

Maple Lanes

Almonte - Balderson - Burnstown - Calabogie
Carleton Place - Clayton - Elphin - Hopetown - Lanark
Middleville - McDonald's Corners - Pakenham - Perth
Smiths Falls - Tatlock - Watson's Corners - White Lake

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The Lanark Era

2023 Travel & Recreation Guide

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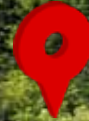
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Publisher/Editor: Gena Gibson
Advertising Sales: Kristy Gibson
Production: Gena Gibson,
Kristy Gibson
Photographs (uncredited):
Gena Gibson
Editorial Copy: Gena Gibson,
Claudia Smith,
Metro Creative Graphics

"Maple Lanes"® is published
 by
The New Lanark Era Inc.
 ©2023

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Service Directory

These local businesses and associations look forward to serving you!

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Take time to discover your happy place

A short drive, a day trip, a weekend away, a week at a cottage, or even an extended visit that turns into a permanent home – every person has their own unique way of and reason for discovering this area. Once they have made the discovery, that’s where we come in.

The 2023 Maple Lanes Travel & Recreation Guide will tour with you, helping to guide you from town to town to village to hamlet, and all points in between. We’ll give you the latest news and events, from Bicentennial celebrations and downtown renovations to annual festivals to the everyday

life that happens between the festivals.

Lanark County and the southern edge of Renfrew County sit on the edge of the Canadian shield, with a vast difference in landscape. Flat farmland in parts of Lanark County transforms into rocky hills and evergreens as you head north, whether by car, bicycle, four-wheeler or even on foot, as several trails make their way through the counties, including the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail, the Tay-Havelock Trail and the Trans-Canada Trail.

We highlight history as well, of

the individual settlements as well as more general history brought to life by local writer Claudia Smith. The guide offers a calendar of events that runs from mid-June to December, and provides information on local farmers’ markets, museums, agricultural fairs, genealogical resources and even tips on travelling with pets.

And, of course, you can’t forget the scenery! Lanark and Renfrew counties, with that aforementioned mix of farmers’ fields and rocky outcrops, is a photographer’s paradise. Enjoy the view, and safe travels.



From peaceful autumn scenes to a summer sunset to a friendly cow behind a traditional split-rail fence, Lanark and Renfrew counties offer a full four-season experience.

Photos by Maddison Morrow (left and below left) and Ethel Nagle

Front cover photo by Susan Storie



Something for everyone in Lanark

Lanark village means different things to different people. For the long-term resident, Lanark is simply home: a village always hovering around an 800-person population, a home base with its benefits and its minor flaws, a place to buy groceries and pick up mail and drop off taxes, with visits to the pharmacy and, on special occasions, the chocolate shop.

For the former resident who grew up in Lanark village, it takes on a more rose-coloured-glasses look, as they reminisce about swimming at the beach and the glory days of Glenayr Knit – the Kitten Mill – and the historic old town hall and other structures that disappeared in the devastating 1959 fire that made headlines worldwide.

For the visitor, Lanark village is a quaint throwback, a small town with a picturesque river that offers canoeing, kayaking, swimming and fishing opportunities. They buy ice and snacks at the village's grocery store, meals at the chip wagon or pizzeria, specialty chocolates, and gifts at the pharmacy to take back home.

Young families gravitate to the two elementary schools, the baseball field in the summer and the arena in the winter, while teenagers keep busy at the local youth centre year round. The local Civitan club hosts a thriving soccer program for the youngest players, and the beach offers less structured play.

The pandemic brought an increase in new residents, as people made the decision to embrace more rural living. As the municipi-



The beach at Clyde River Park in Lanark village is a popular spot for children to cool off and play on the play structures in the summer. Throughout the year, the Lanark Highlands Youth Centre and Lanark and District Community Centre (inset) offer activities.

pal centre of Lanark Highlands Township, Lanark village plays a large role in the township, acting as a hub and attracting the positive, and sometimes less-positive, attention of township residents online for its dilapidated buildings and its attempts to increase economic development in the village and throughout the large township.

Lanark Highlands came into being in 1997, merging Lanark village and three townships – Lanark, Darling and Lavant-Dalhousie-North Sherbrooke. The new entity immediately faced a significant challenge in the January 1998 ice storm, which caused widespread tree damage and power outages across Lanark Highlands for up to three weeks.

Three months later, flooding prompted the still-new council to

call in the Canadian military for help a second time, to fill sandbags in an attempt to hold back the waters of the Clyde River.

In a normal year, the Clyde – named for its Scottish counterpart, as is Lanark village itself – is more mild than menacing. As with many towns in Lanark County, the village built up around the river since its founding in 1820, with lumber and woollen mills joining others as the early industries.

The Clyde Woollen Mill employed many, and was a precursor to the aforementioned Glenayr Knit/Kitten Mill, which gave hundreds of local residents, mainly women, employment during its time in the village. The Lanark and District Museum in the village has created a display on the Kitten Mill and its impact, with former work-

See next page



Lanark Village



Continued from previous page

ers still living in Lanark today.

The museum also has a permanent display on the 1959 fire, which destroyed 40 homes and businesses on Lanark's main street and forever altered the village landscape.

The history of Lanark village is well documented. In 1820, unemployed Scottish weavers made their way to the wilds of eastern Ontario with other immigrants from the British Isles, settling along the Clyde River in what they soon named Lanark after its larger counterpart in their home country. When they arrived, Indigenous people living in the area helped the settlers adapt to their new home.

The Algonquin land claim, which has been in the works with the Algonquins of Ontario and the federal and provincial governments since the 1980s, covers a huge area, 36,000 kilometres of the Ottawa and Mattawa River watersheds from Algonquin Park and Mattawa in the north through Ottawa down to Bancroft through Sharbot Lake and Kaladar and east to Brockville and Hawkesbury.

An Agreement-in-Principle signed in 2016 is expected to lead to a final agreement sometime in

the next few years.

The parties say if the negotiations are successful, they will produce Ontario's first modern-day constitutionally protected treaty.

Lanark village has endured and thrived for more than 200 years, and its residents plan to build momentum and keep their village strong well into its 300th year.



The Clyde River has always been a connecting thread in Lanark, from its inception with several mills that used water power, to today, when the water is most often used for recreation. Right, hanging baskets brighten the streetscape through the summer months.



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THE LANARK & DISTRICT MUSEUM

80 George St., Lanark Village

Lanark Village, and the former surrounding areas of Drummond & Bathurst Townships, are not only renowned for the natural beauty with rolling hills and waterways, but also for their history. Lanark Village was established in 1820 with settlers moving into the area prior to that time. The Lanark & District Museum has managed to capture a collection of historical information and artifacts dating back to Lanark's earliest years. Carpenter tools, quilts and Victorian clothing as well as historical

tanneries, woollen mills, including the renowned Glenayr Kitten Mill, the important lumbering industries and their shanties - are prime examples.

brings back glimpses of daily life in the 1800's. They commemorate some of the area's earliest settlers, men and women who worked the land to provide food for their families and men such as the McLarens and the Caldwells who harvested the natural virgin forests to create the squared timber and lumbering trades. If you are interested in turn of the century architecture, you will find a wealth of information and photographs documenting the struggles faced by the settlers, and their accomplishments.



This is the stagecoach that ran regularly between Lanark and Perth.

information of Lanark's early businesses - the foundry,

Through pictorial displays, the Lanark and District Museum

Also available are history books and DVDs about the tragic fire in 1959.

The Lanark & District Museum is run solely by volunteers

For the museum to continue to document and preserve Lanark and District's heritage and history, it is necessary to depend on a team of interested and dedicated volunteers.

If you wish to volunteer, please contact us today!

www.facebook.com/lanarkmuseum
www.lanarkmuseum.ca

lanarkanddistrictmuseum@gmail.com
Phone: 613-259-2575

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Finding common ground in community

Residents in small communities are always ready to help each other through trials small and large. McDonald's Corners has a history of such help, from the legendary ice storm 25 years ago to fundraisers and gatherings to help families through the aftermaths of fires or family illnesses.

A trip to events in McDonald's Corners these days will almost inevitably lead to talk of "Attractions, Not Extraction," which is the motto a newly incorporated group, Friends of Lanark Highlands, has taken to counter the possibility of a large pit near McDonald's Corners. Many local residents have gotten involved, and have found their



Dalhousie Lake sits just down the hill from McDonald's Corners.

own sense of community as they rally in an effort to protect their way of life.

That way of life is in evidence through the various events in the hamlet, which is at the western side of Lanark Highlands Township. Residents and visitors gather at local weekly farmers' markets on the weekend, while Highlands Country Store (formerly The Hill General Store) is a necessary stop for many, to pick up lunch, hunting supplies, grocery staples or the latest gossip.

Sylvania Lodge and Dalhousie Lake Restaurant, on the shores of the Mississippi River and Dalhousie Lake, has seasonal and cottage rentals, as well as a popular Chinese buffet, while Wheelers' Maple Products attracts visitors from around the world for its maple syrup and tasty meals.

Elphin

Just down the road from McDonald's Corners sits Elphin, a small hamlet with a big sense of community. From tasty takeout meals and treats to world-class musicians, Elphin also has its own sense of community to bring residents and visitors together.

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The fences of Lanark County

By Claudia Smith

History outlines the fields and pastures of Lanark County. Any drive through the countryside reveals these sturdy barriers, some of which were built more than 150 years ago. Still functional today, they mark property lines and keep animals from straying.

