# Rideau Valley VISITORS' GUIDE

Your Complimentary Annual Guide to Events, Attractions and Services in the Rideau Lakes Region



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The Westport & Rideau Lakes Chamber of Commerce operates the Welcome Centre and public washrooms – in conjunction with the Village of Westport – on Spring St. in the village.

### Welcome

The Rideau Valley Visitors' Guide for 2015-16 is published by The Review-Mirror in conjunction with the Westport and Rideau Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

We hope you enjoy it and refer to it all through the year as you enjoy all the Rideau region has to offer.

From festivals and events to museums and recreational opportunities,

the Rideau has something to offer year round.

For extensive information about the area, please visit the Westport Welcome Centre at 1 Spring Street in downtown Westport. The Westport centre houses public washrooms and showers.

Rideau Canal lock stations and several businesses in the area also have information on display.

# Rideau Valley

is published annually by



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# Canal entering 183rd year of continuous operation

The British built the Rideau Canal between 1826 and 1832 to create an alternative route linking Upper and Lower Canada as protection from the consequences of an American attack.

The 1814 Treaty of Ghent ended the War of 1812 but not the potential threat that an invasion across the St. Lawrence from New York State could sever the trade route between Upper and Lower Canada.

The canal linked Ottawa, then Bytown, with the great lakes via Kingston and after the building of the canals on the Ottawa River, secured the route to Montreal.

Communities along the St. Lawrence from Cornwall to Kingston and local militia along with British soldiers played a role in engagements which began after the United States June 18, 1812 declaration of war on Great Britain.

Celebrations marking the bicentennial of that conflict began in 2012 with a number of festivals and re-enactments that continue this summer and can be found at www.celebrate1812.ca

This year's highlight of 1812 events in the area is a tall ship festival in Brockville on June 14-16 when 13 tall ships come to port.

The end of the war brought changes to the townships around the present day Rideau Lakes with the settlement of British soldiers around Perth and surrounding townships as well as an influx of British immigrants.

In 1826 Colonel By of the Royal Engineers was appointed to supervise the construction of the waterway joining the Rideau River in Ottawa to the Cataraqui River in Kingston.

By accomplished the engineering feat with the use of dams which flooded hundreds of acres of land that once submerged became the lakes linking the locks.

To construct the canal By hired independent contractors to complete 23 different sections. The contractors were required to complete a single section within a two-year time period, a standard some were unable to meet. The work was supervised by the Royal Engineers.

Thousands of labourers were required for the backbreaking tasks of



Jones Falls' locks were, along with the Newboro trench, among the more difficult engineering tasks faced by the builders of the canal.

clearing the land, quarrying the stone and hauling the stones through the forest to the construction sites.

The large stones making up the lock walls were set in place with the use of hand cranes. Much of the skilled rock work was done by French Canadians and British stonemasons who had experience on other lock projects. The unskilled labour was generally made up of Irish immigrants and French Canadians.

The canal opened in 1832 and achieved commercial success carrying in supplies and bringing out raw materials and finished goods from the enterprises which the canal supported.

The coming of the railways in the 1870's began to erode the canal's monopoly to transport goods and Smiths Falls became a railway centre.

The railway also brought more access to the Rideau for recreation and in the late 19th century waters along the Rideau became renown for their bass fishing. As tourism and fishing grew so did the number of summer homes and cottages while boats became motorized. Post WWII saw more development in the 1950's and 60's.

In 1925 the Rideau Canal was named a National Historic Site. In 2000 the Rideau was named a Heritage River and in 2007 it was a point of pride that the waterway was named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Almost all of the lock stations use the same technology that was used in 1832.

For a wealth of information on the Rideau Canal, go to www.rideau-info.com.

#### 2015 Hours of Operation

 Dates
 Days
 Hours

 May 15-June 18
 Monday - Thursday
 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

 Friday-Sunday, Victoria Day
 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

 June 19-Sept. 7
 Monday - Thursday
 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

 Friday-Sunday, Holidays
 9:00 a.m.76:00 p.m.

 Sept. 8-Oct. 12
 Monday-Friday
 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

 Friday to Sunday
 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Beveridges Lockstation will have the same hours as above for 2016.

# Old Stone Mill a 'must see'

The jewel of the Village of Delta is The Old Stone Mill National Historic Site, an 1810 stone grist mill, which has been lovingly restored by the Delta Mill Society.

In 1963 the group purchased the mill from its last operator, Hastings Steele. Over the last fifteen years the society has restored the building through fundraising and grants.

When the mill began operating in 1810 it was a model of modern technology and of a design which allowed the mill to be operated with just one person.

In 2010 the mill society reached a long-held goal of installing milling equipment to demonstrate the mill's operation.

During the last four summers the society has milled and sold flour produced from locally-grown heritage Red Fife wheat.

This year's grinding days, at 1:00 p.m. are May 23, 24; June 6, 20; July 4, 25; August 1, 15, 29; September 5, October 3

Just steps away across the creek from the mill is the society's headquarters at the Old Town Hall where for many years they operated a museum interpreting some of the region's early industries.

A recent restoration of the hall with the addition of a modern kitchen and accessible entry and washrooms has allowed the society to use the hall for their own special events as well as for rentals.

The facilities are open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. seven days a week beginning Victoria Day weekend until Labor Day.

The mill is also open for special annual events the first of which is Doors Open on May 23 and 24. On Saturday May 24, as well as tours there will be blacksmithing in the drive shed and a milling demonstration at 1:00. Other annual events include: a fish fry on Saturday July 4, the Harvest Festival on October and November and December opening of the mill for 'Celebrate the Season' festival and in April for the Delta Maple Syrup Festival when the society holds a giant book sale. Admission to the sites is by donation.

More information can be found at www.deltamill.org.



Miller and organic farmer Chris Wooding grinding grain at the Old Stone Mill in Delta.



# Welcome to the Rideau

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Rideau Lakes.

You will find the natural beauty of this area matched only by the hospitality of the residents.

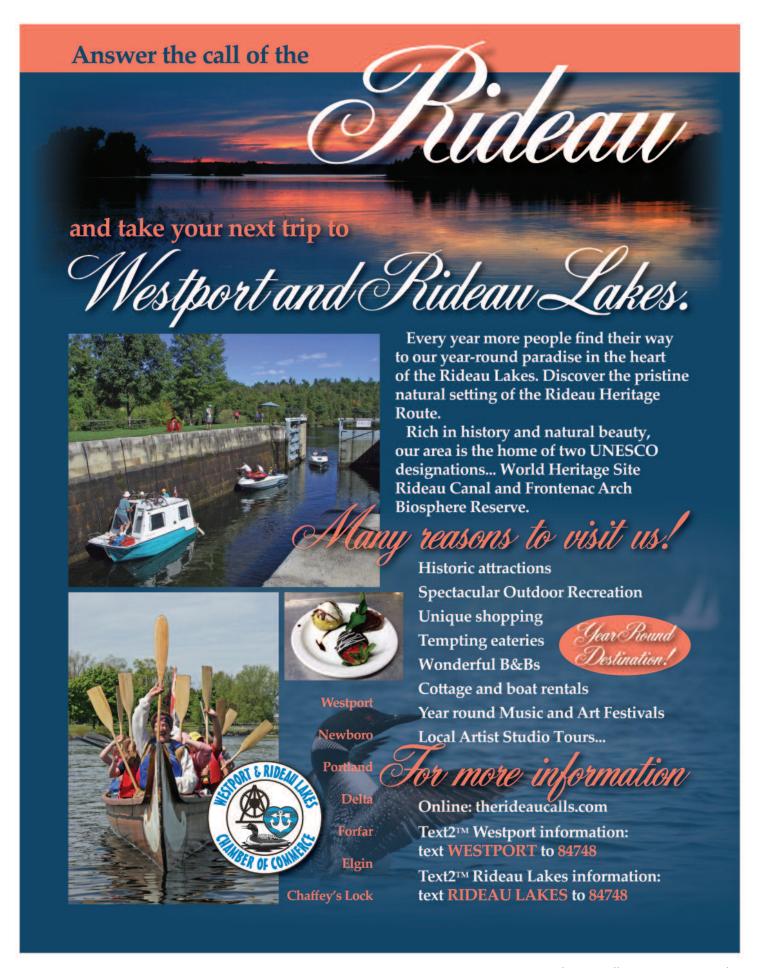
Enjoy your visit, and come back soon!



Senator Bob Runciman (Ontario – Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes)



Funding available from OHIP, WSIB, DVA, MVA and extended health insurance plans. www.perthphysiotherapy.ca









# Easy driving distance...

We are within easy driving distance of Toronto (3.5 hrs), Montreal (3 hrs), Ottawa (1.5 hrs), Kingston (45 min), Buffalo (5 hrs), Syracuse (2.5 hrs) just to name a few!

# Visitor Centre...

While you're here enjoy a warm welcome from the Visitors Centre in Westport. It is located at #1 Spring St. The Westport & Rideau Lakes Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Village of Westport, provide you with its many services.

Hours of operation info at www.therideaucalls.com.









More Visitor Kiosks located at:



- Hwy 15, Portland - Main Street, Elgin

# Become a member...

The Westport and Rideau Lakes
Chamber of Commerce has a long
and proud history of serving this
community. We actively
promote members' businesses
on our website and through
advertising in a variety of
publications. Membership has it's
rewards, because our members
receive discounts on most advertising.



An additional benefit is the ability to display promotional items in the Visitor Centre. The Chamber operates the Centre from May until October. During the peak season we are open 7 days a week. We expect 10,000 visitors each

summer! We welcome new membersplease visit our website to find out how to join... www.therideaucalls.com.

We are "the voice of business" in this community!

-Debi Stoness
President



A variety of planes, and even the occasional helicopter, drop into the aerodrome for the Rideau Lakes Flying Club's fly-ins.

# Rideau Lakes fly-in May 30

In the spring and fall the Rideau Lakes Flying Club welcomes visitors by car and plane to visit their airfield.

Those who arrive by plane enjoy a bird's eye view of spring in Rideau Lakes or the fall colours of Thanksgiving weekend.

The spring fly-in takes place on May 30 with breakfast served from 8:00 until noon.

The annual Oktoberfest fly-on Saturday, October

10 has sausages and pie on the menu from 10:00 to 2:00.

Visitors can enjoy watching the planes arrive and depart from the field from the clubhouse deck and take a walk down the field to see the planes close up.

The club has developed, managed and maintained the air field on behalf of the Township of Rideau Lakes, which owns the property.

### **Canoefest June 6**

Seeley's Bay Red Canoefest returns on June 6 with events on and off the water including a paddler's poker run, a kids fishing event, a 3K Fun Walk Run and a community barbecue and singalong.

Silent Poker Run - Join in a game of chance on the beautiful Rideau waterway around Seeley's Bay, whether you paddle fast or slow, you have the same chance of winning a prize in this off-beat poker run.

Kids 'n Cops - This is a great way for kids to learn

about fishing, with help from local police services. There are prizes galore and equipment for young people who would like to

A 3K Fun Walk Run is being organized by the Seeley's Bay Chiropractic Clinic and a Community BBQ & Singalong will be held for visitors, volunteers and area residents to get together in the park, share food and songs; everyone is welcome

Watch for further details at www.visitseeleysbay.ca.





