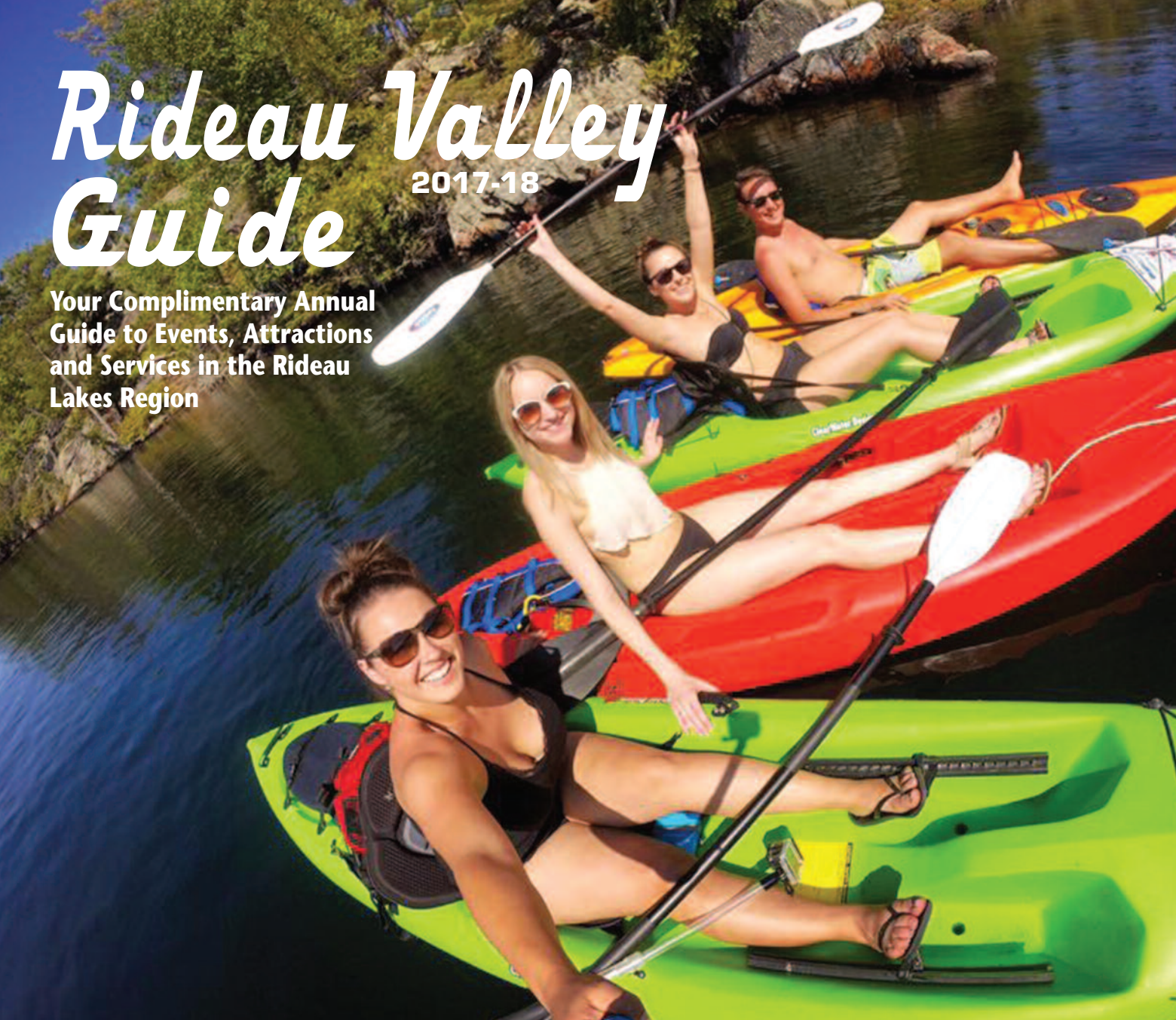


Rideau Valley Guide

2017-18

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




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Published by The Review-Mirror in cooperation with Westport and Rideau Lakes Chamber of Commerce

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On the cover: Paddlers near Chaffey's Lock (courtesy of Rideau Tours); Jones' Falls Blacksmith Don MacKay; Children's fishing derby in Seeley's Bay; The Abrams Brothers perform the Festival of Small Halls; Scheuermann's Winery; The Tay Valley Loppet in Murphy's Point Provincial Park.



The Westport and Rideau Lakes Chamber of Commerce Welcome Centre in Westport, staffed by Brooke Wing and a roster of volunteers in 2016, is open 9-4 daily in the summer and 9-4 on weekends in the spring and fall.

Welcome

The Rideau Valley Visitors' for 2017-18 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 more about the area, please visit the Westport Welcome Centre at 1 Spring Street in downtown Westport or goto www.therideaucalls.com. 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 GUIDE

is published annually by

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Canal celebrates Canada's 150th

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 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

•Continued on next page



Chaffey's Lock is among the system's busiest.



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Free lockages in 2017

•Continued from previous page

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.

• • •

Land visitors and boaters can expect to see more boats through the locks this navigation season with the one-time waiving of lockage fees by Parks Canada.

The free entrance fees and lockage fees to Canada's National Parks and waterways are part of the government's celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. Mooring fees will remain on a user-pay basis.

Rideau Canal management are planning for a 20 to 30 per cent increase in volume based on the Rideau's current trends

and the waterway's last big anniversary, a celebration of its 175th anniversary in 2007.

The southern end of the canal is expected to have the biggest increase in traffic as more of the local population and shoreline residents around the lakes take advantage of the free lockage.

Management is also anticipating an increase in demand for day time and overnight mooring by 10 to 20 per cent this year with the increased traffic so boaters will need to be planning ahead to assure they will be able to be accommodated.

Free park passes and lockage permits can be ordered online at the Parks Canada website.



Jones Falls and other lockstations are expecting a jump in traffic this summer, with free lockage and Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.

2017 Hours of Operation

Dates	Days	Hours
May 19-June 25	Monday - Thursday Friday-Sunday, Victoria Day	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
June 26-Sept. 4	Monday - Thursday Friday-Sunday, Holidays	9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 5-Oct. 9	Monday-Friday Saturday, Sunday, Thanksgiving	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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)

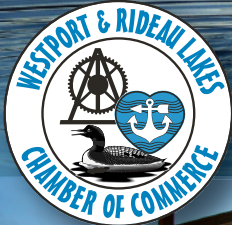


Answer the call of the

Rideau

and take your next trip to

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Every year more people find their way to our year-round paradise in the heart of the Rideau Lakes. Discover the pristine natural beauty of the Rideau Heritage Route.

Rich in history, our area is the home of two UNESCO designations... World Heritage Site Rideau Canal and Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve.





Visitor Centre

While you're here, enjoy a warm welcome from the Visitors Centre in Westport located at #3 Spring Street. (613) 273-2929.

More Visitor Kiosks located at:



- Hwy 15, Portland
- Main Street, Elgin

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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!



Become a member



Our Westport and Rideau Lakes Chamber of Commerce has a long and proud history of serving it's community. This history has been achieved with continuous work and recruitment. If you're wondering why you should join and what the Chamber can do for you and your business... the answer is "WE NEED YOU!"

We need your VOICE, EXPERIENCE and SUPPORT... our diverse membership has provided us with the varied skills to run a successful Chamber of Commerce. Our meetings reflect the size and diversity of our Rideau Lakes chamber area and how we can work together. Come out to the next meeting, get involved and help us represent YOU and your business.

Please visit our website... www.therideaucalls.com and join us!


TheRideauCalls.com
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Special July 1st activities for Canada's 150th

Bedford

The Bedford Heritage Committee is looking forward to welcoming new visitors to their offices at the Glendower Hall on Canada Day from 9:00 to 11:00.

Come out for a morning of pancakes, music and fun family activities. The historical room will be open for public viewing. The heritage society's collection of copies of material includes original municipal documents, books on local history, census material, maps and other documents.

Chaffey's Locks

The Chaffey's Lock Heritage Society hosts a Canada Day celebration at the lock station grounds from 11:30 am with a hot dog barbecue where they traditionally have live music. More activities are to come. The dogs start to be served at 11:30 until supplies run out. A drink and a hot dog have been part of a Canada Day tradition at the lock for over a decade.

Delta

At the Lower Beverley Lake Park there is a kid's bingo at 10 a.m. In the afternoon there is a performance by The Doherty Brothers from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the pavilion where there will be free cake at 2:00 p.m. Karaoke follows at the pavilion at 7:00 p.m.

Newboro

The Village of Newboro traditionally celebrates Canada Day with an evening parade leaving from Lorne Park at 7:00 pm. Line up for the parade begins at 6:15.

Organizers are encouraging families, groups and businesses to join in the fun of a parade.

The evening ends at the Newboro Community Hall with refreshments and displays of artefacts and memorabilia. Afterwards a bus will travel to Rideau Vista to watch the fireworks display at

the celebrations at Rideau Vista Public School

Seeley's Bay

Activities at the Legion and adjacent Centennial Park are a Canada Day tradition for



Seeley's Bay's Canada Day Parade.

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. A myriad of fun activities and entertainment for the whole family including a parade is planned. The lineup of events will include some past favorites as well as some new surprises waiting to be discovered at www.seeleys-baycanaday.com

North Crosby/Westport

Join the North Crosby Recreation and Heritage Committee as they celebrate Canada Day with children's activities, air castles, heritage displays, pie contest, quilt show, canteen, live music, fireworks and more at Rideau Vista Public School starting at 2 p.m.

The event normally takes place at the Westport Lions Beach but was moved for Canada's 150th so more space was available.



Westport's bicycle parade goes ahead as usual this year, but Lions Beach activities are being moved to Rideau Vista for 2017.

Westport

Start the day with a pancake Breakfast 8:30 am at Lockwood Park. There's bicycle safety with the OPP there at 10:30 a.m.. A parade starting at the Rideau District Museum travels to the fire hall beginning at 1:30 p.m.

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Blacksmith returns to Jones Falls

This summer the Jones Falls Lock Station gets back its destination status for many land visitors with the return of interpretation to the Blacksmith's Shop and Sweeney House.

Sweeney House, high on the hill overlooking the site was part of a 19th century military defense strategy for Canada and one of multiple defensible homes and blockhouse structures along the canal.

