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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 Play Ground.

## Here's what others are saying about Muskoka:

**National Geographic** recognized Muskoka as:  
#1 Summer Destination  
One of the world's top 20 Must See Places

## Frommer's Guide

Muskoka's charms have expanded to include excellent golf courses, soothing spas and top notch restaurants

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## Features

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## Summer 2016 Season

**Week One: July 4-10**

Theme: The Senses

**Week Five: August 1 - 7**

Theme: Education

**Week Two: July 11 - 17**

Theme: Adaption

**Week Six: August 8 - 14**

Theme: Game & Competition

**Week Three: July 18 - 24**

Theme: The Elements

**Week Seven: August 15 - 21**

Theme: Strings and Chords

**Week Four: July 25 - 31**

Theme: Coast to Coast

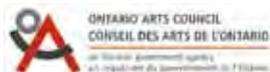
**Week Eight: August 22 - 28**

Theme: Looking To The Future

Arts, entertainment, music, authors, film, performances, workshops and speakers on the shores of Lake Rosseau

Join us for the launch of our 2016 season at **Flavours of Muskoka Chautauqua** July 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, JW Marriott Muskoka

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# Muskoka Visitor Guide 2016

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Muskoka Visitor Guide is published by



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This is a Partner-Driven Publication among the following organizations:









# Lakes

**O**f all the amazing places and experiences in Muskoka, the area is still most famous for its lakes. It is a well-earned fame. There are more than 1,600 bodies of water in Muskoka, and the district's western edge encompasses hundreds of kilometres of Georgian Bay shoreline and a portion of the 30,000 Islands world biosphere reserve. You can share your solitude with the loons and moose on the smallest, quietest of lakes or enjoy the excitement and activity of life on the large, busy waterways; whatever your pleasure, Muskoka has the perfect lake for you. Here's a look at just a few of the area's largest:

## **Lake Muskoka**

Surface area: 115.78 square km  
Islands: >430

Length: 26 km  
Width: 10 km  
Depth: Average 15 m, maximum 66 m

Muskoka Wharf in Gravenhurst is the historic starting point for exploring Lake Muskoka, and that history is alive today as the home port of the 129-year-old *RMS Segwun* steamship. Through the narrows, the lake widens and you can take the Muskoka River past Santa's Village right up to the falls at the foot of downtown Bracebridge. The Moon River drains the lake in the west, just past the famous Kee music hall over the Bala falls and out to Georgian Bay. On the north shore across from Walker's Point is Millionaire's Row, some of the oldest summer homes in Muskoka, built five generations ago for the families of steel magnates



from Pennsylvania. A short trip up the Indian River at the northwest reach of the lake is Port Carling, where a lock connects Lake Muskoka to Lake Rosseau and Lake Joseph beyond.

### Lake Rosseau

Surface area: 63.78 square km

Islands: >70

Length: 18 km

Width: 11 km

Depth: Average 24 m, maximum 89 m

Port Carling is known as “the Hub of the Lakes,” and the lock that connects Lake Rosseau with Lake Muskoka sits beside James Bartleman Island Park, home of the Muskoka Lakes Museum, where history is celebrated. A trip into Lake Rosseau quickly takes you past many historic summer homes, including Florence Island, named after actor Billy Florence, who was also one of the founders of the worldwide Shriner’s movement; Ravenscraig, the estate of historic Canadian retail magnate Timothy Eaton; and Llanllar Estate, built by the Miller family from Indiana, owners of the Cummins Engine Company. Nearby is the magnificent Windermere House resort, which maintains the original look and feel of a classic Muskoka resort from the heyday of steam travel on the lakes. High cliffs and scenic shores mark the trip up the

lake to the village of Rosseau, and a trip down the western shore reveals some of Muskoka’s picturesque cottage churches and the JW Marriot and Cleavelands House resorts — the latter of which started life as one of Muskoka’s oldest guest houses in 1869. At the south end of the lake is Port Sandfield and the canal that connects Lake Rosseau with Lake Joseph.

### Lake Joseph

Surface area: 51.7 square km

Islands: >65

Length: 22 km

Width: 5 km

Depth: Average 26 m, maximum 92 m

The disappearing propeller “Dippy” was invented in Port Sandfield beside the massive swing bridge that allows large boats like the *Segwun* and her sister ship, the *Wenonah II*, passage between the lakes. Lake Joseph is rich with the history of bygone resorts, such as Summit House, Prospect House, Elgin House, Belmont House and The Pinelands. One that still exists is the charming 77-year-old Sherwood Inn, located on the western shore. Lake Joseph is known for its clear water and rugged scenery, and the long bay known as Little Lake Joe was once the destination of the old Muskoka Lakes Navigation Company’s famous 100-Mile-Cruise.



## **The Huntsville Chain of Lakes**

### **Mary Lake**

Surface area: 10.6 square km  
Islands: 8  
Length: 6.6 km  
Width: 2.3 km  
Depth: Average 25 m, maximum 56 m

### **Lake Vernon**

Surface area: 15.6 square km  
Islands: 9  
Length: 10 km  
Width: 2.8 km  
Depth: Average 14 m, maximum 38 m

### **Fairy Lake**

Surface area: 8.4 square km  
Islands: 5  
Length: 5 km  
Width: 2.5 km  
Depth: Average 22 m, maximum 69 m

### **Peninsula Lake**

Surface area: 7 square km  
Islands: 5  
Length: 5.6 km  
Width: 3 km  
Depth: Average 11.7 m, maximum 37 m

The Muskoka River, a lock and a canal connect four of Muskoka's most charming lakes, Mary, Fairy, Vernon and Peninsula. Starting at scenic Port Sydney at the south end of Mary Lake, you'll sail past Crown Island and along shores marked by steep rocks and rolling hills and up into the Muskoka River at the north end, where a lock in Huntsville will lift you into Fairy Lake. The town of Huntsville dominates the southwest side of the lake, where great dining and shopping await just steps from the town docks, past the old swing bridge. Past the rail lands at the south end of town, under Highway 11 and through the narrows lies Lake Vernon, the largest lake of the four. With its deep waters and quiet coves, Lake Vernon is one of Muskoka's best fishing lakes, with an excellent reputation for both bass and pike. Back through the narrows and past Huntsville, the Mark O'Meara-designed Grandview Golf Course straddles the hills at the far end of Fairy Lake, where a canal dredged in 1886 will take you into Peninsula Lake. Pen Lake, as it is known, is home to the expansive Deerhurst Resort, home of world-class dining and golf and host to the 2010 G8 Summit. Around the namesake peninsula that dominates the lake lays Wolf Bay, where steamers once docked at North Portage and passengers and cargo rode the shortest commercially operated railway in the world to reach Lake of Bays beyond. The Portage Flyer has been fully restored and now runs out to a lookout on Fairy Lake from Muskoka Heritage Place in Huntsville.



**Lake of Bays**

Surface area: 67.6 square km  
 Islands: >30  
 Length: 19 km  
 Width: 15 km  
 Depth: Average 224 m, maximum 70 m

Tucked away from major centres and thoroughfares, Lake of Bays' quiet, scenic shores are dotted with coves and inlets and bays of all sizes. Bigwin Island and a large, irregular peninsula bisect the lake. Lake of Bays forms a (very) rough triangle, with a village at each point — Baysville to the southwest, Dorset to the east and Dwight to the north. Dorset is home to the one-of-a-kind Robinson's General Store, great dining and spectacular views from the top of the Fire Tower. Baysville boasts several charming shops and eateries and hosts an Antique and Classic Boat and Car Show every August. Craftspeople in Dwight are hard at work making everything from fine canoes to some of the best baked goods around, and the sandy beach is home to an annual fireworks display. Near the end

of the peninsula is Port Cunnington, where members of one of the area's earliest settlers still help run the lodge he started at his lakefront home 126 years ago. One of Canada's finest golf courses graces the grounds of the former Bigwin Inn on Bigwin Island, where Clark Gable and Carole Lombard once honeymooned. Today, the inn's Marine Dining Room remains as part of the Bigwin Golf Club, one of Canada's finest courses. Rugged and scenic, Lake of Bays is a fine example of the treasures of Muskoka's lakes.

Countless others in the region hold their own charms as well, and with names such as Skeleton, Go Home, Sparrow, Kahshe and Gloucester Pool, you can be sure mysteries, adventure, quiet respite and whatever else you may be seeking on the water can be found on Muskoka's lakes.

With thanks to the District of Muskoka Geographic Information System. An online Muskoka Web Map is available at [map.muskoka.on.ca](http://map.muskoka.on.ca).

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# Wildlife

**M**uskoka's wilderness environment is home to an exciting variety of northern wildlife. These range from large moose and laughing loons to the rare massasauga rattlesnake and Ontario's only lizard, the five-lined skink.

For a close encounter with some of the region's natural inhabitants explore a quiet backwater in a canoe or kayak, or take a hike on one of Muskoka's many trails.

An early-morning hike along a trail that follows an undisturbed shoreline presents many opportunities to view the region's wild denizens. Dark-coloured mink hunt along the banks, searching for an unsuspecting frog, or

a breakfast of crayfish. Endlessly energetic, they are as at home in the water as on shore, diving underwater and leaving a trail of bubbles on the surface to show their progress. Raccoons own the same watery environment as their natural home, being totally comfortable paddling in the shallows for prey.

Chance may provide a glimpse of an otter family carousing along a stream or river. Much larger relatives of the mink, these playful animals spend most of their time in the water, even in winter, so find Muskoka's innumerable lakes a more than suitable habitat.

White-tailed deer come down to the water's edge for a



drink, while much larger moose are found knee-deep in a beaver pond, munching aquatic vegetation. Both may be accompanied by one or two young of the year. A secluded bay plays host to a flotilla of mergansers probing the water in search of minnows. One hen may be accompanied by a dozen or more ducklings.

As the trail leads out of the low wetlands and into the wooded uplands it brings a chorus of birdsong – one of the most vibrant to be found almost anywhere. Thrushes echo their flute-like notes from deep within the woods, colourful warblers call their chants from the trees and bushes, and the white-throated sparrow whistles its 'Pure, sweet Canada, Canada, Canada' song from the forest floor.

