championship course in South River.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Bear Lake Peatlands Conservation Reserve
- Bobby Orr Hall of Fame, Parry Sound
- Johnston’s Cranberry Marsh, Bala
- Millionaire’s Row Cruise, RMS Segwun, Gravenhurst
- Parry Sound Festival of the Sound, July 18 – August 11
- Rails, Trails & Ales, Northern Edge Algonquin
- Wolf Howl, Algonquin Provincial Park



Algonquin Provincial Park

A Legendary Adventure is Calling!



There is a place that is home to as many myths and legends as it is to pristine lakes and rivers. And whether you are soaring into crystal-clear water or wandering among the oldest and tallest red pine forests in the world, this unspoiled paradise will capture your imagination and give your memories flight.

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North Bay

Journey down the historic rivers of Northeast Ontario and retrace the routes of Canada's voyageurs. Walk among towering old-growth forests. Play in a plunge pool beneath a waterfall. Find peace and quiet at an eco-lodge. View the rugged landscape from the comfort of a passenger train. Discover glittering gold and gems buried deep underground. Dance and chant at a Pow Wow. Hit the highways and back roads on a motorcycle.

NORTHEAST

Book a sunset cruise of Lake Nipissing aboard the *Chief Commanda II*. Hop aboard a heritage railway carousel. Hike among ancient pines in the Temagami old-growth forest. Visit the Sturgeon River House Museum and learn about the fur trade, then walk the wetland trails outside the palisades. Visit the Dionne Quints Museum and learn the amazing story of the Dionne quintuplets.

Explore breathtaking Killarney Provincial Park by foot or canoe. Get hands-on at Sudbury's Science North and Dynamic Earth, then enjoy an immersive Experience IMAX® Theatre 3D presentation. Join the excitement of live horse racing at Sudbury Downs. Be sure to get your photo-op at the Big Nickel – you can't miss it!

Journey to Manitoulin Island – the world's largest freshwater island – and explore the Great Spirit Circle Trail. Experience a Pow Wow and celebrate Aboriginal traditions. Cast your line and catch a whopper – the island offers some of the best freshwater fishing in the world. Swim below the cascading waters of Bridal Veil Falls.

Hop on the famous Polar Bear Express to Moosonee for a spectacular view of Ontario's natural wilderness, lakes and rivers. Relax at the Cree Village Ecolodge.

Enjoy the calm and quiet of Nature's Harmony Ecolodge in Mattawa, an unspoiled nature retreat. Play 18 holes at a beautiful championship-length golf course followed by fine dining. Ride the open road on a motorcycle – there are touring routes for every kind of rider.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Cedar Meadows Resort and Spa, Timmins
- Cortina Cruise, Sudbury
- Cup and Saucer Trail, Manitoulin Island
- Providence Bay, Manitoulin Island
- Summer in the Park Festival, August 2–4, North Bay
- **NEW** Wildfires! A Firefighting Adventure in 4D, Science North, Sudbury



Killarney Provincial Park



ONTARIO
PARKS

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Northern Lights seen from Woodland Caribou

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NORTHERN ONTARIO – NORTH CENTRAL



The Algoma area is a spectacular showcase of diversity where untamed wilderness is just a short drive from big city amenities. Discover pristine lakes and boreal forests. Visit Sault Ste. Marie and take in the arts and entertainment scene. Hit for distance on a championship golf course. Take a gander at a gigantic goose. Kick off your sandals and stroll along a beautiful sandy beach. North Central Ontario offers an exciting vacation experience for everyone.

NORTH CENTRAL

Swim, paddle, hike, fish and camp in one or more countless lakes, rivers and parks of this natural wilderness paradise. Watch for wildlife of all kinds in the protected 700,000 hectares (1.7 million acres) of the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve, the largest of its kind in the world.

Spend a few days in Sault Ste. Marie, a metropolis surrounded by unspoiled wilderness. Explore the vibrant local cultural scene. At the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, check out vintage aircrafts and enjoy fun, interactive displays geared to kids. See the soaring Tall Ships and their crews as they sail into port celebrating the War of 1812 Bicentennial. Hear the renowned Sault Symphony Orchestra play crowd-pleasing classics.