The first type of fence the early settlers made was the stump fence consisting of the uprooted stumps of felled pine trees. Turned on their sides, their dense fan of roots made an impenetrable barrier.

The snake fence, made with cedar logs, was another early kind of fence. Logs or heavy rails were laid at angles on each other in a zig-zag fashion. They required no wire and were ideally suited for the uneven ground of Lanark. It is said that “the devil himself could hardly upset them.”

Another strong fence to watch for is the bunk or bottom block fence. This fence was built with logs notched at the ends. Each log was laid on a short log cross-piece or bunk. Sometimes holes were augered in the bunks and “tree nails,” or pegs of oak, were pounded in to



Split rail fences that were built “horse high and bull tight” have outlined the fields of Lanark County for many decades.

Nic Maennling photo

hold the top bunk firmly in place.

The most common fence to be seen in Lanark County is the split rail or patent fence. Cedar rails were usually prepared in the winter when the frost was in the wood and straight cedar trees would “split like a ribbon.”

Five or six rails were wired into a pyramid of pickets to make the fences that were “horse high and bull tight.” The seams or spaces between the rails could be made as wide or as narrow as required for sheep, cattle or horses.

The integrity of Lanark’s fence-line heritage has been preserved over the years by farmers who believed in rebuilding a panel of fence broken by a falling tree, a pushing cow or a clambering bear rather than just patching it.

Although many of the rails in the old fences have been weathered thin, fence makers today say they lasted for so many decades because the preservative cedar-oil content in the old-growth trees was higher than in the trees split today.



A snake fence was made with cedar logs laid at angles. *Claudia Smith photo*



Watson's Corners



Walk the trails, view unique flowers

It's orchid season near Watson's Corners, and visitors flock to Purdon Conservation Area to view the thousands of Showy Lady Slipper orchids that dot the property from mid-June to July.

The conservation area, however, offers more than flower viewing. The lookout, complete with picnic table and portapotty, gives a scenic view of the beaver pond known as Purdon Lake, while the extended Ted Mosquin Highland Trail allows for an up-close look at nature, from trilliums in the spring to wildflowers throughout the summer. Purdon is open from late spring until early fall from dawn to dusk.

Joe Purdon first tended the orchids after discovering a small cluster on his property in the 1930s. The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority bought the property in 1984 and made it a public space, with a management plan created by well-known local ecologist Ted



Purdon Lake and the Showy Lady Slipper orchids are two of the main draws at Purdon Conservation Area near Watson's Corners.

Mosquin. The wetland is classified as a fen, which allows the orchids to grow in mossy hummocks.

Watson's Corners is also the

home of the Dalhousie Library and Museum. Established in 1828, it is the oldest library in Ontario.

The library is currently not open to the public as it is undergoing a revitalization, but a grand reopening is planned for St. Andrew's Day, Nov. 30.



The entire site at Purdon Conservation Area, including worn stairs built into the landscape and the nature trail, is worth exploring.



The Watson's Corners Community Hall is home to events, meals and more, as well as the Dalhousie Historic Library.



Hopetown & Tatlock



More than just a stop on the highway

Last summer, the Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization highlighted "12 Cutest Ontario General Stores." It's no surprise that B&T Hopetown General Store made the list, in large part due to its variety of goods and supplies.

The author stressed that the Hopetown convenience store and gas station "may have actually everything you could need, no matter the emergency." Fuses, motor oil, food necessities such as eggs and cheese, snacks and drinks, beer, and even meals from their small snack bar make the store the place to be for local residents on a weekly, if not daily, basis.

Residents also gather at the Hopetown Community Centre for special events and activities throughout the year. The centre is housed in Hopetown's former schoolhouse, moved to the outskirts of the hamlet.

A few minutes up the road, the Tatlock Community Hall is also a hub for locals, with events and sports at the Tatlock field, and organizers have recently created the Highlands North Network to start a resource for the community halls



B&T Hopetown General Store is a hub for the local community. Right, the Hopetown Cemetery's gravestones give a look into the past.



in Lanark Highlands Township north of Lanark village.

The calcite (marble) mine operated by Omya Canada Inc. is near Tatlock. While the quarry is tem-

porarily closed to the public, the company does occasionally host open houses, with buses driving down into the quarry to highlight the company's local operations.

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The Tatlock Community Hall hosts events, and the adjacent sports field offers baseball and soccer for local children.



History remembered in many ways

Middleville has a rich history, as proven by the many local exhibits at the Middleville and District Museum.

The museum's original building is the former stone schoolhouse, known as S.S. No. 6 Lanark. Additions have allowed museum leaders to create more displays, which include Indigenous artifacts, a log cabin moved from a local property inside the museum, a 1911 horse-drawn hearse, a 1918 Chev truck, a 1921 Ford car, a schoolroom, a World War I display and more.

New to the museum this year is a stove made at the Clyde Foundry in Lanark in 1858, donated to the museum by a couple in Schomberg.

Middleville has its own community centre, housed in the former Lanark Township Hall, with events returning after a pandemic slowdown. The Middleville Fair is also a very successful event every September, run by the historic Middleville Agricultural Society.



Trinity United Church in Middleville is also home to the Pioneer Cemetery, with stones from the nearby burial ground encased in a wall for protection.



This stove made in Lanark is a new addition to the Middleville and District Museum.



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www.middlevillemuseum.org





Agricultural Fairs



Celebrate rural way of life at local fairs

Agricultural fairs link the past to the present, offering a taste of rural lifestyle to local residents and visitors. From August to late September, these fairs in Lanark and Renfrew counties range from small rural fairs to multi-day festivals with midways, food and fun.

Almonte

For the first time in years, the Almonte Fair will return to its traditional time of year, from Sept. 8-10. This year's theme is Farming, Food & Fun. To learn more, visit www.almontefair.ca.

Middleville

The Middleville Fair attracts hundreds of visitors in mid-September, this year on Sept. 16. The day includes entertainment, animal shows, homecrafts and baking, a homemade lunch and a turkey supper. The theme this year is All Colours of Fall. Learn more at www.middlevillefair.ca.

McDonald's Corners

The McDonald's Corners Fair, with exhibits, animal shows, sports, a turkey supper and more, takes place on Sept. 30 this year. For more information, visit <http://mdcas.weebly.com/annual-fall-fair.html>.

Maberly

Maberly's annual agricultural fair on Aug. 26 offers entertainment and displays, a horse show and horse draw, zucchini races and an afternoon of music, with a new addition in a 4-H lamb auction. The theme this year is Bugs: The Good, the Bad and the Lovely. To learn more, visit www.maberlyfair.ca.



Chainsaw carving kicks up some serious wood chips at the McDonald's Corners Fair.

Perth

The Perth and District Agricultural Society was founded in 1845 and hosts the annual fair for four days on Labour Day weekend, this year from Sept. 1-4. The fair features grandstand entertainment, a midway, livestock shows, entertainment, demo derby, dog agility show, truck pull, lawnmower races and more. This year's theme is Sunflowers. To learn more, visit www.perthfair.com.

Arnprior

The Arnprior Agricultural Society hosts the renamed Valley Agricultural Festival on Aug. 4, 5 and 6 at 74 Van Dusen Dr., featur-

ing a giant sunflower competition, music, a midway, agricultural exhibits, horses and a demolition derby.

Renfrew

The Renfrew Fair takes place from Sept. 7-10 at 115 Veterans Memorial Blvd., with animal shows, exhibits, homecrafts, a midway, plenty of entertainment and more.

Carp

The Carp Fair, known as "The Best Little Fair in Canada," will take place from Sept. 21-24, with music, horse shows, midway, children's activities, agricultural shows, working antique displays and more. The fairgrounds are at 3790 Carp Rd.



Perth lives up to its popular image

There's a reason Perth keeps making lists of "Best small towns to visit in Ontario," "Small towns that transport you to Europe," or "Destinations to add to your must-visit list."

The reason is that Perth is a pretty town – named one of the prettiest in Ontario a number of years ago by TVO, as a matter of fact, as well as a national winner of the Communities in Bloom competition in 2015, and a yearly destination for brides and grooms even if they have no familial connection to the area.

Stewart Park in downtown Perth is the jewel, where residents and visitors gather for graduation and wedding photos, and in much larger numbers for the annual free Stewart Park Festival. The Tay River runs through the park, also passing Code Park on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge as famous equestrian horse Big Ben and his equally famous rider, Ian Millar, watch over in a bronze incarnation.

While Stewart Park may be the best-known park in Perth, Last Duel Park has its own attraction. The new Indigenous Heal-



The former towpath in Perth is part of the Rideau Trail, and provides a natural route to the town's downtown core.

ing Circle provides for a time of contemplation, as well as special Indigenous-led ceremonies.

The 27-acre park, named after the last fatal duel in Upper Canada between Robert Lyon and John Wilson, is also the jumping-off point for water adventures, with public docks and a boat launch as well as a picnic area and shelter.

The park is home to the Wendy

Laut Ribbon of Life walking trail.

Across Craig Street/Hwy. 43, you will find another, more historic trail, the Perth towpath, part of the Tay River Trail – a historic pathway and portage site that began back in the days of the Perth-upon-Tay military settlement in 1816. Follow the quiet, relaxing path along the Tay River on the short walk to the Tay Basin and the Crystal Palace, where farmers' markets and special events take place through the year, and where you can sit along the Tay and watch the water fountains in the Basin, or get a photo with the replica of the Mammoth Cheese that wowed the World Fair in Chicago in 1893.