When venturing up onto the rocky ridges keep an eye out for reptiles sunning themselves on the open rocks. A variety of snakes – hognose and milk snakes, and even massausaga rattlesnakes – frequent these locations. Don't be alarmed. They are not aggressive and are not often seen, preferring to slither quietly away at your approach. As a precaution, be sure to wear closed-toe footwear and full-length pants. These rocky barrens are also home to the five-lined skink. These colourful lizards move quickly, so watch carefully. The Torrance Barrens, located between Bala and Gravenhurst in southern Muskoka, is a known habitat for many of these reptiles. This spectacular area is also a designated Dark Sky Reserve, well-known for its superb star-gazing opportunities at any time of the year.



Getting out on to Muskoka's many lakes and rivers in a canoe or kayak is another way to experience the region's flora and fauna. Loons spend most of their time on the lakes. These beautiful black and white birds may have one or two young riding on their backs in the early summer. The parents take turns, with one providing the chicks a free ride while the other dives for a fish dinner. Their large size and striking pattern are unmistakable, but their haunting calls are famous. They are especially vocal in the evening and frequently call through the night, crying back and forth to each other with a mix of wild yodels and laughter. It's a signature northern experience, one of many awaiting anyone willing to seek out Muskoka's wilder side. 🍷

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# Weddings

**A**s a destination wedding location, Muskoka has it all. Beautiful in all seasons with a variety of venues and accommodations to suit any taste, couples are choosing to welcome their wedding guests to experience Muskoka.

It is a destination known around the world.

The most popular time is summer, with brides and grooms taking advantage of lakeside living with everything from cocktails on the dock to saying their vows on a historic steamship.

Those looking for a destination wedding are inviting

guests to share a weekend at a Muskoka resort. With the diversity available, the couple can select a five-course meal by a world-renowned hotel chef or create a perfect menu using one of the area's many experienced and talented caterers.

The bride may arrive in an antique wooden boat. A red canoe filled with ice and drinks is a self-serve bar. Guests lounge lakeside as they are served hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

Growing in popularity are early fall and early-summer weddings. Some mid-size accommodations welcome the wedding party to take over all the rooms and have



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full run of the resort for a weekend. In their free time, guests enjoy the resort amenities.

It can start with Friday-night cocktails or gathering around an outdoor fire, followed by a group breakfast Saturday morning, with a fishing trip or a spa experience for members of the wedding party. The wedding ceremony, dinner and dance are the weekend focus and then everyone joins together again Sunday morning for a brunch and send-off.

Winter weddings can take place outdoors or just take advantage of the Muskoka scenery for photos. Couples have been known to do some skating, skiing, snowboarding and even snowmobiling on the big day. They may arrive by horse and sleigh and even enjoy a dogsled run.

Guests can come out and enjoy the fun or bask in the warmth indoors at the venue selected for dinner and celebration.

Spring and fall offer more options. The area's spectacular autumn foliage makes a perfect backdrop for the big day. The quiet of spring and the awakening of a new season is a wonderful time to start a new life together.

A destination wedding in Muskoka can be designed to be the perfect celebration for the special couple and a mini-vacation for friends and family. 🍷

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# Trails

## **D**ISCOVER MUSKOKA – NO ENGINES REQUIRED.

Exploring the region's extensive trail system is an essential Muskoka experience for those seeking leisure at a slower pace or the exhilaration of exploration. Muskoka is indeed reputed for its lakes, but venturing off the waterways rewards travellers with windswept rocky vistas, tree-rooted paths and lush, forested trails, enhanced by sightings of its indigenous animal species. In all seasons, the beauty of Muskoka's natural environment can be discovered.

## **WINTER IS THE NEW SUMMER.**

You will feel differently about winter during a snow-

shoe trek or while cross-country skiing on a crisp, sunny day. There are plenty of well-groomed trails that cater to all levels of fitness ability. Muskoka's ice-skating trails take a winter family activity to a new level and can be enjoyed by day or tiki torchlight by night. For more extreme sports enthusiasts, the increasingly popular "fat biking" is a great way to cover more ground at a faster pace across the winter landscapes.

No gear? No worries. Many local businesses provide rental services for all equipment needs. Some great spots for multi-day use in the winter months are located at Arrowhead Provincial Park, Huntsville; Bracebridge



Resource Management Centre, Bracebridge and Echo Valley Nature & Bike Trails, Dwight.

### SPRING FEVER

In early spring, hiking near the flow of a rushing river or visiting any one of Muskoka's waterfalls is sensational. Wilson's Falls Trail in Bracebridge is a scenic, challenging 3.6-km trail winding around a branch of the Muskoka River. It is also close to the Bracebridge Bay trail, an easier in-town trail that winds around the bay and the historic Bracebridge Falls. It is a great choice for those seeking to tour the main street's eclectic shops and restaurants.

Further out, the Ragged Falls Oxtongue River trail is only 1 km long but it offers a great view of the Ragged Falls. It is just off Hwy. 60 near the Algonquin Park

border and contains many features of local significance. For convenience, there is an accessible parking lot, washrooms and marked hiking trails that lead to a look-out over the falls.

### SUMMER SPLENDOR

Who doesn't love summer in Muskoka? There are spectacular sights in the summer months and full accessibility to all trails. In-town trails offer boardwalks and public docks for gorgeous views of Muskoka's greater lakes with proximity to shops, services, dining and markets. Noteworthy in-town trails are at the Wharf in Gravenhurst, the Bala Historic Walk and the Dorset Village Walking Trail. A choice day trip is the Port Carling Mural Walk which links Hannah Park Beach, to James Bartleman Park to the fanciful shops and galleries near the locks in Port Carling.



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For adventurous guests, Algonquin Park offers guided evening wolf howl expeditions (safely) by car and where appropriate, on foot in August. There are trails for day excursions in the park as well where hikers holding out bread crusts will be met by boreal grey jays gathering their winter stores. Stargazing at the Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Preserve is a must on the ultimate summer vacation activity list. Torrance Barrens covers 4,707 acres, the landscape characterized



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by ancient Precambrian shield. At the Torrance Barrens, constellations and planets can be seen along the inspirational panorama of our Milky Way galaxy on a cool, clear summer or early-autumn evening. On occasion, the northern lights (aurora borealis) are visible – often as greenish wisps but sometimes as spectacular curtains of colour.

**AUTUMN GRANDEUR**

Hiking and biking enthusiasts will want to venture to Muskoka’s most scenic lookout points to take in the colourful vistas of vibrant forest canopy and tree-covered islands across the lakes. Some of the most picturesque sights are at Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail near Milford Bay between Bracebridge and Port Carling. Plus, see what inspired the famous Group of

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Seven at Algonquin Park's scenic Lookout Trail located off Hwy. 60, just outside of Huntsville.

The Dorset Scenic Tower is a climb, but worth the expansive view of Lake of Bays. For those afraid of heights, there is a short, but lushly forested hiking trail winding around the hillside. All locations have accessible parking. Autumn also boasts a great climate for cyclists seeking challenging landscapes and an adrenaline rush. Multi-use and biking specific trails can be found on various trail maps throughout the region.

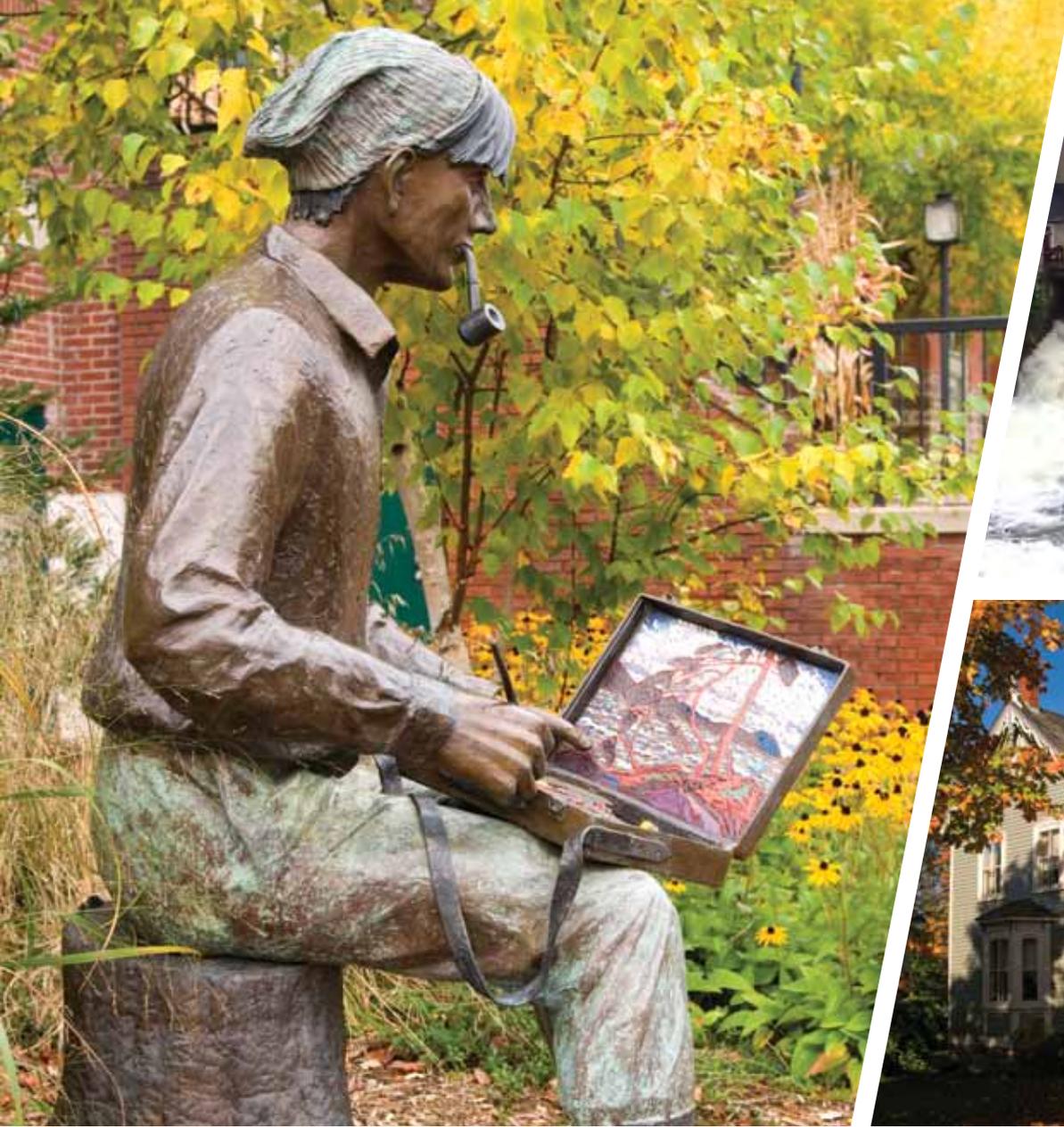
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Plan a day trip, a weekend or however long you can get away from the bustle and grind. Muskoka's trails offer the best outdoor experiences in all seasons. Whether by bike, snowshoe, cross-country ski or simply shoes and camera; pack your gear and go! For more information, visit [muskokatrailscouncil.com](http://muskokatrailscouncil.com).

