

Stoney Creek



Erland Lee Home



Stoney Creek has outdoor fun

by Gertrude Olga Down

Stoney Creek has an abundance of outdoor fun activities for every season of the year.

June is a very special month for the residents of Stoney Creek. Over 20 years ago, a group of citizens felt it would be appropriate to host a celebration to show their pride in our distinctive Canadian flag. Flag Day, started initially by the Kinsmen Club, has grown into a week-long festivity. It is entirely run by citizens and is billed as family fun time. In addition to a city parade and large picnic, there are numerous other events including bed races, street dances and a medieval feast. Canada Flag Week, considered unique to Stoney Creek, is usually held in the first week of June (June 2-11, 1989).

Every Sunday afternoon during July and August, people are drawn to the band shell at Battlefield Park on King Street West. For two glorious hours, starting at 2 p.m., children and adults alike thrill to the sounds of local bands and musicians. And — best of all — these concerts are free. Be sure to bring a lawn chair and come early to get the choice spot.

Battlefield Park, owned and operated by the city of Stoney Creek, is open to the public year-round. There is ample parking and both covered and non-covered picnic tables. In addition to the large expanse of land, which many use for kite-flying, ball games and cross country skiing, the park also contains Battlefield House Museum (circa 1790's). The historic stone tower behind the museum commemorates the Battle of Stoney Creek.

The famous hiking route known as the Bruce Trail

can be reached via a short walk from Battlefield Park. The trail follows the Niagara Escarpment from the Queenston Heights area to Tobermory and offers quiet walks and scenic vistas. Maps and information about scheduled hikes are available from the Bruce Trail Association (529-6821).

The geological phenomenon known as The Devil's Punch Bowl is a photographer's delight. It is located in a 25-hectare park on Ridge Road, east of Highway 20. From here, there is a wonderful view of Stoney Creek and Hamilton Harbour. The exposed rock strata, some areas of which date from 450 million years ago, are a treat for geologists and rock hounds. The park, which also has a picnic area, contains a spectacular waterfall — an extra bonus for camera buffs.

There is a unique but little-known passive recreation area on the escarpment right in the middle of a residential community. Felker's Falls Conservation Area, operated by the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, has specially-designed trails for disabled persons. Audio tapes and printed guides relate the wonders of nature and some of the history of the surrounding countryside. The paths are flat and graded, with no hills, making them suitable for small children. Felker's Falls is open year-round (525-2181).



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