A few more steps will bring you to bustling downtown Perth, with its wide variety of shops to

Continued on next page



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Perth



The new Indigenous Healing Circle at Last Duel Park creates a space of contemplation and healing.

Continued from previous page

tempt you. When you've shopped 'til you want to drop, and maybe taken a photo in front of the social media photo-worthy Perth sign at the corner of Herriott and Gore streets, a few more steps bring you to Stewart Park and its oasis in the centre of town.

In mid-July, the park suddenly gets much busier, as the Stewart

Park Festival brings thousands to town for a weekend of free music. Perth is also home to the Perth Garlic Festival in August, and the annual Perth Fair is always a highlight on the calendar on Labour Day weekend.

Visitors to town should be sure to check out the Perth Museum and the Hall of Remembrance

Continued on next page

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Perth



Continued from previous page

Military Museum to fulfill their history craving, and other high-

lights such as the statue of Ian Millar and Big Ben at Code Park, the Round Garden for the Blind at the Lanark County administration

building on Sunset Boulevard, the courthouse cannons and the dry-stone bridge near Stewart Park. Outdoor adventures are always a good option, whether paddling down the Tay, golfing at an area course, swimming indoors or out, or taking a cycling trip.

While Perth attracts visitors, it is also home to a thriving community, one which benefits from a college campus in its midst. Algonquin College Perth Campus brings students to learn and live, with their skills and enthusiasm enriching the lives of others.

From its beginnings as a military settlement after the War of 1812, the town welcomed Scottish settlers who gave the name of their former home to their new settlement. The Tay River is also named after Scotland's River Tay.

Perth is the county seat of government for Lanark County, and attracts everyone from young families to seniors who move to Perth to enjoy its many services and small-town feel. From the necessities to one-of-a-kind gifts to special treats, residents and visitors can find everything they need all year round in one of the prettiest towns in Ontario.

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Perth



The Big Ben Statue in Code Park in Perth pays tribute to Big Ben, a legendary equestrian horse, and his long-time rider, Ian Millar of nearby Drummond/North Elmsley Township. Together, the duo won back-to-back world championships, Nations Cup victories, double gold at the Pan American Games, the du Maurier International championship, and more than 50 major Grand Prix titles. Big Ben, a 1979 Belgian Warmblood chestnut gelding, died in 1999 at the age of 23, and is buried at Millar Brooke Farm in Drummond/North Elmsley.








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2023 Admission to the Fair:
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“So funny it would make a pig laugh.”

By Claudia Smith

Laughter makes the world go round, and friends and neighbours in past years loved to lean on a fence or sit around the woodstove in a general store or family kitchen “having a crack.” Many of the old, humorous stories had a wry take on life.

Some of the first settlers of Larnark County could not imagine the abundance of boulders, rocks and stones of their new homeland. A mid-1800s immigrant arrived in the late fall when snow covered the ground and he only had time to build a rudimentary cabin. He worried that he wouldn’t find enough stones to build a chimney in the spring.

His neighbours chuckled and told him not to worry. When the snow did melt away he declared with a grin, “There are stones enough to build a cathedral.”

An Irish settler was asked how he was getting on in his new country. He answered, “Ah yes and I am holding my own. I came to this country with nothing and I still have nothing.” He continued, “As to Pa’s drownin’, that was up the Valley with our best team, Ginny and Dale, late in the spring, and the water a foot over the ice. God, how we missed them horses. Pa, too.”

One man remembered his frustrated and furious uncle worried for the crops and his wife thought they should pray. The usually pious man snapped, “Ta hell, ta hell we’ll pray. Let ‘im send the rain; then we’ll thank ‘im.”

Licensed roadside “stopping places” and village hotels served alcoholic beverages of varying



quality. Watering down liquor was a trick at many places and in the 1880s, it was said with knowing smiles that a hotel-keeper in Appleton served “whiskey, rum or gin – all out of the same barrel.”

Bootlegging and the resulting liquor-fuelled neighbourhood shenanigans were the topic of many adult conversations. Children listened and took everything in. One day a young child proudly told his mother that he had seen a bootlegger. She was shocked and then got to the bottom of the story. The young lad had seen a village man wearing a pair of very high, large boots.

Honey was peddled in towns from horse-drawn wagons. Many beekeepers factored the cost of the honey can into the price.

When a customer complained about the extra charge the vendor chuckled, pried off a lid, and asked, “Will you take it in your pocket or in your basket then?” When a very small pot of honey was put on the long dinner table for a large, hungry threshing gang, the wry comment about the generosity of the farm wife was, “I see you keep

“a bee.” One man with “a great gowl of a laugh” – as the Scottish expression went – loved to share the story of how his grandfather had always worked with horses and then modernized and bought a David Brown tractor. Whenever he drove that tractor he always said, “Get up there Davie, Gid-up Brownie.”

A smile or a good laugh always eased the day and put life in perspective. A young swain, who really “didn’t know a gun from a hoe handle,” often stopped by his sweetheart’s farm and asked her father if he could borrow his hound to supposedly go hunting. The young man would let the dog go the next morning and it headed straight home.

Curious as to why his daughter always ran to intercept the dog’s return, the father watched and noticed her taking some paper out from under the dog’s collar. From then on cupid’s canine messenger was kept tied up. However, the protective father kept an eye on the family cat and said with a grin, “I am sure young love will find another way around me.”



Small-town experiences await

Balderson has always had a certain reputation with visitors. Despite its small size, they would be assured of finding tempting treats and high-quality goods.

The small hamlet between Larnark and Perth maintains that reputation, which began with the famed Balderson Cheese factory. Although the factory moved years ago, the cheese still bears the Balderson name as a testament to its storied past.

Its namesake cheese is still available for sale in Balderson, along with a variety of other goods and services. The hamlet's name was originally Clarksville, but John Balderson was the first European settler in 1816, leading to the name of Balderson's Corners.

A few minutes down the road, Fallbrook sits on the Fall River and Bolton Creek. William Bolton built saw and grist mills on Bolton Creek, and the hamlet first took his name as Bolton Mills before switching to Fallbrook.

At one time, Fallbrook had mills, hotels, general stores, a school, a post office and more.

Ferguson's Falls, also not far from Balderson when heading into Drummond/North Elmsley Township, is on the Mississippi River.

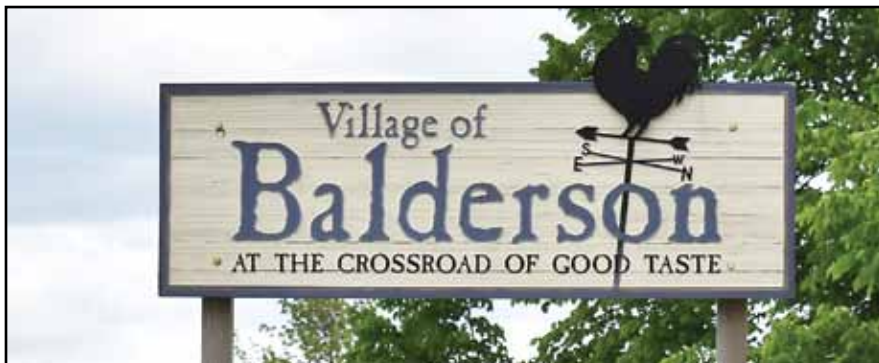


The Fall River (above) and Bolton Creek (right) cut through Fallbrook to create a picturesque view.

A new community hall has been under construction since last year.

Ferguson's Falls was originally known as Millford, but was renamed after Captain George Ferguson. Lumber companies made the hamlet an important stopping place on log drives.

A new canoe dock near the new community hall makes it easier than ever to spend a day on the Mississippi.



Discover your family history

Whether you have a passing interest in who came before you or an all-consuming passion for the past and your family's place in it, local resources abound for your search.

The Lanark County Genealogical Society is a natural place to start, with its goals to educate, support, preserve and promote genealogy and genealogical research. The society, an all-volunteer organization founded in 1981, maintains an online resource library at lanarkgenealogy.com, and also a physical Genealogy Resource Centre at Heritage House Museum at 11 Old Sly's Rd. in Smiths Falls.

Archives Lanark is another valuable resource for genealogy researchers. The Archives began in a successful effort to stop the Province of Ontario from destroying land records from the 1860s to the mid-20th century.

The province agreed to allow organizations in each county to preserve the records, with Archives Lanark expanding over the years to include other historical and genealogical documentation, with the Archives at Drummond

Centre in Drummond/North Elmsley Township opening in 2002.

Archives Lanark is open Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays by appointment at 1920 Drummond Con. 7, with more information at archiveslanark.ca.

Archive Lanark's counterpart in Renfrew County is Heritage Renfrew. The volunteers there also dedicated themselves to preserving historic documents and records related to the Town of Renfrew and its surrounding area, including land, census and church records, as well as family histories.

The documents are viewable by appointment Monday to Friday at 770 Gibbons Rd. See heritagerenfrew.ca for more details.

As part of its 200th-anniversary celebrations in 2016, the Perth Military Settlement (the Town of Perth and Drummond/North Elmsley, Tay Valley and Beckwith townships) created its own genealogy resource. The historical mapping project shows original lost boundaries for the four settlements that were granted to European emigrants and disbanded soldiers from the War of 1812,

as well as various types of land grants such as military, settler, clergy and Crown, and information about the original settlers.

That information includes where they came from, how many people were in the family and more, and is available online at <https://lanarkcountytourism.com/tours/ancestry-genealogy/>.

