

Daytrip Companion

NATIONAL PARK • BEACHES • WATER ACCESS • BOAT TOURS • BRUCE TRAIL • PARKING

2026

see center page for
THE BEST MAP EVER!
of the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula

BUSINESS LOCATOR MAPS:

- Accommodations
- Dining
- Adventures
- Shopping
- Gas Stations
- Real Estate



Accessible only by boat, Flowerpot Island is a must-see while on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula. Tour Boats offer daily trips out to the Island for viewing and hiking. Tour Boat fees & Parks admission fees apply.

DT COOL FACT!

The Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula is home to the Chippewas of Saugeen and the Chippewas of Nawash, known collectively as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. Their ancestors have lived here for at least 7,500 years.

In fact, the peninsula was known as the Saugeen Peninsula until about 70 years ago.

Although the name remains officially the Bruce Peninsula, a growing movement advocates renaming it the Saugeen Peninsula, which is why this publication refers to the region as the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula throughout.

Welcome to the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula

Your 2026 Bucket List: You Have To Experience Saugeen Beach, The Grotto & Lion's Head Lookout

? Visitor Information

- **Hepworth Information Center**
465 Bruce St, Hepworth,
226-668-5151
- **Ferndale Information Center**
2928 Hwy 6, Lion's Head,
519-793-4734
- **Tobermory Chamber of Commerce/Information Centre**
7420 Hwy 6, Tobermory,
519-596-2452

There's the world's second-longest freshwater beach, miles of Niagara Escarpment cliffs with caves and flowerpots, miles of pristine, rocky shoreline; — and it's all only three hours from Toronto? Welcome to the Saugeen/ Bruce Peninsula!

Whether you're staying for a couple of weeks or just coming up for the day, there are things to do and see that will make every day memorable.

This publication will try to help you

avoid the pitfalls (traffic, line-ups, hotspots that are fully booked) and get the most out of your time here.

There are hundreds (thousands?) of wonderful places you can enjoy on your visit. Here are a few locations you should add to your "Bucket List".

You have to visit **Saugeen Beach** at Sauble Beach. One of the greatest freshwater beaches in the world. Miles of broad, sandy, public beach. Beach access is free but street parking costs \$7 per hour or \$30 per day. Sauble fills up to capacity on long weekends.

Continued on page 3

DT Insider's Tip

THE GROTTTO, BOAT TOURS, FLOWERPOT ISLAND: BOOK AHEAD!

On weekends in the summer months, parking at the Grotto can be booked solid days in advance. Boat Tours and Flowerpot Island Cruises are sometimes fully booked, especially on Saturdays and long weekends. Early morning and late afternoon departures are the last ones to fill up.

Beat the line-ups – come back mid-week in May, June, September or October when things are less crowded.



View from Lion's Head lookout in Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve. Getting there is a longish but relatively easy hike, however you'll want to read the parking info on page 2 before heading there.

Paid Parking and Parking Restrictions

The various communities and institutions on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula have developed strategies to manage parking.

SAUBLE BEACH (see map center of paper): Paid parking is in effect from June 1st to Labour Day each year; \$7 per hour or \$30 per day. Machines are located at Lakeshore Blvd N and Sauble Falls Rd, Lakeshore Blvd N and Sixth St N, Across from 151 Lakeshore Blvd N, Lakeshore Blvd N and Essex St, Lakeshore Blvd N and King Edward. You pay by licence plate number; you don't need to go back after you've paid. Machines accept debit cards, credit cards, toonies and quarters. Machines do not accept bills. Machines do not give change. Visitsouthbrucepeninsula.com for more info.

WIARTON: Free parking. Street parking on Berford Street and elsewhere. There are also sizeable parking lots behind the buildings on the uphill side of Berford Street.

LION'S HEAD (see map, this page): Two-hour free parking on most of Main and Webster Streets (see map); Paid Parking for rest of village.

Lion's Head Lookout: ParkPass reserved parking for McCurdy Street parking lot from May 15-October 15 which serves as the trailhead for the Bruce Trail hike to Lion's Head lookout (book online at northernbruceparking.ca). The McCurdy lot will generally fill up early every morning and stay full all day. Paid parking is available elsewhere in the village including a largish lot at the arena on Tackabury Street (paid parking machines in several locations).

A free shuttle is offered in July and August (Friday through Sunday and statutory holidays), 10am to 6pm, with paid parking.

TOBERMORY (see map, this page): Paid Parking for most of the village (May 15-September 15), including Dunks Bay Road. Prices vary, as shown on map.

• **Big Tub Lighthouse** — Reserved parking only May 15-September 15. Book online at northernbruceparking.ca.

BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK: Paid parking/admission fee at all access points.

• Parking available at the **Visitor Centre** in

WELCOME TO LION'S HEAD

PAID PARKING IN EFFECT
May 15 – September 15



Pay & Display Machine

Public Washroom

You are here

VISITOR INFORMATION

Additional maps, local amenities and attractions.

How to Scan QR Code:

1. Open camera app
2. Hover over QR Code
3. Wait for a link to appear

PARKING RATES

- All Day Parking - \$3/hr, \$15 max, 6am-8pm
- All Day Parking - \$5/hr, \$30 max, 6am-8pm
- ParkPass 4hr Reservation - 6am-8pm
- 2hr Free Parking, 9am-6pm

Pay and Display Machines are located throughout town. Parking stub must be placed on dash.

DT *CAUTION*
ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES MAY BE TOWED.

DT Insider's Tip

Some of the boat cruise companies offer free parking in their designated lots as well as shuttle bus transportation.

Tobermory and adjacent on-street parking on Chi Sin Tib Dek Road.

• **Little Cove** — small parking lot at the end of Little Cove Road (ParkPass reservation system at northernbruceparking.ca – May 15-September 15). Will probably fill up in the morning and stay full until mid-afternoon in peak season. No nearby on-street parking.

• **Singing Sands** — Parks Canada first come first served lot will fill up by mid-morning and stay full until mid-afternoon in peak season. No line-ups or queueing. No nearby on-street parking.

• **The Grotto/Head of Trails** — parking by reservation only. Will be booked days in advance in summer months. No nearby on-street parking. (parks.ca)

canada.ca/bruce-parking; see sidebar page 4)

• **Halfway Log Dump** parking lot — parking by reservation only beginning June 19. Will be fully booked days in advance No nearby on-street parking. (parks.ca/bruce-parking; see sidebar page 4)

DYERS BAY: Reserved parking – northernbruceparking.ca. There is a large public parking lot near the top of the hill on the road leading down to the village (paid parking machine is 300m west at corner — no cell service at the parking lot). There is no public parking beyond the parking lot. Cabot Head Road is closed; there is no vehicular access to Cabot Head or the lightstation.

CAPE CHIN: Cape Chin North — Reserved parking at Borchardt Road parking lot – northernbruceparking.ca. Cape Chin South — Paid parking at municipal lot on Carter Road.

WELCOME TO TOBERMORY

PAID PARKING IN EFFECT
9am – 6pm | May 15 – September 15

3 Hour Parking - \$3/hr

1 Hour Reservations - \$5/hr

All-Day Parking - \$15/day

Pay and Display Machines are located throughout town. Parking stub must be placed on dash.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Additional maps, local amenities and attractions

How to Scan QR Code:

1. Open camera app
2. Hover over QR Code
3. Wait for a link to appear

PARKING RATES

- 3 Hour Parking - \$3/hr
- 1 Hour Reservations - \$5/hr
- All-Day Parking - \$15/day

Pay and Display Machines are located throughout town. Parking stub must be placed on dash.

Message from the Publisher We Hope You Have Fun

DT Insider's Tip

Wonder what life is like here on the Saugeen/Bruce? Pick up a copy of the Bruce Peninsula Press or visit www.brucepeninsulapress.com to get a taste of what it's like to live on the Bruce Peninsula.

Hello to the 50,000 families who pick up this publication.

The Daytrip Companion started in 1997 with the notion that visitors need a map that shows ALL the roads. We made the map, then asked "what else do visitors want?"

We posed this question to information booth staff and their answers were clear. Visitors ask about the National Parks, Boat Cruises, the Bruce Trail, lighthouses, gardens, beaches, restaurants, diving, fishing and scenic drives.

OK then. We're on it.

The Daytrip Companion tries to anticipate the questions you will be asking, and tries to answer them without a lot of hype.

Our long term goal is to help you find

ALL the ways you can have fun on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula, especially the ones that are FREE!

How are we doing? Did we steer you wrong? Did we leave something out?

Did you find something out the hard way that we could have warned you about? Did we miss a fine experience, a superb lookout, a perfect picnic spot?

Please let us know. Help us make next year's Daytrip Companion the best it can be. We can be reached at info@tobermorypress.com or 226-256-2658.

We wish you sunny days, gorgeous sunsets, blooming orchids and Bald Eagles overhead.

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SAUGEEN/BRUCE PENINSULA

Daytrip Companion

If you have any suggestions or comments, please email them to us at info@tobermorypress.com.

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www.daytripcompanion.ca

Bucket List
Continued from page 1

You have to walk around **Tobermory**. It is tiny, but unbelievably pretty. It will be difficult not to spend time in the shops, restaurants and pubs. (There may be line-ups on Saturdays and long weekends.)

While you're in Tobermory, you'll kick yourself if you don't take a **Boat Tour**. Flowerpot Island, a view of Cove Island Lightstation and any number of shipwrecks await you. Sunset cruises along the shoreline cliffs are unforgettable. **RESERVE AHEAD** — cruises are sometimes fully booked, especially on weekends. **Locals Know:** Early morning and late afternoon departures are the last ones to fill up.

If you have the time, book a walk-on round-trip cruise aboard the **M.S. Chi-Cheemaun**. She is the largest passenger ferry on the Great Lakes and is quite a fun ship to explore (see M.S. Chi-Cheemaun article on page 9).

In Bruce Peninsula National Park, you will want to see **Indian Head Cove** and the **Grotto**. **WARNING — RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** Parking passes can be reserved online (see National Park article on page 4) and once those passes are gone, all vehicles are redirected. If you didn't get in, don't worry, your vacation isn't ruined — choose an alternative — see "Best Kept Secrets" on page 15.

You have to see **Lion's Head**. A tiny village, hemmed in by cliffs: only three minutes off the boring highway. The gorgeous sand beach, yacht harbour and pleasant village centre are flanked on all sides by stunning cliffs which can be explored on the Bruce Trail.

You may have heard of the Lion's Head Lookout, in Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve. It's a lovely sight, but getting there can be a challenge. The trailhead is at the McCurdy Street parking lot, off Moore Street in Lion's Head, but that lot is often full (see parking article, page 2). It's a relatively easy trail to the lookout, but it takes most people well over an hour each way, so plan ahead.



Indian Head Cove (aka The Grotto) in Bruce Peninsula National Park on a busy summer day.

You have to see **Wiaraton**. A sleepy little village that used to be — 150 years ago — a major port and home to two newspapers. The movers and shakers of the Ontario frontier built their houses in Wiaraton. The automobile and the Trans-Canada Highway changed the country's trade routes but the century-old homes and streetscapes are still standing proud.

Is My Plan Possible?

If you only have a brief time on the peninsula, an important question: is my plan actually possible?

You will notice that this article has many "Book Ahead" warnings. We'll add one other bit of advice: Highway

6 can be very busy on Saturdays and long weekends, with hundreds of vehicles all trying to get to the same, crowded places. Locals and cottagers mostly stay close to home on Saturdays.



Bluewater Park in Wiaraton offers a free, clean, sandy beach, spacious grounds with washrooms and picnic facilities, not to mention a century old train station.



Welcome to Saugeen Beach in Sauble Beach – One of the greatest freshwater beaches in the world. Miles of broad, sandy, public beach with all amenities including restaurants, pubs and shopping.

BRUCE ANCHOR CRUISES

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National Parks at the Tip of the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula

Bruce Peninsula National Park & Fathom Five National Marine Park



Indian Head Cove (aka The Grotto) in Bruce Peninsula National Park on a busy summer day.

Parks Canada Visitor Centre at Tobermory:

The Visitor Centre boasts a 14,000 sq ft theatre and exhibit gallery, making it a must-see attraction. Ask about interpretive programs to experience and learn more about the natural and cultural wonders in the national parks. Nearby, the 65 ft (20m) observation tower offers breathtaking panoramic views of both Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park. From the base of the tower, a crushed gravel trail leads to Little Dunks Bay (25 minutes), with the Burnt Point Loop side trail providing additional shoreline lookouts (allow an extra 1.5 hours).

Bruce Peninsula National Park

Located near the tip of the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, this park is accessible from Highway 6 south of Tobermory. The park features stunning shoreline cliffs that are part of the Niagara Escarpment, rising 40m out of Georgian Bay and gently sloping westward into Lake Huron. Inland, mixed woods forests with eastern white cedar and birch trees surround many picturesque lakes. The park is renowned for its unique wildflowers and species at risk.

To access Bruce Peninsula National Park there are several entry locations:

Little Cove: This charming rock and cobble beach on Georgian Bay is located at the end of Little Cove Road, 4km south of Tobermory. This remote location has no facilities except a composting toilet. Visitors are required to pack in and pack out all garbage. Reserved parking is required, so book ahead at northernbruceparking.ca.

Cyprus Lake Campground: Three campground areas, Poplars, Birches and Tamaracks, offer campsites for tents and trailers. Cyprus Lake offers beaches and a 5km loop trail and is a short hike from Indian Head Cove and the Grotto. Hint: Book ahead, reservations open in February! The most popular time slots may be fully booked months in advance.

The Grotto: Three trails originate from the Head of Trails at Cyprus Lake and lead to the shoreline, intersecting with the Bruce Trail. The Georgian Bay Trail is easy, Horse Lake Trail is moderate,

DT Insider's Tip

Indian Head Cove is a fascinating place twelve months a year, but it's only crowded from May to Thanksgiving. Come back in the off season!

and Marr Lake Trail is relatively difficult. Many visitors turn this layout into a roughly 3km loop hike, taking 3-4 hours to explore Indian Head Cove, the Natural Arch, and the Grotto. These trails go through remote areas and visitors are reminded to wear sturdy footwear and always take precautions due to high cliffs and slippery rocks. Access to the Grotto requires a reservation at parks.canada.ca/bruce-parking or call 1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783).

