

VOLUME ONE • ISSUE ONE

ONTARIO

#DISCOVERON

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[1] Keep warm in transit and on cool summer evenings with a patterned shawl by Ontario textile designer **Virginia Johnson**. virginiajohnson.com

[2] Eco-friendly **Green Beaver** sunscreens and skin- and hair-care products keep you moisturized and protected without potentially harmful ingredients such as parabens, phthalates and triclosan. greenbeaver.com

[3] **Mini Mioche** children's wear is manufactured from organic cotton and other sustainable materials. Celebrity fans include Halle Berry and Amy Poehler. minimioche.com

[4] Limited-edition Fernando by **Heys-FVT** hard-shell luggage features Canuck icons such as the CN Tower, Mounties and Ottawa's Parliament buildings. shop.heids.ca

[5] Sunglasses by **Botany Co. Eyewear** are made of eco-friendly bamboo. botanycoeyewear.com

[6] Classic brand **Roots** built its reputation on quality handmade leather goods, like this sleek wallet and mobile-phone holder with wrist strap. roots.com

[7] **Joe Fresh**, designed and launched in Toronto by Club Monaco founder Joe Mimran, has developed a following of devotees for its affordable take on trends, like these striped boat-neck tees, a perennial summer favourite. joefresh.com

[8] Parkdale, Kensington or The Beach? Show allegiance to your Toronto district of choice with **Tuck Shop Trading Co.'s** City of Neighbourhoods collection. tuckshopco.com

[9] A brand recommended by Oprah herself, **Lug** travel gear includes pack-friendly bags and colourful accessories like luggage belts and tags. luglife.com

[10] The **Kobo** e-reader is a travellers' must-have, best stocked with CanLit favourites by Ontario authors such as Margaret Atwood and Nobel Prize-winning Alice Munro. kobo.com

[11] Freshen up shoes and boots for spring with stylish coloured laces by **Stolen Riches**, the modern iteration of a family business started in 1915. stolenriches.com

[12] Cute handbags by **Ela** fit all the essentials and have been carried by the likes of Gwyneth Paltrow and Jordana Brewster. elabyela.com

[13] **Hudson's Bay Company**, Canada's oldest retailer, started selling wool blankets with its distinctive coloured stripes in 1780; today they grace everything from canoes to umbrellas. thebay.com

BORN IN ONTARIO

Travel gear and souvenirs that originated right here

By Kat Tancock



CELEB-CRED
Amy Poehler
Halle Berry

CELEB-CRED
Gwyneth Paltrow
Jordana Brewster



1. Kat Tancock writes and edits for publications including *The Globe and Mail* and *Food & Drink*. She can often be found at her local Toronto food co-op searching for the latest Ontario products.

2. Leanne Delap writes about fashion, food, design and travel for Canadian and international publications, including the *Toronto Star*. She has been the fashion reporter for *The Globe and Mail* as well as editor-in-chief of *Fashion* magazine.

3. Carolyn B. Heller put plenty of mileage on her hiking boots exploring Ontario's parks while researching *Moon Handbooks: Ontario*, a 450-page travel guide to the province's attractions. Based in Vancouver, she has contributed to more than 50 other travel and restaurant guides, and her travel features appear in publications ranging from the *Forbes Travel Guide* to *Perceptive Travel* to *Lonelyplanet.com*.

4. Doug Wallace is a Toronto-based lifestyle writer, editor and media authority working in the worlds of food and travel, art and design, and fashion and beauty. A member of the international gay media, he was part of the press corps at WorldPride 2012 in London, U.K.

5. Catalina Margulis is publisher of *beautyrsvp.com* and a travel-writing mom to twin toddlers and a well-travelled 5-year-old son. (She apologizes in advance to fellow flight passengers!) Her stories have appeared in *Elle Canada*, *Flare* and *Travel + Escape*.

6. Adam Stanley is a freelance writer based in Ottawa and Toronto. He's a journalism graduate from Carleton University who loves music, golf (and, yes, beer).

7. Chris Johns is a Toronto-based West-Coaster who writes about food and travel. He has been a restaurant critic for *Air Canada's enRoute*, *Toronto Life* and *The Globe and Mail*.

8. Heather Greenwood Davis is an award-winning freelance travel writer and family-travel blogger (*globetrottingmama.com*) based in Toronto. Her family was named *National Geographic Traveler* magazine's "Travelers of the Year" in 2012.

9. Scott Earl Smith is a freelance writer and retired police officer living in Thunder Bay. He wrote the popular book *Ontario Blue-Ribbon Fly Fishing Guide* and has been published in a wide variety of North American outdoor publications.

10. Tim Johnson travels almost 300 days per year and has visited 91 countries and all seven continents. He contributes regularly to a number of national publications including *The Globe and Mail*, *Canadian Living*, *WestJet's Up!* magazine, *Canadian Family*, *MSN.ca* and *Reader's Digest*.

11. Amy Rosen is an award-winning freelance journalist and the former Food Editor at *Chatelaine* magazine. She won the Canadian Tourism Commission's inaugural Keep Exploring Award of Excellence in Travel Journalism (2013) for her body of proudly Canadian travel stories. Her third cookbook, *Toronto Cooks*, will be released in October.

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ADDITIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

For additional travel information on Ontario, visit ontariotravel.net/travelcentres or please call the following numbers:

From Canada, Continental U.S.A. and Hawaii
English: 1-800-ONTARIO or 1-800-668-2746
From Canada: French: 1-800-268-3736
Teletypewriter – TTY/Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): 1-888-908-8825

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

INTERNATIONAL ENQUIRIES

Contact the appropriate Canadian embassy or overseas consulate for information on Ontario. For more information, visit canada.ca International visitors can also obtain information on Ontario through ontariotravel.net

RENSEIGNEMENTS EN FRANÇAIS

Nous sommes heureux de vous offrir un service d'information touristique en français. Veuillez composer le 905 754-1963 et il nous fera plaisir de vous aider.

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THE ANNUAL
BEST
OF ONTARIO

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Preserving the Past
While Building the Future

ONTARIO
CANADA

Sleep under the stars!

Our beautiful northern summer nights and dark skies make for an amazing RV and tenting experience.

Settle in at our campground this summer and join us after dark at the David Thompson Astronomical Observatory as we take you on a journey through the cosmos. The campground at Fort William Historical Park is equipped with its own astronomy centre! While you're here, enjoy a tour of our historic site, experience our recreational activities, and do much, much more! Visit www.fwhp.ca to see what's happening during your planned stay!

