Let It Snow
How do you propel your skis, horsepower, gravity, or perhaps leg power?

Trail Town
The Sault’s secret stash of outdoor adventures.

Spirits Rising - Bawaating
A place to align mind, body and spirit to make a change and make a difference.

Thompson Farms
The perfect combination for a great outing with family and friends.

#YouInTheSoo

Bulkheads, Buoys and Boats
What’s with all the freighters passing through Sault Ste. Marie?

Ride The Rails
114-mile excursion truly showcases the rugged beauty that is exclusive to the region.

Quattro Hotel & Conference Centre
an Ascend Collection Hotel by Choice Hotels
Complimentary hot continental breakfast, free WiFi, indoor heated salt water pool, hot tub and sauna, in-room microwave & fridge, Keurig coffee machine, premium bedding and upgraded amenities.

QUATTRO VINOTECCA - 3 Diamond Onsite Restaurant with modern surroundings and an upbeat vibe.

THE GREENHOUSE SPA - Premier Ranked Spa & Services. Escape for an hour, or a full, luxurious day. The spa professionals will relax and rejuvenate your mind and body with the finest services and treatments available.

Sault Ste. Marie Canal
A significant settlement by the rapids, later a commercial waterway evolved into a must-see tourist destination.

$20 OFF HOTEL ROOM RATE
Discounted from the daily published hotel rate when booked direct with Quattro. Must present coupon upon check-in.

$10 OFF SPA SERVICES
Discounted from any spa service. Pre-booking is required. Not applicable with any other offer.
There’s an energy in Sault Ste. Marie. You can feel it in the schools, our businesses, industry and across our incredible land and waterscapes. You hear it bubbling in the rapids, echoing throughout our campuses and in the new developments and ideas that come alive in our city every day.

A vibrant and friendly community, Sault Ste. Marie provides a mix of urban and natural amenities that offer an adventurous lifestyle in the heart of the Great Lakes.

Take the time, live in the moment, find yourself…in Sault Ste. Marie.
Welcome To Sault Ste. Marie

Message From the Mayor

Located at the heart of the continent and the center of the Great Lakes, Sault Ste. Marie has been a traditional gathering place for hundreds of years. We invite you to discover why our region has been a destination for so long and for so many.

Sault Ste. Marie is a modern community that provides ready access to nature and spectacular landscapes, along with longstanding local heritage landmarks. While in the City, you can take in the scenery along our waterfront boardwalk and connect with the John Rowswell Hub Trail. You can launch your wilderness getaway and discover why the Group of Seven were entranced by the Algoma region. Throughout all four seasons, you will find unique, interesting and exciting attractions, events and activities in and around our community.

I also encourage people to visit our downtown area. A cluster of fresh and exciting businesses has brought dining and shopping options to satisfy a variety of different tastes and interests. The new additions pair well with many long-running family owned restaurants and shops.

Attractions such as the Agawa Canyon Tour Train, the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre and the Heritage Discovery Centre at the Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site tell the story of Northern Ontario while providing fun for the whole family.

There is fun and entertainment available for every season. Major annual events include Bon Soo, Rotaryfest and the Algoma Fall Festival, where live theatre and music is performed regularly by our wealth of local talent, along with appearances from national stars. As you flip through these pages you will read more about the many events that are a part of our community’s vibrant cultural tapestry.

On behalf of the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie, I would like to welcome you to our community. During your stay, I encourage you to explore our dining and shopping opportunities, immerse yourself in our rich history and enjoy some of the true northern hospitality that our city has become renowned for, and discover why Sault Ste. Marie is where you belong.

Yours truly,

Christian C. Provenzano, B.A., LL.B., LL.M.

Safe Travel

U.S. Visitors To Canada

Passports have been required for return travels to the USA, by all modes of transportation, since 2009 for all citizens. NEXUS cards, and enhanced drivers licenses may also be options for entry. Please direct all inquiries or questions to the nearest Immigration office in your community.

Any questions about entry to Canada may be addressed to:

Canadian Customs Information:
705-941-3063 or www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

United States Customs Information:
906-632-8822

Currency Exchange

To obtain the best rate of exchange, we recommend using your credit card or exchanging currency prior to shopping. U.S. funds can be exchanged at most banks.

Vehicles and Driving

Seatbelts are mandatory for anyone weighing over 80lbs; and car seats are required for children under that weight. Radar detectors are illegal in Ontario. Studded tires are permitted between October 1 and April 30 in the District of Algoma. Right turns are permitted on a red light after a complete stop unless posted otherwise. Speed limits and distances are posted in kilometres. Liquid fuels are sold by the litre.

Cannabis

Despite the fact that cannabis (marijuana) is legal and regulated in Canada, it remains illegal to transport cannabis in any form – including any oils containing THC or cannabidiol (CBD), across Canada’s national borders whether you are entering or leaving Canada. For further information visit: www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Emergency Services

In the case of an emergency, please dial 911 for immediate assistance. For non-urgent inquiries, please contact the below.

Sault Area Hospital
705-759-3434 | www.sah.on.ca
750 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 5A3

Note: Non-Ontario residents may have to pay at registration and/or at time of discharge. They will provide receipt and documents for insurance.

Sault Ste. Marie Fire Services
705-949-3335 | www.saultstemarie.ca
72 Tancred Street, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2W1

Sault Ste. Marie Police Service
705-949-6300 | www.ssmps.ca
580 Second Line East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4K1

Ontario Provincial Police
705-945-6833 | www.opp.ca
742 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5K7

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Art Gallery of Algoma

- Visit us and enjoy exhibitions of our impressive collection featuring Group of Seven artists and other significant national and international artists
- Get your Algoma keepsake in the Gallery Shop
- Enjoy a cup of coffee and a beautiful view in our Café
- Become a member

www.artgalleryofalgoma.com
10 East Street, Sault Ste Marie
T: 705.949.9067

Discover OUR Museum

Call or Check Website for Extended Hours

OPERATED BY THE SAULT STE. MARIE & 49TH FIELD REGIMENT RCA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, A CHARITABLE, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Museum

Open Year Round
Tuesday - Saturday
9:30am to 5:00pm

Adults: $8
Senior / Student: $6
Children: FREE

Call to book your guided tour today and...

Discover YOUR Museum
(705) 759 7278
690 Queen Street East,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada

OPERATED BY THE SAULT STE. MARIE & 49TH FIELD REGIMENT RCA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, A CHARITABLE, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site
Enter at 800 Bay St. - Open year round

“Discover Our Heritage”
Festivals and Events

5th Annual Hiawatha SnowFest
January 19, 2020
XC Ski & Fat Bike Loppets, Guided & Self-Guided Snowshoe Tours, 5K Snowshoe Run, Cookie Stations. The Sugar Shack on Fifth Line, SSM. Register in advance, you can qualify for draws for prizes. Lunch by Feeding Your Soul Cafe.
www.hiawathahighlands.com

WE ARE THE SOO Health and Wellness Expo
January 25, 2020
Hosted by the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce. Located at The Machine Shop. 705-949-7152
www.ssmcoc.com

Ontario Winter Carnival
Bon Soo
January 31 - February 9, 2020
Join us as we celebrate Bon Soo 57, Canada’s third largest Winter Carnival. Enjoy 10 days of indoor and outdoor events throughout our city and at our host site The Machine Shop. New events added each year including a winter playground, bum slides, fireworks, concerts, family dance, a polar bear swim and much more! Come out and enjoy the greatest snow on earth. 705-769-3000
www.bonsoo.on.ca

Beethoven 250th Anniversary
February 7, 2020
Precious Blood Cathedral 705-945-7289
www.saultsymphony.ca

Winter Festival of Art
February 7, 2020
Winter Festival of Art is an annual juried community exhibition that everyone is welcome to submit their artwork. The theme for this year is Memories. Please join us to celebrate wonderful talent in the community at 7pm. 705-949-9087
www.artgalleryofalgoma.com

Bon Soo Lantern Ski
February 8, 2020
Bon Soo Button trail admission, 6pm to 10pm. Snowga class and snowshoe and headlamp rentals at Hiawatha Highlands. www.hiawathahighlands.com

Lake Superior State Lakers vs. Alabama-Huntsville Chargers
February 13, 2020
1-888-775-9422
www.gflgardens.ca

57. Canada’s third largest Winter Carnival. Enjoy 10 days of indoor and outdoor events throughout our city and at our host site The Machine Shop. New events added each year including a winter playground, bum slides, fireworks, concerts, family dance, a polar bear swim and much more! Come out and enjoy the greatest snow on earth. 705-769-3000
www.bonsoo.on.ca

Family Day Snowshoeing & Cross Country Skiing
February 17, 2020
Hiawatha Highlands is offering discounted trail pass and rentals for skiing snowshoeing. Rentals are first come, first serve. Come out and bring the family! 9am to 5pm at Hiawatha Highlands. www.hiawathahighlands.com

Winter Festival of Art Opening Reception
February 7, 2020
Fun day for the whole family. Admission is 1/2 price for the day which includes a scavenger hunt, crafts, games, demonstrations and more. Local mascots will be on hand. Lunches are available at the canteen. 705-945-8242
www.bushplane.com

Jeff Dunham: Seriously!? Tour
February 19, 2020
1-888-775-9422
www.gflgardens.ca

Ready For Take Off, Family Day Fun
February 17, 2020
Sault Community Theatre Centre.