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# SEE WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR COMMUNITY PHARMACY

# Mica festival explores mining history

The Friends of Murphy's Point bring a series of cultural events and activities to the Murphy's Point Provincial Park this summer in their 5th season of celebrating the park's mining history.

Heritage Mica Days include activities every week from late June to late August and finishes on Thanksgiving weekend.

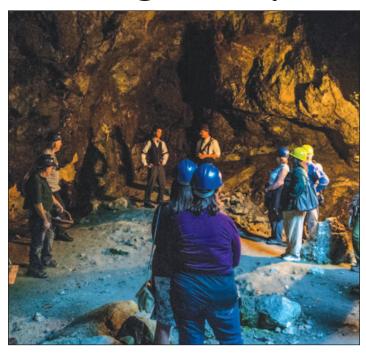
The star of the event is the Silver Queen Mine, one of 35 mica mines in the area in the early 1900's.

The mica ore was split into small sheets which were used as electrical insulation as well as other uses such as windows in woodstoves and lanterns. The ore was shipped by barge along the Rideau Canal or by train from Perth.

Every Sunday, open house events will be hosted at the mine. You can participate in a self-guided tour of the mine, including visits to the restored ore wagon and the miners' bunkhouse. Guided tours are Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Preregistration is required.

Other activities throughout the summer include pancake brunches, spirit walks, dinner theatre, and concerts.

A full calendar is available at www.heritagemicadays.ca Most activities are free with a park pass and tickets can be bought online. The park can be reached from Hwy. 15 via Crosby and Narrows Lock Rd. to Lally Road or south from Rideau Ferry Road via Elm Grove.



The Silver Queen is holding open houses and tours on the weekends during Heritage Mica Days.







# Foley Mountain offers trails and children's activities

The pleasure of one of the most spectacular panoramas in North Leeds is found a short drive north from Westport on Spy Rock, high above Upper Rideau Lake.

The landmark is part of the Foley Mountain Conservation Area, an 800 acre holding of woods, ponds and fields which welcomes visitors and educational groups all year long.

The lookout is a short walk from the area's main parking lot where the main trailhead leads to looped trails bordered by woods, ponds, forests and fields on the ridge above Upper Rideau Lake.

Visitors have a choice of eight kilometers of looped trails meandering through the park including a stone dust surfaced mobility trail at the Interpretive Centre. The trail's low grades allow those with limited mobility to enjoy more of the pleasures the mountain has to offer.

Activities available in the park include group camping, hiking, educational programs and swimming. A natural swimming area equipped with pit toilets, a change house, and picnic tables is located at the eastern end of the park just a half kilometer walk from the Interpretive Centre.

The centre houses the Children's Nature Discovery Centre which includes interactive nature displays and live animals. The park's friendly staff is available to answer questions about Foley Mountain.

In July and August a variety of



A variety of activities for children are held year round at the Foley Mountain Conservation Authority.

children's full day and half-day nature programs are available as well as two one-week nature explorers day-camp. A full schedule and a registration form and information about fees are available on the www.rvca.ca website from the conservation areas tab. Entrance to the park which is open 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset is \$6.00 per vehicle. A pay machine accepts coins and credit cards. Season passes are also available.



David Rotundo, right, and Des Brown perform at Blues on the Rideau.

#### Blues on the Rideau

Some of Canada's top Blues acts pay a monthly visit to Westport from October through June as part of the Blues on the Rideau series. Many JUNO award winners and nominees have appeared in the past. The 2014-15 line-up will be at www.bluesontherideau.ca.

# Chaffey's Lock craft fair

The Chaffey's Lock Heritage Society brings their annual craft fair to the lawn of the Opinicon Hotel Saturday August 1 from 9 to 4. This year's 32nd edition brings back a community tradition which attracts craft vendors from across Eastern Ontario to the historic community. Proceeds from vendors' fees support the society's projects which include the lockmaster's museum.



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2015 Rideau Ferry Regatta to feature competitive racing

Rideau Ferry Regatta promises to be an adrenalin-filled event this summer, with sanctioned racing back on the program. Can Am flat bottom race boats will be vying for the Canadian championship Aug. 15-16.

Since its revival in 2007, the event has been known as a vintage and antique race boat regatta. With the inclusion of the Pan Am championship, like in its heyday, the regatta is back to racing.

Of course the regatta will also feature vintage and antique boats on the oval course on Lower Rideau Lake. As well, boat building – four canoes built in one day and racing the next – various booths with nautical, historic and Rideau Canal themes and children building and decorating toy boats. Cardboard boat race, skippered by local politicians who prefer to keep their heads above water, is also back by popular demand.

The sanctioned races are expected to create a great draw for the event on Lower Rideau Lake at Rideau Ferry.

Scott Cameron, who spear-headed the return of the regatta in 2007, says it



The Rideau Ferry Regatta brings out some classic boats, like Miss Canada IV - this is her predecessor Miss Canada III - and other vintage boats.

will draw more spectators and participants from the United States, Quebec and Ontario.

"It's a great crowd pleaser. We're growing and that's absolutely terrific," says Cameron, whose father and uncle were driving forces of the regatta in the 1950s when as many as 10,000 spectators flooded into Rideau Ferry.

Paul Reid, an organizer of the Can Am races, says he expects at least 16 racers for the competition. He also has a history in Rideau Ferry, with his father Dudley winning a race back in 1933 in the outboard class. Reid has

competed in Arizona and Florida, placing second and third. He's also planning to promote the Rideau Ferry Regatta in an upcoming race in Florida.

For more, check out

www.rfyc.ca. Anyone wanting to volunteer can call John Kessel at 613-267-2091 Scott or Cameron at RFYC@sympatico.ca. or 613-283-9107.

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# Endless trail options in the Rideau

### Foley Mountain and the Rideau Trail

The view from Spy Rock is just one the conservation area offers on its 800 acres of property on the Upper Rideau's north shore. The area is accessible from Cty. Rd. 10 north of Westport.

More than five kilometers of trails form looped routes through a variety of landscapes in the park.

One of the best loved sections of the Rideau Trail runs through the park. Trailhead signs are available at the main parking area and at the Interpretive Centre at the east end of the park where an 800 foot stone dust trail offers access through a mature forest to views of the lake. Entrance fee to the park is \$2.00 on foot or bicycle or \$6.00 per car.

The Rideau Trail, which turned 40 last year, goes from Ottawa to Kingston. It is operated by the Rideau Trail Association, a nonprofit group and a founding member of Hike Ontario. It is marked by red triangles while side trails are marked by blue triangles. The total length of cleared and marked trails is 387 km.

Visit www.rideautrail.org where the event schedules are updated regularly.

#### Cataraqui Trail

The Cataraqui Trail, part of the TransCanada Trail passes through Chaffey's Lock, crossing over the canal on a 1912 railway bridge. The Chaffey's section is one of the most scenic parts of the abandoned CN Railway line which runs 104 km. from Strathcona near Napanee to Smiths Falls.

The best access point near Chaffey's (with room

for parking) is near the intersection of Indian Lake Road and the Opinicon Lake Road, about 1 km west of Chaffey's Lock. From there it is a pleasant walk back towards Chaffey's to the bridge which crosses the canal just north of the locks. The trail can also be accessed for a journey west to Chaffey's from Hwy 15, a site where there is ample parking.

The trail is available to hikers, cyclists, and in the winter skiers and snowmobilers. Its gentle gradient makes it easy to hike, ski or cycle. The best views on the trail are west of Chaffey's. For those travelling without their own bicycle, bikes are available for rent in Chaffey's at Brown's Marina.

For more about the Cataraqui Trail including maps and access points see: www.rideau-info.com/cattrail.

#### Chaffey's Lock

Marion Heritage Trail offers a pleasant walk to the Chaffey's Lock Cemetery from the Chaffey's Lock Road, about 30 metres south (towards lock) from Community Hall. It follows an old road leading past the old lime kiln and blacksmith's shop the to Chaffey's Lock Cemetery and the community's heritage wall, looping back to the Chaffey's Lock Road.

The Cataraqui Trail, part of the TransCanada Trail, is accessible at Chaffey's from a modest parking lot 1 km west of the locks across the swing bridge on the Opinicon Road. Walking east on the trail you pass high over the canal on the former railway bridge.



The view of Westport from the Rideau Trail along Spy Rock in the Foley Mountain Conservation Area.

#### Rock Dunder, Morton Hwy 15

Seven kilometers of trail for intermediate and experienced hikers meander through the 238 acre tract which includes over two kilometers of shoreline and access to one of the most breathtaking views on the Rideau Waterway.

Access to the property is courtesy of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust which purchased the property six years ago and offers access to the public to the area for passive recreation.

The land trust encourages hikers to recognize their appreciation for the facility with a donation in the box located at the trail head. The trust receives no government funding to keep the trails open to the public.

Trails have been routed to protect the site's sensitive plant communities.

The property includes a variety of landscapes includ-

ing exposed rocky ridges, igneous rock cliffs, shallow rock undercuts and glacial erratics, impoverished but undisturbed meadows and bare rock barrens, mixed and hardwood forests, wet meadows and perched ponds, and the long undisturbed stretch of natural shoreline.

The site holds a special place in the hearts of many residents and visitors to the region, an affection which brought out the generosity of donors, both large and small who contributed over \$250,000 for the purchase of the well known landmark and the development of public access.

The site is a carry in carry out site and is available from sunrise to sunset use. The entrance to the parking lot is directly across from the large Township of Rideau Lakes entrance sign at Stanley Lash Lane just south of Morton.

# **Lakes Region**

#### **Jones Falls**

Several loops can be made on the site including one from a trail from the main parking lot on the Jones Falls Road which leads north to the Stone Arch Dam and down along the locks to Hotel Kenney and back to the parking lot. Another less accessible trail leads from the lockmasters station and along some rocky terrain parallel to the turning basin to the black-smith's shop.

#### Mill Pond Conservation Area

Hwy. 15 North of Portland via Briton Houghton Bay Road

Six kilometers of trails meander through mixed

hardwood forest and some wetland. The Lime Kiln trail leads to the site of a lime kiln, part of the property's history of agricultural use which includes use of the maple bush on the property for syrup production.

On site is a boat launch to the Mill Pond, a kilometer long small pond off of Big Rideau Lake as well as a picnic shelter, parking lot and latrines. Entrance to the area is free.

Sugarbush Island

Sugarbush Island Walking Trail (2.8 km): is located west of Elgin on the Davis Lock Road (off Hwy. 15). The trailhead is about 7 km from the Hwy 15. The

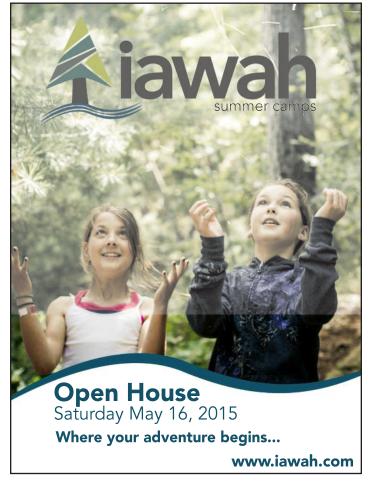
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The Cataraqui Trail is part of the area's snowmobile trail network, although no motorized vehicles are permitted outside the winter season.