Fort William Historical Park

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ONTARIO PICNIC BASKET

Pack a basket full of local goodness with these treats

By Kat Tancock



Spirit Tree Cider's apple and pear cider (sweet/non-alcoholic) from Caledon is a consistent award winner in competitions. spirittreecider.com

Sample and pick a favourite maple syrup at The Farm Pantry at St. Jacobs Farmers' Market. stjacobsmaplesyrup.com

Kingston's Pan Chanco Bakery (founded by Lovin' Spoonful's Zal Yanovsky) makes chewy, flavourful bread (including gluten-free). panchanco.com

Ottawa-based michaelsdolce™ Jams feature Ontario produce with bold flavours (think: rhubarb-black pepper, peach-cardamom). michaelsdolce.com

Dark, juicy raisins from Reif Estate Winery are kiln-dried red grapes – try them topping Kawartha Dairy Company vanilla ice cream. reifwinery.com
kawarthadairy.com

Kernal Peanuts located in Vittoria, Canada's largest peanut grower, produces peanut butter and other nutty treats. kernalpeanuts.com

Stock up on Ontario's signature butter tart from bakeries along the Kawarthas Northumberland Butter Tart Tour. kawarthasnorthumberland.ca

Toronto's Stasis Preserves turns Ontario's fresh bounty (cherries and blueberries, walnuts and wine) into spreads, sauces and vinegars. stasispreserves.com

Evelyn's Crackers are made in Toronto from Ontario organic heritage grains; great with the brand's own hummus and baba ganoush. evelynscrackers.com

Find Monforte Dairy's sheep and goat cheeses, yogurt and ice cream at its Stratford flagship store and province-wide locations. monfordedairy.com

Thunder Oaks Cheese Farm in Thunder Bay makes Ontario's only true Dutch-style Gouda cheese. cheesefarm.ca

Noah Martin's Country Store summer sausage from St. Jacobs has been called "the best sausage ever" by foodie fans. heidbergfoods.com

CHEF RECO

Acclaimed Toronto chef Jamie Kennedy loves Kozlik's Mustard for sandwiches and souvenirs and Norman Hardie's Chardonnay. mustardmaker.com
normanhardie.com

AROUND THE WORLD

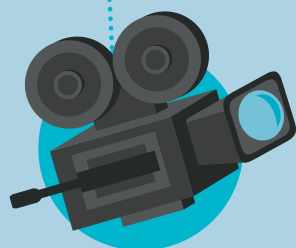
We offer so much within our borders, a trip through Ontario can feel like a trip around the world

By Leanne Delap

Hollywood

Toronto rolls out the red carpet for the crème de la crème of cinema each September for the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). With 300 films open to the ticket-buying public, the entire city is swept up in a glamorous frenzy around festival time. September 4–14.

tiff.net



Memphis

It's like making a pilgrimage to Elvis' home, Graceland. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Collingwood Elvis Festival, a gathering of international Elvis tribute artists (July 24–27) featuring an array of free and ticketed performances around downtown Collingwood. Don't miss out on this year's special guest, Priscilla Presley.

collingwoodelvisfestival.com



Caribbean

From mid-July, the Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Carnival – a Mardi Gras-like cultural extravaganza of music, cuisine and performing arts – culminates with the Grand Parade August 2, with costumed dancers and live music.

torontocaribbeancarnival.com



Africa

Families will have a roaring good time at the African Lion Safari near Hamilton. It's a reserve with 1,000 exotic birds and animals, including big cats. Drive through in your own vehicle, aboard a safari tour bus or the African Queen boat.

lionsafari.com



Scotland

Golf fans can imagine themselves swinging on the most famous links in the world in one afternoon at Wooden Sticks golf course in Uxbridge, which includes a replica hole from the birthplace of golf in Scotland, St. Andrews. Other Ontario Scottish-style links include Hockley Valley (designed by Thomas McBroom) Heathlands Links and Angus Glen North (by Doug Carrick).

woodensticks.com

hockley.com

ospreyvalleygolf.com/heathlands

angusglen.com



England

Travel back to Shakespeare's era as the Globe Theatre from London arrives in Prescott with its production of *Hamlet* at the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in August. And don't miss more of the Bard's productions at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival (April to October).

stlawrenceshakespeare.ca

stratfordfestival.ca

Paris

For a world-class shopping spree, go to Toronto's Yorkdale Shopping Centre, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year (with Canada's largest Apple Store, boutiques by Mulberry, Ferragamo and Burberry and Canada's only Tesla sports car showroom). Or open your wallet at the so-called Mink Mile on Toronto's Bloor Street West (Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, Prada, Gucci).

yorkdale.com

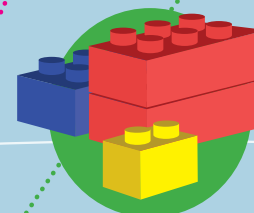
bloor-yorkville.com



Denmark

The Vaughan outpost of the famous Danish toy brand LEGO® is a brightly coloured fantasy world built brick by plastic brick at LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre. The attractions include a factory tour, a 4D cinema, a LEGO® Racer build-and-test centre, a fire academy, a construction site and a DUPLO® village for the youngest LEGO® fans.

legolanddiscoverycentre.ca



China

Hundreds of precious historical objects from the Beijing Palace Museum are on display in The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors (through September 1) at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

rom.on.ca



BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK

Best for: Exploring unique-in-Ontario landscapes, with limestone cliffs plunging down to the Caribbean-blue waters of Georgian Bay. **Great hikes:** Canada's oldest and longest marked hiking route – the Bruce Trail – extends from Niagara to the Bruce Peninsula. **Day hiking?** Walk to the dramatic rock formations at the Grotto. **Best beach:** Singing Sands on the Lake Huron shore. **Did you know?** More than 40 varieties of orchids bloom in the park. **Where to stay:** Settle into a park yurt or camp overlooking Cyprus Lake. **What's nearby:** The town of Tobermory has plenty of motels, shops and places to eat. **Hungry?** Tobermory's Little Tub Bakery has decadently gooey butter tarts.
pc.gc.ca
facebook.com/LittleTubBakery

ALGONQUIN AND BEYOND

5 GREAT ONTARIO PARKS

Algonquin Provincial Park is one of Ontario's most popular wilderness escapes: a 763,000-hectare (1,884,610 acre) expanse of pine forests, lakes and rivers offering some of the province's best hiking and canoe trips. But with 300 provincial parks, 5 national parks and 2 national marine conservation areas, Ontario has lots more destinations for outdoor enthusiasts, whether you're an experienced back-country adventurer or a novice outdoorsperson. Here are 5 of our favourite places to get outdoors

By Carolyn B. Heller

**ESCAPE TO
ONTARIO PARKS**
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includes site and
equipment
[ontariotravel.net/
packages](http://ontariotravel.net/packages)

KILLBEAR PROVINCIAL PARK

Best for: Canoeing or kayaking between pink granite cliffs and swimming at sandy bay beaches. **What else to do:** Check out park nature programs, including “snake talks” featuring live reptiles. **Most romantic sunsets:** See them from Sunset Rocks or Harold's Point. **Did you know?** Killbear's peak time for fall colour is early October. **Where to stay:** Killbear has 881 campsites, but if you're not a camper, sleep in Parry Sound, less than an hour's drive. **What's nearby:** Sounds of music take over Parry Sound during the popular annual Festival of the Sound (July 18 through August 10). **Hungry?** Tuck into Georgian Bay pickerel or whitefish at Gilly's Snug Harbour Restaurant.
ontarioparks.com/park/killbear
festivalofthesound.ca
gillyssnugharbour.com



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QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK

Best for: Canoeing past rocky cliffs, waterfalls and pine forests, many accessible only via the park's 2,000 lakes. **Great view:** Climb the French Falls Trail to the French River cascades. **Where to stay:** Sleep in a yurt, or choose from more than 100 campsites at Dawson Trail Campground on French Lake. **Special events:** During Wilderness Weekend (June 27–30), learn about orienteering, kayaking and canoe-tripping. **What's nearby:** In Thunder Bay, visit Fort William Historical Park, a living history experience of 19th-century fur-trading days, or order a plate of traditional Finnish pancakes at Hoito Restaurant.
ontarioparks.com/park/quetico
queticopark.com

KILLARNEY PROVINCIAL PARK

Best for: Hiking spectacular granite and quartzite mountain ridges. Swimming or paddling in the 50-plus clear lakes. **Great hike:** Make the challenging climb through massive boulders at The Crack for panoramic views.