The Simon and Garfunkel Story
March 14, 2020
Sault Community Theatre Centre. 705-945-7289
www.saultctc.ca

Yesterday Once More
March 21, 2020
Celebrating the music of ABBA, The Carpenters, The 5th Dimension and The Mamas & Papas. Sault Community Theatre Centre 705-945-7289
www.saultctc.ca

Matthew Good “Moving Walls Tour 2020” with special guest Ria Mae
March 28, 2020
Sault Community Theatre Centre. 705-945-7289
www.saultctc.ca

Mind Film Festival
February 24 - March 1, 2020
Grand Theatre and Galaxy Cinemas
www.shadowsfilmfest.com

OUA Nordic Championships
February 21-23, 2020
Algoma University and the Soo Athletics Nordic ski championships will host the Ontario University Athletics Nordic ski championships at Hiawatha Highlands. www.oua.ca

ONARIO WINTER CARNIVAL
50th Annual I-500 Snowmobile Race
January 27 - February 1, 2020
Located in Sault, Michigan, USA. The race is the first Saturday of February every year. 906-635-1500
www.i-500.com

We will Rock You!
January 29, 2020
The Musical by Queen and Ben Elton. 1-888-775-9422
www.gflgardens.ca
Marconi’s Italian Festival
July 12, 2020
Celebrate the Italian heritage and culture with music, dancers and food! Located at the Marconi Club.
705-842-6568
www.themarconiclub.ca

Old Town Hall Concerts
July 15, 22 & August 1, 2020
This series of concerts has some of the best musicians & groups Canada has to offer. A seating capacity of 250, these concerts give an up-close musical experience, often with autograph opportunities to follow. Tickets go on sale in the early spring, and they sell out very quickly.
705-267-6842
www.oldtownhall.ca
info@hiltonbeach.com

Hilton Beach Car Show
July 25, 2020
34th Annual Arts at the Dock
July 19, 2020
Rally North America “Great Lakes Rally”
July 21, 2020
Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute
July 23, 30 & 31, 2020
Hilton Beach Car Show
July 25, 2020
The Sault’s Summer Festival!
July 16-18, 2020

34th Annual Arts at the Dock
July 19, 2020
This multimedia art show has grown into one of the largest and most exclusive shows in Algoma. Free shuttle by tractor wagon between the community hall and waterfront. Hilton Beach Waterfront and Community Centre from 11am to 4pm. St. Joseph Island, 45 km east of SSM.
705-246-2242
www.hiltonbeach.com

Rally North America “Great Lakes Rally”
July 21, 2020
Driving for a cause and raising money for charity, participants in the 2020 rally will make Sault Ste. Marie a stopping point on their 1300 mile auto rally tour.
www.RallyNorthAmerica.com
Tony@rallynorthamericacharities.com

Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute
July 23, 30 & 31, 2020
Summer Concert Series. Performances by students and faculty of the Institute.
musicinstitute@algomou.ca

Hilton Beach Car Show
July 25, 2020
This annual classic car show features over 85 original, restored and special interest cars. Along the waterfront and up Marks Street, admission is free! Arts and crafts, vendors, and food tent. On St. Joseph Island, 45 km east of SSM.
705-246-2242
www.hiltonbeach.com

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705-246-2242
www.hiltonbeach.com

Ontario Senior Men’s Amateur Golf Championships
July 27-30, 2020
Hosted by the SSM Golf Club, this tournament will see players take on the famed 18 hole golf course designed by Stanley Thompson. This event will commemorate the club’s 100th Anniversary.
705-541-3441
www.saultgolfclub.ca
rmcmomen@shaw.ca

Hilton Beach Community Night
August 1, 2020
Starts at 5pm with the pie booth at the Community Hall and food tents. The parade starts at 7pm sharp, featuring marching bands, floats and kids in costume. After the parade, games of chance and great food on Marks Street until dark.
705-246-2242
www.hiltonbeach.com

Garden River First Nation Community Days
August 9-16, 2020
A variety of events from baseball tournaments, concerts, monster bingo, golf classics, and more, ending with a Pow Wow on the 18th.
705-759-0914 ext. 223
rpline@gardenriver.org

Fringe North International Theatre Festival
August 13-23, 2020
International and local live theatre, buskers, clowns, street performers, and a Free Kids Fringe. 100% of box office sales go to artists. Member of the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals (CAFF). World Congress of Fringe Festivals, Chamber of Commerce and SSM DTA.
www.fringenorth.ca
saultfringe@gmail.com

Community Days
August 9-16, 2020
Enjoy the bounty of local blueberries at our Blueberry Tea – August 15th and Pancake Breakfast – August 16th Purchase tickets in advance online. Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site.
705-759-5443
www.ecnhs.com

Batchewana First Nation Traditional Pow Wow
September 5 & 6, 2020
Join us as we showcase the Anishnabek culture through dancing, drumming, and singing. The weekend will be fun for the whole family and provide the chance for everyone to enjoy authentic foods, browse handmade crafts and learn the Anishnabek ways of life and highlight the pillars of the community.
705-759-0814
www.batchewana.ca

Blueberry Festival
August 9 & 10, 2020
Historic Site.
16th Purchase tickets in advance online. Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site.
705-759-5443
www.ecnhs.com

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www.batchewana.ca

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705-759-0814
www.batchewana.ca
Ultra Trail Stokely Creek
October 2, 2020
The UTSC promises an epic running adventure through the rugged back country of Northern Ontario’s Algoma Highlands. This event was recognized in 2019 as Destination Northern Ontario’s Tourism Innovator of the Year. 705-987-1004
www.utstokelycreek.com

Steel City NerdCon
October 17 & 18, 2020
The biggest, nerdiest convention in the Sault! At the Bushplane Museum. 705-945-6242
www.bushplane.com

Rumours – The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show
November 8, 2020
Sault Community Theatre Centre. 705-945-7299
www.saultctc.ca

Festival of Trees
November 12-15, 2020
Raffles, auctions and kids activities all while enjoying a wonderland of festive decorations, wreaths and beautiful trees. 705-256-2335
www.on.lung.ca
Let It Snow

By Martin Lortz

How do you like to propel your skis? Horsepower gravity, or perhaps leg power is all you need. Well, whatever way you chose to pursue your winter adventures, Sault Ste. Marie is happy to be your gateway to Algoma’s snow-covered playground. Accessible by car from the south via the International Bridge, and from east and west along the Trans-Canada Highway, as well as by air from everywhere, getting here is easy, but staying a bit is what leaves a lasting impression.
Horse Power

While often the search for adventure is found beyond the edge of town, in Sault Ste. Marie, we are happy to be the town on the edge of adventure. When it comes to snowmobiling, that means over three thousand kilometres of groomed trails and a season that often lasts well into April. With over 300 cm of lake effect snow annually, courtesy of Lake Superior, which is then lovingly groomed by the Sault Trailblazers Snowmobile Club, into an unforgettable experience.

You can access the snowmobiling trails and start your adventure right from your doorstep in Sault Ste. Marie where accommodations for you and your equipment are plentiful as are the dining and entertainment options for your post-ride enjoyment.

Take a day trip to Searchmont Resort for lunch, explore St. Joseph Island to the south, or pack your bags and spend a few days touring backcountry lodges and Northern Ontario communities. For your snowmobile touring plans, be sure to check in with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) regarding permits and trail conditions.

Gravity

With stats like 700 feet / 228 metres vertical, 21 runs and 132” (336 cm) annual average of real snow over the last 10 years, Searchmont Ski Resort can comfortably boast and offers the best skiing in Northern Ontario and the MidWest.

