

## Tourist Attractions In Norfolk County

Norfolk County, on the north shore of Lake Erie in Southern Ontario, is recognized as one of the province's most perfect areas for a summer vacation. Every year brings thousands more visitors to the popular resorts.

From the yachting at Port Dover to the sandy beaches at Turkey Point to the recreational activities in provincial parks, Norfolk County affords every member of the family a chance for enjoyment.

Children can ride in amusement areas, fathers can fish, mothers can lie in the sunshine and teenagers can dance at the numerous pavilions.

There's swimming, water-skiing, boating, golfing, bowling, roller skating and sightseeing to keep even the most active person happy.

Norfolk's accommodation is on par with that anywhere in the

province. There is a wide range of cabins, cottages, camps, hotels and motels. The operators provide a high degree of efficiency and progress in running their establishments.

A lot of money isn't needed to enjoy oneself in Norfolk County. Beaches are open to the public free of charge. There are many parks, the most notable being in Simcoe, the county seat.

Driving through the county brings visitors in contact with rolling farms, lakeside views and lush scenery. Historical points of interest abound.

Excellent Roads Within easy walking distance of most Ontario regions and those in the Great Lakes section of the United States, Norfolk can be reached by train, bus and car. A network of excellent paved roads is improved upon yearly to make

travelling a breeze in the county.

For those who like to mix city bustle with vacation relaxation, Norfolk County is close to Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener, London, Niagara Falls and Buffalo.

Famous all over the world for its bass fishing, Long Point Bay lures thousands of fishermen yearly to test their skills with rod and line. On weekends colorful water crafts dot the blue waters of the Bay.

More for commercial fishermen, Port Dover has one of the largest freshwater fishing fleets in the world.

Many provincial highways lead to Norfolk County. The main artery between Detroit and Buffalo, No. 3 Highway, passes through the centre of the county. Highway 24 leads from the northern resort areas through the Guelph-Galt-Kitchener industrial complex into the region. Highway 6 brings visitors from the northeast.

Connecting paved roads are provided between resort towns.

The prime requisites for a resort, good swimming facilities and sandy beaches are plentiful in the county.

Shallow water at every port makes the bathing ideal for children. There is plenty of depth to challenge proficient swimmers, too. One of the most pleasant features is the absence of rocks or stones on the sand, even in the water.

There is a total of nine principal resort regions along the north shore of Lake Erie in Norfolk, beginning from the district east of Port Dover and continuing west to Houghton Township. In addition, there are several campsites.

Port Dover is the largest resort in Norfolk County and one of the biggest on the north shore of Lake Erie. Its attractions for summer visitors include bathing, boating, fishing, dancing, cottages, tourist camps, bowling, miniature golf and an amusement centre.

Continuing westward, the resorts of Port Ryerse, Fisher's Glen and Normandale all have

cottages for rent and excellent swimming and boating facilities. Fisher's Glen is particularly noted for its scenic beauty.

Turkey Point is another of the large resorts. It offers a wide, safe, sandy beach, cottages for rent, hotel accommodations and boats and guides for fishing parties.

Modern Marinas St. Williams and Port Rowan also provide facilities for fishing parties to hire. Many modern marinas dot the inner bay.

Long Point is quickly becoming one of the best resorts on Lake Erie. There are cottages and cabins available, a hotel and motel with access to the fishing grounds, boats for rent, extensive sandy beaches and dance pavilion.

Ample camping and picnic areas can be found in the supervised Provincial Parks at Turkey Point and Long Point. The Norfolk County Park west of Port Ryerse provides the same sources of enjoyment.

One of Norfolk's most widely renowned tourist attractions is the Sand Hills, located west of Port Rowan. Mountains of sand overlook the lake in a natural phenomenon. Multitudes of visitors climb the hills annually. For those who want more than a quick visit

there is a camping site below.

North of St. Williams is the Provincial Government Forestry Station which supplies millions of trees for the province each year. A beautiful park area at the station is the scene of numerous private and organizational picnics. A drive through the wooded area brings tourists into contact with wild life. There is a newly re-opened fishing pond.

Norfolk boasts many historical points of interest for summer visitors, many marked by cairns erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Included in these are the Memorial Cross on Brant Hill, Port Dover, commemorating the visit of French priests, the first white men to touch Lake Erie's north shore. Another cairn, marking their wintering site in 1669-70, is located on Black Creek in Northern Port Dover. Open air church services are held at the cairn in the summer.