Halfway Log Dump: Turn off Highway 6 onto Emmett Lake Road, then follow the signs leading to the Halfway Log Dump parking lot. A relatively easy 30-minute hike from the Halfway Log Dump parking area leads visitors through forest to a beautiful rock beach on Georgian Bay. A longer, more challenging 6km out-and-back hike goes to Cave Point Lookout. Access requires a reservation at parks.canada.ca/bruce-parking or call 1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783).

Many vehicles without confirmed reservations are turned away each year. See sidebar for more information about parking.

Lake Huron Shore (Singing Sands): The Lake Huron shore features rock, sand, and fen wetlands. Vehicle access is limited to Singing Sands (Dorcas Bay). The shoreline area features shallow water, a picnic area, and public washrooms. Singing Sands also has an accessible boardwalk and trails renowned for unusual wildflowers. Entry is on a first come-first served basis, however, parking spaces fill up quickly each morning.

Fathom Five National Marine Park

Encompassing 114 sq km, Fathom Five consists of 20 islands, a large area of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, and a 133-hectare land base near Tobermory. Fathom Five's ecosystem extends to a depth of over 100 metres, encompassing everything from loons to fish to plankton, and a few more fun ones: crayfish, otters and eagles!

Flowerpot Island: With its picturesque

rock stack formations, hiking trails, a picnic shelter and cave display, Flowerpot Island is Fathom Five National Marine Park's most popular attraction and the only island with facilities for the public. Most Flowerpot boat cruises also visit Big Tub Harbour, where you can see two historic shipwrecks. If you disembark at Flowerpot Island, allow a minimum of 4 hours for the boat tour and the full island loop walk or 2-3 hours to visit the flowerpots, cave, perhaps the light station and back.

SCUBA divers and snorkelers can explore 21 shipwrecks and fascinating geological formations lying below the surface of the park's waters, with opportunities for beginner to advanced levels. Each diver must register in person at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre or at Dive Life Tobermory before diving in the park. Diver registration fees apply.

Paddling: Canoes, Kayaks and SUP: The waters and islands of Fathom Five National Marine Park offer unique experiences for boaters to explore the clean, clear water, spectacular geological formations including cliffs and caves, hidden coves and historic lighthouses. For a safe and enjoyable day, make sure to plan ahead and be prepared for the cold, open, and often rough, water of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.

Remember to always CLEAN DRAIN DRY your water vessel before and after

DT Insider's Tip

PARKING AT BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK

Avoid disappointment – Plan and reserve parking before you leave home. When parking lots are full, there is no other access to the park or waterfront areas.

Cyprus Lake (The Grotto)

May 1 to October 31, 2026: Parking is available in four-hour time slots beginning 8:00 AM to noon, 9:00AM to 1:00PM, noon to 4:00PM, 1:00PM to 5:00PM, 4:00PM to 8:00PM and 5:00PM to 9:00PM. You must have a reservation and arrive within the first two hours to be permitted entry, or you will be turned away.

Halfway Log Dump

June 19 to September 7, 2026: Parking is available in six-hour time slots beginning 7:00 AM to 1:00PM and 2:00PM to 8:00 PM.

Little Cove

May 15 to September 15, 2026: Little Cove is part of Bruce Peninsula National Park, and the parking lot is managed by the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. To access Little Cove, you need to make a parking reservation (available in 4 hour slots) and purchase a Parks Canada daily entry fee. Reservations can be made at northernbruceparking.ca.

Singing Sands and Parks Canada Visitor Centre

Entry and parking on a first come-first served basis, however, parking spaces fill up quickly each morning.

For information about National Park entry fees or to make a reservation for the Grotto or Halfway Log Dump, visit parks.canada.ca/bruce-parking or call 1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783).

Reminders: Each reservation is tied to a name not a vehicle, therefore, photo identification must be shown at the park gate before entering. One reservation will allow for one license plate. Personal vehicles only, with a maximum of 7 passengers. Driving in and dropping off visitors is not allowed.

use to prevent the spread of invasive species!

Staff at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre in Tobermory can provide current information about restricted water areas, vessel permit requirements and recommendations for your trip.

Plan and prepare for your visit:

- Visitor Centre: 1-519-596-2233
- Reservations: 1-877-737-3783 or parks.canada.ca/bruce-parking
- parks.canada.ca/bruce
- parks.canada.ca/fathomfive
- Follow us: [Facebook.com/BrucePeninsulaNP](https://www.facebook.com/BrucePeninsulaNP)



The Belrose Inn on the Water

Individual rooms available in our quaint & cozy 4 bedroom guest house in the centre of Tobermory's harbour with walking distance to everything downtown.

Enjoy a shared kitchen & cozy lounge area. Take advantage of our bonfire pit, private courtyard, outdoor bbq & picnic area.

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Tobermory - Canada's SCUBA Diving Capital

Don't Dive? It's Also a Snorkeler's Dream

SCUBA Diving

What better way to spend the weekend than diving in Canada's first National Marine Park — Fathom Five. This amazing park features 50 square miles of clear, clean, cold water with 19 islands. For the diving enthusiast there is much to see – submerged forests, underwater cliffs and canyons, underwater waterfalls, the remains of ancient coral in what was once a tropical sea, and more than 20 historic shipwrecks.

The Tugs site in Tobermory offers an opportunity to dive or snorkel on historic shipwrecks from shore, adjacent to a parking lot (\$3/hr). The Tugs site has the



Photo Credit: Nikk LaFontaine, Boardwalk Photography
Fathom Five National Marine Park features 50 square miles of clear, clean, cold water – great for snorkeling.

wreckage of three small steam tugs and other features.

In Big Tub Harbour, you can visit the "Sweepstakes", a two-masted schooner lying on the bottom since 1884. This site is visited by divers, snorkelers and tour boat passengers (accessible by boat only).

For experienced divers, the "must-see" shipwreck is the "Arabia", a barque that foundered off Echo Island in 1884. This site is recommended for advanced divers only, under the careful direction of a dive master.

All divers in Fathom Five National Marine Park MUST register at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre or Dive Life Tobermory (see locator ad page 11) before entering the water. Full details about diving in the park and surrounding area are available upon registration. A dive shop, charter dive vessels and glass bottom tour boats are all available in Little Tub Harbour. Tobermory is also home to a Hyperbaric Chamber, located at the Medical Facility on Highway 6.

Snorkeling: Mask + Flippers = Underwater Sightseeing

Snorkeling has become one of the most popular activities on the Bruce Peninsula. It's a great alternative to diving and no experience is necessary.

You can go out on a snorkeling boat charter or you can rent or buy the equipment and discover snorkeling on your own — take a trip to the Grotto and explore the caves and shoreline or explore the Tugs shipwrecks at the mouth of Little Tub Harbour.

Another interesting site is the wreck of the Cyrenian at Lion's Head Beach. Just about any rocky shoreline offers an opportunity to experience the endless variety of Niagara Escarpment limestone.

Snorkelers do not require a dive permit but do need to take extra caution

and stick to designated areas. Watch out for boat traffic, undertow and wave conditions if venturing far from shore or into deep water.

Don't feel like getting in the water to see the shipwrecks? Not to worry.

Glass bottom tour boats offer a unique way to view what lives underwater. Some of the "glass bottom" vessels have viewing portholes, while others have a viewing area you can actually stand on. See Bruce Anchor Cruises ad pg 3, Tobermory Wave Adventures ad pg 7.



Photo Credit: Suzanne Shearer

GREAT WAVE COMMUNITY SKATEPARK
20 CENTENNIAL DR. TOBERMORY, ON

PLAY SKATE SCOOTER BIKE

The Great Wave Skate Park
20 Centennial Drive, Tobermory

Ride, skate or scoot at this all-ages, all-wheels park.

Join us for free movie nights and community events in Lion's Head and Tobermory!

Lion's Head Rotary Hall
59 Main St, Lion's Head

Off-Leash Dog Park
20 Centennial Drive, Tobermory

Let your pup play freely in our fenced-in, pet-friendly space behind the skate park.

Discover Community Connections on the Northern Bruce Peninsula!

NBP Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC)

Stay active and social with programs for older adults across the Peninsula.

Lion's Head Harbour & Marina

Soak up summer with local live music by the water at Harbourside Music!

St. Edmunds Bruce Peninsula Museum
7072 Hwy 6, Tobermory

Dive into Tobermory's history with interactive exhibits and fun educational programs for youth and families.

For more information, visit our website: www.northbrucepeninsula.ca



Beaches and Shorelines

Water Access and Picnic Areas on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula

(Parking Free Unless Otherwise Noted)

SAND BEACHES

LAKE HURON SIDE

SAUGEEN BEACH at Sauble Beach is one of the world's great freshwater beaches. Seven km of broad, sandy public beach with all amenities including restaurants, pubs and shopping. Ontario Superior Court recently ruled that Saugeen First Nation owns the entire beach. Beach access is free; parking is \$7 per hour or \$30 per day. Capacity: tens of thousands of people.

HOWDENVALE has a small sand beach with limited parking. There are a few picnic tables and a pit toilet. Capacity: a dozen cars.

OLIPHANT offers a small sand beach with washrooms and parking (and kitesurfers to watch). Capacity: less than a dozen cars.

RED BAY has a public beachfront park with flush toilets, a picnic area and a small playground. Capacity: dozens of people.

PIKE BAY has a small waterfront parkette with pit toilets, playground equipment and picnic area. Capacity: dozens of people.

SANDY BEACH at Black Creek Provincial Park is a gem: a broad, sand beach with no amenities except pit toilets and picnic tables. Capacity: hundreds of people.

SINGING SANDS at Dorcas Bay is part of Bruce Peninsula National Park. It is a broad sand beach with a very gentle slope, perfect for very small children. There are picnic tables, change rooms and flush toilets. Nature trail and fen boardwalk share the same parking lot, across Dorcas Bay Road. **Paid parking:** first come-first served, parking spaces fill up quickly each morning. Everyone is turned away when lot is full. No nearby street parking. Capacity: 66 cars.

GEORGIAN BAY SIDE

DUNKS BAY offers a broad sand beach, but only a narrow road allowance is public. There are no amenities except a seasonal portable toilet. Paid Parking; limited number of spaces. May become extremely crowded on weekends. Capacity: a few dozen people.

LION'S HEAD BEACH PARK offers a broad, sheltered sandy beach with flush toilets, shaded picnic area and a small playground. Two blocks from restaurants, supermarket & drugstore. Paid parking (see parking article page 2). Capacity: more than a hundred.

HOPE BAY has a small sand beach with shallow water located at the end of Beech Street. A public parkette offers new washrooms, parking and picnic tables. Capacity: a few dozen people.

BLUEWATER PARK IN WIARTON offers a wide, clean sand beach with washrooms and extensive picnic area. The downtown commercial section is only a couple of blocks away. Capacity: hundreds of people.

INLAND

BERFORD LAKE has a Municipal Park with a sand beach, washrooms, picnic area and a small playground. Capacity: dozens of people.

CYPRUS LAKE in Bruce Peninsula National Park offers a sand beach



Photo: Saugeen Beach at Sauble Beach offers seven km of broad, sandy public beach with all the amenities.

with washrooms and picnic area. Paid parking, reservation required. Capacity: dozens of people.

OTHER SHORELINE ACCESS AREAS

A good deal of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay shoreline falls within National, Provincial, County and Municipal Parks and Preserves. The sandy beaches are noted above but there are also gravel beaches, boulder beaches, rocky shorelines and cliffs. The most accessible of them are:

NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTRE in Tobermory offers access to rocky Georgian Bay shoreline. Approximately a 2km hike on medium difficulty trail with exposed roots/rocks to cobblestone shoreline. Parking and entrance fees apply. Capacity: dozens.

LITTLE COVE in Bruce Peninsula National Park offers hundreds of metres of uneven, rocky shoreline on a pristine bay. No amenities except composting toilets. Parking by reservation only at northernbruceparking.ca. The small parking lot may fill up early on most summer days. There is no alternative parking. Capacity: more than a hundred.

BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK offers miles of rocky wilderness shoreline, varying from cliffs to cobble beaches to gently shelved bedrock. Public access to the shore involves hiking — either from Head of Trails parking lot at Cyprus Lake or from Halfway Log Dump parking lot on Emmett Lake Road. Both are Reserved Parking Only; and book up several days in advance. See article page 4. Everyone is turned away when lots are full.

SMOKEY HEAD/WHITE BLUFF NATURE RESERVE is a few kilometres north of Lion's Head on the Georgian Bay shore (see centrefold map). Includes cliffs, rocky shorelines and pebble beaches. No amenities; lots of poison ivy. Accessible only by the Bruce Trail. Capacity: dozens of people. Please pack out all garbage and build no fires.

LION'S HEAD PRESERVE offers shoreline access at McKay's Harbour. It's a VERY long walk (3-4 hours each way) but it's worth it. No amenities. Accessible only by the Bruce Trail. Capacity: a few people. Please pack out all garbage and build no fires. Paid parking, book online at northernbruceparking.ca.

LION'S HEAD OUTER SHORELINE adjacent to Lion's Head Marina offers 100+ metres of exposed, rocky shoreline, with picnic tables, a selfie frame and Lion's Head lighthouse.

PICNIC AREAS

TOBERMORY: Schoolbell Park and the Rotary Parkette both offer picnic tables. Both are adjacent to the Community Centre in Tobermory (paid parking). Washrooms available at the Community Centre. Small playground at Schoolbell Park. There are also a few picnic tables along the south and east side of Tobermory Harbour where you can watch harbour activity and the Chi-Cheemaun dock. Paid parking.

CRANE RIVER PARK has an extensive picnic area with portable toilets and some fire pits.


FERNDALE PARK offers picnic tables, a large picnic shelter, a playground and washrooms. The tourist info centre has all the literature you need to plan your day.