The home was occupied by one of the site's first lockmasters, Peter Sweeney who served on the canal from 1832 to 1871. His personal diary documents the early history of canal operations and the isolation of the site which was a marvel of 19th century engineering with its stone arch dam.

The home which has been restored and furnished to the period will be open this summer with costumed interpreters

for visitors.

Parks Canada Blacksmith/Interpreter Don MacKay returned to the blacksmith shop in April to prepare the shop after its four-year closure beginning in 2013.

MacKay has been a familiar part of the lock station after serving as the site's blacksmith for 17 years and is happy to be back in his old role providing a memorable experience for children and adults.

Many a child has visited the blacksmith shop and left with a nail that they 'helped' to make with MacKay who uses the extra hands to work the forge's bellows. Visitors may also come away with a bit of history.

"It's an experience. It's about people. Blacksmithing is a tool to talk about Canada. Blacksmithing is a part of it," he said.



Parks Canada blacksmith Don MacKay will help provide live interpretation at Jones Falls during this year's navigation season.



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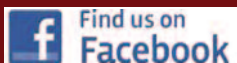
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www.rideaulakesartists.com



Seeley's Bay has installed facilities to make it more attractive to paddlers.

Seeleys' Bay celebrates paddling with CanoeFest

Seeley's Bay's Red CanoeFest returns June 3 with activities on and off the water at Centennial Park and the public dock beginning in the afternoon. The event highlights the community as a prime destination for paddling and fishing.

Explore the Rideau Canal in the 5th annual Silent Poker Run. Paddle in your kayak, canoe, row boat, raft or anything that floats and does not have a motor. Enjoy the waterway while collecting poker cards in an attempt to collect the best poker hand. Great prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd best hands. Afterwards enjoy a complimentary BBQ dinner in the park.

The Kids and Cops Fishing Derby is hosted this year by Ultimate Fishing Show's 'Big' Jim McLaughlin. Bring the kids down to the docks to meet a local police officer and see who can land the biggest fish. There will be giveaways and prizes. Kids (age 4-14) should bring their own fishing gear (fishing rod and water safety vest) and an adult buddy.

Bring the family down to Centennial Park and catch up with old friends and to meet new community members at the community BBQ, while being entertained by local vocal duo Head over Heels. See who won the Silent Poker Run and which kids caught the biggest fish at the Kids and Cops fishing derby while munching on a hamburger or hotdog.

All proceeds will support SBARA community improvement.



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Club is open to non-members and green fee players are always welcome. Golf carts and pull carts available.

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85,000 lights adorn Delta for the Christmas season

Delta becomes a busy place Saturday nights in 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 85,000 lights.

Christmas carols play throughout the park with various festive displays being lit for your pleasure.

Free wagon rides will be available throughout the park leaving from the Delta Fair grounds from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

On the event days tours are also offered of the Old Stone Mill.

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

available from the boat launch 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 with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Hot Chocolate and donuts are provided next door.

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

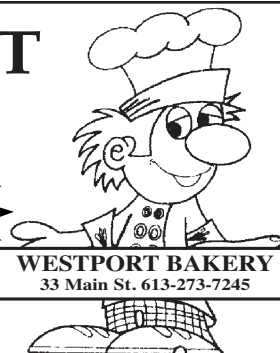
The festival takes place on Saturdays: Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9 and 16. More information is available at www.beverleylakepark.com.



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MUSICwestport continues to grow after

MUSICwestport, an annual free outdoor music festival, is our flagship and most popular event attracting locals and visitors from far and wide—and that includes the musicians too. It continues to grow but strives to maintain its roots and mission to bring music to our village and all those that join us over the third weekend in August of every year.

Fri., Aug. 18 **MUSICwestport 2017 Kick Off Party with The Peptides (Ottawa) at The Cove from 7-11 p.m.**

The PepTides is a nine-member band with a distinctive larger-than-life pop sound. The five vocalists and four instrumentalists draw on funk, electronic and disco influences. They have been described in the press as "the B52's crossed with The Manhattan Transfer backed by Arcade Fire."

The group is noted for its extravagant live performances featuring thick vocal harmonies, theatrical choreography and colourful visuals. The PepTides' songs juxtapose upbeat music with lyrics that comment on far-reaching themes like love, hate, revenge, sex, religion, war—and getting ready for dates.

www.thepeptides.com

Sat., Aug. 19 **11th Annual** **MUSICwestport 2017** **Open Air Festival** **10 a.m.-7 p.m. Free.**

The Grace Babies (Montreal)

Bring your dance shoes, sandals or bare feet, and your positive mental attitude as we enjoy a set of awesome neo-soul and funk music from The Grace Babies of Montreal. Featuring some of the city's greatest groove ambassadors, Greg and Rob Ritchie, Josh Goldman and soul singer Snooky Alston! A new project sees the band in a position to break into the US. Creating a new groove is the central purpose of this group.

Tom Savage Band (Kingston)

One part truth-telling troubadour, one part guitar slinger and one part Country Blues howler. Each facet of his formidable on-stage persona carefully crafted over a 20+ year devotion to the composition and performance of song. Tom is a true believer and a disciple of melody, harmony, tempo and timbre. The Westport native pours his heart out of his throat every night, shredding his fingertips on the 1966 Guild acoustic he adores. He just recorded a new record in Kingston, toured the US and Canada twice in the last two years and plays solo and with Foley Mountain Playboys.

www.tomsavage.ca

Brea Lawrenson Band **(Carleton Place)**

From the poignant 'With You, Whiskey' to the rollicking 'Hell On High Heels', '25 To Life' to the sassy "Canadian Pearl", to the soulful "Lynchburg", Brea captures emotions and stories in her music that have put her on the charts 6 times in the last 3 years. Her appearances at fairs and festivals have been with such greats as Brett Kissel, Tom Cochrane, The Road Hammers and more.

2015 CMAO Nominee for Rising Star and Female Artist Of The Year! Featuring Shawn McCullough, Wade Foster!

www.brealawrenson.com



Rising Star and Female Artist Of The Year nominee Brea Lawrenson performs with backing from Shawn McCullough and Wade Foster.

The Barrel Boys (Toronto)

Established in 2012, The Barrel Boys are a 5-piece traditional bluegrass string band based in Toronto. The band's sound is built around rich vocal harmonies and virtuosic instrumentals and their repertoire finely balances standard tunes with their own original writing. Their instrumentation lends itself to classic bluegrass, but they are also fluent in old time, classic country, and Americana, and their original material is informed by all of these styles. Each of the 5 members writes and sings their own tunes, making for a wide stylistic range within the band's sound.

www.thebarrelboys.com

The Kingston Ceili Band **(Kingston)**

An institution in Kingston for over 25 years, the current line-up of Anne Archer (flute), Shane Dunne (guitar and vocals), have only been together 5 years. The band's mix of lively traditional fiddle tunes, classical instrumentals, ballads and rollicking pub songs is a hit wherever they play.

Sláinte (a traditional Irish toast meaning "good health"), the Céilí Band's latest release.

www.ceiliband.com

A Fellow Ship (Toronto)

A Fellow Ship is a Toronto band consisting of 7 close friends with a love for folk music. Their music is a unique

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www.afellowship.com

Kasador (Kingston)

For the past three years, Kasador have been bringing their blend of Canadian indie rock to cities across Ontario, Quebec and the US. Birthed from the acoustic styling of frontman Will Hunter, the group has evolved into an electric entity that has crowds closing the gap to the monitors wherever they go. With an indie rock sound built around powerful choruses, the band keeps audiences swaying and singing from the first chord to the last. Featuring The Tragically Hip offspring Angus, nephew of Johnny Fay, and Boris, son of Rob Baker. Having shared the stage with such major bands as Walk Off The Earth, Arkells and July Talk, the band is becoming known for its stage show.

www.kasadorband.com

Miss Emily featuring Rob Baker and Gord Sinclair of The Tragically Hip (Kingston)

Her music spans genres, crosses barriers and creates



Miss Emily will perform with Rob Baker and Gord Sinclair of The Tragically Hip.

bridges. Her voice soars to emotional heights and reaches down into the grittiness of the soul. Her performances are foot-stomping, heart-wrenching adventures in rhythm, blues, jazz and rock and roll. For more than a decade Miss Emily has captivated audiences across Canada, the US and the UK. Her most recent record 'Rise' featured Gord Sinclair and Rob Baker of the Tragically Hip as does her upcoming record. From working with legends like Gene Simmons of

KISS and Bruce Springsteen, opening slots for The Tragically Hip and The Trews, Miss Emily is currently working on a new record that traces back to her roots in music and already includes some of the best songwriting of her young career.

www.themissemily.com

Wandering Minstrels

King of the Swingers (Westport)

King of the Swingers have energized festivals, fairgrounds, street concerts and parties with their upbeat, energized approach to Dixie music. With locals Steve Clarke, Marty Crapper, Stu Pike and Dawson Willsey. Catch them on a town corner or somewhere on Bedford St. ready to take you on a little trip down nostalgia lane.

www.facebook.com/King-Of-The-Swingers

Rideau's Got Talent!

Rideau's Got Talent is searching for people of all ages and talents to showcase unique performers from Westport and surrounding area. "Rideau's Got Talent" is a true celebration of creativity and talent, inviting a wide array of singers, dancers, comedians, contortionists, impressionists, jugglers, magicians, ventriloquists and everything in between, to compete for the coveted title of "Rideau's Got Talent".

Application deadline is Sat., June 3 with rehearsals Sat., June 10. The finals are Sat., Aug. 19 where they open MUSICwestport.

To register, send the completed registration form via email or standard post. Only the first 25 acts will be accepted. Entry fee \$25. Go to www.westportartscouncil.com.

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Skate the Lake for 2018 has been moved to February to accommodate a contingent of Dutch tourists on a Canadian speed skating trip.

Portland speed skating welcomes Dutch entourage for 15-year anniversary

Skate the Lake in Portland will be held in February for the first time ever next year. The skating festival in eastern Ontario will celebrate its 15-year anniversary with a unique 100-kilometer marathon event as it will host hundreds of skaters from the Netherlands. This two-day Skate the Lake in 2018 will take place February 17 and 18.

On February 17, 2018, Dutch organizers of the Alternatieve Elfstedentocht on the Weissensee in Austria will come to Portland to skate a 100-kilometer non-competitive event on Big Rideau Lake. The stop in Portland is one of three non-competitive events the Dutch skaters will complete in their tour of Eastern Canada. They will also skate in Quebec on Lac Masson on Tuesday, February 20 and Lac Beauport on Friday, February 23.

