

TRAVEL

# Beyond the border: London, Ontario has lots to see and do

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SPECIAL WRITER

Names like Piccadilly, Trafalgar, York, Oxford and Queens Street are just a few reminders of the ties to London much further away.

London, Ontario is situated on the meandering Thames (pronounced tems) River just like the other London, and is a delightful place to spend a weekend or a week.

And though for the first time in decades, Americans and Canadians are realizing that there is a border between them, London is still just a short drive away. You may just have to be a little more patient getting there and back.

## Kid's stuff

Water, history, toys, museums, sports and archeology are some of the things for children to experience in London. Wally World claims "Twenty-four reasons to get wet and wild." At Pioneer Village, weavers, blacksmiths and printmakers demonstrate their crafts. The Toy Shop of London is a hands-on play store. They also have pony rides, jugglers and other traveling shows.

There is a Children's Museum where kids can dig for dinosaurs, crawl through caves or journey into space. Try five-pin bowling. It should be easier with fewer pins, but it isn't. If bowling isn't your style, how about Cosmo City for high tech laser games, rock climbing and virtual reality. The Lawson Prehistoric Indian Village is an interesting site to visit at the London Museum of Archeology.

## For Mom and Dad

Wineries, museums, double decker bus tours, plays, gardens and parks are some of the more adult attractions.

Bellamere Country Wines specialize in fruit wines, made from 100% real fruit, not grapes. They offer tours, tastings and a casual tearoom overlooking the vineyard.

Visit the Regimental Museum and see the Canadian uniforms, weapons and personal items displayed from 1883 to present.

If you like to sit back and let someone else do the driving, take

## If you are going...

### Special events

Pioneer Pumpkin Party (Oct. 27-28) and Victorian Village Christmas (Dec. 8-9 and 15-16).

The Innuitt Gallery has their annual Cape Dorset Show and Sale in October and November. The London Regional Art and Historical Museum has the upcoming events, Brave Films, Wild Nights Poster Tour (Oct. 6 - Nov. 11), Games Needles Play (Oct. 12 - Dec. 2) and Thames River (Nov. 10 - Jan. 13, 2002).

### Eldon House

Visit the oldest house in London, built in 1834 and now a historical museum complete with the furnishings of the period. Have traditional afternoon tea on the lawn every

a two-hour English style double decker bus ride around town and relax. How about seeing a play at the Grand Theatre, or some people watching at Victoria Park's gardens?

### Eats

London boasts everything from typical English style pubs to African, Mexican, Mediterranean, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, East Indian and maybe even some American cuisine. One restaurant called the Finest Lawyer got my attention, but we never made it there.

### Jeux du Canada

Alliance London hosted the Summer Canadian Olympic Games in the summer. The alliance consists of Woodstock, St. Thomas, the Village of Grand Bend, the University of Western Ontario and, of course, London. Five thousand athletes, coaches, managers and officials attended this year's games from 650 different Canadian towns.

### Artsy stuff

The art scene is continuing to emerge as we speak. There are some wonderful galleries, museums and stores sprinkled

Tuesday through Sunday 2-4 p.m. through the end of August. Tea is served with scones, butter and jam for \$6 per person. Or try your hand at another pastime of the era, croquet, every Sunday from 1-4 p.m. (no charge).

### Tours

Two-hour bright red double decker bus tours leave from city hall and reservations are suggested. Downtown Discovery Tours are self-guided walking tours of the architecture, landmarks and history of London. Several summer walking tours guided by the London Regional Art and Historical Museum are available to see selected neighborhoods and local history. There are also helicopter, small plane and balloon rides available mostly during the summer months.

through town. Innuitt Gallery has native and Innuitt stone carvings. The smooth feel and modern look of a traditional soapstone bear shows the simplicity and power of the creature.

There are many galleries showcasing local artists in all types of media from Celtic and native art to contemporary artists.

### The music scene

The concerts and artists in London are as diverse as the food offerings.

For those who still remember him, visit the Guy Lombardo Museum Music Centre. It has been open since 1984 displaying documentaries on his life, photographs, song sheets and other mementos of a long successful career. If you remember Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians big band sound, then you may recognize these titles, *Red Roses for a Blue Lady*, *Harbor Lights*, *Red Sails in the Sunset* or *The Tennessee Waltz*. They bring back memories from the '50s and good feelings (for me) when life seemed simpler.

The concert stage offers everything from postwar swing and classic rock to new country, original stars from the '70s - like



**Tidy homes:** The quaint houses of London, Ontario, are reminiscent of its namesake across the ocean.

Tony Orlando - and big band sounds. That doesn't even include all the small venues around town where you can see the stars of the future up close

and personal.

London, Ontario is a lovely city, reminiscent of its bigger namesake. It is a clean and safe place to bring the whole family -

even Grandpa and Grandma. Sandie Parrott is a Clarkson-based freelance writer.

## Lincoln Center with Wynton Jazz Orchestra Marsalis

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## Meet Jane Seymour



## Ave Maria Fine Art Gallery

Domino's Farms - Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Entrance off Lobby B.

Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actress, Jane Seymour, star of the hit CBS series, "Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman," will be on hand October 18 and 19, 2001 at the Ave Maria Fine Art Gallery to exhibit a wide collection of her artwork and will personally inscribe purchases made during the event. Her work as a colorist ranges from delicate watercolors to vibrant oil paintings. It's an exhibit you won't want to miss!



FOOD! AUCTIONS! ENTERTAINMENT!



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\$1 raffle offers a chance to win a trip to Las Vegas  
\$500 gift certificate to Home Depot  
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Tickets: \$65 per person.

Call (734) 464-7810

All proceeds benefit the programs at Angela Hospice including the MyNest is Best pediatric program and the Good Samaritan program which ensures hospice care is available to everyone in the community, regardless of financial means. Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia is sponsored and operated by the Felician Sisters of Livonia. Angela Hospice Compassionate care for children, adults, and families since 1985.

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