MAR PICNIC AREA offers picnic tables and portable toilets.

WIARTON PICNIC AREA offers picnic tables in a small shoreline park — on Bayview Street, past the marina.

DT *CAUTION*

Swimmers Beware: Big waves mean DANGER on the Saugeen/Bruce, especially on Georgian Bay's rocky shoreline. Weather can change quickly. Be sure to check the forecast prior to venturing too far out. Even smaller waves can smash you against the rocks. An invisible but strong undertow can take you away from shore faster than you can swim. Always use your best judgement and don't swim beyond your capabilities.

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A Winter Wonderland

Year-round Vacationing on the Saugeen/Bruce

The Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula is a year-round vacation spot with a variety of winter activities available. You can book a room at a local motel, hotel or airbnb and immerse yourself in the peaceful solitude that winter on the Saugeen/Bruce offers.

When the weather cooperates, the peninsula offers great cross country skiing to challenge every skier. The Lindsay Tract Trails just north of Ferndale at 4025 Highway 6 and the Sawmill Nordic Centre in Hepworth (bruceskiclub.ca/sawmill-nordic-centre) are local favourites.

Snowshoeing on the Bruce Trail is particularly popular. There are snowshoeing opportunities everywhere... you can get to some

amazing places.

On most trails, most of the winter, you can make do with ordinary winter boots or boots with ice grippers.

In winter, you can even be sure of finding a parking space at Bruce Peninsula National Park.

Some motels, B&Bs, restaurants and stores are open year-round. Join us for shoulder season and winter activities. Be aware that many businesses close Saturday at 5:00pm or 6:00pm and are not open Sunday.

For more information on things to do and what's open in the off-season, check out www.brucepeninsulapress.com or www.tobermory.com.



Photo Credit: Shawn Radcliffe

A winter hike to the Grotto in Bruce Peninsula National Park is a magical wonderland of ice and snow.

DT Insider's Tip

Don't trust TripAdvisor or Yelp or Google for shoulder season or winter restaurant hours - check the restaurant's website or phone ahead to confirm they're open.

Boat Tours & Cruises

Explore the Crystal Clear Waters of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Getting out on Georgian Bay and Lake Huron has been a favourite family activity for generations. Many people bring their own boats; many others bring or rent canoes, kayaks and Stand-Up Paddleboards.

But if you'd rather leave the driving up to someone else, there are lots of alternatives.

Several companies run sightseeing cruises out of Tobermory and also visit the two historic shipwrecks in Big Tub Harbour:

City of Grand Rapids, a 122 foot schooner built in 1879 at Grand Haven, Michigan. In October 1907, fire broke out aboard the Grand Rapids while docked in Little Tub Harbour. The burning vessel was towed out of the harbour and released. It then drifted into Big Tub Harbour where it continued to burn, and eventually came to rest at the head of the harbour, where it burned to the waterline.

The superbly preserved wreck of the **Sweepstakes**, a 119 foot long schooner built in Burlington, Ontario in 1867. Damaged off Cove Island in September 1885, she was towed to Big Tub Harbour where she sank.

More information about local shipwrecks can be found by visiting the National Park Visitor Centre in Tobermory (120 Chi sin tib dek Rd) or online at parks.canada.ca/fathomfive

Many cruises go to Flowerpot Island

(with optional drop-off on the island) and the historic shipwrecks in Big Tub Harbour. Sunset cruises typically depart every evening in the summer. Some of the cruise companies offer free parking in their designated lots as well as shuttle bus transportation.

Reserve ahead, especially if you are driving any distance. Cruises are sometimes fully booked.

For more information See Bruce Anchor Cruises ad on page 3, Tobermory Wave Adventures ad (below).



Photo Credit: Nikk LaFontaine, Boardwalk Photography

The two Shipwrecks in Big Tub Harbour - centre left is the City of Grand Rapids, center right is the superbly preserved wreck of the Sweepstakes.

DT Insider's Tip

While on Flowerpot Island, take the wooded trail, past both flowerpots, to the island's historic light station and visit the volunteer lightkeepers who maintain this site.

SEE THE SHIPWRECKS, THE FLOWERPOTS AND THE GROTTA ALL IN ONE TOUR



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Little Tub Harbour, Tobermory

The Bruce Trail is a National Treasure

(and it's not just for serious hikers!)

On the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula, the Bruce Trail is the best way to experience the wilderness up close and personal. Pristine forests and shorelines, amazing lookouts, natural peace and adventure, far from the noise of 'civilization' – and sometimes even out of cell phone range.

Safety first! Hike prepared. Be aware that there are hazards: patches of poison ivy, cliff edges with no guardrails, deep crevices, steep slopes, slippery when wet. Wear closed toe footwear with good tread. Don't hike alone. Carry a map and compass, bug spray, sun block, as well as lots of water. Start your hikes earlier in the day. Do you know how to use the GPS function of your smart phone? (Hint: Pre-load the maps). Download the Bruce Trail App – trail changes are immediately uploaded, parking locations are noted and it can track and save your hike. Upload the free What3Words app to your phone – this app is used to locate precise locations anywhere in the world, and useful for local rescue teams. Rarely seen are black bears and massasauga rattlesnakes. Remember, this is their home – you are the visitor.

Rules for hiking are very simple: stay on the marked trails, respect the privacy and property of people who live along the Trail; pack out everything you pack in; do NOT start any fires; keep dogs leashed; take nothing but photographs, leave only your thanks. Bruce Trail Guide book is available at local bookstores.

Parks Canada offers maps of National Park trails. The centrefold map in this publication can help you find the access points to all Bruce Trail segments on



The Jones Bluff Loop at Cape Croker - an easy, but long (7km) hike with spectacular scenic lookouts.



The Bruce Trail offers numerous scenic lookouts along the shoreline.

the Peninsula. Bruce Trail smart phone app can be found at the App Store; downloadable maps can be purchased at

brucetrail.org. Visit the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club's website at www.pbtc.ca for local events and scheduled group hikes.

For those who are new to the Trail, here are a few relatively easy loop hikes that offer fine lookouts without the challenges of seriously rugged terrain.

TOBERMORY

There is a wheelchair-accessible trail from the National Park Visitor Centre to a superb lookout at Little Dunks Bay. It's only a 15-minute walk each way but on the return trip you can walk the Burnt Point Side Trail loop – a hike rated as medium difficulty with cobblestone sections, exposed roots/rugged terrain, and some elevation gain, offering several scenic lookouts along the shoreline. **NATIONAL PARK PARKING AND ADMISSION FEES APPLY.**

DT Insider's Tip

LOCALS KNOW: You can often get a better cell signal at the top of hills/cliffs; if there isn't enough signal for a call, texting may still work.

CAPE DUNDAS

Two short Loop trails are worth visiting. Bruce Trail Parking is provided.

Rush Cove: Park at far end of Rush Cove Rd. and explore the Chris Walker Nature Reserve (1 hr.)

Jackson's Cove: Park at the top of the hill and follow the main Bruce Trail to the Jackson's Cove Lookout. Watch for poison ivy. The Side Trail may be an easier, but longer access.

CAPE CROKER

Jones Bluff Loop: Park at the Bruce Trail area on Boundary Rd. Jones Bluff is a long haul — 7.1 km — but is a relatively easy hike, offering numerous lookouts over Sydney Bay and Cape Croker. Allow at least 3 hours and bring lots of water.

MALCOLM BLUFF

Use the parking lot at the corner/bend of Wright's Crescent. Follow the Purple Valley Access trail to the main Trail on the escarpment. Turn left and pass many fine lookouts. Complete the loop by using the Bob Light and Malcolm Bluff Side Trails back to Wright's Crescent. Allow 3 hrs. for the easy 6.7 km loop.

WIARTON

Spirit Rock Loop: Park at the Spirit Rock Conservation area (paid parking), just north of Wiarton, off Highway 6. The combination of Spirit Rock Side

Trail and main Bruce Trail allow visits to the historic 19th Century ruins of the Corran estate and the Spirit Rock Lookout of native legend. Allow 1.5 hrs. for the 2.8 km loop.

Also see hikes around **Dyers Bay and Lion's Head** in "Best Kept Secrets" on page 15 and the Lion's Head Lookout trail in "Bucket List" on page 1.

DT *CAUTION*

WATCH YOUR STEP! Hikers should be very aware of their footing while on the Bruce Trail. Crevices and cliff edges can drop you off a 20 metre cliff with one wrong step.... Always use caution when venturing near the cliff edge - a rescue can take a long time in these remote areas. Pay close attention to young children and pets.

FERNDALE LOCATION:

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The Night Sky Like You've Never Seen It



Photo Credit: Nikk LaFontaine, Boardwalk Photography
The Northern Lights over Little Tub Harbour in Tobermory.

Light pollution is so severe in most cities that an observer can see fewer than twenty of the millions of stars in the night sky. The current generation of urban Canadians is growing up without ever seeing the Milky Way.

Get ready for a new experience!

Once you get a few kilometres north of Wiarton or a few kilometres south of Tobermory, light pollution drops to near zero and you can see the night sky the way our ancestors knew it.

The Milky Way is clearly visible in all its glory and all the constellations can be found. In the most remote locations on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula, stars are visible right down to the horizon. The August meteor showers and the northern lights are a spectacular show.

Northern Bruce Peninsula has been designated a Dark Skies Community and the two national parks are now Dark Sky Preserves. Streetlights are few and have been replaced with Dark-

Sky-compliant models that only shine light downwards.

While you're on the peninsula, don't forget to look up!

Bayside Astronomy Program

Bayside Astronomy is back again for the summer of 2026 — offering a fabulous FREE program five evenings a week at dusk. Come meet Herschel our large 20" Dobsonian telescope. Bigger is always better (with telescopes).

The program runs from Friday June 26th to Saturday August 29th and is offered at Miller's Family Camp on Mondays, Summer House Park on Wednesdays, Lion's Head Marina on Fridays and Saturdays, and Singing Sands on Sundays.

Check their Facebook page www.facebook.com/baysideastronomy for details and possible weather cancellations.

Come to Bayside Astronomy and "Be Starstruck!"



Photo Credit: Malcolm Warren

The M.S. Chi-Cheemaun

The Largest Passenger Ferry on the Great Lakes



DT COOL FACTS!

The MS Chi-Cheemaun is 364 ft (111m) long and has capacity for 648 passengers and 143 vehicles, including room for large vehicles such as buses and transport trucks.

"chi-cheemaun" means "big canoe" in Ojibwe.

The Manitoulin Island Ferry Service has been the gateway to Northern Ontario since the 1920s. The current vessel, MS Chi-Cheemaun, was purpose-built for the route in 1974 at the Collingwood shipyards.

The Chi-Cheemaun has been everything her owners and crew could have wanted — comfortable, efficient, seaworthy, dependable. She is the largest passenger ferry on the Great Lakes and has become a huge part of the culture of the two ports she serves — Tobermory on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula and South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island.

If you want to see her in action, the best places to watch from are the dock itself or across the harbour on the east side of Tobermory Harbour.

In the spring and fall The Chi-Cheemaun makes two round trips each day, departing Tobermory at 8:50am and 1:30pm, with an extra sailing on Friday nights departing at 6:10pm. Additional sailings are also offered on the Victoria Day Weekend holiday Monday and the Thanksgiving Weekend holiday Monday. In the summer months (June 19 to September 7) she is scheduled for three daily round-trips departing Tobermory at 8:45am, 1:15pm, and 5:45pm.



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A Cycling Paradise

Don't Forget To Bring Your Bike

DT Insider's Tip

The Great Lakes waterfront trail is a mapped route that connects 155 communities along the Canadian shores of the Great Lakes. Their website features zoomable interactive maps and tips to provide a cyclist with everything they need. The maps offer routes that help you avoid Hwy 6 on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula. Visit their website for downloadable maps <https://waterfronttrail.org>

If you are staying in, or near, the towns of Sauble Beach, Wiarton, Lion's Head or Tobermory, it's probably easier to get around on a bike than in a car because parking is never a problem for bikes.

The peninsula's scenic drives (see article page 24) are mostly even better on a bike, with the

following caveat: the shoreline road from Wiarton to Owen Sound has excellent bike lanes over some sections while other sections are narrow and scary with poor sight lines. Might be a harrowing ride on a busy weekend.

Highway 6 has a paved shoulder, but not a dedicated bike lane. It can be quite busy, especially when the Chi-Cheemaun ferry unloads a full load of cars in Tobermory and they all head south at the same time, or it's a long-weekend Friday and everyone is heading to their cottage.

Here are a few favourite bike routes:

Dyers Bay Route

Dyers Bay, north of Miller Lake

•Length: approx. 30km

•Difficulty: Easy

Park at the lot at the corner of Hwy 6 and Dyers Bay Road and cycle down Dyers Bay Rd. This route takes you through farmland towards the rocky shore of Dyers Bay. Caution should be taken as the road is narrow in spots and may be busy during peak times. This route is paved and mostly flat.

Lindsay Tract Trails

On Hwy 6, 10km north of

Ferndale

•Length: 8km

•Difficulty: Easy to difficult

•Surface: Packed soil with rocky sections

With more than 7,000 acres of mixed forest, the Lindsay Tract has 8km of single-track trail suitable for mountain biking and hiking. Well marked and with ample parking, this is a nice location for both fitness and recreation. Free parking. The trailhead parking lot is visible off Hwy 6, on the west side of the road. There are no stores here so be sure to pack some snacks and refreshments.

Bruce Peninsula Mountain Biking Adventure Park (Albermarle Tract)

The trailhead parking lot is located at 661 Bruce Road 9, about 1 km North of Bruce County Road 18.

•Length: 20km with loops

•Difficulty: Challenging; mountain bikes or hybrids

•Surface: Hard-packed/rocky

Locally known as the Albermarle Tract this is a challenging trail system that offers some of the toughest single-track in the area. Advanced riders can test their skills on the technical terrain featuring rock drop offs, boardwalks, and bridges. The perfect adventure for the cyclist thrill seeker! Free for all riders.

