MUSKOKA 2017

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There simply is no end of choice when it comes to finding fun things to do or wonderful places to stay when visiting Muskoka. Boasting more than 80 resorts - everything from luxury all-inclusive hotels, family-run lodges, quaint inns, historic B&Bs and rustic cottage resorts - Muskoka's got something for everyone.

Those looking for a back to nature experience are well catered to, with many parks and facilities available. Eleven provincial parks, and one national park - along with some 173,000 hectares of crown land - keep the region's flora and fauna safe, while at the same time allowing visitors to enjoy pursuits such as camping, rock climbing, mountain biking, swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and bird watching. Add to the mix 76 municipal parks and 15 conservation areas and you're spoiled for places to have an old-fashioned picnic.

The list of things to do once you arrive in magnificent Muskoka is equally long. Boaters will want to explore the mile-after mile of shorelines along the region's magnificent, pristine lakes, big and small. Take your pick on how best to do it: area marinas and resorts offer rentals of everything from powerboats to canoes and kayaks, as well as winter equipment such as snowmobiles and snowshoes. Boat ramps and beaches are plentiful if you're bringing your own vessel.

Exploring Mother Nature's rich abundance on foot is another wonderful way to discover Muskoka. From the many hiking trails crisscrossing vast Algonquin Park to pleasant strolls along picturesque streets and boardwalks, Muskoka is one endless outdoor adventure. Wilderness hikes will lead to encounters with vast stretches of trees and water, all of it home to a tremendous array of wildlife.

In town, you'll be rewarded with unique dining, shopping and cultural experiences. There are, of course, many other great reasons to visit Muskoka: fantastic golf, relaxing spas, skiing, festivals and art shows... the list is endless.

Winter, spring, summer or fall, there's no question that Muskoka has something for everyone and has truly earned its reputation as Ontario's Most Popular Playground.

Here's what others are saying about Muskoka:

National Geographic recognized Muskoka as:
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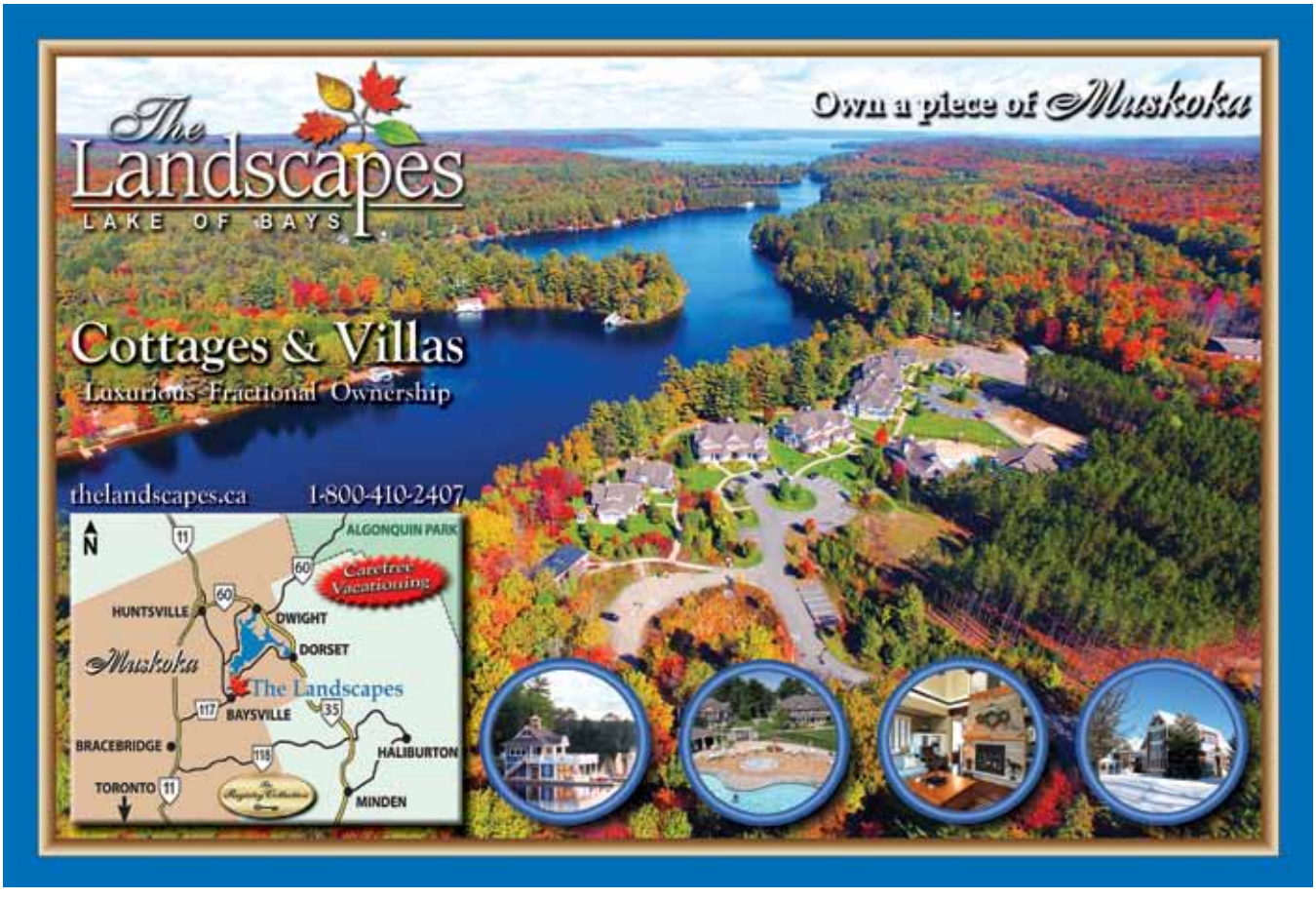
For more information about Muskoka call
1-800-267-9700 or visit www.discovermuskoka.ca



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Muskoka Visitor Guide is published by

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Visit **muskoka.on.ca/communityhealthhubs** for Health Hub hours and contact info.

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- Chronic disease care (e.g. diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, COPD, asthma, heart disease)
- Preventative health teaching

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- Care of minor illnesses (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, bladder infection, diarrhea)
- Care of minor injuries (e.g. minor cuts, scrapes, insect bites, falls, strains, sprains)

* Please call your local doctor/NP first.

HealthLink
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Visit **muskoka.on.ca/communityhealthhubs** for Health Hub hours and contact info.

the Nest

- family supports
- affordable baby supplies
- used clothing

The Nest is a gathering place for families in Muskoka, providing access to community resources and family supports, as well as low-cost baby supplies and a wide range of gently-used clothing, toys and equipment for toddlers and children of all ages.

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Gravenhurst	405 Muskoka Rd. S | (705) 640-0224
Huntsville	108 Main St. E | Opening April 2017

For info, hours and to learn how to donate visit **facebook.com/thenestmuskoka** or email **thenest@muskoka.on.ca**

The Nest relies on donations of gently used clothing, toys and equipment to support local families. Cash donations are also welcome.

Countless lakes

With more then 1,600 freshwater lakes scattered like gems throughout acres of verdant forests, gorgeous granite outcroppings and towering cliffs, Muskoka is the perfect destination for anyone who wants to float, boat, paddle, ski, sail or otherwise get on the water. And if you just want to get in the lakes and have a refreshing swim, jump in!

The easiest way to hit the lakes and get acquainted with Muskoka's fabled beauty is to take a cruise on one of the many sightseeing tour boats on the 'big three' lakes – Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph. In Gravenhurst, Muskoka's iconic restored steamboat Segwun and her sister replica ship, the Wenonah II, offer a variety of cruises leaving Muskoka Wharf from June to October. The Peerless II, a handsome restored vintage workboat that once delivered fuel on the lakes, leaves Port Carling daily from June to October. For stylish private cruises and weddings, the Idyllwood, a restored 1920s private yacht, is available for small groups from June to October. In Bracebridge, the venerable Lady Muskoka takes passengers down the Muskoka River to explore the luxurious summer homes of Millionaire's Row on Lake Muskoka.

For those who crave independent exploration of the lakes, a wide variety of powerboats and personal watercraft are available for rent at marinas across Muskoka. Pontoon boats for larger groups and fishing boats for anglers can also be rented for short or long terms. As well, you can enjoy an iconic Muskoka experience by renting a classic, wooden 18-foot Duke Playmate from Muskoka Launch Livery.

If you would rather float behind a boat than drive one, most marinas rent water toys such as tubes, wakeboards and water skis. Adrenaline fanatics can sample flyboarding, the new sport that sends riders up to 50 feet over the lake, by renting a flyboard at Ride Muskoka in Bala. For tranquil times on the water, nothing compares to paddling a canoe or kayak over a glassy lake at dawn or along a reed-fringed river at dusk. Canoe and kayak rentals are available through local outfitters and paddling shops. The same places often rent stand up paddleboards. These paddled cousins of surfboards are a great way to do close-to-shore sightseeing, on-the-water yoga or to have fun while getting from point A to B.

Muskoka's magnificent lakes also provide the perfect backdrop for delicious, informal dining experiences that can be reached by car or boat. At the end of a day of outdoor fun and serious relaxing, round up your family and friends and head into town for a waterfront meal on a patio, deck or lakeside dining room. See why food tastes better outside on the deck at Boston Pizza in Gravenhurst or Huntsville, On the Docks in Huntsville, or Turtle Jack's in Port Carling. In Bracebridge, Riverwalk gives diners a Bracebridge Falls view, and the Indian River is the scenery for Loondocks and Grand Electric Muskoka in Port Carling. Savoury delights can also be sampled lakeside at PIE at Clevelands House, the Water's Edge Grill at the Lake Joseph Club in Port Sandfield, and the Boathouse restaurant at Taboo Muskoka resort. Many excellent restaurants are also located steps from the docks in Bala, Baysville, Torrance and Dorset.

Ready for some entertainment on the water after a delectable dinner? Summer Water Sports stages action-packed evening water ski shows from Monday to Thursday all summer at Clevelands House, Windsor Park in Bala, Muskoka Wharf in Gravenhurst and Bayview Wildwood Resort on Sparrow Lake. It's a great way to end another beautiful day in Muskoka!

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Amazing wildlife

Wildlife viewing is an expected part of the Muskoka experience. The region's abundance of woodlands and wetlands provide habitat for a wide variety of both northern and southern animals. Choosing the right time and place to explore increases the chances of an encounter with one of Muskoka's wild inhabitants.

Springtime is one of the best times to see wildlife, as bears and other hibernators wake up, loons suddenly appear on the lakes, and other birds return from the south. A hike along the shoreline of one of Muskoka's many bodies of water reveals herons hunting in a river's backwater, and colourful wood ducks swimming among the flooded stumps in a beaver pond. Watch for the beavers themselves, more readily seen now after being locked up under the ice all winter. They are especially busy repairing winter damage to lodges and dams, gathering fresh food and minding a new family of kits. Muskoka boasts a healthy population, but seeing one is still an event – take time to observe these industrious animals.

Summer's long, warm days are made for exploring. An early-morning hike or late-evening canoe ride brings a medley of bird song, chance encounters with turtles and sightings of merganser duck families patrolling the shallow bays. Anticipate surprise encounters with chipmunks scurrying across the path. These bold, striped rodents are an iconic part of cottage country, equally at home in the remote backcountry and in urban backyards. By early summer, chipmunks seem to be every-

where as the puppies, as young chipmunks are known, emerge from their underground dens. They are soon as preoccupied as their parents with gathering food of all kinds, to prepare for their winter hibernation.

Fall delivers a harvest of wild produce, of which many animals take advantage to fatten up for the winter, or their hibernation, or for their trip to warmer climes. A drive to view the fall colours or a hike through the woods during this time of year leads to wildlife sightings. Deer and moose are more visible in the fall. The males of both species sport spectacular racks of antlers for the fall rut, or mating season. Moose are particularly aggressive at this time of year, so should be given a wide berth if seen along a trail – a reminder that Muskoka still has a wild side.

A Muskoka winter is made for a snowshoe hike or back-country ski. Search for tracks in the fresh snow; a pattern of criss-crossing prints from a red fox seeking a meal; a snowshoe hare's bounding leaps; tiny dots in a row from a mouse or vole. Follow the tracks to learn the stories of the hunted and the hunter.

Look for more signs left behind in the snow, such as the wing marks from an owl plunging after a mouse. The

most common owl in the region is the medium-sized, brown, barred owl. Like many owls, barreds start nesting early to give their young all summer to hone their hunting skills. During the dark February nights their loud "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you-awl" mating calls break the cold winter silence. Easily imitated, barred owls are also readily coaxed into responding, though be careful not to initiate a territorial dispute, or a love affair. One of many possible rewards when encountering Muskoka's wild inhabitants, no matter the season.

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Airport

Muskoka Airport – A little airport with a big history and bright future

The Muskoka Airport (CYQA) is a Transport Canada Certified facility owned and operated by the District Municipality of Muskoka. The airport provides a vital link to the air transportation industry in the Muskoka area. The airport operates 24 hours a day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. The public terminal building is located at the south end of the air field and hosts a Little Norway Memorial display and a 24-hour pilots' lounge.

The airport continues to grow with the times, and to host guests by offering the greatest "little" airport and services around. The 6,000 ft. long, 150 ft. wide main runway was fully reconstructed in 2015, and there is an average of 15,000 aircraft movements on the main runway each year for economic, travel and leisure purposes.

Muskoka and its people, landscapes and lifestyles have attracted the attention of Europeans, Americans and other international air travellers for decades. The airport provides international customs for prearranged

flight and the airport is now considering options to facilitate regular scheduled commercial flights that could bring more visitors from across the world to discover what makes Muskoka so special.

The airport's runway's length, rating capacity and customs service are advantages that distinguish it from many other small airports. The economic spin-offs for Muskoka linked to tourism, cottaging and business are estimated to be close to $40 million. That includes everything from land and building lease at the airport to landing fees, fuel purchases and indirect benefits like guests spending their dollars at hotels and restaurants throughout the District.

Many major events have taken place at the airport over the years, including serving as a landing location for some of the key World Leaders who congregated in Muskoka for the G8 Summit in 2010.

Muskoka has had a long love affair with aviation that continues to this day. The airport was built in 1933 as a make-work project during the Depression. At the time, a man and a team were paid $1 per day, plus keep, to help clear and level the landing strip.