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# Arts & Culture

**T**he red of a monarch butterfly contrasts with the deep green of the ferns lining the banks of the Muskoka River. Reflected in the shimmering water are hundred-year-old pine trees dancing with the ripples. A warm breeze lifts the flaps of the white tents and brushes the faces of the artisans who have travelled from across the country to display their works. Each year, the Muskoka Arts and Crafts Show attracts 20,000 visitors who come to view the exquisite work in the natural setting that frames it. Moving from tent to tent, admirers travel from the world of the stained-glass artist to the fine jeweller, visiting next the woodworker and the potter.

From Claude Debussy's portrayal of a clear night with the much-loved Clair de Lune to the Group of Seven capturing the rugged beauty of Georgian Bay, artists have long sought inspiration in the majesty of the natural world. Muskoka is a beacon to the artistic soul and is the proud home of a very prominent and active community of artisans, musicians, actors, and writers. As such, culture is intricately woven into the fabric of Muskoka.

Imagine taking a step into the world of the artist by visiting a small studio nestled into a quiet cove. Live the creative process firsthand with the Muskoka Autumn

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Studio Tour by joining artists in their studios, watching them sculpt, paint and mould their mediums. Spend time learning about how the area inspires their work.

Spanning across Muskoka and Algonquin Park, the Group of Seven Outdoor Gallery celebrates the artists who found inspiration in the majesty of the area's landscape. Ninety-eight mural replicas of the artists' work encourage admirers to learn about the Group of Seven while experiencing the outdoors that so influenced them.

Bringing the arts outdoors is a trademark of Muskoka. The highly acclaimed Huntsville Festival of the Arts is a celebration of the artistic spirit in all of its forms, from classical to contemporary music, dance, theatre and literature. With open air venues like the Town Centre's outdoor gazebo and the Huntsville Waterfront, music mingles with the sound of lapping water, rustling leaves and birdsong, lending a Muskokan touch to the experience.

Music and theatre lovers have an impressive array of intimate indoor and outdoor venues to choose from. Whether a comedy show at the historic Gravenhurst Opera House, an intimate concert experience at Peter's Place or Prism Theatre's outdoor performance of Shakespeare classics, Muskoka offers something for everyone.



Perhaps Muskoka's most well-known and loved musical venue is The Kee to Bala, a concert hall that has seen the likes of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and Rush. This wooden structure, built out over Bala Bay, has been a part of Muskokan life since 1942. Concert goes float in through the big doors to the natural wood deck overlooking the bay, gazing up at the stars while the music floats out over the water. The bass reverberates through the deck boards today as it has for the past 70 years, creating a truly special Muskoka moment.

The Kee to Bala is a symbol of how Muskoka's rich and colourful history lives on today. Museums enjoy a prominent place in the culture landscape, honouring the area's past and connecting it to the present. Walk through the doors of an original pioneer log cabin at the Muskoka Lakes Museum to capture a glimpse of life on a 19th-century homestead. Travel through time to the museum's Resort Room and step into an early-20th-century resort lobby. For a hands-on pioneer experience, visit the Muskoka Heritage Place's Pioneer Village and be guided through candle making, pioneer baking and blacksmithing in a recreated village honouring early life in Muskoka.

The allure of the Muskoka resort era lives on at the Discovery Centre (formally known as the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre) in Gravenhurst, housing an impressive collection of artifacts and archives dating to the time when steamships travelled the lakes. Visitors take part in interactive displays and are transported back to a glamorous time of grand resorts, big-band music and the tinkling of Champagne glasses.

Perhaps the most iconic symbol of Muskoka is the wooden boat, the deep rumble of its engine, the sun glinting off a polished mahogany deck. A visit to Grace and Speed's Boathouse introduces enthusiasts to the splendour of the handmade Muskoka wooden boat with a floating museum of working vessels crafted by local boat builders. The annual Antique and Classic Boat Show, July 9, is another opportunity to explore how Muskoka's rich past lives on while enjoying a day spent along the shores of Lake Muskoka, the steamship RMS Segwun providing a backdrop like no other.

Muskoka is a special place; it inspires and connects us. The natural beauty and rich history combine to create a unique cultural tapestry like nowhere else. Every weekend, a lone bagpiper rehearses at the Bracebridge falls, the haunting sound drifting across the water and downtown. Perhaps the open air speaks to his spirit and creativity. This is Muskoka. 🍁

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# Golf in Paradise

**T**hanks to its spectacular scenery and proximity to Toronto — it's just two hours' drive from Canada's largest city — Muskoka has been luring tourists northward for close to 150 years. While the big draw remains its countless pristine lakes, vast unspoiled tracts of forest and varied wildlife (many of the region's existing resorts started out as hunting lodges), these days Muskoka is as likely to appeal to sports enthusiasts looking for a little action and adventure as it will those looking for a spot of rest and relaxation.

Despite its rugged terrain — perhaps because of its rugged topography — Muskoka has also earned a well-

deserved reputation for its superlative golf. In fact, cottage country is now home to more golf courses than any reasonable players could expect to handle in a season, with estimates of total yardage being somewhere in the region of 166,000 yards from the white blocks, 155,000 from the blue. From picture-perfect, park-like nine-hole courses to extremely challenging championship 18-hole affairs literally carved out of the Canadian Shield, Muskoka's more than 30 golf courses offer something for players of all levels.

Wherever you tee off — you're never more than a few minutes (or yards) from great golf in Muskoka — the region's abundance of trees, rocks and water provide



a unique backdrop you'll not find anywhere else in the world. It's an incredible landscape that has inspired some of the industry's best-known course designers to show off a little as they express their wild side. Rather than shy away from the endless granite, great course designers such as George Cummings, Stanley Thompson, Nick Faldo and Doug Carrick chose to ensure their courses look as natural as possible, and they succeeded. In most cases, they blend in so well, you'd be forgiven for thinking they've always been there.

**A RICH HISTORY OF GOLF**

While Muskoka these days is considered a world-class

golf destination — The Globe and Mail's Globegolf magazine recently rated the region one of Canada's top six golf destinations and included three Muskoka courses in its list of the country's top 100 courses — the sport experienced somewhat humble beginnings here. The region's first course, built adjoining the historic Windermere House resort, was established in 1919 as a semi-private golf and tennis facility catering to guests. The core group behind the course included some of Toronto's leading bankers, merchants and barristers — most of them summer residents— who took it upon themselves to build the course to make the area an even more desirable place to vaca-



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tion. Land was purchased, and the then-head professional at Toronto Golf Club, George Cumming, was retained to design it. Although plans were for an 18-hole course, only nine holes were initially developed, though this was increased a few holes at a time, until finally reaching a full 18 holes some decades later.

While the course's \$1 green fees are very much a thing of the past, golfing in Muskoka needn't break the bank. The area boasts a number of excellent value-for-money options, from a handful of nine-hole public courses perfect for families to a number of affordable mid-range 18-holers that offer enough challenge to still be entertaining for more experienced players. And for more serious golfers, there's no end of choice, from championship public courses that regularly boast celebrities and leaders of industry amongst their clientele, to members-only affairs set on their own private islands.

Whatever your preferred level of expenditure, Muskoka's got something for all levels of golfer. Framed by white birch, hemlock, pine and maple trees, deep bunkers, granite outcroppings, spectacular views, ponds, marshes and abundant wildlife, it's a golf experience you won't soon forget. 🌿

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# Accommodations

**M**uskoka is best enjoyed when your visit lasts more than a day and there are a number of accommodation options that can allow you to soak it all in.

One way to unwind is staying at a relaxing Muskoka resort, perfect for both families and couples. Many of the resorts have a long history of being the grandest properties on the lakes. The charming Port Cunnington Lodge recently celebrated their 125th anniversary. Windermere House is another grand resort on Lake Rosseau, founded in 1870. They've kept the charm and elegance with modern

facilities, offering 54 rooms and suites for guests. Fine Canadiana cuisine is featured in their dining outlets, which are operated by Oliver and Bonacini Restaurants. In Gravenhurst, Taboo Muskoka is located on a beautiful stretch of Lake Muskoka, with luxurious accommodations, and its golf course has been voted one of Canada's top 50 courses. Luxury also awaits at JW Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka Resort and Spa. Ranked as No. 6 of the top 20 Resorts in Canada by readers of a popular travel magazine, the views of Lake Rosseau here are stunning and you can rejuvenate yourself at the full-service spa.



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If you're looking for something a little more personal and quaint, experience the warm hospitality of one of Muskoka's many bed-and-breakfasts. Learn about the history of the area and get tips and suggestions from your hosts on what to see and do. Fern Glen Inn is a four-season bed-and-breakfast located on 120 acres, 20 kilometres north of Huntsville. Five guestrooms are available in the restored century farmhouse and a hot breakfast is included every day. Relax in the hot tub (seasonal) after hiking on the 10 kilometres of private trails. Robbins Tuktawayin B&B is a casual cottage-style waterfront home on Gull Lake. There are two rooms to choose from and you can swim or boat from the private dock. Enjoy the beautiful sunrises or sunsets from the Muskoka Room or porch in the summer. Seasonal packages are also available.

Cottage resorts and lodges combine the privacy of a cottage with all of the amenities of outdoor activities.

You can prepare your own meals or opt for the property's meal plan. Patterson Kaye Resort is located on the Muskoka River in Bracebridge and offers a variety of cottage sizes. If you need a night off from cooking, enjoy a chef-made meal at Patterson Kaye's restaurant, Seasons.

For a more private getaway, enjoy the benefits of cottage living by renting your own place by the lake for a week, month or season.

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Cottage-rental companies can help you find the perfect property with a range of options for your budget and needs.

If you're looking for a true outdoor experience, Muskoka features a number of provincial and national parks for camping. Arrowhead Provincial Park in Huntsville can be visited year-round, with biking and hiking trails, fishing and swimming in the summer, and cross-country skiing and outdoor ice skating in the winter. Santa's Village Whispering Pines in Bracebridge is a campground and trailer park located next to the Muskoka River and was voted Best Campground in Muskoka in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.