For more cycling information visit www.mtbthebruce.com

E-Bike Rentals Available in Tobermory

Self-serve Electric Bikes are offered by The Meeting Place in Tobermory. No need to bring your own, rent with a tap by downloading the easy-to-use app at WLEB.ca. Generous cargo capacity and all-day battery life (see ad page 6).



Highway 6 has a paved shoulder, but not a dedicated bike lane. It can be quite busy, especially when the Chi-Cheemaun ferry unloads a full load of cars in Tobermory and they all head south at the same time.

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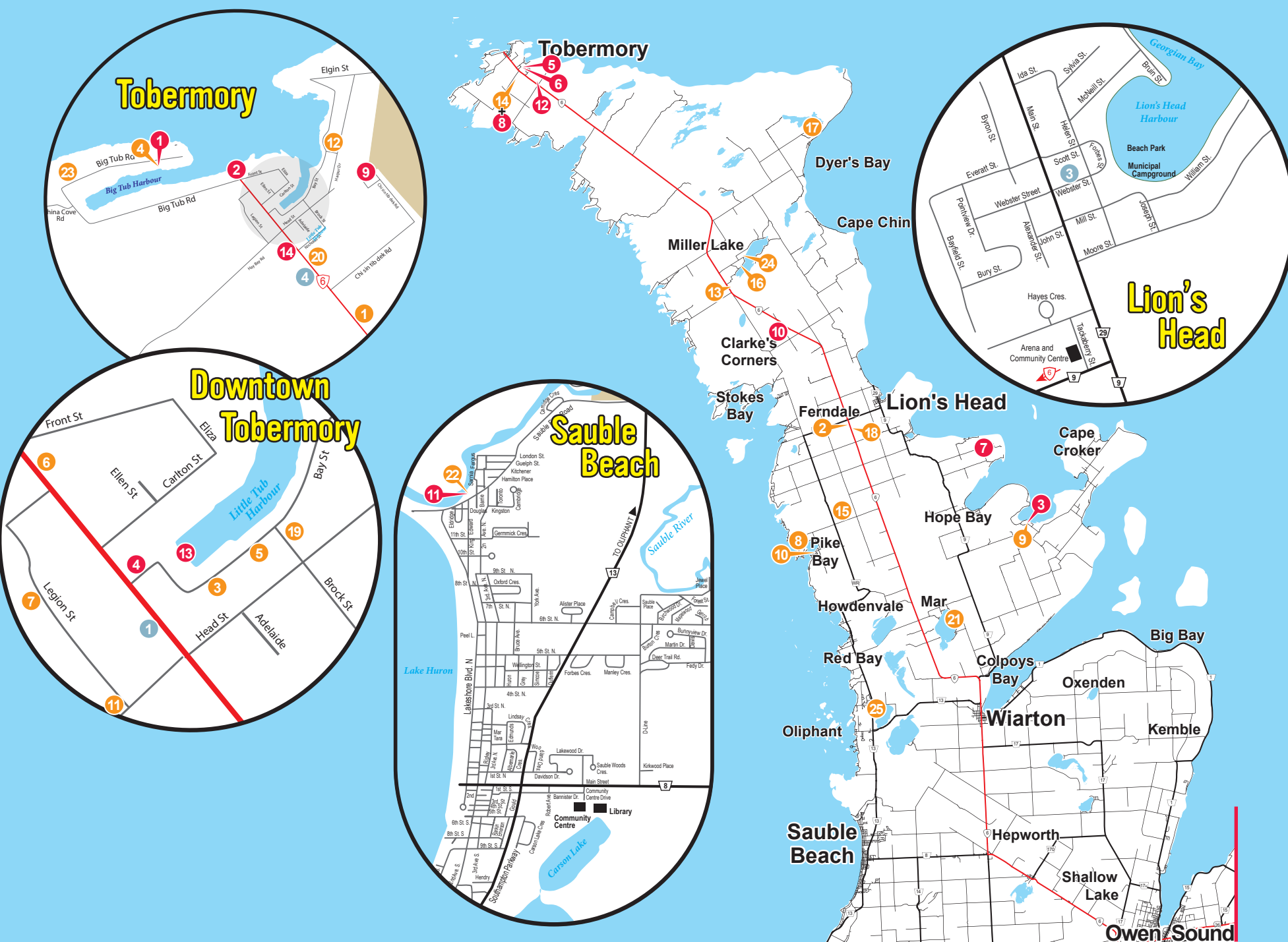
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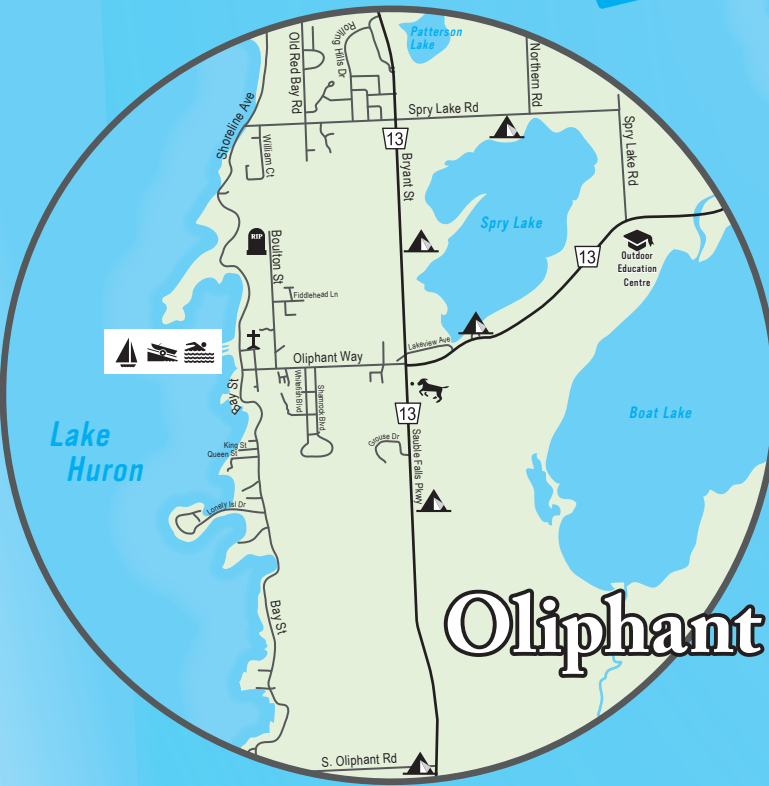
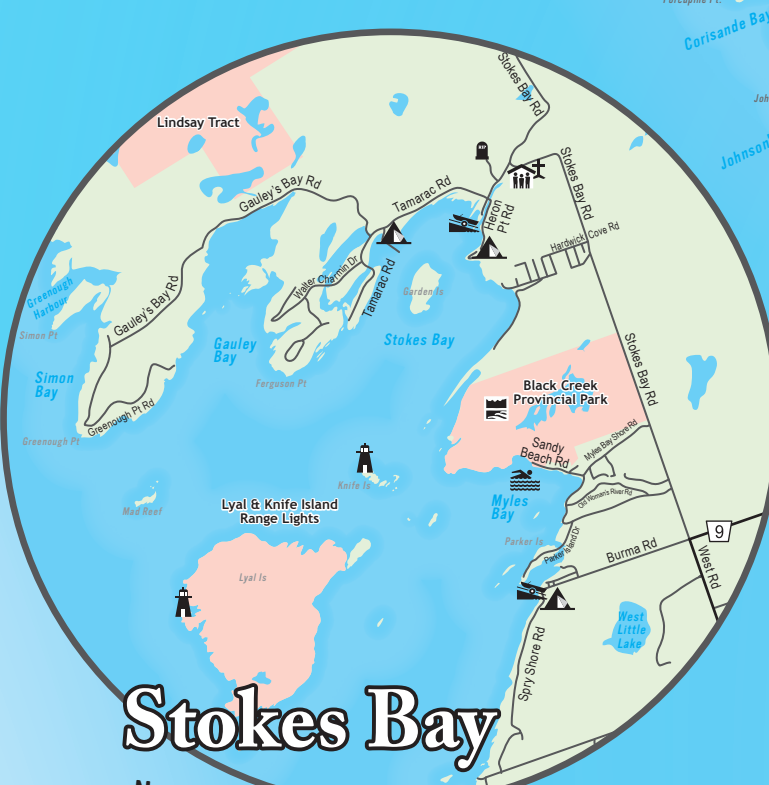
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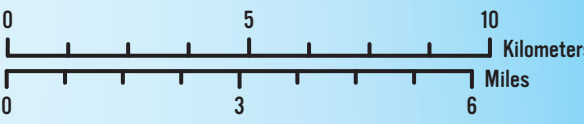
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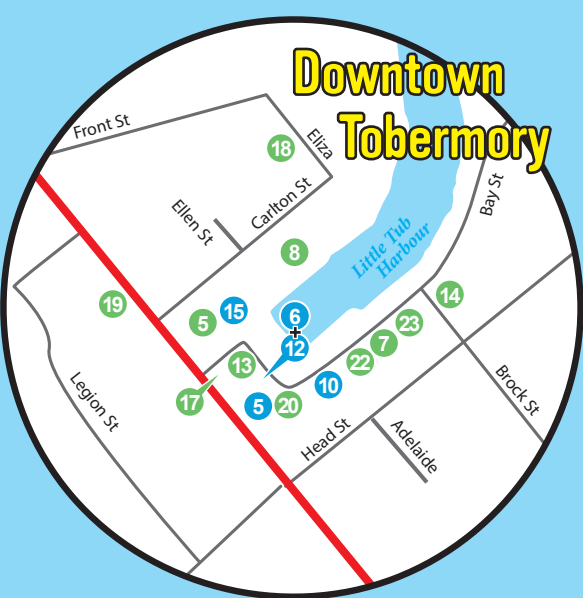


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- Scenic Drive
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- Campground
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- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Cemetery
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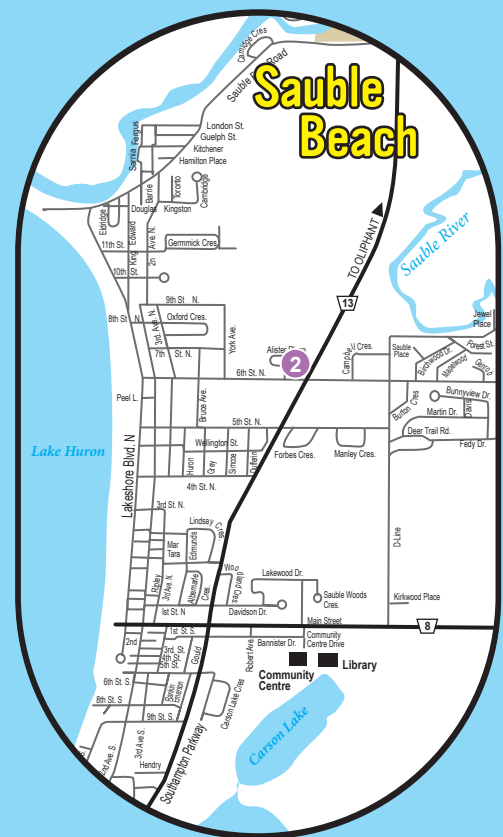
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2 Bruce Pen. Society of Artists' Studio Tour
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510 Sauble Park Falls Pkwy, Sauble Beach

5 UPI Energy Hepworth Gas Station
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432 Bruce Street, Hepworth

3 Ferndale Fast Stop Gas Station
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2875 Hwy #6 Lion's Head



The Best Kept Secrets Of The Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula

1) Greig's Caves – Located south of Lion's Head at 407 Scenic Caves Road, just off Bruce Road 9, these spectacular limestone caves have been a popular attraction for more than 50 years.

Open daily May to Thanksgiving. Hiking or running shoes are required. Other handy items are a flashlight, camera and bug spray. There is a large parking area, portable toilets and many picnic tables in shaded areas to accommodate guests who bring their own picnic lunch. Pets are not allowed. CASH ONLY.

Visit www.exploregreigscaves.ca for more info on times and rates. See ad at bottom right.

2) The Corran – At Spirit Rock Conservation Area, just north of Warton. The romantic ruin of a 19th century stone mansion. While you're there, it's a 1.2 km walk along the Bruce Trail to the Spirit Rock Lookout and 2.8 km total on the Spirit Rock Loop Trail. \$10 daily parking rate. Debit or credit only (no cash).

3) Devil's Monument. The largest of the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula's flowerpots, Devil's Monument is impressive to see (but hard to photograph because it's surrounded by trees). A steep, slippery trail leads from the sea stack down to pristine Georgian Bay shoreline. Accessible by the Bruce Trail either north of Cape Chin North (less than 1km from the Borchardt Road parking lot), or south from the large parking lot on Dyers Bay Rd (7km loop). Warning: unattended small children or the unwary could wander off thirty-metre limestone cliffs. Uneven, rocky terrain requires sturdy footwear and strong knees. Paid parking.

4) Lion's Head Beach Park.

Wide, sandy beach. Clean washrooms. Playground. Picnic tables. Lots of shade trees, no traffic, gorgeous view. 3 minute walk to restaurants and a supermarket where you can pick up picnic



Bluewater Park in Warton has a great splash pad for kids along with a sandy beach, huge playground, spacious grounds with washrooms and picnic facilities, not to mention a century old train station. A great place to spend an afternoon.



Devil's Monument is the largest of the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula's flowerpot formations.



The Corran at Spirit Rock Conservation area is definitely worth a visit.

food. Lovely Bruce Trail ramble leaves right from the Park. Paid parking (see page 2).

5) Sandy Beach at Black Creek Provincial Park, Stokes Bay. Free. A quarter mile of broad, sheltered sandy beach in a wilderness setting, miles from nowhere. No amenities other than pit toilets. May be overcrowded on summer weekends. Ever wondered what Wasaga and Sauble were like in the 19th century?

6) Bluewater Park in Warton. Free. A clean sandy beach, spacious grounds with washrooms and picnic facilities, not to mention a century-old train station and Warton Willie.