"This is the first time in our 15-year history that we will not hold Skate the Lake on the last weekend of January," said Portland Outdoors president John Bongers.

"We are excited to change our schedule to accommodate our European visitors. And of course, we are also very excited to offer a 100-kilometer event in Portland for the first time ever," Bongers said.

Bongers adds that the 100-kilometer event in Portland is open to all skaters, not just the Dutch visitors, so he anticipates that many of the regular long distance skaters who have been coming to Big Rideau Lake for years will come to this special event and take this opportunity to challenge themselves. There has never been an event longer than 50 kilometers in Portland.

Meanwhile, many of the events that Skate the Lake has become known for will return. This includes a children's skating race and a team relay in which participants are encouraged to dress up. There will be a

curling rink, a hockey area and an Ice Stock area. There will be bonfires, plenty of food options including Skate Tails, and Dutch pea soup called Snert. And in the evenings, there will be fireworks and a dinner.

Portland Outdoors is a not for profit group that puts on Skate the Lake annually. The event was previously known as the International Big Rideau Lake Speed Skating Marathon. The North American Marathon Speed Skating Championships were held in Portland in 2006 and 2014. The first Skate the Lake was held in 2004.

Go to www.skatethelakeportland.com to keep up to date on developments for 2018.

Angling opportunities in the Rideau Lakes area

With dozens of lakes across the region, fishing opportunities abound for everything from walleye to lake trout to bass and pike. The Ministry of Natural Resources has 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 by fish species, 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.

The Zone 18 bass season 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.

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.

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The Manotick Antique and Classic Boat Club is bringing their annual boat show, seen here in Rideau Ferry last year, back to Westport for 2017.

Manotick Antique & Classic Boat Show returns to Westport

After a 17-year absence, the Manotick Classic Boat Club is bringing their annual boat show back to Westport.

The 42nd annual Ottawa International Antique & Classic Boat Show will be in Westport Harbour Saturday, Aug. 12.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday with the village and boat club currently working out the details.

The show was first held in Westport in 1991 and was here five more times in the 90s until it made its last Westport appearance in 2001.

After moving to Merrickville in 2002, the event returned to Manotick, where it stayed until

last year, when it was held at the new docks in Rideau Ferry.

Founded in 1975, the Manotick Classic Boat Club (MCBC) promotes the appreciation of historic, antique and classic boats. The over 100 members of MCBC are a group of people from different backgrounds who share a common interest in the preservation and the enjoyment of these fine craft.

Member boats come in all shapes and sizes including old wooden canoes, sailboats, runabouts and cruisers. And, you don't have to own a boat to be a member just have an interest and passion for these beautiful water craft!

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200 year old mill brings back local flavor

One of the finest examples of early industrial architecture in the region is Delta's Old Stone Mill National Historic Site.

The three-story Georgian-style mill was the very model of modern technology when prominent local resident, William Jones built it in 1810.

Nineteenth century technology is what makes the site popular today as the mill takes on a new role grinding locally grown heritage Red Fife wheat on a demonstration basis.

Grain is ground and bagged during the museum season, beginning May 20 with demonstration milling taking place June 3, 17; July 1, 22, 29; August 5, 19, 20 and September 2, 30 at 1 pm. Freshly ground flour is bagged and available.

Milling equipment was installed back into the mill for the site's bicentennial in 2010 and was a long sought goal for the society whose founders, for one dollar, took possession of the mill in 1963 from its last owner Hastings Steele.

A turning waterwheel inside the mill brings back some of the sights and sounds of a working wheel but none of the power to grind the millstones, which are now powered by an electric motor.

The Mill Society also owns the Old Town Hall, which sits just across the creek. After the completion of restoration of the mill in 2010 the society was ready to take on the Old Town Hall as their next restoration project.

The hall, which was once a centre of activities for the village, is a venue for the society to host their own events and rent the facility for private and public functions.

Events at the mill attract new and returning visitors throughout the summer and fall and early winter ending with tours at the mill during the Celebrating the Seasons Festival on Saturdays in November and December.

Fall events at The Mill
Saturday September 30 - DELTA HARVEST FESTIVAL – Come out for the 3rd Annual Delta Harvest Festival with lots going on throughout the village.



The Delta Mill was one stop on 2016's Settler's Trek from Brockville to Perth, recreating the same trip in 1816. It marked the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement.

The day starts off at 8:00 am with a hearty Harvest Breakfast in the Old Town Hall. This will be followed by all sorts of activities in the Old Town Hall, the Old Stone Mill, the Fairgrounds and other spots in Delta with blacksmithing demonstrations, milling demonstrations, a bread baking contest and more (TBD). Come to Delta and celebrate the harvest. Admission to the Old Stone Mill and Old Town Hall is free (donations appreciated). Entrance to the Fairgrounds is TBD.

Saturday October 28 - SPIRITS OF THE MILL - Gather at the Old Town Hall at 7pm sharp,

and then take a walk to the Old Stone Mill where some of Delta's intriguing characters from the past will be waiting. Return to the Old Town Hall for "spooky refreshments and stories".

Saturdays, Nov.18 & 25 - CHRISTMAS AT THE MILL – The mill will be lit up with festive candles as part of Delta's Celebrating the Season. We'll be open from 5:00 to 8:30 pm. Also be sure to visit our Christmas Gift Shop in the Old Town Hall. Lower Beverley Lake Park will be lit with over 85,000 lights and there are free wagon rides from the village to the park. Admission to the Old Stone Mill

and Old Town Hall is free (donations appreciated).

Saturday, December 2 - KIDS GINGERBREAD CRAFT FAIR

– Hosted by the Delta Mill Society at the Old Town Hall from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Children accompanied by their parents are welcome to come and do some gift shopping and have fun decorating gingerbread cookies - supplies provided at no charge and hot dogs and pop for the kids will be available for sale. While the kids are having fun, parents can enjoy a complimentary hot drink and take a browse in our Christmas Gift Shop. For more info contact cathy.livingston@sympatico.ca

Celebrating the Season

Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9, & 16 - CHRISTMAS AT THE MILL

– The mill will be lit up with festive candles as part of Delta's Celebrating the Season. We'll be open from 5:00 to 8:30 pm. Also be sure to visit our Christmas Gift Shop in the Old Town Hall. Lower Beverley Lake Park will be lit with over 85,000 lights and there are free wagon rides from the village to the park. Admission to the Old Stone Mill and Old Town Hall is free (donations appreciated).

•The Old Stone Mill National Historic Site will be open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 19 until September 3..

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More young families making Rideau Lakes their home

By Stacy Blair

A few years ago, my 2-year-old daughter and I were sitting on the shore of the Upper Rideau in Westport Harbour having an afternoon picnic when a pair of ladies walked up to us. Smiling, I said “hello” as I kept playing with Olive. They both nodded and then one taller lady asked me “What did you do to deserve this?” I looked at her, a little confused. She asked again “What did you do to deserve the chance to live in such a beautiful little town?” I thought for a minute and replied “I didn’t give up on the country like so many people do”.

I grew up in the Westport area. When it was time to go away to school, I looked at universities in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto, but I couldn’t picture myself living in a world with skyscrapers and concrete parks. My decision to leave did not come lightly, but when I discovered a university town situated in a small Nova Scotian village, I knew I would be okay. Although I imagined myself falling in love with a sailor and starting a new life in a small east coast fishing village, I fell in love with a friend from high school. Scott brought me back home to this village, and I couldn’t be happier with our choice to stay. I couldn’t give up the beauty of the Rideau Lakes.

When most of our friends were moving away to big cities, my husband saw an opportunity to stay in Westport to start up a company. The city life was just not for us.

Building a business anywhere can be hard. We owe a lot of success to the community who continually support us.

We have witnessed amazing things over the past few years, most notably; a community of trades people and volunteers coming together to improve the infrastructure of our local rink. Without their willingness to volunteer countless hours of their valuable time, our rink would not be what it is today. Carpenters, electricians, plumbers, restaurant owners, storeowners and many other skilled community members



Rideau Lakes area offers activities for young families.

came together to give back to the community that has helped shaped their businesses so the future of our town can continue to enjoy our favourite winter pastime. It takes a town to build a business, and Westport is that town. For that, we are so thankful.

Little did we know how grateful we would be to grow our family in this village. You can walk the streets under the age-old Maple trees, chatting with the locals who wouldn’t think twice about asking you in for tea. You can watch young children meeting up with their friends on bikes and rollerblades, grandparents happily sharing their ice cream with their grandchildren and longtime friends meeting up for lunch at the coffee shop.

Business owners are always so welcoming and helpful to both locals and visitors of Westport. The family-run grocery store is by far the best around, and the coffee shops rival any big franchise. We frequent the bakery for fresh bread and sweet treats quite often, and take strolls along the Harbour to feed the fish. Westport is known as a retirement town, but more and more I am seeing younger families settling on our streets, some even returning from the city in search of the community they lost. I love turning the corner and seeing little children playing street

shops that draw so many people to our town.

My love for this town has grown immensely as I stroll the streets with both my 1-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter. It’s almost as if I see things with new eyes. There is so much opportunity for them in these wide-open spaces, whether it be strolling the streets or running full-tilt through the fields in our backyard. In the summer, we are surrounded by a canal system that has shaped the heritage of our area. Boaters travel from around the world to say they sailed the Rideau Canal. In the winter, we come out to cheer on our hockey players and figure skaters competing in friendly competition. Westport has shaped my interests and my passions, and I can only hope that my children will be just as inspired as I am.


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Farmersville features Oliver equipment this year.

Agricultural machinery brings memories of yesteryear

Thousands of visitors have made their way to Athens over the last 37 years to visit 'Farmersville' a two-day festival celebrating antique and vintage machinery from on and off the farm July 14-16, 2017.

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 draw, and live music to entertain on Saturday and Sunday draw crowds to the Centre 76 grounds all weekend.

This year's event, Saturday and Sunday, July 15 and 16 is featuring Oliver equipment as well as other vintage tractors and equipment of all makes.

Pre-exhibition activities begin Friday with a performance with Fiddlers Plus Old Tyme Country Music from 6-9 p.m. The exhibition grounds open at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday for the main event, the exhibition of hundreds of examples of vintage machinery, cars, trucks, motorcycles and tools.

Special events Saturday include, a vintage tractor pull, and country music in the after-

noon.

On Sunday events include a horse draw, live country music as well as exhibitions and the two-day craft fair in the arena.