Where to stay: Book a waterfront site – or a yurt – in family-friendly George Lake Campground. Or choose a lodge or B&B in the town of Killarney. **What's nearby:** If you're new to outdoor adventuring, try out the Learn to Camp or Learn to Fish programs at nearby Grundy Lake Provincial Park.
ontarioparks.com/park/killarney
ontarioparks.com/learntocamp

FRONTENAC PROVINCIAL PARK

Best for: Day hiking the 100-plus kilometres of trails along the rocky Canadian Shield. **Great hikes:** Watch for beaver ponds on the Bufflehead Trail. For a lakeside hike, follow the Doe Lake Loop. **Special events:** Refresh your outdoor skills at a wilderness workshop – try introductory canoe tripping, first aid or outdoor gourmet cooking. **Where to stay:** Frontenac has 48 back-country campsites. Find less rugged accommodations in Kingston, less than an hour's drive.
ontarioparks.com/park/frontenac
frontenacpark.ca
tourism.kingstoncanada.com



Take the Parkbus

You don't need a car to reach many of Ontario's parks. Ride the Parkbus, a non-profit transportation service that runs from Toronto to Algonquin, Killarney, Bruce Peninsula and other provincial parks on select summer weekends.
parkbus.ca



“The lakes are all interconnected, so it's really just one big flatwater playground.”

Kayaker Adam van Koeverden has won four Olympic medals (one gold, two silvers, and a bronze). When this Ontario-born Olympian is not training or competing, you can often find him at his rustic cabin in Algonquin Provincial Park.



Discover 5 more phenomenal Ontario parks and read the full interview with Adam van Koeverden. Download the tablet and mobile versions today!
#DISCOVERON

RAINBOW IS THE NEW BLACK

Pride celebrations are coming soon to a gay-friendly community near you in Ontario. And Toronto hosts WorldPride this year, an even bigger reason to get in on the fun. Make Ontario your holiday destination this year for a party – or two – you won't soon forget

By Doug Wallace

Pride Niagara

Now to June 7

Stay: Recuperate from all the Pride action with a luxe spa package at White Oaks Resort & Spa, which has rightfully earned a prestigious Four Diamond rating by CAA/AAA and Five Stars from Canada Select. **Eat:** At family-owned Wellington Court, we love that Chef Eric Peacock's fresh, locally inspired menu changes almost weekly.

prideniagara.com
whiteoaksresort.com
wellington-court.com

KUDOS

White Oaks
Resort & Spa
CAA/AAA
Four Diamond
Rating

Hamilton Pride

June 9 to 15

Stay: The Best Western Premier C Hotel by Carmen's on Stone Church Road East gets great reviews on travel-booking sites.

Eat: Hip and healthy Earth to Table: Bread Bar is a café by day and pizzeria (try the Vampire Slayer with garlic, brie and béchamel) by night. Eat your way through 60 burger toppings and nine poutines (we like the short rib) at Chuck's Burger Bar.

pridehamilton.ca
book.bestwestern.com
breadbar.ca
chucksburgerbar.com

Kingston Pride

Now to June 15

Stay: Promoting an "unplugged urban" experience, The Frontenac Club Inn offers old-world charm on the waterfront. Try the Residence Inn by Marriott Kingston Water's Edge Hotel on Earl Street. **Eat:** Nothing beats summer on the secluded patio at Chez Piggy: order the Duck Confit Poutine or the Angry Hot Lamb Burger.

kingstonpride.ca
frontenacclub.com
marriottresidenceinnkingston.com
chezpiggy.com

Pride London

July 19 to 27

Stay: Hotel Metro is a boutique delight (rainfall showerheads, Aveda amenities) within walking distance of everything. **Eat:** Blackfriars Bistro has farm-fresh, seasonal nosh, with craft beer to wash it down. At fun, friendly Church Key, they make their own brisket for the famous Corned Beef and Cabbage.

pridelondon.ca
hotelmetro.ca
blackfriarsbistro.com
thechurchkey.ca

Pride Fest Windsor-Essex

August 8 to 10

Stay: What happens in Windsor stays there! Head to Caesars Windsor for a dash of Vegas glam and a flirtation with Lady Luck. **Eat:** Toscana Restaurant & Wine Bar has authentic Italian, a sushi bar and a killer wine cellar. Home-cooking – with a twist – at The Twisted Apron, recently earned a visit from Food Network Canada's You Gotta Eat Here!

windsorpride.com
wepridefest.com
caesarswindsor.com
toscanawindsor.com
thetwistedapron.com



June 20 to 29

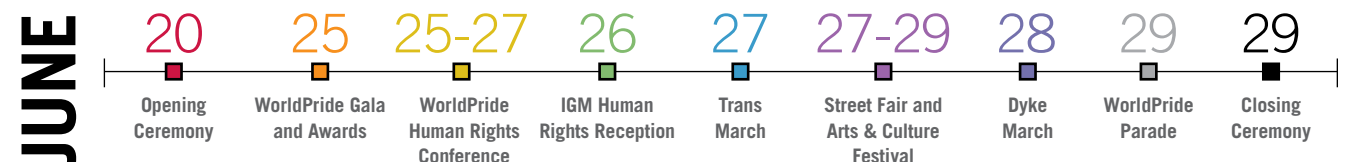
The fourth biennial WorldPride is hosted by Toronto this year, the first time the international festival has been in North America. Following in the footsteps of London's 2012 shindig, Ontario is ready to celebrate activism, education and the history and culture of the global LGBTTIQQ2SA communities (representing identities such as, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, two-spirited and allies).

With 10 open-air stages, expect a melting pot of music styles, with something for the whole family. Deborah Cox and Melissa Etheridge headline a list of entertainers that also includes Martha Wash and DJs David Morales and Quentin Harris.

The Human Rights Conference will gather activists, policy-makers and educators. Special guests include Frank Mugisha from Uganda, Masha Gessen from Russia, Canada's own Stephen Lewis and the world's first openly gay head of government, former Prime Minister of Iceland Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir.

worldpridetoronto.com
seetorontonow.com
ontariotravel.net/LGBT

SCHEDULED HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



THE ANNUAL BEST OF ONTARIO 2014 – 13

Capital Pride

August 15 to 24

Stay: ARC The Hotel Ottawa is Canadiana-chic, with a hopping lounge at cocktail hour. Funky, well-located Hotel Indigo scores high with in-the-know travellers on Yelp! and Trip Advisor, partly for its great indoor pool! **Eat:** Hip and casual Wellington Gastropub brews its popular Stock Pot Ale "Bad Moon Rye's In" on the premises.

capitalpride.ca
arcthehotel.com
hotellindigo.com
thewellingtongastropub.com

KUDOS

ARC The Hotel
rated high on
Trip Advisor
and Yelp!