Located about 45 minutes northeast of Sault Ste. Marie in the rugged Canadian Shield of the Goulais River Valley, the 100-acre playground has something for everyone from perfect groomed runs, a terrain park and even glades for the adventurous.

Of course, you can never have enough of a good thing, so new rental gear, grooming equipment, snowmaking, and a new restaurant, are all improvements that will make this season the best one yet.

We understand that most skiing and boarding good times happen on the slopes, but there is life after the lifts close. You can find accommodation and Après ski options slope side at Searchmont Resort, the surrounding area, and of course here in Sault Ste. Marie.

Leg Power

If you enjoy skiing uphill as much as down, in the solitude of a snow laden forest, then wax-up the skis and get ready for some of the best cross country and backcountry ski trails anywhere. Located on the edge of town, Hiawatha Highlands offers 50 km of trails (2 km are lit until 10:00 PM). Here you can enjoy both classic and skate skiing trails for all levels.

Thirty minutes down the road, Stokely Creek Lodge offers 100 km of trails groomed for classic and skate skiing. Explore the 12,000 acres of wilderness as you take in grand views from King Mountain; stop by frozen waterfalls or relax in one of the six warming huts. From thrilling runs downhill to gently rolling terrain through hardwood forests, cross country skiing at Stokely Creek Lodge, (be it for a day or a few) is an experience not to be missed. So good in fact, that the resort is in the running for USA Today’s -10 Best READERS’ CHOICE TRAVEL AWARD.

If you happen to favour powder over groomed trails, then Bellevue Valley Lodge and the Valley of the same name is the place to be. Here they have been showcasing the winter playground that are the hardwood hills of Algoma for 25 years. Located 25 minutes north of Sault Ste. Marie the snow in the Bellevue Valley is deep and the terrain is steep, a prime combination for perfecting your Telemark turn.

So what’s it going to be, gravity, horsepower or leg power? Whatever you choose, Sault Ste. Marie will happily be your gateway to your next Algoma winter adventure. But remember, getting here is easy, but staying a bit is what leaves a lasting impression.
“Quality, Value, Friendly Service”
Train Packages, Hospital Stays,
Senior Home visits, Corporate or Leisure

259 Great Northern Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4Z2
www.catalinamotel.com • deancatalinamotel.com
1-800-561-9810 or 1-705-945-9260

L.L.B.O.
Sensational Thai Cuisine

280 Queen St. E. • SSM • lycheethai.ca
Dine-In, Take-Out & Delivery
705-450-1688

MART MALL
I.D.A. PHARMACY
275 Second Line W
705-254-7329

For all your prescription needs and emergency supply if you have forgotten your medication and or any other remedy you may need, visit one of our independent pharmacies

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED FOR 65 YEARS
MARKET MALL
I.D.A. PHARMACY
275 Second Line W
705-254-7329

STATION MALL
I.D.A. DRUG MART
293 Bay St.
705-949-7331

WELLINGTON SQUARE I.D.A.
DRUG MART
625 Trunk Rd.
705-945-8088

IDEAL I.D.A.
DRUG MART
1416 Wellington St. E
705-759-4818

• Downtown, steps from Station Mall and across from GFL Memorial Gardens.
• NEW complimentary hot, fresh Breakfast Bar.
• Free parking, self-serve laundry, indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna and fitness room.
• Fridge, microwave & Keurig coffee station in all rooms and suites.

SSM
lycheethai.ca

705-450-1688
Must See Attractions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>Agawa Canyon Tour Train</td>
<td>All aboard for a one day wilderness rail excursion over towering trestles, alongside pristine northern lakes and rivers and through the rugged mixed forests and granite rock formations of the Canadian Shield. Tour is highlighted with a stopover in beautiful Agawa Canyon Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>Art Gallery of Algoma</td>
<td>The natural beauty of the waterfront and the city’s boardwalk makes a perfect backdrop for the Elsie Savoie Sculpture Park and leads visitors to the Art Gallery of Algoma (AGA). The AGA changes exhibitions about every three months. Exhibition tours, art classes and workshops for all ages are offered all year round. The Gallery Shop offers a wide selection of gifts made by local artists, as well as the Group of Seven items. Enjoy a beautiful view while having coffee, tea, soft drinks and desserts in our Café.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre</td>
<td>The CBHC is the only facility in North America dedicated to the history of Bush Flying and Forest Fire Management. Visit the original 64,000 square foot hangar where water bombing was developed. Over thirty aircraft exhibits are on display along with a flight simulator, two theatres including a fire fighting adventure in 3-D, and an interactive Children’s Flight Centre. Climb a fire tower, sit in the cockpit of a real aircraft, Northern Nature Trading exhibit and much more! The CBHC offers something for everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>Canoes For Conservation</td>
<td>Gear up for an adventure with the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy! Canoe tours in a 14-seater canoe offer fun learning opportunities for the whole family. Book the whole canoe or jump in on a regularly scheduled tour along the Sault’s waterfront or further up the coast on Lake Superior. The experience is fully outfitted and guided. Your guides will share tastes of local foods and share stories related to local history, culture, and ecology. Our mission is to promote stewardship and help protect special places on Lake Superior. Funds generated from tours go towards conservation efforts in the Lake Superior watershed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Item number indicates location on the map

Spring ⊙ Summer ☀ Fall ☢ Winter ☓ Accessible ☐
Gateway Casino
Sault Ste. Marie (6)
705-759-0100 | www.saultstemarie.gatewaycasinos.com

The excitement never stops! Casino Sault Ste. Marie is waiting to welcome you from Sunday to Thursday 9am to 2am, Friday to Saturday 9am to 3am, year-round. Their 35,000 sq feet of gaming includes an impressive array of just over 435 slots and a selection of 11 table games. Stay close to the action; The Getaway Restaurant has breakfast, daily lunch, and dinner menus with you in mind.

Hiawatha Highlands/
Kinsmen Park (8)
705-256-7258 | www.hiawathahighlands.com

Hiawatha Highlands is a premier destination for winter recreation and sport. Offering over 50 km of Ski trails, 9 km of Snowshoeing, as well as Fat Biking trails. Trail systems cater from the beginner to the advanced skier and welcomes both classic and skate skiers. A 2 km trail is available for night skiing until 10 PM. All just 20 minutes north of the Ontario/Michigan border. The trails are open daily during the season. Daily and Seasonal trail passes can be purchased either online or at 780 Landslide Rd. At the warming centre rentals of skis and snowshoes, as well as delicious warm food and drinks are offered. New this season; learn-to-ski packages for those newer to cross-country skiing. Call or check the website for trail conditions.

Robertota Bondar Park and Tent Pavilion (13)
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca

This outdoor venue, named in honour of Canada’s first female astronaut, Sault native Dr. Robertota Bondar, is located in downtown Sault Ste. Marie. Open year-round. Visitors are encouraged to contact the City of Sault Ste. Marie Recreation and Culture Division for a list of programs and events.

Entomica (4)
bugus@entomica.com | www.entomica.com

Entomica is a place where you’ll discover the fascinating, hidden, and often misunderstood world of insects through live, interactive exhibits. Discover the importance of insects to the creation, evolution and sustainability of our ecosystems. See, hold, and touch some of the world’s most intriguing species and get ready to be amazed! Open year-round, offering public and private tours, school groups, birthday parties, fundraisers and more!

Book us for your next event!

Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site (5)
705-759-5443 | www.ecnhs.com

Your tour begins in the Heritage Discovery Centre, where you are introduced to our “stories steeped in stone” through our theatre production. Visit the 1812 interactive gallery, and shop in “The Post” gift shop. Then step back in time to the Ermatinger Old Stone House. Charles Ermatinger a Fur Trader built the house in 1812. The Clergue Blockhouse (1894), is the residence of industrialist Francis H. Clergue. The stone base was once the Hudson Bay Company’s powder magazine. Daily happenings and seasonal events. Open year round.

Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site
705-246-2664 | www.parkscanada.gc.ca/joseph

Come visit one of the key sites of the War of 1812! Fort St. Joseph was a thriving community of soldiers, Indigenous people, and fur traders during the early 1800’s. Experience life at the Fort through daily heritage demonstrations and hands-on workshops highlighting traditional crafts, skills, and foods. Feel the breeze off the St. Marys River as you picnic on site, walk among the ruins of the fort, or explore nature trails within this bird sanctuary. The Xplorers Program gives children an interactive experience to enhance their visit. Open from June 1st to September 30th.
Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site (15)
705-941-6205 | www.parkscanada.gc.ca/sault

2020 marks the 125th anniversary of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal. Once the world’s longest and first electrically operated lock, the canal completed an all-Canadian waterway spanning over 3500 km from the Atlantic Ocean to the western tip of Lake Superior. Today, visitors can step back in time and enjoy afternoon tea at the elegant Superintendent’s Residence, explore the nature trails by foot or bike, and learn about the significance of this area to the First Nation and Métis people in a new exhibit located in the historic Stores Building. The Visitor Centre and gift shop are open from mid-May to Thanksgiving.