7) The Bruce Trail between Tobermory and Warton. It's a free, public footpath, not just for dedicated hikers. Many sections are rough and challenging, but there are also a number of easy walks through stunning scenery. The many access

DT COOL FACTS!

Built in 1881, the Corran was originally a 17-room mansion lavished with oriental carvings, ancient weapons, tapestries and book-lined walls.

After changing hands a few times, the property was sold in 1976 to the Conservation Authority. Shortly after, a fire destroyed the mansion, leaving only a stone shell, which is still visible today.

points lead to a variety of impressive lookouts, caves and rock formations. See Bruce Trail article on page 8.

You should probably buy the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club's Loop Hikes Guide (in local bookstores) or Bruce Trail phone apps.

8) The Viewing Tower at the National Parks Visitor Centre. National Park permit required. Sunrise or sunset or any time in between, the tower offers a stunning view of Georgian Bay, from Cabot Head to Manitoulin Island. National park parking and admission fees required.

9) Backroads, because Highway Six is boring. Check out the Scenic Drives on page 24.

And on your way home, turn east at the Tim Hortons intersection in Warton. **Follow the shoreline road around the bay** to Owen Sound. Stop frequently for scenic lookouts and ice cream cones. This is one of Canada's finest scenic drives.

DT Insider's Tip

THE LEAST CROWDED PLACE ON A LONG WEEKEND: YOUR COTTAGE

If you are staying at a pleasant spot on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula, why not stay home? Avoid the crowds and traffic jams. Kick up your feet, pour a beverage and fire up the BBQ. Things will be a lot less crowded on Tuesday.

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*Beach Chair Rentals

Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula Lighthouse Tour

A Taste of 19th Century Living



Photo Credit: Nikk LaFontaine, Boardwalk Photography

Lion's Head Lighthouse is located at the marina in Lion's Head, just a short walk from the beach.

The abundance of 19th century shipwrecks along the Saugeen/Bruce Coast (especially around the shoals and islands off Tobermory) testifies to the need for navigation aids. An ambitious program was undertaken in the 1850s to build six Imperial Lighthouses, four of which are in our area. Cove Island (1858) was the first of these to become operational, followed the next year by Point Clark, Chantry Island and Griffith Island. When built, they were by far the tallest structures on the upper Great Lakes, yet they were built by hand, in remote, uninhabited locations, with men and materials brought in by sailing vessels.

Many more lighthouses and other navigational aids were added in succeeding decades, but none have the majestic feel of the Imperial Lighthouses.

When visiting lighthouses, watch the weather. Visits to some sites are weather dependent.

Admission fees vary for each location. For all island locations, tour boat or charter fees apply. Most of the manned sites are maintained by volunteers. Please support their efforts by leaving a donation or ask about signing up.

Visit a lighthouse and get a sense of what the nineteenth century was like along the Saugeen/Bruce Coast.

Lighthouses of the Saugeen/Bruce:

- **Point Clark Lighthouse** located on Lake Huron near Point Clark, Ontario (south of Kincardine). Started flashing in 1859. The lighthouse stands 87 ft. (26.50 m) high. Point Clark is the only imperial tower located on the mainland and accessible by road.
- **Kincardine Light** on Highway 21 in Kincardine, Ontario. Built into the harbour hillside in 1874, this octagonal wooden tower stands 74 ft. (22.4 m) tall atop a two-storey keeper's house. There is a museum and a clubhouse.
- **Chantry Island Lighthouse** in Southampton, Ontario, an Imperial Tower first lit in 1859. Tours of the lighthouse and keeper's quarters are available from Victoria Day weekend until the end of September. Details on the tours are available at www.chantryisland.com
- **Saugeen Front Range Light** is located on a pier at the mouth of the Saugeen River in Southampton Ontario. The first light was established in 1883. The Southampton Marine Heritage Society has set up guided tours. These tours will be booked out of the present tour base located at the river mouth.
- **The Big Tub Lighthouse** in Tobermory was built in 1886. The grounds are open to the public and

the shoreline is a popular swimming and diving site (paid parking; may be at capacity on busy days).

- **Flowerpot Island Light** was established in 1897. The original lighthouse was destroyed and pushed from the cliff in 1969 after being replaced by the steel tower still at the site. The lightkeepers' cottages are maintained and staffed by volunteers, who will show you around and answer your questions. Access is only available via tour boat from Tobermory.
- **Cove Island Light** is an impressive, 80 foot tall Imperial Tower. It was lit in 1858, making it the first of the imperial towers to be operational. This lighthouse is best viewed from tour boats out of Tobermory and from the MS Chi Cheemaun ferry.
- **Lion's Head Lighthouse** is located at the marina in Lion's Head. The current lighthouse is a replica of the building originally installed on the



Cove Island Lightstation



Photo Credit: Bill Caulfeild-Browne

Big Tub Light is just a short drive (or a 2.5km walk) from downtown Tobermory. This is a popular SCUBA diving and snorkeling site due to the shoreline's immediate and drastic drop off. Be wary of boating traffic entering Big Tub Harbour.

same spot in 1913. The people of Lion's Head have been taking photos here for more than a century — family photos, wedding photos, grad photos. Feel free to continue the tradition. (Paid parking)

- **Cape Croker Lighthouse**, located at Neyaashiinigmiing, home to the

Chippewas of Nawash, was originally built in 1898. Please respect local culture when visiting this site. The lighthouse is not available for tours but can be photographed.

Also part of the Saugeen/Bruce Coast Lighthouse Tour but not accessible by road or tour boat:

- **Cabot Head Light, (CLOSED – There is absolutely no access to the Lightstation this year)** north of Dyers Bay was built in 1896. The light sits atop the two-storey keeper's house. The grounds include shoreline on both Georgian Bay and Wingfield Basin.
- **Griffith Island Light.** This imperial tower lighthouse on Griffith Island near Wiarton, Ontario, was established in 1858. This light is only visible by private boat from the water; access is not permitted.

- **Knife Island Lighthouse and Lyal Island Range Light.** These two lights are located just off Stokes Bay in Lake Huron. Access to these sites is best suited to the experienced canoeist or kayaker.



Cape Croker Lighthouse at Neyaashiinigmiing is not open for tours, but can be photographed. While you're there be sure to drive around and take in the beautiful scenery and numerous scenic lookouts.



LION'S HEAD FARMERS' MARKET

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Public Washrooms

When Ya Gotta Go...

Tobermory

- Chi-Cheemaun ferry terminal – clean public washrooms for customers. ACCESSIBLE.
- End of Big Tub Road – seasonal portable toilets.
- Municipal harbour facility on north side of Little Tub Harbour – public washrooms. Showers also available for a small fee (see the harbourmaster for details). ACCESSIBLE.
- Row of washrooms on the south side of the inner harbour.
- Bruce County Library - 22 Bay Street South – washrooms for customers. ACCESSIBLE.
- Concession stand building on Head Street at the Tobermory ball diamond has several porta-potties. ACCESSIBLE.
- Municipal parking lot on Legion Street – seasonal portable toilets. ACCESSIBLE.
- Just east of the viewing platform/tugs dive location – seasonal composting toilet.
- Tobermory Information Centre, Hwy 6 – public washrooms. ACCESSIBLE.
- National Park Visitor Centre on Chi sin tib dek Road – public washrooms and porta-potties for park visitors. ACCESSIBLE.
- Skateboard park/Dog park, 20 Centennial Drive – seasonal portable toilet.

South of Tobermory

- Dunks Bay Beach – seasonal portable toilet. ACCESSIBLE.
- St. Edmunds and Bruce Peninsula museum just south of Tobermory – seasonal portable toilet.
- Little Cove – seasonal portable toilet. Reserved parking required (see parking article page ??).
- Tobermory Municipal Airport on Warner Bay Road – seasonal portable toilet.
- Cameron Lake – seasonal portable toilet at Adams Nature Preserve.
- Crane River Park – seasonal portable toilets.

Cape Chin/Miller Lake/Dyers Bay

- Municipal office, 56 Lindsay Rd 5, – public washrooms. Open Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm. ACCESSIBLE.
- Dyers Bay parking lot, top of hill – seasonal portable toilet.
- 334 Barney's Blvd. in Miller Lake – seasonal portable toilet.
- Bruce Trail parking lot at end of Borchardt Road – seasonal portable toilet.
- Bruce Trail parking lot at the south end of Forty Hills Road – seasonal portable toilet.

Stokes Bay

- Sandy Beach at Black Creek Provincial Park – seasonal portable toilets.

Ferndale

- Ferndale Park & Information Centre, 2928 hwy 6 – public washrooms. ACCESSIBLE.
- Ferndale park beside info centre – seasonal portable toilet.

Lion's Head

- Bruce County Library, 90 Main Street – washrooms for customers. ACCESSIBLE.
- Lion's Head Beach on Phillip Forbes Street – public washrooms.
- Harbour office at the Marina – seasonal public washrooms. ACCESSIBLE.
- Webster Street – seasonal portable toilet.
- Bruce Trail parking lot at McCurdy Drive off Moore Street – seasonal portable toilet.
- Arena & Community Centre – public washrooms (hours vary).

South of Lion's Head

- Pike Bay Park – water-free pit toilet.
- Red Bay – flush toilets.
- Oliphant beach park – flush toilets.
- Barrow Bay Bruce Trail parking lot – seasonal portable toilet.
- Hope Bay beach parking lot – seasonal washrooms.
- Mar picnic area on highway 6 – rest stop with picnic tables, ample parking and portable toilets.
- Cape Croker Park – pit toilets and a swimming area at Sydney Bay.

Warton

- Berford Lake – Municipal sand beach with washrooms.
- Bluewater Park – washrooms (hours vary), portable toilets and an extensive picnic area.
- South Bruce Peninsula Municipal office, 315 George Street, downtown Warton – washrooms around back (hours vary).

Sauble Beach

- Two public washrooms on Lakeshore Blvd. One is in the town square – 3 Lakeshore Blvd N. The other is at the north end Tennis Courts – 1115 Lakeshore Blvd N.
- Bannister Park, 30 Community Centres Drive, beside both buildings.
- Community Centre and Library – public washrooms.

Accessibility

Mobi-mats and Wheelchair Accessible Trails

Accessible picnic tables can be found at the Tobermory Community Centre and Lion's Head Beach.

****ACCESSIBLE washrooms noted in the Public Washrooms article (on left).**

There are a few exceptional locations that can be enjoyed with ease by strollers and wheelchairs:

Parks Canada Visitor Centre – an accessible gallery and theatre. Wheelchair accessible trail from the Visitor Centre to a superb lookout at Little Dunks Bay.

The is an accessible swing located at **School Bell Park** in Tobermory (8 Head Street).

Singing Sands – wooden boardwalk leading to

a Mobi-mat on the beach. Accessible parking and washrooms available.

Ferndale – New accessible playground and swings at Ferndale Community Park. Accessible parking and washrooms available.

Lion's Head Beach – Accessible washrooms adjacent to the campground. Accessible parking available. Long accessible pathway from beach area to the marina. Accessible swing and Mobi-Mat at the beachfront.

Pike Bay – New accessible playground and swings at Pike Bay Community Park.

Bluewater Park in Warton – offers an accessible walkway along the shoreline. Free Mobility Chair rental available at Train Station. Mobi-Mats at beachfront.

Sauble Beach – Mobi-Mats are located at Groves Point (Sauble Falls Road) and 8th Street. Accessible portable washrooms at Kinloss Lane, Lambton Street, and Groves Point.

DT

Insider's Tip

Visit maps.brucecounty.on.ca/washrooms/ for accessible public washrooms in Bruce County.

Fishing on the Saugeen/Bruce You Pretty Much Need a Boat...

It's hard to catch anything on the Saugeen/Bruce without a boat. There are few spots left where you can cast a line - see Places You Can Fish From Shore, below. You can fish from a boat (personal pleasure craft or with a charter boat and guide) in almost

all the inland lakes and in the waters of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.

Inland lakes offer an assortment of Perch, Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Lake Trout and Northern Pike. In the deeper water of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron you can find all of these species plus Salmon.

Inquire at a local tourist information office for a list of the fishing charter companies and boat rental places in the area.

You must have an Outdoors Card to fish. You can purchase one at participating retail establishments or by phoning the Ministry of Natural Resources at 1-800-288-1155 or online at www.huntandfishontario.com

If you are under 18 years old or 65 and older, you do not need to purchase an Outdoors Card or licence to fish, however you will need to carry your government-issued identification with you at all times while fishing – your identification acts as your licence to fish. Veterans and active members of the Canadian Armed Forces who reside

DT

Insider's Tip

Disclaimer: these are places you can cast your line into a metre or more of water – we make no promises that you'll catch anything. And even though you probably won't catch anything, you still need to buy a licence.

in Ontario are also able to enjoy free fishing across the province as a token of recognition for their service. In place of an Outdoors Card and recreational fishing licence, veterans and active members are required to possess and carry either their Canadian Forces ID Card, Record of Service Card or Canadian Armed Forces Veteran's Service Card.

Places You Can Fish From Shore

There are three places on the Rankin River where bridges and docks offer fishing opportunities: the bridge on Red Bay Road, the bridge and boat launch on Bruce Road 13 (between Warton and Oliphant) and Rankin Bridge Road (see centrefold map).

You can fish from the Government Docks at: Warton, Colpoys Bay, Dyers Bay, Howdenvale, Red Bay and Oliphant. You can also fish from docks, wharves and harbour walls in Lion's Head and Tobermory.

Dog Parks: For Your Furry Friend

Bring your four-legged friend to exercise and socialize in one of the many free off-leash dog parks on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula. Remember to pick-up after your pooch.

Tobermory – The Meeting Place community park on Centennial Drive features a skateboard park (see ad page 5), community gardens, outdoor fitness equipment and an off-leash fenced dog park.

Oliphant – Ball diamond at 1579 Sauble Falls Parkway. Fenced area. Porta potties available May to October.

Sauble Beach - Bannister Park & Sauble Beach Community Centre, 30 Community Centre Drive, fenced area, washrooms available May to October.