Libraries and museums also offer localized genealogy resources. The Middleville and District Museum provides a genealogy section on its website at middlevillemuseum.org, highlighting its resources for family-history researchers. They include access to Ancestry.ca, as well as copies of more than 10,000 photographs and documents related to local residents and tax information dating from 1850 for residents of the former Lanark Township (now part of Lanark Highlands Township), and 1896 for Darling Township (also now part of Lanark Highlands).

The museum also offers birth, marriage and death records, with volunteers familiar with the collections and always willing to lend a helping hand.



Hey there, storyteller! Telling family stories is powerful, but not always in the way we think. Sharing your family stories is a precious encounter that will help your kids establish connections between generations and build memories they'll have all their lives. Stories are a method of maintaining family history and Lanark County Genealogical Society (LCGS) motivates each hearer to dig deeper. Capture the voices, and collect those old documents, photos, records, and newspaper articles of notable events that impacted your family. Let LCGS help you to take it one step further! Let our experienced volunteers be your coach, as we additionally write about family histories, historical settlements, and grand events. Reach out to us via our website lanarkgenealogy.com or by phone at 613-257-9482.



Genealogy Resource Centre Smiths Falls





Growing town sits on historic river

Carleton Place is constantly growing, and its services and amenities have evolved to meet the demands of current and new residents and visitors to town.

Bridge Street in the downtown core has been completely renovated over the last year, with the finishing touches put on the streetscape in June.

Town officials like to stress that Carleton Place offers the conveniences of the city with small-town friendliness. Its proximity to Ottawa makes it the perfect location for a day trip, and the Mississippi River that winds its way through the town is tailor-made for recreational activities, from swimming and boating to fishing and birdwatching.

Away from the river, you can discover the heritage that



Local residents and visitors can sit by the Mississippi River at Riverside Park, or launch their boats nearby at the public boat launch.

helped create the town that exists today, including the logging industry that used the

river as its highway. The town is home to the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum and the Roy Brown Museum and Information Centre, which highlights the Carleton Place native's First World War exploits.

The Carleton Place Community Labyrinth is also located behind the Carleton Place and Beckwith museum. Murals throughout town include Brown, Canadian musician Stompin' Tom Connors, who regularly performed at the Mississippi Hotel, and the Ballygiblin Riots of 1824.

Trails such as the Mississippi RiverWalk, the OVRT, O'Keel-Lee Nature Trail, Riverside Trail, Rotary Centennial Trail, Sonnenburg Woods and Roy Brown Park Trail give residents and visitors numerous options for exploring Carleton Place and its outskirts.



Carleton Place's downtown core is dominated by its historic town hall, sitting beside the Mississippi River. *Photo courtesy of carletonplace.ca*



**Mill of Kintail
Conservation Area**

The Mill of Kintail is celebrating a half century with MVCA!
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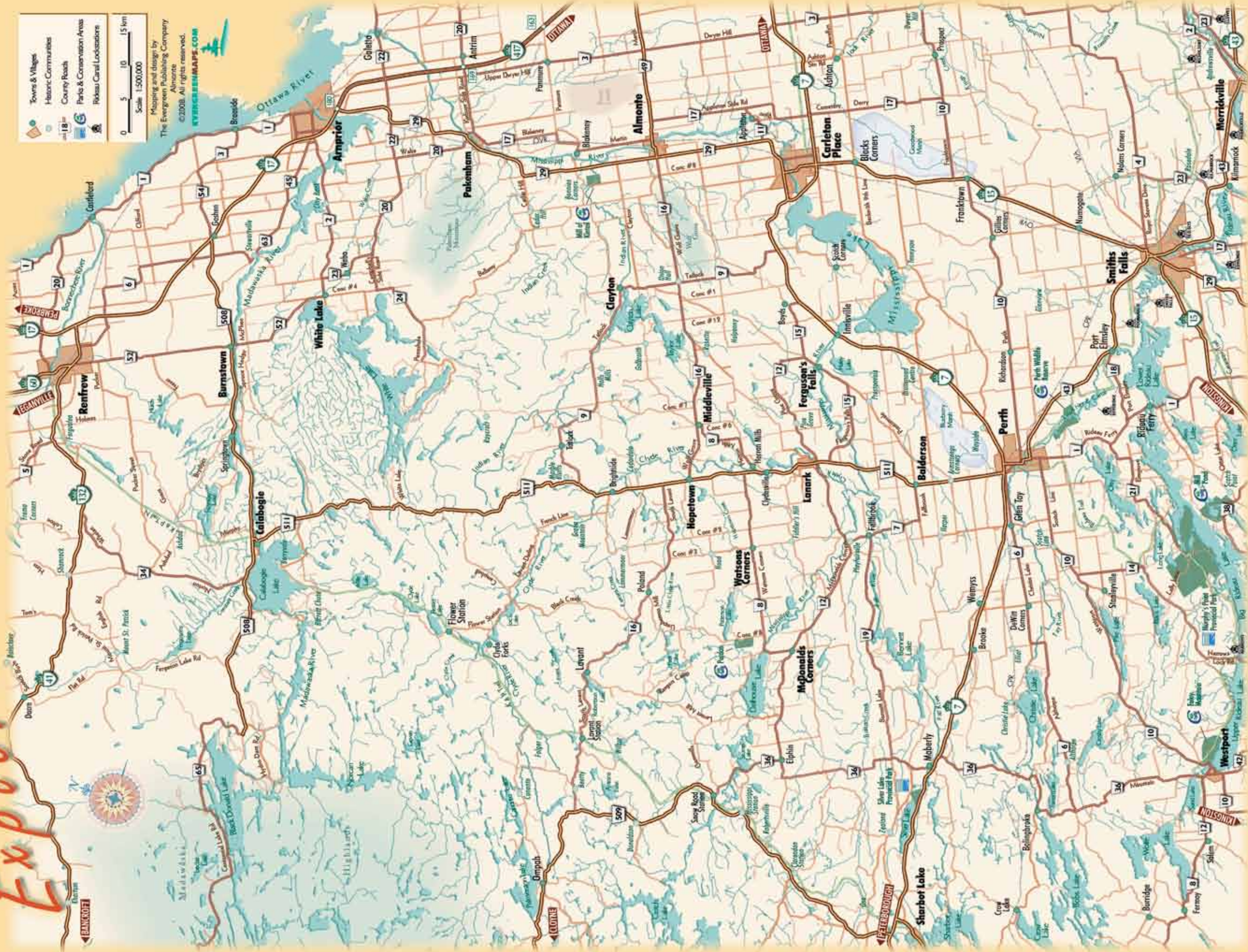
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paper is published weekly, with Maple
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Maple Lanes

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Almshouse - Balderson - Burnaby - Calabogie
Caylene Place - Clayton - Epton - Hopetown - Lanark
Middleville - McDonald's Corners - Pakenham - Perth
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2020 Travel & Recreation Guide

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**Tourism Resources in
Lanark and Renfrew**

lanarkcountytourism.com

exploremississippimills.ca

comewander.ca

perth.ca -> Visit

carletonplace.ca -> Visit

lanarkhighlands.ca -> Discover

smithsfalls.ca -> Explore

tayvalleytwp.ca -> Discover Tay Valley

dnetownship.ca -> Explore and Play

montagnetownship.ca -> Visitors

twp.beckwith.on.ca -> Community

greatermadawaska.com -> Things To Do



Discovering Lanark's whitetail deer

By Claudia Smith

Do you see that graceful shape out in the field? There's another and another – whitetail deer are very common in Lanark County.

In the pioneer days, deer were an important source of food. In the 1820s, when the settlers first arrived and before the land was cleared for gardens and crops, food supplies were very limited.

A story is told of a family starving on their homestead. The men went off through the deep snow to hunt and were away many days.

One morning, with hope almost gone, the woman of the house found a dead deer outside the family cabin. No footprints in the snow gave any indication of where it came from and its appearance was laid, with thanks, at the hand of Providence.

There is another tale of an American man who wandered into the settlement of Lanark with a most rare possession – a rifle. He shot many deer which were shared among the hungry settlers.

Two quick-thinking young women once noticed a deer swimming across a lake. Gathering up their long skirts, they jumped into the family dugout canoe and paddled after it. They managed to kill it with a paddle and thus brought in a supply of fresh meat for their family.

Nothing of deer carcasses was wasted. The tallow or fat found above the tails of deer was an important ingredient used in a medicinal salve. Bones were shaped into needles, crochet hooks and mat hooks. Footwear and mitts



This mother whitetail deer and her spotted fawn watched passing traffic on McDonald's Corners Road before the mother bounded away.

were made of tanned deer hides.

One pioneer man trudged many miles dragging one hundred pounds of flour across the snow on a deer hide. He had had to travel the many miles through dense bush to and from the nearest mill which was in Brockville. A tanned deer hide was once fashioned into a soft cover for a treasured Gaelic bible.

In later years, as farms grew prosperous, deer were not such a vital source of meat. A young man made a pet of an abandoned fawn. It thrived and when it was grown, it was freed – with a red leather collar fastened around its neck – to return to the forest.

The fawn did not lose its comfort with people and in the spring, it

returned to the farm maple bush when the family was collecting sap. The deer showed up each morning as the sap was being boiled to thick syrup in large kettles over an open fire.

The creature's company was appreciated during the long hours of boiling. Sadly, months later a neighbour commented that he had found a deer near his fence and he had been able to quickly hit it on the head. "Oddly," he said, "it had a red collar around its neck."

As beautiful as deer are, they can be a hazard on the roads. If you are driving at dusk watch carefully for deer along the roadside. If one runs across in front of you, be sure to watch for its companions as deer often travel in small groups.



