



One Greenbelt, a thousand summer moments

Can you hear it? It's in the howl of a loon. In the splash of fine wine as it enters a glass. In the rushing waters of a trout-filled stream. And in the laughter of children playing in a sparkling pond. It's the sound of summer in Ontario's Greenbelt, inviting Ontario's families to experience all the delight, exhilaration, and relaxation the season has to offer.

Stretching from Niagara Falls to Tobermory to Peterborough, the Greenbelt's 1.8 million provincially protected acres of green spaces, farmland, vibrant communities, forests and wetlands offer families endless opportunities to encounter another world, right in their own backyard. For Ontarians young or old, whether new to Ontario

Food fans, too, will find the Greenbelt delivers a rich palette of experience. With hundreds of farmers' markets offering fresh local fare, wineries boasting award-winning wines, an abundance of restaurants and food tours, and farms offering everything from fruit picking to maple syrup events, it's a true culinary wonderland, whether you're seeking an epicurean adventure or a family picnic.

For recreation-seekers of the more sporting variety, the area offers ample opportunity for swimming, canoeing, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, horseback riding, and cycling - including a perfect weekend getaway aboard VIA Rail Canada's Bike Train, complete with bike racks to



The black-capped Chickadee

extensive areas of parkland, and provides important habitat for a variety of species, all on the doorstep of Canada's largest urban area. Not many areas in Canada can boast of that combination."

Like Ms. Schulz, thousands of Ontarians are seeing the advantages of having such a vast and varied playground so close at hand. Statistics show that over 50% of people living in Central Ontario are likely to explore the tourism and recreation possibilities in the area - an especially appealing option given the rising costs of travel and gas. That means that more and more families will be answering the call of the wild and the wonderful by visiting Ontario's Greenbelt, a vacation destination that's as big as summer itself.

Get details about the Kortright Centre for Conservation at www.kortright.org, and Ball's Falls Conservation Area at www.npca.ca/conservation-areas/balls-falls/.

For more on everything the greenbelt has to offer, please visit www.greenbelt.ca.

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The Bike Train loading bikes in Niagara

or born and raised right here, the Greenbelt has something for everyone - with options as varied as the people themselves.

For nature lovers, the area presents a stunning array of flora and fauna, home to a kaleidoscope of species including many considered to be at risk. Beautiful landscapes range from the craggy cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment (a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve) to the lush forests of the Oak Ridges Moraine (a birder's paradise). Canada's largest network of hiking trails - including the 800km Bruce Trail - and 125,000 acres of parkland welcome everyone from the serious hiker to the leisurely walker. Popular conservation areas abound, including the Kortright Centre, a natural oasis combining pristine woodlands, education programs, "home greening" exhibits, and family events including a kite festival, all just 10 minutes north of Toronto. Equally compelling is the scenic splendour and interactive exhibits at Ball's Falls, home to over 200 species of birds as well as other endangered critters, and featuring a preserved, mid-19th century hamlet complete with family home, working flour mill and more.

For those drawn to Ontario's heritage, the Greenbelt is interlaced with historical sites including homes of famous Canadians and recreations of pioneer towns. Attractions like Fort George, Queenston Heights, Black Creek Pioneer Village and St. Andrew's Stone Church provide fun ways for visitors to touch the past. And as for the present, Ontario's enduring character is on full display, with picturesque communities offering activities such as fairs, festivals, and shopping for items that are uniquely Ontario.

allow cyclists a safe and sustainable journey to a treasure trove of trails.

With its bounty of attractions and natural beauty, the Greenbelt can be anything to anyone: a nature class, a sporting event, a spa, a dining experience, a family escape, a wellness retreat - all within a few scant kilometres of home. As Caroline Schultz, Executive Director, Ontario Nature, observes, "The Greenbelt is unique and special. It contains some of the most fertile agricultural lands in Canada, hundreds of kilometres of bike and walking trails,



Man in boat on Lake Simcoe