Warton - Tayja's Doggy park (Dan Davidson ball diamond), 108 Division Street, Warton, fenced area, washrooms available May to October.

THREE STORES ON TWO FLOORS!

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Shopping and Sightseeing on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula



Tobermory harbour is a great place to walk around or grab an ice cream cone and people-watch from one of the many benches around the harbour area — there are shops, restaurants, historical plaques and displays.



The village of Lion's Head offers stunning views of limestone cliffs and clear blue water. There are several unique gift shops selling local wares. Make your way down to the marina to see if you can spot the Lion's Head in the cliffs.

HISTORIC WIARTON

The largest and oldest of the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula communities is Wiarton. A major port in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Wiarton was also a railhead, back when there were railways – all that's left now is the station. Built in 1904, the station has been designated under Ontario Heritage.

Wiarton is worth exploring for its architecture alone. When it was a major port, it was home to many of the movers and shakers of the Ontario frontier. Those families built beautiful homes along the edge of the escarpment; many of them are still standing proud. It is well worth taking a couple of hours to drive, cycle or walk around the town.

Downtown, the century old streetscape features shops that vary from quirky to mainstream, but the town has been a regional supply centre for 150 years. You can find pretty much everything in Wiarton.

Restaurants offer a wide variety of options.

A pedestrian-friendly town, Wiarton offers excellent on-street parking, but there is also a large lot immediately behind the stores on the west (uphill) side of Berford Street's main downtown block.

SAUBLE BEACH

Sauble Beach is the consummate beach town, and has been for over 70 years. The stores and shops sell everything a beach party (or a beachfront cottage) could possibly need.

Sauble offers a variety of sit-down and take-out food, a speedway and, of course, many miles of world-class sandy beach.

Parking is \$7 per hour/\$30 per day. Fees apply 8:00AM to 5:00PM, June 1 to Labour Day. See Sauble Beach access information on page 2. Visit www.southbrucepeninsula.com for more info.

garage, chiropractor, restaurants and some great shopping — all within easy walking distance. There are also artists' studios and regular events throughout the summer season.

In the business section, there is free parking on Main and Webster Streets with a two-hour limit. For the beach, marina and Bruce Trail, there is paid parking with longer time limits. See parking article, page 2.

FERNDALE

Located at the intersection of roads to Lion's Head, Stokes Bay and Tobermory, Ferndale is the perfect place to fill up your gas tank..... and your belly. Once mostly marshland, the Ferndale Flats were drained to produce land for farming and grazing cattle.

In 2002 an entrepreneur saw the potential of the area and erected three large wind turbines at the narrowest part of the Peninsula to catch the wind between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.

TOBERMORY

Tobermory began life as a port and fishing village and retains the character and picturesque charm.

With two National Parks, the largest car ferry on the great lakes, world class boat tours and much more, Tobermory has become a major tourist destination. It has many shops, a pioneer museum and a National Park Visitor Centre. It is the SCUBA diving capital of Canada, with several vessels taking diving and snorkel groups out to historic shipwrecks.

Restaurants offer a wide variety of options. Tobermory is very pleasant to walk around, with benches, picnic tables, monuments, interpretive stations and a boardwalk.

Parking downtown is \$3 per hour with a three-hour time limit. There are two large all-day lots within a three-minute walk of downtown. Both lots are located just across the Highway from downtown — turn west on Hay Bay Road then right on Legion St for

the Legion St lot or stay on Hay Bay Rd another 100m to the Hay Bay Road lot. Prices for these lots (and for peripheral street parking) are \$3 per hour or \$15 per day.

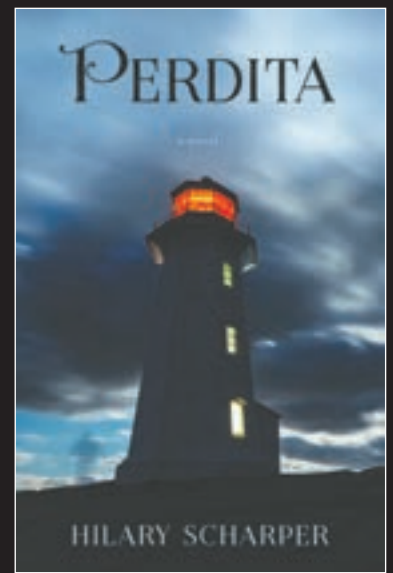


Sauble Beach is well-known as a summer beach town. The shops and stores have something for everyone. There are many family-friendly activities and events, including a speedway nearby, laser tag and an amazing ropes course.

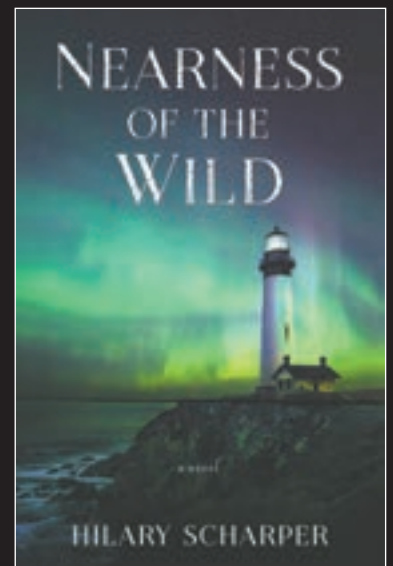
The **National Park Visitor Centre** offers a world class experience with displays and dioramas, interactive presentations and a big screen theatre.

The **St. Edmunds Bruce Peninsula Museum** on highway 6, just north of Warner Bay Rd in Tobermory, offers you a glimpse into how original settlers lived many years ago. Open 7 days a week from 11am-4pm in July & August. Open 11am-4pm, Saturday and Sunday only in the shoulder season. Youth programs run from 1pm-3pm on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in July and August. Phone 833-793-3537 x 409 or visit their website at northbrucepeninsula.ca/discover/museum/

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DT COOL FACTS!

The town of Lion's Head is named after the resemblance of a lion's profile in the rock formation of the Niagara Escarpment.

LION'S HEAD

One visit to Lion's Head and you will want to make it a regular stop. The views are nothing less than stunning. The limestone cliff rises from the turquoise Caribbean coloured waters; at sunset and sunrise they turn an amazing pink with the sun's reflection.

Lion's Head is small but mighty. It offers almost every amenity you could want — grocery store, hardware, bank, LCBO/beer store, hospital, pharmacy,

BRUCE PENINSULA SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

Studio Tour

Aug 22nd & 23rd
10 am - 4 pm

You are invited to visit the artists in their studio environment. The Studio Tour features our local artists showing a great sensitivity in their work, expressing the beauty of the Bruce Peninsula.

Many forms of media are used from paper to paint, weaving to woodturning, pottery to jewelry.

Studio Tour brochures with a detailed map outlining the studio locations, accommodation and dining options are available throughout the area including the Red Schoolhouse Gallery in Ferndale and the Lion's Head Farmers' Market from June through to August 23rd.

Studio locations are from Tobermory to just north of Wiarton
www.brucepeninsulaart.ca/studio-tour/

But What If It's Raining? Things To Do On A Rainy Day

Tobermory

The **National Park Visitor Centre** (120 Chi sin tib dek Rd, Tobermory) offers a world class experience with displays and dioramas, interactive

presentations and a big screen theatre showing a movie about the area.

Visit the **St. Edmunds Bruce Peninsula Museum** just north of Warner Bay Rd in Tobermory where you can see how original settlers lived many years ago. Open daily from 11am-4pm in July and August. Open 11am-4pm - Saturday and Sunday only in May, June, September and October. Youth programs run from 1pm-3pm on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in July and August. Admission by donation.

Visit the many stores, restaurants and galleries to explore.

Lloyd's Smoke Shop & Pool Hall located at 570 Berford Street in Wiarton is a great place to spend a few rainy hours. The pool hall in the back offers both 8-ball and snooker. While you're there, grab a scoop of "Bruce's Best" award winning homemade ice cream and a few magazines/board games to weather the rainy day.

Sauble Beach has many fun activities for a rainy day - indoor laser

tag, an arcade and many stores for shopping.

The **Bruce County Museum** at Southampton is so good it will eat a whole rainy day all by itself - so good it's worth visiting on a sunny day. The interactive exhibits, including Bevan's General Store, life as a soldier in WWI and a hands-on model train exhibit, offer a glimpse of life on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula in earlier centuries.

DT Insider's Tip

Bruce County Public Library has locations in Tobermory, Lion's Head, Wiarton and Sauble Beach that run various summer programs. Free wifi is available at all 17 Bruce County Library locations. Visit their website at library.brucecounty.on.ca, Facebook or Instagram to learn more.

Tobermory 519-596-2446
Lion's Head 519-793-3844
Wiarton 519-534-2602
Sauble Beach 519-422-4283



Dig for woolly mammoth bones, study fossils, touch a living iceberg and learn how prehistoric tropical seas and ice ages shaped Bruce County's landscape at the Bruce County Museum in Southampton.

Central Bruce Peninsula

Lion's Head has great variety of shops, clothing stores and restaurants. There are also numerous artist galleries to be found in and around Lion's Head. See the Shopping and Sightseeing article on page 18.

The Shops at 84 Main carries a selection of puzzles and board games, perfect for those rainy cottage days (see ad page 17).

Southern Bruce Peninsula

There are stores, galleries and restaurants in Wiarton, Hepworth and Sauble Beach.



Photo Credit: Parks Canada

Get up close with displays and dioramas, interactive presentations and a theatre showing a movie about the area at National Park Visitor Centre in Tobermory.



Photo credit: Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula.

Housed in a beautifully preserved historic school building, the St. Edmunds Bruce Peninsula Museum is on Hwy 6, just north of Warner Bay Rd in Tobermory. The museum offers a glimpse into how original settlers lived many years ago. Visit www.northbrucepeninsula.ca/discover/museum/ to check out their many events and activities held throughout the season.

Windy Day?

Catch a Glimpse of Amazing Waves



Indian Head Cove - A typical spring afternoon.



Indian Head Cove - Taken after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

If your vacation gives you a couple of days of high winds and you can't get out on a tour boat - go wave-watching instead.

You are unlikely to see anything as exciting as this photo - it was taken after Hurricane Sandy - but any good blow will make for exhilarating waves.

If the winds come out of the north, things will get exciting at any headland on the Georgian Bay shore between Cabot Head and Tobermory.

If the winds are from the east or northeast, there can be impressive rollers at any exposed headland south of Cabot Head, including Dyers Bay and Lion's Head.

A sustained west wind will bring crashing waves to Sauble Beach and all the exposed headlands along the Lake Huron shore.

For other things to do when the weather is not perfect see "Shopping and Sightseeing" on page 18 and "What If It's Raining?" (above).

margarethe vanderpas Gallery & Studio



Open all long weekends from May - Oct. or by appointment: text/call 519-433-2840
See website for details www.margarethevanderpas.com, 24 Chetwynd Lane, Lion's Head

Anishinaabek Voice

Understanding Treaties and Territories

Written by Lenore Keeshig

As Anishinaabek, we have occupied our traditional territory since time immemorial. As part of the Three Fires Confederacy, our ancestors fought and died for this land, defeating the Six Nations, reclaiming Anishinaabeking and putting an end to the Beaver Wars.

Some 30 years before the Dominion of Canada came into being, the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, Sir Francis Bond Head, wrung 1.5 million acres of “the richest land in Upper Canada” from the Saukings (Saugeen Ojibway Nation - SON). In 1836, through Treaty # 45½ (so called because it was written on a half piece of parchment).

As the Crown representative, he proposed to the Saukings (Chippewas of Nawash First Nation and Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation) that they surrender their lands south of what is now Highway 21. The Sauking would have to remove themselves north to the peninsula.

In exchange for the surrendered land, Bond Head proposed that these nations would receive:

- 1) proper housing – to this day these First Nations are still in need of adequate housing;
- 2) proper assistance to enable them to become civilized – whatever that means, and
- 3) that the peninsula would be “for ever” protected from the “encroachment of the whites.”

A mere 18 years later, our people were told that the Crown could no longer protect the peninsula and that the only way that we could benefit would be for us to sell the land. Thus came about Treaty # 72 in 1854.

After thirteen (13) treaties, here is what is left to the SON:

- our “hunting ground” here on the upper peninsula,
- Neyaashiinigiing on the Georgian Bay side of the peninsula, just north of Wiarton,
- on the Lake Huron side is Saugeen located near the mouth of the Saugeen River, and
- Chief Point just north of the Sauble River mouth.
- Ninety small Fishing Islands were returned to the SON in 1980.

Before going on, I think it is important to clarify the term Indigenous Peoples. This is a blanket term to cover First Nations, Inuit and Métis. My people and I, whose traditional territory is the peninsula and lands to the south and east, identify as a First Nation, specifically – the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. We reside at Neyaashiinigiing. Our sister nation is the Saugeen First Nation residing on Saugeen near Southampton. Together we are the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON). Three of these places are unceded – meaning they were never surrendered. Basically, when you visit these areas, you are technically stepping outside of Canada.

Our elders tell us that our language comes from the land and water. Let me show you:

- We call ourselves Anishinaabe (singular), Anishinaabek (plural).
- The English translation for this name is “Good of the Earth” or “Good Earth being.” The connotations held within this name are “coming from the sky” and “springing up from the earth.” And yes, we are all made of stardust.
- Saugeen translates as “ever flowing love.”
- Nawash is “a branch that bends but does not break.”



Photo Credit: Mark Zelinski

Cape Croker Park at Neyaashiinigiing is nestled on the shores of Wiikwedonse (Sydney Bay) between 450-million year old dolostone bluffs, where you can marvel at the stunning view of the escarpment.

-Neyaashiinigiing means “beautiful point of land that almost looks like an island but is only partially surrounded by water.”

A great place to get an understanding of our deep Anishinaabek roots and connection to the land and water is at Neyaashiinigiing a.k.a. Cape Croker. This is the location of Cape Croker Park, a 520-acre campground with 315 campsites, suitable for tents and trailers. Visit Cape Croker Park to learn more about the Anishinaabe Cultural Experiences on offer (see ad page below and on page 22).



