

## Discover Ontario This Summer

By Brenda Rishoa

If your kids are getting a little bored and you want to know what's happening around the province, say, within a day's journey, why not check into some of these places and events?

The following is a list of fun things to see and do with your family in Ontario (*in no particular order*).

### **Kingsville and Pelee Island**

#### **Southwestern Ontario Heritage Village and Transportation Museum.**

6155 Arner Townline, County Rd. 23, 8 km south off Hwy. #3 bypass. Education programs reflect Ontario curriculum, hands-on activities of scientific and historic discoveries. School groups can view unique historical learning experience.

Call toll-free 1-866-776-6909

Open daily July and August, 10 am to 5 pm. Group rates available. Call for admission rates.

**The Shipwrecks of the Pelee Passage.** 15 shipwrecks marked with buoys for diving; Marine Heritage Gallery in the Arts Centre featuring artefacts, photos, human interest; ErieQuest storyboards located along marine promenade; dive charters.

ErieQuest Marine Heritage, 72 Talbot Street West, Leamington, N8H 2G5 Tel. 519-326-6599 or contact the Leamington Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-250-3336.

### **Morpeth/Ridgetown**

**Greenview Aviaries Park and Zoo**– family fun with 150 species of birds and exotic animals, petting zoo, picnic area, playground, group discounts, replica miniature village of Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Open every day from 9 am to dusk till Oct.

Tel. 519-674-3025, on Hwy 3, 1/2 mile east of Hwy. 21.

**Ridge House Museum and Gallery** The Ridge House is a restored Victorian home circa 1875, containing a wealth of authentic artifacts. 53 Erie Street S., Ridgetown, minutes from Lake Erie, Rondeau Park, Greenview Aviaries, Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology. Open daily 1-4:30 pm, July –Aug. weekdays 10-4:30, weekends 1–4:30. Group and educational tours available. Tel. 519-674-2223, fax 519-674-0660

## **Chatham**

**Thamesgrove Conservation Area**, Chatham, former hwy. #2, Grand Ave. East.

Heritage days: Oct. 4 and 5, 10 am to 5 pm, war of 1812 naval battle and land battle re-enactments, 19th century village complete with settlers, merchants, costumed townspeople.

Parking at Chatham Waterworks on Grand Ave. for nominal fee, free shuttle bus to site.

Web site: [www.fairattheforks.com](http://www.fairattheforks.com), or Sheila Gibbs 519-351-2958, email [sgibbs@ciaccess.com](mailto:sgibbs@ciaccess.com)

**Chatham Cultural Centre**, 75 William St. North, Chatham. Includes Thames Art Gallery, and Chatham-Kent Museum. Take a trip back to 1905 in the Milner House, open daily 1-5 pm.

Phone for admission. 519-360-1998

## **Sarnia/Lambton**

### **Petrolia**

**Oil Museum of Canada** national historic site, home of the first commercial oil well in North America, conducted tours, special events, picnic area.

Web site: [www.town.petrolia.on.ca](http://www.town.petrolia.on.ca); Tel. 519-882-2350

Oil Springs, ON 519-834-2840

## **Ruthven**

**Colasanti's**, a tropical wonderland for family fun awaits. They have an 18 hole indoor mini-golf, kiddie rides, games centre, playground and arcade, pony rides, tropical restaurant, craft garden, greenhouse, zoo, collectible shop.

Open 7 days a week, Mon.-Thurs.- 8 am-5 pm; Fri., Sat. & Sun.- 8 am-6 pm.

On Con. Rd. 3, off hwy. #3

Ruthven 519-326-3287

Email [tropical@colasanti.com](mailto:tropical@colasanti.com) web site: [www.colasanti.com](http://www.colasanti.com)

## **St. Mary's**

**The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum** at 386 Church St. S., off hwy. #7; tel. 519-284-1838.

Web site [www.baseballhalloffame.ca](http://www.baseballhalloffame.ca)

## **Stratford**

Ongoing attractions include the Stratford Perth Museum, Gallery Stratford, Costume Warehouse tours, historic walking tours, Stratford farmers' market, dance-land.

Call for tourist info. At 1-800-561-SWAN

## **Perth County**

**Shakespeare Conservation Area**, located at 3741 County Road 107, a km. North of the lights at the village main intersection, is in southeast Perth county, about 10 km. East of Stratford on Highway 7/8 (Line 34). Attractive farmhouses, fishing pond, dam, picnic tables, woodland, wildflowers, trail network, picturesque village of Shakespeare, founded in 1832.

## **Baden**

**Castle Kilbride** Step back into Victorian era by visiting the 1877 Italianate home of James Livingston, Canada's "flax mill king". See the trompe-l'oeil ceiling and wall paintings throughout.

60 Synder's Rd. West, Baden, 519-634-8444, 1-800-469-5576. Open Tues.—Sun. 1-4 pm.

**Baden Emporium** has a **Model Railway Club** open house the last Saturday of every month at 43-57 Snyder's Rd. E., 519-634-5344, [www.imagitek.com/emporium](http://www.imagitek.com/emporium). Located between Stratford and Kitchener, off highway 7/8.

### **Port Stanley**

Discover 2 beautiful beaches, the 1939 King George VI lift bridge, summer theatre festival, original L.P.S. Rail Line with authentic 1920 rail cars, heritage buildings, artisans, potters, painters, sculptors. Also interesting to see are the marinas, fishing pontoons, boat cruises, water sports, beach volleyball & basketball.

Web site [www.port-stanley.com](http://www.port-stanley.com)

### **Sparta**

Discover historic Sparta and see examples of early Ontario architecture. Founded in 1818 by Quakers from Philadelphia, many buildings were built in the early 1800's, including the two-storey Sparta House and the General Store. North of the village is the Quaker Meeting House, built in 1865. Don't miss the "Forge and Anvil", built in 1827, which is actually a mud house!

Call Mrs. Sally Martyn at 519-775-2292.

Located 230 km. West of Toronto or 200 km. East of Windsor. Take Hwy. 74 south off the 401 to #3 West, then follow the signs.

### **Tillsonburg**

**Annandale House** national historic site, designated for its aesthetic interior, restored to the 1880's and hosts period rooms and galleries. The home has hand-painted ceilings, beautiful woodwork, elaborate woodcraft, and unique art-glass.

30 Tillsonburg Ave., Tillsonburg. Tel. 519-842-2294. Hours: Mon.—Fri. 9-4; Sun. 1-4; July and Aug. Sat. 12-4.

Email [rcorner@town.tillsonburg.on.ca](mailto:rcorner@town.tillsonburg.on.ca)

Tillsonburg also has the **Lisgar Water Park**.

Tourist info. at 519-842-2294.

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