

Discovering the Great Waterway of Ontario



The Thousand Islands Waterway is a beautiful setting for a cruise

Fall Getaways

SHARMAN YARNELL



Some will miss those long hazy, hot days of summer touring Europe, the Caribbean and the US, but what about those colourful, cool days of fall? What about those long weekends and weekdays right into November before the blast of winter arrives? And staying closer to home, perhaps, in our beautiful Canada, with the rich colours of fall that our country is so well known for? I have just the ticket for some great getaways, long or short.

Gananoque's 1000 Islands offers more than enough to delight the spur of the moment short stay or week long vacationer who wants to grab a bit more time away from home before the cold and dreary winter sets in. It promises a fall vacay full of colour, fun and relaxation.

Consider a day of roaming the streets in a picturesque town with lovely architecture and shops, ending with a cruise that includes dining and dancing, or theatre.

The 1000 Island Playhouse is perched at water's edge, with two decks to relax on prior to a play or during intermission. It has just finished a very successful run of *Little Shop of Horrors* in the Springer Theatre. On now at the Firehall Theatre is *The Clockmaker*, a romantic mystery by Stephen Massicotte. October 10 to 27th, its Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador's production of *Tempting Providence*, the true story of nurse Myra Bennet. There's a trick to good, commercial summer theatre and that is producing shows that are light, fun and enjoyable, directed to the masses – it rarely fails. Artistic Director Greg Wanless has excelled in his choices and the results have been overwhelming through the years.

Just when you think your days enjoying time away from home on vacation are over – they're not.

If theatre isn't your passion, there's always the *Gananoque Boat Line*. It has featured some wonderful 'special' cruises during the summer and it continues into the fall with a dinner and dance cruise tribute to Motown on September 15. Time to get your mojo on and dance to the likes of Marvin Gaye and Aretha Franklin. The dinner includes roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, veggies, salad and dessert with a non-alcoholic beverage for \$70 a person or \$130 for a couple. A gander around the shops in the afternoon and dinner and dance on a boat seems to me to be a most active day and romantic evening.

And talking about romance, a picnic is just the thing. A picnic prepared by *Wendy's Mobile Market* can provide it all. A picnic packed into large wicker baskets, stuffed with all sorts of local goodies, sandwiches, pita rolls, veggies, all sorts of sweets to tickle your fancy. All local produce. Believe me, the tastes are divine. You'll also find a table cloth, cutlery, plates and glasses tucked in. And if you just happen to have your family canine with you, they even provide dog treats! And to top it off, they deliver it to you.

The best way to really discover the gems in any town is getting to know its people, and Gananoque offers that quaint village feel, with friendly, always helpful residents ready to point out their favourite spots they think shouldn't be missed. Like the *Socialist Pig*, an eclectic coffee house, *BBQ restaurant and clothing store; all under one roof*. In the coffee house, the tables and chairs are made up of old suitcases. The counter is held up by masses of colourful books of all sorts and sizes. The entire place exudes

charm and you will leave with a contented belly and a smile on your face.

Where to stay whilst there? For me it was the beautiful *Gananoque Inn and Spa*. Built in the 1860s as a carriage factory, this historic inn is steps from the *Gananoque Boat Cruises and the 1000 Islands Playhouse*. Some rooms feature a fireplace and windows facing out onto the water. There is no elevator, but there are only two floors and plenty of staff to help you if needed. You have two choices for dinner – the main dining room, *The Watermark Restaurant* features an outdoor patio and recipes that promote fresh, local ingredients. For the more relaxed, *Muskie Jake's Tap and Grill*, features casual fare and casual dress.