The first airplane landed at Reay Airport (named after what was then known as Reay Township) in 1935. In 1938, the Reay Airport was officially renamed the Muskoka Airport. During the Second World War, the airport was more commonly known by another name – Little Norway.

When Nazi Germany attacked Norway on April 9, 1940, with only a small number of modern aircraft on order from U.S. manufacturers taken on charge, the Royal Norwegian Air Force was unable to mount a sustained defence.

In an effort to train what remained of the decimated Norwegian Air Force, the first Little Norway training facility was established in Toronto, and later moved to the Muskoka Airport in 1942. From then until February 1945, Little Norway trained 2,000 pilots, crew and ground crew.

To mark the airport's significance as part of Norway's wartime history, King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway made a state visit to Canada in May 2002, and a memorial at the airport was officially opened in 2007 to much fanfare.

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Driving Tours

One way of getting to know Muskoka better is by travelling the open road by car. The winding roads will lead you through picturesque towns and communities with glimpses of shimmering lakes and natural scenery in-between. Reservations are required to access the island.

Take a tour around Lake Muskoka by starting in Gravenhurst, featuring a historic Opera House and the Bethune Memorial House, the birthplace of medical pioneer Dr. Norman Bethune. Following Muskoka Road 169 will lead you past the home port of steamship Segwun and Wenonah II to the falls in Bala and Johnston's Cranberry Marsh. Make a right on Muskoka Road 118 through Port Carling, and Milford Bay's scenic lookout, Huckleberry Rock, to Bracebridge. Turn right onto Wellington, then take another right onto winding Muskoka Road 17 past Muskoka Beach and back into Gravenhurst.

Explore the shores of Lake of Bays by taking Muskoka Road 117 east after visiting the sites of the Group of Seven Outdoor Gallery in Baysville. They are part of a collection of more than 90 mural replicas that showcase the work of the Group of Seven artists. Take a water taxi ride from Norway Point to Bigwin Island, the

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largest island on Lake of Bays with a private golf course, fine dining, and waterfront cottages.

Continuing on, make a left onto Highway 35 from Muskoka Road 117 to Dorset, where a stop at the fire tower is a must. The first towers were erected in 1922 and used to spot forest fires. The tower tourists use now was built in 1967, and climbing its stairs provides a spectacular all-around view of the area. The village of Dwight sits at the northern point of this loop around Lake of Bays and its sandy beach is the perfect spot to have a picnic or to cool off.

No matter which route you choose to take, the different sights and discoveries will make your adventure memorable.

Dining for all

Muskoka's famously fresh air, abundant outdoor activities and relaxing ambience often have an unexpected effect on visitors. Their desire for good food expands along with their appetites. Luckily, Muskoka is blessed with restaurants, pubs, grills, cafes and bakeries to satisfy every culinary craving. The region also produces local fruits, vegetables, garlic, eggs, maple syrup and more. They are served in our restaurants and sold at local farms and Muskoka's annual farmers' markets from May to October.

For something scrumptious to take back to the cottage or pack for a lakeside picnic, try Muskoka's bakeries and takeout food stores. Well Fed in Gravenhurst, and Main St. Delicatessen and Fresh Kutz Market & Grill in Bracebridge prepare fresh takeout food daily. Muskoka's bakeries, known for their butter tarts and pies, include Don's in Bala, the Rosseau Bakery, The Bakery in Gravenhurst and Henrietta's Pine Bakery in Dwight.

If you crave pastries served with a side of coffee or tea, Muskoka's cafes are cozy and welcoming. In Gravenhurst, visit the Blue Willow Tea Shop or Wolff's Den Café at Muskoka Wharf. Seven Main Café in Huntsville is popular, as is the Cottage Law Canteen in Rosseau. In Baysville, drop in to Miss Nelle's Antiques & Café.

Dining choices on our beautiful lakes and rivers run from pubs to upscale casual restaurants. For a superb meal, try Dock on the Bay in Gravenhurst, Water's Edge Wine Bar & Grill in Port Sandfield, Riverwalk in Bracebridge or Loondocks in Port Carling. Enjoy casual dining riverside

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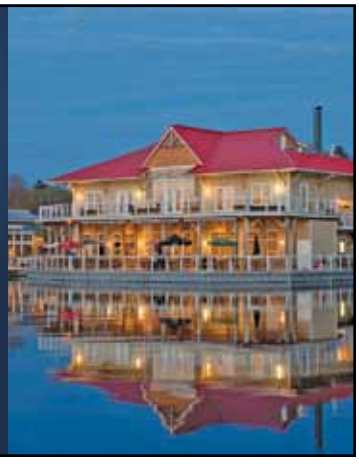

at Turtle Jack's and Grand Electric in Port Carling, Muskokabilly Lakeside Tap & Grill in Gravenhurst and the Lakeside Restaurant in Bala.

The profusion of in-town dining options includes international fare, local food specialties and traditional pub foods. Fine dining is featured at Crossroads Restaurant in Rosseau, Spencer's Tall Trees in Huntsville and Wabora Fusion Japanese Restaurant in Bracebridge. For a casual meal after an active day, hit That Little Place By The Lights or 3 Guys And A Stove in Huntsville, Cast Iron Restaurant in Baysville or The Oar & Paddle in Gravenhurst.

During warm weather, a beer at one of Muskoka's friendly pubs is always excellent. However, our pubs serve delicious snacks and meals year round. The Griffin Gastropub in Bracebridge serves craft beer and innovative food with live music. Down the hill, Kelly's Kitchen Pub features Irish beer and foods. Moose Delaney's Bar & Grill in Huntsville serves pub favourites with televised sports. The Thirsty Judge in Bracebridge and Frosty Pint Pub in Gravenhurst are perfect places to eat, drink and unwind.

While visiting Muskoka, you'll also need to sample our amazing ice cream. Head for Kawartha Dairy in Huntsville, Ice Dreams Soda Shoppe in Bala, Momma Bear's Ice Cream & Sweets in Bracebridge or Tastebuds in Gravenhurst for memorable treats.

Weddings

Regardless of the season, the natural beauty of Muskoka can provide a bride, groom and their guests with a picturesque setting for that special day. The iconic lakes, rocks and trees of cottage country make the area a popular destination for weddings and there are a variety of resorts and facilities available to host your event. Local artists, jewellers and food vendors can create a unique wedding favour takeaway for your guests that reflects your theme, while talented chefs and caterers can design menus that will delight your taste buds.

Fall weddings in Muskoka are growing in popularity. The bright and vivid foliage is the perfect backdrop for photos as you say "I do" lakeside at a local resort or inn. With the busy season winding down into the off-season for resorts, wedding guests who decide to join the festivities the night before will feel like they almost have the property to themselves. Or give your guests a tour of the calm lakes and fall colours by hosting your event aboard the steamships in Gravenhurst. And for something a little more casual and rustic, consider having an outdoor reception in the barn of a farm. Centrepieces and table settings can incorporate the oranges, reds and yellows of the leaves and family-style seating can make the event intimate. Guests can breathe in the crisp, cool autumn air or warm up by a bonfire while roasting marshmallows.

Much like the brilliant colours of the leaves in fall, glittering snow can also provide a striking backdrop for the wedding photo shoot. Wedding parties that embrace

winter and its outdoor activities might spend the day before the event on the slopes on skis or snowboards. Some Muskoka resorts offer trails on or nearby their properties where you can go for a snowmobile ride. For an activity that's slower-paced, try snowshoeing or ice skating, and finish the day off with hot chocolate by the fire. On the day of the wedding, the bride can make a winter-themed entrance by arriving by horse-drawn carriage or dogsled. The dinner menu at the reception might reflect courses of hearty favourites or familiar comfort food.

Whether you choose to host a fall wedding outdoors in a barn, or a winter wedding indoors next to a cozy fireplace, you and your guests will enjoy what Muskoka has to offer during your special day.

OMNI TRIUM PERFECTUM

A radio CEO and his love affair with Muskoka

They say good things come in threes. Like the jewels of Muskoka: Lake Muskoka, Lake Rosseau and Lake Joseph. And the FM Jewels at 88.5, 99.3 and Jewel 92.1 on your FM dial: three radio stations that lead the Jewel Radio Network in southern Ontario.

The Jewel is a light and refreshing blend of music from a variety of eras. On any given day you might hear a diverse blend of music ranging from Taylor Swift to Rod Stewart to Tony Bennett.

The Jewel is the flagship format of Evanov Radio Group. ERG is owned by long-time Muskoka cottager, Bill Evanov. And the rule of threes continues! Evanov has owned 3 different cottages in Muskoka over the years.

Bill's foray in to the region was a Lake Joe cottage on Peninsula Road. It was summer 2002 that GTA-based Jewel 88.5 was launched.

Evanov began helping local merchants thrive by offering affordable radio advertising to promote their business. The Jewel reaches tens of thousands of cottagers at home, and on their drive up the 400 highway towards Muskoka. Cottagers from the GTA, Barrie, Oakville, Burlington, Mississauga, Hamilton and Kitchener know there is always a Jewel nearby.

The next Jewel in the crown came in 2009. Evanov purchased two stations in Brantford with one of the largest signals in southwestern Ontario encompassing Brantford, Kitchener, Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga and Hamilton. Jewel 92.1 was born. Enter the next Muskoka cottage.

Bill bought in to the Chisholm compound. You will remember the late Tim Chisholm as the man who brought antique boating back to Muskoka. An enormous fan of antique boating, Evanov ensures The Jewel is at all Antique Boatshows with The Jewel Hawkercraft: a stunning wooden watercraft.

Turn the page to 2014 when Jewel 99.3 was launched in the Meaford/Collingwood area. The Jewel is Meaford's only local radio station and a big supporter of the annual Scarecrow Invasion that attracts curious onlookers from all over Jewel's listening area.

Local celebrations like the Meaford Scarecrow Invasion and the Bala Cranberry Festival are just a few of the community events supported by The Jewel Radio Network. The Jewel is present at upwards of 20 events every summer. If it's on the water you'll see the Jewel Hawkercraft or the Jewel Chris-Craft. If it's on land, you'll see the Jewel Motor Home or SUV, and you might even see Bill Evanov. 2017 marks 50 years in Radio for Bill, and he's celebrating at his latest cottage on Wiley's Bay across from Penman Island on Lake Rosseau.

Three wonderful Muskoka lakes. Three Muskoka Cottages, and Three Jewels on your FM dial. Omne Trium Perfectum. Everything that comes in threes is perfect.

BY MAUREEN BULLEY

Exciting entertainment

Visitors love coming to Muskoka to get away from it all – to step out of their daily routines and into the abundant charms nature has bestowed here. There's something about the fall of the sunlight, sweetness of the air and serenity of the landscape that naturally brings on relaxation. However, among the delights of getting away is the chance to see fabulous entertainment with family and friends.

All year, Muskoka's clubs, pubs, resorts and theatres come alive with music, plays, top-notch comedy and much more. Whether local, national or international entertainers are on stage, Muskoka's nightlife is worth leaving the deck for in any season.

Something entertaining is always happening at Muskoka's thriving theatres. Stages at the Rene M. Caisse Theatre in Bracebridge, Algonquin Theatre in Huntsville and venerable 115-year-old Gravenhurst Opera House host a broad variety of shows from local ballet school recitals to internationally renowned musicians, actors and comedians.

The Algonquin Theatre also hosts the Banff Mountain Film Festival, art exhibitions in Partners Hall and is a venue for the Huntsville Festival of the Arts. The festival stages annual musical and arts-themed events including Nuit Blanche in July, the Huntsville Jazz Festival and Festival Fringe's eclectic events such as the Muskoka Novel Marathon and Music at Noon series. At Rene M. Caisse Theatre, live on-screen performances of theatre and opera through National Theatre Live and The Met

Live in HD broadcast are popular. As well as presenting stellar local and commercial shows, the Gravenhurst Opera House hosts the Muskoka Summer Theatre. The company celebrates Canada's 150th birthday in 2017 with an all-Canadian lineup of plays.

The Huntsville Theatre Company, one of Muskoka's newest theatre groups, presents an innovative roster of plays and children's fare year-round at the Studio Theatre. The company hosts the lively Music Drama Festival in May.

On summer evenings, Prism Theatre in the Park presents Shakespeare's plays al fresco in Annie Williams Park in Bracebridge. If you like to hear your music outdoors, grab a lawn chair and head for Gull Lake Park in Gravenhurst for Music on the Barge concerts from June to August.

Muskoka is known for growing and attracting musicians. Maybe they feel a kinship with the region's quiet creative atmosphere. Whatever the explanation, Muskoka is home to and the destination for superb singers and instrumentalists. Arguably, Muskoka's best-known music venue and

icon, The Kee to Bala, has hosted the world's best jazz, blues, folk, rock and big-band performers for more than 75 years and continues the tradition. The large heritage club's dance floor easily holds a crowd and its spacious waterfront deck has been the setting for many summertime romances. Meanwhile in Gravenhurst, Peter Swanek has gained a devoted following for Peter's Players, his intimate club that hosts an impressive roster of internationally known musicians. Each of the club's 100 seats gives audience members a close-up, unobstructed view of the stage and excellent acoustics.

If you desire some suds or a maybe a pleasant glass of wine and a meal with your sounds, Muskoka has a number of comfortable, friendly places to raise a glass while listening to superb musicians. Live music is featured at On the Docks Pub (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) and Mill on Main Street (Friday and Saturday) in Huntsville; Kelly's Kitchen Pub (Friday), The Griffin Gastropub (Thursday to Saturday) and Liv Muskoka (Friday and Saturday) in Bracebridge, and Sawdust City Saloon (Saturday) in Gravenhurst. At the resorts, live music is on tap nightly at Clevelands House from June to September, and at Windermere House all summer. Drop in and enjoy! And from September to April on the last Saturday of every month, Muskoka Place Gallery plays host to coffee house performances from folk artists from across North America.

Beautiful beaches

Our beaches offer amazing places to get in the water and enjoy Muskoka's lakes. Gravenhurst has a handful of waterfront parks worth visiting. The Muskoka Beach park has shallows that seem to last forever, making it a great place for a game of catch. Muskoka Bay Beach has a beautiful beach plus tennis courts, a ball diamond and playground. Gull Lake Park has all that plus lifeguards on duty afternoons all summer long. Of course strolling the boardwalk along the water's edge is a highlight at the Muskoka Wharf park, but there are usually other festivals going on too. Then there are parks with everything from incredible lookout views to skateboard fun.