Photo Credit: Mark Zelinski

The Annual Pow Wow takes place at Cape Croker Park on August 14-16, 2026.

INTRODUCING ANISHINAABE JIIMAAN

Introducing Anishinaabe Jiimaan. We have 4 km of shoreline to paddle. We will teach you the necessary paddle strokes and the rudiments of canoe and water safety. Then you can feel the magic and the movement of Anishinaabe jiimaan on the water. Find us as at Cape Croker Park, an Indigenous Tourism Destination, nestled between 450-million year old bluffs. Book on-line www.capecrokerpark.com

Paddle with us and take home good memories.



Photography by MarkZelinski.com

Canoes, Kayaks and Stand-Up Paddleboards For the Adventure Enthusiast

Canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards get more popular with each passing year. They will get you to places no one else can get to. Rentals can be found at Sauble River, Hepworth, Miller Lake and Tobermory.

Before you start, please read the "Invasive Species" paragraph on page 22.

A few of the best places to launch are:

Sauble River at Sauble Falls Provincial Park - moderate skill required; the river has a significant current. Launch your canoe, kayak or SUP for free, but you have to pay for parking. Further down the river, you can launch at Sauble River boat launch. Canoes/kayaks/SUPs can be rented at Sauble River Marina & Lodge (see locator ad on page 11).

The Rankin River - Launch from Isaac Lake or the portage access on Road 13. Both offer washrooms and

parking. Free. Skill level — relatively easy. You can go from the dam south of Boat Lake all the way up to Sky Lake.

The Fishing Islands - Launch at Howdenvale or Oliphant. Skill level — on a calm day, novices are fine if they stay close to shore. Otherwise: moderate to expert.

Colpoys Bay - Launch at the government dock. Free. Parking and a porta-pottie on site. Easy to expert, depending on the wind and waves.

Cape Croker - An indigenous tourism destination, Cape Croker Park offers guided canoe experiences where you can learn the basics of paddling and water safety, as well as immerse yourself in the Anishinaabek culture. (see ad page 20)

Hope Bay offers a sand beach launch site with free parking, washrooms, and picnic tables at the adjacent parkette. Perfect for novice to expert.

Lion's Head - Launch at the beach. Free. Parking (paid) and washrooms. Beginners are fine in the inner harbour. The more adventurous can paddle along the shore to the east at the foot of the cliffs. Moderate to expert depending on the wind.

Sandy Beach/Black Creek Provincial Park - Launch at the beach. Free. Parking and vault toilets. Explore Knife Island, Lyal Island and Stokes Bay. Moderate to expert, depending on wind and waves.

Miller Lake - Skill level: novice unless it's windy. It rarely gets rough and it's impossible to get lost. Canoes/kayaks can be rented at Miller's Family Camp (see locator ad on page 11) and Summer House Park (see ad on pg 17). Fees may apply for launching your own canoe or kayak.



Don't let this photo fool you – Georgian Bay is a wide open body of water that is rarely this calm. See the safety tips about changing weather conditions.

Cyprus Lake/Cameron Lake - Launch your own canoe, kayak or SUP from Adams Nature Preserve on Cameron Lake (free) or from the beach at Cyprus Lake. CLEAN DRAIN DRY your water vessel at the boat wash station near the Cyprus Lake campground office before and after paddling in Cyprus Lake. National park admission and parking fees apply. Parking reservation required. Skill level — novice unless it's windy.

Tobermory offers three excellent places to start. Big Tub Harbour Resort & Marina (see locator ad page 11) offers watersport rentals but does not offer public launching.

The Little Tub public boat launch is excellent but is very busy and nearby parking has a three-hour limit. Drop your vessel off and then drive out to one of the peripheral parking lots where you can park all day (paid parking). You can walk back to the boat launch in about 3 minutes.

Dunks Bay beach is a great place to launch but it too can get crowded so you may have to carry your vessel for 100m or more. Paid parking; limited space.

Skill level: Big Tub Harbour — novice if you stay in the harbour. Little Tub Harbour — moderate to expert depending on traffic in the harbour and how far out of the harbour you venture. Dunks Bay — novice to expert, depending on the wind.

Canoeing, Kayaking and Stand Up Paddle Boarding among the **Tobermory Islands** (some of the best paddling in Canada) is for experienced paddlers only. The weather can whip up a lot faster than you can get to cover. That's why there are all those shipwrecks out there. If you're not comfortable in three foot waves, don't venture out of the harbour.



Kayaking along the Lion's Head cliffs: on calm days the water is so clear it feels like you're hanging in space.

DT *CAUTION*

Safety Tips From A Paddling Pro

- If you haven't paddled before, take a lesson from a certified instructor, or hire a local guide.
- Wear your lifejacket.
- Lake Huron and Georgian Bay are wide open and COLD! Weather is always changing. Be prepared with proper thermal and safety gear.
- Rules of the waterways - Know the regulations www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety
- Safety Check - Paddle with a partner, leave a float plan with someone on shore, and observe the local weather & wind forecasts prior to heading out.

Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula Touring Gardens Discover the Botanical Richness of the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula

There are numerous Peninsula Gardens you can visit, from Wiarton to Tobermory. **Some Gardens are by appointment only.** For details on times, entrance fees and directions visit www.ruralgardens.ca or the websites noted below.

Earth Bound Gardens and Greenhouses at 14

Hea Rd., Red Bay, South Bruce Peninsula. Tended by Brenda Sutherland, John Close and Judy Larkin. 519-534-2483, www.earthboundgardens.com. Brenda and Judy cultivate thousands of lilies and daylilies in bloom all summer. They offer a unique Garden Centre including 5 acres to explore. Earth Bound specializes in plants native to the Peninsula and is a Monarch Conservancy Waystation. Join in the fun every Sunday in July and August: "A Summerful of Music" live concerts from 2-4pm. Various artists will entertain you in the gardens of Earth Bound. Entry by donation. Bring your own chair if possible. (see ad on right)

Keppel Croft Farm and Gardens at 504156 Grey Road 1, Big Bay, Wiarton. 519-534-1090, www.keppelcroft.com. Bill and Dawn Loney share their 4 acres of perennial, shade and rock gardens created on a gravel ridge in Stoney

DT COOL FACTS!

The Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula is home to 44 species of orchids, but the botanical richness of the Saugeen/Bruce extends well beyond orchids – a large diversity of wildflowers and ferns can be found. You can see globally rare species such as Lakeside Daisy and Dwarf Lake Iris and globally rare alvar habitats.

Keppel. Enjoy art installations, nature trails and Keppel Henge.

Birds Nest Garden Farm tucked along 79 Crooked Toe Road, South Bruce Peninsula, on the way to Cape Croker. 519-534-3533, www.polkadothenproduce.com. You will find living roofs perched atop an eco-friendly, off grid homestead. This home of Erin Grundy, Peter Allemang and Talia Allemang is surrounded by ornamental and vegetable gardens, pastured chickens, fields and forests, and the Niagara Escarpment. Great hiking throughout.

Rural Rootz Nature Reserve is celebrating 50 years of growing at 645 Northacres Road just West of Wiarton. Owners Tom and Dee Ashman have created a special place that goes beyond just gardens. Nature Trails lead to crevice caves, a favourite for

both kids and grown-ups. There are two Labyrinths, a Spirit Walk, 7 km of hiking trails, and Sound Garden. Visit www.ruralrootz.com for details.

Bluewater Lavender Farm at 441016 Elm St. Georgian Bluffs, Wiarton) is family owned and operated by Christine

and Mass Arrezzi. 416-456-5851, www.bluewaterlavender.com 5 varieties of lavender are grown here. Many hand-made beautiful products are sold from their on site market as well as online (check website). The farm offers tours as well as events such as yoga in the fields.

EARTH BOUND
GARDENS

EARTH BOUND GARDENS
Red Bay, 14 Hea Rd. South Bruce Peninsula
Plant Sales, Gift Shop, Metal Art,
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www.earthboundgardens.com 519-372-7187

Things To Watch Out For

Rattlesnakes, Bears, Poison Ivy, Wild Parsnip



Photo Credit: Kenneth McFarlane

Black Bears want to avoid you, but are highly attracted to food. Be sure not to keep food in your tent. If you happen to come into contact with a bear (which is very rare), make noise and back away slowly.

The Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula is Southern Ontario's largest patch of wilderness. There are vast tracts of forest, rock and water. Animals outnumber people. The peninsula offers a chance to see many plants and animals that only live in the wilderness.

There are a few species you should know about — Black Bears, Massasauga Rattlesnakes, Poison Ivy and Wild Parsnip. You don't need to worry about them, but you should be wary of them.

Black Bears

Black Bears can weigh 200kg (440 pounds) or more. They are unbelievably strong and can run and climb much faster and than you can. If you are lucky, you might see one. As long as you don't do something stupid, they are not a threat. They do eat meat if it's easy to get, but their favourite food is probably apples.

Bears:

4 Things NOT To Do

- Don't keep food in your tent. Leave all food, garbage that smells like food, and cookery in your car.
- Don't try to approach a bear. Make noise while you are hiking so that they can hear you coming.
- If you do find yourself too close to a bear, hold your jacket over your head to make yourself look bigger (they don't see very well), make noise and back away slowly. Don't run from a bear. That's how they tell food from not-food — food runs away.
- Don't feed the bears. EVER. Don't do anything to make bears associate the smell of humans with food.

Massasauga Rattlesnakes

There are about a dozen species of snakes on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula. All but one of them are harmless.

Massasauga Rattlesnakes use their venom mainly to make mice hold still long enough to be eaten. But they will also bite in self defense if you do something to make them feel vulnerable.

They will usually rattle their tail (a quick buzzing sound) if you get too close. Their striking range is half their length and they only grow to a metre or so. They will almost always retreat into cover when people are around.

So if you're lucky enough to see one, keep your distance.

Massasauga Rattlesnakes are a Threatened Species and are protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

Poison Ivy

Poison Ivy can make you break out in blisters if the plant's juice comes



DT COOL FACTS!

The Massasauga Rattlesnake is Ontario's only venomous snake. It will only bite in self-defence if it is threatened or harassed (or if you accidentally step on one...)

It has a triangular head and a tail that ends in a small rattle that creates a buzzing sound when the tail shakes.

They are a Threatened Species and are protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

A Massasauga Rattlesnake blends in with the forest floor.

to six feet tall; Giant Hogweed can be fifteen feet tall with leaves the size of newspaper pages.

BONUS: Aquatic Invasive Species

There are over 180 aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes basin. Some that you may have heard of include quagga and zebra mussels, round gobies and European common reed. The problem with invasive species is that they displace native species and take much of the energy and nutrients for themselves. To keep the lakes of the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula healthy and free of invasive species requires preventative action from everyone.

Invasive species are spread by "hitchhiking" — they get picked up on wet places such as boats, paddles, life jackets and snorkels in one body of water and are then transported and introduced into the next body of water without you even knowing! Even a thin film of water that appears to be free of any "hitchhikers" could be harbouring mussel larvae, tiny plant seeds, invasive zooplankton or fish viruses!

To help keep the Saugeen/Bruce waters free of invasive species make sure any boats, etc that have been used in another water body are checked, cleaned and dried accordingly. This means inspect your vessel for obvious hitchhikers, wash it (preferably with a high pressure rinse) and ideally, make sure it has been dried (preferably for 24 hours).

Together let's keep our lakes natural and amazing!

in contact with your skin. The plant is common in rocky areas. Mostly it's a ground plant a few cm high, with three shiny leaves, but it can grow to a woody shrub a metre or more tall under ideal conditions. It is especially abundant along the Georgian Bay coast from Cabot Head to Lion's Head.

So don't worry about it — just don't touch it or step on it.

If you need to treat poison ivy, remember that the irritant is an oil which (eventually) washes off with warm water and soap. Once the irritant is gone, the blisters will stop forming.

Wild Parsnip

And then there is Wild Parsnip and its big brother Giant Hogweed. The juice of these plants contains a substance which makes your skin extremely light-sensitive, so much so that you can burn in a matter of minutes. The resulting raised sores can look a lot like poison ivy.

As with poison ivy, the oil can be washed off with soap and water and the symptoms should stop developing at that point.

Wild Parsnip is abundant along roadsides, mainly in the Ferndale and Stokes Bay areas. Giant Hogweed is much less common. Both species look a lot like parsley; Wild Parsnip can be up

DT *CAUTION*

Could you spot the Poison Ivy? (white circles). Poison Ivy can make you break out in blisters if the plant's juice comes in contact with your skin.



Poison ivy leaves are always three to a stem, and always glossy, with prominent veins. They begin as a soft green in spring (photo on top was taken in a hardwood forest in June) but start to turn red by mid-summer (photo on bottom was taken in August on the bedrock beach on Flowerpot Island).

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2026 Summer Festivals and Special Events

Victoria Day to Thanksgiving Fun on the Bruce Peninsula!

May 17 - Lion's Head, Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast, Rotary Hall, 9-11:30am.

June 6 - Sauble Beach, Lakeview Vendor Market, Sauble Town Square, 9am-4pm, free admission.

June 12-14 - Tobermory, Chi-Cheemaun Festival, fashion show, slo-pitch tournament, food booth, fireworks (Saturday, harbour at dusk), cardboard boat races (Saturday), see Bruce Peninsula Press for details.

June 28 - Lion's Head, Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Beach Pavilion (rain location Rotary Hall), 9-11:30am.

July 1 - Tobermory, Canada Day Celebrations (see Bruce Peninsula Press for details).

July 1 - Lion's Head, Canada Day Celebrations (see Bruce Peninsula Press for details).

July 1 - Wiarton, Canada Day Celebrations, Bluewater Park, (see local papers for details).

July 1 - Sauble Beach, Canada Day Celebrations (see local papers for details).

July 4 & 5 - Lion's Head, Yard Sale, Hospital Auxiliary fundraiser, Lion's Head Arena, 8am-noon Saturday, 10am-noon Sunday.