# Three provincial parks offering hiking opportunites

Continued from previous page

trail leads to a view of the Murphy Bay Wetlands (Opinicon Lake) and is operated by the Rideau Waterway Land Trust (www.rwlt.org). The trail is accessible by wheelchair and was designed with gentle grades.

#### **Frontenac Arch**

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere is a region recognized by the United Nations as having exceptional environmental and human qualities. Five ecoregions join on the arch, which is a natural bridge of land running north and south joining the Cambrian Shield to the Adirondack's plateau.

The trails within the Frontenac Arch region includes those in provincial parks and on crown land, on conservation authority lands, land trust conservation lands, municipally owned property as well as on some private property.

www.explorethearch.ca offers a growing number of recreational trails within the Frontenac Arch Biosphere (FABR) territory as well as heritage walking and driving tours, and cycling and paddling routes.

#### **Provincial Parks**

Three provincial parks, Charleston Lake, Frontenac and Murphy's Point, lie on the Frontenac Arch and together protect close to 10,000 hectares.

#### Frontenac Provincial Park

Frontenac Provincial Park is a rugged landscape of lakes, cliffs, wetlands, valleys and ponds west of the Westport area with its main entrance at Sydenham.

- •Arab Lake George 1.5 km
- •Arkon Lake 13 km
- Big Salmon Lake 19 km
- •Cedar Lake 15 km
- •Doe Lake 3 km. moderate
- •Gibson Lake 11 km
- •Hemlock Lake 5 km
- •Little Clear Lake 9 km
- •Little Salmon Lake 15 km
- •Slide Lake 21 km
- •Tetsmine Lake 12 km

#### Charleston Lake Provincial Park

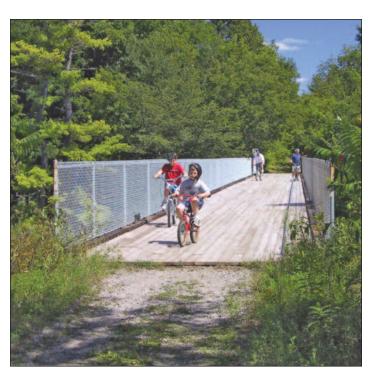
Situated in the Frontenac Arch, the park offers a rugged look and feel. The main entrance is on Cty. Rd. 3 south of Lyndhurst.

- •Beech Woods Trail 1.8 km
- •Hemlock Ridge Trail 1.8
- •Quiddity Trail 2.6 km
- •Sandstone Island Trail 3.3 km
- •Shoreline Centennial Trail 1.6 km
- •Westside Trail 10 km.

### Murphy's Point Provincial Park

Murphy's Point, along with the Silver Queen Mine, is located on the north shore of Big Rideau Lake between Westport and Rideau Ferry.

- •Loon Lake Loop Trail 1 km.
- •McParlan House Trail 2.5 km.
- •Point Trail 5.5 km.
- •Silver Queen Mine Trail 2.3 km.
- •Sylvan Trail 2.5 km.
- •Rideau Trail 6.5 km.



The Chaffey's section, shown here, is one of the most scenic parts of the Cataraqui Trail, an abandoned CN Railway line running 104 km, from Napanee to Smiths Falls.

# Queen's scientists hold June 28 open house

Research at Queen's University Biological Station on Lake Opinicon has been helping to unravel mysteries about the area's flora and fauna for over 65 years.

The station's more than 5,000 acres of lands in the Chaffey's Lock area are a fascinating and abundant mixture of animal species and plants from the north and the south, make their home within the bounds of the Queen's facility.

Research at the Queen's facility contributes to the knowledge of how the area's unique ecology functions.

The station's holdings include six small lakes and extensive shoreline on Lake Opinicon and Hart Lake which afford a wide variety of habitats and research opportunities for researchers who come to

the facility from across Canada and the United States.

The year's annual open house on Sunday June 28 noon-3:00 pm will provide the public with a window on their research and the animals they study.

Birds, fish, turtles, snakes and other creatures are part of the mix of more than a dozen projects scientists will be interpreting to the public and family and friends.

The event also includes tours of the facilities and habitats.

The public is also invited to a summer seminar series on Wednesday (7 p.m.) which will feature a variety of biological topics. A list of speakers as well as workshops at the station will be posted on http://www.queensu.ca/biology/qubs.html.



Antique lovers and vendors from near and far attend the Westport Antique Show at the Community Centre.

# 23rd edition of Westport Antique Show in June

This year the Westport Antique Show continues in its 23rd year of bringing antique and collectible dealers together from across Ontario and Quebec.

On June 6 and 7 more than 30 antique and collectible dealers will be displaying their wares at the Westport Community Centre.

Collectors of antiques and collectibles attending the event are sure to discover something 'new' with the selection of dealers who will be attending the show.

The dealers will be bringing a fresh inventory including the finest antiques in glass, tools, china, pine furniture, pottery, crystal, silver, folk art, formal furniture, collectibles, nostaglia and much more.

The event is also an opportunity for antique owners to be able to get an appraisal of a family treasure by one of the dealers.

Hours are 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 10:00 to 4:00 on Sunday. There is an admission charge.



# Rideau Heritage Route

The Rideau Heritage Route travel guides lead you on a beautiful adventure of the world famous Rideau Heritage Route.

Wind your way through historic sites, charming villages, quaint attractions and spectacular recreation areas from Kingston to Ottawa.

Municipal, government and private partners have come together to create Ontario's newest tourism destination from what the Rideau Canal, and all of the communities along the Kingston to Ottawa corridor have to offer.

The destination marketing organization has packaged those offerings for the first time into an attractive and informative website, an online travel guide and has marked the corridor on the ground with signs delineating the route.

Along with a glimpse of the history of the area, the guide includes events and attractions, self-guided tours, accommodations, dining, routes for driving, hiking, cycling and paddling along with other outdoor recreation opportunities.

Print publications may be available at information centres. The website is www.rideauheritageroute.ca

In North Leeds there are several loops leading visitors through local villages including Seeley's Bay, Lyndhurst and Delta, Newboro, Westport and Portland.

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The Manotick Classic Boat Club's annual show, shown here in Rideau Ferry in 2014, is coming to Portland Aug. 8.

# Antique and classic boats part of BRLA 100th

The Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA) is celebrating their 100th anniversary with an event to bring the community on and off the lake to Portland on August 8.

Organizers have invited wooden boat owners, to bring their craft to Portland that Saturday and have extended a special invitation to owners of Dowsett Boats which were built in Portland.

"There are a lot of boats out here on the lake that don't want to travel. It's an opportunity if you have a wooden boat to get it out and get it going," said BRLA president Doug Good.

The day promises to include other vintage items including cars, motorcycles and farm machinery.

Organizers are also planning an historical tour of the village by wagon with local historian Doug Bond and are setting plans for other activities.

Events will be taking place around Hanna Park and the Portland Community Hall.

#### Manotick Classic Boat Club show in Portland

Manotick Classic Boat Club members will also be coming together to show their vessels in Portland on Saturday, August 8.

Show hours of the event which is anticipated to bring 40 craft will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Admission for the event, which is organized in partnership with the Westport Harbour Committee, will benefit the Westport Food Bank which will be running the gate and will be accepting donations of cash or non-perishable food items.

The event was originally scheduled for Westport but was moved to Portland to coincide with their events.

### Lower Beverley Lake Park 2015 Events

Unless noted otherwise, all events will be held at the Bradford Pavilion.

MAY	
May 16	Elvis & Johnny Cash Tributes1-4 pm
May 16	Bingo
May 30	Bingo7 pm
May 31	Classic Cars & Motorcycles11 am to 3 pm
JUNE	Simone Suns of interestory exessiving a man to a prin
June 6	Bingo7 pm
June 13	Children's Activities: Easter10 am
June 20	Kid's Crafts10 am
June 26	Karaoke7 pm
June 27	Kid's Bingo10 am
June 27	Entertainment: Ambush1 pm
June 27	Chicken Barbeque4 pm
June 27	Bingo7 pm
June 28	Pancake Breakfast9 am
June 28	Red & White Horseshoe Tournament9 am
June 28	Texas Hold'em Tournament1 pm
JULY	•
July 1	Children's Activities/Ice Cream Sundaes10 am
July 3	Teen Dance8 pm
July 4	Children's Air Castles10 am
July 4	Bingo7 pm
July 10	Movie Night8:30 pm
July 11	Pie & Bake Sale10 am
July 18	Kid's Crafts10 am
July 18	Bingo7 pm
July 23-26	185th Delta Fair
July 25	Children's Activities10 am
July 31	Karaoke7 pm
AUGUST	
August 1	Kid's Bingo10 am
August 1	Bingo7 pm
August 2	Horseshoe Tournament9 am
August 2	Children's Mini-Putt with Barbeque10 am
August 2	Entertainment: The Posse1 to 4 pm
August 7	Teen Dance8 pm
August 8	Car Show
August 8	Entertainment: The Reasons
August 9	Fiddlers' Plus Jam Session
	Movie Night
August 15	Kid's Crafts
August 15	Bingo7 pm Craft and Yard Sale9 am to noon
August 22	
August 22	Ball Tournament
August 29	
SEPTEMB	
Sept. 4	Karaoke 7 pm
Sept. 5	Kid's Bingo
Sept. 5	Entertainment: Eddy/Stingrays1 pm
Sept. 5	Food Bank Collection
Sept. 5	Bingo
Sept. 6	Bradford Memorial Horseshoe Tournament 9 am
Sept. 6	Children's Activities: Christmas10 am
	Old Bastards' Vintage Motorcycle Rally
- P 11 10	

# Westport Arts Council hosting variety of events

The Westport Arts Council is expanding its catalogue of events this summer with a new plein air painting festival, an art and fine crafts exhibition at the Lions Beach and a Sunday night story and song series on Sunday evenings at the Westport Spring.

#### **Plein Air Festival**

Westport Arts Council's inaugural Plein Air Festival and Competition will run from June 4-6, 2015. The event will welcome artists to paint the beauty Westport and surrounding region. Inspiration abounds in this stunning Canadian Shield landscape, on the shores of several area lakes or in the quaintness of Westport itself. Novice artists of all ages are encouraged to attend as well as more seasoned painters and lovers/collectors.

"Painting Outside" workshop will be offered on June 4th and an exhibition and sale will be held on the final day of the event. Prizes will be awarded by a jury. Registration (\$25 for youth, \$35 for adults) can be done through the Westport Arts Council website (westportartscouncil.com).

#### Art by the Lake

Twenty artists and craftspeople will be exhibiting at Art By the Lake, a new exhibition and outdoor sale on July 3 and 4 at the Westport's Lions' Sand Lake Beach.

A juried exhibition inside the Lions Beach House opens with a Friday night reception on July 3 and continues on Saturday July 4 with an outdoor exhibition beneath tents on the grounds.

Nineteen artists will be



Driftwood Theatre brought its production of William Shakespeare's The Tempest to Lockwood Field in Westport last year.

exhibiting at the event which will have live music and food available on the Saturday.

#### Stories and song at the spring

Stories and Songs at the Spring will bring together musicians and storytellers at the foot of Spring Street for four events on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on June 21, July 12, July 26 and August 2.

