

Picking right resort takes good planning

By Vincent Egan
Travel Columnist
Thomson News Service

It's summertime. And the living is supposed to be easy.

Perhaps that's why so many vacationers choose a resplendent resort at a resort, leaving it to other seasons (and to other people) to be on the go.

In travel talk, a resort is defined as something a cut or two above a good hotel, in terms of such elements as natural beauty, luxury, cuisine, recreational activities and so on.

If that sounds right to you, or if you simply want a change of pace, then you ought to consider some of the alternative approaches to a resort vacation.

By stretching the definition a bit, a resort could even be a ship. In the course of a cruise, passengers have at their disposal most of the things that make any resort attractive — with the possible exception of golf courses and tennis courts.

Let's concentrate, however, on resort holidays as they are generally understood.



VINCENT EGAN

THE RIGHT CHOICE

First things first: Narrow down the choice by eliminating the wrong kind of resort (with the help of a knowledgeable travel agent or a reliable guidebook).

If you seek peace and quiet, rule out a singles-oriented resort with round-the-clock disco. On the other hand, if you want action, ignore those five-star resorts that young people can seldom afford.

To illustrate: Ray Riegert's hidden Hawaii (Halcon Books; 355 pages; \$16.50) describes Kona Village Resort on the island of Hawaii as a "regal retreat, favored by movie stars and other celebrities seeking escape from autograph hounds and aggressive agents. There are no televisions, radios, clocks or front-door keys."

From The American Automobile Association Tour Book (free to members of organizations associated with the AAA), we learn that those movie stars, celebrities and other guests have access to a wide range of recreational facilities at no extra cost, including lighted tennis courts and a children's program in summer.

TELLING CLUES

Clues such as those can tell you a good deal: At this season, night tennis is probably much more enjoyable than a mid-day set under a punishing sun. And the fact that there are activities specially planned for youngsters is an indication that the resort likely has a family atmosphere — ideal for some vacationers, wrong for others.

In a resort that's located in a remote area, you will feel that you are at least away from it all. Fine — unless you happen to be oriented more towards an up-beat, exciting vacation, in which case you could soon go stir-crazy.

As you browse through the listings of resorts, you will observe that some have a "dress code," and draw particular attention to the quality of their cuisine. Obviously, such places would appeal to vacationers who like a touch of elegance, but not to those interested in maximum ease and relaxation.

TOUCH OF CLASS

Whichever category you may be in, you should expect a superior grade of accommodation. Resorts are not for roughing it — at least they shouldn't be.

(Some fine old resorts, built many decades ago, do have rooms with thin walls and a minimum of amenities. However, they sometimes offer modern accommodation in recently built annexes.)

Prices almost everywhere vary with the season. Summer and fall are the periods for bargains in most southern resorts, such as those in Florida.

Whatever rate is quoted to you, find out exactly what it includes. Some resorts may not provide the same services and quality at low-season prices as they do in high season. Ascertain whether a local tax will be added to your bill, and whether the customary recreational facilities such as tennis are included in the price. (Scuba diving, for example, almost always costs extra.)

Ask about reduced rates for youngsters and for seniors, if applicable. Are non-smoking rooms available? Is airport transportation provided?

By asking the right questions, you will almost certainly be able to pinpoint the right resort for you, at the right price.

TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

—For details of the 10 Canadian resorts and hotels affiliated with the worldwide chain, write to Relais et Chateaux, P.O. Box 131, 160 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, M5A 1N0, telephone 416-361-0544.

—Interested in exploring the Antipodes? Three useful guidebooks — Out and About in New Zealand; Outdoor Action Holidays; The New Zealand Book — are available free from New Zealand Tourist and Publicity Office, P.O. Box 10071, Pacific Centre, Vancouver, V7Y 1B6, telephone 604-684-2117.

—Facilities to carry wheelchair passengers are now available on the "Airbus" service operated by London Regional Transport between Heathrow Airport and London's and Euston railway stations.

—A 10 per cent discount is offered to guests age 60 or over, at Quality International's 15 British hotels. Advance bookings are required, and the discount applies to double rooms with bath on week nights, and to single rooms on weekends.



Last goodbyes

The Tate family was given a church to return to the United States. Seen here is wife Joyceline, and children John Robert and Christine. (Herald photo)

Correction

There was an incorrect date for an event listed in Friday's Outlook edition. The Burger King Cruise Night date should have read Aug. 26. The Herald regrets the error.

13 tenders

All 13 tenders for maintenance work water and wastewater treatment plant equipment were rejected by regional council July 22.

Haltom's Director of Public Works, R.J. Moore said none of the tenders met the region's specifications completely.

"A critical part of our specifications referred to response time in which we specified that the successful tenderer must be able to respond to a call within a certain period of time. This was interpreted differently by each contractor and not in accordance with our definition," Mr. Moore said in a report.