July 18 - Tobermory, Yard Sale, St Edmunds Anglican Church fundraiser, 36 Big Tub Rd, 9am-noon.

July 25 & 26 - Wiarton, Wiarton Lavender Festival, Bluewater Park, 9am-3pm, artisan market, yoga, live music, www.bluewaterlavender.com.



Cardboard Boat Races – Chi-Cheemaun Weekend June 12-15.

July 27-31 - Lion's Head, Lion's Head Summer Music, Harbourside Stage, 7pm, music from classical genre, free admission, donations welcome.

July 31-August 3 - Lion's Head, Homecoming Weekend, horseshoe tournament, sandcastle building, family fun (see Bruce Peninsula Press for details).

July 31-August 3 - Lion's Head, Bruce Peninsula Art Show, Bruce Peninsula District School, July 31 7-9pm, August 1-3 11am-5pm, artist exhibits, free admission.

July 31-August 3 - Wiarton, Wiarton Homecoming Weekend, Bluewater Park, tournaments, food booths, classic car show, pancake breakfast, fish fry, musical entertainment, market vendors, kids zone. (see local paper for details).

August 1 - Sauble Beach, Lakeview Vendor Market, Sauble Town Square, 9am-4pm, free admission.

August 1 - Tobermory, Chicken BBQ, United Church fundraiser, Tobermory United Church (5 Brock Street, 4:30-6:00pm, drive-thru pick-up only).

August 1 - Lion's Head, Homecoming Street Dance, daycare fundraiser, Main Street, 9pm-1am, live music, rain or shine.

August 2 - Lion's Head, Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Beach Pavilion (rain location Rotary Hall), 9-11:30am.

August 3 - Wiarton, Shore to Shore Road Race, start in Oliphant, 8:00am (competitive walkers start at 7:30am), wiartonrotary.org/shore-to-shore-road-race.

August 8 & 9 - Sauble Beach, Sandfest, beach and town square, daily events, sandcastle and sand sculpture competitions, live music, kid's activities.

August 14-16 - Neyaashiinigiing, Traditional Pow Wow, Cape Croker Park, (see local papers for details).

August 22 & 23 - Lion's Head & Area, Artists Studio Tour, 10am-4pm, local artists in various studio locations, brucepeninsulaart.ca/studio-tour/

August 24-30 - Bruce Peninsula, Music on the Bruce, live classical music, various venues and times, free admission, donations welcome, www.musiconthebruce.com

August 30 - Lion's Head, Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Beach Pavilion (rain location Rotary Hall), 9-11:30am.

September 4-6 - Sauble Beach, Sauble Beach Party, live music festival, Sauble Speedway, Thursday 7-10pm, Friday 9am-10pm, Saturday 11am-6pm, Sunday 11am-6pm, featuring Flo Rida, Simple Plan, Kardinal Offishall and more, tickets required, www.saublebeachparty.com

September 12 & 13 - Tobermory, "Run The Edge" Trail Race, Saturday 7K, Half & Full Marathon, Sunday Flowerpot Island 5K run, www.tobermorytrail.com

September 18 & 19 - Wiarton, Wiarton Fall Fair, Wiarton Arena & Community Centre and Bluewater Park, Friday 6:30-10pm, Saturday 9am-4pm, farmer's olympics, exhibits, live music, food booth, horse show, antique & classic vehicle show.

October 10 - Sauble Beach, Lakeview Vendor Market, Sauble Beach Community Hall, 9am-3pm, free admission, food bank donations appreciated.

Regular Weekly Events

(Canada Day Weekend to Labour Day Weekend unless otherwise noted)

MONDAY:

Sauble Beach - Lakeview Vendor Market, Sauble Town Square, Mondays (June 15-September 7), 9am-4pm, free admission, www.facebook.com/saublemarket.

Miller Lake - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, Miller's Family Camp (meet on the beach), Mondays (June 26-August 29) at dusk, free, weather dependent, www.facebook.com/baysideastronomy for details and weather cancellations.

WEDNESDAY:

Tobermory - Tobermory Marketplace, vendors market, Little Tub Harbour, Wednesdays May 13-September 9, 10am-1pm.

Miller Lake - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, Summerhouse Park (meet on the beach), Wednesdays (June 26-August 29) at dusk, free, weather dependent, www.facebook.com/baysideastronomy for details and weather cancellations.

Warton - Lakeview Vendor Market, Sauble Town Square, Wednesdays (June 15-September 7), 10am-4pm. Free admission. www.facebook.com/saublemarket.

Sauble Beach - Sunset Cruisers Classic Car Show, Tuesdays (June 23-September 15) 5pm-sunset, Lakeshore Blvd and Main Street.

Sauble Beach - Free Concerts in the Square, Lakeshore Blvd - just north of Main Street, 7-9pm, bring a blanket or chair.

THURSDAY:

Sauble Beach - Lakeview Vendor Market, Sauble Town Square, Thursdays (June 15-September 7), 9am-4pm. Free admission. www.facebook.com/saublemarket.

Warton - Concert Series in Bluewater Park, Thursdays (July 2 to August 27) 7-9pm, free, bring a blanket or chair. (rain location Propeller Club - 575 Edward St. Wiarton)

FRIDAY:

Warton - Farmers' Market, Berford Street Parkette (590 Berford Street), Fridays, Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, 10am-2pm. www.facebook.com/wartonfarmersmarket

Lion's Head - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, POD (Peninsula Observation Deck) at the marina, Fridays and Saturdays (June 26-August 29) at dusk, free, weather dependent, www.facebook.com/baysideastronomy for details and weather cancellations.

Lion's Head - Harbourside Music, free concerts at the beach, Fridays, June 26 to late August, 7-8:30pm.

SATURDAY:

Tobermory - Tobermory All Seasons Market, vendors market, Tobermory Ball Diamond, Saturdays, May 2-October 3, 10am-3pm. www.facebook.com/tobermoryallseasonsmarket/

Lion's Head - Farmers' Market, Beach Pavilion, Saturdays, Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, 9am-noon (9am-1pm on long weekends), live music, food and artisan vendors, www.lionsheadfarmersmarket.com

Lion's Head - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, POD (Peninsula Observation Deck) at the marina, Fridays and Saturdays (June 26-August 29) at dusk, free, weather dependent, www.facebook.com/baysideastronomy for details and weather cancellations.

SUNDAY:

Tobermory - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, Singing Sands (meet on the beach), Sundays (June 26-August 29) at dusk, free, weather dependent, www.facebook.com/baysideastronomy for details and weather cancellations.

DT Insider's Tip

All summer events and festivals are subject to change. Pick up a copy of the Bruce Peninsula Press for more details and updated info or call local Visitor Information centres (see contact details on front page).



Dairy Cattle Show – Wiarton Agriculture Fall Fair September 18 & 19.




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Slow Down and Enjoy the Journey

PAVED ROADS

Highway 6 offers the straightest, flattest, fastest route from Owen Sound to Tobermory.

But there are sideroads and alternative routes galore that are much more interesting. Here are our favourites:

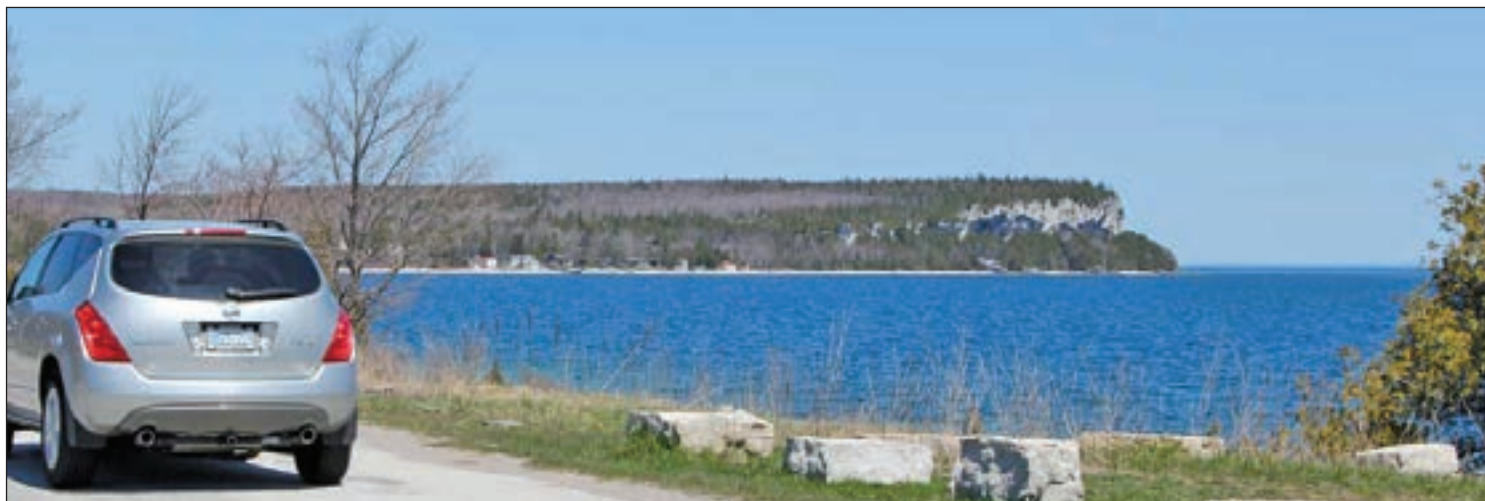
The East Road (Bruce County Road 9) from Colpoys Bay (just north of Wiarton) to Caudle Sideroad, north of Lion's Head. The East Road offers a less travelled and more scenic alternative to the King's Highway #6. Special care is needed on Isthmus Bay Road just north of Lion's Head — the view is stunning but remember you're sharing the road with cyclists and Bruce Trail hikers.

Neyaashiinigiing offers a number of variations on the theme of "limestone cliffs and pristine shoreline".

The Lake Huron shoreline roads from Pike Bay to Howdenvale and from Spry Lake Road to South Oliphant Road. You'll need a map to do this, but it's worth it. Includes St Jean's Point Nature Preserve, the Oliphant Fen Boardwalk and the Government Dock and beachfront park at Oliphant. Return to Highway 6 by Pike Bay Rd, Red Bay Rd or Bruce Cty Rd 13 or (unpaved and you'll need a map) Rankin Bridge Rd.

North of Pike Bay, the West Road/Stokes Bay Road/Ira Lake Road offer a slower, less crowded alternative to Highway 6. You'll need a map.

Island View Drive (Grey County Rd. 1) When you are leaving the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula, take a few extra minutes for one of the finest drives in Canada. Turn east at the Frank Street light in Wiarton (by the Tim Hortons), and follow the shoreline road around to Owen Sound. There are several parks, public docks and scenic lookouts. We



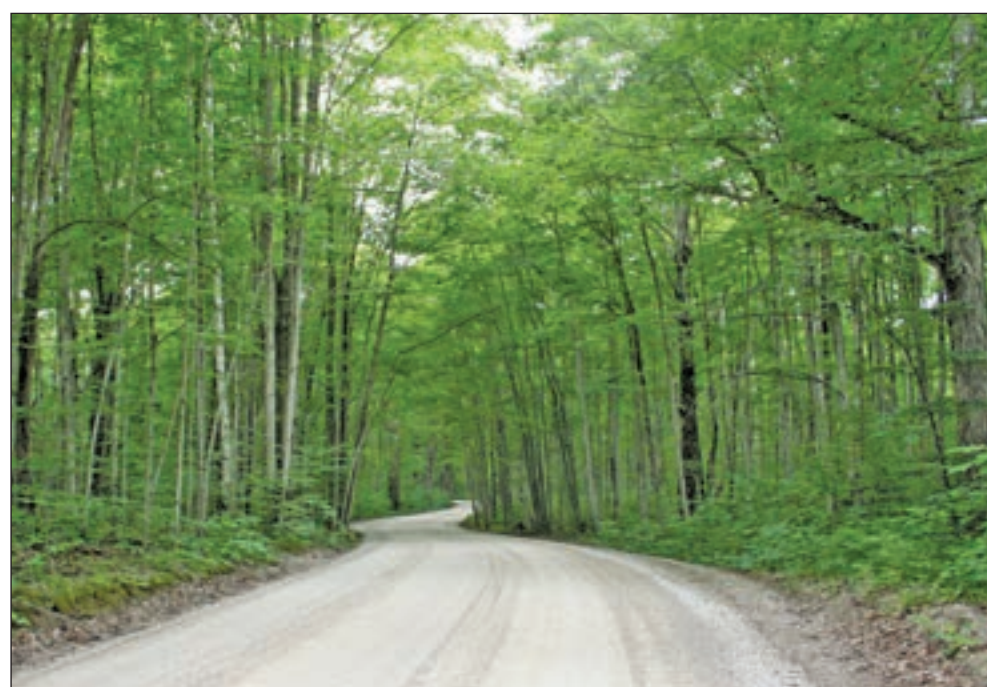
Isthmus Bay Road north of Lion's Head is one of the finest scenic drives on the Saugeen/Bruce Peninsula.

promise you won't be disappointed. (From the other end, follow 2nd Ave West northbound out of Owen Sound.)

FOR THE ADVENTUROUS: UNPAVED ROADS

The Forty Hills Road from Caudle Sideroad to Dyers Bay Road. When the East Road meets Caudle Sideroad, you have a choice. A left turn on Caudle Sideroad offers a paved route out to Highway 6. The alternative is to go straight ahead onto the unpaved and aptly named "40 Hills Road". Warning: 40 Hills Road occasionally narrows to a single lane and has extremely tight corners. Not suitable for motorhomes or travel trailers.

Rankin Bridge Rd. is a narrow, twisting gravel road leading east from Sauble Falls (you'll need a map). It's only a few kilometres long but the hardwood trees meet overhead; there are views of the Sauble River and a bridge over the Rankin River.



Rankin Bridge Road is a narrow, twisting gravel road leading east from Sauble Falls (you'll need a map). The hardwood trees meet overhead.





Bruce Peninsula
National Park

Parc national de la
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