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**[www.travelodge.com](http://www.travelodge.com)**



Both tent and trailer sites are available, as well as yurts and cabins for a unique camping experience. At the Gravenhurst/Muskoka KOA Campground, visitors can opt for open or shaded sites, rent a canoe or rowboat and play on the on-site par-3 golf course. There is also a wading and heated swimming pool, as well as a stocked trout pond for fishing, plus horseshoe pits and volleyball.

Whether you choose to check in at a historic resort by the lake or pitch a tent on a campsite, your stay in Muskoka will be a memorable one. [↗](#)



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# On the Water

**A** day spent on the water in Muskoka is a day like no other. The contemplative stillness of the surface in the light of dawn beckons as the long, golden light draws through the mist. Moose and deer come to the water's edge, loons dive, and ducks and beavers leave small V-shaped wakes as they begin their days. You barely stir the mist as you pass, gliding along the glass-like water on a stand-up paddleboard.

Paddleboarding may be the simplest and most serene way to get out on the water, and the zen-like mindset it can encourage lends itself to activities ranging from tranquil sightseeing to yoga classes.

As the sun rises farther, you may feel like paddling out a little farther, perhaps weaving through the reeds and lilies up a stream in a canoe or exploring the smooth-rounded rocks and windswept pines of the 30,000 Islands of Muskoka's Georgian Bay shore in a kayak. For the more adventurous, kayaking through rapids on the Black River reveals a side of Muskoka many never imagine.

Kayaks and canoes are so much a part of the boating tradition in Muskoka that many are built right here in the region, finely crafted by artisans and larger manufacturers alike. Muskoka has a rich heritage of



boat building, and the fine wooden craft produced by manufacturers like Ditchburn, Greavette and Duke are celebrated every year at antique and classic boat shows around the region, in Muskoka's museums and at the boathouse-style Grace and Speed Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre in Gravenhurst, where many classic beauties can be seen in their natural habitat; on the water.

Perhaps, like in that golden era of Muskoka boatbuilding, you'd like to pack a picnic lunch in a wicker basket and take a "dippy" to a small island and dine in the shade of frilled parasols. The disappearing propeller mechanism was invented more than 100 years ago in a small machine shop in Port Sandfield by Edwin Rogers and W.J. "Billy" Johnston. John-

ston built a factory in Port Carling, and the boats he manufactured are beloved and revered by collectors still today. The propeller and drive shaft could be lifted up into a housing above the keel, which allowed the little motorboat to navigate through the shallowest and rockiest of channels and then resume pattering along at a modest rate, making it ideal for that noon-hour picnic excursion.

With lunch in your belly and the afternoon sun sparkling across the waters, you may feel the need for more speed than a dippy could ever dream of, and Muskoka's marinas have nearly whatever kind of boat you could be looking for. You'll find fishing launches, speedy runabouts, family pontoon cruisers or something sleek designed just for fast towing for sale or



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rent, and then there's the toys. Waterskis, wakeboards, tubing, wakeskates, kneeboards, parasails, even jetskis, and flyboards — the ways to have fun on the water are almost limitless; all you need is some horsepower and your imagination. Safety equipment is a must, and remember there are others out enjoying the lake their own way as well. Courtesy for everyone on the water and on the shore is essential; watch your wake and speed in marked zones, and keep any eye out for other boats, boarders, swimmers and wildlife.

After an exhilarating afternoon, it's time to relax with friends for dinner; why not boat into town and dine on the docks? Great waterside dining can be found around the lakes and steps from the docks in Bala, Port Carling, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, Baysville, Dor-

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set and Huntsville. If you'd like to stay on the water, why not take a dinner cruise on one of Muskoka's famous steamships or classic sightseeing vessels?

After dinner as the sun gets low and the waves calm is the perfect time to head out, cut the motor and do some fishing. Pike, bass and trout are all plentiful, and fishing guides and charter captains know all the best spots to find the perfect fish for a trophy mount or the frying pan or grill.

Come home slow in the sunset and take your charts with you after you dock so you can plan your next day's adventure. Muskoka's lakes can take all summer to explore, and there's something to see around every island and every bay. Travel from Lake Muskoka into Lake Rosseau through the locks at Port Carling, and then into Lake Joseph from Lake Rosseau through the canal under the Port Sandfield swing bridge. In the

Huntsville area Mary Lake, Fairy Lake, Lake Vernon, and Peninsula Lake are all connected, by locks, canals, or the Muskoka River. And one of the world's greatest waterways - the Trent-Severn - wends its way across the southern reach of the region along the Severn River and through Sparrow Lake, Gloucester Pool and Little Lake to Port Severn on Georgian Bay. In addition to the locks along the way is the incredible Big Chute Marine Railway, where a large, cable-driven lift lowers itself into the water to take boats up to 30 metres long into its slings and carry them out and up over an 18-metre height of land and gently back into the water on the other side.

Whatever your boating destination, your next day on the water in Muskoka promises to be full of new adventures and amazing experiences. 🍷



# Muskoka in Photos



















# Events in Muskoka

## MARCH 2016

### March 14 –April 23

Muskoka Maple Trail  
[www.discovermuskoka.ca/muskoka-maple-trail](http://www.discovermuskoka.ca/muskoka-maple-trail)

## APRIL 2016

### April 22-24

Muskoka Home & Cottage Show  
 Bracebridge Memorial Arena  
[muskokabuilders.com](http://muskokabuilders.com)

### April 23

Muskoka Maple Festival  
[discovermuskoka.ca/muskoka-maple-festival](http://discovermuskoka.ca/muskoka-maple-festival)

## MAY 2016

### May 4

Spring Fashion Show  
 Gravenhurst BIA  
[www.gravenhurstbia.com](http://www.gravenhurstbia.com)

### May 7

Baysvilles' Giant Garage Sale  
[www.baysvilleontario.com/baysville-events](http://www.baysvilleontario.com/baysville-events)

### May 21

Muskoka Heritage Place Opening Day, Huntsville  
[muskokaheritageplace.org](http://muskokaheritageplace.org)

### May 21

Muskoka Lakes Museum Opening Day 10am - 4pm, Port Carling  
[www.mlmuseum.com/special-events](http://www.mlmuseum.com/special-events)

### May 28

Spin the Lakes Tour  
 Huntsville  
[www.bikemuskoka.ca](http://www.bikemuskoka.ca)

### May 27

Huntsville Festival's May Marche  
[huntsvillefestival.on.ca](http://huntsvillefestival.on.ca)

## JUNE 2016

### June 4

Port Sydney Wide Garage Sale  
[www.portsydneycofc.com](http://www.portsydneycofc.com)

### June 11

Huntsville Half: Band on the Run  
[www.bandontherun.ca](http://www.bandontherun.ca)

### June 18

23rd Annual Gravenhurst Car Show  
[gravenhurstchamber.com](http://gravenhurstchamber.com)

### June 11

Santa's Village Season Opening Day  
 Bracebridge  
[www.santasvillage.ca](http://www.santasvillage.ca)

### June 19

Father's Day Car Show  
 Bracebridge 9am-3pm  
[downtownbracebridge.com](http://downtownbracebridge.com)

### June 19

Father's Day Cruise  
 Lady Muskoka Bracebridge  
[www.ladymuskoka.com](http://www.ladymuskoka.com)

### June 19

Father's Day Cruise  
 Muskoka Steamships  
 Gravenhurst  
[www.realmuskoka.com](http://www.realmuskoka.com)

### June 25

Baysville Surf "n' Turf  
[www.baysvilleriverfront.ca/surfandturf.html](http://www.baysvilleriverfront.ca/surfandturf.html)

### June 25-26

The Muskoka Powerboat Races  
 Rotary Gull Lake Park  
 Gravenhurst  
[www.torc.ca](http://www.torc.ca)

Events cont. on 52



**June 25**  
Spring into Summer  
Art Crawl  
Key locations around  
Gravenhurst  
[www.gravenhurstbia.com](http://www.gravenhurstbia.com)

## JULY 2016

**July 2016**  
Kaleidoscope  
Summer Arts Camp  
[muskokachautauqua.com](http://muskokachautauqua.com)

**Summer 2016**  
Huntsville Festival's 24th  
Season  
[huntsvillefestival.on.ca](http://huntsvillefestival.on.ca)

**July 1**  
Dominion Day  
Strawberry Social &  
Steam-up Day, Huntsville  
[muskokaheritageplace.org](http://muskokaheritageplace.org)

**July 1**  
Port Sydney Canada Day  
Celebration  
[www.portsydneycofc.com](http://www.portsydneycofc.com)

**July 1**  
Canada Day Celebrations  
Starting at 4pm  
Along Manitoba St.  
[downtownbracebridge.com](http://downtownbracebridge.com)

**July 1**  
Canada Day Fireworks-  
Bracebridge Bay  
[bracebridgefireworks.com](http://bracebridgefireworks.com)

**July 1**  
Canada Day Celebrations  
JW Marriott Muskoka  
Resort & Spa, Minett  
5pm-7pm & 10pm-11pm  
[muskokachautauqua.com](http://muskokachautauqua.com)

**July 1**  
Canada Day Celebrations  
Town of Huntsville  
[www.huntsville.ca](http://www.huntsville.ca)

**July 1**  
Canada Day Quiz  
Muskoka Lakes Museum  
Port Carling  
[www.mlmuseum.com](http://www.mlmuseum.com)

**July 1**  
Canada Day Cruise  
Lady Muskoka,  
Bracebridge  
[www.ladymuskoka.com](http://www.ladymuskoka.com)

**July 1**  
Honey Harbour Canada  
Day Festival  
9am to 2pm

**July 2 -3**  
Bala Craft and Gift Fair  
[balacraftandgiftfair.com](http://balacraftandgiftfair.com)

**July 2-3**  
Bala Antique and  
Nostalgia Show

**July 8**  
Flavours of Muskoka  
Chautauqua  
JW Marriott, Minett  
6pm-9pm  
[muskokachautauqua.com](http://muskokachautauqua.com)

**July 8-10**  
Muskoka Pioneer Power  
Show, Bracebridge  
[muskokapioneerpower.ca](http://muskokapioneerpower.ca)

**July 9**  
Gravenhurst Vintage Boat  
Show  
[www.acbs.ca](http://www.acbs.ca)

**July 9**  
Santafest-Downtown  
Bracebridge

**July 9**  
Muskoka Escapades of  
Town Crying  
Bracebridge  
[www.towncrier.on.ca/blog](http://www.towncrier.on.ca/blog)