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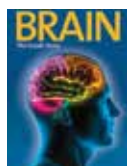
From The AstraZeneca Human Edge exhibition to a real rainforest to KidSpark, when you visit the Ontario Science Centre, you open the door to all kinds of wonder.

2014 : EYE-OPENING EXHIBITIONS

THE
SCIENCE
OF
**ROCK
'N'
ROLL**

June 11 to October 26, 2014

The Science of Rock 'N' Roll is organized by Elevation Productions and distributed by Exhibits Development Group.



November 19, 2014 to March 22, 2015

Brain: The Inside Story is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org).

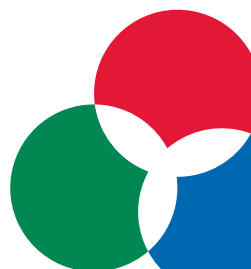
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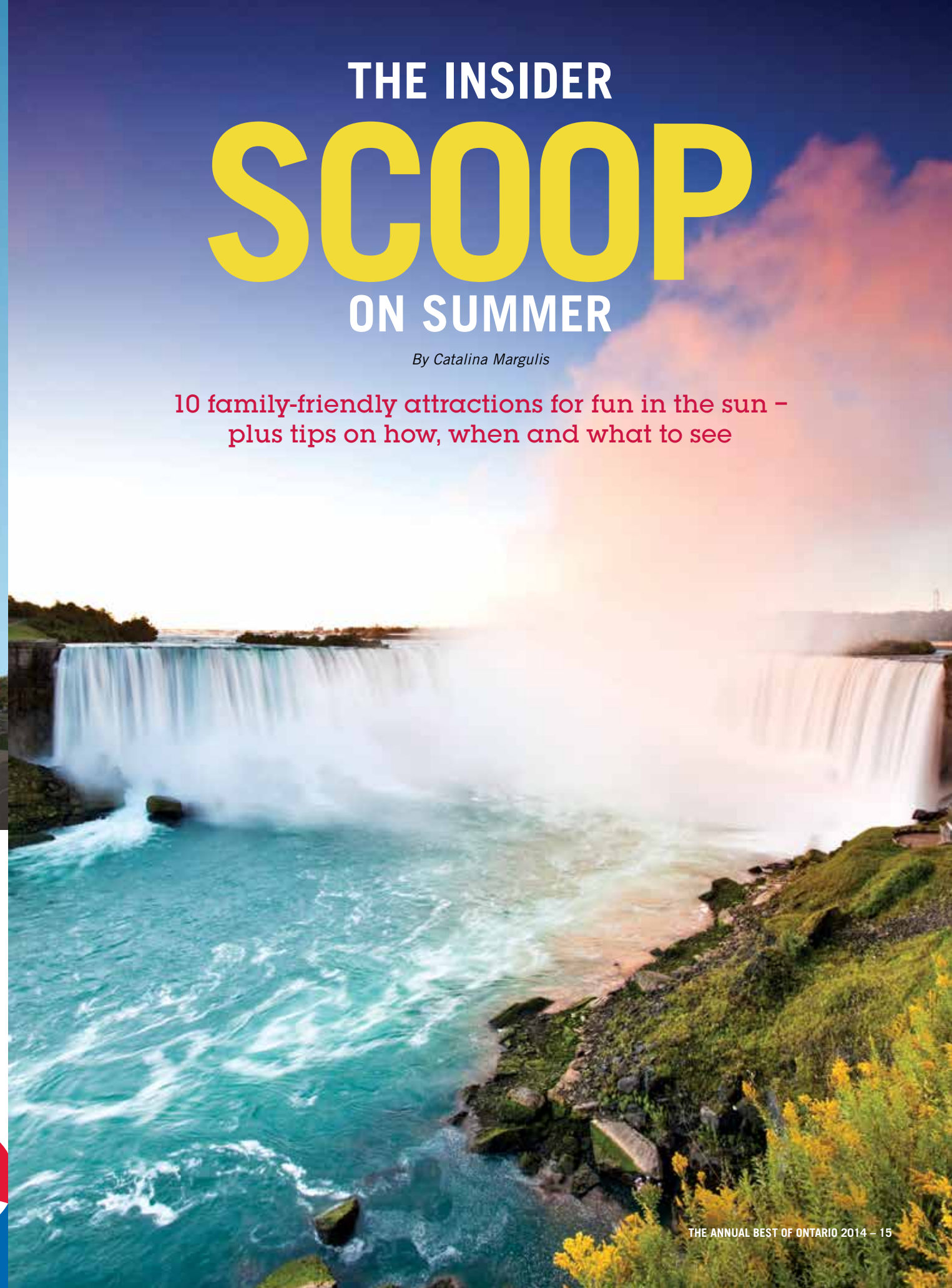
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THE INSIDER SCOOP ON SUMMER

By Catalina Margulis

10 family-friendly attractions for fun in the sun –
plus tips on how, when and what to see



1 CN TOWER (TORONTO)

See Toronto's incredible views, from 346 metres (1,134 ft.) at the LookOut Level and through the tower's glass floor. On the Himalamazon motion theatre ride, feel the wind and water of the imaginary land where Super-Trees grow. **TIP:** Book early for EdgeWalk, a harnessed stroll on the ledge around the tower's main pod – it can sell out.

cntower.ca

2 CANADA'S WONDERLAND (VAUGHAN)

The new Wonder Mountain's Guardian is a 4D fantasy ride ending in a dragon's lair! Dinosaurs Alive! is one of the world's largest animatronic dinosaur parks, with more than 40 life-sized animatronic dinosaurs in a Jurassic-themed setting. **TIP:** Purchase a Fast Lane wristband to skip the lineups.

canadaswonderland.com

3 ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO (TORONTO)

The AGO's new Kids' Gallery has child-friendly text panels and works hung at kid height, plus exhibit-related fun like dress-up and drawing stations. Drop-in Playtime for the under-5 set has costumes, puppets, blocks, arts and crafts. **TIP:** At caféAGO, kids 5 and under eat free (when a parent spends \$12 or more).

ago.net

4 RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM OF CANADA (TORONTO)

This hot new kid magnet has 450 species, from the largest shark collection in North America to one of the best jellyfish exhibits in the world. A glass viewing tunnel looks into the shark lagoon.

TIP: Aim for weekday mornings to beat the crowds. Bring snacks or line up early for lunch, as tables are limited.

ripleyaquariums.com/canada

5 NIAGARA FALLS

Catch some serious views of the iconic Niagara Falls and the Niagara Region from a whirlybird's-eye-view with Niagara Helicopters. For a close-up view of the Falls, get wet on the new Hornblower Niagara Cruises catamaran boat tour.