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



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Celebration brings Elgin community together

Elgin becomes a hive of activity for the community's annual summer celebration, Elgin Day, on Saturday July 8. 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 weekend kicks off on Friday night, July 7 with the Lions' monthly spaghetti dinner and quiz night.

On Saturday the Elgin and Area Heritage Society will be holding a yard sale and an open house at the Red Brick School and there will be a book sale at the library. The Bethel Church offers a free pancake breakfast and special activities for the whole family.

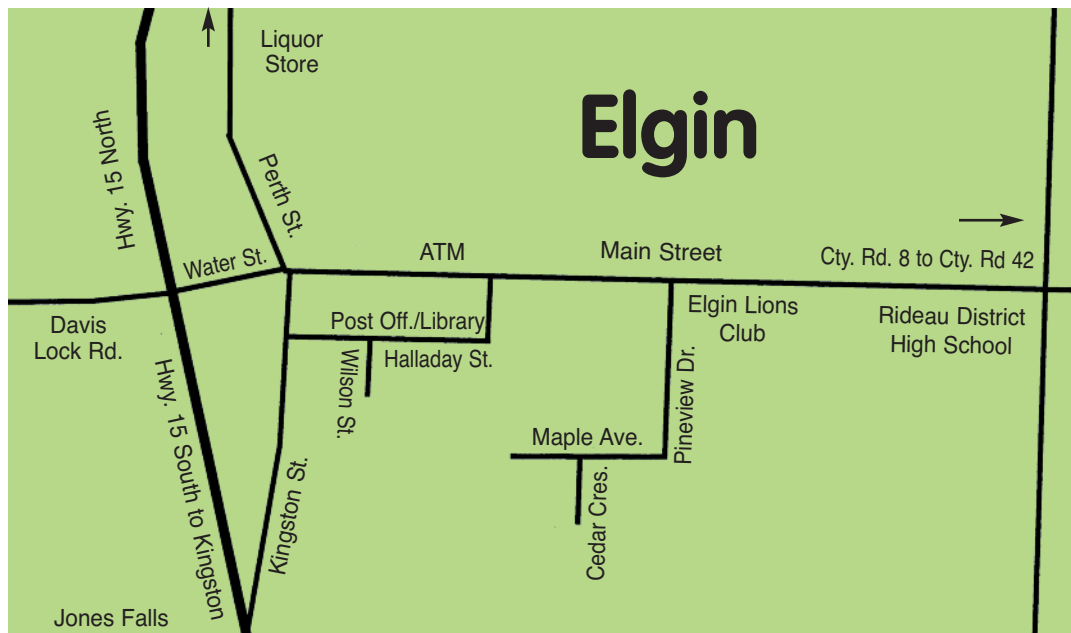
Special vendors, a 2:00 pm parade, bake sales, children's activities and a morning coffee drop-in take place at the Elgin Municipal Complex.

The 2 p.m. parade is followed

by the firefighters association chicken barbecue at the Elgin Lions Hall where there will be an antique car and motorcycle display, a beer tent and live music.

The fun continues on Sunday July 9 with a bingo and fish fry at the Lions Hall and an ecumenical

service at the municipal hall in the evening. The event has an 'Elgin Days' Facebook page.




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Foley Mountain Conservation Area offers educational programs year round.

Foley Mountain offers trails and children's activities

One of the most spectacular panoramas in the area is found just north of Westport on Spy Rock, above the Upper Rideau.

The landmark is part of Foley Mountain Conservation Area, 800 acres 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 trailhead leads to trails bordered by woods, ponds, forests and fields above the lake.

Visitors have a choice of routes to explore with nine kilometers of looped trails through the park including a mobility trail at the Interpretive Centre.

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 a half kilometer walk from the Interpretive Centre.

The centre houses the Children's Nature Discovery Centre which includes nature displays and live animals.

In July and August a variety of children's nature programs are available as well as two one-week nature explorers day-camp. Those programs include three morning programs which are free with entrance to the park. A full schedule and a registration form and information about fees are available on the www.rvca.ca web-site from the conservation areas tab.

Entrance to the park which is open 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset is \$6 per vehicle. Season passes are also available.



The Athens Truck Show, featuring a number of vehicle's from George Tackaberry's collection, will be on display Aug. 19-20 as part of Cornfest. See page 20 for more.

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Winery successfully tests climate's limits

By Allison Scheuermann

A family of seven, a home with 14 acres, a vision, a dream, a commitment, a love of the great outdoors and an abundance of support from family and friends are the elements that built the foundation of Scheuermann Vineyard and Winery.

As we shared a glass of wine one summer night in 2010 we looked out over our hay fields from our front porch and decided that we should plant something to create an income from the land. Our south facing slope at the top of the field brought an idea to light in Francois that Prince Edward County grows an abundance of grapes. Grapes sounded idyllic instantly.

Over that summer we tested our terroir. The results returned positive, proving very mineral rich soil, which is perfect for grape growing. We also had the honour of meeting Norman Hardie, a winemaker from Prince Edward County. We experienced our first harvest volunteering for one of his harvest parties that fall. There we introduced ourselves and shared our vision. The relationship was automatic, he agreed to become our mentor and we agreed to apprentice for him in return.

Our fervent desire to make the vineyard a reality was unfolding beautifully. The buzz we created opened one door after another and in the spring of 2011 we planted our first grapes. With the tireless help from family and friends we cultivated the earth and placed 500 Chardonnay plants as well as 500 Pinot Noir plants in the ground to grow deep roots. With the pioneering of burying vines in cold climates we have been able to push the boundaries of grape growing and planted vinefera grape varieties this far north.

In the spring of 2012 we added another thousand plants. Our vineyard grew to 6.3 acres in the spring of 2014 as we added Vidal grapes.

Our mission is to handcraft high quality wine for enthusi-



Allison and Francois Scheuermann had the idea to develop a winery on their property in 2010.

asts' worldwide. Working in harmony with our surroundings, we use the highest standards and sustainable practices in the vineyard and in the cellar. The quality of our first vintage expressed by wine industry leaders gave us big promise. We transformed our garage into a Garagiste Winery in the spring of 2015 in hopes

of opening our doors that summer. August 28th 2015 marked that day and we were officially open for wine tastings and wine sales.

When we started out we wanted to continue the tradition of agri business in our area but with non-conventional crops. We also wanted to add to the Romantic

ambiance that Westport offers tourists. The focus of our hospitality is to stimulate all senses for our guests. Birthing memories worth cherishing and renewing. Wine by the glass and local, unique dining overlooking Sand Lake and the vineyard help cast this sensation.

Every fall the sugars in the grapes reach the perfect depth of sweetness and they need to be harvested, thus the next vintage begins its ferment. We invite our family, friends and visitors to join us in this harvest experience year after year.

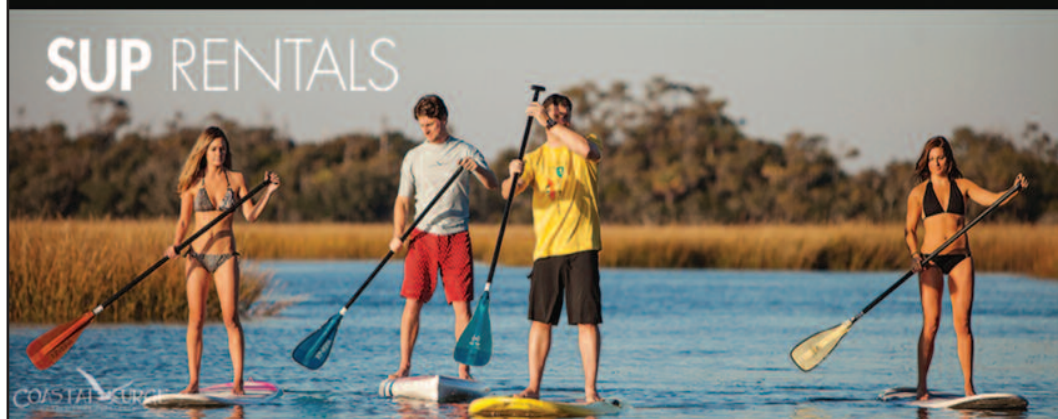
Whether our guests are dining and enjoying laughter and sunshine in the gardens or grounding in our terroir amongst the vines, we do our best to cultivate an upbeat fun and inclusive atmosphere.

We still share a glass of wine on our front porch regularly and the vision keeps growing. We look forward to sharing our dream with you.

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Relocating and living in the Rideau Lakes area

By Tanya Lemcke

As a real estate broker working in the Rideau Lakes area I am in touch with people moving into our area from larger city centres like Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver.

No matter where our new residents to the area come from, the number one question I get is always an inquiry about what there is to do in the area. This is a question I love to answer because truthfully the list is endless. I always remind them that the bulk of the people moving into the area are much like themselves – busy professionals who have a lot of interests and expertise. Just because they may be retiring doesn't mean they want to slow down or give up their interests so most people start committees and clubs to share their knowledge and passions.

On any given weekend all across the Rideau Lakes area you will usually find an organized event. This means there are ways for you to help by donating your time or there are things for you to attend when you want. And this list of activities is so varied. From the many artist's tours for the art lover, fly-ins for the avid aviator, antique and motorcycle shows, a myriad of clubs for writers, artists, musicians and more, there is really a chance to be as busy as you would like.

One of the greatest things about living in the Rideau Lakes area is the ability to just enjoy the great outdoors. Surrounded by nature at every turn, there is ample hiking and walking trails, beautiful lakes and rivers to boat, paddle and kayak on and for a lot of these locations the entrance is free to enjoy! Our many lakes and unrivaled Rideau System is what most people leave the city to spend hours to drive to and yet we get to enjoy on a daily basis. We can boat to our hearts content and swim from our backyards in many cases. One of the greatest enjoyments for most is the fact that living a Rideau Lakes lifestyle means having the chance to enjoy the peace and quiet of country life and indulging in small pleasures like watching the stars on a clear night without the interference of nonstop bright city lights.

Making the transition from city living to enjoying a country lifestyle might mean you have to drive a little farther for some of the amenities you want to access, but being able to live on or near the lake, not having any stoplights and hours of traffic to go through daily can make these occasional trips into the city seem like a small price to pay for living the dream year round.



One of the greatest things about the Rideau Lakes area is the ability to just enjoy the great outdoors.

