

# Travel Outlook

## Bed and Breakfast is a convenient way to go

**Best Places to B and B in Ontario - An Independent Guide to Bed and Breakfast.** By Janette Higgins. Illustrated. Juno Press. 176 pages. \$13.95.

Bed and Breakfast is not a new idea. B and B, as it's known among aficionados, has been around a long time in Europe, and interest is on the increase in North America. Just look at St. Marys, a community of 5,000 near Stratford, Ontario. In 1966 it had eight B and Bs. Last year that number had doubled to 16. And this looks like a boom year - in Ontario it's estimated there are about 700 B

and Bs and more are opening all the time.

B and B is an attractive travel option. There's the reasonable price (the mid-range is about \$40-\$45 per night for two including breakfast). But there's also the back-to-the-past appeal, the sense of discovery and adventure, and the chance to meet interesting hosts and fellow guests. Many a rousing conversation has been held over breakfast by people who would have remained strangers to each other in other settings. And it often suits those who consider themselves travellers rather than



Travel

**VINCENT EGAN**

Thomson News Service

tourists.

Now there's a guide to the best B and Bs in Ontario. It's useful to those new to the idea as well as to seasoned B and B travellers. Author Janette Higgins has travelled in more than 30 countries and stayed in

her first B and B in Ireland in 1967. She visited 250 of the province's B and Bs before selecting 81 for *The Best Places to B and B in Ontario*. In her introduction she says she couldn't find a guide where the hosts had not paid to be included as they would pay for an ad. So she wrote one herself.

*Best Places* has the look of an art book but contains all the essential information a traveller needs. The romantic watercolor on the cover is by Toronto Beaches artist Elizabeth Berry, and the 81 sketches are by Ryerson design grad Jane Pettes who now lives in Oshawa. Higgins captures the essence of each B and B in short stories which give the reader a sense of the hosts' personalities and interests, along with descriptions of the decor. Most are furnished with antiques because Higgins' preference is restored historic homes - one in Brockville dates back to 1784.

She's also given details about the facilities (like how many rooms share a bathroom), and restrictions concerning children, smoking and guests' pets. For those with "allergies or aversions" she's mentioned pets and children living in the B and B. The author says, "All are clean and neat and decorated in good taste, often with real flair. Bathrooms are usually shared by guests only, not with hosts. And most have a common area for guests separate from hosts' quarters."

Higgins suggests B and Bs especially for those who've never travelled this way before - generally they're those with a little more privacy than usual. She's also touting this type of accommodation for business travellers because of the personal touch, and describes things like the telephone situation, and location of the home - in big cities she describes the neighborhood and in smaller communities she gives drive time from

well-known larger centres. And she notes whether there's a shower. From personal experience, she says, "A long soak in a clawfoot tub in a faithfully restored bathroom may appeal to vacationers but most business travellers want their shower in the morning."

Of Caron House in historic Williamstown near the Ontario-Quebec border, the author writes, "One of the most beautifully restored B and Bs in the province - painstaking attention to detail, exquisite taste and gourmet breakfast make it extra special." Or this, about one on Pelee Island in Lake Erie, "Stay with a seventh-generation Pelee Islander, in a house that has a pretty country style, and get to know a part of the province most of us don't even know exists."

Hosts in *Best Places* range from a couple in their early twenties to a teacher quite a few years past retirement. In fact, many took up B and B hosting as a retirement project or because they were passionate about restoring large historic homes. Their occupations run the gamut - from landscape architect to pharmacist; from actor to veterinarian. But they all have one thing in common. They like people.

*Best Places* is available in book stores and some gift shops. It's also available by mail order from the author at Juno Press, P.O. Box 399, Station J, Toronto, Ontario M4J 4Y8. Send your cheque or money order for \$13.95 a copy. Shipping is free (Available in U.S. by mail order only).



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Home Post Scripts

By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep. 873-0300

I'm sure that many of you are either breathing a sigh of relief that school is almost over, or you are in a panic as to what to do with your kids for the summer.

I am of the former thought, for my kids are just about to embark on exams, and the tension is mounting daily. When it is all over, it will be wonderful! The kids have burn-out and so do I. It has been a hectic spring market in real estate, with prices rising faster than the temperature, and now that the market has taken a breather, so am I.

Holidays are fast approaching and the summer is full with a long list of purchasers and many things to finish off. So for the next couple of months, I will be interspersing my chit chat column with my favorites reprinted for summer reading. By the time fall hits, I should have new tales, tips and triumphs of real estate to report to you. In the meantime, I hope I leave you with great plans for the hot weather, and perhaps a thought or two to improve your home - even just a little, you might just decide to sell in the fall?

Do you have any bets as to what the fall market is going to be like? Get out your crystal ball - we don't know either. Keep cool!

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**THIS WEEK'S MORTGAGE RATES**

AS OF JUNE 9th, 1988

	1 YEAR	2 YEAR	3 YEAR	4 YEAR	5 YEAR	6 YEAR	7 YEAR	8 YEAR	9 YEAR	10 YEAR
Bank of Nova Scotia	10%	10%	11%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%		
Bank of Montreal			11%	10%	11%	11%	11%	12%		
Canada Trust		10%		10%	11%	11%	11%		12%	
C.I.B.C.	10%	10%		11%	10%	11%	11%			
T.O. Bank	10%		10%	11%	10%	11%	11%			
Royal Bank		10%		11%	10%	11%	11%			

\* 4 Yr. Renewal - \* 5 Yr. Renewal