#### Shakespeare in Westport

The arts council brings, on August 6, the Driftwood Theatre's Theatre in the Park–production of Shakespeare's Hamlet to Lockwood Field beside the

Community Centre on Spring Street.

#### Writers' Reading

On October 3 WAC's annual Writers Reading brings together Canadian authors to read from their work at the United Church on Spring Street.

#### Christmas house tour

The arts council helps to kick off Christmas in Westport with activities surrounding the Westport Lions Annual Santa Claus Parade on November 28 and a Christmas Home Tour on December 3.



This trio was taking part in a free African drum and dance workshop at Westport Spring in 2014.





# ERVERQUEN CONTROLLED

The Elgin Lions Club float in the Elgin Day parade. Elgin Day is held the second Saturday in July.

# **Elgin Day July 11**

Elgin comes alive for the community's annual summer celebration, Elgin Day, on Saturday July 11. Activities include community breakfasts, yard sales, live music, a barbecue and other special events as well as a variety of games for children hosted by groups in the community.

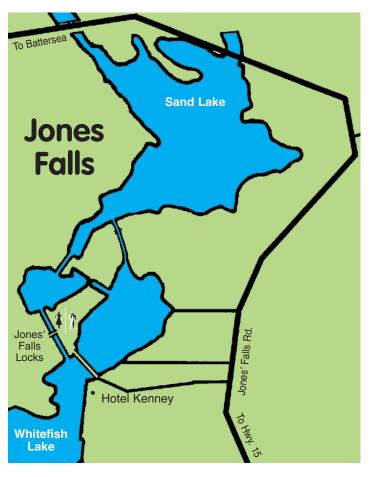
The Elgin and Area Heritage Society will be holding a yard sale and an open house at the Red Brick School.

The Saturday at 2:00 parade has a theme of wheels. The firefighters association follows their parade with a chicken barbecue at the fire hall.

The Elgin United

Church will be hosting a bake sale and Heifer International Exhibition on Saturday and a presentation on the group on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

On Saturday Bethel Church offers a free pancake breakfast and special activities for the whole family. The Elgin Lions offer a Quiz Night and Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, a community dance Saturday evening and on Sunday in the afternoon a Bingo followed by an evening fish An Ecumenical Worship Celebration at the Elgin 7pm at Municipal Complex caps off the weekend.





# Art in the barn

At the 5th annual Art in the Barn you can meet over 40 artists from the Rideau Lakes Artists' Association displaying an eclectic mix of original artwork, including watercolour, acrylic, oil, mixed media and batik paintings, and artisans showing painted feathers, pottery, quilting, stained glass and bird carvings.

This show will be held at the Lombardy Agricultural Society Fairgrounds 4 miles south of Smiths Falls on Hwy. 15 at Kelly's Road Friday, July 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday, July 11-12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

After last year's smashing success, Art in the Barn is vamping things up. Due to the popularity of the show from both the artists and visitors, exhibitors will be set up in the Barn as usual and also in the Main Hall of the Fairgrounds providing two fun and relaxed atmospheres to meet with the artists and talk to them about their wide diversity of original artwork. Visitors will also have the opportunity to participate in the first People's Choice Award. "The Art in the Barn Show offers visitors an opportu-

nity to take home some-

thing unique from their summer travels that they would not find in a store," said Christine Martin, Chair of the 2015 show."

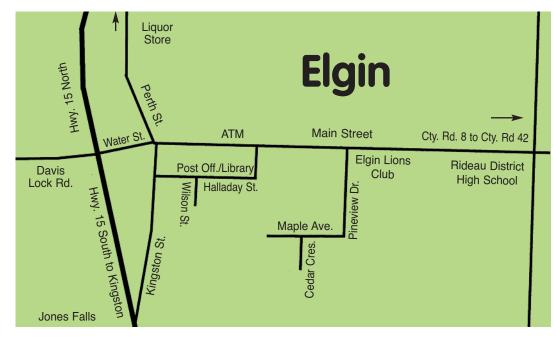
Food vendors and a picnic area will also be available for visitors' comfort.

This venue has ample free parking and shelter. Admission is free and a percentage of all sales, together with any donations will be donated to the Perth/Smiths Falls Hospitals.

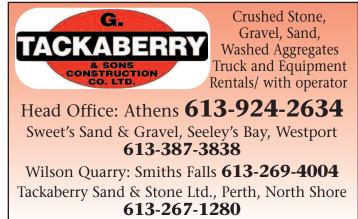
For more about this and the Rideau Lakes Artists' Association visit website at www.rideaulakesartists.com.



Art in the Barn is at the Lombardy Agricultural Society Fairgrounds on Hwy. 15.









Volunteers serve in excess of Over 1,000 people over the two-day Maple Syrup Festival.

# Delta celebrating syrup since 1967

The community of Delta celebrates their community's rich history with maple syrup with a festival held every year on the third weekend of April.

Activities take place around the village including an all-day pancake and sausage meal at the Agricultural hall, blacksmith and milling demonstrations at the Delta Mill and a Café and book sale at the Old Town Hall and a craft sale upstairs at the agricultural hall.

On Saturday a ball hockey tournament is held at the recreation centre.

Throughout the weekend there will be a craft sale at the upper hall of the agricultural building and a silent auction downstairs.

The event is sponsored by the Delta Agricultural Society and follows a tradition which began in 1967 as a Centennial project and which in early years included tours of local sugar bushes and tours of the Confederated Goods Syrup plant which before its closure was a major employer in the community.

Over the years the Festival continued through the efforts of many local residents and Service Clubs until it became a project for the Directors of the Delta Agricultural Society.





Above, crowds gather at the Westport Lions Club Beach for an afternoon of activities in advance of fireworks. Left, the Seeley's Bay Canada Day Parade, bottom left, the Newboro Parade and, below, the Westport Canada Day Bicycle Parade.







# Canada Day 2015

**Chaffey's Locks** 

The Chaffey's Lock Heritage Society hosts a Canada Day celebration at the lock station grounds from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on July 1 with a barbecue and live music.

#### Newboro

The Village of Newboro traditionally celebrates Canada Day on July 1 with an evening parade at 7:00 leaving from Lorne Park. Free refreshments follow at the park. Parade line-up is at 6:30.

#### **Porltand**

Canada's Birthday celebrations come early this year on the Big Rideau with a fireworks display set off from Cow Island providing a unique spectacle on and off the water on Saturday June 27. The event is sponsored by donations to the Big Rideau Lake Association.

#### Seeley's Bay

Activities at the Legion and adjacent Centennial Park are a Canada Day tradition for the village. The Seeley's Bay Canada Day Committee has planned a day-long slate of activities ending with a spectacular fireworks display at dusk. Activities throughout the day traditionally include a variety of children's games, a petting zoo, a craft show, displays, performances by local musicians, and a parade through the village at 4:00. Children's activities are free, and a canteen is available in the park.

The day begins with a number of sporting events in the morning including a doubles tennis challenge, a fun run, a volleyball tournament, a fishing derby and a paddle pursuit.

A full schedule of activities is available online at www.seeeleysbaycanadaday.com

#### Westport

A children's bicycle parade and color party at Rideau District the Museum beginning at 3:00 p.m. precede an afternoon of music and children's activities at the Lions Club Beach. The day is capped off by a huge fireworks display over Sand Lake. There is no parking at the site but a shuttle service is available from St. Ed's parking lot and the community centre.



Over 30 artists, craftspeople and musicians, including Herman Amburger were at the 2014 Sundance Artisan Festival in Maberly.

# Sundance Festival features artisans and music

Sundance Artisan Festival is an evolution of innovative and traditional artisans, local farm to plate cuisine, and eclectic toe-tapping music over three days during the Labour Day Weekend.

The Sundance Studio Tour has evolved into an artisan festival at the corner of Hwy. 7 and Cty. Rd. 36. The tour has been recognized far and wide for its unique value, sustainable concepts and flare for good taste. Since its conception this has been one of the finest exhibits of top quality artists in the Valley.

The artists value and care for our environment by utilizing as much reclaimed or natural materials as possible. Blended with our local talent this group exhibits a unique experience.

It is a stimulating event, with hand crafted foods, stone ground breads, wine and micro brewed beers.

They also have an abundance of home grown and transplanted, award winning local musicians, who will be sure to inspire your rhythm.

Go to www.sundancestudio.ca for more.





# Paddling on the Rideau

The flat water of the Rideau Canal is being discovered as a wonderful place for young and old alike to canoe or kayak.

Access to the water has been getting easier for paddlers in recent years with the installation of low-level paddling docks at most lock stations.

Those docks make it easier for paddlers to get in and out at lock stations which offer convenient camping opportunities and washroom facilities.

Seeley's Bay has become a departure point on the Rideau which offers easy access from the water for groceries, banking, ice cream and the LCBO. The stop has lockers to store your gear while visiting the village and racks to store your boat.

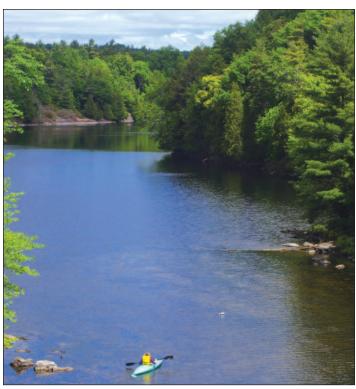
Much of the information a paddler would need to plan a trip is available on the Internet.

Ken Watson's Paddling on the Rideau guide is available on his website at www.rideau-info.com.

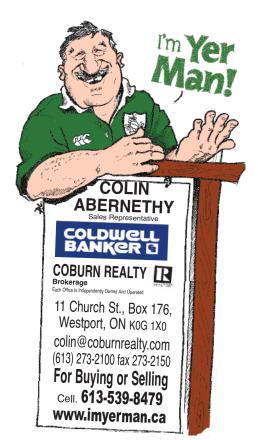
The Rideau Heritage Route's website www.rideauheritageroute.c a offers information as well as the Frontenac Arch Biosphere site www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca. The region has many businesses which rent paddling boats.

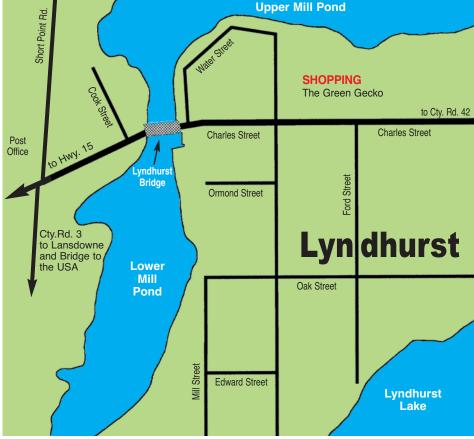
Paddling isn't restricted to the Rideau. A route from Morton to Gananoque follows a portage route which has been used for hundreds of years.

Routes are also available in Frontenac Provincial Park which has wilderness camping sites and portage routes between the park's many lakes.



A kayaker on the Gananoque River south of Lyndhurst at Black Rapids.