Play 18 holes on a championship golf course nestled in the rugged beauty of the Canadian Shield. Take the Agawa Canyon Tour Train north from Sault Ste. Marie to see towering trees and awe-inspiring rock formations. Go for an exploratory hike on the canyon floor and relax with a picnic while enjoying the breathtaking scenery.

Have a beach day with the family on the warm sands of Pancake Bay, a sheltered spot on Lake Superior. Drive along the rugged Superior shoreline or discover its beauty by hiking the trails of Lake Superior Provincial Park. Experience stand-up paddling or go on a sea-kayaking adventure and view ancient Ojibway pictographs. For motorcycle enthusiasts, the rides are exhilarating – there are dozens of routes waiting for you to explore.

Book a family fishing package and escape to a remote fishing lodge where you can troll pristine waters for bass, walleye and northern pike. Snap a family photo with the Wawa Goose, an 8.5 m (28 ft.) tall statue of a Canada goose. Check out a festival dedicated to Winnie the Pooh in beautiful White River, birthplace of the renowned bear.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- Agawa Canyon Tour Train, Sault Ste. Marie
- Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site, Sault Ste. Marie
- Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site, St. Joseph Island
- Sea Kayaking, Michipicoten
- Treetop Adventures, Goulais River



NORTHWEST ONTARIO

NORTHERN ONTARIO – NORTHWEST



Venture into Ontario's westernmost region. Be awestruck by thundering waterfalls and see magnificent vistas from the northern shores of an inland ocean. Negotiate with a fur trader from the 1800s. Climb up the side of 'sleeping giant.' Cast your line and catch a monster muskie. The Northwest is an outdoor paradise showcasing natural beauty on a vast scale.

NORTHWEST

Journey along the Lake Superior's rocky north shore, a route rich in spectacular scenery. Go on a guided sailing adventure or take sailing lessons and explore on your own. Arrive in picturesque Thunder Bay and discover the city's charm on a self-guided walking tour. In Chippewa Park, see moose, lynx, wolves and other native animals from the safety of an elevated walkway.

Immerse yourself in the drama of the fur trade at Fort William Historical Park, the world's largest reconstructed fur trade post. Edge your way across Canada's longest suspension bridge at Eagle Canyon. Hike up a hill that looks like its namesake at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park for breathtaking views of land, water and sky.

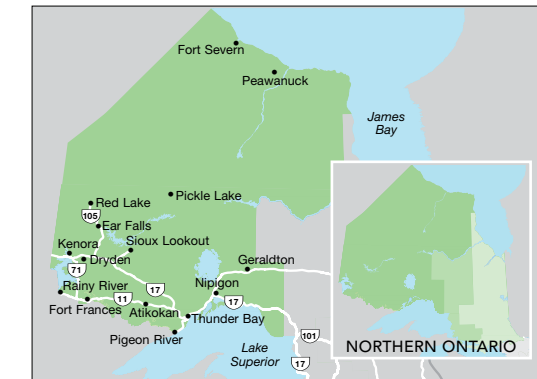
Go prospecting with the family at North America's largest amethyst quarry. Behold the spectacular 100-metre (328 ft.) deep Ouimet Canyon from a network of boardwalks and viewing platforms. Stand in awe of the thundering waters of the 'Niagara of the North' at Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park.

Unlock your inner voyageur at Quetico Provincial Park, the canoeing capital of Canada. Prepare for pure wilderness at Pukaskwa National Park – an ideal place to see bald eagles, moose, bears and beavers!

Explore the 14,000 islands of Lake of the Woods, a fishing, swimming and boating paradise. Fly in by float plane to Ear Falls and reel in perch, pike and walleye – you'll find world-class fishing hot spots throughout the region.

Discover Kenora's colourful history at the Lake of the Woods Museum. Board the MS Kenora and cruise the lake's beautiful waters with a guided tour that includes incredible scenery and northern wildlife. Rock climb on an eco-adventure in Minaki, then stay overnight in a yurt.

PLANNING ESSENTIALS



Find where this region is in Ontario – page 66.