Accommodations for everyone

Once people discover Muskoka, they inevitably want to explore more of the region's sideroads and hidden treasures, attractions and towns, and experience the unique delights of spending time in one of the world's loveliest places. Stay a while and find out why so many families, couples and outdoors lovers return here year after year. From quiet campsites to cozy cottages, family-run lodges to luxurious resorts, there's a perfect place to stay waiting for you here.

Muskoka's renowned grand resorts and lodges were built for the tourist industry that began in the late 1870s. Many of those establishments have faded into history, but it's still possible to stay at a vintage accommodation and get a glimpse of that era.

Windermere House, a Victorian landmark on Lake Rosseau, was built in 1870. After a fire, the resort was restored and reopened in 1997. Known for its cuisine by Oliver & Bonacini and fresh Edo sushi, Windermere House has 56 rooms and suites, the four-bedroom Windermere Cottage and amenities like the AMBA Health and Beauty Spa and fitness centre. Sherwood Inn on Lake Joseph is an authentic, traditional Ontario inn with cozy, romantic rooms and cottage suites, fireplaces and all-season outdoor activities. In the elegant Vintages Dining Room, superb meals are served with a lakefront view. In 1890, Port Cunnington Lodge opened in Dwight. Its Victorian lodge still stands, but the Lodge now offers charming traditional cottages, custom chalets and multiplex accommodation for guests. On Lake Rosseau, historic Clevelands

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House has been welcoming guests since 1869 and many families return every year. As well as crowd-pleasing meals, the resort features comfortable suites, rooms and cottages, lots of fun on the water (including flyboard lessons) and live entertainment.

For a luxury retreat experience, Muskoka has several choices. The J.W. Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka Resort and Spa in Minett was ranked seventh in Conde Nast Traveler magazine's Top 20 Canadian resorts. This classically sophisticated resort features gracious studios and suites, superior amenities and award-winning restaurants. In Huntsville, Deerhurst Resort offers guests spacious rooms and suites, fine dining

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www.travelodge.com

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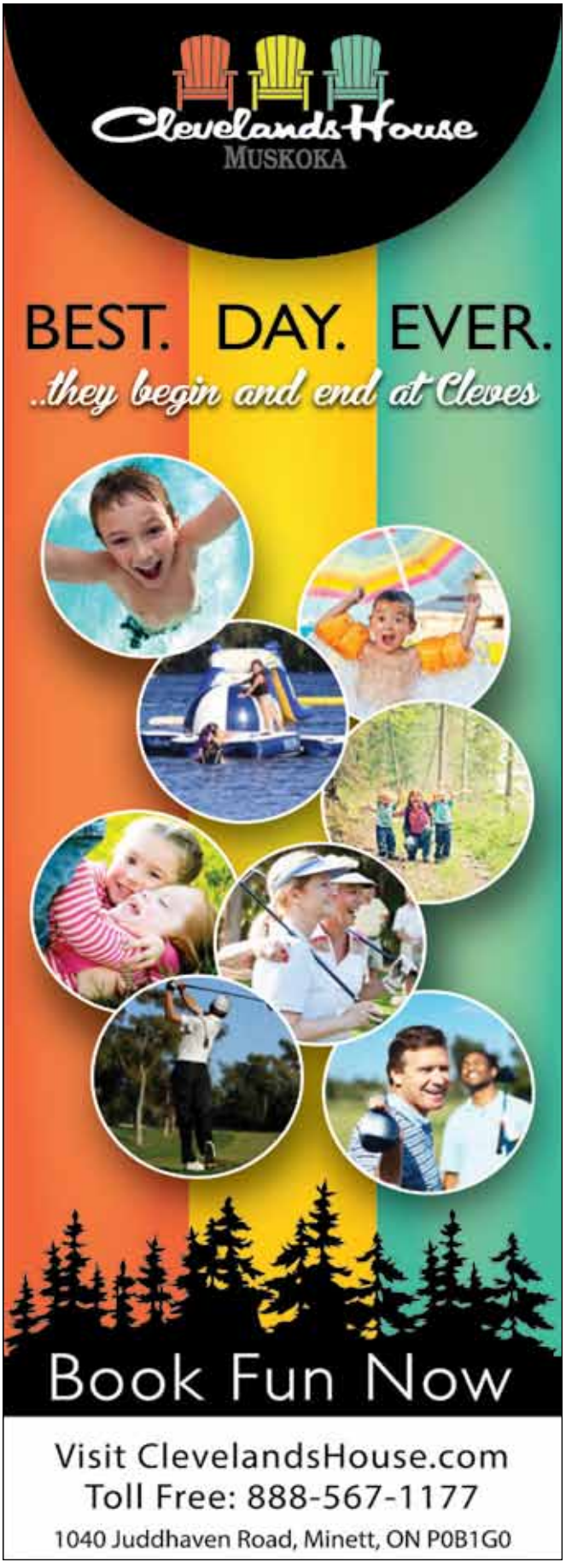

in the Eclipse dining room, two premium 18-hole golf courses, winter sports and a family-friendly roster of ongoing activities.

Cottage resorts and lodges, some family owned and operated, offer the privacy of your own cottage plus fun outdoor amenities. Patterson-Kaye Resort on Lake Muskoka offers 24 cottages and excellent meals at Seasons restaurant. Foxwood Resort on Lake of Bays offers charming one- to four-bedroom lakefront cottages. Shamrock Lodge on Lake Rosseau provides all-inclusive family fun. At Cedar Grove Lodge on Peninsula Lake, cottages range from rustic to luxurious and each have a stone wood-burning fireplace. For homey condo-style accommodation, the Residence Inn by Marriott in Gravenhurst has modern suites ranging from studios to two bedrooms, many with balconies. If your family dreams of vacationing at their own cottage, Muskoka's numerous cottage rental companies can supply the perfect lakeside retreat for your clan. Companies operate year round and include Ontario Cottage Rentals, Enjoy Muskoka Cottage Rentals, Vacations Time Real Estate, CottageVacations.ca and Jayne's Cottages.

Muskoka's welcoming bed and breakfasts give you all the comforts of home without the cooking or cleaning. Guests get to chat with local experts about regional attractions, the best places to find blueberries and how

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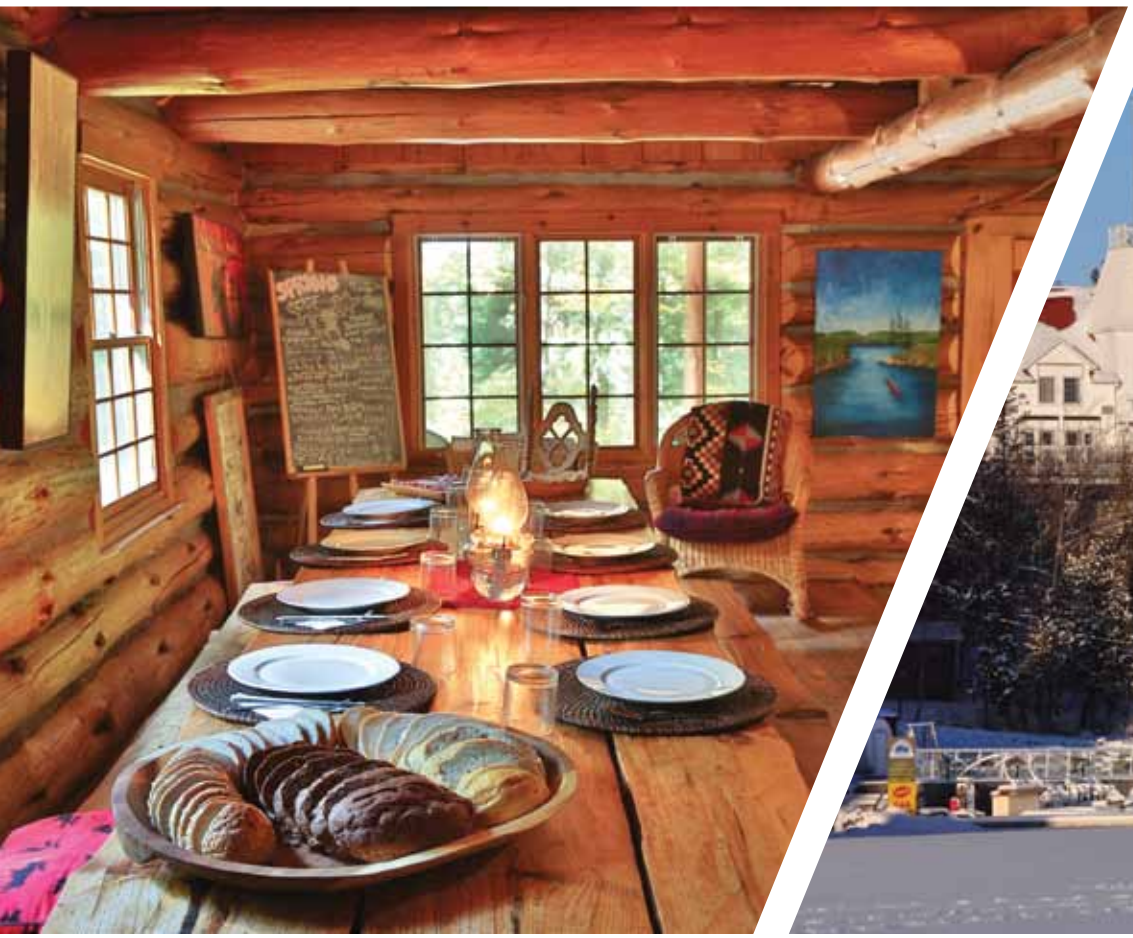

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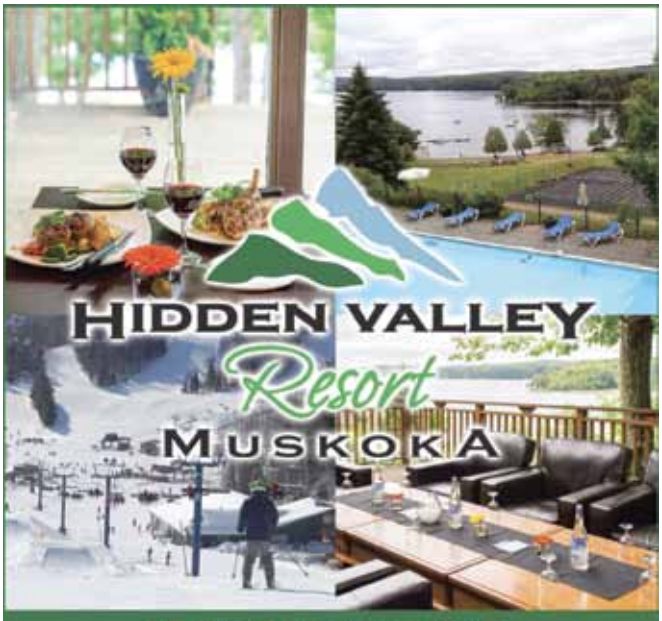

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to get to that great craft fair. The Rosseau Retreat Historic Bed and Breakfast's four suites occupy a Victorian home deeded to the boatbuilding Ditchburn family in the late 1800s. Algonquin Mists Guest House and Retreat near Huntsville is a couples' retreat with three spacious suites nestled in a forest. The Inn on Bay in Gravenhurst serves hot breakfast daily and offers families two suites for up to four people each.

To enjoy Muskoka's natural wonders to the fullest, pitch a tent, rent a yurt or park your trailer or RV at one of the region's provincial parks or campgrounds. Arrowhead Provincial Park's 15 km of hiking trails, sandy beaches and canoe and bike rentals are available for campers in summer. In winter, Arrowhead's rental cabins are close to the Ice Trail for skaters, tubing hill and cross-country ski trails. At Santa's Village Whispering Pines campground, attractive wooden cabins, yurts and tent and trailer sites are available for rental from May to June. In Gravenhurst, the KOA Campground's tent and trailer sites, and cabins are tucked into 885 wooded acres. The campground operates from May to October.

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For as long as people have been coming to Muskoka, they've been taken in by the beauty of the area's many waterways.

From the larger lakes, to the rivers, wetlands and tributaries, Muskoka offers a geographical layout unlike any other in Ontario.

The majority of the district falls under an area known as the Muskoka River Watershed. A watershed is an area of land that drains into a river, lake or stream. In the case of the Muskoka River Watershed, all of the water (as well as water from parts of Algonquin Park, Seguin Township and Algonquin Highlands Township) drains westward into Georgian Bay.

The massive watershed measures more than 62 km at its widest point and is approximately 120 km long, encompassing an area of roughly 466,000 hectares (4,660 sq. km.). Along the way, more than 2,000 lakes have been carved out of the Precambrian Shield and cover more than 17% of the watershed.

The watershed is one of the wetter areas in the province, with an average annual precipitation of nearly 1,000 mm – nearly 300 cm of which falls as snow. The three largest lakes in the watershed by size are Lake Muskoka (11,579 hectares), Lake of Bays (6,763 hectares) and Lake Rosseau (6,258 hectares).

The area's largest lake – Lake Muskoka – measures

Muskoka's watershed

some 67 metres deep and is dotted with many islands large and small, as well as some of the oldest and most opulent cottages in Canada.

It's also home to several public beaches and provides access to Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Bala and Port Carling.

The iconic images of Muskoka's lakes lapping along the rocky shores are due in large part to the fact that entire watershed is situated on top of the Canadian Shield, which dates back to the middle to late Precambrian Age.

The unique geography and climate also accounts for the area's diverse forests, which consist of mixed hardwood like maple, birch and oak, and the coniferous trees like the bent pines that frequently found their way into the seminal work of the Group of Seven.

The watershed is predominantly home to cold- or cool-water fish like lake and brook trout, bass, walleye, northern pike and muskellunge, but rainbow and brown trout have also been stocked in a number of the lakes.

The many rivers snaking the area also make for an ideal transportation system for people and animals alike, and being on the water is the best way to get an understanding of what makes Muskoka so special.