**July 9**  
Make a Splash  
Gravenhurst  
[www.gravenhurstbia.com](http://www.gravenhurstbia.com)

**July 10**  
IRONMAN 70.3 Muskoka  
Huntsville  
[ironmanmuskoka.com](http://ironmanmuskoka.com)

**July 15**  
Midnight Madness-  
Downtown Huntsville  
[huntsvilleadventures.com/  
cultural-events/](http://huntsvilleadventures.com/cultural-events/)

**July 15-17**  
Muskoka Arts & Crafts  
53rd Summer Show  
Annie Williams Memorial  
Park, Bracebridge  
[muskokaartsandcrafts.com](http://muskokaartsandcrafts.com)

**July 16**  
Butter Tart Festival  
Muskoka Lakes Museum  
Port Carling  
[www.mlmuseum.com](http://www.mlmuseum.com)

**July 16**  
Collectors Day 10-4  
Muskoka Lakes Museum  
[www.mlmuseum.com](http://www.mlmuseum.com)

**July 23-August 14**  
The Artful Garden  
Open Daily 10am to 5pm  
[www.theartfulgarden.ca](http://www.theartfulgarden.ca)

**July 23**  
Baysville Walkabout Fest.  
Over 120 Arts & Crafts  
vendors.  
[baysvillewalkabout.com](http://baysvillewalkabout.com)

**July 23**  
Loggers Day at Logging  
Museum km 55  
Algonquin Park  
[www.algonquinpark.on.ca](http://www.algonquinpark.on.ca)

**July 23**  
Everything Anne Day  
Bala's Museum  
705-762-5876  
@ 1:30pm  
[www.balasmuseum.com](http://www.balasmuseum.com)

**July 22-24**  
Muskoka Ribfest  
Muskoka Wharf,  
Gravenhurst  
[www.muskokashows.com](http://www.muskokashows.com)



**July 22-24**

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

**July 23**

Loggers Day  
Algonquin Park  
www.algonquinpark.on.ca

**July 24**

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

**July 29**

Midnight Madness,  
Bracebridge  
6pm to Midnight  
downtownbracebridge.com

**July 29-31**

MacTier Big Weekend  
bigweekendfestival.com

**July 30**

Muskoka Beer Festival  
Bracebridge  
muskokabeerfestival.ca

**July 30**

Fireworks Gravenhurst  
www.gravenhurst.ca

**AUGUST 2016**

**August 13-14**

Baysville Arts and Crafts  
Festival  
www.baysvilleriverfront.ca/  
artscraft.html

**August 12 -13**

Celebrate Gravenhurst  
www.gravenhurstbia.com

**August 13**

Honey Harbour Jazz  
Festival  
In Honey Harbour Park  
12pm-3pm

**August 6-7**

Muskoka Model Railway  
Show  
J.D. Lang Activity Park,  
Bracebridge  
muskokamodelrailwayclub.org/

**August 19-21**

23rd Dockside Festival of  
the Arts, Gravenhurst  
gravenhurstchamber.com

**August 21**

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

**August 17-26**

Muskoka ChautauquaFest  
Nine Day Feature Festival  
muskokachautauqua.com

**August 22-Sept. 30**

Alcuin society 2016  
Awards Display of Best  
Book Designs  
muskokachautauqua.com

**August 26-28**

33rd Annual Bracebridge  
Antique Sale  
Bracebridge Fairgrounds

**August 13-14**

Artists of the Limberlost  
Studio Weekend  
Huntsville  
artistsofthelimberlost.ca/

**August 20**

Summer Sidewalk Sale  
Huntsville  
huntsvilleadventures.com/  
cultural-events/

**August 23-25**

Opera Muskoka 2016  
muskokachautauqua.com

**August 19-21**

Cottage County Comedy  
Festival Various Venues  
www.cottagecomedy.com

**August 28**

Ironman Muskoka  
Huntsville  
www.ironman.com

**SEPTEMBER 2016**

**September 10**

Severn Bridge Fall Fair  
severnfair.org/

**September 10**

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

**September 17**

Classic and Car Show  
huntsvilledowntownhuntsville  
adventures.com

**September 16-18**

Bracebridge Fall Fair  
www.bracebridgefair.com

**September 30-October 2**

Culture Days Muskoka  
Lakes Museum,  
Port Carling  
mlmuseum.com

**September 24 - 25**

Muskoka Autumn  
Studio Tour  
muskokastudiotour.com

**September 23-25**

Huntsville Fall Fair  
huntvilleadventures.com

**September 30 – October 2**

What's Cooking  
Bracebridge

**OCTOBER 2016**

**October 2**

Local Colours – Bethune  
House, Gravenhurst  
muskokachautauqua.com

Events cont. on 54

**October 1 - 2**  
Muskoka Autumn  
Studio Tour  
muskokastudiotour.com

**October 1 -2**  
Bala Craft & Gift Fair  
balacraftandgiftfair.com

**October 1 – 2**  
Bala Antique & Nostalgia  
Show Sale

**October 8**  
Thanksgiving Open House  
Muskoka Lakes Museum,  
Port Carling  
www.mlmuseum.com

**October 9**  
Last Day of Season  
Muskoka Lakes Museum,  
Port Carling  
www.mlmuseum.com

**October 14-16**  
Bala Cranberry Festival  
balacranberryfestival.on.ca

**October 15**  
Bala's Museum  
CRAN-ANNE Contest  
Registration 1:30pm  
Judging 2pm  
www.balasmuseum.com

**October 22**  
Let the Spirits Rise  
Uptown Gravenhurst  
705-644-9392  
www.gravenhurstbia.com

**October 31**  
Umpteenth Annual Great  
Pumpkin Trail  
Muskoka Heritage Place  
Huntsville  
muskokaheritageplace.org

## NOVEMBER 2016

**November 4**  
Downtown Huntsville  
Girlfriends Getaway  
Fashion Show-  
Algonquin Theatre  
huntsvilleadventures.com/  
cultural-events/

**November 4 -6**  
Huntsville Girlfriends  
Getaway Weekend  
huntsvillegirlfriendsgetaway.ca

**November 5**  
Muskoka Lakes Christmas  
Market - Port Carling  
muskokalakeschamber.com

**November 12**  
Bala Santa Claus Parade  
muskokalakeschamber.com

**November 17**  
Community Christmas  
Tree Lighting Port Sydney  
www.portsydneycofc.com

**November 19-20**  
36th Annual Christmas  
Show and Sale  
Bracebridge Sportsplex  
muskokaartsandcrafts.com

**November 19**  
Port Carling Santa Claus  
Parade

**November 25**  
Black Friday & Community  
Christmas Kick off  
Gravenhurst  
705-644-9392  
www.gravenhurstbia.com

**November 25**  
Huntsville Santa Claus  
Parade  
huntsvilleadventures.com

**November 25**  
Annual Christmas Tree  
Lighting  
Bala Community Centre  
muskokalakeschamber.ca

**November 26**  
Gravenhurst Santa Claus  
Parade  
gravenhurstchamber.com

## DECEMBER 2016

**December 2**  
Santa's Moonlight shopping  
Party featuring the festival  
of the Lights, Bracebridge  
downtownbracebridge.com

**December 3**  
Bala's Trek to Bethlehem

**December 4**  
Rotary Bracebridge Santa  
Claus Parade  
bracebridgesantaparade.com

**December 11**  
Baysville Santa Claus  
Parade Only parade that  
goes around twice

**December 17**  
Portage Flyer Christmas  
Huntsville  
muskokaheritageplace.org

**December 24**  
Christmas Eve Torch Light  
Parade, Huntsville  
www.skihiddenvally.on.ca

**December 31**  
New Years Eve Fireworks,  
Huntsville  
www.skihiddenvally.on.ca

**December 17-20**  
SantaFest, Santa's Village,  
Bracebridge  
www.santasvillage.ca

**December 27-28**  
Thank Santa  
Santa's Village,  
Bracebridge  
www.santasvillage.ca

**May 18 to October 26**  
Gravenhurst Farmers'  
Market, Muskoka Wharf  
Across from Boston Pizza  
Wednesday's 9am – 2pm  
gravenhurstfarmersmarket.com

**May 21 to October 8**  
Bracebridge Farmers'  
Market, Memorial Park,  
beside Norwood Theatre  
Saturday's 8:30am – 1pm  
thebracebridgefarmersmarket.com

**May 19 to October 27**  
Huntsville Farmers' Market,  
Canadian Tire Parking Lot  
Thursday's 9am – 2pm

**July 1 to September 2**  
The Rosseau Market, at  
the waterfront  
Friday's 9am – 2pm  
www.rosseaumarket.com

**June 20 to August 29**  
Bala's Farmer's Market,  
Precambrian Shield  
Parking lot.  
Monday's until Sept 1st  
balafarmersmarket.com

**June 21 to Sept. 13**  
Dwight Farmers' Market  
1009 Dwight Beach Rd.  
Tuesdays 9am – 1 pm  
dwightfarmersmarket.ca

**July 1 to September 2**  
Baysville Farmers' Market,  
Baysville Corner Store,  
Friday afternoons  
baysvillefarmersmarket.com

**June 23 to September 1**  
Port Carling Farmers'  
Market, Hanna Park on  
Bailey Street, Thursday's  
until August 27th  
9am-2pm  
portcarlingfarmersmarket.com

## ONGOING

Summer Waterski Shows  
Show time:  
7:30 pm to 8:30pm  
summerwatersports.com/  
shows/#MuskokaShows  
Monday's: Clevelands  
House Resort, Minett  
Tuesday's: Windsor Park,  
Bala  
Wednesday's: Boston  
Pizza, Gravenhurst  
Thursday's: Bayview  
Wildwood Resort, Sparrow  
Lake

[discovermuskoka.ca](http://discovermuskoka.ca)  
For event details.



# Winter

**W**inter used to be Muskoka's best-kept secret, but it's hard to keep something so amazing under wraps for long, and word has gotten out. Now, people flock to Muskoka every year to do things a little more adventurous than just enjoy a hot drink in front of the fire while the snow drifts down outside.

One of the fastest-growing winter sports to hit the region is 'fat-biking,' which is a great way to get out for some thrills and speed in the woods. Fat bikes have

extra-large, extra-wide tires — perfect for gripping the snow on a packed-down trail. Several places including Liv Outside Muskoka have created fat-bike trails and because of their low impact, the bikes are welcome on many snowmobile and snowshoeing trails as well.