Sault Ste. Marie Museum (16)
705-759-7278 | www.saultmuseum.ca

Located in the downtown core of the city, the Museum welcomes visitors year-round to explore three floors of exhibit galleries that depict the heritage of Sault Ste. Marie. The Museum is housed in a fine heritage building constructed by local craftsmen, using sandstone from the excavation of the canal. The building opened in 1906, and served as the city’s Dominion Building. The distinctive clock in the tower was installed in 1912.

Searchmont Resort (17)
1-800-663-2546 | www.searchmont.com

Located 48 km north of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Searchmont Resort is a premier ranked, regional training and recreation facility with high quality mountain terrain, amenities, events and entertainment. Enjoy the 700 vertical feet, 3 lifts, 2 belts and 21 runs ranging from easy to expert. Whether you’re new to the sport or a seasoned skier or snowboarder, there’s something for everyone at Searchmont. Open daily Wednesday to Sunday. At Searchmont, WE LOVE SNOW.

Snowmobiling
705-759-0023 | www.ssmtrailblazers.com

The Sault Trailblazers Snowmobile Club prepares and maintains over 600 kilometres of trails in Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding area. Taking pride in having some of the best trails in the district, made possible through their volunteers. The trails are brushed, marked and signed and bridges are repaired or replaced as required. Riding events are planned for snowmobile enthusiasts and their families. The Sault Trailblazers Snowmobile Club works together as a group with Algoma Snow Plan Affiliation and which includes ten neighbouring clubs.

Stokely Creek (19)
705-649-3421 | www.stokelycreek.com

Stokely Creek Lodge is located just 35km outside the Sault, along the rolling hills of the Canadian Shield in the Algoma Highlands. Stokely Creek offers cross-country skiers and snowshoers the opportunity to explore a winter’s paradise. Over 100km of well marked ski trails and 25km of snowshoe trails expand over 8,400 acres. Stokely Creek is one of the largest cross country ski resorts dedicated to skiing and snowshoeing in North America.

Waterfront Adventure Centre (21)
705-759-0023 | www.ssmtrailblazers.com

An inclusive space owned and operated by Sault College. Facilities include tennis courts, pickleball courts, beach volleyball court, canoes, kayaks and stand up paddleboards (SUP). All rentals can be done on a pay per use basis for non-members. Enjoy the Ziibi Café located on site in the Franklin Prouse Building with fresh food, coffee and desserts…..and the best waterfront view in the Sault! Venue is available to rent for special occasions. Hours of operation are from 8 AM - 9 PM - 7 days a week. The Waterfront Adventure Centre is open mid-May until mid-October (weather permitting).
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Local outdoor enthusiasts have always asserted Sault Ste. Marie’s place amongst Canada’s greatest adventure towns for its easy access to vast networks of hiking and cycling trails, available to all skill levels in all seasons. They’re quick to credit the community’s natural surroundings—cradled as it is by the ancient mountains of the Canadian Shield and surrounded by freshwater, which combine to instil a feeling of immense wilderness. Yet somehow, the great opportunities for outdoor adventure mere minutes from the city centre have remained a secret.

Not anymore. The existing array of walking, hiking and cycling trails will form the foundation of an ambitious trail plan that promises to position Sault Ste. Marie at the centre of the adventure sports map. Plans are in place and funding pending for the Algoma Trail Network, which will create 100 kilometres of trails for non-motorized recreation, including mountain- and fatbiking, walking, hiking and snowshoeing, capturing all of the region’s natural splendour. The goal is to position Sault Ste. Marie as a premier destination for mountain biking in Ontario; an exceptional trail network is also central to the city’s plan to attract new people to live in the community.

Now, locals and visitors alike can claim to have experienced the early days of an emerging phenomenon. Here are five ways to embrace Sault Ste. Marie’s variety of trails.

Walk this Way:
The 22.5 km John Rowswell Hub Trail stretches like a ribbon through Sault Ste. Marie’s residential neighbourhoods, commercial districts and urban greenspace, open to cyclists and walkers alike. For a pleasant evening stroll in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, access the Hub Trail at the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre and walk west along the waterfront, towards the muted roar of the cascading St. Mary’s Rapids, along a flat paved path and wooden boardwalk. The rapids reflect the community’s Indigenous Anishinaabe name—Bawaating. Let your thoughts fall back in time as you retrace the ancient pilgrimage to a special place. A riverside skating trail at Clergue Park offers a unique way to experience the waterfront in the cold-weather months.
Wild in the City:
The Fort Creek Conservation Area is an emerald jewel on the Hub Trail, exposing walkers to the mixed deciduous and coniferous forest that still blankets much of the region. An easy one-hour, out-and-back walk from the trailhead at Second Line West takes in two scenic bridges, offering stunning views of the first buds of spring, the verdant green of summer, blazing fall colours and the austere curtains of winter’s snow. Be sure to pack a pair of snowshoes if you venture out in winter.

Mountain Bike Central:
The Hiawatha Highlands, located just inside Sault Ste. Marie’s northern boundaries, offers 30 km of single-track mountain biking options ranging from the beginner-friendly Pinder network to the more challenging Crystal and Red Pine trails, which feature steeper hills and plenty of rock, mud and roots—all maintained by the Sault Cycling Club. This year, the cycling club will debut a new four km circuit at Farmer Lake—a tantalizing preview of a vast expansion of mountain bike trails coming soon.

Cycling in Winter:
Sault Ste. Marie is on its way to becoming an epicentre for the emerging winter cycling trend known as “fatbiking.” Currently, about 12 km of double-track is available for winter riding at Hiawatha Highlands, and enthusiasts hope to see the Hiawatha single-track accessible for year-round cycling in the near future. In the city’s west end, Crimson Ridge boasts 12 km of flowing fatbike trails that are groomed to perfection. Downtown, the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site has easy fatbike trails for use on the southside of St. Mary’s and Whitefish islands, adjacent to the St. Mary’s Rapids. Diehard riders also gather for regular rides on the Fort Creek Hub Trail. Stop in for a visit at Velorution, Algoma Bike Company or the Duke of Windsor for more details, to rent a fatbike or sign up for a group outing.

Further Afield:
World-class day-hiking and multiday backpacking adventures await in Lake Superior Provincial Park, located 1.5 hours north of Sault Ste. Marie on Highway 17. Catch a glimpse of the rugged coast of the inland sea at Gros Cap, just west of the city. A five km loop on the Voyageur Trail bisects cedar wetlands and rocky ridges to three stunning lookout points high above Lake Superior’s eastern terminus. This is a great spot to watch for migrating raptors and songbirds in the spring and fall.
Legend has it that when the Chiefs of all the First Nations needed to find a meeting place to gather without boundaries, a place to exchange information, ideologies, trade goods, and socialize, they sent out a crane to find the perfect gathering space. He led them to Bawaating, the place where the fast water flows. Nestled between two sections of the St. Marys River, hundreds of years later, it remains a place with no borders except those created by Mother Earth. A place to align mind, body and spirit to make a change and make a difference.
The crane is a powerful and auspicious totem in almost all cultures. Crane is a harbinger of a long life and success. They are protective, wise and generous. They pick their battles carefully, choosing quiet wisdom and privacy over aggression. When he chose Bawaating, he chose well.

In 1997 this significantly historical land site was transferred back to care of the Ojibway people of Batchewana. Under their stewardship, it remains a natural oasis within an urban landscape, a safe haven accessible to everyone who wants to learn, explore or heal and respect the land. A place where you can feel into the culture and the tradition and learn how we can partner in the journey towards Truth and Reconciliation.

When the Anishinaabe first gathered at Bawaating, it is said that the fish were so plentiful you could walk on their backs from one side of the rapids to the other. Today the fish are fewer, and the rapids less powerful as a result of the locks, but efforts are underway to conserve these precious resources to fuel the local economy and provide for future generations.

Living the Experience

Blessed with glorious clear skies and kissed by the sun, we cross the narrow walkway at the Canadian recreational locks and arrive at what is now known as Whitefish Island. A big sign welcomes us and, I can almost hear the voices and sense the presence of the seven generations that have come before and the seven generations to follow.