TIP: Work in time to visit Niagara Falls trippy attractions, including haunted houses and wax museums kids love.

niagarahelicopters.com

niagaracruises.com

niagaraparks.ca



6 CALYPSO (LIMOGES)

Just 30 minutes from Ottawa and boasting Canada's largest wave pool and the highest waterslide tower in North America, Calypso has more than 35 waterslides and 100 water games. Kongo Expedition is the new African-themed adventure river; Zoo Lagoon appeals to the littlest visitors. **TIP:** Buy tickets online and download a park map to beat lineups. Only personal flotation devices are permitted for children (no water wings).

calypsopark.com

7 SCIENCE NORTH (SUDBURY)

In Science North's 30th year, learn to fly a DeHavilland Beaver floatplane (in a simulator), catch *To Space and Back* at the Planetarium and watch Wonders of the Arctic 3D in the IMAX theatre. Visitors can also pan for gold and explore mining tunnels in the Underground Tour at Dynamic Earth.

TIP: Kids under 5 will love the TD Canada Trust Toddler's Treehouse.

sciencenorth.ca

8 FORT HENRY (KINGSTON)

Get a glimpse of 19th-century life at this War of 1812-era fortress, which offers guided tours, historical demos and great views of the 1000 Islands. It's part of Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage Site!

TIP: Kids love the Ghosts of the Fort tour offered by the Haunted Walk. Don't miss Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay and Fort York in Toronto.

forthenry.com

hauntedwalk.com/kingstontours.php

fwhp.ca

fortyork.ca

9 THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Zip between soaring platforms on Wind Rider Triple Zips, and navigate suspension bridges, ladders and nets at Timber Challenge High Ropes or cross a suspension bridge and tour secret caverns at nearby Scenic Caves Nature Adventures. Don't miss the Ridge Runner Mountain Coaster! **TIP:** Hours depend on weather, so check ahead!

bluemountain.ca

sceniccaves.com

10 TORONTO ZOO (TORONTO)

With more than 5,000 animals from 500 species, it's one of the largest zoos in the world. The Gorilla Climb Ropes Course, Zoomobile and Conservation Carousel provide fresh perspective. Camel and pony rides, and visits to the polar bear cub, baby gorilla and pandas are kid faves. **TIP:** Pack light or pack right: strollers, wagons and lockers are for rent at the entrance.

torontozoo.com



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SUMMER PLAYLIST

Our genre-hopping music festivals draw hip crowds and top talent all summer long

By Adam Stanley

NXNE 2014 (June 13–22)

Where: Toronto. **What:** A 10-day arts festival with music, film, interactive media and comedy. **Who:** More than 800 musicians, from legendary rockers Spoon and Juicy J from Three Six Mafia leading the charge. **Insiders:** Bars, clubs and Yonge-Dundas Square will be packed: arrive early (badge or wristband access is key!).
nxne.com

DIGITAL DREAMS (June 28, 29)

Where: Ontario Place, Toronto. **What:** The largest electronic music festival in Canada is the reigning “Party of the Year” as awarded by the Toronto Nightclub Awards. **Who:** Legendary DJs like Tiesto, Justice and Deep Dish bring the bass to the 19-plus crowd on Toronto’s waterfront. **Insiders:** Group bottle-service packages include VIP parking, express entry and plush full-service seating.
digitaldreamsfest.ca

RBC ROYAL BANK BLUESFEST (July 3–13)

Where: Ottawa (15-minute walk from Parliament Hill). **What:** A summer staple celebrating its 15th anniversary. **Who:** All musical genres represented, with no exception this year: Lady Gaga, the Killers, Queens of the Stone Age and 1980s faves like Foreigner, STYX and Journey. **Insiders:** Feel free to bring strollers, portable chairs and small backpacks. Pulled-pork sandwiches and local beer are among the best eats.
ottawabluesfest.ca

BOOTS & HEARTS (July 31–August 3)

Where: Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, Bowmanville. **What:** Canada’s largest outdoor country music festival. **Who:** The Voice superstar Blake Shelton and cowboy heartthrob Luke Bryan are headliners. **Insiders:** Don cowboy hat and pack sunscreen. Camp overnight, get a day pass and enjoy eats from the food trucks.
bootsandhearts.com

OVO FEST (August 3, 4)

Where: Toronto’s Molson Canadian Amphitheatre. **What:** Drake, the King of Toronto and his famous hip-hop friends close down the Toronto Caribbean Carnival weekend. **Who:** Recently un-retired rap duo OutKast will headline night one, while Drake himself headlines night two. **Insiders:** Much of the star-studded lineup is unscheduled until the last minute; last year Kanye West, The Weeknd and Lil Wayne thrilled fans.
octobersveryown.com



IN TUNE IN ONTARIO

The diversity of artists who have celebrated Ontario in song – rappers and folkies, rockers and jazz cats – is as vast and diverse as the province itself. Here are a few of my favourite songs celebrating the good life in Ontario

By Chris Johns

“It was in Bobcaygeon
where I saw the constellations
Reveal themselves
one star at a time”

BOBCAYGEON
by THE TRAGICALLY HIP

“Eating like I’m
seated at Swish,
Sotto, and Joso’s”

5 AM IN TORONTO
by DRAKE

“I woke up on
Galbraith Street
Where the houses stood
like twins”

GALBRAITH STREET
(in his hometown,
St. Catharines)
by RON SEXSMITH

“Passed under
the moonlight
Moved out of the searchlight
Open up and spend the night
in Parkdale”

PARKDALE
by METRIC

“He was sitting in
the lounge of the Empire Hotel
He was drinking for diversion
He was thinking for himself
A little money riding
on the Maple Leafs”

RAISED ON ROBBERY,
(on Huntsville)
by JONI MITCHELL

“There is a town
in North Ontario
With dream comfort
memory to spare”

HELPLESS
by NEIL YOUNG

“The glasses they will tinkle
when our eyes begin to twinkle,
And we’ll think no more of Inco
on a Sudbury Saturday night”

SUDBURY SATURDAY NIGHT
by STOMPIN’ TOM CONNORS



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FIRST RESORT

WHERE TO CHECK IN THIS SUMMER

Whether big family adventures or small romantic pleasures are on your itinerary, find it all under one roof at some of Ontario's best resort properties

By Amy Rosen

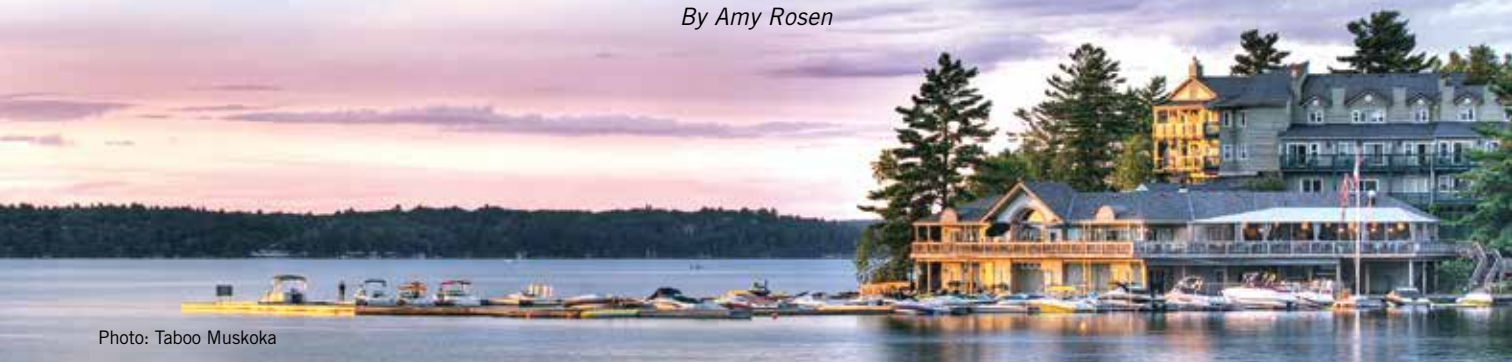


Photo: Taboo Muskoka

BIG FAMILY ADVENTURES

ELMHIRST'S RESORT (KEENE)