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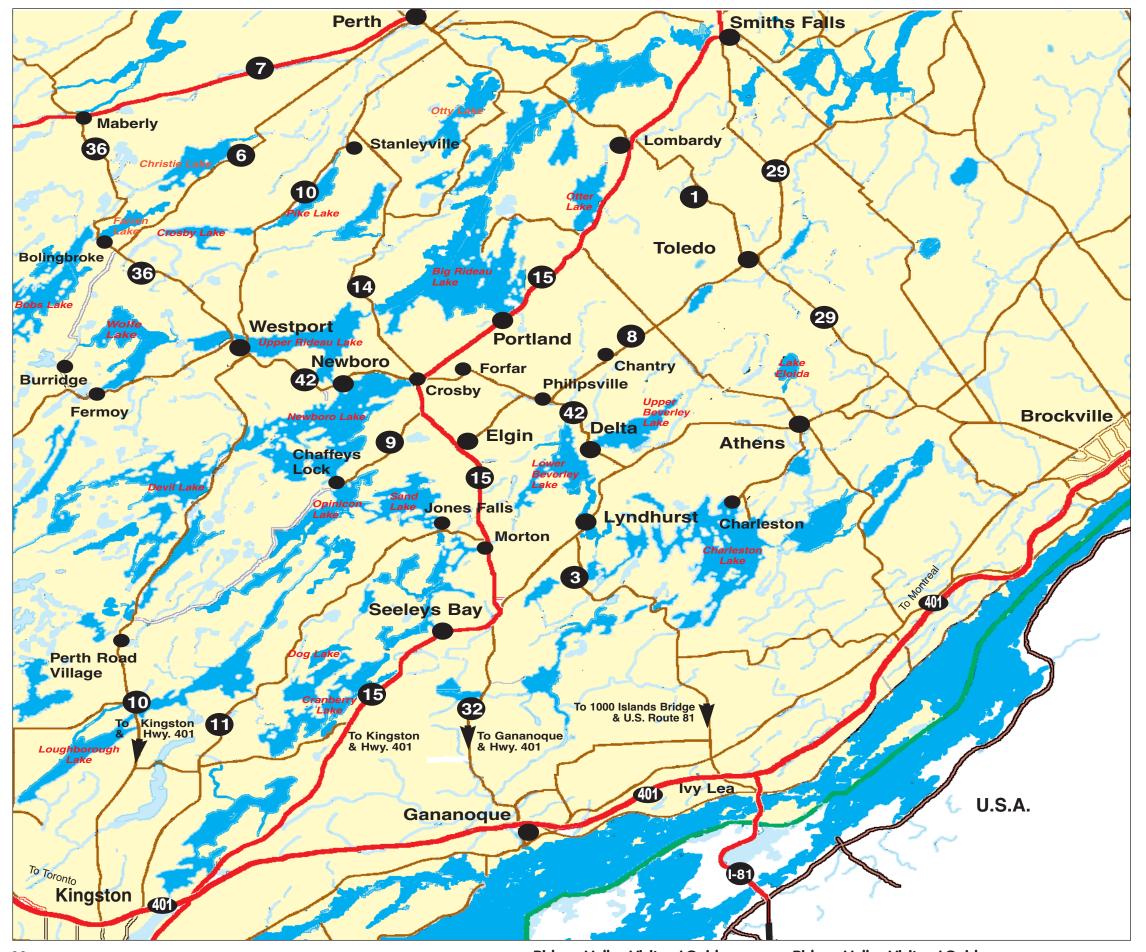
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World Heritage Site on the Rideau Waterway at Jones Falls, Elgin, Ontario



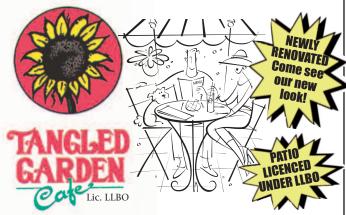
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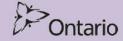
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### Thursday, July 23rd

Exhibit Judging-Animal Land-Mini King & Queen Pageant-Clarol the Clown Magic Show-Horse Drawn Wagon Rides-Children's Races-Afternoon Musical Entertainment-Ambassador Pageant -Official Opening Ceremonies-Citizen/Youth of the Year Acknowledgement-Jimmy Flynn Comedy Show: Mature theme-Music by Texas Tuxedo- Special Midway Ride Discount from 1-4 p.m.

### Friday, July 24th

Animal Land-Bowmanville Exotic Animal Display-Ry-Guy Magic Show-Scavenger Hunt-Big Time Pro-Wrestling-Afternoon Musical Entertainment-Horse Drawn Wagon Rides-Fill Your Face Eating Contest-Motor Madness: Stunt Cars / BMX Bikes-Music by DJ Rock Wizard.

### Saturday, July 25th

Leeds 4-H Sheep Club Achievement & Cloverbuds-Family Horse Show-Horse Draw-Baby Show-Bowmanville Exotic Animal Display-Scavenger Hunt-Goat Show-Lucas Wilson: Guinness World Record Illusionist-Music by Irish Roots-Local Talent Show-Red Neck Lawn Mower Races-Chicken Barbecue-Music by T.G. Sheppard

Leeds 4-H Dairy Club Achievement-Western Horse Show-Antique Tractor Pull-Pet Show-Music by Little California-Motorcycle Show and Shine-Arm Wrestling Tournament -Children's Pedal Tractor Pull-Children's Soccer Shoot- "Cheer for a Year" Raffle.

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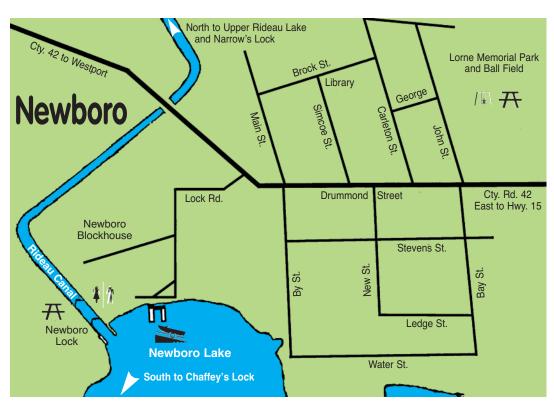
### North Crosby Heritage Festival

There will be no Westport Heritage Festival this year but the North Crosby Hall Board is filling the void with North Crosby Heritage Day at Shillington Park July 4.

The event, which includes Newboro and Westport, will feature displays, music, storytelling, children's heritage games, a strawberry social and more. It runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you can donate any information and/or provide some of your time on the day, you will be helping to preserve the heritage of our community.

For more information contact Pat Grundy at 273-3031 or sgrundy@rideau.net, or Barbara Lavoie at 273-8177 or belavoie@rideau.net.



#### **ACCOMMODATION**

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# Red Brick School a provincial treasure

Elgin's Red Brick School was the very model of a modern school when it opened its doors back in 1887 an achievement, which has continued to be celebrated.

The Elgin and Area Heritage Society over the last decade has been restoring the two-class-room one-story school, which in the fall of 2007 was given provincial recognition by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

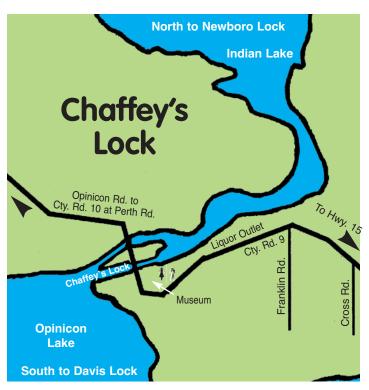
With its high ceilings and large windows, the Red Brick School's design incorporated reformed ideas about school design introduced by the province's Department of Education in the late 19th century.

The society holds a series of events over the spring, summer and fall beginning on May 30 with Storytellers of Elgin and South Crosby featuring Donald Kerr, Doug Campbell and Joe Fahey.

The society's annual spelling bee takes place June 13.

A garage sale and open house will be held on Saturday July 11 during Elgin Days. On Saturday, August 8 they will be holding a pub night at the school with musical entertainment by local talent.

Information about coming events, including events into the fall will be updated on the society's Facebook page.



#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Sun-on-the Brow Green Valley Cottages The Lakehouse



The Elgin and Area Heritage Society over the last decade has been restoring the two-classroom one-story school, which in the fall of 2007 was given provincial recognition by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

## Rideau Canal Garden Trail launched

The Rideau Canal Garden Trail, a regional tourism initiative that will link together nine gardens throughout the Counties for a seasonlong event, a first for Eastern Ontario, was launched this spring.

The nine gardens have been chosen to create an enjoyable route of garden destinations for residents of Leeds Grenville, their guests and visitors to the region.

Gardens are considered to be either key motivators for travelling, or are enhancements for a destination. People inquire about plants they've seen and where they can be purchased.

The Leeds Grenville Economic Development Office led the development of the regional Garden Trail.

A mix of private, public and garden centre displays were chosen to be the inaugural Garden Trail. These include:

- •Machal Gardens, Spencerville
- •Healing Circle Labyrinth, Johnstown
- •Shakespearean Gardens, Prescott
- •Van Berlo Gardens, Maitland
- Maitland Garden of Hope, Maitland
- •Garden of Hope and Faith Walk, Lyn
- Chillane Gardens, Mallorytown
- •Gardens of Gananoque, Gananoque
- Rideau Woodland Ramble, Merrickville.

Gardens along the trail start opening mid-May, and will feature many unique flowers and experiences through September. Guided or self-guided tours are available, and hours vary per site. The Trail will officially open June 19.

# Angling opportunities abound

With dozens of lakes across the region, fishing opportunities abound for everything from walleye to lake trout to bass and pike.

When it comes to regulations, Leeds County is part of Zone 18, along with most of Southeastern Ontario.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has launched a web tool that provides a range of information.

Fish ON-Line is a Google map-based interface that can be used to search for fishing opportunities by fish species, water body, stocked water body or GPS coordinates.

To check it out go to www.ontario.ca/fishing.

Walleye season in Zone 18 runs from the second Saturday in May until March 1. The limits are four for a sport license and two for a conservation license. Only walleye between 15.7 and 19.7 inches can be kept.

Pike season runs from the second Saturday in May until March 31. The limits are six for a sport license and two for a conservation license. There is no size restriction.

The Zone 18 bass sea-



Anglers along Delta's Mill Creek.

son opens the third Saturday in June to Dec. 15. The limits are six for a sport license and two for a conservation license.

Trout season runs from the fourth Saturday in May until September 8. The limits are two for a sport license and one for a conservation license.

Perch, crappie, sunfish and catfish are open year round.

All anglers must have a license except for Ontario residents under 18 or over 65. Visitors under 18 don't require a license but must be

accompanied by someone with a license. For complete details go to ontario.ca/fishing.

# Brockville Ontario Speedway

Brockville Ontario Speedway 2015 racing schedule runs on Saturday nights from May 9 until September 5.

The four regular classes of 358 Modifieds, Sportsman, Street Stocks and Rookies are weekly staples all season.

They also host a Monster Enduro Sept. 13 and the Dirtcar Northeast Fall Nationals Oct. 16-18.

The speedway is on Hwy. 29, north of Brockville. Go to their web site at www.brockville-speedway.com.



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# Starlight, star bright in the 1000 Islands

One of the best places for viewing the night sky in all of eastern Ontario is near Lyndhurst.