Tips and tricks for travelling with dogs

After years living under the cloud of a pandemic that limited where they could travel, many people have a strong desire to head off for parts unknown. As individuals and families ponder business trips or vacations, they may think about bringing a beloved pet along.

According to a AAA/Best Western survey, 85 per cent of dog owners travel with their dogs. The most popular vacations to let pooches tag along include going to the beach, camping and hiking.

As a greater number of people are engaging in more activities with their pets, businesses in the travel and hospitality sector are taking notice and have become more accommodating to four-legged guests.

However, there's still plenty to learn when taking a dog along as a travel companion. Explore these dog travel tips:

- Invest in a crate. Even if the dog does not need a crate at home, it's best to have one for travel. Crates often are required for airline travel and can keep dogs safer in cars. Many hotels also require that dogs be crated in the rooms to keep them out of trouble and prevent damage. A crate should be large enough that the dog can stand, turn and lie down, according to the American Kennel Club.

- Carry copies of pet-related documents. It's important to prove that the dog is healthy and current on vaccinations. Officials may ask to see documentation when traveling abroad. Some travellers also may want to investigate pet passports. The USA does not require a pet passport, but the European Union pioneered pet passports



to enable animals to move more freely throughout its member nations.

- Plan a short excursion first. If you have never travelled with a dog before, make the first trip a short one, such as an overnight or two-day stay. This way, if the trip turns into a fiasco, checkout isn't a week away. Shorter trips also help people figure out what works and what will need to change the next time.

- Expect some fees. Most hotels charge a fee for doggy clients. A fee of \$25 to \$50 is pretty standard. There also may be a designated pet floor to minimize the chances that guests without pets will be forced to interact with animals.

- Normal behaviour may go out the window. A dog who is calm at home may be out of sorts while travelling. It's not uncommon for a dog unfazed by people at home to suddenly be anxious and bark at sounds in a hotel hallway.

- Look into pet-friendly restaurants. Smarter Travel says

that some hotels won't allow a guest to keep the dog alone in the room. That means meal time can be tricky. Find restaurants nearby that allow pets. Many that have outdoor seating may enable a leashed pet to stay near the seating perimeter.

- Bring water from home. When packing food, pack a few gallons of water as well, even though it can be cumbersome. Some dogs with delicate digestive systems may be upset by drinking the local water. A case of diarrhea is compounded further by having to make it into an elevator and outside the hotel in time.

- Tire the dog out. Exercised dogs tend to be well-behaved dogs. Make time to go on long walks, visit a dog park or engage in other activities that will make the pup tired so it's less likely to cause problems at the hotel.

Learn the ropes of travelling with a dog to increase the opportunities for having lots of fun with Fido in tow.

Burnstown

Shop, eat and play in Burnstown

Shop, eat, rest and relax in Burnstown on your next day trip.

The hamlet between Calabogie, Renfrew and Arnprior has a surprising number of galleries and shops, as well as food and snack options. The Burnstown Beach is a popular stop for families.

Burnstown was settled about 1825, and early settlers from Scotland chose the name in homage to famous Scottish poet Robbie Burns. At the corner of McNab Township in Renfrew County, Burnstown was originally named Johnston's Rock after a huge boulder in the Madawaska, where a man named Johnston had drowned.



The Madawaska River flows past Burnstown on its way from southern Algonquin Park to the Ottawa River.

Maple Syrup

A sweet tradition carries on in Lanark County

Lanark County is the Maple Syrup Capital of Ontario, with dozens of large- and small-scale maple producers tapping trees every spring to create liquid gold.

While the season runs for a few weeks in early spring, syrup is available all year round, either from the producers themselves or at local businesses. Some produc-

ers also offer their goods online, with value-added products from maple candy to maple granola satisfying sweet-tooth cravings in Lanark County and beyond.

Pure maple syrup is 100-per-cent natural and unrefined, keeping the nutritional value of sap straight from the maple tree. It is a good source of mineral nutrients and vitamins, with a higher nutritional value than all other common sweeteners.

More than 90 producers belong to the Lanark and District Maple Syrup Producers' Association. Many of the producers host Maple Weekend on the first weekend in April, and open their camps to the public during the syrup season. The season ends with the Festival of the Maples in Perth in late April.





Take a break in Calabogie, Madawaska

When lumber barons of the 1800s needed to get logs from the forests to their mills, they used rivers – and the Madawaska River was one of the largest.

The damming of the Madawaska led to the creation of Calabogie Lake, and businesses and homes grew up around the lake and river. The Madawaska is 230 kilometres long and flows through several lakes, including Black Donald, Centennial, Madawaska Reserve (Arnprior Head Pond) and Kamaniskeg.

Calabogie is part of Greater Madawaska Township, which has a total population of about 2,800 people, many of those in Calabogie and the village of Griffith. The township came into being in 2001 as an amalgamation of five former townships – Bagot and Blythfield, Brougham, and Griffith and Matawatchan.

Calabogie is a full-service vil-



The mountain peaks of Calabogie are visible in the distance from this rest stop and picnic area along Hwy. 508.

lage, with groceries, restaurants, hardware and more. Its main claim to fame over the years has been its ski hill, with outdoor enthusiasts from all around visiting Calabogie

Peaks during the winter.

The lake is a popular spot for watersports in the summer, and trails such as Eagle’s Nest just a few minutes from Calabogie offer breathtaking bird’s-eye views of the entire region.

At the bottom of Black Donald Lake in the former Brougham Township, 13 kilometres from Calabogie, lies the former village of Black Donald Mines. When the graphite mine was exhausted, the village on the shores of White Fish Lake was flooded in the 1960s by the hydro dam at Mountain Chute.

The backflow of the hydro dam created Centennial Lake, as well as Black Donald Lake.

The remains of the village of Black Donald Mines now lie under 80 feet of water. A historical plaque tells its story.

With files from greatermadawaska.com/Bill Graham



The Madawaska River’s 230-kilometre length runs from Algonquin Park to the Ottawa River.



Where do common phrases come from?

We've all heard and very possibly said them many times – commonplace sayings whose meaning has been lost to all but the biggest history buffs.

In the late 1970s, Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto put together a booklet of common sayings that have less-common origins. All these years later, we still use many of the sayings, and still have no idea where most of them come from!

Here's a sampling of some of the more interesting origins:

Brand New: When we say something is brand new, we mean unused and unhandled. However, Brand was an early Germanic (Old English) word meaning fire, so "brand new" literally meant "fire new," and was used only for metal objects fresh from the smith's fire.

Goose Pimples/Goose Bumps: Geese were an important fowl to early settlers, and were sometimes plucked to provide feathers for stuffing mattresses, bolsters and covers. Like all birds, geese have tiny muscles in the skin to pull their feathers erect and create an insulating layer of air around their



bodies. Even when feathers are plucked, the skin reacts in the same manner, but the reactions become clearly visible in raised bumps. We humans have the same reaction, even with our scanty covering of hair, in response to the cold.

Flash In The Pan: The expression describes something that starts in a showy manner but fails to go off as expected. Its beginnings relate to a flintlock musket, which needs a small amount of gunpowder to ignite outside the barrel of the gun but connected by a small opening to the main charge inside the barrel. Sometimes the powder in the pan fails to light to the main charge, so no explosion occurs – and there is only "a flash in the pan."



To Make a Beeline: Bees return to the hive by the most direct route, so an unswerving and direct approach to an end came to be called "making a beeline."

Upper Crust: When wheat was scarce, thrifty housewives would bake their pies using expensive wheat flour for only the top crust, and leave less expensive rye flour for the bottom crust. To be "upper crust" now means to be of better quality or "more expensive"



(wealthier) than most.

To Go Like a House on Fire: In early settlements, most homes were built of wood, and the danger of fire was always high. Isolated homes with no easy access to water meant buildings often burned to the ground so fast nothing could be saved. When something "goes like a house on fire," it happens really, really fast. It could be the start of a relationship: "They get on like a house on fire," or quick success, as in "That pitcher started the season like a house on fire."

Gone to Pot: Broken pieces of candle and candle ends were kept in melting pots to be reused in making new candles. They were considered "gone to pot" because they were no longer useable, with the term also applied to small or damaged pieces of metal saved to be melted down and remoulded. Now, the saying means anything (or anyone) ruined beyond repair.

To Be on Tenter-hooks: Newly woven cloth, after it has been "fulled" by washing and beating, was stretched on a tenter frame and held in place by tenter-hooks. This now applies to a person "stretched" by anxiety or curiosity.



Mississippi Mills - Clayton



Clayton is all about community

Clayton is a small settlement with big community spirit. The annual Claytonfest celebration planned for Saturday, July 22 this year brings good old-fashioned country music to the Clayton Community Centre from 1-5 p.m., and is included as one of the Bicentennial events for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

Clayton itself was founded in 1824 under the name Bellamy's Mills, and was renamed to Clayton in 1858. The Clayton General Store has been in operation for even longer than Clayton's name, beginning in 1839 and now billing itself as "The Classic General Store" with gas, necessities, and more recently alcohol sales.

Clayton Lake is well-known by anglers for its fishing pleasures, and Thompson's Black Rock Park, on the lake's shores, gives visitors the option for cottage rentals, overnight and seasonal camping, and the convenience store lets campers, cottagers and the wider community pick up all of their daily needs, from propane to ice cream.



The small park area by the Clayton dam is a perfect spot to relax after picking up a snack from the Clayton General Store. Inset, the Clayton Community Centre hosts many events through the year.