Until the region decides what to do next, the work will be parcelled out to "experienced and qualified" contractors on equal basis, Mr. Moore said.

\$24,000 to conform

Haltom Region is going ahead with \$24,000 exercise to bring the Niagara Escarpment Plan into agreement with the three haltom Local Official plans.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs will fund the study.

The consulting firm of macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd. will be retained to carry out the study.

Responding to questions of why the Region can't perform the study and save the expense, Region Planning Director Hash Mohammed said staff has the capabilities of carrying out the study but it is experiencing a workload problem at the time.



ANOTHER PROGRAM FROM ASSURED HOUSING FOR ONTARIO.

MAKING YOUR HOME OR RENTAL APARTMENT MORE LIVABLE FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

HERE ARE 3 WAYS YOU CAN QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

1. Homeowners:
Are you disabled or do you have a disabled relative living with you?

Forgivable loans of up to \$15,000 are available to help you make modifications to your home for yourself or a disabled family member. For example: building wheelchair ramps, modifying kitchens and bathrooms.

Loans received through our Ontario Home Renewal Program will equal the cost of the work undertaken.

2. Convert part of your home or non-residential building into a rental apartment.

Interest free loans of up to \$5,000 are available to make new rental units for disabled occupants in single family homes and non-residential buildings.

This special financial assistance is in addition to a \$7,000 per unit loan which you could qualify for through our Convert-to-Rent Program.



Ministry of Housing
Ontario Hon. Alvin Curling, Minister

3. Landlords of older low-rise buildings can also get assistance.

Are you the landlord of a low-rise apartment building built before 1960? You could qualify for a forgivable loan of up to \$5,000 to make your rental units more livable for disabled persons.

This amount is in addition to a forgivable loan of up to two-thirds of the cost of rehabilitating units in older low-rise apartments (loan maximum is \$5,000 per unit). These funds are available through our Low-Rise Rehabilitation Program.

LOW-RISE REHABILITATION



A young inmate of the Maplehurst Correctional and Adult Training Centre paints the floor of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance service bays last week. The youths, who cannot be identified, are part of

the Correctional Centre's work program for young inmates who've served half their sentence and have been on good behaviour. (Herald photo)

Maplehurst inmates color their world as station painters

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Special

The Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance garage on Guelph Street has received a facelift over the past few months and the credit goes to inmates of the Maplehurst Correctional and Adult Training Centre in Milton.

Over the past six weeks 15 young inmates of Maplehurst have stripped the bay's floor and walls of paint and applied several new coats.

The bays are being spruced up for the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance 30th anniversary in September, said Georgetown volunteer ambulance service president Doug McLeod.

The youths (who cannot be identified by law) have worked diligently at the project one day a week for five or six hours each day.

Only two youths at a time work on the project. Because of differing lengths of terms served by the youths, about 15 people have rotated through the project, Mr. McLeod said.

"Everybody's surprised at the excellent job they've done," Mr. McLeod said.

"I've talked to quite a few. They all seem to be handling themselves pretty good," added Darryl Gibson, the Director of Administration.

"It sure helps out. If it wasn't for these (youths) we wouldn't have the money to paint," Mr. McLeod said.

The youths working away last week seemed grateful for the chance to be out working but they remained relatively shy.

Maplehurst Centre is a provincially-owned institution which is classified as medium security. Only those whose sentences are up to two years less a day are sent to Maplehurst said Community Programs Co-ordinator Robert Groom.

Young inmates of Maplehurst have also participated in several

other projects throughout the years. It was Maplehurst who helped clean up the Georgetown Fairgrounds after the recent Highland Games.

Maplehurst inmates also cleaned up after the Acton Fall Fair. Several years ago Maplehurst youths moved thousands of barrels of gravel off the grass at Cedarvalh Park in order to help build up the banks of Silver Creek after a flood, Mr. Groom said.

Projects for the handicapped include shovelling driveways in the winter, building a veranda and ramps and other handyman projects for senior citizens.

Most inmates are in for crimes such as break and enter, narcotics violations, car thefts and assaults, Mr. Groom said.

"The response has been 75 per cent positive, ten per cent negative and the rest are undecided," Mr. Groom said of the youths' work.

"We don't go if we're not wanted and we don't stay if we're not welcome," he added.

"All they really need is for somebody to say, 'hey thanks a lot. We needed the help,'" Mr. Groom said.

Thank you come in different forms, he said. Sometimes a citizen will come out with a coffee or a butter tart and sometimes they'll write a letter of thanks, Mr. Groom said.

He admitted some inmates don't work out on the work program.

In order to be eligible for the work program inmates must have served half their sentence and be on good behaviour, he said.

The youths are supervised all the time but often the attending officer works with them, showing them what to do, Mr. Groom said.

He admitted that some people shy away from the inmate work programs. "Some people are nervous. People tend to wonder sometimes," he said.

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