Alexandra Luke Gallery
Wendy Patricia Moses

Events in Muskoka

MARCH 2017

MARCH 4
Honey Harbour Maple Fest
10am -2pm
https://www.facebook.com/HoneyHarbourCoop/

MARCH 17-19
5th Annual Dan McKeon Novice/Atom Memorial Hockey Tournament
Canada Summit Centre
Huntsville

MARCH 24 – 26
Spring Members Art Show Muskoka Arts & Crafts
Bracebridge
www.muskokaartsandcrafts.com

APRIL 2017

APRIL 16
Muskoka Heritage Place & The Nutty Chocolatier Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt
12pm
www.muskokaheritageplace.org

APRIL 28-30
Muskoka Builders' Home & Cottage Show
Gravenhurst Centennial Centre
www.muskokabuilders.com

APRIL 29
Muskoka Maple Festival
http://www.discovermuskoka.ca/muskoka-maple-festival

MAY 2017

MAY 3
Fresh Spring Fashion & Lifestyle Show
Gravenhurst BIA
www.gravenhurstbia.com

MAY 6
May Marche
Grandview Golf Club
Huntsville 7pm -10pm
www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca

MAY 6
Baysville Community Yard Sale
www.baysvilleontario.com/baysville-events

MAY 7
Dwight Outdoor 3D-Target Archery Tournament

MAY 20
Muskoka 24 Craft Beer Festival, Huntsville
http://huntsvilleadventures.com/cultural-events/spring-cultural-events/muskoka-24-craft-beer-festival/

MAY 20
Muskoka Heritage Place Opening Day, Huntsville
www.muskokaheritageplace.org

MAY 20
Muskoka Lakes Museum
Opening Day 10am - 4pm
Port Carling
www.mlmuseum.com/special-events

MAY 27
Spin the Lakes Tour
Huntsville
www.bikemuskoka.ca

JUNE 2017

JUNE 3
Port Sydney Village Wide Yard Sale
www.portsydneycoc.com

JUNE 10
Huntsville Half: Band on the Run
www.bandontherun.ca

JUNE 10
Canada 150 SS Bigwin Community BBQ
http://ssbigwin.com/communitybbq/

JUNE 11
Muskoka Chautauqua Sing Canada Together
Community Choirs and Concert
www.muskokachautauqua.com

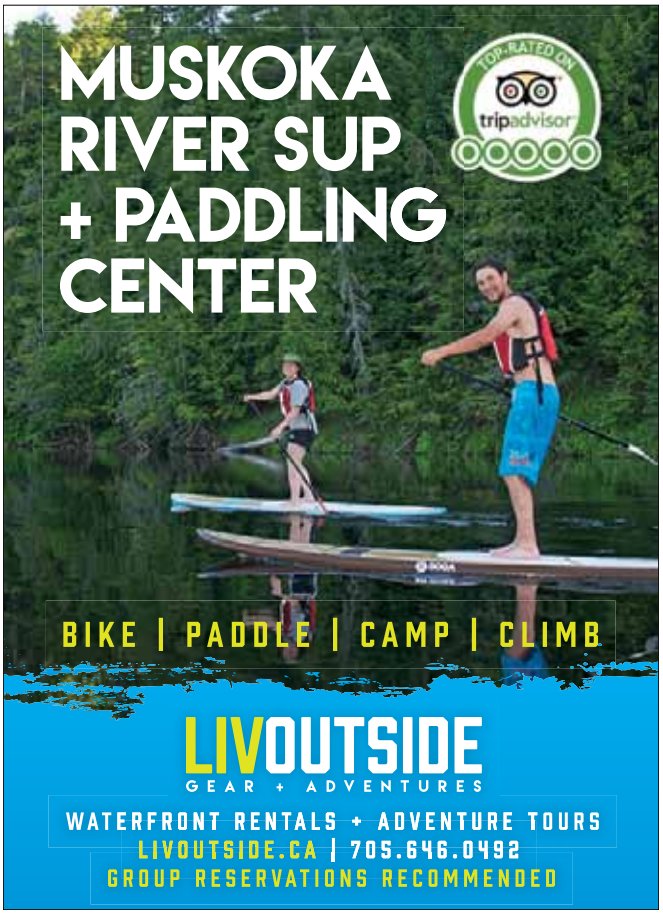
JUNE 17
Gravenhurst Car Show
Gull Lake Rotary Park
www.gravenhurstchamber.com

JUNE 17
Father's Day Beer Tasting Cruise
(SS Bigwin & Lake of Bay Brewery)
http://ssbigwin.com/beercruise/

JUNE 18
Father's Day Car Show
Bracebridge 9am-3pm
www.downtownbracebridge.com

JUNE 18
Father's Day Cruise aboard Sunset Cruises
At the locks in Port Carling
http://faebook.com/SunssetCruises

JUNE 21
Huntsville's Annual First Nations, Metis & Inuit
Celebrations 11am – 2:30pm



JUNE 24
Baysville Surf "n' Turf
Baysville
www.baysvilleriverfront.ca/surfandturf.html

JUNE 24
Spring into Summer Art Crawl
Key locations around Gravenhurst
www.gravenhurstbia.com

JUNE 24
Doors Open Gravenhurst
Various locations
10am – 5pm

JUNE 24-25
The Muskoka Powerboat Races
Rotary Gull Lake Park
Gravenhurst
www.torc.ca

JULY 2017

JULY - WEDNESDAYS
Lecture Series
7pm
Muskoka Lakes Museum
Port Carling
www.mlmuseum.com/special-events

JULY 1
Dominion Day
Strawberry Social & Steam-up Day, Huntsville
www.muskokaheritageplace.org

JULY 1
Baysville Fireworks

JULY 1
Dorset Community Fireworks

JULY 1
Canada 150
Port Severn Park
http://www.pshhCanada150.ca

JULY 1
Port Sydney Canada Day 150 Celebration
www.portsydneycoc.com

JULY 1
150th Canada Day Celebrations in Bracebridge
11:00am to 10:45pm
www.bracebridgefireworks.com

JULY 1
Canada Day Celebrations
Wallace Bay, Minett
5pm-7pm & 10pm-11pm
www.muskokalakes150.com

JULY 1
Honey Harbour Canada Day
Festival at the Park Landing

JULY 1
Canada Day Celebrations
11am-1pm
at Gull Lake Rotary Park
705-687-6774

JULY 1
MacTier Canada Day

JULY 1
Heritage Day at Dorset Heritage Museum
http://www.dorsetheritagemuseum.ca/

JULY 1
150th Canada Day Celebrations
Town of Huntsville
http://www.huntsville.ca/en/living/canadaday.asp

JULY 1
Canada Day Bivouac
Muskoka Lakes Museum
Port Carling
www.mlmuseum.com

JULY 1
Fireworks at Walkers Point Marina
Gravenhurst
www.walkerspointmarina.com

JULY 1
Canada Day Fireworks Cruise
Sunset Cruises, Port Carling
www.sunsetcruises.ca

JULY 1- 2
Bala Craft and Gift Fair
www.balacraftandgiftfair.com

JULY 1- 2
Bala Antique and Nostalgia Show

JULY 2 – AUGUST 26
Huntsville Festival of the Arts Season
www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca

JULY 2
1st Annual Pirate Party
Muskoka Discovery Centre
Registration required
www.realmuskoka.com

JULY 3 – 21
Huntsville Festival Music at Noon Weekdays
www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca

JULY 6
Flavours of Muskoka
Chautauqua Gourmet Graze, JW Marriott, Minett, 7pm-10pm
www.muskokachautauqua.com

JULY 8 - 9
Muskoka Pioneer Power Show
Bracebridge
www.muskokapioneerpower.ca

JULY 8
Rotary Dockfest
Noon – 5pm
Huntsville
www.huntsvilleadventures.com

JULY 8
Limberlost Challenge
Huntsville
www.thelimberlostchallenge.com

JULY 8
Dorset Kids Fish Derby

JULY 8
Vintage Boat Show
Gravenhurst
www.acbs.ca

JULY 8 - 9
Muskoka Yoga Festival
Bracebridge
www.muskokayogafestival.com

JULY 9
IRONMAN 70.3 Muskoka
Huntsville/Lake of Bays
www.ironmanmuskoka.com

JULY 14 -16
Muskoka Arts & Crafts Summer Show
Annie Williams Memorial Park, Bracebridge
www.muskokaartsandcrafts.com

JULY 15
The Muskoka Butter Tart Festival
Muskoka Lakes Museum
Port Carling
www.mlmuseum.com

JULY 15
Urban Slide Huntsville
http://huntsvilleadventures.com/cultural-events/summer-cultural-events/urban-slide-huntsville/

JULY 15 - 16
Gravenhurst Triathlon
Muskoka Wharf
www.msctriathlon.com

JULY 21
Midnight Madness
Downtown Huntsville
http://huntsvilleadventures.com/cultural-events/

JULY 21 - 23
Muskoka Ribfest
Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst
www.muskokashows.com

JULY 21 - 23
Muskoka In-Water Boat & Cottage Show
Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst
www.muskokashows.com

JULY 22
Santafest-Downtown
Bracebridge 10am-4pm,
http://www.santafest.ca/

JULY 22
Muskoka Escapades of Town Crying
Bracebridge
www.towncrier.on.ca/blog

JULY 22
Dog Fest Muskoka
Annie Williams Memorial Park, Bracebridge
http://dogfestmuskoka.ca

JULY 22 - AUGUST 13
The Artful Garden
Open Daily 10am to 5pm
www.theartfulgarden.ca

JULY 22
Baysville Walkabout Fest
Over 120 Arts & Crafts vendors.
www.baysvillewalkabout.com

JULY 22 - 25
OperaMuskoka
at Rene M. Caisse Memorial Theatre, Bracebridge
www.muskokachautauqua.com

JULY 25
Everything Anne Day
Bala's Museum
705-762-5876
@ 1:30pm
www.balasmuseum.com

JULY 29
Loggers Day
Algonquin Park
www.algonquinpark.on.ca

JULY 29
Nuit Blanche North
www.edgeofthewoodstheatre.com

JULY 29 - 30
Dorset Art & Garden Tour

JULY 30
The Wakami Wailers Concert
7 pm Outdoor Theatre at 35.4 km
Algonquin Park
www.algonquinpark.on.ca

AUGUST 2017

AUGUST - WEDNESDAYS
Lecture Series @ 7pm
Muskoka Lakes Museum
Port Carling
www.mlmuseum.com/special-events

AUGUST 3 - 5
Huntsville Jazz Festival
www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca

AUGUST 4
Midnight Madness
Bracebridge
6:00pm-11:59pm
www.downtownbracebridge.com

AUGUST 5
Civic Holiday Fireworks
Muskoka Wharf Gravenhurst
www.gravenhurst.ca

AUGUST 5
Griffin Session Muskoka
Annie Williams Memorial Park, Bracebridge
www.muskokabeerfestival.ca

AUGUST 5
Dwight Firefest

AUGUST 5
Make a Splash Water Fest
Gull Lake Rotary Park
10am – 5pm

AUGUST 5 - 7
Pedal and Play
MacTier

AUGUST 11 - 12
Celebrate Gravenhurst Annual Street Festival & Sidewalk Sale
www.gravenhurstbia.com

AUGUST 12
Honey Harbour and all that Jazz
In Honey Harbour Park

AUGUST 12 - 13
Baysville Arts and Crafts Festival
www.baysvilleriverfront.ca/artscraft.html

AUGUST 15
Artifact or Fiction Gala
Port Carling 5 -8pm
http://mlmuseum.com/special-events/

AUGUST 18 - 20
26th Annual Dockside Festival of the Arts, Gravenhurst
www.gravenhurstchamber.com

AUGUST 19
Summer Sidewalk Sale
Huntsville
http://huntsvilleadventures.com/cultural-events/

AUGUST 19 - 20
Artists of the Limberlost Studio Weekend
Huntsville
www.artistsofthelimberlost.ca/

AUGUST 20
Lake of Bays Antique Classic Boat & Car Show
www.baysvilleontaro.com

AUGUST 23 - 25
Opera Muskoka
www.muskokachautauqua.com

AUGUST 24
Apple Picking Festival
Orchard Park
Huntsville

AUGUST 25 - 27
34thAnnual Bracebridge Antique Sale
Bracebridge Fairgrounds

SEPTEMBER 2017

SEPTEMBER 9
Severn Bridge Fall Fair
http://severnfair.org/

SEPTEMBER 9
Muskoka Fall Classic Rowing,
Rotary Gull Lake Park,
Gravenhurst
www.severnriverrowingclub.com

SEPTEMBER 16
Antique Classic Car Show
Huntsville
www.downtownhuntsvilleadventures.com

SEPTEMBER 15 - 17
150th Bracebridge Fall Fair and Horse Show
JD Lang Park
www.bracebridgefair.com

SEPTEMBER 23 - 24
Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour
www.muskokastudiotour.com

SEPTEMBER 22 - 24
Huntsville Fall Fair
www.huntvilleadventures.com

SEPTEMBER 29 - 30
Sawdust City Oktoberfest
www.sawdustcityoktoberfest.com

SEPT 29 – OCTOBER 1
Culture Days
Activities across Muskoka
https://on.culturedays.ca/en/activities

SEPT. 30 - OCTOBER 1
Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour
www.muskokastudiotour.com

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 1
Bala Craft & Gift Fair
www.balacraftandgiftfair.com

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 1
Bala Antique & Nostalgia Show Sale

SEPT 29 – OCT 1
Culture Days
Muskoka Lakes Museum
Port Carling
www.mlmuseum.com

OCTOBER 2017

OCTOBER 1
Muskoka Chautauqua The Land in Between
Bethune House, Gravenhurst
www.muskokachautauqua.com

OCTOBER 7 - 8
Thanksgiving Open House
Muskoka Lakes Museum
Port Carling
www.mlmuseum.com

OCTOBER 13 - 15
Bala Cranberry Festival
www.balacranberryfestival.on.ca

OCTOBER 14
Bala's Museum CRAN-ANNE Contest
Registration 1:30pm
Judging 2pm
www.balasmuseum.com

OCTOBER 20 - 21
2017 Women's Wellness Conference
at the Gravenhurst Opera House.
For more info call Sue Kelly 705-687-5605.