This resort raises its own Black Angus beef and egg-laying free-range hens, so kids learn about responsibly raised food – and everyone eats royally. All 96 hectares (237 acres) are heated via a special corn-fueled boiler: another lesson in greener living. Plus there's horseback riding, kite-boarding, swimming and kayaking fun.

elmhirst.ca

MANITOULIN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE (LITTLE CURRENT, MANITOULIN ISLAND)

Not only does this new property have a spirited design (think: teepee shaped lobby and Duncan Pheasant acrylic paintings), this is also the hot spot for exploring the traditions of Manitoulin Island's Anishinaabe native culture, through canoe trips and medicine walks. Bring your friends and colleagues for an authentic Aboriginal conference experience. Or, simply relax as a family over grilled local fish or watching the sunset.

circletrail.com/accommodations

DEERHURST RESORT (HUNTSVILLE)

This freshly renovated property is where relaxed cottage living meets action-packed weekends. Race through the treetops on ropes and zip lines or take aim at paintball. Indoors, chill with a soothing Shizen spa treatment, rock out on the climbing wall – then power snooze in cozy lodges and suites.

deerhurstresort.com

ON YOUR TRAVELS...

It's like Christmas in July at Santa's Village in Bracebridge, with rides and outdoorsy fun on the Muskoka River, and Santa waving from his Sleigh Jet Boat.
santasvillage.ca

SMALL ROMANTIC PLEASURES

MILLCROFT INN AND SPA (ALTON)

A waterfall, stone buildings and manicured grounds greet you here. Enjoy multiple courses of top food and pampering: An Ofuro spa treatment includes a sugar scrub, Japanese bath and ylang-ylang massage. Meanwhile, Chef James Buder's exotic Canadiana includes quail egg ravioli with chestnuts, foraged mushrooms and venison Wellington.

vintage-hotels.com/millcroft

TABOO RESORT GOLF & SPA (GRAVENHURST)

This yin-yang resort is where an award-winning restaurant meets one of Canada's top golf courses, and where sleek rooms with flat screen TVs boast picture window views of Lake Muskoka. All is in perfect harmony, especially during a couples escape at Taboo Spa, where exfoliation and handholding meet extreme relaxation.

tabooresort.com

JW MARRIOTT THE ROSSEAU MUSKOKA RESORT & SPA (MINETT)

Staying here is like snagging an invite to a friend's Muskoka cottage where you have a great Italian meal (at restaurant Teca), then hunker down for a sunset bottle of wine (better still, around the fire pit.) No arguing as to who will be making eggs the next morning: Just hit the omelet bar at Cottages.

therosseau.com



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JUST BEACHY

Whether you're charmed by a retro boardwalk or a design-savvy urban beach, visit these Ontario stretches of sand for sun and fun this summer

By Chris Johns

In the vintage beach town of Port Dover, sun-worshippers recline beneath imported palm trees and stand-up paddleboarders ply the calm waters. A block away, at the Erie Beach Hotel, The Cove dining room has been serving a legendary Lake Erie perch lunch for much of its 70 years: the crispy-breaded fish is today-fresh but the menu is straight from the Mad Men-era (a salad cart laden with lemon-horseradish jelly, homemade pickles and a salad of mandarin oranges with pineapple, coconut and sour cream – just ask for recipes). It's a taste of Ontario summer on a plate. portdover.ca/tourism

Here are some more not-to-be-missed Ontario beach experiences to chew on this summer

BEST URBAN BEACH:

Sugar Beach, Lake Ontario (Toronto)

View: Can you believe, standing on sugar-white sand beside a pink umbrella overlooking Lake Ontario, that this used to be a parking lot? In the shadow of skyscrapers and the Redpath Sugar Factory, the world's first intentional industrial beach (no swimming here) has been a big hit with design aficionados. **Who:** Couples stroll along the promenade, kids play in the spray of the maple-leaf-shaped water feature and office escapees lunch on the candy-striped rocks. waterfronttoronto.ca



BEST FOR FAMILIES:

Victoria Park Beach, Lake Ontario (Cobourg)

View: “Mom, Dad, there’s a dragon on the beach,” shouts one youngster. His sister spots a rhinoceros and his parents point to a nearly life-sized castle, created by master sculptors at the annual Sandcastle Festival (August 2). Complete with boardwalk, bandshell and ice-cream shops, this is the charming small-town beach of your dreams. **Who:** Kids of all ages enjoying the splash pad, slides and swings; grown-ups dipping into lively, charming downtown Cobourg. cobourgtourism.ca/best-beach.html



BEST PARTY BEACH:

Wasaga Beach, Georgian Bay (Wasaga Beach)

View: The toughest decision of the day is whether to set up your chair facing the jet skiers on Georgian Bay, or toward Beach Drive, where cars cruise past packed patios and the people-watching is sublime. **Who:** Up to 2 million fun-loving people each year, with some of the best crowds for Beach Fest and Kite Fest. wasagabeach.com

BEST SUNSETS:

Grand Bend Beach, Lake Huron (Grand Bend)

View: With a near-perfect western exposure, the calm surface of Lake Huron seems to catch fire as the massive orange summer sun dips beneath the horizon. **Who:** Stand at the foot of Grand Bend’s Main Street or on the rocking patio at Gables to watch a communal sunset – or make like the couples and shutterbugs who sneak off for private views along almost 50 kilometres (31 mi.) of beaches. grandbend.com grandbendtourism.com



BEST BEACH FOR WATER SPORTS:

Port Stanley Beach, Lake Erie (Port Stanley)

View: The onshore breeze whips the warm waves of Lake Erie into the frothy white caps that are like candy to the windsurfers and kite surfers who flock here. **Who:** While extreme athletes ply the waters of Main Beach, families with small children flock to the shallow waters of Little Beach. Rail enthusiasts head inland to catch a ride on a real 1940s London and Port Stanley car. portstanley.net

BEST BEACH FOR WILDLIFE:

The Pinery Provincial Park, Lake Huron (Grand Bend)

View: Cyclists might spot fawns cavorting in the forest, beavers busy at work or even a flying squirrel swoop overhead – before catching a sunset that *National Geographic* once called one of the 10 best in the world. **Who:** Zoology and geology buffs (for the tall, freshwater dunes) and sun-seekers alike flock here to camp, swim and marvel. pinerypark.on.ca

BEST BEACH TO HAVE TO YOURSELF:

Katherine’s Cove, Lake Superior (Sault Ste. Marie)

View: Make a point of seeking out sleek Bathtub Island, where warm water pools around the shallow, sandy bottom. **Who:** You, and very few other people: about 90 minutes north of Sault Ste. Marie on the north shore of Lake Superior is one of Ontario’s most remote and beautiful beaches. saulttourism.com



Photo: Vivian Lynch



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“Sandbanks Provincial Park is a great beach with spectacular sand dunes – one of the first reasons for tourism in this region, even before the food and wine became a draw. When my family comes to visit from Europe that’s one of the first things that they want to see.”