Our group spent a pleasurable couple of hours meandering along two easy hiking trails, spotting ducks, foxes, beavers, and baby turtles. The sense of peace was palpable. All too soon, it was time to leave as more adventure and discovery awaited us. We left Whitefish Island via a 14-person Voyageur canoe that allowed us to make a very deep and personal connection to the waterways. Under Peter’s command from Canoes for Conservation, a not-for-profit organization, we learned how we could contribute to the preservation of the environment while realizing better health and a sense of well-being.

We paddled just below the rapids and heard the churn of the fast-flowing waters and felt the energy. Over the next couple of hours, the dialogue focused on the history of the Soo and learning some Indigenous words while fostering a better understanding of local cultures and customs and what we have in common.

All too soon we docked, but we were in for another surprise, a tour of the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, and for the next hour I was awed and inspired by the courage of the pilots who led the way fighting for our country during two World Wars and then used their talents to develop our Northern shores.

A few days later, on the longest day of the year, Summer Solstice, when the earth is bathed in glorious light, I was honoured to be able to attend the Indigenous Day celebrations. As the drums echoed with the sound of a heartbeat, I was entranced by the beauty of the regalia, especially the Jingle dresses, and how the dancers’ feet seemed to barely touch the ground. The music spoke to the past, the present, and what is yet to come. As the flags were retired, I was at peace.

Later that evening, as the sun settled behind Whitefish Island, I’m reminded that the evolution of life moves from the East to the West, and I count my blessings. In minutes, as I stroll along the boardwalk, I’m joined by my loon, who was always present whenever I made my way to the water’s edge. Loon stands for hopes, dreams and the things that we want to have and achieve.

As the sun sets and the sky lights up with fireworks, I’m optimistic that we can heal the circles that have been broken and find our way forward. In gratitude, I say, Meegwich!
See & Do

Throughout all four seasons, you will find unique, interesting and exciting attractions, events and activities in and around Sault Ste. Marie. Just being on the shore of the “greatest” Great Lake – Superior, provides a world class outdoor backdrop for all kinds of adventures.

BATTING CAGES
Strathclair Park Sportsplex
Second Line East and Black Road
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca

BIRD WATCHING
Sault Naturalists of Ontario & Michigan
PO Box 22046 McNabb Street
www.saultnaturalists.com

BOWLING
Northcrest Lanes
229 Great Northern Road
705-256-7441 | www.northcrestbowling.com

CAMPING
Bell’s Point Beach Campground
158 Ontario 17, Garden River, ON
705-946-7781
Blueberry Hill Motel & Campground
Hwy 17 North, Goulais, ON
1-800-811-4411 | www.onblueberryhill.com
Glenview Cottages & Campground
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1-800-668-3100 | www.glenviewcottages.com
KOA Campground
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705-759-2344 | www.koassm.com
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CLIMBING
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705-649-5455

Mark’s Bay Cottages & Campground
588 Airport Road.
705-779-3939
Pointe Des Chênes Family RV Park & Campground
57 Des Chênes Drive
705-779-2696 | www.pointedeschenesrvpark.com
Ojibway Park
2628 Hwy 17B, Garden River, ON
705-248-1520 | www.ojibwaypark.org
Pancake Bay Provincial Park
Hwy 17 North, Pancake Bay, ON
705-882-2209 | www.ontarioparks.ca
CROSS COUNTRY, FAT BIKING, SKIING, SNOWSHOEING

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418 Fourth Line E
705-254-4653 | www.crimsonridge.com

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103 Searchmont Resort Road Searchmont, ON
705-781-2340 | www.searchmont.com

Stokely Creek Lodge
194 Pickard Road Goulais River, ON
1-866-786-5359 | www.stokelycreek.com

Hiawatha Highlands
780 Landslide Road
705-256-7258 | www.hiawathahighlands.com

HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

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244 Young Road, Goulais River, ON
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Shingwauk Residential School Centre
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705-949-2301 ext. 4623 | www.algomau.ca

Whitefish Island
Sault Ste. Marie
705-759-0914 | www.batchewana.ca

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360 Queen Street East
705-759-3443

Duke of Windsor
655 Queen Street East
705-942-1610

Esposito Pump Track
36 Queen Street West
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca

Red Pine Tours
Sault Ste. Marie
705-297-1054

Sault Cycling Club
Sault Ste. Marie
www.saultcyclingclub.ca

Vélorution
162 Old Garden River Road
705-253-9388 | www.veralution.ca

FISHING GUIDES

Angling Algoma
Sault Ste. Marie
705-943-5286 | www.anglingalgoma.com

John Giuliani’s Fishing Adventures
Sault Ste. Marie
705-575-5570 | www.stmarysrapidsguiding.com

Superior North Charters
Sault Ste. Marie
705-255-0389 | www.superionorthcharters.ca

Tyler Dunn Guiding
Sault Ste. Marie
705-206-0984 | www.tylerdunnguiding.ca

GOLF

Crimson Ridge Golf
418 Fourth Line West
705-254-4653 | www.crimsonridge.com

Root River Golf Course
85 Old Hwy 17 North
705-759-8776 | www.rootrivergolf.com

Sault Golf Club
1804 Queen Street East
705-759-5133 | www.saultgolfclub.ca

Silver Creek Golf Course
104 Belleau Lake Road
705-942-2080 | www.golfsilvercreek.com

HOCKEY

Soo Greyhounds
269 Queen Street East
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Soo Thunderbirds
705-257-7690 | www.soothunderbirds.com

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Bellevue Park
62 Lake Street at Queen Street East
www.saultstemarie.ca

Fort Creek Conservation Area
160 Second Line West
705-946-8530 | www.ssrmaca.ca

Hiawatha Highlands and Kinsmen Park
780 Landslide Road
705-256-7258 | www.hiawathahighlands.com

John Rowswell Hub Trail
Sault Ste. Marie
www.hubtrail.com

Lake Superior Provincial Park & Visitor Centre
Hwy 17 North, Wawa, ON
705-856-2284 | www.ontarioparks.ca

Robert Bondar Park
65 Foster Drive
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca

Sault Ste. Marie Canal
1 Canal Drive
705-941-6262 | www.pc.gc.ca
RACE TRACKS
Laird International Raceways
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Runway Park
573 Airport Road
705-206-7322 | www.runwaypark.net

RECREATION
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226 Connor Road Goulais, ON
705-253-1849 | www.argc.ca
Canoes for Conservancy
Sault Ste. Marie
705-946-0044 | www.superiorconservancy.org
Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore
Disc Golf Course
Penhorwood Park
705-759-5201 | www.saultstemarie.ca
Waterfront Adventure Centre
18 McPhail Avenue
705-759-2554

SKATING OUTDOORS
Anna McCrea Rink
250 Mark Street
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca
Art Jennings Oval
Queen Elizabeth Park, 260 Elizabeth Street
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca
Clergue Park Skating Trail
10 East Street
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca

Esposito Park & Rink
36 Queen Street West
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca
Merrifield Rink
331 Patrick Street
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca

SKATEBOARD
Queen Elizabeth Skatepark
260 Elizabeth Street
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca

SLEIGH/HAY RIDES & FARMS
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908 Carter Side Road Bruce Mines, ON
705-785-3389 | www.meadowviewalpacafarm.com
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705-253-4712 | www.mockingbirdhilfarm.ca
Thompson Farm
4057 Third Line West
705-779-3394 | www.thomsonfarms.ca

SNOWMOBILING
Sault Trailblazers Snowmobile Club
68 Old Garden River Road
705-759-0023 | www.ssmtrailblazers.ca
Algoma Country – Sled Algoma
334 Bay Street
1-800-283-2548 | www.algomacountry.com/sledalgoma

MARINAS
Bellevue Marina
48 Pine Street
705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca
Hilton Beach Marina
3130 Marks Street, Hilton Beach, St. Joseph Island, ON
705-246-2242 | www.hiltonbeach.com
Richards Landing Municipal Marina
1140 Richards Street, Richards Landing, St. Joseph Island, ON
705-246-2625 or 705-246-0254 | www.stjosephtownship.com
Roberta Bondar Marina
65 Foster Drive
705-759-5430 or 705-759-5310 | www.saultstemarie.ca

THEATRES
Galaxy Cinemas Sault Ste. Marie
Station Mall, 293 Bay Street
705-949-7949 | www.cineplex.com
Sault Community Theatre Centre
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705-945-7299 | www.saultctc.ca
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In the Wine Barn at Thomson Farms, there’s plenty of each. With beverage and food offerings, coupled with its rustic setting and entertainment, the site has recently built a reputation as one of the hippest joints in the Algoma region.