Charleston Lake Provincial Park is gaining notoriety for its epic star gazing opportunities. The park is embracing its perfect location for viewing the night sky by catering to star gazers. Amateurs flock to Charleston Lake Provincial Park every summer for its astronomy field and a special event that reminds visitors of the awe-inspiring wonder that comes from looking skyward at night.

A specially designated area in the park is available for astronomy enthusiasts, with scrub brush removed and mowed grass maintained throughout the season to create an astronomy alcove. While it's an integral part of the experience at the park, Chris Robinson, Natural Education Leader at Charleston Lake Provincial

Park, said it's actually what isn't there that makes the viewing area special: light.

Robinson said the annual Star Gaze event with expert Canadian astronomer and astrophotographer, Terence Dickinson, is celebrating its 30th year in 2015. Set for Aug. 12 at 8 p.m. the event is held on the best night of the summer to see shooting stars.

Visitors can explore the world of astronomy with Dickinson and then gaze through telescopes at the magic of the night sky, during the peak of the Persied Meteor Shower. The event is free (donations are accepted) however participants must pay Park admission costs, by vehicle.

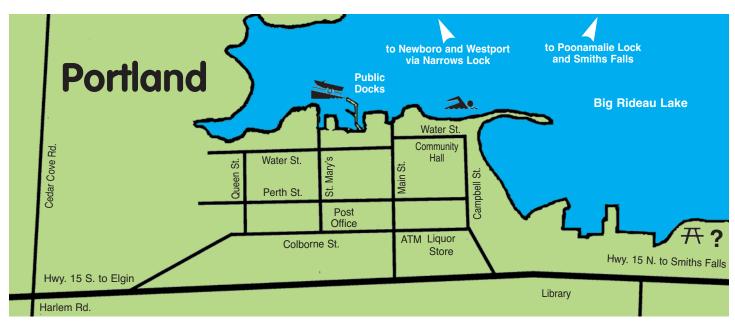
Robinson said the park is extremely fortunate to have such an internationallyrenowned astronomer lead this event.

Visit 1000islands-tourism.com for more.



Diane Black exhibited her sculptures at the Grist Mill Gallery which was one of four studio stops in Westport for the 2014 Fall Colours Studio Tour.





#### **HORTICULTURAL**

Baker's Feed Store & Garden Centre

# Area studios enjoy visitors on weekend tours

In summer and fall, new pleasures beckon visitors to the area when local artists open their studios to become destinations on studio tours.

On a self-guided tour visitors can meet local artists where they live and work, sometimes venturing down some of the less traveled roads in North Leeds.

While people may return home from their journey with a unique item find to add to their collection, others find the perfect gift or return with the memory of a pleasurable outing with friends or family.

Two studio tours are organized in the area, the Rideau Lakes Studio and Garden Tour on July 4, 5 and the Fall Colours Studio Tour on Thanksgiving weekend October 10, 11, and 12.

Artists on the tours bring their skills and creativity to a variety of media assuring visitors there is always something new to see and learn.

### Rideau Lakes Studio and Garden Tour

July 4, 5, the Rideau Lakes Studio and Garden tour attracts art and garden enthusiasts who enjoy meeting artists at their studios and gardens.

Studios are at a variety of lakeside, historic and countryside locations, many of which feature gardens. The tour route includes studios from Chaffey's Lock to Chantry. Tour brochures are available at area businesses and a map and a list of studios are online at www.rideaulakesstudioandgardentour.ca

#### **Fall Colours Studio Tour**

The Fall Colors Studio Tour, now in its 23rd year, is a local tradition over the three-day Thanksgiving weekend, October 10, 11, and 12 when autumn leaves are at their peak.

This year 20 artists are featured at 8 locations Tour brochures are available at local businesses and information about the tour can be found online at www.westportstudiotours.ca.



Ron Tremback and Patti Robertson were guests on the Rideau Lakes Studio and Garden Tour at Rue Royale in Philipsville in 2014. The couple has been making their living full-time creating a variety of intricate objects for over 20 years.



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# Annual Frontenac Frolic Aug. 1

Plan a great day for all the family this summer by marking your calendar on Saturday, Aug. 1 for The Frontenac Frolic.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bedford Hall at 1381 Westport Rd., just 20 minutes west of Westport.

Come and find new treasures at the large flea market. Place a bid on many outstanding silent auction items.

Find summer reading and CD music at low, low prices. Bring home homemade pies, tarts and more from the baking tables.

Let the children line up for the pony rides and the petting zoo, while you get something to eat and listen to special music for the dav.

Also, don't miss the famous cow flop bingo starting at 11:30 a.m. The winners will be determined by where the cow "flops" on the bingo grid. First prize is \$1800, second prize is \$900 and third prize is \$500. Look for the sign of the cows in Westport or go www.bobs-and-crowlakes.org for more information.

The Foundation is a registered charity that raises monies to fund projects to preserve and enhance environment around the greater Bobs and Crow Lakes.



Cyclists make their way up Cty. Rd. 10 toward Kingston during the 2014 Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour.

# Rideau Lakes Cycling Tour draws 2,000 bikers

The 2015 Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour – the 44th edition - will see 2,000 riders travel from Ottawa to Kingston and back June 6-7.

Most riders travel through Perth and Westport but other routes are offered. You can learn more – and check on the 2015 race later in the year – at www.ottawabicycleclub.ca/rlct.



Farmersville, the third weekend in July, is a busy place for steam engine enthusiasts.

# Agricultural machinery brings memories of yesteryear

Thousands of visitors have made their way to Athens over the last 35 years to visit 'Farmersville', a two-day festival celebrating antique and vintage machinery from on and off the farm.

When the steam engines are fired up and there's the smell of wood smoke, diesel and sawdust in the air, you know you're at Farmersville.

Yesteryear's steam technology isn't the only attraction keeping visitors coming back. A vintage tractor pull, rows and rows of large and small machinery and tools on display, a craft show, old time fiddling on Friday night, a tractor pull, a horse pull, and live music to entertain on Saturday and Sunday draw crowds to the Centre 76 grounds all weekend.

This year's event, on Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19 is featuring the history of maple syrup production and antique chainsaws.

Pre-exhibition activities begin on Friday with Old Tyme Country Music from 6:00-9:00 pm.

The exhibition grounds open at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday for the main event, the exhibition of hundreds of examples of vintage machinery, cars, trucks, motorcycles and tools.

Special events on Saturday include, a vintage tractor pull, and country music in the afternoon.

On Sunday is the popular horse draw and country music as well as the exhibitions and the two-day craft fair in the arena.

Free parking is available on the grounds. The event is a fundraiser for the Lions Club of Athens but also benefits other community groups who participate in the event. More information is available at www.athenslions.org.



Local corn is at its peak of perfection during the one-day festival.

# Athens Cornfest the third Saturday in August

Summer will be winding down when Athens holds its annual summer community celebration Cornfest on Saturday, August 15.

Local corn is at its peak of perfection when the one-day festival brings together the community thanks to efforts of volunteers who are presenting its 35th edition this year.

Corn cooked with a gigantic steam engine has been a tradition at the festival which is also the

occasion for many villagers to get creative with corn decorations and costumes.

The day of free family fun traditionally includes children's activities, a kid's parade, pony rides, live animals, food and craft vendors, sidewalk sales, demonstrations and live music.

This year's event schedule will be available on their website www.athenscornfest.ca.

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# Festival may bring Blues to small halls

The Festival of Small Halls is coming to North Leeds this fall, a project of Ottawa's Bluesfest to bring exceptional Canadian musicians to small venues across Eastern Ontario.

Half a dozen small halls in the area were in the running in April for participation and there's a good chance that some or one will be part of the event which will be taking place in September.

These local buildings have rich cultural histories and countless stories to tell. During the festival, communities across Eastern Ontario will throw open the doors of their small halls for an unforget-

table night of music.

There will be 12 concerts in 12 halls around the area on two weekends in September (17, 18 and 19th and September 24, 25 and 26th). The festival coincides with Ottawa's CityFolk festival.

Celtic/Traditional artists in from Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton will be coming to the small halls, with a few local openers to kick off the shows.

More information will be coming soon to www.thefestivalofsmallhalls.com.

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# Lyndhurst celebrates with Turkey Fair

September brings the busiest and most anticipated day of the year to Lyndhurst when the community's annual Turkey Fair attracts an estimated 5,000 people to the village.

Lyndhurst is famous for its arched stone bridge but it's the Turkey Fair, which keeps visitors coming back.

This year's event on Saturday, September 19 marks the 22nd anniversary of the event which has kept its tradition of a day of free family fun.

Every year visitors return to enjoy the free horse-drawn hayrides, all-day entertainment, craft shows, an antique and classic car show, boat rides, exhibits, yard and produce sales, and more.

Organizers, who have a shoestring budget, begin each spring to organize the day requiring the cooperation and enthusiasm of volunteers and organizations from across the community.

Activities start at 10 a.m. Saturday and so does the continuous live music from a variety of musicians who will be performing on the outdoor stages throughout the village.

An Elvis impersonator or two traditionally makes an appearance each year.

Volunteers raise funds for the event by selling numbered Turkey Fair buttons qualifying buttonholders for draws of gifts throughout the day.

Proceeds from the event are given to groups in the community to enhance their programs.

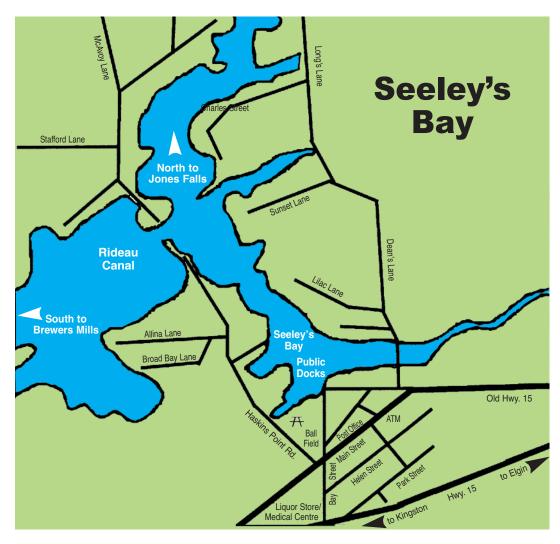
The theme of a turkey fair comes from a rural tradition, which was part of village life for many years.

Raising turkeys and other fowl was a source of extra income for many of the local farmers who in late fall came together with buyers to sell their birds.

The sale of the birds brought reason to congregate and celebrate. Today's turkey fair re-captures some of that excitement and anticipation for visitors and organizers.



Blacksmith Don MacKay demonstrating his forge at the 2014 Lyndhurst Turkey Fair.





The 12th edition of Skate the Lake is Jan. 23-24, 2016.

# 12th Skate the Lake in January 2016

Skate the Lake XII is scheduled to take place Saturday, Jan. 23-24, 2016.

The event, also known as the International Big Rideau Lake Speed Skating Marathon, will once again bring skating enthusiasts together for a variety of races including the popular 5x1k team relay in which participants are encouraged to dress in costume.

There have also been

5K, 10K, 25K and 50k races in the past along with curling and children's activities. For updates on what's in store for 2016, check out www.portlandoutdoors.c om in advance of the event.

Skate the Lake is organized by the not for profit group Portland Outdoors on the bay on Big Rideau Lake in front of Portland.