OCTOBER 28
Let the Spirits Rise
in Downtown Gravenhurst
705-644-9392
www.gravenhurstbia.com

OCTOBER 31
Annual Great Pumpkin Trail
Muskoka Heritage Place
Huntsville
www.muskokaheritageplace.org

NOVEMBER 2017

NOVEMBER 4
Muskoka Lakes Christmas Market
Port Carling
www.muskokalakeschamber.com

NOVEMBER 10 - 12
Huntsville Girlfriends Getaway Weekend
huntsvillegirlfriendsgetaway.ca

NOVEMBER 12
Bala Santa Claus Parade
www.muskokalakeschamber.com

NOVEMBER 17 - 19
37th Annual Christmas Show and Sale
Bracebridge Sportsplex
www.muskokaartsandcrafts.com

NOVEMBER 18
Port Carling Santa Claus Parade

NOVEMBER 24
Black Friday Celebrations & Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
Gravenhurst
705-644-9392
www.gravenhurstbia.com

NOVEMBER 24
Huntsville Santa Claus Parade
www.huntsvilleadventures.com

NOVEMBER 24
Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing
at the Bala Community Centre
www.muskokalakeschamber.ca

NOVEMBER 25
Gravenhurst Santa Claus Parade
www.gravenhurstchamber.com

NOVEMBER 26
Dorset Community Christmas Tree Lighting & Dinner

DECEMBER 2017

DECEMBER 1
Santa's Moonlight Shopping Party/ Featuring the Festival of the Lights
Bracebridge
www.downtownbracebridge.com

DECEMBER 2
Light up Dwight Night

DECEMBER 2
Bala's Trek to Bethlehem

DECEMBER 3
Rotary Bracebridge Santa Claus Parade
www.bracebridgesantaparade.com

DECEMBER 10
Baysville Santa Claus Parade
Only parade that goes around twice

DECEMBER 23
Portage Flyer Christmas
Huntsville
www.muskokaheritageplace.org

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Torch Light Parade
Huntsville
www.skihiddenvalley.on.ca

DECEMBER 31
New Years Eve Fireworks
Huntsville
www.skihiddenvalley.on.ca

DECEMBER 2017
SantaFest
Santa's Village, Bracebridge
www.santasvillage.ca

DECEMBER 2017
Thank Santa
Santa's Village, Bracebridge
www.santasvillage.ca

JANUARY 2018

JANUARY
Muskoka Wedding Show
Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre, Gravenhurst
https://www.facebook.com/MuskokaWeddingShow

JANUARY
Muskoka Arrowhead Nordic Loppet
Arrowhead Prov. Park
Huntsville
www.arrowheadnordic.ca

JANUARY
Taylor Cup Pond Hockey Championship
Bayview Wildwood Resort
Port Stanton
www.taylorcup.ca

JANUARY
Fire & Ice Festival
Downtown Bracebridge
www.downtownbracebridge.com

FEBRUARY 2018

FEBRUARY 2 - 4
Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Snow Run
Hidden Valley Resort
Huntsville
www.breastcancersnowrun.org

FEBRUARY 16 - 17
Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival
www.dorsetsnowball.com

FEBRUARY
Port Carling Winterfest
www.portcarlingwinterfest.ca

FEBRUARY
Port Sydney Winter Carnival
Port Sydney Community Centre

FEBRUARY
Dwight Winter Carnival
www.dwightwintercarnival.com

FEBRUARY
North American Cup Original Pond Hockey Classic
Gravenhurst Wharf
www.onthepondcanada.com

FEBRUARY
P E T (Prostate Extreme Team) Ride of Hope
Residence Inn
Gravenhurst
www.pet4pc.com

FEBRUARY
Baysville Family Day Winterfest
www.baysvilleontario.com

FEBRUARY
Gravenhurst Winter Carnival
www.gravenhurstwintercarnival.ca

FEBRUARY
North Bay Snowmobile
Speed Runs Muskoka Wharf
www.nbssr.com

MARCH 2018

MARCH
Honey Harbour Maple Fest
10am - 2pm
http://www.honeyharbour.on.ca/

MARCH
6th Annual Dan McKeon Novice/Atom Memorial Hockey Tournament
Canada Summit Centre

MARCH
Spring Members Show
Muskoka Arts & Crafts
Bracebridge
www.muskokaartsandcrafts.com

APRIL 2018

APRIL
Muskoka Heritage Place & The Nutty Chocolatier Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt
12pm
www.muskokaheritageplace.org

APRIL
Muskoka Builders' Home & Cottage Show
Gravenhurst Centennial Centre
www.muskokabuilders.com

APRIL
Muskoka Maple Festival
http://www.discovermuskoka.ca/muskoka-maple-festival

FARMERS' MARKETS

MAY 17 TO OCTOBER 25
Gravenhurst Farmers' Market Muskoka Wharf
Across from Boston Pizza
Wednesdays 9am – 2pm
http://gravenhurstfarmersmarket.com/

MAY 20 TO OCTOBER 7
Bracebridge Farmers' Market Memorial Park
Beside Norwood Theatre
Saturdays 8:30am – 1pm
http://www.thebracebridgefarmersmarket.com/

MAY 18 TO OCTOBER 5
Huntsville Farmers' Market
Canadian Tire Parking Lot
Thursdays 9am – 2pm

JUNE 30 TO SEPT 1
The Rosseau Market
at the waterfront
Friday's 9am – 2pm
http://www.rosseaumarket.com/

JUNE 26 TO SEPTEMBER 4
Bala's Farmer's Market,
Precambrian Shield Parking lot
Mondays until Sept 1st
www.balafarmersmarket.com

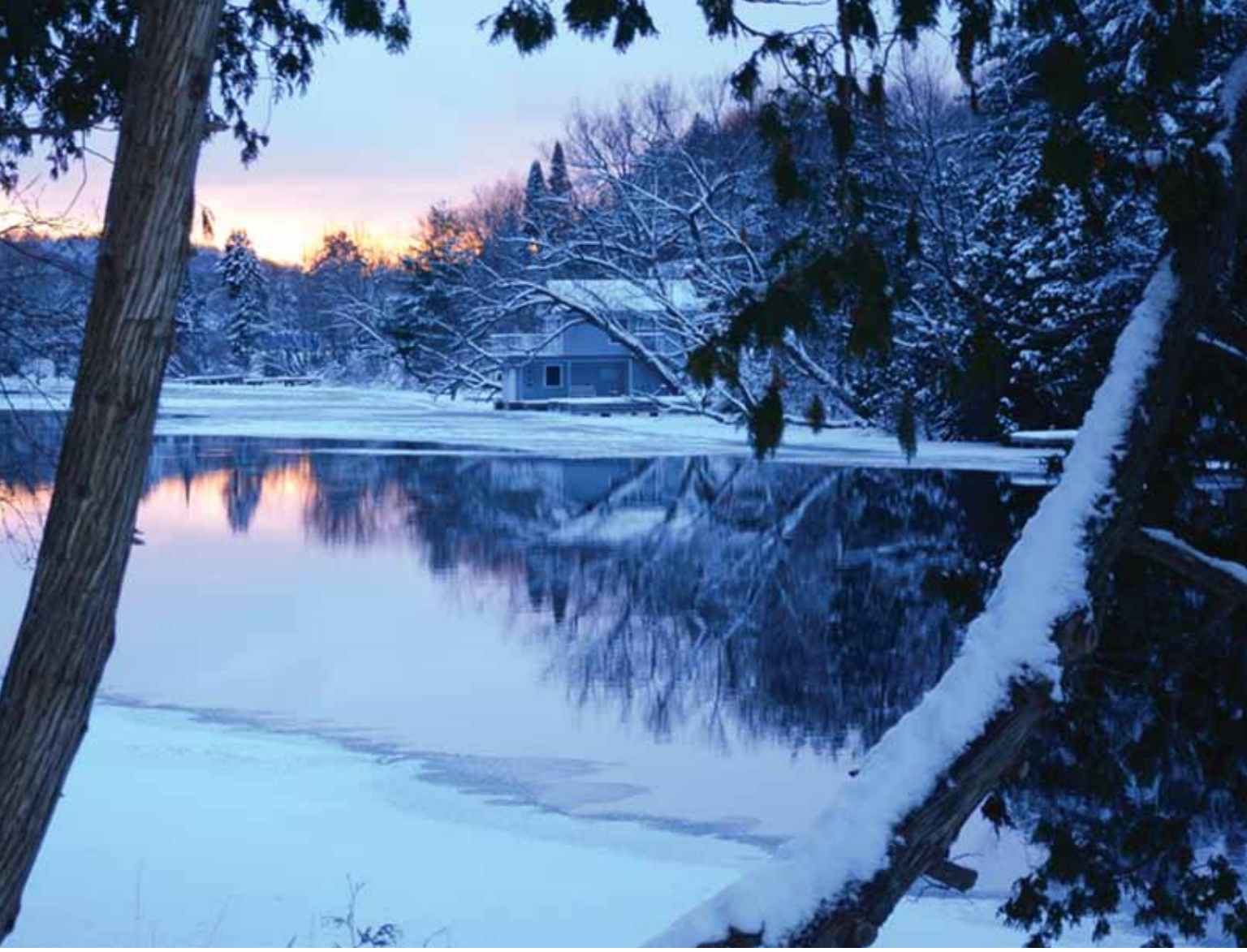
JUNE 27 – AUGUST 29
Dwight Farmers' Market
1009 Dwight Beach Rd.
Tuesdays 9am – 1 pm
http://www.dwightfarmersmarket.ca/

JUNE 30 TO SEPT. 1
Baysville Farmers' Market
Baysville Corner Store
Friday afternoons
http://www.baysvillefarmersmarket.com/

JUNE 29 TO AUGUST 31
Port Carling Farmers' Market
Hanna Park on Bailey Street,
Thursdays until August 27th
9am-2pm
portcarlingfarmersmarket.com

Summer Waterski Shows
Show time: 7:30 pm - 8:30pm
Mondays: Clevelands House Resort, Minett
Tuesdays: Windsor Park, Bala
Wednesdays: Boston Pizza, Gravenhurst
Thursdays: Bayview Wildwood Resort,Sparrow Lake
www.summerwatersports.com/shows/#MuskokaShows

dicovermuskoka.ca
for event details.



The wonders of winter

Long thought of as the ideal summer destination, Muskoka can be a wintertime paradise for those craving peace and solitude, or outdoor fun and adventure.

When the snow begins to fall, Muskoka is transformed into a wonderland of rolling white hills and frosted evergreens. For those who love the winter, there is truly is no better place in Ontario to fully enjoy the season than here in Muskoka.

These days, many people simply aren't content to sit inside and "wait out the winter." Over the course of the past decade, the number of winter activities Muskoka has to offer has grown by leaps and bounds, and winter lovers have followed.

Couples, families and those taking a solo holiday have been steadily increasing, and tourism providers have diversified their offerings to fill the need.

The outdoor fun typically ramps up in November and December when the snow is here to stay. The lakes are usually frozen by January, and the winter wonderland can last until late March or even into April.

The primary ingredient for any successful winter getaway is snow – and year after year, Muskoka delivers buckets of the white stuff. Due in large part to the lake effect coming from Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, Muskoka boasts an average of 282.7 cm (111.3 inches) of snow every year – one of the highest average snowfalls in the province.

All of that snow means the opportunities for outdoor ad-

venture are only limited by your imagination. There are snowshoe and cross-country ski trails crisscrossing the district for those who appreciate the silence and beauty of the outdoors in winter.

For those who prefer a bit more adrenaline with their outdoor fun, there are more than 1,600 km of snowmobile trails and Muskoka's very own downhill skiing and snowboarding hill to get the blood pumping.

When the outdoor fun is done for the day, it's time to head inside and warm yourself with a hot drink beside a roaring fire. The area's many spas and resorts can help you thaw out in the utmost comfort, complete with some of the best food and drink offerings you'll find anywhere in Ontario during any of the four seasons.

Whether it's flying through the snow or nestled by a roaring fire, you can have it all in Muskoka this winter.

FESTIVALS

Many people already know Muskoka is the place to be when it comes to events and festivals, from Bala's famous Cranberry Festival and the Muskoka Arts and Crafts Festival, to the Band on the Run event and the Sessions Muskoka Beer Festival. However, it's a closely guarded local secret that the best events are saved for winter.

During winter, Muskokans find the best way to shake off the winter blahs is by getting together to celebrate and have fun.

Virtually every community in the district hosts some type of winter carnival. In Gravenhurst, the fun lasts an entire week – typically in mid-February – and features pond hockey tournaments, "puddle jumping" on snowmobiles and a demolition derby.

Port Carling's carnival has axe throwing, tobogganing and sleigh rides and, for the heartiest of souls, a polar bear dip in the frigid water of the Indian River.

Bracebridge recently decided to get in on the winter festival fun as well, closing down the main street to transform the hill into a giant tubing run. The town also have a new ice skating trail, face painting and climbing fun for the kids, and breathtaking ice sculptures throughout the downtown area.

Running in February, the Port Sydney Winter Carnival has been going strong for 60 years. From magicians to watercross demonstrations, Port Sydney has something for the entire family. They also build some of the biggest snowmen you're likely to find anywhere.

If you want a truly unique way to mark the holiday season, climb aboard the Portage Flyer. Once a year, Huntsville's very own working locomotive is adorned with thousands of Christmas lights and takes hundreds of families on the one-kilometre trip to visit Santa Claus. The Flyer has become an annual favourite for many families, and there's even complimentary hot chocolate and cookies while you wait.

One of the more popular annual attractions is the Trek to Bethlehem, which is hosted in the Town of Bala and is a community event in every sense of the term. Held in December, the trek draws much of the small community out to play the roles of a biblical town brought to life. All of the streetlights are turned off and guests are given a walking tour of "Bethlehem" by torchlight, as well as the undivided hospitality of this unique Muskoka community. More than 1,000 people typically take the tour every year.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the area abounds in various markets and craft fairs. In recent years, outdoor markets have taken off in popularity. The allure of good food and drink by the warmth of a bonfire, and the chance to peruse unique Christmas gifts, is a trend that's been catching on across Muskoka.

In November and December, Muskoka also comes alive with a Santa Claus parade on almost every weekend. Just about every town in the district has one of its own, so check their websites for the seasonal schedule.

TRAILS

Whether you want to take your time enjoying the quiet splendour of winter or get your adrenaline pumping with some high-speed outdoor action, Muskoka has you covered.