A third marker in Port Dover is in Powell Park where Sir Isaac Brock assembled his Canadian army for the expedition against Detroit in the War of 1812-14.

On top of Turkey Point Hill, a cairn marks the site

of Fort Norfolk. British regulars stationed to repel American raids in 1814.

The Carillon Tower, Simcoe contains 23 bells and was erected in honor of Norfolk County's soldiers who died in the World War I. It now tribute to veterans of the world wars. The Carillon is located on the Lynn Road in the heart of Simcoe.

The grave of Abigail Becker, the heroine of Long Point who rescued American sailors from drowning when they ran aground, is in Oakwood Cemetery, Simcoe. A monument marks the grave.

Enlarge Museum Also in Simcoe is the Brook Donly Museum Art and Antiques, home one of the finest collections of historical relics and paintings Ontario.

In the Anglican Churchyard at Port Ryerse are graves of a number of American soldiers who were killed in the War of 1812-14.

There are four historical points near Port Rowan: Backus Mill, north of village which began

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## Smokey Bear

### An International Image

Smokey Bear is well known in North America. His forest fire prevention message is administered by the U.S. Forest Service, in Mexico by the Mexican Forest Service, and in Canada by the

Canadian Forestry Association in co-operation with its member Provincial Forestry Associations.

From the Canadian standpoint, the need of an international image is obvious. Forest fires freely

cross international boundaries. People - the main cause of forest fires - also frequently cross international borders. It is important therefore to have a forest fire prevention image which is recognizable by both native and tourist visitors to forest areas in North America.

The need of an international image is especially important from the Canadian viewpoint. Canadian tourists to Mexico and the United States most commonly visit well developed resort areas where fire is not too great a problem. The attraction for American visitors to Canada, however, is usually this country's vast area of vacation and wilderness land. In many parts of Northern Canada, American tourists are more numerous than Canadians.

In the United States, the population increase in the 60s was almost equivalent to the total Canadian population. The United States visitors - already a common part of the Canadian outdoor scene in the past - can therefore be expected to increase in even greater numbers in the future.

International symbols like Smokey Bear become of special significance in Canada when viewed in this perspective.



## The Changing Forest

When talking about "preserving" Canada's forests, it is important to recognize that there are constant changes going on in nature and some of these have major and continuing impact on the appearance and composition of our forest land.

Change which is constantly taking place is that due to variations in climate. Only 15,000 years ago, most of Canada lay under a thick coating of ice as the last ice-age receded. Many of our major water systems owe their existing patterns to the way this icecap scoured the land. As the ice melted, much of the dry land was gradually occupied by trees and plants from the South and from areas of Northwestern Canada that had escaped this last ice invasion. Pioneer species of trees were frequently followed by others and continuous changes due to climate have been taking place in forest composition since this great phenomenon began 15,000 years ago.

### Norfolk

#### Attractions

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operation prior to 1800: the Troyer Home east of the village which was the home of pioneer Dr. John Troyer; the Bayview Cemetery which was the site of the first wheat field west of the Niagara District; and a plaque in Port Rowan in memory of Abigail Becker.

On the present location of the government fish hatchery at Normandale a plaque marks the site of the widely-known VanNorman Foundry.

These are just some of the tourist attractions in Norfolk County.

Through the efforts of tourist resort operators, the Tourist Section of the Norfolk County Chamber of Commerce, Norfolk County Council and the individual citizens who make their home here, visitors are offered every convenience and courtesy, with the accent on enjoyment.

Forest fires, too, had an early influence on the forest as lightning sometimes set them afire, and burned unhindered over thousands of square miles.

Insect attacks and disease are other natural phenomena which have had continuing influence over vast regions while gale-force winds, floods and other natural disasters oftentimes produced sudden and large changes in the forest environment.

Man's activities have also caused great changes in our forest land. Early native man used fire as one way of hunting wild game or preparing the ground for primitive farm crops. Settlers cleared land helped by fire and of course created permanent changes in the landscape as forests were converted to farms and

as towns, roads and other human works accompanied settlement.

In many ways, contrary to popular opinion, man's activities in forest use will produce less permanent changes to our forest landscape than both natural phenomena and other activities such as agriculture or settlement. Under proper forest management practice, forest can be constantly renewed and this can take place within the broad and changing balance which nature herself produces.

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Advise someone of planned destination and approximate time of return.

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