# Doors Open in South Leeds Frontenac and Smiths Falls

On Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, the Brockville, 1000 Islands and South Leeds area will host this annual heritage program.

Doors Open Ontario invites us to explore our communities, share spaces and stories, and step back into our past.

This year 35 sites from Athens, Brockville, Delta, Lansdowne. Lyndhurst, Rockport, Lvn. Mallorytown, Maitland, and Prescott will be open with free admission from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both days. (There are a few exceptions on Sunday). Each site will offer guided self-guided tours. Volunteers will be available at each location to assist visitors with information and to answer questions.

Sites open again this year include Delta Mill, Burnbrae Farms, Mallory Coach House, Green Gecko and the Athens' museum.

Doors Open Smiths Falls, featuring at least eight locations, is set for June 7.

The Frontenac Open Doors event is June 13 with dozens of locations stretching from Sharbot Lake ot Bedford.

Go to www.doors openontario.on.ca for more information on participating locations.



613-273-2276

www.acornpottery.ca

info@acornpottery.ca

facebook.com/acompottery

# 23rd Annual Westport Antique Show & Sale A show not to be missed! June 6th & 7th 2015

**Sat 10 - 5 • Sun 10 - 4** Admission \$6.00 • Free Parking canadianantique fairs.com 613-795-9676 • 613-791-2272



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# Delta lights up for Christmas season

Delta becomes a busy place on Saturday nights in late November and December when visitors come to Lower Beverley Lake Park for Celebrating the Season.

An evening stroll or wagon ride brings the pleasure of seeing trees and buildings in the park all magically lit with over 75,000 lights!

Christmas carols will be playing throughout the park with various festive displays being lit for your pleasure.

Free wagon rides will be available for rides throughout the park leaving from the Delta Fair grounds and park beginning at 5:00 p.m. through 8:30 p.m.

People are encouraged to walk throughout the park to view the sites.

Pedestrian parking is available from the Village Boat Launch which is located on the park entrance road.

Stop by for a visit at Santa's workshop and lakeside cottage and leave your letter for Santa. Please bring your own camera for a photo opportunity with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Hot Chocolate and Willard's Donuts are provided next door.

Meals will be available each evening at the United Church starting at 4:00 p.m. Handicapped accessible parking will be available on Church Street.

The festival takes place on Nov. 21, 28, and Dec. 5, 12 and 19. More information is available on the Lower Beverley Lake Park website at www.beverley-lakepark.com.



This year's Maberly Fair is Aug. 29.

# Maberly Fair celebrates heritage

The Maberly Fair has served to showcase agriculture, horticulture and rural life since 1882.

The theme for the 133rd annual fair is 'sheep & goats' in keeping with a returning trend in the raising of farm animals.

This little country fair does not have a midway but features simpler entertainment of heritage children's games, zucchini races and local musicians performing on the outdoor stage. There are hall displays of fruit and vegetables, canning and baking, home craft, youth and children's work while the outdoors includes a Light Horse Show and Horse and Pony Pull.

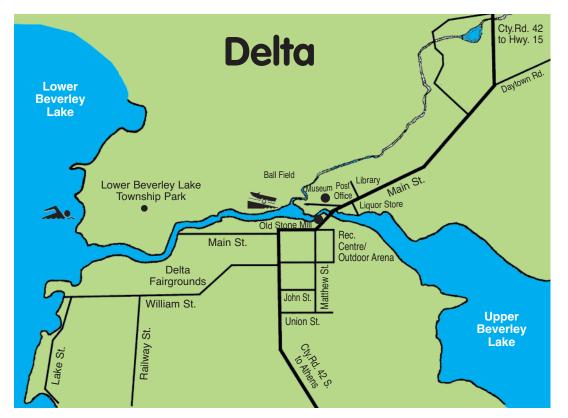
The date is Sat. Aug. 29. For more details, go to www.maberlyagsociety.ca or phone the secretary at 613-268-2548.

# Lansdowne Fair July 17

The Lansdowne Fair begins on July 17 for three days of exciting events, contests, music and good food on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The 151st edition of the fair features ever popular horse events, demo derby, antique car and tractor shows, parade and toilet bowl races. The midway will be open with rides and games for young and old, and musical presentations and good food will be available.

A full schedule of events is available on the fair's website at www.lansdowne-fair.ca.



# Long tradition of family entertainment at Delta Fair

This July 23 to 26 the Delta Fair, the second oldest agricultural fair in Ontario will be celebrating its 185th year of bringing the agricultural community together in North Leeds.

Children may come for the thrill of the midway but there's something for everyone including agricultural displays, home craft exhibits and live musical entertainment on stage Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Thursday events include the opening of the midway, the choosing of the miniking and mini-queen as well as the ambassador pageant. Entertainment on Thursday includes the Jimmy Flynn Comedy Show and music by Texas Tuxedo. A horse draw is at the grandstand in the evening

Friday's entertainment include Big Time Pro-Wrestling, the Bowmanville Exotic Animal Display, the Ry-Guy Magic Show, a Scavenger Hunt, afternoon musical entertainment, Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, the Fill Your Face Eating Contest, Mechanical Bull Rides and Motor Madness: Stunt Cars / BMX Bikes.

Saturday brings more agricultural activities with a Leeds 4-H Sheep Club Achievement & Cloverbuds Family Horse Show, a horse draw, and a goat show. The

Bowmanville Exotic Animal Display is back again along with more musical entertainment by local talent, Irish Roots and David Frizzell. Lucas Wilson: Guinness World Record Illusionist will be performing along with top performances by lawn mowers in the Red Neck Lawn Mower Races.

Sunday's animal events include a Leeds 4-H Dairy Club Achievement, a Western Horse Show and a pet show. Machine enthusiasts will enjoy an Antique Tractor Pull, a Motorcycle Show and Shine and a Children's Pedal Tractor Pull. An Arm Wrestling Tournament is sure to entertain along with a Children's Soccer Shoot and music by Little California.

Fair organizers will be confirming more entertainment and competitions in the coming weeks. Watch for advanced sales for admission and midway rides at www.deltafair.com

### **Lombardy Fair**

The Lombardy Fair welcomes visitors July 31 to Aug. 3 to four days of agriculture, home craft, entertainment and midway fun.

At the Fair enjoy Produce, Home Craft, and Handcraft displays. Take in the Agricultural Showcase. For the western horse enthusiast there is Western Team Penning,

For lots of excitement, take in the Horse and Pony Pulls on Friday evening, the Antique Tractor Pull on Saturday, and the Local Boys' 4x4 Pickup Truck, Licensed Modified Street, on Sunday. Again, this year there will be Lawn Mower Races on Sunday. Demolition Derby Monday rounds of the four day fair.

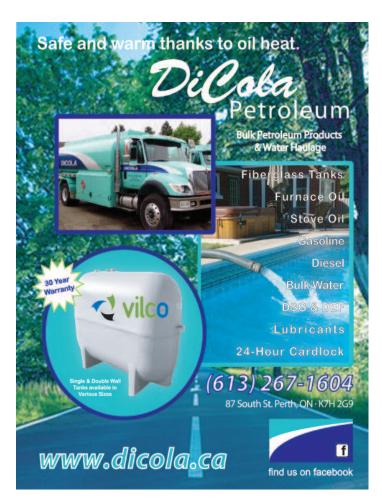
Every afternoon on the grounds there is on-going entertainment of a wide variety on the park stage. For a full schedule of events www.lombardyfair.ca.



Free-style Acrobatic Motocross was a big hit at the Delta Fair.



The midway operates all four days at the Delta Fair.



# Variety of museums across Leeds



# Chaffey's Lockmaster's House Museum

Chaffey's Lock history comes alive during the months of July and August the Lockmaster's museum museum opened in 1982. The project has retained the integrity of the interior of the building, which was the residence of the Chaffey's lockmaster. Only five families lived in the house from the 1840's until 1964.

The home was built as a defensible lockmaster's house with the purpose of protecting the lock station from American attack as well as providing accommodation for the family.

At the end of the 19th century a frame second storey and a kitchen addition were added to the original stone building which continued its role as a residence until 1964.

Changing exhibitions at the museum provide a glimpse into the economic and social life of Chaffey's and its surrounding community.

Chaffey's past perennially comes to life each summer with the video

"The Golden Years" which documents some of the hardships, and joys of Chaffey's in the 1930's and 40's. The National Film Board's 1982 production repackaged film footage taken by Don Jarrett, a former owner of the Opinicon Hotel.

The museum is open from June 28 until the end of August.

# Portland Historical Society virtual museum

The newly formed Portland on the Rideau Historical Society launched www.portlandontario.com

The virtual museum opens its internet doors to visitors interested in the history of Portland and Big Rideau Lake.

#### Rideau District Museum

The Museum is housed in an authentic blacksmith and carriage house built in the 1850'S. The forges, bellows and handmade iron tools remain in their original setting.

The lifework of our ancestors dating from the First Nations are reflected in the ingenious tools, gadgets, toys, clothing, documents and means of travel.

Last season we had over 2,500 visitors from June to Labour Day – which is great!

There is something to interest everyone – a wooden ox drawn dump cart used in the building of the Rideau Canal, an eleven foot tall statue of "Sally Grant" carved in 1844 from a single white cedar tree, Nell Martin McCann's hand written



Rideau District Museum



Royal Canadian Legion Upper Rideau Branch 542 10099 Co. Rd. 10, Westport 613-273-3615

#### **Monday Night Bingo**

Doors open at 6pm Bingo starts at 7pm Bonanza, Progressive Full Card Jackpot and Toonie Pot Bingo Reward Card



Thursdays 7:30 pm (except May & Sept)



#### Spaghetti Night

All you can eat Spaghetti & Salad, every Third Friday (except December)

#### **Hamburger Fridays**

Barbequed hamburgers and hotdogs, french fries and all the fixings May to September 12 to 2 pm



#### Canada Day Celebrations

The Legion Colour Party leads the July 1 Bicycle parade and hands out refreshments at the end of the parade



#### New lounge hours

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# County offer glimpse of history

diary covering 1912 to 1920's, which is a treasure for family research, Sir John A. MacDonald artifacts and much more.

The Museum host a number of twilight tours for passengers of the "Kawartha Voyager" while docked in the habour. Visitors are always impressed with our hands on displays and artifacts.

As this year's fund raiser, the Museum is redoing the circa 1950 Birthday Calendar originally published by "The Women's Institute" of Westport. Help support us by having you name and birthday print in our "Birthday Calendar".

The Museum is open in June from Thursday to Saturday 10-4:30 p.m., Sunday 1-4:30 p.m. in July and August daily - September we close after Labour Day – Tuesday, September 8th for the season. Groups by appointment welcome.

#### Rideau Canal Visitors' Centre

The canal museum is housed in a grand 19th century stone building in Smiths Falls.

The former mill features a variety of artifacts that bring to life the history of the canal, its construction from 1826 to 1832, its important historical role and the distinct lifestyle and folklore associated with the Rideau Waterway.

It is at 34 Beckwith St. S. in Smiths Falls. Call 613-284-0505 or go to www.rideau-info.com/museum.

#### Smiths Falls Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario

The museum, a short drive or walk from the Rideau Canal Museum and Smiths Falls locks, is a must for train enthusiasts, young and old alike.