From Algonquin Park to Georgian Bay, Muskoka is crisscrossed with thousands of kilometres of trails for everything from snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, to snowmobiling and fat-biking. Without a doubt, the winter trails generating the lion's share of buzz during the past few years are ice trails.

The originator is located in Arrowhead Park, just north of Huntsville, and it offers an experience like nothing else you can find in Ontario. Winding its way through a dense evergreen forest, this 1.4 km skating loop has become something of a celebrity since its inception in 2012. It has appeared on television and in print across North America, and it doesn't take long to figure out why.

If you're able to hit the trail on one of the Fire and Ice nights – when the path is illuminated by hundreds of tiki torches – it's a scene you're not likely to forget.
Arrowhead also features an extensive system of cross-country skiing trails, a tubing hill, warm-up huts and winter cabins for those who want to spend more than one day exploring the park.

In 2016, Bracebridge also got in on the act with its own skating trail, which circles the main park in the downtown

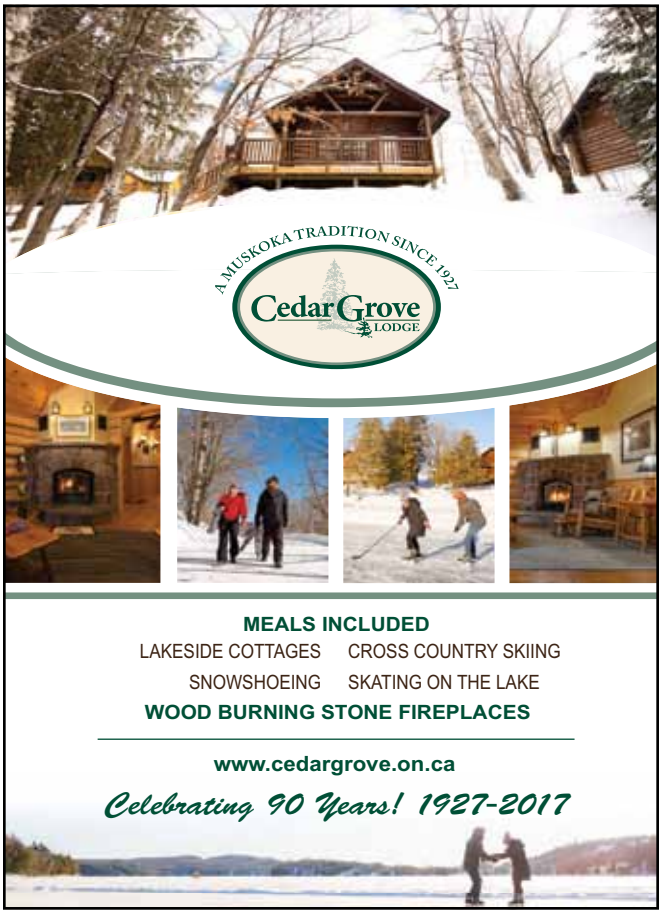
area. Lined by glowing light boxes and often serenaded by music, the "Winter Village," as it's known, has been a roaring success thus far.

Johnston's Cranberry Marsh, located just outside Bala, also offers its own skating trail if you're interested in the unique experience of gliding along through a frozen cranberry marsh.

One of the area's biggest winter draws is the 1,600-plus kilometres of snowmobile trails running throughout the district. Many restaurants, resorts and hotels in Muskoka cater specifically to the snowmobiling crowd during the winter, and there are frequently special deals offered to bring in out-of-town guests.

If you prefer high speeds without the engine, head just outside Huntsville to Muskoka's very own downhill ski area, Hidden Valley Highlands Ski Area. The hill boasts a top elevation of 1,276 feet (390 metres), and has four ski lifts and 13 trails – as well as areas for tobogganing and ice skating.

To appreciate the beauty of winter at your own speed, head out to one of the area's snowshoeing trails. Many area resorts offer packages that allow you to experience the peace and tranquility nature can offer in winter, with the added bonus of knowing you're headed back to top-notch food and accommodation when you're ready for a warm-up.



Looking back

For more than 150 years, guests from all over the world have been drawn to the beauty of Muskoka. The area's first recorded residents were native tribes – primarily Ojibwa – who were noted by early explorers to the region in the mid- to late 1600s. The Wahta Mohawk First Nation, located to the west of Muskoka Lakes township, was settled in 1881, when a group of the Mohawk people moved from Kanesatake, QC to Gibson township.

Muskoka's rugged and rocky geography, due in large part to its location on the Canadian Shield, made the area unsuitable for farming. However, the lumber industry showed steady growth in the area for decades, hitting its peak in the second half of the 19th century. It was during the same period that Muskoka began to see its first seasonal guests.

In fact, local historians trace the beginnings of tourism in the area back to July 1860 and to two men specifically – 18-year-old James Bain and 20-year-old John Campbell.

In a scene that's still played out every summer, the two young Toronto men left home searching for adventure and headed to Muskoka for a week long holiday.

The pair travelled by train, steamer, rowboat and, ultimately, on foot, just to reach the outskirts of the area and the newly built Muskoka Road. When they arrived at Lake Muskoka, they found nothing more than a pair of wigwams pitched along the water's edge, and

a shoreline they observed had not had a single tree removed. The pair were so taken with their visit, they would return every summer for many years, bringing ever more friends and relatives with them, and eventually founding the Muskoka Club.

It was just a few years later that one Alexander P. Cockburn visited Muskoka with a group of friends and also immediately fell in love with the area. Cockburn, who is sometimes referred to as the Father of Muskoka, brought steamers onto the lakes, and immediately began pushing the government for better roads and to open the area up to better water navigation by creating channels and lock systems that are still used by seasonal residents and tourists to this day.

His steamship company, the Muskoka Navigation Company, was the biggest in the country by the time of his death in 1905. The allure of the steamships, and the previously unreachable land they opened up, brought throngs of guests from all over Canada and beyond.

The draw of those steamships is still evident and one the area's most popular attractions remains the elegant steamers and other classic watercraft that still ply the waters every summer.

As the number of summer guests proliferated, so did the accommodations available to them. Camps and boarding houses gave way to resorts and hotels, and with the arrival of the railway in 1875, the boom was on. The cottage and accompanying boathouse, which have become a hallmark of Muskoka, also started to proliferate, popping up around the established hotels and resorts at first, and later spreading around the shoreline of the "Big Three" lakes – Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph.

Quicker, more convenient methods of travel, including the rise of the automobile, opened up the area as a tourist destination to an increasingly far-flung variety of guests from areas like New York City, Pittsburgh and Europe.

Many of the original cottages have been passed down through families for generations, and they've since been joined by seasonal residents like Steven Spielberg, Cindy Crawford and Tom Hanks.

Muskoka now welcomes more than 100,000 seasonal residents every summer.

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Bracebridge

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Once you arrive, it doesn't take long to feel at home. While shopping in local stores, you will connect with the merchants and business owners who will make you feel at home. You will be astonished by the unique shops and businesses the town has to offer and the tailored services each provide.

Family-owned restaurants wait to inspire your taste buds – from Thai to Irish, Mexican to Japanese, quaint bistros to deli shops and so much more. There is something to satisfy everyone. The craft-beer enthusiast can sip the exceptional and refreshing brews at our local restaurants or take a tour of Muskoka Brewery – enjoy samples and see first-hand how their award winning beers are produced.

Explore the town's historical streets or take a leisurely walk, snowshoe or cross-country ski on one of the year-round trails. Experience simplistic living at its finest – wind down and enjoy the best nature has to offer!

The falls and Bracebridge Bay both provide a scenic anchor to the historic downtown core. Sit and enjoy a picnic, swim at the beach or take a stroll on Bracebridge's Historic Walk. The town has many beaches, boat launches and parks throughout Bracebridge.

For the active individual, or those looking to try some-

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May long weekend
~ to ~
Thanksgiving
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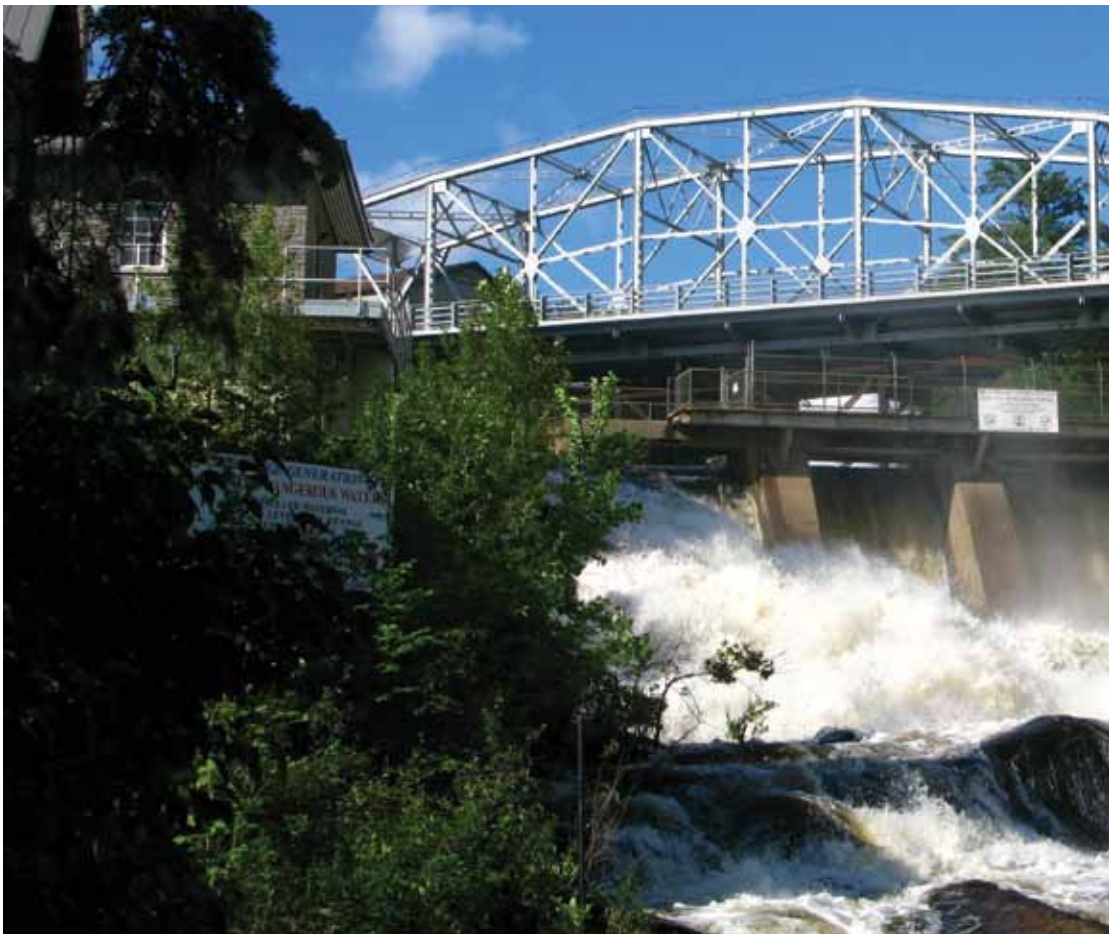
Bracebridge
(Manitoba Street, next to theatre)

www.thebracebridgefarmersmarket.com



New For 2017

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Muskoka's Theme Park

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Santa's Village Muskoka's Theme Park

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thing new, Bracebridge is home to many businesses that rent canoes, kayaks, standup paddle boards, skis, and snowshoes. There is also opportunity to learn how to ice climb, do snowga (snowshoe yoga), fat bike and more.

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8

SAWDUST
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CITY

Gravenhurst

Gravenhurst is known as the Gateway to Muskoka. The lakes, forests and rocky landscape captivated the first visitors and have drawn people back for more than 150 years.

Early visitors often rode a train down to Muskoka Wharf where they were transported by steamship to their summer homes and holiday resorts.

Today, take a step into the past by cruising on one of the historic ships that ply Muskoka's big three lakes. The RMS Segwun, at 130-years old, is the oldest operating steamship in North America.

Gravenhurst has a colourful history. Lumbering and sawmills were important. In fact, at the turn of the century, there were sawmills on Gull Lake and Lake Muskoka, with logs floating to cover much of Gravenhurst Bay.

The mills are now gone, and today the Muskoka Wharf is buzzing with different activity. A scenic boardwalk traces the same shoreline. Along the way, stop to enjoy a meal at one of the many places to delight the palate - everything from chef-prepared specialities, more casual meals and even a coffee shop and tea house. The wharf is anchored by the historic steamship cruise office at one end and the Muskoka Discovery Centre museum at the other.

Visitors today can also appreciate the past by visiting the Gravenhurst Opera House in Historic Downtown Gravenhurst. The building, nestled in an area of unique shops and restaurants, has a century-long tradition of profes-

sional theatre but also offers an assortment of musical entertainment.

Gravenhurst has small intimate music venues offering big memorable experiences. The Barge at Gull Lake is a Sunday night tradition where people gather with lawn chairs to enjoy music. Restaurants, the brewery and a small one of a kind almost home-like theatre regularly offer live music.

Public beaches offer swimming, hiking and more. Gull Lake Park has a public beach, complete with lifeguards on afternoons in the summer. In the winter, the park is a parking area for snowmachine trailers. During the Second World War, a prisoner of war camp was located in Gravenhurst. Remains of it and a small plaque mark the spot at Ungerman Park.

Treasure hunters will enjoy Gravenhurst's arts, antiques and collectibles. The restored Albion Hotel is home to an artists' gallery and many more have studios in the area. Shops specialize in everything from antiques and collectibles, including furniture and decor to great food and fashion.

Boating is big in Gravenhurst. It is home to classic wooden boatbuilders and restorers, annual power boat races, an annual rowing regatta, classic boats, fishing

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tournaments and a weekly summer water ski show. It is a great place to get out on the water to enjoy big lake boating or exploring one of the many smaller lakes.

There is something exciting happening almost every weekend, all summer long. The Gravenhurst Car Show, taking place the day before Fathers' Day has been a tradition for over 20 years, the BIA hosts a popular sidewalk sale, The Annual Antique and Classic Boat Show annual antique boat show takes place early in July, The Muskoka Wharf has regular events too including the popular Ribfest in July and Dockside Festival arts show in August.