The farm is located at 4057 Third Line West in rural Sault Ste. Marie. But don’t let the location fool you. This not-so-hidden gem is a premier gathering spot for visitors and area residents. At the Wine Barn, patrons can enjoy a cold glass of cider (strawberry and apple) or wine (strawberry, blueberry and raspberry). These products are also available in the on-site retail gift shop.

Thomson Farms has been a staple in Sault Ste. Marie for nearly 50 years. Starting in 2019, owners Brad and Michelle Morley began producing and making a signature blend of alcoholic beverages using fruits from their homestead. To create a social lounge for thirsty customers, they also renovated an old barn with full bar, plenty of seating, a stage for musicians, and even heaters for the fall season when the temperature begins to dip.

“Our goal was to create a unique and fun setting for Sault Ste. Marie,” said Brad. “From that idea, our cider-winery and Wine Barn were born. It’s a great addition to the farm. We’re thrilled to be providing a new experience to our community.”

Although the winery is new, the overall business is not. Brad’s grandparents, Wally and Martha Thomson, started the farm in the early-1970s. Over the years, they sold jams and fruits. The farm also offered customers – and still does – a you-pick option for bringing home strawberries and other crops.

Brad and Michelle took over the family business a decade ago. Since then, the couple added playground equipment, tractor rides and other amenities for children. More recently, they built the Wine Barn for adults. The farm also hosts weddings and other large socials during the summer months.

“We wanted to create a setting that people of all ages could enjoy,” said Brad. “Parents can sip on a beverage while the kids take a tractor ride tour of the farm. It’s fun for the whole family, and we couldn’t be happier to be providing this unique experience.”

Simply put, if you’re looking for something different to do in Sault Ste. Marie, check out Thomson Farms. However, before going to the Wine Barn or gift shop, please heed the following warning: mouths may water!

The Wine Barn is generally open from spring to fall. Along with drinks, it also offers small bites to pair cider and wine with, including caprese skewers, pretzels and beer dip, bruschetta bread, and charcuterie boards. As an added draw, a local musician plays background music on most weekend nights.

During the winter months, the farm operates the Thomson Tap Room, usually from Thursday to Sunday. At the site, which is located beside the Wine Barn, patrons can sip on a glass of cider or wine with family and friends.

Tap Room and Wine Barn operating hours and entertainment schedules, go to farm’s Facebook page at thomsonfarms.ca. Information on products can also be found at www.thomsonfarms.ca. From the website, customers can purchase jams and other items. Meanwhile, cider, wine and jams are also available for purchase year-round at the farm’s gift shop. As well, on a seasonal basis, the retail outlets sells homemade pies, along with fresh strawberries, corn and other home-grown fruits.
#YouInTheSoo

By Nadine Robinson


Hiawatha Highlands has over 50 kilometers of ski, snowshoe, mountain biking, and walking trails, not to mention 70 species of birds and 18 species of mammals. Your Instagram worthy moment here might be reflecting vibrant fall foliage in Kinsmen Lake, or the rush of Crystal Falls late spring. Perhaps it is you discovering a geocache and its treasures, or a view of the snow falling in a stand of red pines towering over you while you ski or snowshoe. Maybe you’ve decided to get an action shot of a friend tackling the single track trails on a fat bike, or you’ve found a turtle, owl, or fox that is ready for their close-up. Foodies may opt for a photo with the bear and ice cream totem outside the Kinsmen Centre.

Up the road from the Kinsmen Centre is the backdrop for any number of excellent photos at Mockingbird Hill Farm. Visit the pioneer style house that could have launched the tiny house movement and see how pioneers lived. Take a horse-drawn hay ride or sleigh ride, culminating with photos outside or inside the quaint chapel. Bright pumpkins fill the chapel in fall for your backdrop. There is also a corn maze in the fall for excellent IG photos and an entertaining way to get active.
3. Six cheery pianos and 5 murals were recently added to the downtown area for residents and visitors to enjoy. These brightly coloured works of art are extremely attractive to Instagrammers and also make for a great Facebook cover photo.

4. If you weren’t already convinced, head downtown to capture yourself under the arch that confirms that the Sault is Algoma’s friendliest city. Designed in 1937 to welcome ferry visitors crossing from the United States, the updated arch with its iconic sandstone carins stands as a gateway to City Hall. Whether you want to walk the waterfront in the Summer or glide along the 14-foot wide skating path winding through Clergue Park and John Roswell Park, the arch let’s you know that you’re in the right neighbourhood.

5. The St Marys River earned the area it’s Ojibwe, French, and English names. A walk along the boardwalk gets you more than a half a dozen excellent Instagram posts. At the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site, the world’s only remaining emergency swing dam is notable in its bright orange paint. The lock, sandstone buildings, historical equipment and huge anchors are all good subjects and backgrounds, and on Whitefish Island you can capture fly-fishermen in the rapids.

6. The Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre offers bright coloured bushplanes and interactive, hands-on experiences for visitors. The movies are also educational and fun. My favourite Instagram posts are from inside the cargo hold of a water bomber or by taking the pilot’s seat in a passenger plane’s cockpit. Climbing the replica Fire Tower also provides an overhead view of the planes, with or without the fake fires you can spot from the tower.

7. If you are looking for sprawling views of the Sault, and a photo that not everyone has, you may want to search out St. Basil’s cross. The 120-foot Cross stands sentry on the hill at 250 St. Georges Ave. E. (behind St. Basil Elementary School).

8. Searchmont Ski Hill is the highest mountain in the Midwest, with a summit elevation of 1,600 ft, to delight all levels of skiers and snowboarders. Only 48km north of the Sault, you can Instagram the super short lift line-ups, affordable lift ticket prices, friends on the quad chair lift, and all of the great runs. We also defy you not to find dozens of Instagram-worthy photos in over 150 kilometers of some of the best cross-country ski trails in North America, at Hiawatha Highlands and Stokely Creek. During the Bon Soo Winter Carnival, don’t miss the chance to add a story to your Instagram feed of someone hitting the chilly water during the much-anticipated Polar Bear Swim. The festival fireworks and children’s rosy cheeks as they exit the bum slides, also make for great shots.
The date is Saturday, 7 September 1895. Crowds of proud and curious Saultites, government officials, and engineers are gathered along the beautiful new red sandstone walls dressed in their top coats, top hats, and fancy dresses. The cool westerly breeze carries the odour of a steamship approaching from Lake Superior: it’s the Majestic entering the upper approach of the newly constructed canal at Sault Ste. Marie.
It is the very first vessel to lock through under its own power. This is it! A moment precipitated by the Chicora Incident, an international conflict that occurred twenty-five years prior. As the steamer approaches the Douglas fir lock gates, the new machinery is electrified and roars to life. History is being made.

Upon its opening, it was the longest lock in the world measuring an impressive 274 metres (898 feet) in length, 18 metres (59 feet) in width and 13 metres (42 feet) in depth. Its size allowed for the simultaneous passage of one Upper Laker and two smaller vessels. It was also the first lock in the world to operate using electricity, with the Canal producing its own electricity on site in the imposing Powerhouse building.

Over the next few decades the Sault Ste. Marie Canal would prove time and again to have been a good economic investment. On its very first day of regular operation, the canal facilitated the movement of 44,469 tons of cargo on 41 vessels. Over the course of the canal’s first fiscal year, it locked a total of 2,938 vessels in 1,640 lockages, for a total of nearly 2.4 million tons of cargo! By the 1920s, the Sault Ship Canal would regularly surpass in tonnage that of the Suez, Panama, and Kiel canals combined!

The Sault Ste. Marie Canal operated on a near-continuous seasonal basis for 92 years until 6:55pm on Wednesday, 22 July 1987. This fateful day would mark the end of operations for the Canadian canal as the south wall suffered a major fracture during the up bound lockage of the vessel Chief Shingwauk. Later that same year, the site was recognized as being of national historical significance and designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

Eleven years later, a new, fully functional recreational lock was built within the historic lock chamber to provide boaters and small commercial vessels access to and from Lake Superior. The construction was made possible by a cost-sharing tripartite agreement between the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments.

2020 marks 125 years since the opening of the Sault Ship Canal in 1895, and to highlight this milestone, Parks Canada and a handful of key stakeholders including Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, Batchewana First Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie have come together to create SSMC 125.