CLAYTON GENERAL STORE

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Summer Hours: Mon./Fri. - 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sat. - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sun. - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



This fiddle board sits next to the Clayton dam.



Thompson's BLACK ROCK PARK

745 Black Rock Lane
Clayton Lake
(613) 256-1020
www.blackrockpark.ca



Family-owned & operated park on the shores of Clayton Lake:

- Cottage rentals
- Overnight camping
- Seasonal camping
- Convenience store






Welcoming past and current residents

Former residents are invited to “Come Home to Pakenham” from Aug. 18-20, as part of the Bicentennial celebrations for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

To mark the anniversary, local author Robert Gardiner has written *The History of Pakenham: 1823-2023*. Pakenham once had a population of 2,500, and although its numbers have declined, its residents and business owners keep the village busy and attractive.

The village is named for Sir Edward Michael Pakenham, a historic figure with no ties to the area.

The five-span stone bridge built in 1903 is a perennial attraction, as the only one of its kind in North America.



The Pakenham Beach, behind Fred Millar Park and Stewart Community Centre in the village of Pakenham, gives local residents a place to cool off on a hot summer day in the Mississippi River, with a trail nearby.

200 1823-2023
Mississippi Mills

Celebrating 200 years!

<p><i>June 16</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill Workers' Walk Re-enactment <p><i>June 30</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakenham Canada Day Eve Parade & Fireworks <p><i>July 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Day Celebrations - Almonte <p><i>July 22</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claytonfest <p><i>July 29</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Bicentennial Celebration <p><i>August 5</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Farm Tour 	<p><i>August 12</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach's Playbook Art Exhibit • Naismith 3x3 Basketball Tournament • Celebration of Dr. James Naismith's Induction into Canada's Walk of Fame! <p><i>August 18-20</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come Home to Pakenham Weekend Celebration <p><i>August 20</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antique Car Show <p><i>August 27</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appleton Community Celebration <p><i>September 9</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPP Golden Helmets
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MISSISSIPPIMILLS.CA/200



Big plans for Bicentennial in Almonte

This is the big year for Almonte and the wider Municipality of Mississippi Mills: the Bicentennial celebration of its settlements.

The municipality has planned a full year of events and activities to commemorate the 200th anniversary, in Almonte and beyond. Almonte is a focal point, as organizers celebrate its history along with the present and future. Regular community events such as Canada Day and the Naismith 3x3 Basketball Tournament in August will incorporate the anniversary, with brand-new celebrations such as the Community Bicentennial Celebration on July 29 and Come Home to Pakenham weekend celebrations from Aug. 18-20 ramping up the anniversary fun.

The 3x3 tournament weekend will have an additional highlight, with a local celebration for Dr. James Naismith on his induction into Canada's Walk of Fame. Naismith, who was born in 1861 in the former Ramsay Township (which is now part of Mississippi Mills) and attended Almonte and District High School, created the game of basketball as a teacher in Springfield, Mass.

The Walk of Fame inducted Naismith in 2019 in the Science, Technology and Innovation category.

Mississippi Mills has created a section of its website specifically for the Bicentennial at mississippimills.ca/200, with an events calendar, latest news and history.

Almonte is the largest settlement in Mississippi Mills, and has the most extensive history. The surveying began in 1820 and ended

See next page



The falls on the Mississippi River are a striking spot in downtown Almonte.

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Mississippi Mills - Almonte



From previous page

in early 1821, and David Shepard received the two hundred-acre lots that make up the most of present-day Almonte in December of 1822. He sold to Daniel Shipman, whose name was incorporated into the first official town name of Shipman's Mills. After a brief period as Waterford from 1853-1855, the post office's insistence on a name change due to the existence of another Waterford led town fathers to choose "Almonte" after Mexican Gen. Juan Almonte, who had no apparent connection to the area.

Almonte became a town in 1880 with a population of 2,000, helped along by the completion of a railway to Brockville and the opening of several woollen mills that made the town one of Ontario's leading woollen cloth manufacturing centres.

In recent years, the town has continued to expand, with a population of a little more than 5,000 as part of a municipality with more than 13,000 in rural areas and the hamlets of Pakenham, Appleton, Clayton, Blakeney, Bennies Corners and Leckie's Corners.

Almonte's downtown core is in the midst of a two-year revital-



The Almonte Alameda is part of the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail, with maples planted and benches placed along the trail in downtown Almonte.


ization. By the end of June, work should be finished on the final phase of the reconstruction project, with sidewalk replacement, asphalt and new landscaping areas on the upper section of Mill Street.

Final landscaping will take place during the summer. As always, however, the businesses on Mill Street and Little Bridge Street remain open and welcoming to visitors.

Almonte is a magnet for festivals, with Puppets Up! bringing

Puppet Con to town in mid-August with workshops, panels and shows, Celtfest, Busfusion and the North Lanark Highland Games and the Almonte Fair, which has returned to its traditional spot on the second weekend in September after years of hosting the fair in mid-July.

In looking to the future, Mississippi Mills is working on MM2048. The project looks at every service and department, from waste to recreation to transportation to economic development.



August 11-13
Almonte, ON

Workshops!
Panels!
Shows!

www.PuppetsUp.com/PuppetCon



The inventor of basketball, James Naismith, is an icon in Almonte.

White Lake

From Champlain Sea to White Lake

White Lake is a 16-kilometre lake that sits on the corners of four municipalities – the townships of Lanark Highlands, McNab-Braeside, Greater Madawaska and the Municipality of Mississippi Mills. The northern and western shores of the lake mark the upper limit of the Champlain Sea, a prehistoric inlet of the Atlantic Ocean created by retreating ice sheets at the end of the last ice age.

White Lake Village sits at the northern shore of the lake, with campgrounds and cottages dotting the area. It was known as Wab-lac by Indigenous people, with the name most likely coming from the white marl deposits covering parts of the lake substrate.

White Lake came into being in



A sandy beach in White Lake village welcomes visitors.

1845 with construction of a dam on Waba Creek, which led to three previously unconnected water bodies joining together.

The White Lake fen, a small

wetland on the shore in the Lanark Highlands section of the lake, makes White Lake regionally significant, as a rare wetland type for Lanark County.

Smiths Falls

Spend a day away in Smiths Falls

From arts to sports to outdoor experiences, Smiths Falls has you covered.

The historic town sits on the Rideau Canal between Ottawa and Kingston. The canal opened in 1832, opening up the town and others along its length to more economic opportunities which only grew when the Canadian Pacific Railway started to run through Smiths Falls.

The Canal is known as the best-preserved slack-water canal in the world, and the only one from the 19th century that still operates along its original watercourse with original structures intact. It covers

200 kilometres and was built in six years, and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The original owner of the land now called Smiths Falls was Lieut. Thomas Smyth. The “falls” in the name came from the falls that were diverted to create the Rideau Canal and the three town lock stations.

Smyth received a grant for the 400 acres of land in 1786 following the American Revolutionary War. Smyth, however, lost the rights to his land and mill in 1824 after he defaulted on mortgage payments, and a self-proclaimed United Empire Loyalist, Abel Russell Ward, purchased the land.

The location of Smiths Falls offers multiple opportunities for outdoor recreation, with boating, fishing, swimming and other watersports just steps away from all central locations. The arts and culture scene is also thriving, and history is at your fingertips at the Eastern Ontario Railway Museum and the Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum.

Trails, parks and playgrounds, including an off-leash dog park, are all within town limits, and an airport owned by Smiths Falls and Montague Township offers a unique way for visitors to come to town.



Swimming & Boating



Lanark Village

Riverside Park, the waterfront park on the Clyde River, has a sandy beach with a sloping shore suitable for toddlers. There are picnic tables and a large area of grass for playing. Young children will enjoy the play structure. There's no charge for using this park, and the beach has plenty of parking. It is located directly off of George Street.

Dalhousie Lake

Centennial Park on the west shore of Dalhousie Lake has a sandy beach, gazebo, picnic area, change rooms, and playground equipment, as well as a public boat launch to fish for pickerel, largemouth and smallmouth bass and northern pike. To get there from McDonald's Corners, take

Lanark Cty. Rd. 12 west for 5.5 kilometres, right on Lavant Mill Rd., and continue for three km.

Robertson Lake

Robertson Lake park and beach at Lavant has a boat launch, sandy beach, change rooms, washrooms, a picnic area and a kitchen that may be rented for gatherings. Take Lanark Cty. Rd. 16 to Lavant.

Clayton Lake

From the boat launch in Clayton, plan a day of fishing for pike, pickerel and bass. The public park beside the dam has shaded picnic tables.

Almonte Beach

The beach at 195 Water St. near the Almonte Fairgrounds includes shade structures, washrooms and

a boat launch.

Pakenham Beach

Amenities include shade trees and washrooms at this beach at 106 Margaret St. near Fred Millar Park.

Calabogie Lake

Barnet Park and beach in Calabogie has a boat launch, sandy beach, changerooms and picnic area.

Burnstown Beach

The Burnstown Beach at 1537 Calabogie Rd. has a sandy beach on the Madawaska River, play structure, seasonal concession stand, public washroom and boat launch. Boat launch parking passes available at the concession stand, Antrim Truck Stop, White Lake General Store, township office.