Alex Fida, co-owner of Angeline’s Inn, Bloomfield

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ONTARIO
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TAKE THE BAIT

If you love to dangle a line in the water, there are many places in Ontario where you can enjoy your sport. While some are end-of-trail hotspots, others are mysteriously right beside the busiest highways. Here are some of my favourites

By Scott Earl Smith



BEST DIY FAMILY VACATION:



Merkel's Lodge on Wabigoon Lake is a scant kilometre drive off the Trans-Canada Highway. It offers quaint lakeside cabins where you can cook your own catch in privacy. Great shallow-water fishing for plentiful walleye, pike, bass and musky. I witnessed a 10-year-old catch a trophy smallmouth bass right off the dock.

merkelscamp.com

BEST HISTORIC FISHING:



Dr. John Cook caught the world-record brook trout on the Nipigon River in 1915 (6.5 kg/14.5 lbs.). The Prince of Wales made a junket there a few years later to try to better that (he didn't, but he did catch a bunch of brook trout as long as a royal arm). I'm an old Nipigon River guide myself and can attest to the river's historic majesty (but no, the Prince wasn't my client).

nipigonriveradventures.com

BEST END-OF-TRAIL ADVENTURE:



Old Post Lodge on Highway 599 is about as far north in Ontario as you can drive. A shuttle boat whisks guests across Lake St. Joseph to the lodge. Great fishing, food, guides and accommodations await you at this once-historic Hudson's Bay Company trading post. My daughter, Erin, caught and released a 104-cm (41 in.) pike there on a fly rod.

oldpost.com

BEST FLY-IN-END-OF-TRAIL ADVENTURE:



The Sutton River flows through 95 remote kilometres (59 mi.) of the Hudson Bay Lowlands through Polar Bear Provincial Park near Cape Henrietta Maria, where Hudson Bay and James Bay meet. I've fished there twice, and saw polar bears, seals, caribou and thousands of geese – and caught more fish than I could count. The best brook trout fishing in the world.

hearstair.com

BEST FLY-FISHING MECCA:



Only a couple of hours west of Toronto, the Grand River is a fly-fishing paradise where chunky brown trout sip dainty flies off the surface of this easily waded, fertile, fly-fishing-only river. Top guides offer casting and catching lessons here. Adjacent après-fishing activities include tubing the Elora Gorge, rock climbing at Rattlesnake Point or visiting the Royal Botanical Gardens. Quaint bed-and-breakfasts abound.

grindstoneangling.com

BEST FLY-IN FISHING:



Wilderness North makes it easy to fly in from Thunder Bay to one of five full-service lodges or eight outposts in the remote waters near Wabakimi Provincial Park in Northern Ontario. If you want fine dining in an all-frills lodge, pan-frying your own catch in a remote outpost, or something in between, you'll find it.

wildernessnorth.com

BEST LUXURY FISHING:



Treat yourself to a trip aboard the 25-metre (82 ft.) luxury yacht the Grace Anne II while you tour beautiful Lake of the Woods. There's top-shelf accommodations, dining, and of course fishing here: walleye, smallmouth, pike and musky abound. This trip is on my bucket list!

graceanne.com



Family Fishing Week

From July 5–13 Family Fishing Week allows you to sample – licence-free – Ontario's lakes and rivers. Fun challenges, derbies and learning events appeal to all ages.

ontariofamilyfishing.com

For non-Canadian residents visit mnr.gov.on.ca to learn more about fishing licence options.



By Adam Stanley

Eastern Ontario has become an epicentre for fine local beer, with more than two dozen artisan breweries (many of them new) in a three-hour driving radius. One brewmaster says the Ottawa-area scene is “a brotherhood, a sisterhood... it’s for the love of beer.” Here are a few places to whet your whistle



CLOCKTOWER BREW PUB AND CRAFT BREWERY

Clocktower Brew Pub in Ottawa is concentrating on becoming a neighbourhood brewery. Brewmaster Patrick Fiori works with an executive chef to create beer-infused dishes. Although the brewing operations are not open for tours, restaurant patrons can enjoy upscale pub fare at any of the four locations across the city.

clocktower.ca



BIG RIG BREWERY

Chris Phillips of the Ottawa Senators is a part owner of this new brewery and restaurant in Ottawa’s west end. He’s not just a silent partner, though: Brewmaster Lon Ladell says the NHL defenceman’s farm in the Ottawa suburb of Manotick was home to some hops that were used for one of Big Rig’s seasonal beers in 2013. Patrons of all ages can take a peek through large windows from the bar or restaurant at the brewing process.

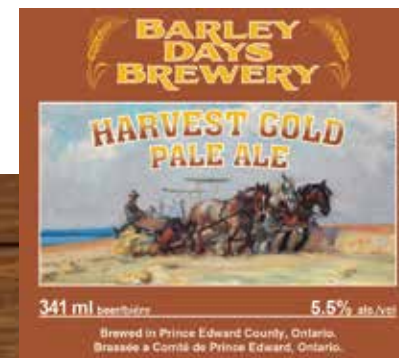
bigrigbrew.com



KICHESIPPI

Kichesippi is hoping to become the official beer of Ottawa. “We’re never going to be Canada-wide. We want people to say that if you’re visiting from out of town, you have to have a Kichesippi,” co-owner Paul Meek says. Although beer is the focus, it also has a line of sodas available for kids, teens and non-beer drinkers.

kbeer.ca



BARLEY DAYS

Located in the wine-centric region of Prince Edward County, Barley Days Brewery honours the rich agricultural history of the region. One of its highlights is a vin ale – brewmaster Alex Nichols combines beer and wine (aged in wine barrels) with champagne yeast. The brewery has a retail shop and offers tours.

barleydaysbrewery.com



BEAU'S ALL NATURAL BREWING CO.

The pride of little Vankleek Hill (population 1,800) is Beau’s – a craft beer trailblazer in Eastern Ontario. The name Beau’s stems from Beauchesne, the surname of the family that owns the brewery. The co-founder, Steve, says Ottawa was hungry for a local brewery when it launched in 2006. It’s open seven days a week for tours and perusing its on-site retail shop.

beaus.ca



PERTH BREWERY

Perth Brewery is enjoying lots of early success as an arm of Perth Brewing Co. In a can’t-miss location next to a busy eatery on Highway 7 in Perth, the family behind the venture is hoping to expand the brand into several restaurants in nearby Ottawa, according to co-owner Cathy Brown. It has more than 10 beers available for purchase, and it sponsors many festivals and events in the area throughout the summer.

perthbrewing.ca



What is craft beer?