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A crisp fall day along the Rideau Canal

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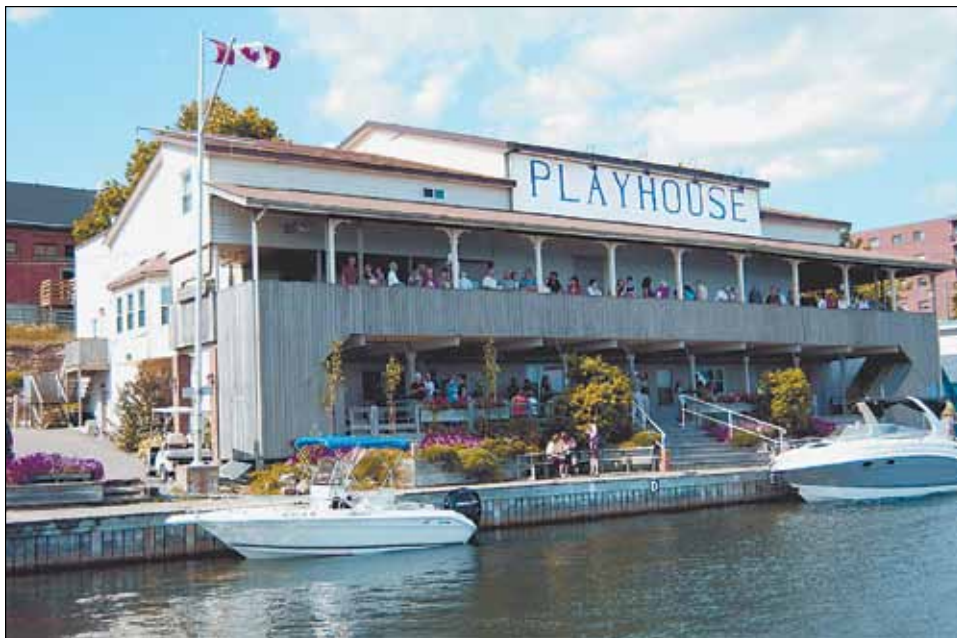


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Thousand Islands Playhouse always has a crowd-pleasing show

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All this and only two and half hours away from Montreal.

Another option, one that would truly accent the colours of the season, is a boat ride along the Rideau Canal...in a house-boat! What a unique way to travel. Imagine discovering a different village every day, then at night, being lulled to sleep by the sound of water lapping up against the boat.

The real adventurous spirits can also rent a canoe and paddle the river stopping at various, pre-booked B&Bs

along the way. Either way, depending on what route you take, you'll end up in lovely little villages like Merrickville, a growing artists' colony, and Delta with its Old Stone Mill and agricultural fair. Conceived in the wake of the War of 1812, the canal has 45 locks at 27 lock stations, and consists of a chain of beautiful lakes running 202 km from Lake Ontario in Kingston to the Ottawa River in Ottawa. That means plenty of boating opportunities. It has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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Caleche Tours

Plattsburg Shopping Day	Nov 17	\$35
Burlington Shopping Day	Oct 20, Dec 15	\$35
Akwesasne Mohawk Casino	Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 15	\$30
Mont Tremblant	Sept 22, Oct 20	\$25
Casino, lunch, \$5 play money, sightseeing		
Atlantic City	Oct 28 – Nov 1	\$375
Resorts Casino, 4 nights, \$45 slots, 4 buffet dinners, revue show if available		
Tropicana Casino	Dec 23 – 27 (same features as above)	\$375
Morrisburg, Upper Canada Playhouse	Oct 14	\$85
Show – <i>Blue Suede Shoes</i> – a tribute to Elvis with Roy Leblanc. Lunch		
Charlevoix Manoir Richelieu	Oct 24, 25	\$320
By popular demand - 2 nights, plus 2 breakfast buffets, 1 dinner, stopover on Quebec City. "A vision of historical splendor"		
Los Cabos, Mexico	Nov 5 – 12	\$1,175
Riu Sante Fe all-inclusive luxury resort. \$150 deposit, book by Sept. 20		
Morrisburg, Upper Canada Playhouse	Dec 1	\$85
Lunch, show – Everything I Love About Christmas – Festival of Lights		
Quebec City	Dec 8	\$89
German Christmas Market, discover the magic! Includes lunch		
Bermuda Cruise, Carnival Splendor	Apr 15 – 23	Interior: \$1,184
7 night cruise, plus 1 night in New Jersey, motorcoach included		
		Oceanview: \$1,256
		Balcony: \$1,465
		\$2,299
Romantic Italy	Mar 4 – 26	
Return air with Lufthansa, 21 nights at the 4 Star Gran Hotel Flora, transfers, 2 meals/day. Municipal tax of 14 Euros is additional		

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