It is at 90 William Street in Smiths Falls. Go to www.sfrmeo.ca for more.



Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario



**Rideau Canal Visitors' Centre** 

# The Heritage House Museum Smiths Falls

Heritage House is situated in a picturesque area of the Rideau Canal and is a restored classically styled Victorian home

depicting the lifestyle of an upper middle class family living in Smiths Falls around 1867 to 1875. Go to www.smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse



# Westport Lions Club & Beach Complex

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#### **Westport Lions Mobility Program**

Medical Appointment Transportation for Area Residents

Metal Recycle Program, 245 Mountain Rd. Wed. & Sat. 8-11

#### **Upcoming Activities**

#### Wednesday Bingo, starting July 8

Doors open at 6:00 pm Bingo starts at 7: pm Jackpot \$1000 in 48 no. minimum \$250. Plus Regular and Bonus Games



Open to the public June to September

#### **Lions Activities**

**Beach Volley Ball and Pond Hockey Tournaments**-See web sight for details

Fish Fry Aug, 22, 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Beach Complex Westport Lions Club Cash Draw, July 1st, 2015 Westport Lions Club \$10,000 Draw, Sept. 5, 2015

Santa Clause Parade, Nov. 28, 2015

Weekly Cash Draw Calendar, Jan. 1 -Dec. 31 2016

Hall Rental Available for Weddings, Aniversaries, Birthdays, Family Picnics etc.

Contact Lion Wayne Bent 613 273 5791









# Line up coming together for

The ninth annual MUSICWestport will feature two stages and at least eight groups, all in downtown Westport on Sat., Aug. 15.

The two stages are behind The Cove and on Spring Street.

The free afternoon of concerts, sponsored by the Westport Arts Council and local businesses, runs from Noon until 6 p.m.

The line-up includes a far-ranging selection of music from bluegrass to country to rock and roll.

Saturday starts off with the Voice of the Rideau singing competition from 10 a.m. to noon. The auditions are July 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m at North Crosby Hall. Deadline to enter is July 20. Go to www.westportartscouncil.c om for more information.

On Sat., Aug. 15, the Artemisia stage has entertainment from noon to 5 p.m. and The Cove stage runs from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

The line-up includes:

### Alex The Folk Band (Orillia)

ALEX the Folk Band is an eight-member, musicmaking cooperative that specializes in harmony vocals and fiddle-based instrumentals. For 20 years and counting, the Orilliabased group has performed in concert at festivals, conferences, conventions, fairs, parties, and church and Legion halls. The band's repertoire ranges from traditional tunes and songs to contemporary roots-based material, and its rousing gospel set has twice been featured at the John Arcand Fiddle Fest in Saskatoon.

www.facebook.com/alex thefolkband

#### Arianna Gillis St.Catharines

Not every young Canadian singer-songwriter gets to launch her CD with a live appearance on the US satellite station Sirius XM. The show was hosted by Dave Marsh, author of more than 25 books on rock and roll and known as the "dean of American rock writers" who admits to being her biggest fan.

Elton John's lyricist and songwriting partner Bernie Taupin wrote "I'm staggered by how good she is. There is not much that impresses me these days but after hearing her available tracks I can honestly say she's the single most exciting thing I've heard in a very long time."

# After the News Kingston

After The News is Kingston's newest folkrock outfit borne out of some writing sessions between Lee Casement and Shaun Weima. They are joined by vocalists James Robert Young and Lisa Bresee Menard. After The News seeks to soothe your soul with some sweet, ambient folk rock.

#### Brea Lawrenson with Shawn McCullough and Band Perth/Westport/Ottawa

Brea's musical career has taken her across Canada to the US and to London UK. Travelling frequently to Nashville to write and record, Brea has just completed her #Brealieve album to be released May 1 2015. Four songs from this CD have been released to



**Brea Lawrenson** 

Canadian Country radio and all charted in the top 100.

Within the last two years Brea has racked up some impressive feats while retaining her status as an independent artist. She has played Ottawa's Bluesfest, Boots & Hearts 2014 Emerging Artist Showcase, 2014 CCMA Showcases and many festival and fairs.

Growing up in a small eastern Ontario town, Brea realized at an early age, her love for music. She engaged in vocal training at the age of 13 and has never looked back. Winning first and second place awards at the Montreal Music Festival in Classical and Broadway at the age of 15.

www.brealawrenson.com

### Jacob Moon Hamilton

Every artist starts out with heroes. But not every artist gets asked by their heroes to join them, as artists, on their stage. It's a

Continued on next page

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# **MUSICwestport 2015**



Jacob Moon

compliment that Jacob Moon keeps getting from the musicians who have inspired him since he started as a singer-songwriter out in Hamilton.

Artists like Rush, Marillion and Gordon Lightfoot have taken a shine to Moon's renditions of their songs and have lavished him praise and a spotlight that has gained him international attention. It is these inventive covers that draws the fans in, but it's Moon's original material and his compelling live show that make them pull up a chair.

Jacob Moon is known for his giftedness as a singer, songwriter of award-winning pop and folk songs. He is also a master of the art of 'live looping', a performance style where he records what he's playing in real time and layers sound on

sound to make one guitar sound like an orchestra. http://jacobmoon.com

#### Rueben deGroot and Rocket Surgery Rock from Kingston

In recent years, performer/songwriter Rueben deGroot's audacious musical eclecticism has won over audiences throughout Canada. Born and raised in Vancouver, Rueben learned to play guitar after falling in love with the music of Janis Joplin, Steely Dan, and Little Feat. After high school, he spent six years in Edmonton, where he played in bands and started songwriting.

Rueben's chance encounter in 2001 with songwriter Cameron Latimer led to their formation of The Seams, a Vancouver-based roots rock band that also included Steve Dawson and Adam Dobres (later of Outlaw Social). Following his departure from the band in 2005, Rueben continued to refine his craft over the next few years, writing dozens of songs.

In 2007, he settled in Kingston and gradually assembled his current backing band, consisting of guitarist Dan Curtis, bassist Elijah Abrams, drummers Rob Radford. Daniel Chalmers and Mark Fraser, and keyboardist Josh Lyon. The band is sometimes joined by a killer horn section featuring Bunny Stewart and Benjamin Perosin. Vocalist Christina Foster sings backups, as well as by other guests including friends Sarah Harmer and Spencer Evans.

Rueben's songs, which have been featured on the television shows jPod and Robson Arms, encompass a wide variety of musical genres, including outlaw country, jazz, soul, folk, boogie woogie, western swing, garage rock, southern rock, and early 60s pop.

ruebendegroot.wordpress.com

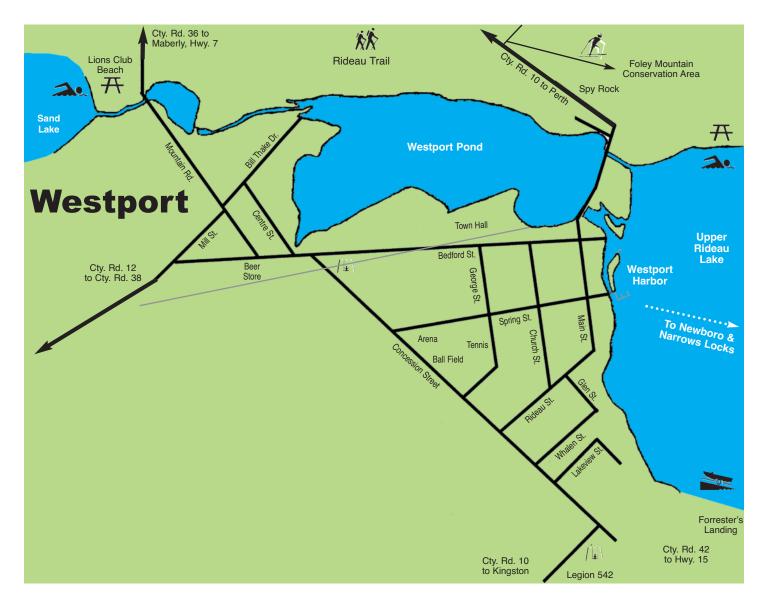
#### Salsa Note

Salsa/Merenque from Toronto

There are also plans to add one or two more groups in the genre of jazz and or bluegrass.

Go to their web site at www.westportartscouncil. com for updates.





#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

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Artemesia Fall Colours Studio Tour

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# Classic Theatre Festival: comedy, mystery and history

Starting June 24, the Classic Theatre Festival, Ottawa Valley's only professional summer theatre, presents its 6th season of classic hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage with family-friendly mainstage comedies and mysteries, history walks, and a ghost tour. Situated in Heritage Perth (voted Ontario's prettiest town, 20 minutes from Westport), the Festival is wheelchair accessible, air conditioned, and features free parking.

The mainstage season opens with Neil Simon's comedy Barefoot in the Park, the 10th-longest running play in Broadway history. It's an affectionate satire on the early years of his marriage and the battle between a strait-laced, conservative lawyer husband and his free-spirited wife, who encourages him to stop smell the roses. Running July 10-August 2, it promises the classic characters and comic moments that are Simon trademarks.

It's followed by the alltime favourite thriller, Frederick Knott's Wait Until Dark, which was later made into an Audrey Hepburn film. It's the gripping story of a blind woman whose



The Classic Theatre Festival promises another Neil Simon comedy as well as a thriller, Wait Until Dark, on its mainstage at 54 Beckwith Street East in Perth.

apartment has been invaded by drug smugglers and other seedy characters, and who receives help from the unlikeliest of sources. The thriller runs August 7-30. Both shows run Wednesday-Sunday at 2 pm, with three 8 pm performances on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Each matinee is preceded by a 1:30 pre-show talk explaining the history, story, background, and social and cultural context of the play.

The Festival's popular theatrical historic walking

tour, Perth through the Ages, returns with new characters and stories from Perth's 200-year history, five mornings a week at 11 am beginning June 24. This year features a spunky, 1940s Nancy Drew-like character, a newspaper reporter trying to solve a mystery with the help of characters from Perth's past. Also new is the Lonely Ghosts Walking Tour, a family-friendly Friday night visitation by ghosts from Perth's past running July and August at 8 pm. (Families looking for a full day in Perth should come on a Friday, and can sandwich meals and a matinee between the two outdoor walks.)

Returning this year are the Festival Season Pass (buy one show, receive 25% off the second show), a lobby-full of quality used books for summer reading pleasure (all priced \$1-\$2), and Save-a-Seat, a charitable program that opens up free seats to low-income community members.

Perth has a wide variety of restaurants for those looking for a pre- or post-show meal, as well as accommodations for overnight visitors. Nearby campgrounds in-town and at a number of provincial parks provide other getaway options as well.

The season is generously supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Celebrate Ontario program of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Tickets to the Classic Theatre Festival can be purchased by calling 1-877-283-1283, online at www.classictheatre.ca, or at 54 Beckwith Street East in Perth one hour prior to each show.

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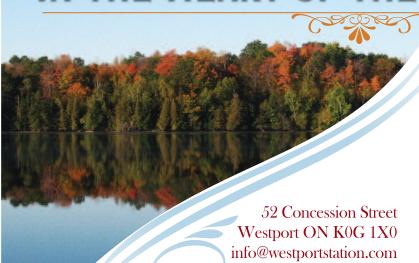
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