Libraries



Lanark Highlands Public Library

The library offers services for residents and visitors year-round. Free Services: Books, DVDs, puzzles, museum passes for loan; public WiFi; public computers; public washrooms; electrical outlets for battery charging; library memberships (for seasonal residents); summer children's programming; take-home craft kits. Other services: Books for sale by donation; printing/scanning/faxing/copying/laminating; coffee/tea/hot chocolate. lanarklibrary.ca

Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday: 1-4 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday: 1-6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mississippi Mills Public Library

This local public library offers a

wide range of best-selling books, popular movies, music, magazines, programs, information of all sorts, Internet/computer stations, high-speed free wireless access and more. Visit either location, Almonte branch at 155 High St. Almonte and Pakenham branch at 128 McFarlane St. Pakenham.

Almonte branch hours:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday:

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday:

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pakenham branch hours:

Tuesday & Thursday: 2-7 p.m.

Wednesday: 1-5 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

missmillslibrary.com

Perth and District Union Public Library

The Perth library at 30 Herriott St. in Perth provides a literary centre for the community. E-mail info@perthunionlibrary.ca to learn about the library and its programs. perthunionlibrary.ca

Monday & Friday:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday:

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday:

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Greater Madawaska Public Library and Learning Centre

The library is located in St. Joseph's Catholic School at 12629 Lanark Rd. in Calabogie. www.greatermadawaska.com/library

Tuesday & Wednesday:

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday & Friday:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday:

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Calendar of Events



*Check out these local events
in and around Lanark &
Renfrew counties*

JUNE 2023

Blooming of the Orchids, mid-June to mid-July - Lanark Highlands. Rare Lady's Slipper Orchids in bloom, Purdon Conservation Area, 1453 Con. 8 Dalhousie. www.mvc.on.ca.

Perth Citizens' Band Concert Series, June 29, Crystal Palace Perth, 7:30 p.m. Also July 20, and Sundays at 2 p.m. (Aug. 13 & 27, Sept. 17, Oct. 15).
Art Works! Perth Studio Tour, June 23-25, 11 am to 5 pm artworksperth.ca.

Highland on the Rideau Scottish Festival & Smiths Falls Rib Fest, June 24, 9 am, Lower Reach Park, Smiths Falls. Pipe & drum and dancing competitions. www.gordonpipeband.com/hotr/

Strawberry Social, June 24, Middleville and District Museum, 1-4 pm. Activities for all ages. Free.

Almonte Home and Garden Tour, June 24, Mississippi Mills, 10 am - 5 pm. Bicentennial event. 613-256-3754

Strawberry Social, June 25 at North Lanark Regional Museum Appleton. 2-4 pm, Perth Citizens' Band performance. 613-257-8503/[nlrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:nlrmmuseum@gmail.com)

FaeryFest, June 25, Crystal Palace Perth. Dress in Faery costumes, mermaid show 11:30 am & 2:30 pm, food, costume contest 1 p.m., oracle card readings, more.

Carleton Place Legion Community Tattoo, June 25, noon. Back after 13-year hiatus to celebrate the Queen's 70-year reign.

Wheels on the Mississippi Car Show, June 25, Riverside Park Carleton Place, 9 am to 2 pm. 613-621-1771

Canada Eve Celebrations, June 30, 7-8:30 pm, Stewart Community Centre Park, Pakenham, parade, entertainment & fireworks. www.exploremississippimills.ca



Fireworks cap off Canada Day in a show of colour at events throughout Lanark and Renfrew counties.

JULY 2023

Canada Day Celebrations, July 1, Lanark Village ballpark, 7 pm, music, cake, fireworks at dusk. 613-267-2491.

Steak BBQ & music, July 1, Lanark Legion. Afternoon & evening.

Perth Canada Day Celebrations, July 1, Perth. Fireworks at 10 pm. Conlon Farm.

Canada Day Celebrations, July 1, Carleton Place, Riverside Park, beginning 12:30 pm. Fireworks over the Mississippi at 9:45 pm.

Canada Day Celebrations, July 1, Gemmill Park, Almonte, 10 am Classic Car Show, BBQ, entertainment, fireworks at dusk.

Canada Day Celebrations, July 1, Centennial Park Smiths Falls. Dancing, live bands and activities for all ages. www.smithsfalls.ca

Canada Day Celebrations, July 1, Ma-Te-Way Park Renfrew, 1 pm.

Carleton Place Seniors' Breakfast & Hootenanny, July 1, Brunton Community Hall 9th Line Beckwith, 8 am. twp.beckwith.on.ca / 613-

257-1539

Ontario Family Fishing Week, July 1-9. Fish licence-free on any lake or river in Ontario. www.ontariofamilyfishing.com.

Quilts on the Tay, July 7-8, Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre. lanarkcountyquiltersguild.com

Almonte Celtfest, July 7-9, Gemmill Park, Almonte. Music, song, dance, vendors and artisans. www.almonteceltfest.com.

Perth Antique Show & Sale, July 8-9, Perth Civitan Hall, Hwy 43, Perth. 10 am - 4 pm.

Renfrew Roots Music Festival, July 14-15, Ma-Te-Way Park. Buses available from Calabogie, Arnprior, Pembroke. ticketscene.ca

Stewart Park Festival, July 14-16, Free music at Stewart Park, Perth. Food, artisan vendors, children's events, workshops. www.stewartparkfestival.com.

Carleton Place Canoe Club Regatta, July 15, Carleton Place Canoe Club, John St. www.cpcanoeclub.com.

Live History Theatre Troupe, July

continued on next page



Calendar of Events



15, Middleville and District Museum. middlevillemuseum.org

Claytonfest, July 22, Clayton Community Centre, noon to 5 pm.

Herbfest 2023, July 30, 9 am-4 pm, display gardens, demos, Healthy Living Showcase and more. Waba Cottage Museum, White Lake, 24 Museum Rd.

AUGUST 2023

Goodwood Music Festival, Aug. 4-6, Beckwith Park, 1319 9th Line, Carleton Place. Weekend passes with rough camping available. twp.beckwith.on.ca

Lombardy Fair, Aug. 4-6, Lombardy Fairgrounds. Displays, children's events, demo derby, music, antique and farm tractor pull and more. www.lombardyfair.ca.

Mississippi Mills Farm Tour, Aug. 5, 8 am - 5 pm. Bus tour includes lunch at Clayton Community Hall with buskers, displays and dressage demo.

Naismith 3X3 Basketball Festival, Aug. 12, downtown Almonte. Info: www.naismithbasketball.ca.

Scarecrow Day, Aug. 12, Middleville and District Museum. middlevillemuseum.org

Perth Garlic Festival, Aug. 12-13, Perth fairgrounds. Locally grown garlic, artisans, crafts, cooking demos, children's activities. (No pets). www.perthgarlicfestival.ca

Ottawa Spartan Event Weekend, Aug. 12-13, Calabogie Peaks. ca.spartan.com

Come Home to Pakenham Weekend Celebration, Aug. 18-20. events.mississippimills.ca

Lanark County Plowing Match, Aug. 19, Bendew Farms, 362 Ramsay Con. 2A.

Calabogie Classic, Aug. 18-20, Calabogie Motorsport Park. Vintage Automobile Racing Association event.

Mill of Kintail 50th Anniversary Party, Aug. 20, Mill of Kintail



The Naismith 3x3 Basketball Tournament in Almonte is a staple in mid-August.

Museum, 10 am - 4 pm. mvc.on.ca
Maberly Fair, Aug. 26, Maberly Fairgrounds, 9 am, parade, horse show, petting zoo, pony pull and horse draw.

North Lanark Highland Games, Aug. 26, 9 am - 6 pm, Almonte fairgrounds. Pipe bands, dancing, athletics, kiosks. www.almontehighlandgames.com.

Annual Glen Tay Block Race, Aug. 31, 6 pm, starts/finishes at Perth Museum, 14.7 km. www.glentayblock.com.

Perth Fall Fair, Sept. 1-4 at the fairgrounds. Demo derby, farm animals, horse shows, exhibits, midway, grandstand music performances. www.perthfair.com.

Sundance Artisan Show, Sept. 2-4, Maberly, behind Fall River Restaurant, Sat. & Sun. 10 am-5 pm, Mon. 10 am-4 pm. Booths of artists, enjoy food and music. www.sundancestudio.ca.

Renfrew Fair, Sept. 7-10, Renfrew Fairgrounds. Entertainment, midway, livestock. renfrewfair.com

Almonte Fair, Sept. 8-10, North Lanark Agricultural Fairgrounds, Almonte. www.almontefair.ca.

Parkinson SuperWalk, Sept. 9, Conlon Farm Perth. www.donate.parkinson.ca/lanarknorthleeds

Calabogie Boogie Trail Ride, Sept. 9-10, Calabogie Highlands Golf Course, 981 Barryvale Rd.

OPP Golden Helmets Precision Motorcycle Team Show, Sept. 9, downtown Pakenham, 3 pm.

Dragonboat Festival, Sept. 9, Riverside Park, Carleton Place. carletonplace.ca

Fibrefest, Sept. 9-10, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, & Almonte arena. Demonstrations, vendors, and exhibits. almontefibrefest.ca.

Lanark County Harvest Festival, Sept. 10, 11 am - 4 pm, Beckwith Park, 9th Line Beckwith. Seminars, children's activities, music, food. www.harvestfestival.ca.

Take Back the Night, Sept. 14, Carleton Place. lcih.org

Middleville Fair, Sept. 16, Middleville Fairgrounds, 10 am - 4 pm. Horses, farm animals, children's games, antique machinery, turkey supper. www.middlevillefair.ca.

Perth Night Market, Sept. 16, 5 p.m. Entertainers, artisans, shops open late.