The colourful leaves, a thriving arts community and a more relaxed pace attract autumn visitors. Winter is a time of activities such as pond hockey, winter carnival, snowmobiling and snowshoeing or a time to enjoy the indoors, perhaps at a restaurant or the brewery. Spring is time to get back on the water and onto the trails and explore the community.

For more information about events in Gravenhurst, contact the Gravenhurst Chamber of Commerce at 705 687 4432 or info@gravenhurstchamber.com or visit www.gravenhurstchamber.com or www.experiencegravenhurst.ca or in Gravenhurst, come to the visitor centre at 275 Muskoka Road South in the Carnegie Building beside the Gravenhurst Opera House.

Award-winning Gravenhurst Farmers' Market

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Georgian Bay

Welcome to Georgian Bay Township, where hospitality has been a way of life since the first resorts and boat liveries sprang up more than a hundred years ago. Rich in history, the region was dominated by the lumber industry in the 1800s and became a thriving tourist community with easy boat access from Georgian Bay to the Trent-Severn Waterway, bustling with fishing groups, tourists and barges filled with lumber and supplies for the growing cottage communities along the water.

Known for the friendly, courteous people who live, work and play here, this township provides the best services for their visitors: the marine mechanic who fixes your boat; the staff who serve up some of those wonderful home-style or gourmet meals; the builders who craft fine year-round homes, quaint cabins or grand, Muskoka-style cottages; the photographer who captures those special places that are in abundance here; the fishing guides who know just where to catch that big fish and the boating enthusiast who likes to explore the many bays and rivers.

The UNESCO Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve starts here, where the Trent-Severn waters go into Georgian Bay and northward along its breathtaking shores.

Awaken your adventurous spirit. Exhilarate in the memorable views of ancient Canadian Shield rock, pine trees and sparkling vistas of Georgian Bay, and the inland lakes and rivers that form the unique landscape. Hear the wind forcing its way through the bend-

ing white pines or the haunting call of the loon over the still water in the morning. Energize on the numerous biking trails like those in and about the village of MacTier through scenic countryside.

One of Canada's finest national treasures is here in our own backyard. In Georgian Bay Islands National Park, 14 square kilometres of spectacular landscapes, diverse habitats and the rugged beauty of the Canadian Shield are accentuated by the windswept white pine and granite often the subject of artists and photographers. Beausoleil Island, the largest of the islands in the park, offers mooring, camping, cabins, educational programs and hiking trails.

Six Mile Lake Provincial Park boasts sandy beaches, swimming, canoeing and fishing, and a scenic hiking trail. The lake is part of a historic canoe route. Extreme paddling for the adventurous, or portaging the scenic rapids, canoeists and kayakers can experience the ever-popular 56-km Gibson-McDonald canoe route carved through the Canadian Shield from the Georgian Bay shore to inland lakes, rivers and creeks.

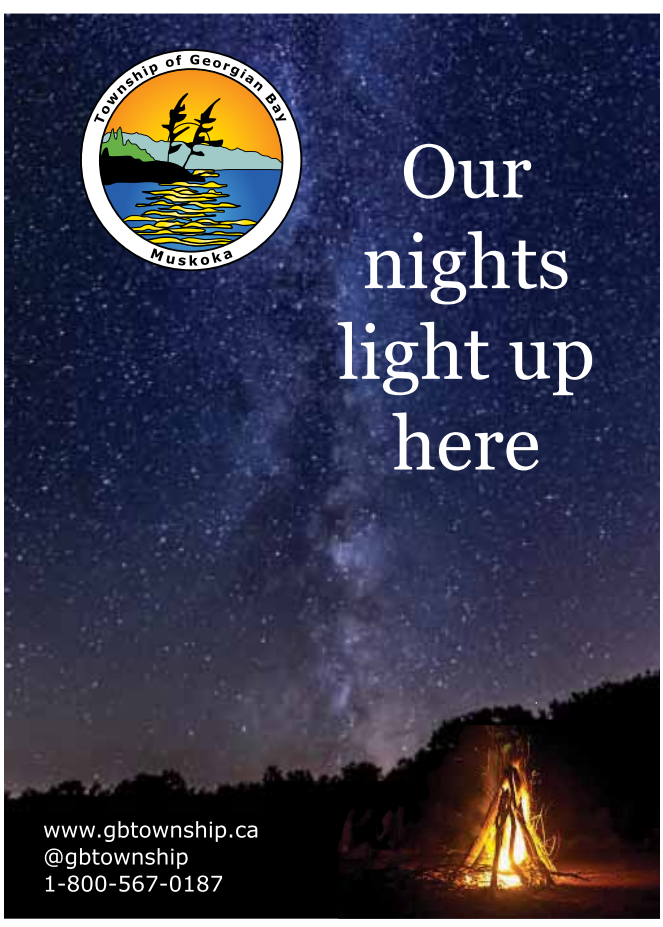
Whether by boat or by car, no visit is complete without a trip to see the one-of-a-kind Big Chute Marine Railway, in operation from mid-May until mid-October, on the historic Trent-Severn Waterway.

From serene to stimulating, this incredible region inspires creativity in art and design. Take in the incredible palette of the warm earthy tones to the brilliant blues, crimson and gold found in our natural environment as so many artists and photographers do. Refresh the senses as you explore the forests and wilderness where renowned Canadian artists Tom Thompson, A.Y. Jackson, Frederick Varley, Arthur Lismer and Lawren Harris, from the Group of Seven, found inspiration along the shores of Georgian Bay and Go Home Bay. Follow the footsteps of David Milne as he would muse

upon the pattern of the forest outside the door of his secluded cabin during his years on Six Mile Lake. Visit Milne's 1930's cabin, now located beside the Georgian Bay Township Historical Society Barn Museum in Port Severn for public viewing.

Locals and visitors alike enjoy the cuisine, cultural atmosphere and hospitality our many fine restaurants and cafés offer. Often, the distinctive improvisational stylings of jazz musicians or local rock 'n' roll bands can be heard from the many waterfront restaurants. So, after a day in the sun on the boat, or after a game of golf at Oak Bay Golf Course, the newest Muskoka golf course on the shores of Georgian Bay, or to warm up after a day of snowmobiling, ATVing or skiing, the hospitality of these fine establishments is a welcoming end to a perfect day.

For more information, visit the SEGBAY Chamber of Commerce website at segbay.ca.



Lake of Bays

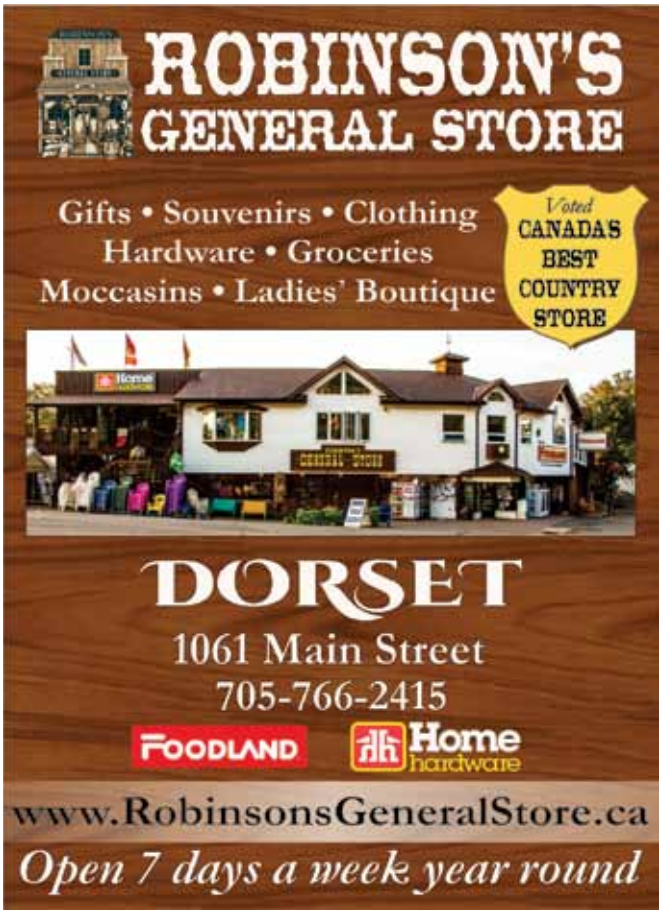
The Township of Lake of Bays is an outdoor enthusiasts' oasis in the northeastern section of Muskoka, adjacent to world renowned Algonquin Park. The Township is home to Lake of Bays, one of the largest lakes in Muskoka, which provides four-season fun from boating and paddle boarding to snowmobiling and ice fishing. The Township boasts picturesque landscapes, over 100 pristine lakes, unique cottage resorts, distinct cultural attractions, and outdoor activities for every season.

The three vibrant and inviting communities of Baysville, Dorset, and Dwight offer a variety of restaurants, galleries, specialty shops, and each have their own self-guided Heritage Tour to enable visitors to learn about the history of the area. Known most popularly as a summer playground, Lake of Bays is also a sparkling, white wonderland for winter sports enthusiasts and each village hosts a unique winter festival on weekends throughout February – not to be missed!

Some of the must-see attractions in the area include:

Gateway to Algonquin Park: Lake of Bays is the western gateway to Ontario's most famous Provincial Park. Come for a day hike, an overnight camping trip or an extended canoe and portage excursion. Arrowhead and Ragged Falls Provincial Parks, Limberlost Forest and Wildlife Reserve, and Oxtongue Rapids are also nearby.

Dwight Beach: This sandy public beach nestled in Dwight Bay is the perfect spot to go for a swim and



spend an afternoon. Launch your boat to enjoy some water sports or stay on land and have a picnic in the summer sun.

SS Bigwin and Marine Museum: Cruise on Lake of Bays aboard this restored wooden steamship built in 1910. The SS Bigwin has carried historical guests such as Clark Gable, Louis Armstrong, Winston Churchill, and Greta Garbo. Cruises depart from Dorset docks adjacent to the Marine Museum from June to October.

Dorset Tower & Heritage Museum: Climb this former fire tower built in 1922 to experience a spectacular panoramic view from 142 metres (456 feet) above Lake of Bays. Don't miss the nearby Dorset Heritage Museum with exhibits of early pioneer life and the logging industry.

Lake of Bays Scenic Drive: Drive the 80km loop around the lake by car or experience the route by bike, boat, or snowmobile! This is an incredible way to view the fall colours. Route map: lakeofbays.on.ca/content/scenic-drive.

Local Flavours: Tour a craft brewery, sample treats at decadent bakeries, dine at fabulous restaurants, or visit one of the seasonal Farmers' Markets.

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Artists' Playground: Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven painted stunning landscapes that continue to inspire contemporary artists in the region. August and Autumn Studio Tours offer the chance to meet local artists.

Whether you're looking for unique shopping, family-friendly events and activities, world-class golfing, cultural experiences, or outdoor adventure, Lake of Bays is an exciting destination for a day trip, weekend or week-long retreat!

For more information about Lake of Bays:
www.aroundlakeofbays.ca
www.lakeofbays.on.ca/content/tourism-links

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Muskoka Lakes

Early morning on the lake and you're at one with your stand up paddleboard. Later, you'll browse hip boutiques before joining friends for cocktails overlooking Indian River. Then it's decision time: where to dine with so many great restaurants to choose from. Perhaps you'll dance the night away at The Kee to Bala, and then leisurely make your way back to your resort or cottage in an antique boat under an amazing starry sky. Vibrant and natural, Muskoka Lakes attracts visitors from around the world.

Our area includes the three big lakes that define the Muskoka experience: Lakes Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph. Enchanting Muskoka cottages and boathouses dot our shores. Still, more than 80% of our land retains its natural cover, which is especially breathtaking during fall colour season. Parks and beaches provide public access to our pristine waters.

Natural wonders include the striking geological and biologically diverse Torrance Barrens. It's also North America's first dark sky preserve. Along with the hiking trails at the Barrens, nearby Hardy Lake Provincial Park and the Huckleberry Rock Lookout are two more of several trails not to be missed. In winter, there are trails for snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and skating.

The character of the township is reflected in its eclectic mix of events, such as the award-winning Bala Cranberry Festival (always the weekend after Thanksgiving). There's also the Port Carling Winterfest, antique and craft shows, the Bala Trek to Bethlehem, the Flavours of Muskoka

Chautauqua culinary experience, art studio and cottage garden tours and farmers' markets in Bala, Port Carling and Rosseau. In 2017, Muskoka Chautauqua marks its 100-year history dating back to when authors flocked here to share knowledge, making Muskoka Canada's literary capital at the time.

You can explore our heritage at the Muskoka Lakes Museum that includes an original settler's log home and a view of how local craftsmen once made Muskoka North America's wood-boat-building capital. Beautiful antique boats still grace our lakes.

Bala's museum (also known as the Anne of Green Gables museum) is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2017. It offers guided tours and a fun experience for families and fans of Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of the beloved Anne of Green Gables series. Montgomery spent a summer in Bala and based her book, The Blue Castle, on her time here.

Music is an important part of the heritage of Muskoka Lakes. In Port Carling, the 21 Club was the hot spot in the 1940s and 50s. In Bala, it was Dunn's Pavilion (now The Kee to Bala), built in 1942, that first drew crowds and famous big bands like the Tommy Dorsey Band. Over 75 years of music of all genres has been heard at The Kee, which hosts bands each summer.

The constant rush of the Bala Falls makes for a lovely sight and sound as well. Bala is also famous for its cranberries, harvested at the Iroquois Cranberry Growers' marsh and the Johnston's Cranberry Marsh. The Johnston family has been farming cranberries for three generations. Today, Johnston's Cranberry Marsh and Muskoka Lakes Winery offer Bog to Bottle, Wagon and Wine Makers tours noted as a Canadian tourism "Signature Canadian Experience." A celebrated ice skating trail and snowshoe trails add winter magic to the scenic cranberry farm. Be sure to ask about other winter experience tours run by local operators across Muskoka Lakes.

When the ice melts, you can see people waterskiing, wakeboarding, stand-up paddle boarding and more. Beginners can learn at our resorts; private outfitters help as well, and our water ski shows are famous. Love to fish? Ask local bait shops for tips on where to land the big ones. For the golfer, Muskoka Lakes offers 12 public and private golf courses. And the loops around our lakes make for great cycling tours. For shoppers, there's something for everything, from the row of shops on Highway 38 coming into Muskoka Lakes via Wahta Mohawk Territory to the boutiques, bakeries, antique and garden stores found throughout our towns and villages. When it's time to dine, you'll discover casual eateries as well as an abundance of fine dining establishments ready to please the most discerning palate.