MUST-SEES OF THE REGION

- **NEW** 40th Anniversary of the Folklore Festival, May 3–5, Thunder Bay
- Amethyst Mine Panorama, Thunder Bay
- **NEW** Eagle Canyon ZipLine, Dorion
- MS Kenora, Kenora
- Sleeping Giant Provincial Park
- Wabigoon Chain of Lakes, Dryden



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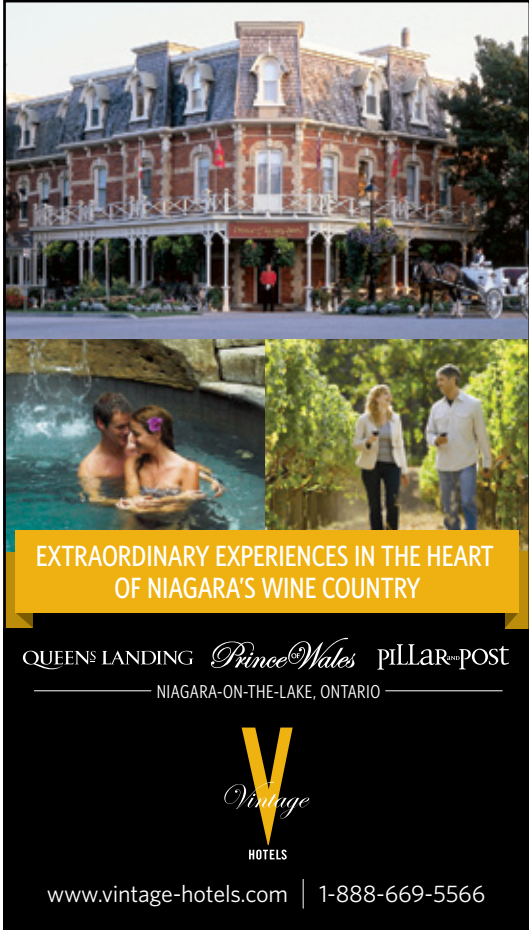


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Looking ahead



Agawa Canyon

FALL'S BRILLIANCE

Film buffs and stargazers take note

The highly acclaimed Toronto International Film Festival kicks off in early September. Be the first to see films that are generating Oscar buzz and rub shoulders with celebrities at galas. Or make it a family affair and take in films made with kids in mind. September 5–15.

www.tiff.net

Cruise for the hues

Head out on the road this autumn and see Ontario's true colours as leaves turn brilliant hues of burgundy, crimson and ochre. From artisan tours to the scenic canal routes – there are many Great Fall Drives across Ontario.

www.ontariotravel.net/falldrives

Tickle your tastebuds

Sample the delicious flavours of Taste! – a one-day festival that celebrates the cuisine of Prince Edward County. Enjoy dishes prepared by world-class chefs and sip local vintages. September 28–29.

www.tastecelebration.ca

Getaway collections

Reward yourself with a signature Ontario getaway. Relax at a resort, rejuvenate at a spa, play championship golf courses, immerse yourself in the arts – you'll find packages that offer something for everyone.

www.ontariotravel.net/getaway



Algonquin Provincial Park

WINTER'S WONDERS

Chill with friends

Celebrate the best of winter at the Niagara Icewine Festival in St. Catharines. Sip Ontario's sweetest nectar from a glass carved out of ice, enjoy wine and cheese seminars and attend the Ice Queen's Ball. January 10–26, 2014

www.niagarawinefestival.com

There's no fun like snow fun!

Ontario offers a blizzard of fun outdoor activities. Glide through the forest behind a dog team. Catch tasty perch in a cozy ice fishing hut. Carve an edge downhill skiing or snowboarding. Go sledding on thousands of kilometres of maintained snowmobile trails.

www.ontariotravel.net/outdoor

Heat up winter fun

The focus is on fun at Winterlude in Ottawa. Play in North America's largest snow playground, try your hand at ice-sculpting and skate on the Rideau Canal, the world's largest skating rink. Weekends in February.

www.canadacapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude

A winter fun-derland

Across Ontario, hundreds of festivals, events, parades and activities are on the calendar this winter. From culinary festivals to winter carnivals, gardening shows to maple syrup celebrations – there's always something new to discover!

www.ontariotravel.net/family



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