Athens Cornfest draws thousands

Summer will be winding down when Athens holds its annual summer community celebration Cornfest on Saturday, August 19.

Local corn is at its peak of perfection when the one-day festival, brings together the community thanks to efforts of many volunteers who have continued the event which began back in 1980.

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 Facebook page Athens Cornfest.

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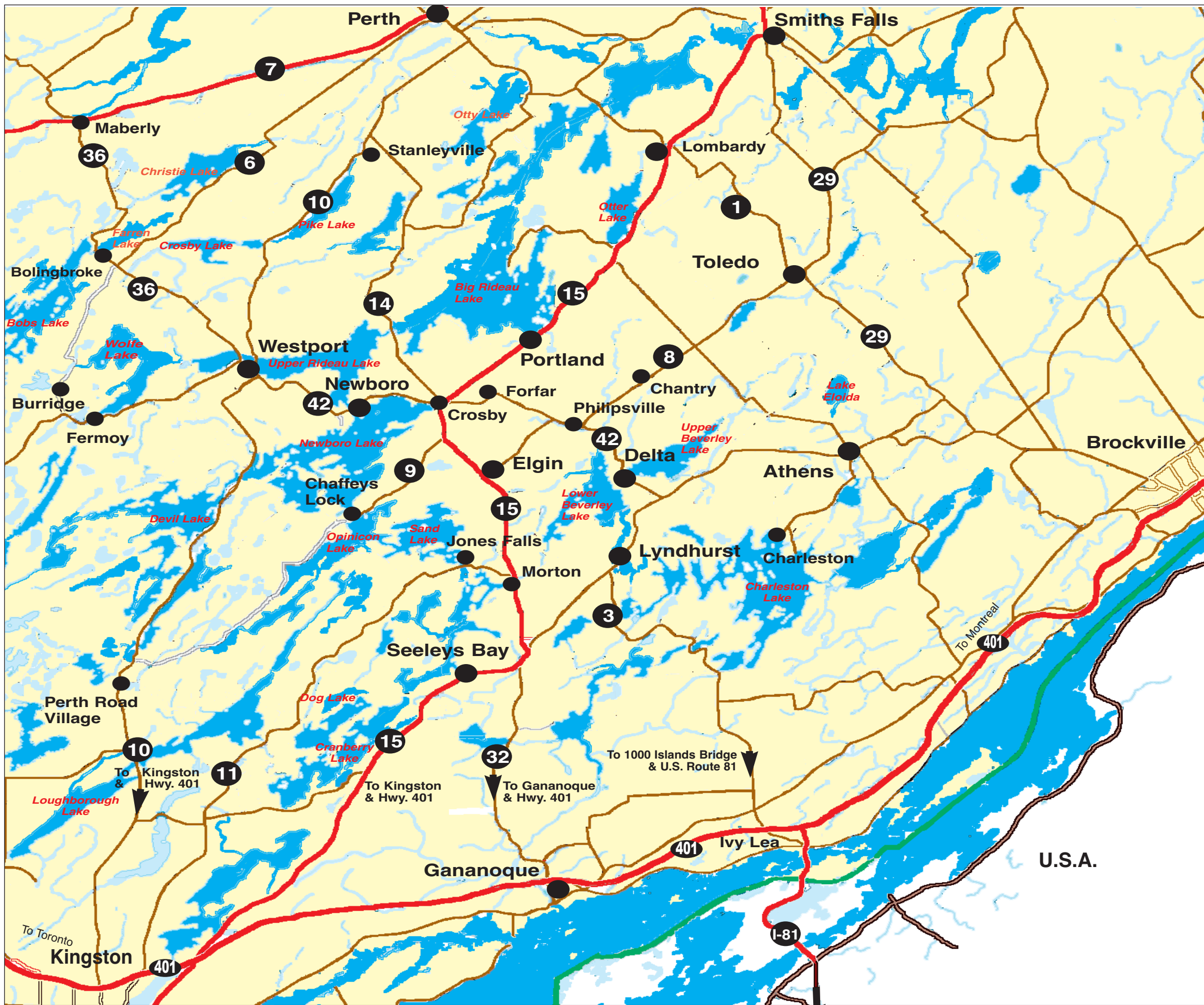
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Area studios host visitors on Canada Day weekend

New pleasures beckon visitors to the area when local artists open their studios to become destinations on a studio tour.

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.

This year the Rideau Lakes

Studio and Garden Tour takes place on July 1 and 2 presenting a variety of lakeside, historic and countryside locations, many of which feature gardens.

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 and many of the studios host guest artists.

The tour route includes studios from Chaffey's Lock to Philippsville. Brochures are available at area businesses and www.rideaulakesstudioandgardentour.ca.



Sharon Benson will be among the artists and artisans in this year's Rideau Lakes Studio & Garden Tour.

Inaugural Bluegrass Festival comes to Lombardy

The Lombardy Fairgrounds becomes a Bluegrass lover's paradise on Victoria Day weekend May 19 to May 21 with the 2nd Eastern Ontario Bluegrass Festival.

Performances include every award winning or nominated bluegrass band and musicians from last year's Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards, former winners and nominees plus a few other 'surprises' for 2017.

Canada's century and a half's birthday is being hon-

ored with three hour and a half concerts to end each day including on Friday The Andrew Collins Trio; Saturday, The Northern Sons; and on Sunday The Slocan Ramblers.

Last year's inaugural event drew near-capacity crowds. All concerts are inside. Day, evening and full day passes are available and rough camping is available on site. Full information including ticket purchase is available at www.eobluegrass.com.



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Lake Association looks forward to active year

The Chaffey's Area Lake Association (CALA) has two member and public information sessions planned for the spring and summer of 2017.

Both events are at the Chaffey's Lock Community Hall (161 Chaffey's Lock Rd.)

The first is May 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. and everyone is invited to a meet and greet with CALA Executive members and guest Lisa McShane, Management Biologist with the Ministry of Natural resources and Forestry (MNR).

Lisa will be making a presentation called "Fisheries" 101. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the fish species inhabiting our lakes, including their biology, their preferred habitats, and their behaviours.

"I actually was lucky enough to hear Lisa's presentation at a Lake Links Conference in Perth. I learned a lot about fish biology that I never knew before", said Gay Henniger, Communications Director of CALA.

"Did you know that a bass male fish, prepares the nest, then the females lay the eggs and leave? The male guards the nest for weeks before the tiny fish hatch and leave.

"After hearing Lisa's presentation, last June I realized there was a nest with a male bass guarding it right in front of our dock. Our family took a real interest in watching his



The Arpil Verch Band played Chaffey's Community Hall as part of the Festival of Small Halls last year.

efforts. We wondered if he ever slept. Then one morning we went down to the dock and his nest was empty and the water was full of tiny little fish".

This presentation helps lake residents and visitors to realize how important it is that all persons using our lakes need to have an awareness of this process so that shoreline and lake activities can be planned to ensure the least amount of stress on the natural fish habitats.

On July 8, everyone is invited to the CALA Annual General Meeting. There is a

free pancake breakfast at 9 a.m. (Bring the kids), a short business meeting, and a presentation by guests from Watersheds, Canada to talk about their "Love the Lake" and "The Natural Edge" programs that are set up to help

property owners to rejuvenate their shorelines.

Something as simple as planting a buffer of native trees and shrubs has huge benefits for lakes, including the filtration of water. There are a number of residents in the area that have already or are in the process of, taking advantage of this program. We hope to have some input from these residents at the meeting.

CALA is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization that serves the community of the Rideau Lakes, in the vicinity of Chaffey's Lock. CALA exists so that future generations will inherit a physically and emotionally healthy Rideau Lakes environment that is the same or better than that which originally attracted us (or our ancestors) to this special place.

For further information about CALA, membership or either of these two free events for visitors and community members, please contact Gay Henniger (ghenniger@live.ca) or 613-359-5706.

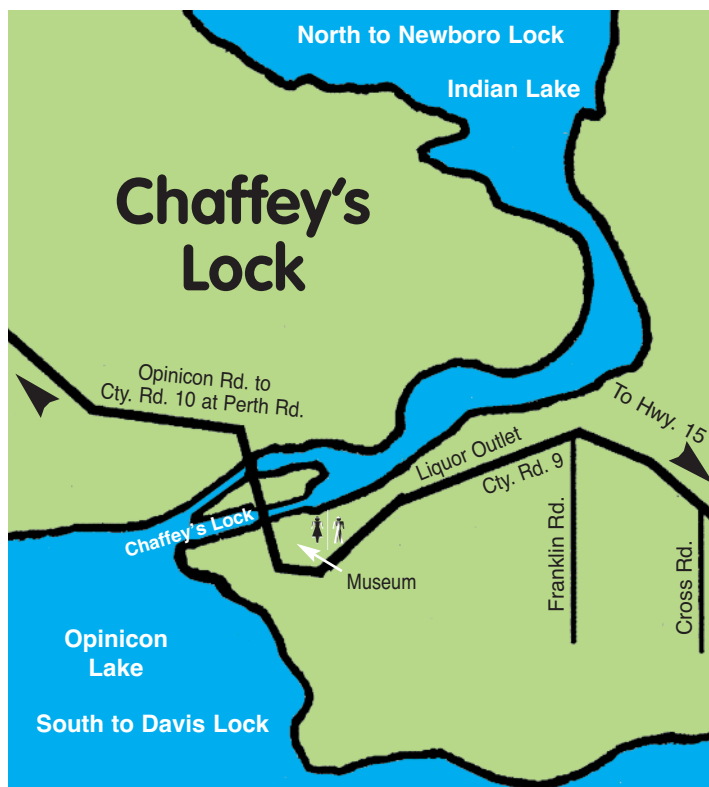
Busy slate of activities in Chaffey's

The Lockmasters House Museum opens on June 28 before Canada Day celebration on July 1 which includes live music and a barbecue from 11:30 to 2:00.

A Sundays a market begins in early May and continues to September 3 at Market Square at the head of the Marion Dunn Trail just north of the locks. Vendors will be juried and will include art, crafts and locally produced food.

On August 5 the popular civic holiday weekend craft show returns to the Opinicon lawn and on August 12 the society's AGM will feature wine and cheese and a heritage speaker.

The season winds up with the two-day heritage festival on Labour Day weekend and concludes later in the month with a concert (or two) from the Third Annual Ontario Festival of Small Halls. Dates and performers will be announced later this summer.



Festival of Small Halls welcomes new venues for 2017

The festival that melds big names in music with rural communities in Eastern Ontario is enlivening new spaces this fall.