Historically, several buildings are significant. The municipal office was originally the Port Carling Village School (1906). The White's Road schoolhouse (1890), the original Windermere Village Hall (1953), the Bala Bay Inn (1910) and the Duke House that is home to the Township of Muskoka Lakes Visitor Centre (1897) are other landmarks. Our iconic resorts are perfect settings for families, romantic getaways, weddings and conferences and are steeped in history, too. Our summer camps are equally famous and loved. To know more about Muskoka Lakes, visit muskokalakeschamber.com.

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Experience our unique and friendly events ranging from international triathlons, cycling tours, marathons (with musicians en route!), paddling events, hockey tournaments and ski loppets – winter carnivals, parades, a bathtub derby (yes bathtubs… with motors!), beer fes-

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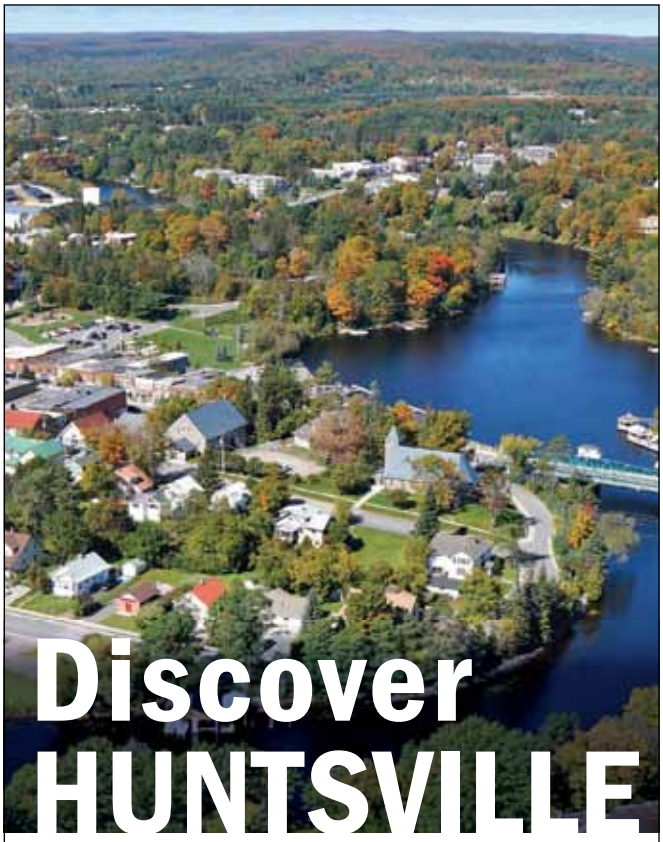
tivals and fall fairs to farmers markets, fishing derbies, maple festivals and artist tours. And of course don't forget our annual Girlfriends Getaway Weekend where 'girls just want to have fun!' Something for everyone to do, and ample space for you to rest your head. Huntsville has numerous options to catch some winks before you head out to explore or experience our special corner of the universe – whether you are here to vacation, do business or appease your adventurelust – we have the right place for you – from family-operated lodges and resorts, cozy bed and breakfast homes, cottage rentals and full amenity hotels and spectacular resorts – or… relish the natural beauty of the many area campgrounds as you drift off to sleep under a blanket of stars.

Stress-free – Take your time and be sure to visit our unspoiled beaches, meandering trails and unique attractions starting with Lion's Lookout; a glorious view to open all of your senses. Take a step back in time at Muskoka Heritage Place; home of the Muskoka Museum, Muskoka Pioneer Village and the Portage Flyer Train or venture off the beaten path to take in some incredible local art by visiting artists' studios. And then casually end your day's itinerary with a performance at our incredibly intimate and state of the art Algonquin Theatre. Indulge in a musical treat during our annual 'Festival of the Arts' featuring Bruce Cockburn, Sarah Harmer, Downchild Blues Band, Oliver Jones, and Hawksley Workman, just to name a few.



Discover HUNTSVILLE

A cosmopolitan small town amid an incredible landscape. Arts, live music, theatre, outdoor festivals, pioneer village & train ride, international sporting events, local dining and warm hospitality. **Come see how we do it in Huntsville.**

TOUCH THE PAST
EMBRACE THE FUTURE

huntsville.ca

If you are travelling with young adults and monopoly or go-fish isn't doing the trick – what about a tree-top trek between boughs of a tightly woven network of trees, skate and jump at our skateboard park, ice skate along a trail at the world famous Arrowhead Provincial Park … Downhill ski, snowboard…Paintball anyone?

All of this – on the doorstep of Canada's oldest Provincial Park with over 2,400 lakes and 1,200 kilometres of streams and rivers within its borders. Algonquin Park was named a National Historic Site of Canada in 1992 in recognition of several heritage values. Celebrate Tom Thomson's life in Huntsville and Algonquin Park. From 2012-2017, we invite you to join Huntsville's celebration of the 100 year anniversary of Tom Thomson's life and death in our area. Throughout this five year celebration, different organizations from throughout the community will be hosting events, workshops and exhibits.

For more information about Huntsville – call Terri at 705-789-4771, terri@huntsvillelakeofbays.on.ca or visit www.HuntsvilleAdventures.com.

The Village of Rosseau is still the quintessential cottage town, where cottagers like to bring out-of-town guests for a Sunday stroll. This village is rich in history, and still has that small-town feel. You can visit by car or boat, and walk about town with that old-fashioned scoop of ice cream in hand. Come any day in the summer and see many groups of families, including the family dog, simply sitting outside the 1874 Rosseau General Store, and enjoying an ice cream. Or one can enjoy lunch/dinner outside over looking Lake Rosseau, at Crossroads, or down the street at Cottage Law Canteen.

It is the home of the Sequin Sled Dog Mail Run, The Friday Rosseau Market, the Saturday & Sunday Antique Markets, the Classic Car and Antique Boat Show, the Rosseau Summer Regatta, the Rosseau Fall Fair, and the most fun

Village of Rosseau

of all the Thanskgiving Rosseau Pumpkin Festival.

The village was founded back in 1866, and soon after that, one of the first of the grand Muskoka hotels was built. The Rosseau House or more commonly known as Pratt's Hotel, was built as a 3 storey first class hotel, where guests would travel all the way from Toronto to this very inaccessible place. Then the Monteith House was built around the same time and became very widely known for all the activities one could participate in. Neither are standing, but there is a lot to see. The original 1874 Rosseau General Store stands, and one can still enjoy the well-worn floors of a beautiful, rich in history building. The 1875 Ditchburn house, where canoes were finished, and the famous Muskoka Ditchburn boats started, is still in existence and owned by a family member. Back in 1906 the Eatons purchased a property as a cottage for their family, after that the property was sold, and used as resort as Kawandag, and then established in 1967 as Rosseau Lake College, a coed school, and celebrating 50 years this year. The 1870's Orange Hall, the 1924's Stone House, the 1924's Rosseau Memorial Community Hall, the 1925's building where HillTop Interiors resides, the 1877's St. Andrew's United Church, the 1873's Anglican Church of the Redeemer, the St. Michael's Catholic Church, the 1890's Lake Rosseau Lighthouse, plus the beautiful waterfront, are all places to see when in the village.

The Village of Rosseau, simply created the flurry of travellers to Muskoka, and was the home where the most famous Ditchburn boats was born, and what better reason than to come for a self-guided walking tour of this village.

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Parks of Muskoka

Nestled in the famous 30,000 islands, the world's largest fresh water archipelago, Georgian Bay Islands National Park (GBINP) is where you'll be inspired by the rugged beauty of the Canadian Shield and the clear water of Georgian Bay! The 63 park islands and shoals stretch along the eastern shoreline of the bay for roughly 50 km from Honey Harbour north to Twelve Mile Bay.

Beausoleil Island is the largest park island and the hub of visitor adventures. On the south end of Beausoleil Island you'll find waterfront cabin rentals, shoreline campsites, mountain bike rentals, a welcome centre, interpretive programs, picnic shelters, beaches and trails for hiking and biking. The northern part of the island boasts rustic camping areas and the parks' best hiking trails, which follow scenic granite ridges dotted with windswept white pines to picturesque bays. Docking facilities scattered around the island are very popular during summer with pleasure boaters seeking the great views!

For Nature and History Lovers

Created in 1929, GBINP straddles two natural regions and is a core protected area of the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (one of only 16 UNESCO sites in Canada).

This mix of ecosystems results in a high diversity of plants and wildlife in the park. In fact, GBINP has more reptile and amphibian species than any other national park in Canada! Bird-watchers will tally an impressive checklist of breeding birds including Prairie Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers. The park also has significant cultural heritage,

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Getting There
The park is made up entirely of islands and is accessible only by boat. Parks Canada operates a boat shuttle service called the Day Tripper, which runs between Honey Harbour and Beausoleil Island (reservations are recommended).

For more information- visit the park website at:
http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/georg/index.aspx

Algonquin Park
Open year round and located on Muskoka's doorstep, *Algonquin Provincial Park*, one of the world's premier protected areas, stretches across 7,700 sq. km of forests, lakes, rivers and hills where wildlife abounds. People come from all over the world to experience the sense of untouched wilderness that Algonquin provides.

Highway 60 traverses the park in a narrow corridor eastward from Muskoka. Along this stretch there are campgrounds, restaurants, outfitters, lodges, stores, museums, an art gallery; interpretive trails, scenic lookouts, picnic areas and a world class Visitor Centre.

This corridor also provides access to the other Algonquin, the wild interior. A vast network of canoe routes offer the

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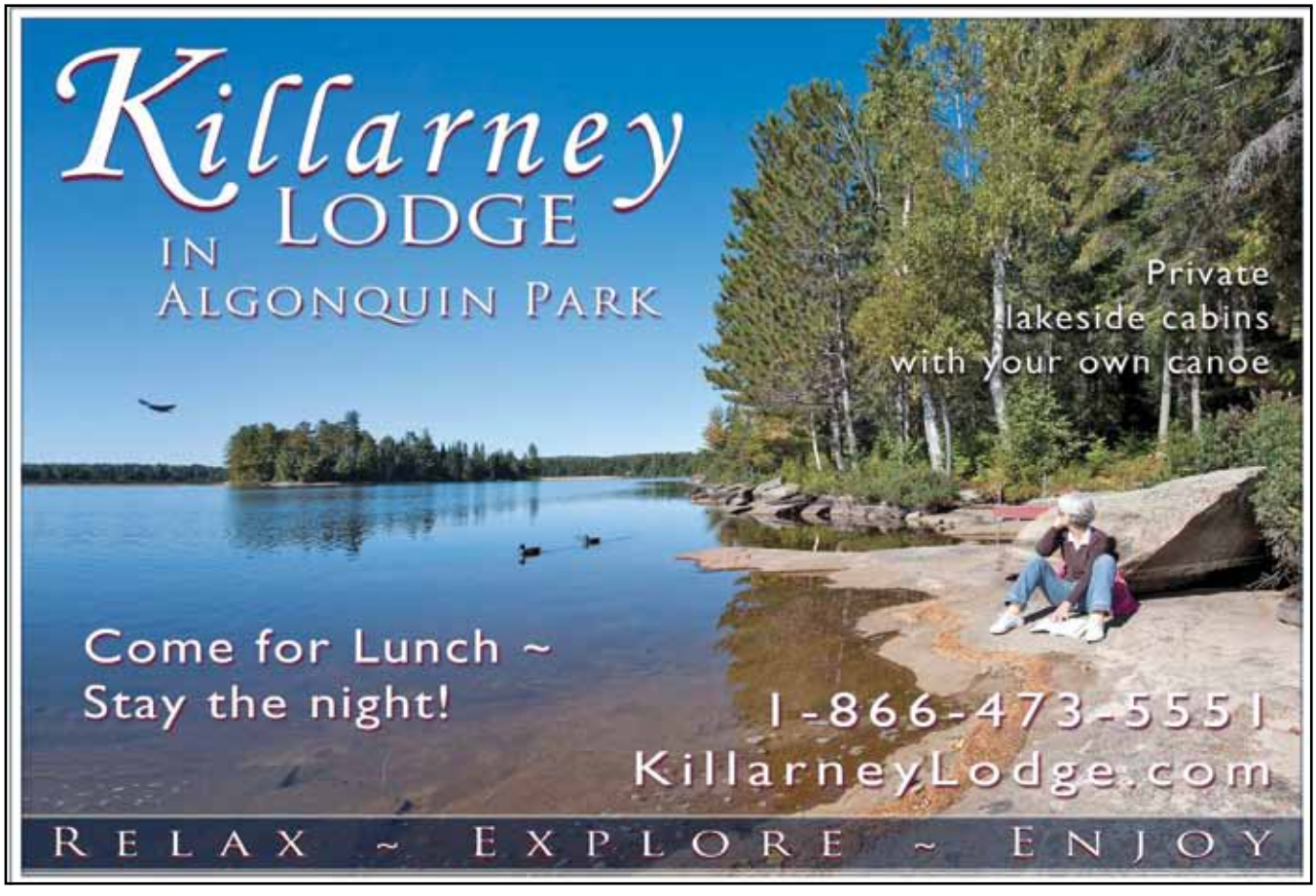
chance to experience Ontario's wildlife in their natural environments. Imagine the awesome sight of a bull moose, lifting its mighty head from the water to watch you as you silently paddle by.

You can choose from seventeen self-guided interpretive hiking trails, backpacking trails, mountain biking trails, cross-country ski trails and over 2,000 km of canoe routes in the Park's vast backcountry.

You can take part in countless other outdoor activities – including conducted walks, wolf howls, evening programs and children's programs to name a few – to discover more of the park's natural secrets.

Over a million people visit Algonquin each year and leave with precious memories of their vacation experience - perhaps an unforgettable fishing trip; the breathtaking scenery; or falling asleep after a hard days paddle to the wild call of loons. You'll find all kinds of inspiring ways to enjoy Algonquin.

For more information on Algonquin Provincial Park, please call 705-633-5572 or make a camping reservation by calling 1-888-ONT-PARK or visit www.ontarioparks.com/park/algonquin



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