Snowmobiling remains a major attraction in Muskoka in the winter, with more than 1,600 kilometres of trails crisscrossing the region and interconnecting with trails across the province. Muskoka is an ideal destination for



someone looking to enjoy its great resorts and delicious dining between day excursions on their sleds, or for the long-distance snowmobiler travelling through.

If you prefer non-motorized sledding, there are plenty of hills and parks to choose from for tobogganing and tubing, or go cross country behind a dog team. Dogsledging adventures can be booked through certain resorts and private operators; if you prefer to just watch, every February the village of Rosseau is the finish line for the Seguin Sled Dog Mail Run, a great day out for the whole family. Many resorts and stables also offer horse-drawn sleigh rides, which still remains one of the most magi-

cal and romantic ways to get out and enjoy the beauty of the winter woods.

Skiing has long been one of Muskoka's great winter attractions and cross-country trails and clubs abound. The rhythmic sound of your skis shushing through the snow as you glide through the woods with beautiful scenery all around makes cross-country skiing a perfect way to experience Muskoka zen. There's also great downhill skiing to be found at Hidden Valley in the hills overlooking Peninsula Lake outside Huntsville and some amazing dining and accommodations to be found for your après ski activities.



For the more adventurous, backcountry skiing brings all the fun of cross-country skiing, but allows you to break free from track-set trails and go “offroading” wherever you might like to explore. The skis themselves are similar to cross-country, except a little wider and a little shorter to provide stability and maneuverability for whatever conditions you’ll find when you’re breaking trail. Backcountry skiing is a great way to revisit some of Muskoka’s most iconic landscapes in winter; the Torrance Barrens, for example, is a whole different world in the winter.

Many people will combine a backcountry skiing or snowshoe excursion with an ice climbing, ice fishing or

winter camping adventure. Ice fishing has long been a draw on Muskoka’s lakes and there’s nothing like pulling a beautiful lake trout or whitefish out and putting it right on the grill at your ice hut.

Ashore, the rocky cliffs and sunny days make for excellent icefalls, and by February and March the conditions are perfect for ice climbing in Muskoka. Ropes, axes, crampons and stunning views are the calling cards of this exhilarating activity.

Day adventures abound in Huntsville’s famous Arrowhead Provincial Park, where the ice skating trail



has gone viral with almost 320,000 YouTube views of Muskoka Tourism’s video alone, and photos from the trail recently had Kelly Ripa and Michael Strahan raving about it on ABC’s *Live With Kelly & Michael*. The park also features excellent cross-country skiing with more than 30 kilometres of trails for all ages and skill levels, snowshoeing trails, a tubing hill, warm-up huts and an open bonfire pit for relaxing around after a busy day enjoying the snow.

Make a weekend — or a week — of it in the park by “glamping” in one of Arrowhead’s winter cabins, or book a site in nearby Algonquin Provincial Park, where Mew Lake campground is open year-round and the park offers a wide range of winter activities. Stay in a yurt, settle in with your own four-seasons trailer or RV, or build a quinzee shelter in the snow and enjoy a winter night the old fashioned way, warmed by your own body heat nestled in a temporary cave of ice and snow.

You can take your winter camping with you, if you prefer, as advances in tents and gear have made winter camping more comfortable now than ever before. Pack a “hot tent” and a lightweight portable woodstove with your gear into a pulk cargo sled and pull it behind you on your skis or snowshoes and enjoy the comforts of home wherever you choose to stop.

Of course, there’s nothing wrong with enjoying those comforts in a beautiful cabin or at one of Muskoka’s world-renowned resorts, if that’s more to your liking. Relax with a drink in front of the fireplace and enjoying the peaceful silence of snow covering the world around you in a pristine blanket of white while you wrap in a cozy blanket of your own. A good book, a good friend, and a good glass of wine may be all you need to enjoy the beauty of Muskoka in the winter. 🍷



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# Dining

**B**e prepared to stimulate your senses of smell, sight and taste when experiencing the culinary arts in Muskoka.

Start your journey by strolling through one of Muskoka's eight farmers' markets. There is a market you can visit six out of the seven days of the week, with most running from either Victoria Day or late June through to Labour Day or Thanksgiving. The Bala Farmers' Market, located in the Precambrian Shield parking lot by the Bala Falls, overlooks the Moon River and you can get there by boat or car. You can also travel by boat or car to the Port Carling Farmers' Market, held Thursdays at Hanna Park on the Indian

River. Bracebridge's and Huntsville's markets can be experienced Saturdays and the Gravenhurst market can be found on the special events field across from the Muskoka Wharf on Wednesdays. You can also visit the markets in Baysville, Dwight and Rosseau. Every market boasts fresh, local and organic produce, deli meats and baked goods, hand-crafted arts, gourmet food retailers and more.

And if you want to go straight to the source, take a tour of some of Muskoka's farms. Brooklands Farm has been a family operation for six generations, tapping trees for maple syrup, offering pick-your-own berries and fresh vegetables at its farm stall. There

are a number of farms for fresh produce and meats, as well as farms for maple syrup, fungi, lavender and honey, to name just a few. Johnston's Cranberry Marsh in Bala is also a popular attraction, where berries have been grown through three family generations. See how the cranberries grow on the farm either by tractor-pulled wagon or a walking tour, walking through the vines.

Muskoka is also making its mark in the craft-beer industry, with three of its breweries earning recognition across the country. Muskoka Brewery in Bracebridge believes in handcrafting beers focusing on freshness and quality ingredients, without the use of additives or preservatives. Lake of Bays Brewing Company in Baysville aims to stay true to its northern roots, making premium beer in small batches using all-natural ingredients. Sawdust City Brewing in Gravenhurst is dedicated to the art and science of creating craft beer, expanding the borders of traditional flavour profiles along the way. There's even something for wine lovers at Muskoka Lakes Winery, located at Johnston's Cranberry Marsh. Open year-round, visitors can take part in the 'Bog to Bottle Tour' and sample varieties of fruit wines, including the signature cranberry wine.

After all the shopping at the markets, and sampling beer and wine, the culinary journey through Muskoka

does not end. The area boasts numerous restaurants offering a variety of cuisines by talented chefs. You can find casual, high-quality pub fare at the Griffin Gastropub, the pub and patio at Windermere House or the Cliffside Grill at Muskoka Bay Club. Enjoy lunch at Grandview Golf Club's bistro or Fine Thyme's Bistro and Bakery in Bracebridge. Indulge in a hand-pulled latte in Gravenhurst at North Market • Café • Catering, or at Wolff's Den on the boardwalk of the wharf. Watch the Segwun steamship pull in to dock from the windows of Blue Willow Tea Shop while treating yourself to a traditional English high tea, nibbling on finger sandwiches, scones and British cake and biscuits. Casual-fine dining restaurants such as 3 Guys and a Stove, Dock of the Bay and Crossroads Restaurant feature menus using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The same culinary philosophy can be found at resort restaurants such as Eclipse at Deerpark, Muskoka Chophouse at J.W. Marriott, the Rosseau Resort and Spa, and Seasons at Patterson-Kaye Resort.

Whether you are browsing the farmers' markets, sipping a pint of locally made beer or dining at a restaurant, Muskoka has lots to offer to food lovers and connoisseurs. 🍷

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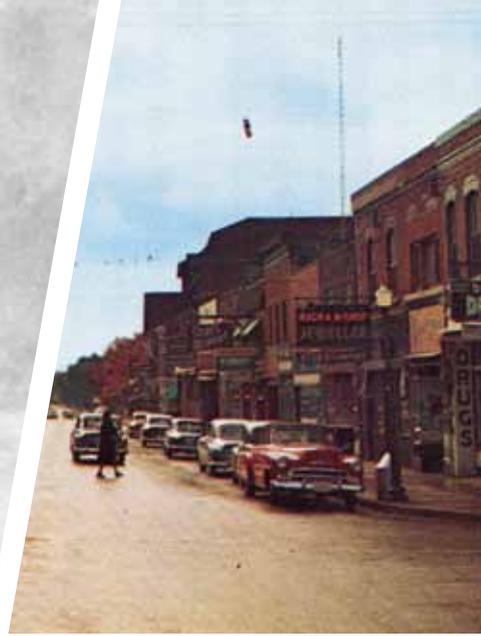
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# History

**T**he Canadian Shield is everywhere in Muskoka; from the rolling, smooth ridges along the Georgian Bay shore to the high, rugged cliffs around countless lakes, and lurking under the thin soil of the hills and gullies of Muskoka's forests. If you've ever laid your hand on it to feel the warmth it's gathered from the sun, or stretched out to relax after a long hike in the woods or to dry off following a swim in clear waters, then you have touched some of the literal history of the planet itself.

The rocks of Muskoka are some of the oldest on Earth, possibly more than 4 billion years old. Imagine the stories they could tell if they could speak; tales of glaciation and being ground down and sculpted by ice age after ice age that created the area's breathtaking lakes and vistas. They could tell of mastodons and

mammoths and sabre-toothed animals, of countless migrations and emigrations of animals and humans. Each sparkle that glints in the sun could be a memory of a single year.

If Muskoka's granite could speak, it could settle once and for all the debates as to the region's name. Was it really named after First Nations Chief Mesqua-Ukie from the 1850s, or did the name go back further to a far older Algonquin word meaning "land of the red earth?" And if so, did they mean the pinkish tone to the rocks themselves which seem to glow in the crimson sunsets, or the auburn and burnt sienna shades of the soil, or the way the autumn hills blaze with the scarlet fire of fall colours, or was it a more sanguine reference to the excellent hunting and fishing Muskoka's waters and woods offered them?



While the rocks stay silent on those questions, Muskoka's aboriginal storytellers keep their people's stories alive, remembering a time before Europeans first arrived. When those settlers did begin to arrive in the mid-1800s, they found the farming wasn't as easy as they'd expected. Not only did they turn to forestry, but many also opened their homes as guest houses and offered their services as guides for those who wanted to come and enjoy the experience of life in the wilderness.

That was when the tourism industry in Muskoka was born. As sightseers and more settlers were drawn to the area, steamships became the main mode of transportation further into the region beyond the docks at Muskoka Wharf, which originally could only be reached over the harrowing Muskoka Road from Washago by stagecoach.

Gravenhurst was originally called McCabe's Landing, and known familiarly as Sawdust City because numerous timber mills lined the shore around Muskoka Bay. The town gained the name Gravenhurst with the arrival of a postmaster and post office, and became an important centre of travel and commerce in the new Muskoka, and later a centre for boatbuilding - a past that is still celebrated at the Discovery Centre at Muskoka Wharf. History also comes alive on the Gravenhurst waterfront with the 150-year-old coal-fired steamship

*RMS Segwun*, the last of the remaining original Muskoka steamers.