Last year, the Ontario Festival of Small Halls got bigger and better, expanding its scope and bringing internationally-renowned musicians to two dozen rural gathering spaces. For 2017, the Festival is growing once again, encompassing more than 30 community halls from even further afield. The celebration of exceptional live music is taking place from September 14 to October 1, 2017 in intimate settings to showcase local hubs, attract visitors to new regions and build community.

The new host halls this year stretch from Dacre to Merrickville to Alexandria. While some venues are familiar hosts from last year, such as Chaffey's Lock, others are new to the festival line up, like Dunvegan and Balderson.

Kelly Symes, General

Manager of the Ontario Festival of Small Halls, said the festival allows music fans to experience a memorable evening of song and dance in cherished places that have a long history of gathering people together.

"We're delighted to continue showcasing these intimate gathering places, and welcome big name musical acts to small town Ontario," she said, noting that 30 new halls applied from across Eastern Ontario.

Symes said the new venues were selected based on their history, charm and the eagerness of their volunteer teams. "These spaces play a vital role in bringing people together," she said. "Some of the new venues include heritage spaces, a former schoolhouse and even a radio concert hall."

This is the fourth year for the Ontario Festival of Small Halls, which has grown from only three halls on the schedule to over 30. Symes said the festival is expanding quickly



The Abrams, a blugrass staple in the area since their youth, were part of the Festival of Small Halls last year.

thanks to loyal supporters, as well as the eagerness and kindness of host communities.

Organizers of the Ontario Festival of Small Halls will be announcing dates and the big-name acts later this spring who will be taking center stage across Eastern Ontario. Soem of the venues include:

Joshua Bates Centre, Athens
Althorpe Bolingbroke Hall

Chaffey's Lock Hall
Delta Old Town Hall
The Red Brick School, Elgin
Lyndhurst Legion
Maberly Hall
Morton Community Hall
Portland Community Hall
Seeley's Bay Hall
St. Andrew's United, Toledo

For more information, visit www.thefestivalofsmallhalls.com or follow on social media.

Westport Antique Show turns 25

This year the Westport Antique Show continues in its 25th year of bringing antique and collectible dealers together from across Ontario and Quebec.

On June 3 and 4 more than 30 dealers will be displaying their wares at the Westport Community Centre.

Collectors 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, nostalgia 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.

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A photograph of a wood-burning stove in a living room. The stove is black with a glass door showing a fire inside. It is next to a striped armchair and a small table with a lamp.

Doors Open in the region over two weekends

The Township of Rideau Lakes and its history will be showcased August 19 and 20 with Open Doors weekend bringing together sites from across the township.

The event includes a century farm, a boat works, the Rideau Canal, a 19th century cemetery, education, gardening, milling, scenic vistas, a resort and an early church.

A Doors Open event provides the opportunity to visit sites not usually open to the public including businesses and private homes.

"We tried to get a little bit of everything which might represent our identity," said the event's coordinator Wendy Alford who is sure there will be too much to see in just one day.

At each site there will be

friendly faces to provide some interpretation, demonstration or an added experience to the visit.

A listing of the sites, including maps and guides, including washrooms and accessibility is available at the www.doorsopenontario.on.ca with a search for Rideau Lakes.

Doors Open comes twice to the Delta Mill which is also participating in the annual Brockville area Doors Open event on May 27 and 28. Local sites include the mill, a National Historic Site, as well as the Green Gecko in Lyndhurst and further south, the Long Point School House on Cty. Rd. 3.

A full list of the sites for that event is also available at www.doorsopenontario.on.ca.



The Portland-on-the-Rideau Historical Society will be showcasing vintage pleasure boats from the early- to mid-20th century at Hanna Park during Rideau Lakes Doors Open Aug. 19-20. Wagon tours of the village, Big Rideau Lake boat rides and refreshments served by people in period costume will add to your experience.

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Check out our Lonely Ghosts Walk every Thurs. and Fri. evening June 29 to Aug. 25. New stories every year!

Long tradition of family entertainment at Delta Fair

This July 27 to 30 the Delta Fair, the second oldest agricultural fair in Ontario will be celebrating its 187th 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.

The fair offers main stage events every evening as well

as entertainment, children's activities, and performances every day at the entertainment tent.

There's competition everywhere with homecraft and produce, livestock showing, horse shows, horse pulls and more.

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



About 2000 cyclists make their way from Ottawa to Kingston and back June 10-11.

Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour June 10-11

Close to 2,000 cyclists will make their way through the area June 10 and 11 during the Ottawa Bicycle Club's annual Rideau Lakes Tour.

Riders make their way from Ottawa and Perth to Kingston on Saturday and then back on the same route on Sunday.

Many of them make their way through Westport to Kingston via Cty. Rd. 42 and south on the Perth Road. Others travel through the Narrows Lock Road, Elgin and the Jones Falls Road on their

way to Kingston.

Riders leave from Ottawa-Kingston on 185 and 220 km routes or from Perth for a 100 km ride to Kingston. The Club's first Rideau Lakes Tour was in 1972 when 80 riders cycled from Ottawa to Kingston for an overnight stay at Queens. By 2011 the number of cyclists reached 2000 on four routes.

More information, including routes, is available at www.ottawabicycleclub.ca.

Lombardy Fair August long weekend

The Lombardy Fair welcomes visitors August 4 to August 7 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 New Ranch Competitions and Extreme Cowboy Races (Sat. and Sun.). Kids' Day (Sun.) features games and activities. Simply charming is the Junior Fair Ambassador Contest Show (Fri.), Baby Show (Sun.),

For lots of excitement, take in the Demolition Derby (Friday evening), the Antique

and Farm Stock Tractor Pull with a Lawn and Garden Tractor Pull on Saturday, and the 4x4 Truck Pull on Sunday. A Horse and Pony Pulls on Monday rounds out the four day fair.

Every afternoon on the grounds there is on-going entertainment of a wide variety on the park stage. Go to www.lombardyfair.ca for more.

Lansdowne Fair

The Lansdowne Fair begins on July 21-23 for three days of exciting events, contests, music and good food on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The 153rd edition of the fair features ever popular horse events, demo derby, antique car and tractor shows and a parade. 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.lansdownefair.ca



Art in the Barn moves to Perth

As Canada celebrates its 150th Anniversary, the Rideau Lakes Artists' Association is introducing a new venue to help celebrate by moving their summer show from Lombardy to Algonquin College in Perth.

They introduced Art in the Barn seven years, allowing the public to interact with the artists.

You will be able to see original paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolour, batik, among others, representing the artists expression of what this country means to them, together with other art forms.

There will be a painting competition where the public will be able to judge the People's Choice.

Each year the show supports a local charity and this year it is Habitat for Humanity.

The show will be open Saturday, July 15 and Sunday, July 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free. For more information, look for brochures in local businesses, go to www.rideaulakesartists.com or visit Facebook. Come say hello to these great artists and enjoy their talents in this great new facility.

Frontenac Frolic July 29

The Bobs and Crow Lakes Foundation is hosting their annual Frontenac Frolic fun day Saturday, July 29.

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

Come and find new treasures at the flea market. Place a bid on 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 day. There will be

presentations from Little Ray's Reptile Zoo at 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

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 to www.bobs-and-crow-lakes.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.



Dave White, Lake 88 Radio, officiates at the cake decorating contest.

135th Maberly Fair Aug. 26

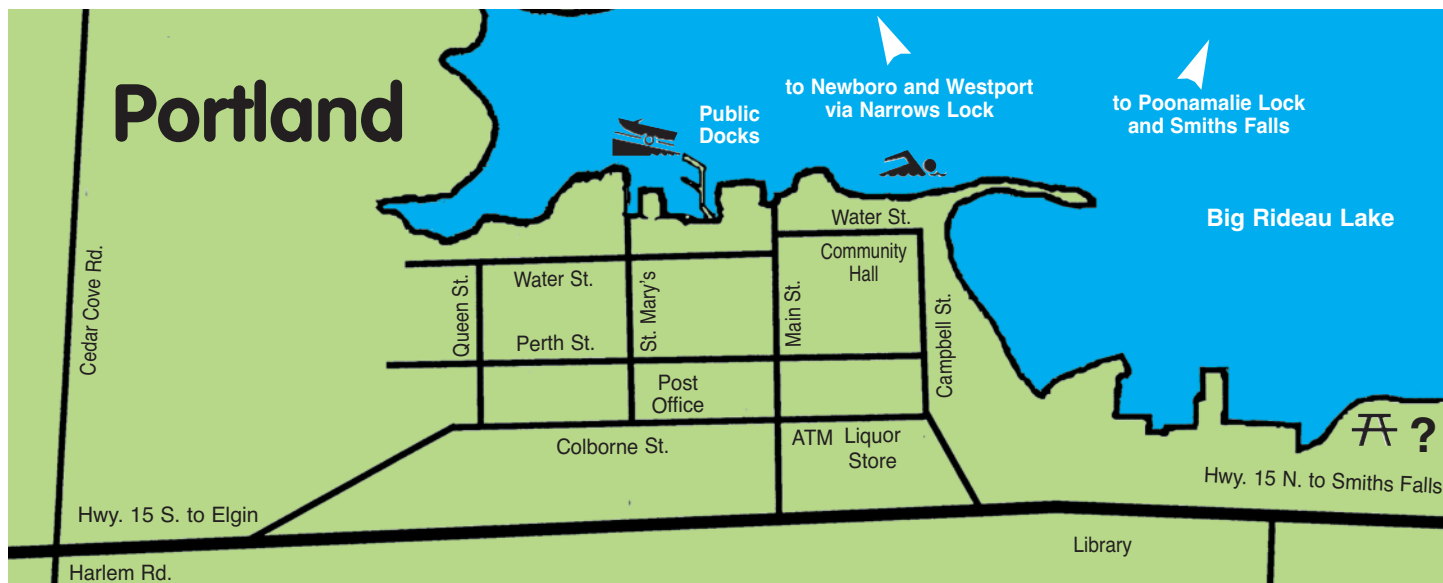
The 135th Maberly Fair celebrates Canada's 150th birthday Aug. 26 this year with special historic displays and treasures from the past years.

As well, the regular farm and country exhibits include indoor home craft competitions, outdoor 4H beef competitions, light horse show, the

popular Horse Draw and of course, old time children's games and Zucchini Races.