Ontario craft beer is handcrafted, made in small batches with lots of care and attention to detail. Using the brewmaster’s own authentic special recipes, craft beer is brewed using all-natural, pure ingredients, with no additives or preservatives. It’s local.

ontariocraftbrewers.com



Perfect Pairings

Talk about perfect pairings: Beer and burgers were made for each other. Here are a few favourites

By Tim Johnson

The Works: This Ottawa-born gourmet burger bistro (13 locations) offers seven patties (beef, cheese-stuffed, chicken, turkey, veggie, mushroom and elk). **Signature:** Each location has local-themed burgers, but the Smokey Mountain is a fave: barbecue sauce, jack cheese and bacon. **TIP:** Try eclectic toppings, from pineapple to purple beets.

worksburger.com

Harper’s Burger Bar: Kingston’s pride, made with local, sustainable beef and served with Yukon Gold fries. **Signature:** Toss-up between the Umami burger with brie and the Smokehouse with applewood cheddar. **TIP:** You can replace your bun with two grilled-cheese sandwiches or get waffle-cut cheese fries on the side.

harpersburgerbar.com

Reggie’s Hot Grill: Everything from beef to bun is local at this Peterborough joint. **Signature:** An extra-lean beef patty garnished with a fried egg, mozzarella and cheddar plus crispy bacon.

TIP: Food Network’s John Catucci (*You Gotta Eat Here* host) loved it!

pepper-jack.com

The Burger’s Priest: Created by a burger aficionado and onetime seminarian, this cult Toronto brand (three locations) is “redeeming the burger one at a time.” **Signature:** Diner-style thin, griddled patties with good old processed cheese. **TIP:** Order from the secret menu (online).

theburgerspriest.com

Weber’s: Now a Muskoka landmark, this spot on Highway 11 has been a busy cottage-country nosh stop since they first opened their doors back in 1963. **Signature:** Charcoal-grilled like few remaining places do these days. **TIP:** Buy a “bucket” (12-stack of patties) here, or find them at Ontario grocery stores.

webers.com

Carrie’s Corner: Long popular with Thunder Bay locals, the burgers – and this tiny corner café – are unpretentious, homemade and delicious.

Signature: The Coney Burger is like a giant meatball on a bun (order it with cheese).

TIP: Carrie’s also makes great perogies.

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†No Purchase Necessary. Opens June 3, 2014 and closes
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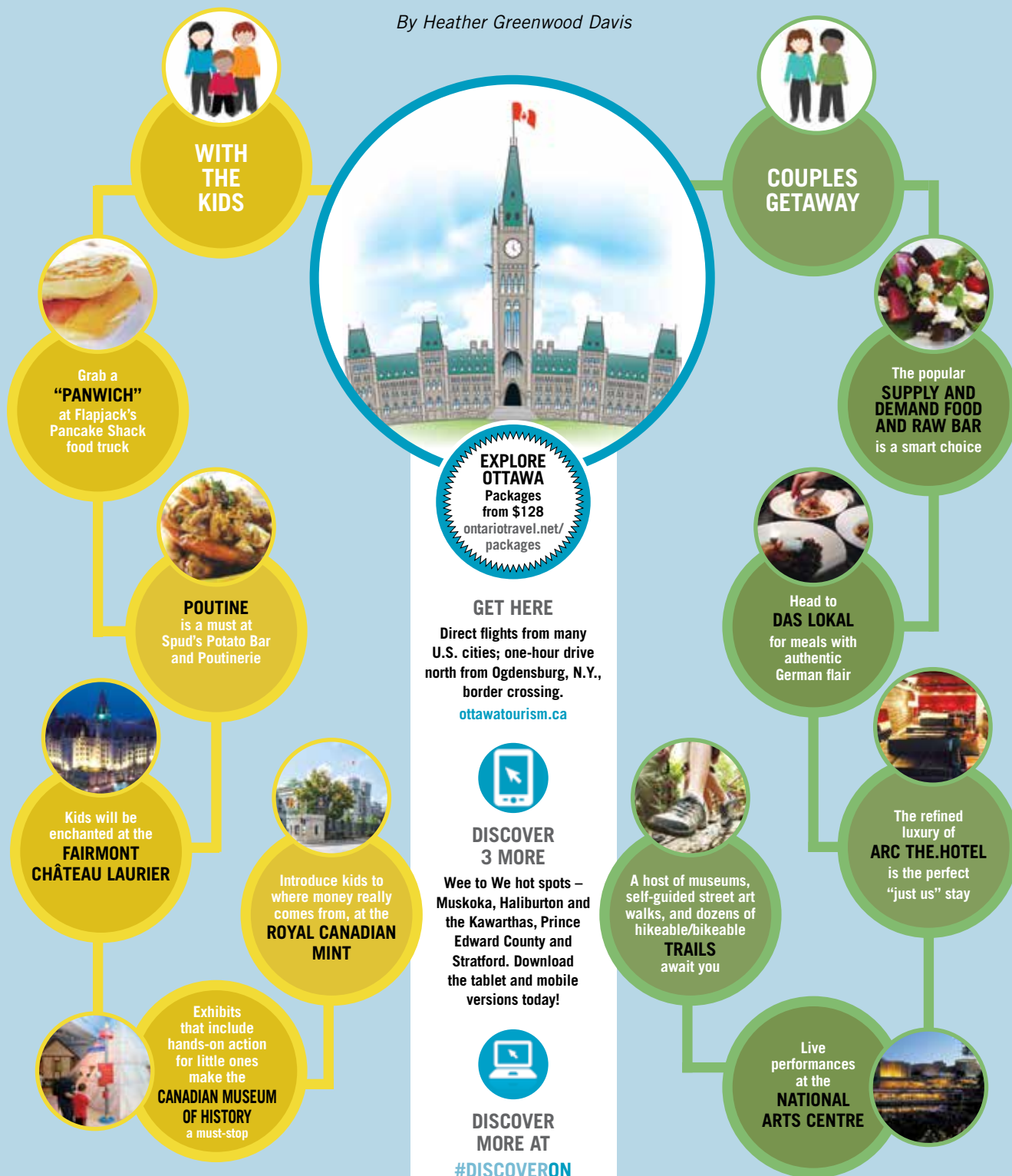


ONE
PLACE
TWO
WAYS

WEE TO WE: OTTAWA TWO WAYS

Canada's capital city boasts easily walkable blocks with architecture that celebrates both the history and modernity of the city

By Heather Greenwood Davis



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SCOTIABANK CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL TORONTO JULY 8-AUGUST 4

HONDA INDY TORONTO JULY 18-20

BEACHES INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL JULY 18-27

ROGERS CUP TENNIS AUGUST 2-10

FIFA U-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP CANADA 2014 AUGUST 5-24

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION (CNE) AUGUST 15-SEPTEMBER 1

SCOTIABANK BUSKERFEST AUGUST 21-24

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: KURIOS — CABINET OF CURIOSITIES
@ THE PORT LANDS OPENS AUGUST 28

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 4-14

GIANT PANDAS AT THE TORONTO ZOO EXHIBIT NOW OPEN

EDGEWALK AT THE CN TOWER BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN



toronto 