The *Segwun's* present-day sister ship, the *Wenonah II*, is named after the first steamer to ply Muskoka waters. The original *Wenonah* went into service in 1866 for entrepreneur A.P. Cockburn's newly formed Muskoka Navigation Company. Within three years he had convinced the government to build locks on the Indian River in Port Carling and a canal at Port Sandfield and opened up commerce on the Lakes Muskoka, Rosseau, and Joseph.

Rail lines came to Muskoka Wharf, and the Muskoka Road was extended to Bracebridge and beyond. Soon, Muskoka was a prosperous mix of new settlers and settlements; the timber trade and lumber mills, and tourism on all its major lakes; all largely driven by the steamships.

The early rustic lodges gave way to a range of luxury resorts ringing the lakes. Cockburn's interests became the Muskoka Lakes Navigation and Hotel Company, and in the northeastern part of Muskoka the ships of the Huntsville Navigation Company steamed through the waters of the Lake of Bays; Lake Vernon; and Mary, Fairy, Peninsula Lakes. To aid in transferring passengers and cargo between Peninsula Lake and Lake



of Bays, the company built the world's shortest commercially operating railway, the Portage Flyer, whose engines and passenger cars can still be seen today at Muskoka Heritage Place in Huntsville. Muskoka Heritage Place is also home to Muskoka Pioneer Village, where one can relive the days of early European settlement of the region.

During the golden years of the steamship era music echoed across Muskoka's waters from boats and bands, and luminaries such as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong played Dunn's Pavillion in Bala - a venerable establishment now known as the Kee. Steel magnates from Pennsylvania established summer homes on the lakes, and soon the rich and famous came from far and near to experience the best the area had to offer, including Clarke Gabel and Carole Lombard who honeymooned at the Bigwin Inn on Lake of Bays.

By the time the country was recovering from the Second World War — during which time the Norwegian Air Force had relocated its training base to Muskoka Airport to keep their planes and pilots out of Hitler's hands — it became clear that the heyday of the steamers was ending. Many of the great resorts closed and one by one the steamship fleets dwindled. By the end of the 1950s, new paved roads and the proliferation of automobiles opened up Muskoka to a whole new kind of travel.

The great steamers and long gone hotels are still remembered, honoured as the names of locations, streets, and business, and many of the resorts that survived prospered and grew. Deerhurst is now the largest in the area, Bigwin Island is home to one of the finest golf courses in Canada, and places like Port Cunnington Lodge and the Sherwood Inn still retain their original charm.

Antique and classic boat shows in Gravenhurst and Baysville allow people to see the incredible craftsmanship and exquisite beauty honed Muskoka's bygone wooden boatbuilders. Museums celebrate the area's past in virtually every town, from the excellent Muskoka Lakes Museum in Port Carling to the birthplace of medical innovator and hero of the Chinese people Dr. Norman Bethune in Gravenhurst. Anne of Green Gables author Lucy Maud Montgomery's time in Muskoka and famous works are showcased in the former tourist home that she took her meals at with her family during her stay in Bala in 1922.

Wherever you go in Muskoka, the area's rich history can be easily discovered; boats and trains and museums and books and storytellers are all waiting, happy to take you back in time. 🌿





# Bracebridge

**J**oin us in Bracebridge, in the heart and soul of Muskoka, where we are the steward of the famous Muskoka lifestyle.

Whether you are a thrill seeker, an arts enthusiast, a foodie, nature lover, shopper or someone who enjoys attending unique festivals and events, Bracebridge has it all!

Once you arrive, it doesn't take long for you to feel like you belong. When shopping, you will connect with locals, merchants and business owners who will make you feel at home. You will be astonished at what our unique shops and businesses have to offer and the tailored services they provide.

Family-owned restaurants wait to inspire your taste buds – from Mexican to Irish to Thai to wood-fired or traditional pizza to fine dining to quaint bistros, to deli shops and more, there is something to satisfy every foodie and even the picky ones too! We have something for the craft-beer enthusiast – you can sip the unique and refreshing brews at our local restaurants or take a tour of the facility, sample and see first-hand how it's made.

Explore our historical streets or take a leisurely walk, snowshoe or cross-country ski on our year-round trails. Experience the feeling of simplistic living where you can wind down and enjoy nature at its best.

# Festivals & Events

BRACEBRIDGE 2016

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MUSKOKA ARTS  
& CRAFTS 39TH  
ANNUAL SPRING  
MEMBER'S SHOW

**JUNE 19**  
FATHER'S DAY  
CAR SHOW

**JULY 1**  
CANADA DAY  
CELEBRATIONS

**JULY 8-10**  
MUSKOKA  
PIONEER POWER

**JULY 9**  
SANTAFEST

**JULY 15-17**  
54TH ANNUAL  
MUSKOKA ARTS  
AND CRAFTS  
SUMMER SHOW

**JULY 29**  
MIDNIGHT MADNESS

**JULY 30**  
GRIFFIN SESSION  
MUSKOKA

**AUGUST 6-7**  
MUSKOKA MODEL  
RAILWAY SHOW

**AUGUST 19-21**  
COTTAGE COUNTRY  
COMEDY FESTIVAL

**AUGUST 23-25**  
OPERAMUSKOKA

**SEPTEMBER 16-18**  
BRACEBRIDGE  
FALL FAIR AND  
HORSE SHOW

**SEPT 24-25 &  
OCT 1-2**  
MUSKOKA AUTUMN  
STUDIO TOUR

**SEPT 30-OCT 2**  
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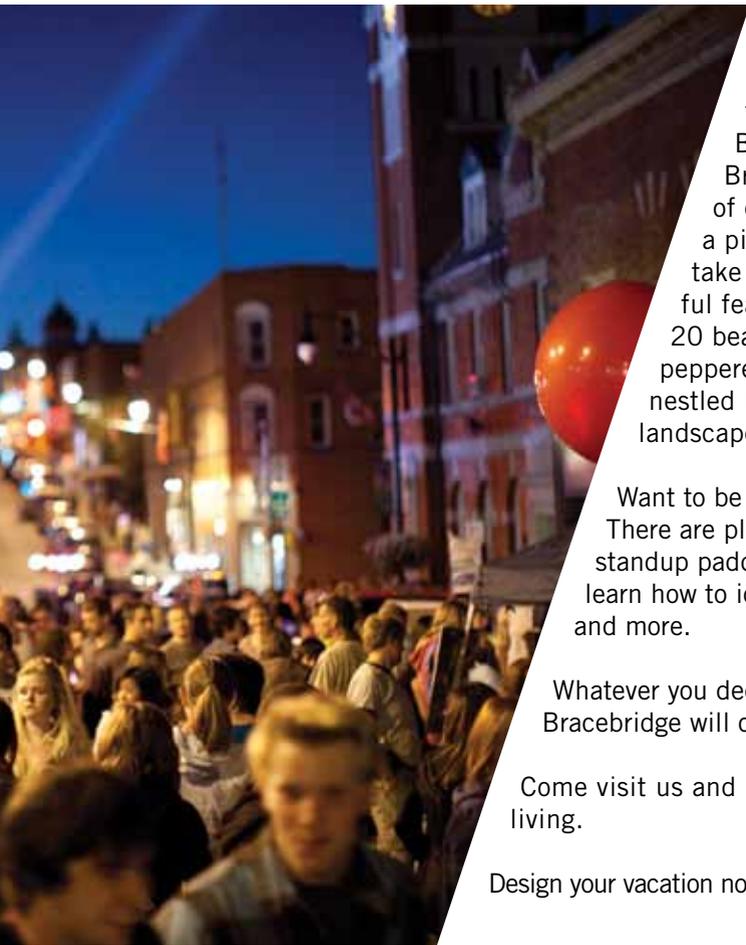
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Want to be more active? No problem. There are places to rent canoes, kayaks, standup paddle boards, skis, snowshoes, learn how to ice climb, do snowga, fat bike and more.

Whatever you decide to do here, we promise Bracebridge will change, engage and inspire you.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND SPECIAL PROMOTIONS.





# Gravenhurst

**G**ravenhurst offers the ideal Muskoka experience that has drawn guests for over a century. From exploring landscapes and local trails to kayaking and boating on our lakes, these are the activities most often associated with cottage country. Regardless of season, professional theatre, galleries and studios, live music, festivals and events and celebrating our heritage is what makes Gravenhurst unique. The culture of our community is rooted in our amazing landscapes but thrives because of our talented artists, interactive museums, shopping experiences and our full slate of live performances.

## **Home of Muskoka Steamships & Boating Heritage**

Open year round, the Discovery Centre showcases the rich history of life on the water in Muskoka. The centre features Canada's largest in-water collection of antique and classic boats and exhibits of Muskoka's steamship, boat-building and resort history.

2016 celebrates 150 years since the inaugural launch of the first steamship in Muskoka. Touring Lake Muskoka daily from June to October, the Muskoka Steamships offers sightseeing, dinner and family activity cruises aboard the Wenonah II and the RMS Segwun, North America's oldest operating steamship.



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### Birthplace of Canada's Summer Theatre

Built in 1901, The Gravenhurst Opera House remains a bustling cultural centre in the core of historic downtown Gravenhurst. In 1934, actor John Holden and his Good Companions presented the first of what would put Muskoka on the map as the birthplace of summer theatre in Canada. Mixed with a variety of concerts, the return of professional theatre all summer is once again adding energy to the town and helping to deepen the visitor experience in Muskoka. With a variety of events throughout all four seasons, the Gravenhurst Opera House continues to be 'A Tradition Worth Coming Back For.'

**Award winning  
Gravenhurst  
Farmers'  
Market**



**at the Wharf  
every Wednesday 9am to 2pm  
May - October**

[www.gravenhurstfarmersmarket.com](http://www.gravenhurstfarmersmarket.com)



### Twelve Months of Live Music

Over the past few years, Gravenhurst has proven a reputation for quality live musical performances. With nearly a dozen venues in town, we estimate live music is available six nights a week. From local songwriters entertaining at pubs, the brewery and restaurants, to renowned artists settling in for an intimate performance at Peter's Players concert hall, music is what unites visitors, friends and locals in Gravenhurst. Gravenhurst is a tradition of lakeside living with plentiful opportunities to enjoy live performances at Music on the Barge, festivals and events, the Gravenhurst Opera House and more. We pride ourselves on our small, intimate venues offering big, memorable experiences.