The on-stage cake decorating contest featuring local and political celebrities will return by popular demand.

The date is Sat., Aug. 26. To enter in the fair, phone 613-268-2548 for information.



Lyndhurst celebrates community with Turkey Fair

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

Lyndhurst is famous for its arched stone bridge but the Turkey Fair keeps visitors coming back.

This year's event Saturday, Sept. 16 marks the 24th anniversary of the event which has kept its tradition of a day of free family fun.

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

Activities start at 10 a.m. on 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 button-holders 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 farmers who came together with buyers to sell their birds in the fall.

The sale of the birds brought reason to congregate and celebrate. Today's turkey fair recaptures some of that excitement and anticipation for visitors and organizers. For more go to <https://turkeyfair.com>.



The Lyndhurst Turkey Fair offers an array of activities for all ages.



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Museums celebrating Canada's 150th



Curator Christine Janeway at Rideau District Museum.

Rideau District Museum

Originally a coffin shop and furniture factory, the building which houses the Rideau District Museum also functioned as a carriage shop and boat builders before its existence as a blacksmith shop for almost 100 years. Built in the 1850's, the original forges, bellows, and handmade iron tools, right down to the plank flooring under your feet, remain in their original setting.

From the First Nations display to ingenious gadgets, toys, and documents, there is something for everyone at the museum. Taking a hands-on approach, many items are kept in the open, rather than behind glass, for children and adults to feel the history of our ancestors.

During your self-guided tour of our building, you can see such artifacts as the hearse windows that carried the body of Canada's first Prime Minister, the original "Sally Grant" statue from the court house in Brockville carved in the 1840's, and one of the original dump carts from the building of the Rideau Canal.

Annual fund-raisers always include a folk art painting raffle, sales of "Nell's Diary" (a transcribed diary describing early life in the Village of Westport), along with our book titled "Westport ~ our early history in pictures from settlement to five years after incorporation", which is the village's first stand-alone book about our history, and is full of photos to bring our past to life. New this summer, in commemoration of Canada's 150th

birthday, a souvenir newspaper will be our latest fund-raising publication. Titled, "The Rideau & District Times", this paper focuses on 1917-1918 life in the village with stories taken from the headlines of the time with a strong focus on the losses faced by the citizens of the village during the First World War.

Averaging 2,500 visitors yearly, they are open in June (Thursday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1-4:30 p.m., July and August daily through Labour Day (Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1-4:30 p.m.) and Thursday to Sunday after Labour Day until the first weekend in October. Groups by appointment are always welcome and admission is by donation.

Chaffey's Lockmaster's House Museum

The museum opens June 28 to Sept. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. under the operation of the Chaffey's Lock Heritage Society which opened it in 1982 for the canal's 150th anniversary.

The integrity of the interior, which was the residence of the Chaffey's lockmaster, has been maintained. Only five families lived in the house from the 1840's until 1964.

The home was built as a defensible lockmaster's house, protecting the lock from American attack as well as providing accommodation for the family. At the end of the 19th century a second storey and a kitchen were added to the original stone building which continued its role as a residence



Chaffey's Lockmaster's House Museum

until 1964.

The museum includes an exhibit on early tourists and resorts and an exhibit on the Chaffey's area during Confederation in 1867. 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 footage taken by Don Jarrett, a former owner of the Opinicon Hotel.





Experience the history of the canal.

Rideau Canal Visitors' Centre

Canal artifacts are housed and displayed in a grand 19th century stone building in Smiths Falls.

The former mill features artifacts that bring to life the history of the canal, its construction from 1826 to 1832, its historical role and the lifestyle and folklore associated with the Rideau Waterway. Hours are 9:00 to 4:30 May 19 to Labour Day weekend. 34 Beckwith St. S. in Smiths Falls.

Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario

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

It is at 90 William Street in Smiths Falls. Go to www.rmeo.org for more.

The Heritage House Museum Smiths Falls

Heritage House is in a picturesque area of the Canal in a restored classically styled Victorian home depicting the lifestyle of an upper middle class family in Smiths Falls around 1867. Go to <http://www.smithsfalls.ca/heritagehouse>.

Red Brick School, Elgin

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

The Elgin and Area Heritage Society over the last decade has restored the two-classroom 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 starting with a confederation tea on June 3.

The society's annual spelling bee takes



The Elgin and Area Heritage Society gave life to a 1903 map of Canada, held up by Ted Dwyer and Diane Haskins.

place June 10 with the participation of students from local schools.

The annual 'Treasures and Treats' garage sale will be held on Saturday July 8 during Elgin Days. On Saturday, August 12 the society holds a pub night featuring local performers.

On August 19, 20 the site will be one of the stops on the Rideau Lakes Open Doors event. On that weekend and on 26 and 27 the school will be featuring an exhibition 'Our Creative Hands: Heritage Treasures of South Crosby'. Information about coming events, including events into the fall will become available on the Elgin and Area Heritage Society Facebook page.

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Classic Theatre Festival: Broadway hits, heritage shows

The award-winning Classic Theatre Festival, now in its 8th season, is a professional summer company presenting classic hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage, with some of Canada's top theatrical talent gathering annually in heritage Perth.

Offering affordably priced reserved seats for family-friendly shows, the Festival presents shows that leave audiences with smiles on their faces and a fully-rounded theatrical experience that features pre-show talks a half hour before each performance, a massive loonie/toonie book sale, theatrical history lobby displays, and a fully stocked concession stand loaded with summertime treats.

Located at 54 Beckwith Street East (at Harvey) in Perth, the 2017 season opens with the most successful Canadian comedy ever staged on Broadway, Bernard Slade's *Same Time, Next Year* (June 23 to July 16). Audiences will savour the sights, sounds, and sensations of the post-war "good years," 1951-1975, in this story about two people, each married to someone else, who meet for an annual weekend getaway. It is celebrated as "genuinely funny and genuinely romantic" (New York Post) and "the funniest comedy to come Broadway's way in years" (New York Times).

George Bernard Shaw's romantic comedy *Candida* (July 21 to August 13) will appeal to anyone who remembers the powerful pull of a first love that burns in their soul. Long before the British exported Beatlemania, there was "Candidamania", a phenomenon inspired by this delightfully warm and witty play in which *Candida* must choose between her clergyman husband and a passionate young poet.

The mainstage season closes with an Alfred Hitchcock-styled psychological thriller, *I'll Be Back before Midnight*



Award-winning productions of classic comedy and mystery hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage run June 23 to Sept. 10 at the Classic Theatre Festival in Perth. (Photo: Jean-Denis Labelle)

(August 18 to September 10), a "gaslighting" tale of a young couple who rent an old, spooky country farmhouse. Is the heroine really seeing and hearing things, or are they the after-effects of her recent nervous breakdown? And just who is that mysterious farmer

from down the road? You'll discover why this is the most widely-produced Canadian play, a hit in over 30 countries worldwide.

All mainstage shows run Tues. to Sun. matinees at 2 pm, and Wed. & Sat. evenings at 8 pm. The facility is wheel-

chair accessible and air conditioned, with free parking.

The Festival's popular theatrical walking plays return this year with expanded performance times. Perth through the Ages (June 21 to August 27, Wed. to Sun. at 11 am) presents a new, hour-long story that allows visitors to breathe in the stories behind Perth's award-winning heritage buildings with a play focused on the daily lives, concerns, and conflicts of Perth and area residents at the time of Confederation.

The *Lonely Ghosts Walk* (June 29 to August 25, Thursdays and Friday at 7 pm) will feature a new ghostly story featuring the unsettled spirits of Perth performing an hour-long, family-friendly romp through the town's mysterious and haunted past. Music, comedy, and song are featured in this tale set at the time of Confederation.

Order online at www.classictheatre.ca or call toll-free at 1-877-283-1283.



Counties' must-see gardens get linked in trail project

The new 1000 Islands and Rideau Canal Garden Trail links together 14 gardens across the Counties in a season-long event for tourists and residents.

"The gardens are beautiful, unique, well designed, educational and leave visitors wanting more", says Dave Cybulski, Co-Chair of the Garden Trail, an initiative led by the Leeds Grenville Economic Development Office.

The season-long regional garden trail includes gardens along the St. Lawrence from Johnstown to Gananoque, and gardens in Spencerville and Merrickville and in North Leeds, one south of Portland.

The Rideau Lakes garden of Diane and Keith Haskins

brings North Leeds into the tour on the grounds of their stone farmhouse just west of Hwy 15.

The cooperative venture brings a bigger audience to stops on the tour which include public and private gardens not usually known to be open to the public. Some of the gardens require pre-booking to visit.

Full information about the gardens and their hours and booking preferences is available online at <http://leeds-grenville.com/en/visit/things-todo/Garden-Trail.asp> as well as in tourist information centres across the region, including the Welcome Centre in Westport.



The gardens of Keith and Diane Haskins near Portland were added to the 1000 Islands and Rideau Canal Garden Trail in 2016.

Blues on the Rideau

Some of Canada's top Blues acts pay a monthly visit to Westport from October through May as part of the Blues on the Rideau series.

Many JUNO award winners and nominees have appeared at The Cove over the past 12 seasons.

The 2016-17 line-up will be posted on their site at www.bluesontherideau.ca.

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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 nine 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 a trail offers access through a mature forest to views of the lake. Entrance fee is \$6 per car.

The Rideau Trail, was created in 1971, goes from Ottawa to Kingston and includes 387 km of marked trail operated by the Rideau Trail Association. It is marked by red triangles while side trails are marked by blue triangles.

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

Cataraquai Trail

The Cataraquai 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 from Hwy. 15 north of Elgin, a site where

there is ample parking, and from Portland at Harlem and Station Roads and on Cty. Rd. 10 north of Perth Road Village.

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. For those travelling without their own bicycle, bikes are available for rent in Chaffey's at Rideau Tours.

For more about the Cataraquai Trail including maps and access points cataraquitrail.ca.

Chaffey's Lock

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

The Cataraquai 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.



The Rideau Trail Association has an active group that hosts weekly hikes most weekends year round.



Over 200 hikers took up the challenge to hike all of the trail loops in Frontenac Park last fall.

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. The trails are located on property owned by the Rideau Waterway Land Trust which closes the property from Nov. 15 to May 15 for the protection from overuse.

A new entrance fee will go towards maintenance of the property which includes a variety of landscapes including exposed rocky ridges, igneous rock cliffs, shallow rock undercuts and glacial erratics, meadows and bare rock barrens.