SSMC 125 will be a year-long commemoration highlighting the history of the canal lands and the changes over the last 125 years, from indigenous gathering place to an industrial marvel of 19th century engineering and technology. What was once a significant settlement by the rapids and later a bustling commercial waterway has evolved into a must-see tourist destination at the heart of the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma region, and its fascinating story will be shared through social media campaigns, special events, and commemorations you won’t want to miss!

Staying Connected

How do you keep up with everything that will be going on at the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site in 2020? Visit our website at parkscanada.ca/sault125, or visit us on Facebook at @SaultCanalNHS! Better yet, come visit us at 1 Canal Drive in downtown Sault Ste. Marie and ask one of our friendly staff about what commemorations are coming up next!
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What’s with all the freighters passing through Sault Ste. Marie?

During a summer sunset on the St. Mary’s River, there are few things more majestic than a Great Lakes freighter floating into the horizon. The sheer size of these boats is both staggering and mesmerizing.

With this beauty, it’s no wonder that around 500,000 people visit the Soo Locks every year to watch freighters pass through. Have you ever stopped to wonder what these ships are up to, where they are going, and why we have a lock-system to begin with?

Why Sault Ste. Marie?

The St. Mary’s River is like a highway when it comes to the shipping industry. Lakes Superior and Huron are joined by a series of rapids that bottleneck in Sault Ste. Marie. Boats cannot travel between the two without assistance to compensate for the 21-foot difference in height (Superior being higher). This is why so many freighters pass through the Twin Saults, as it’s the only connection between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes.

At one time, small boats travelling through the area had to be emptied, carried around the rapids and then reloaded on the opposite side. The Soo Locks – four in Michigan and one in Ontario – were built to revolutionize and expedite the shipping process. The U.S. locks handle mostly freighters, while the Canadian lock takes care of smaller recreational vessels.

Cargo

A number of major cities are located on the Great Lakes, including Detroit, Toronto, Chicago, Cleveland, Hamilton and Milwaukee. These and other cities host major industrial businesses. The big boats carry all kinds of different materials to keep the various companies humming.

Iron ore, coal, grain, limestone, lumber, steel and wind turbine parts are the major commodities being shipped through the Soo Locks. Most often, the freighters are full of cargo as they head south through the locks to the lower Great Lakes.

The main northern ports – Duluth, Minnesota; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Superior, Wisconsin; and Calumet, Michigan – receive most of the raw materials by rail or truck. The cargo is then loaded onto freighters at these docks and shipped throughout the Great Lakes or, in some cases, to countries around the world.
Where Are They Going?
The type of cargo and type of ship determine the destination. Limestone is needed for steel, cement and road construction. It goes to the many steel mills and aggregate sites along the American states that border the Great Lakes, also known as the “rust belt.”

Iron ore is one of the most valuable commodities shipped on the lakes. It goes to the steel mills in northern Indiana, Detroit, Cleveland, Hamilton and Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie.

The ocean-going freighters generally carry finished steel products and other goods to ports in Europe and South America. They take the massive journey through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

Further Freighter Facts

The typical shipping season sees 7,000 vessels carrying 86-million tons of cargo go through the Soo Locks.

Some of the channels the freighters go though are only 10 feet wider than the ships themselves. Imagine steering a 1,000-foot vessel in windy conditions with almost zero room for error.

The largest Great Lakes freighter, MV Paul R. Tregurtha, is 1,013.5 feet long and is capable of hauling 70,000 tons of cargo. It would take more than 580 rail cars to carry the same tonnage.

It takes seven days for freighters to travel from the most northern point of the Great Lakes – Duluth, Minnesota – to the Atlantic Ocean. The journey is 2,300 miles or 3,700 kilometres.

The most famous shipwreck on the Great Lakes occurred on November 10, 1975. In waves of more than 35 feet and hurricane-force winds, the Edmund Fitzgerald sank in Canadian waters near Whitefish Bay on Lake Superior. All 29 crew members died. The haunting lyrics of singer/songwriter Gordon Lightfoot tell the tale in the most reverent and spiritual of ways.

For freighters, it generally takes between 40 and 60 minutes to get through the Soo Locks. And, depending on the number of ships in line, there might be a several-hour delay to get in. There are many vessels using the system, and most have time-sensitive shipments. Some retired captains speak of hurrying “to the Soo” to avoid prolonged wait times.

Track Freighters for Yourself!
www.boatnerd.com
www.marinetraffic.com
Canada’s Group of Seven artists were inspired by the landscapes of Algoma and the North Shore of Lake Superior. Start your Group of Seven experience at the Art Gallery of Algoma in Sault Ste. Marie, enjoying their collection of Group of Seven works. As you travel the Algoma region, visit the Group of Seven interpretive installations in 21 locations depicting actual painting sites or in a place highlighting the experiences of the Group of Seven in Algoma and along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

Plan a day on the famous Agawa Canyon Tour Train where you’ll see actual sites along the way, like the Montreal River where J.E.H. MacDonald painted *The Sollem Land and Falls, Montreal River*. Enjoy close up sites in the Canyon itself like Bridal Veil Falls captured on canvas by both Lawren S. Harris and MacDonald. Travel through Algoma and along the North Shore of Lake Superior where more unique Group of Seven interpretive installations are awaiting you. Hike to the very spot where Harris painted *Pic Island*. Stand on the shores of Sandy Beach where A.Y. Jackson painted *Shoreline, Wawa, Lake Superior*. This and more await you in Algoma. Seize the opportunity to experience what the Group of Seven saw, what they painted, the feelings they captured and the moments they had in the heart of this beautiful Canadian wilderness.

To start planning your trip visit [momentsofalgoma.ca](http://momentsofalgoma.ca)
Ride The Rails

Departing from the Algoma Central Railway depot in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, this 114-mile excursion truly showcases the rugged beauty that is exclusive to the region. As you settle into your comfortable coach, you can feel the pace of life slow as the ride evokes a sense of simpler times while raising expectations of the journey that lies ahead.

Traces of city life soon fade away as the Northern Ontario wilderness begins to unfold outside the large tinted windows. The seemingly unending mixed forests of the Canadian Shield open up as you skirt the shores of northern lakes and rivers, cross towering trestles, and set eyes on the same rugged landscapes and majestic views that inspired the Group of Seven to create some of Canada’s most notable works of art.

As the train winds its way through this one of a kind terrain, a GPS triggered commentary weaves the story of the region. Available in five languages including English throughout the coaches and in French, German, Japanese, Korean and Mandarin via wireless headsets, you’ll learn about upcoming points of interest as well as some of the rich history of the Ojibway, fur traders, explorers and entrepreneurs that opened up this vast wilderness. And to enhance the scenery outside your window, locomotive mounted cameras provide an engineer’s ‘eye-view’ via flat screen monitors installed throughout the coaches.

Riding the Rail

Just when you thought you’d experienced it all, the train starts its descent into the canyon at Mile 102. As the rail line hugs the top of the canyon wall, you’ll descend 500 feet over the next 10 miles to the floor of the Agawa Canyon, created more than 1.2 billion years ago by faulting and widened and reshaped by the last ice age that retreated 10,000 years ago.

As the train pulls to a stop at mile 114, you’ll have an hour and a half to experience the jewel of the tour - Agawa Canyon Park. Enjoy scenic walks on graveled trails leading to several waterfalls or experience the invigorating climb up over 300 stairs to the breathtaking Lookout perched 250 feet above the canyon floor. If you’re looking for something a little more relaxing, you can enjoy a quiet lunch in the many picnic areas located throughout the park, or just pull up a bench and watch the Agawa River flow peacefully by.

The excursion is one of North America’s iconic rail tours and offers a unique and engaging way to enjoy the rugged beauty that is Northern Ontario.

Agawa Canyon Park Information

Area Geology

The granitic bedrock underlying this area, formed 2.5 billion years ago, is amongst the oldest rock in the world. Agawa Canyon was created through faulting which occurred 1.2 billion years ago. A series of ice ages subsequently abraded and altered the Canyon over a period of 1.5 million years with the last ice cover retreating about 10,000 years ago. These ice sheets, over one mile thick, widened the Canyon walls and deposited sediments on the Canyon floor - creating the present terraced surface above the Agawa River and below the Canyon walls.

Your Canyon Park Visit

Canyon Park is located at Mile 114 and is only accessible by rail. In summer and fall you will enjoy a 90 minute stopover in the pristine beauty of Agawa Canyon Wilderness Park. (This stopover may be reduced in order to meet safe train schedules).

Departure and boarding time announcements will be made just prior to your park stopover. There are plenty of picnic areas for those wishing to have lunch during the stopover or you may want to eat prior to arrival or after departure, in order to have the most time to explore the park.