### Treasure Hunting for Artisans, Antiques and Collectibles

Not that we are keeping track, but when it comes to en-

suring your home has that distinct Muskoka feel, Gravenhurst is your place to shop and discover. Home to more than 50 professional artisans showcasing their work in local galleries and studios, antique and collectibles stores count for more than 7,500 square feet and local interior design studios provide carefully curated pieces, proving that shopping in Gravenhurst cannot be replicated.

### Gravenhurst is an Arts and Heritage Culture Community

What defines Gravenhurst is the arts and heritage culture that welcomes guests and inspires local residents throughout the seasons. From winter adventures to spring treasure hunts, you may come for a short visit and realize why so many people choose to call Gravenhurst home. Experiencegravenhurst.com is your resource to discover and plan your trip to Gravenhurst, Muskoka's culture and heritage haven. For more information, visit [www.gravenhurstchamber.com](http://www.gravenhurstchamber.com)



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# Georgian Bay

## Where Hospitality is a Way of Life

**W**elcome! Come join us. Georgian Bay Township offers a lifestyle that is affordable, yet out of the ordinary. 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 the adventurous spirit, kayaking the rushing rivers or dipping your paddle into the serene lake water. Hear the wind forcing its way through the bending white pines or the haunting call of the loon over the still water in the morning. Canoeing, kayaking and cruising by motor boat on the lakes and rivers offers great experiences whether it is of relaxing memorable views of ancient Canadian Shield rock, pine trees and sparkling vistas of Georgian Bay or the challenging journeys on inland lakes and rivers that carve the ancient Precambrian granite.

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 by portaging the scenic rapids, canoeists and kayakers can experience the ever-popular 56-km Gibson-McDonald canoe route and travel 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 Trent-Severn Waterway.

From serene to exhilarating, 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 enjoyed by renowned Canadian artists Tom Thompson, A.Y. Jackson, Frederick Varley, Arthur Lismer and Lawren Harris, from the Group of Seven, who 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 his door during his stay on Six Mile Lake.

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, ATViing 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](http://segbay.ca). 



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# Lake of Bays

**T**he 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, and specialty shops. Historically known 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 have a picnic in the summer sun. Launch your boat to enjoy sun-soaked water sports or stay on land and explore the self-guided Dwight Heritage Tour.



**SS Bigwin and Marine Museum:** Cruise on Lake of Bays aboard this majestic, restored 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 or explore the self-guided Dorset Heritage Tour.

**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](http://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. Try delicious homemade jams and butter tarts, local maple syrup, or authentic wood-fired pizza.

**Artists' Playground:** Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven painted these 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.huntsvilleadventures.com](http://www.huntsvilleadventures.com)  
[www.lakeofbaysalgonquin.com](http://www.lakeofbaysalgonquin.com)  
[www.dwightmuskoka.com](http://www.dwightmuskoka.com)  
[www.dorsetcanada.com](http://www.dorsetcanada.com)  
[www.baysvilleontario.com](http://www.baysvilleontario.com)  
[www.aroundlakeofbays.ca](http://www.aroundlakeofbays.ca)

The logo for Robinson's General Store Dorset. It features the store name in a stylized, bold font on a wooden background. Below the name, it says "DORSET 1061 Main Street 705-766-2415". To the right is a yellow shield-shaped badge that says "Voted CANADA'S BEST COUNTRY STORE".

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A graphic featuring the Robinson's logo at the top, followed by logos for "FOODLAND" and "Home Hardware". Below the logos is the text "Open 7 days a week year round".

[www.RobinsonsGeneralStore.ca](http://www.RobinsonsGeneralStore.ca)

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## Loops Art and Craft Gallery

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Open May-October; please  
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# Muskoka Lakes

**T**he Township of Muskoka Lakes is cottage country paradise. Miles of boating, natural wonders, a vibrant history and a superb quality of life attract visitors from around the world.

We're a land of 80 lakes, including the three big lakes that define the Muskoka experience: lakes Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph. Enchanting old Muskoka cottages and spectacular boathouses dot their shores. Still, more than 80% of our land retains its natural cover and the municipality maintains 85% of naturally vegetated shoreline. Parks and beaches provide public access to our pristine waters.

Natural wonders include the striking geological and bio-

logically diverse Torrance Barrens. It's also North America's first dark sky preserve, where the "ancient constellations and planets shine forth in majestic profusion," as described by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Along with the hiking trails at the Barrens, nearby Hardy Lake Provincial Park and the Huckleberry Rock Lookout are two more of seven trails not to be missed. In winter, there are trails for snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skiing and skating.

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

# Daily Tours, Year Round



[www.cranberry.ca](http://www.cranberry.ca)



the Bala Trek to Bethlehem, Flavours of Muskoka Chautauqua culinary experience, art studio and cottage garden tours and farmers' markets. 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 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 part of our heritage, too. Starting in 1942, people danced the night away to the big-band sounds of Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and others at Dunn's Pavilion, now The Kee to Bala that continues to host top Canadian bands.

Bala is also known for its waterfalls and its cranberries. 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." The scenic cranberry farm has something for everyone to discover year round.



For the sports-minded, try waterskiing, wakeboarding, stand-up paddle boarding and more at many locations and catch our famous water ski shows. 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.

Historically, several buildings are significant, including the municipal office, which was originally the Port Carling Village School (1906). The White's Road schoolhouse (1890), the original Windermere Village Hall (1953) and

the Township of Muskoka Lakes Visitor Centre (1897) have also been restored for public use. Anchored by communities such as Bala, Port Carling and Windermere, our region offers both the sophistication of a popular tourism destination with iconic Muskoka resorts offering all the amenities, and the wholesomeness of country living. Our resorts are perfect settings for families, romantic getaways, weddings and conferences. Our summer camps are equally famous and loved.

To know more about Muskoka Lakes, visit [muskokalakeschamber.com](http://muskokalakeschamber.com).



**MONDAYS 9AM - 2PM**  
**June 20 - August 29**

**Centre of Town on Muskoka Road 169**  
From fresh produce to unique handcrafted collectables, we have something for everyone! Be sure to drop by the market and take home a special piece of Muskoka.  
[www.balafarmersmarket.com](http://www.balafarmersmarket.com)



**THURSDAYS 9AM - 2PM**  
**June 23 - September 8**

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*on the Indian River*  
Offering a fantastic selection of locally grown produce, delicious fine foods and handcrafted artistry. There's something for everyone!  
[www.portcarlingfarmersmarket.com](http://www.portcarlingfarmersmarket.com)





# Dogg-on-it

gifts for dogs and their people






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# Huntsville

**W**elcome to Huntsville – one of Ontario's most beloved four-season destinations. Huntsville is a vibrant, vast and wondrous playground that attracts visitors from every corner of the world to enjoy the serenity and warmth of a small community nestled amongst the lakes and trees overflowing from nearby iconic Algonquin Provincial Park.

What makes Huntsville so special? Connecting our souls with the outdoors... while experiencing everything a flourishing community can offer.

Uncongested – This is a community where you can shop with warm welcomes and extraordinary customer service in a beautiful, historic downtown, dotted with Group of Seven outdoor murals. Gather supplies from

retailers across the community or from Muskoka's only indoor shopping mall. Every ingredient you need is easily accessible in our community, or choose from a wide variety of culinary experiences – from chocolate treats to coffee shops, cafes, pubs overlooking the water and fine dining with sophisticated fare. You will find homegrown, local flavor at every turn notably situated on the water's edge, sheltered by our stunning pines and hardwood forests or conveniently located on your way to your next adventure.

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-



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

## For the next time you're visiting (by accident).

Thousands of tourists visit here each summer. We know - we meet more than a few of you in Huntsville Hospital's emergency department. Broken this, cut that - accidents happen when you're enjoying the outdoors. Sometimes it's more serious too. So here's an idea...

Visit [huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca/give](https://huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca/give) today and help us ensure healthcare for your next visit!



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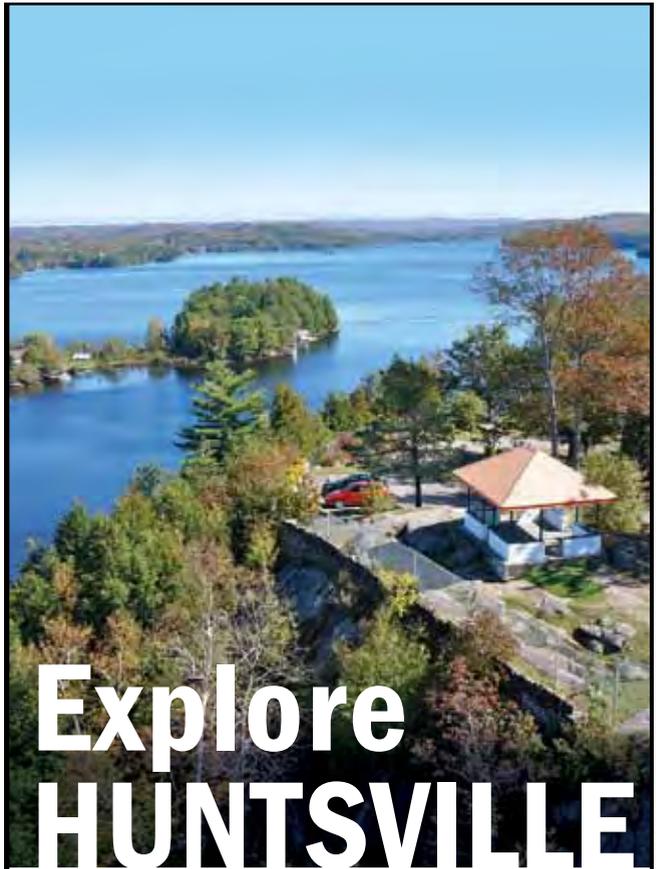
unspoiled beaches, meandering trails and unique attractions starting with Lion's Lookout; a glorious view to open all of your senses. Take a step back in time at Muskoka Heritage Place; home of the Muskoka Museum, Muskoka Pioneer Village and the Portage Flyer Train or venture off the beaten path to take in some incredible local art by visiting artists' studios. And then casually end your day's itinerary with a performance at



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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.

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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](mailto:terri@huntsvillelakeofbays.on.ca) or visit [www.HuntsvilleAdventures.com](http://www.HuntsvilleAdventures.com). ☺



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# Parks of Muskoka

**N**estled 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



pinetrees 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, having been occupied continuously for over 5,500 years.

**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>

**Experience True Nature**

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 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.

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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](http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/algonquin)

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