The entrance is across from the Township of Rideau Lakes sign at Stanley Lash Lane south of Morton.

Jones Falls

Several loops can be made on the site including one from a trail from the main parking lot on Jones Falls Road 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 blacksmith's shop.

Mill Pond Conservation Area Hwy. 15 North of Portland via Briton Houghton Bay Rd.

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

On site is a boat launch to Mill Pond, a kilometer long small pond off 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 west of Elgin on Davis Lock Road. The trailhead is about 7 km from Hwy. 15. The trail leads to a view of the Murphy Bay Wetlands (Opinicon Lake) and is operated by the Rideau Waterway Land Trust (<http://www.rwlt.org>).

The gently-graded trail is accessible by wheelchair. It is open May 15 to Nov. 15.

Frontenac Arch

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere is recognized by the United Nations as having exceptional environmental and human qualities. Five eco-regions join on the arch, a natural bridge of land running north and south joining the Cambrian Shield to the Adirondacks.

Trails within the Arch include those in provincial parks and on crown land, conservation authority lands, land trust lands, municipally owned property as well as on some private property.

www.explorethearch.ca offers a number of recreational trails within the territory as well as heritage walking and driving tours, and cycling and paddling routes.

Provincial Parks

Three provincial parks lie on the Frontenac Arch and together protect close to 10,000 hectares.

Frontenac Provincial Park

Frontenac Provincial Park is a rugged landscape of 22 lakes, cliffs, wetlands, valleys and ponds southwest of the Westport area with its main entrance at Sydenham. The north entrance, 20 km southeast of Westport can be accessed from Devil Lake Road to the Kingsford Dam Road where there is a parking lot. It provides the closest access to the popular 12 km Tetsmine Lake loop trail, one of a dozen looped trails which range from Arab Lake (1.5 km) to the 21 km Slide Lake Trail.

Charleston Lake Provincial Park

The main entrance is on Cty. Rd. 3 south of Lyndhurst and offers over 20 km of trail including short trails and the 10km Westside Trail. A trip up Blue Mountain, the highest elevation in Leeds Grenville can be taken with a paddle and hike to the trailhead or accessed by an unopened road allowance to the south.

Access is on Warburton



The Tay Valley Ski Club operates a Loppet in January or February each year. They also maintain trails in Murphy's Point Provincial Park

Road from Cty. Rd. 3 to the corner of Blue Mountain Road where the trail begins.

Murphy's Point Provincial Park

The 1,238 hectare park includes remnants of a mining industry in Lanark County which exploited one of the region's many minerals, mica. Tours of the mine are held regularly from June to Labour Day. A number of trails run through the park including 6.5 km of

the Rideau Trail. Cross Country ski trails are groomed in the park each winter.

Cycling routes

Lanark County Tourism has laid out cycling routes including several in the Perth-Smiths Falls-Westport area.

Go to lanarkcounty-tourism.com/tours/cycling top access more information and route maps.

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Queen's scientists hold June 25 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 seventy years.

The station's more than 3,400 hectares of conservation lands in the Chaffey's Lock area are included in the territory of the UNESCO designated Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, a designation which recognizes the unique nature of the area.

A fascinating and abundant mixture of animal species and plants from the north and the south, makes their home within the bounds of the Queen's facility which includes lakes, marshes, streams and mixed wood forest.

Research at the Queen's facility contributes to the

knowledge of how the area's unique ecology functions.

The year's annual open house on Sunday June 25 noon-3:00 pm will provide the public with a window on researchers' work 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 public is also invited to a summer seminar series on Wednesday nights (7:00 p.m.) which will be 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/qubs/events-and-outreach>.



Westport's Gwen Tobin at the 2016 Heritage Festival.

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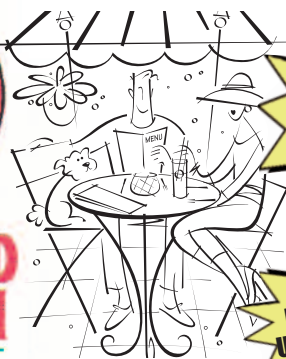
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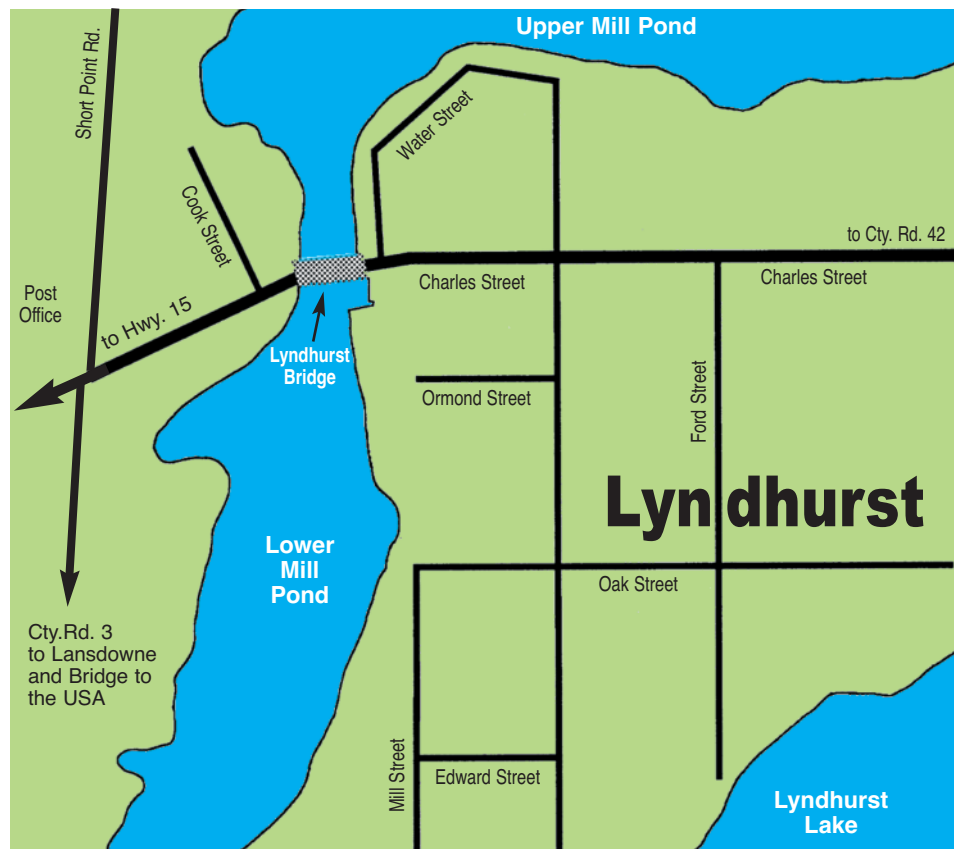
Westport Heritage Festival June 24

The Westport Heritage Festival is relocating to the pasture-like green space of Lockwood Memorial Park in Westport for Canada's 150th birthday and will hold the local event on Saturday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. pm.

Event organizers say that having access to the community centre next door will also help to expand the program, allowing for more heritage and community group displays along with artists and craft vendors, antique cars, farm implement displays and an old fashioned photo booth.

Hot food will be available during the day including wood oven pizza, a barbecue, a bake table as well as slices of pie from the annual pie contest.

Exhibitors interested in participating in the late June event that celebrates Westport's history can contact organizers through the @heritagewestport Facebook site or send an email to: westportheritage1904@gmail.com.



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Westport Lions \$10,000 Draw, Sept. 2, Beach Complex

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Dec. 3, 2017 - \$1,000; Dec. 10, 17, 24 - \$100

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For up to date information on Westport Lions Club activities check out westportlions.ca or Facebook





Over 400 motorcycles were on display at the inaugural Rideau Thunder Motorcycle Show at Lockwood Field in 2016.

Rideau Thunder motorcycle show July 8

Westport's always a popular stop for bikers but on July 8 it's a destination when the Rideau Thunder Motorcycle Show comes to Concession Street and Lockwood Field from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Custom and vintage bikes, vendors, food, clothing, draws, accessories, swap meet, live entertainment, show and shine and more are featured with activities in and around the arena, Lockwood Field and onto the street.

Concession Street will be closed to traffic between George and Spring Streets to

accommodate the visitors who are expected to come from across Eastern Ontario.

Competitions among bikes will be held as well live entertainment by The Trevor Walsh Group and a beer garden operated by the Lions Club.

The event's profits, including donations from the door and sales of merchandise will be going to benefit Friends of the Arena.

For more information go to www.rideauthunder.ca or the Rideau Thunder Facebook group.

Maberly Sundance Festival Labour Day weekend

The Sundance Artisan Show in Maberly, brings hundreds of visitors on Labor Day weekend, September 2, 3, 4, to the grounds of the Fall River Restaurant in Maberly.

The juried event brings an interesting mix of artists from the area, Quebec and farther afield in Ontario for a show of quality work.

A mixture of new and returning exhibitors means there is always something new

to see for returning visitors. Exhibitors are spread along a row at the restaurant level where a dining area features fine food and live musicians.

A whole other level of artists can be found below that on a path parallel to the Fall River below.

Hours are Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More information is available at sundancestudio.ca.



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The Legion Colour Party also leads the July 1 Bicycle Parade from Rideau District Museum and hands out refreshments at the end of the parade.



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Rideau Ferry Regatta returns August 19-20

The biennial Rideau Ferry Regatta event is slated to take place again, August 19-20, 2017 much to the delight of boating enthusiasts.

The Vintage Race Boat Regatta dates to 1909 when the first event was held at Rideau Ferry in Drummond North Elmsley Township. It returned here in 2007.

In 2013 spectators again pulled up a lawn chair at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area to enjoy the sights and sounds of vintage race boats plying the Rideau.

More than 50 vintage race boats gathered from Canada and the United States along with some of the sport's most

famous Grand Prix race boats and drivers, as speeds of well over 100 miles per hour were reached.

Vintage race boat regattas are a fast-growing boating event within boating associations. Several famous crafts were on hand at the 2013 event including the Miss Canada IV which made history in 1949 by exceeding 220 mph. Organizers anticipate its return in 2017.

Spectators can also swim at the beautiful beach, tour the site and see numerous displays including nautical antiques and boat parts and various activities.

For information call 613-283-9107 or visit www.rfyc.ca.



More than 50 vintage race boats gathered in 2015, along with some of the sport's most famous Grand Prix race boats and drivers, as speeds of over 100 miles per hour were reached.



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