The park has a variety of trails that lead to the most scenic spots, including three waterfalls and the breathtaking lookout.

During your stay in the Park we ask that you watch for any train movements as you cross or walk beside the tracks. The Railway cannot be held responsible for injury to patrons within the wilderness park. Please exercise caution while in the park and walking on trails, and be mindful of children and considerate of others.

Please ensure you wear suitable recreational clothing and footwear. The first aid building is designated with a green cross and staff will be on hand if you require any assistance.

Train Departure

Passengers detrain for approximately 90 minutes. Please listen for announced departure times.
TRAILS IN CANYON PARK

The trails in the park have been developed to provide access to the most scenic spots and to provide a wide range of walking/hiking opportunities. The trails are well maintained and are covered in fine gravel called crusher fines. Please refrain from smoking on trails. Park staff roam the trails during the tour and you may usually find them stationed at the Lookout, Bridal Veil or the First Aid Building should you require assistance.

Note: Approximate trail times are for a round-trip from the park First Aid Building.

The Talus Trail
This trail follows along the base of the west canyon wall. This trail will lead you past lichen covered talus slopes to the viewing platforms at North and South Black Beaver Falls (30 min return) and Bridal Veil Falls (40 min return). The water flow at all the falls is contingent on runoff from snow and rainfall and can range from raging torrents to thin trickles over the course of the tour season. Even at low flow the 175ft/53.3m Black Beaver and 225ft/68.5m Bridal Veil Falls are a beautiful culmination to a very enjoyable hike. When walking the Talus Trail watch for ruffed grouse, woodchucks and eastern chipmunks. For the return trip you may want to use the River Trail.

The Lookout Trail
A challenge for the adventurous and the energetic, this trail ascends 250ft/76.2m above the tracks to provide a breathtaking panoramic view of the canyon. The trail is a combination of crusher fine paths and over 300 stairs that lead you to large wooden viewing platforms where you can catch your breath, until the view takes it away again.

The River Trail
Follow this gently rolling trail along the banks of the Agawa River to Black Beaver Falls (30 min return) and Bridal Veil Falls (40 min return). The tannin-stained waters of the Agawa River are home to speckled (brook) trout, beaver, otters, mallard and merganser ducks, which you may catch a glimpse of during your stroll. Picnic tables are located along this route for a private, peaceful lunch. The Talus Trail on the west side of the tracks provides an alternate return route.
GROUP OF SEVEN
Several members of Canada’s Group of Seven painted in the Algoma region between 1918 and 1923, including Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, Franz Johnston, J.E.H. MacDonald and Arthur Lismer. To gain access to this remote region, they rented a boxcar from the railway. The car was outfitted like a cabin and was shunted to sidings near choice painting locations. From these locations they would set out on foot or canoe to capture this untamed area on canvas. Their paintings brought this vast, rugged and beautiful part of the country to fellow Canadians and the world. Here are some interesting facts and details that you’ll find along your journey:

Mile 76: Mongoose Lake
In the fall of 1920 the artists stayed in a cabin on Mongoose Lake instead of the box car to sketch and paint. One of these painting sites was discovered as recently as the fall of 2013.

Mile 92: Montreal River/Falls /Hubert
The Montreal River attracted MacDonald and he made sketches in the neighbourhood of the falls that resulted in his large canvas, Falls, Montreal River. Among all the painters, he responded most deeply to Algoma, creating a magnificent series of large scale compositions.

Mile 113: Agawa Canyon
The artists stayed in their boxcar studio in Agawa Canyon to sketch for several days and then using an Algoma Central Railway hand-car, they ventured north and south to sketch and paint.

SCENIC MILE MARKERS
Northbound Sault to Canyon
Between Miles 102 and 110 the mile markers are on poles to your left. Look to your right for the rest of the trip.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mile</th>
<th>Points of Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 2</td>
<td>Past old paper mill, under International Bridge, past the main entrance to Algoma Steel and through the Algoma Central rail yards &amp; shops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 - 4.5</td>
<td>View of western portion of city including steel mill, international bridge and upper St. Marys River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.75</td>
<td>Cross overpass on Highway 17 North and follow it on your left until it divides and veers towards Lake Superior.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>Searchmont Highway to right and below, passing Lower Island Lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 – 20</td>
<td>View of Bellevue Valley. Best view to left of track. Cross-Goulais Bay of Lake Superior in distance 810ft/246.9m long, 100ft/30.5km high trestle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Goulais River Valley to the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 32</td>
<td>Cross Goulais River and see Searchmont Ski Resort to the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 – 45</td>
<td>Little Achigan Lake to the left and Achigan Lake appearing on the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Ogidaki Lake to the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>South Branch of Chippewa River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Trout Lake to the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 61</td>
<td>Look right across valley to upper Trout Lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Mekatina Lake on the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Cross North Branch of Chippewa River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Spruce Lake to the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>View of Mongoose Lake to the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 84</td>
<td>Ascent from the Batchewana River begins &amp; the valley can be viewed to the right at Mileage 84.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>Cross Batchewana River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>Passing Rand Lake on the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Regent Lake on right.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Montreal River trestle is 130ft/39.6m high, 1550ft/472.4m long, and offers views in both directions. The power dam at the base supplies Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding area. The river is navigable 48.2km/30m upstream. Hubert Lake on the right.

Train descends over 500ft/152.4m in 19.3km/12m to reach the Canyon floor. Views are to the left and, for the first time since Mile 19, you will see Lake Superior and Highway 17 North about 8km/5m away. The Agawa River winds below. At mile 112 you will reach the Canyon floor and cross the Agawa River, you can see Bridal Veil Falls to the right and Black Beaver Falls to the left.
Tales of the Rail

The Algoma Central Railway has a rich history. There's over a century of significant events and occasions that have shaped this awe-inspiring railway excursion that continues to take people's breath away to this very day.

1899 On August 11, 1899 the Algoma Central Railway Company became incorporated.

1900 March 20th construction of the ACR begins and on November 17th of that year the first passenger train travels to the end of track at mile 19.

1901 Plans are made to push the rail line to Hudson’s Bay and on May 23rd the name is changed to Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway Company.

1903 Clergue’s empire collapses and construction was halted for 6 years. At this point track is laid to mile 56 on the mainline north of the Sault and on the branch line from Michipicoten Harbour to Josephine, 8 miles from short of Hawk Junction.

1909 Construction of the line resumes.

1911 The Montreal River Trestle is constructed and track is laid over it by the end of October. The line reaches Hawk Junction and the branch line to Michipicoten Harbour is connected.

1912 By mid year the main line crosses the Canadian Pacific rail line at Franz, mile 195, and then crosses the Canadian National Railways line at Oba, mile 245, six months later.

1914 Track is laid as far north as Hearst, Ontario and shortly after plans to continue to Hudson Bay are abandoned.

1918 Group of Seven artists, Lawren Harris, J.E.H. MacDonald and Franz Johnston rent a boxcar fitted out as a portable cabin and spend a month painting in the areas of Agawa Station, Hubert and Batchewana. They continued to travel the ACR on painting trips until 1923, joined on various occasions by A.Y. Jackson and Arthur Lismer.

1935 Construction began on the power dam that now sits at the base of the Montreal River Trestle at mile 92. The dam became operational in 1937.

1952 Algoma Central Railway became the first Canadian Railway to switch over entirely from steam to diesel locomotives. The first picnic area is cleared between the track and the Agawa River and Agawa Canyon Park is born. Customers travel up on the northbound passenger train and return with the southbound passenger train.

1959 60 years after start up, railway share holders receive their first dividend cheque.

1965 References to Hudson Bay are removed and the name is changed to Algoma Central Railway.

1972 Due to increased popularity, the Railway begins operating the dedicated Agawa Canyon Tour Train.

1995 On February 1st the railway is purchased by Wisconsin Central Railway and with the change of ownership the name is changed to Algoma Central Railway Inc.

1998 In the previous year the steel mill announced it would be shutting down its low grade ore mine in Wawa and on June 25th the last 18 car ore train rumbled along the branch line to Hawk Junction. It then moved down to the Sault and with it an important chapter in the Railway’s history came to a close.

2001 On October 9th Wisconsin Central is purchased by Canadian National Railway and Algoma Central Railway Inc. becomes a part of CN’s Eastern Division.

2019 Construction began on new train depot

2020 The railway has the pleasure of your company aboard the Agawa Canyon Tour Train, joining over 3 million people who have experienced the beauty of this one day rail tour.

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