Terry Fox Run, Sept. 17 in various locations. #DearTerry theme. www.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Continued on next page



Calendar of Events



terryfoxrun.org

Honour Our Veterans Banner Weekend, Sept. 23-24, Perth. Parade, flyover and banner unveilings.

McDonald's Corners Fair, Sept. 30 at the village fairgrounds, 9 am - 7:00 pm. Horse, bird, sheep & craft shows, vendors, pet show, children's games, turkey supper.

Renfrew Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival, Sept. 30, 127 Raglan St. S., Renfrew. www.renfrew.ca.

OCTOBER 2023

Apple Cider Day, Oct. 7, Middleville and District Museum. middlevillemuseum.org

Perth Autumn Studio Tour, Oct. 7-8, 10 am to 5 pm. perthstudiotour.com. Free admission.

Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Oct. 7-9, 10 am-5 pm. Tour the studios, enjoy the scenery through Mississippi Mills, Almonte and Clayton. www.crownandpumpkin.com.

Lanark & District Museum closing weekend, Oct. 7-9. lanarkanddistrictmuseum.blogspot.ca.

Middleville & District Museum closing weekend, Oct. 7-9. middlevillemuseum.blogspot.ca.

Calabogie Halloween Vendors' Market, Oct. 22, 11 am - 4 pm, Calabogie Community Hall.

Perth Ghost Walk, Oct. 26, 27 & 28, Perth Museum, 7-8:30 pm \$10/ ticket, ticketsplease.ca

Beckwith Community Halloween Party, Oct. 27, Beckwith Park, 1319 9th Line, 6-8 pm.

Perth Zombie Walk, Oct. 28, 5 pm, downtown Perth.

NOVEMBER 2023

Perth Pumpkin Parade, Nov. 1, 6-8:30 pm, downtown Perth. Bring jack-o-lanterns and vote for your favourites.

Remembrance Day, Nov. 11,



Traditional chores became a fun family activity at the Middleville Fair. From August through September, weekends are busy throughout the area with fair activities.

ceremonies in most towns/villages. Check Legion websites/Facebook pages for details.

Textile Mill Workers Musical, Nov. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, Almonte Old Town Hall 14 Bridge St., 7 pm. mississippimills.ca

Perth Farmers' Christmas Market, Nov. 18, Crystal Palace. perthfarmersmarket.ca

Violet Femmes, Nov. 24, Carleton Place. Lanark County Interval House fundraiser. lcih.org

Victorian Christmas, Nov. 24, Middleville and District Museum. middlevillemuseum.org

Once Upon a Christmas, Nov. 25, downtown Perth, 10 am to 5 pm. Christmas carols, fire pits, hot chocolate, horse-drawn wagon rides, shopping deals.

Carleton Place Santa Claus Parade, Nov. 25, 5 pm. 613-257-8049.

CP Holiday Train, Nov. 28, Perth &

Smiths Falls stops. (Date tentative; see <https://www.cpr.ca/holiday-train/faqs>)

Christmas Tea, Nov. 30, North Lanark Regional Museum, 647 River Rd. Appleton. Details northlanarkregionalmuseum.com

DECEMBER 2023

Festival of Lights, Dec. 1, Perth. Carolling 5:30 pm outside Crystal Palace, tree lighting 6:15 pm.

Light Up the Night, Dec. 1, Almonte, 7 pm. Entertainment, fireworks, vendors.

Pakenham Santa Claus Parade, Dec. 2, 1 pm, main street, Pakenham..

Nick of Time Artisan Show, Dec. 2, McMartin House, 125 Gore St. E., Perth, 10 am - 3 pm.

Perth Santa Claus Parade, Dec. 2,

continued on next page



Calendar of Events



5 pm. Sunset Boulevard to Queen Elizabeth School.

Renfrew Santa Claus Parade, Dec. 2, 5 pm.

Family Christmas Day, Dec. 2, North Lanark Regional Museum, 647 River Rd. Appleton. northlanarkregionalmuseum.com

Almonte Santa Claus Parade, Dec. 3, 5 pm, Mill Street, Almonte.

Perth Citizens' Band Christmas Concert, Dec. 4, 2 pm, Perth Legion.

Lanark Village Santa Claus Parade, Dec. 9, 1 pm.

Kintail Country Christmas, Dec. 16-17, Mill of Kintail 2854 Ramsay Con. 8, Mississippi Mills. www.mvc.on.ca.

New Year's Eve Family Fireworks, Dec. 31, Beckwith Park, 13199th Line, 4-7 p.m. Fireworks 6 pm.



Santa Claus parades, including this one in Lanark village, help build the festive spirit.



Farmers' Markets



Pick up fresh finds at local farmers' markets

Perth, Saturday mornings 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., mid-May to Thanksgiving, Crystal Palace, Tay Basin. Info: www.perthfarmersmarket.ca.

Carleton Place, Saturday mornings, May 20 to Thanksgiving, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Market Square Pavillion, corner of Beckwith and Lake Ave. Info: www.cpfarmersmarket.wordpress.com.

Almonte, Saturday mornings 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., mid-May to Thanksgiving, at the Almonte Alameda next to the library. www.almontefarmersmarket.ca.

McDonald's Corners Ag Hall Market, Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., McDonald's Corners

Agricultural Hall, May to October. **McDonald's Corners Farmers' Market, Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.,** MERA Schoolhouse, May to October.

Burnstown Farmers' Market, Fridays 2-6 p.m., May to October, parking lot beside Laurent's Ice Cream & Café.



The McDonald's Corners Ag Hall Market was a new addition to local markets last year.



Museums



Museums are more than a rainy-day diversion—although that is one of their benefits! They often offer a glimpse into the past, whether local, national or specific to one aspect of history, such as military or railway. Here are some of the many museums in our area.

Lanark & District Museum

Located at 80 George St., Lanark, see exhibits of tools, clothing and artifacts collected from area pioneer homes and a library of Canadiana books and genealogy records. The museum is open weekends and holiday Mondays.

Middleville & District Museum

Located at 2130 Con. 6D in Middleville, the museum is set in an 1861 stone schoolhouse plus extensive additions. The museum is open 12-4 p.m. weekends and holiday Mondays from May to October. Visit middlevillemuseum.org for more.

Dalhousie Historic Library and Museum

Located at 1132 Con. 3 Dalhousie in Watson's Corners, it was the first rural library in Ontario and was established in 1828. It is housed in the Watson's Corners Community Hall and is currently closed for revitalization. Grand reopening Nov. 30

Lanark Highlands Basketry Museum

Located at 5596 McDonald's Corners Rd., this museum features more than 300 unique basketry items. 613-278-1203/lanarkhighlandsbasketrymuseum.ca

Wheeler's Maple Heritage and Forest & Farm Museum

These two museums are located at 1001 Highland Line, McDonald's Corners. The maple museum features antique maple-related items from the First Nations to present.

The Forest & Farm Museum has more than 600 vintage chainsaws and unique farming tools. www.wheelersmaple.com

Perth Museum

Situated in the 1840s Matheson House at 11 Gore St. E. in Perth, this museum has been carefully restored and furnished to reflect the lifestyle of that time. Outdoors, find an enclosed Scottish garden, and an outdoor bake oven. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. 613-267-1947

Perth Legion Hall of Remembrance

Located in the Perth Royal Canadian Legion at 26 Beckwith St. E., it has a hall containing thousands of military artifacts donated by area men and women. Open Friday and Saturday 1-3 p.m. from May to Remembrance Day. 613-267-4400

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

Located in the former Rosamond Woolen Company at 3 Rosamond St. E. in Almonte. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 1-4 p.m. mvtm.ca/mvt2/

Mill of Kintail ~ Naismith Museum

Located at 2854 Ramsay Con. 8 Mississippi Mills, it features 154 hectares of natural settings and six kilometres of trails. Houses exhibits of inventor of basketball Dr. James Naismith and sculptor Robert Tait McKenzie. Trails are open year-round for hiking and snowshoeing. For information: www.mvc.on.ca/conservation-areas/mill-of-kintail.

North Lanark Regional Museum

Located at 647 River Rd. in Appleton, it features a country-store display, pioneer log cabin, and archival and research material for genealogy. northlanarkregionalmuseum.com

www.northlanarkregionalmuseum.com/613-257-8503.

Heritage House Museum

The museum, located at 11 Old Slys Rd. in Smiths Falls, is a classically styled Victorian home restored to depict the 1860-1875 time period. It is the municipal museum for Smiths Falls, and is open Wednesday to Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the summer. For information, call 613-283-6311 or visit smithsfalls.ca under Visiting Us.

Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario

Located on 10.5 acres at 90 William St. W. in Smiths Falls, the museum is housed in a railway station, with tours of a steam locomotive and train cars. Climb into a caboose cupola, enjoy a dental car, check out an 1880s CN dining car or stay overnight in a vintage caboose. For more information call 613-283-4124.

Renfrew County Museums

42nd Field Regimental Museum
Algonquin Way Cultural Centre
Arnprior and District Museum
Barry's Bay Railway Station Museum
Birthplace NHA/NHL Museum;
Bonnechere Museum
Bonnechere Provincial Park
Champlain Trail Museum and Pioneer Village
Garrison Petawawa Military Museums
Hoch Farmhouse Museum
Madonna House Pioneer Museum;
McDougall Mill Museum
Mission House Museum and Gallery
Murray L. Moore Hydro Museum
Petawawa Heritage Village
Polish Kashub Heritage Museum
Ross Museum
The Canadian Clock Museum
The School House Museum
Waba Cottage Museum and Gardens.

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