



All over the province folks will soon be enjoying the scenic wonders of an Ontario fall. Travel writer Kathryn Horler has explored the high-ways and byways to find out what else is interesting to travellers on these annual excursions.

Travel

It's a great backyard

By KATHRYN HORLER

Right here in our own backyard are the fall colors some people travel hundreds of miles to see. Fortunately, we need only take an afternoon's drive to reap such rewards as breathtaking panoramas, shopping surprises and superb dining places.

An autumn outing could begin with a tour through the Caledon Hills and Hockley Valley. Drive north on Airport Road from Highway 401 (west). Between Highways 9 and 89 you'll find the heart of the Hockley Valley where nature reveals its annual technicolor display. This spot deserves stops along the way so nothing is missed, particularly, the magenta of the sumach trees.

The line ends at Highway 9 where you'll turn right (west) and drive to Orangeville to begin your zig-zag route through Caledon Hills. The area bordered by Highway 25 on the west; Highway 10 on the east and Highway 7 on the south is special for viewing, besides being dotted with intriguing shops. These have become so popular that the owners have formed The Caledon Hills Craft and Antique Association. In the village of Erin alone there are six shops. Belfountain, a village that is a joy any time of the year, has four stores.

An illustrated brochure containing a detailed map can be obtained by writing to the association, Box 625, Erin, Ont.

If you plan a meal stopover there are a number of local inns. The Caledon Inn features a Devonshire tea as well as lunch and dinner. Also, there is a craft shop on the premises. The Globe Restaurant serves lunches, teas and dinners and reservations are advised. The Millcroft Inn in Alton serves lunch all afternoon and dinners all evening. The latter is owned by the Windsor Arms Hotel in Toronto.

Another tour of the colors begins by following Highway 401 east to the Peterborough cutoff. Turn north on Highway 115 where rolling hills, manicured fields, clusters of forests reach as far as the eye can see.

There are turn-offs on this highway that lead to beaches and marinas in the Kawartha Lakes region.

In Peterborough is the famous hydraulic lift lock on the Trent-Severn Waterway that literally carries pleasure craft, along with the water they float in, 65 feet straight up.

Peterborough has an outstanding restaurant, the Burnham Mansion. Built in the 19th century the restored rooms are gracefully appointed and the meals reasonable. It is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

Just south of the Mansion is Highway 7 an alternate return route that offers vistas reaching to the horizon on both sides of the road.

If you are picnic-minded, a drive to Sibbald Point Provincial Park would lead to picnic tables on a Lake Simcoe Beach. Head north on Woodbine Avenue following the signs to Sutton until the Jackson's Point turnoff. In Jackson's Point make a right turn at the Lake Simcoe Hotel to Hedge Road.

John Sibbald, owner of Briars Golf and Country Club, has restored his ancestral home as an addition to the resort. Luncheons and dinners are available here. Further down Hedge Road you'll come across the signs that point to the area where you'll have your picnic. On your return, make a left turn out of the park and down the road to St. George's Church. It's an historic site with two of the tombstones bearing the names Stephen Leacock and Mazo de la Roche.

Muskoka is a part of our world that should be seen in the fall, except it is such a long stretch for the driver. Bus tours are an attractive alternative. Gray Coach, for instance, is having special one-day outings in September and October including a two-hour boat cruise from Gravenhurst. For further information call 979-3531.

Travelways has a three-day package deal with two night's accommodation at Paighton House on Lake Rosseau, with country and lake cruises included. The number to call is 294-5104.

Party Trips Inc. has a number of day trips planned for the fall, including cruising in the country Oct. 3 and Oct. 6; a house tour at Port Hope and an Elmira Excursion. For further information call 863-9392.

Travelchat

Florida tourism drops

Fiction mixed with fact about the gasoline shortage in the United States has dropped Florida tourism by 20 per cent. Recent visitors to that state say there's more fiction than fact about gasoline shortages everywhere but the situation in the sunny state has worried resort operators so much that the governor has moved to make gasoline available to vacationers.

A Travellers Gas Station Network across the state has 55 stations at 30 key highway intersections able to provide gasoline 14 hours a day, seven days a week until Labor Day.

Participating gas stations will get a special gas allocation to ensure continuity of supplies and will mostly service cars with out of state licence plates.

its successful SkyBus service by the end of October, adding a Montreal-Vancouver flight, Toronto-Winnipeg-Vancouver return and an extra weekly flight between Toronto and Vancouver.

The one-way flight from Toronto to Vancouver will be \$94.50, and Toronto to Calgary to Edmonton is \$79.50.

Sunlight is offering packages to Panama this fall that feature seven nights on Contadora Island or one week plus another divided between Panama City and an inland resort.

For further information contact Suntours Limited, 1470 Don Mills Rd., Don Mills, M3B 2X9.

How to join ski patrol

In anticipation of the first snowfall, skiers are invited to register in the Canadian Ski Patrol System.

Members of the ski patrol are familiar to all skiers by their rust-colored jacket and are dedicated to serving the public and promoting ski safety.

Last year there were 600 members covering 23 ski areas in the Collingwood, Barrie and Metro area — 100 of whom were from Richmond Hill.

The Canadian Ski Patrol System's annual registration will be held on September 4, 5, 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Avenue in Willowdale.

On registration days the volunteer patroller will receive First Aid manuals and kits, and the following week will begin an extensive First Aid course which will run until the end of November.

Fiesta Holidays has taken advantage of a change in the Bermuda Hotel Association bylaws and has introduced package tours to five Bermuda properties for this winter. One- and two-week packages are offered at the Holiday Inn, Sherwoods, Grotto Bay, Elbow Beach and The Belmont.

The program begins in December and continues through October, 1980 and costs \$399 for one week and \$599 for two weeks. Get full details from your travel agent.

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