



# Endless Summer

TORONTO  
**SUN**



# It's that time of year again ...

**B**ack and as exciting as ever, The CNE opens its gates for the 129th time on Friday, August 17 at 10:00 a.m. with new attractions bound to impress even the most veteran EX fan. From an outstanding LEGO tower and classic cars, to the most delicious ribs and spectacular live performances, attendees will be left impressed, satisfied and entertained with the opening weekend of Toronto's oldest summer tradition.

## New this year for Opening Weekend:

**Lego Tower:** The CNE and LEGO will be looking to break a World Record by building the tallest freestanding structure made of LEGO bricks. Sponsored by 680 News and Zoom Airlines, this looming tower of building blocks will be created under the direction of specialized engineers from Denmark. Visitors to the CNE will be invited to help build the tower by creating individually designed sections with LEGO blocks available on-site. Construction of the tower will take place during the first four days of the fair (Friday – Monday) and will be on display through to September 3.

**Cruise Nationals:** Big tail fins and tons of chrome take over the CNE August 18. Running throughout the entire day, the Classic Car Show will focus on selecting 10 finalists from the 60 Cruise National winners that have been chosen from 12 previously-sanctioned Southern Ontario cruises. (Sponsored by Q107, Bandshell Park).

**Ribfest:** A new addition to the CNE's opening weekend, Ribfest will quickly become a crowd favourite. Get out the napkins and bibs, because these succulent ribs are as fun to eat as they are delicious. The Best Rib Recipe Competition invites taste-testers to prove which ribs are the finest. (Sponsored by Q107).

## Toronto Star Bandshell Opening Weekend Concerts (sponsored by OLG):

The Village People bring their "over the top" brand of music and energy to the CNE for one night only. Performing hits like "YMCA" and "In The Navy," the costumed band that made waves in the 1970s are back to do it again (August 17).

April Wine comes together to celebrate their glory days with songs like I'm "On Fire For You Baby",

"You Could Have Been A Lady" and "Tonight Is A Wonderful Time To Fall In Love". (August 18, Presented by Q107).

David Wilcox first made his name as a wild showman and then moved across Canada as a Blues/Rock guitar wizard, always to be remembered as an onstage firecracker. After more than 20 years in the business, Wilcox is coming to "rock" the CNE (August 19, Presented by Q107).

## Returning Favourites:

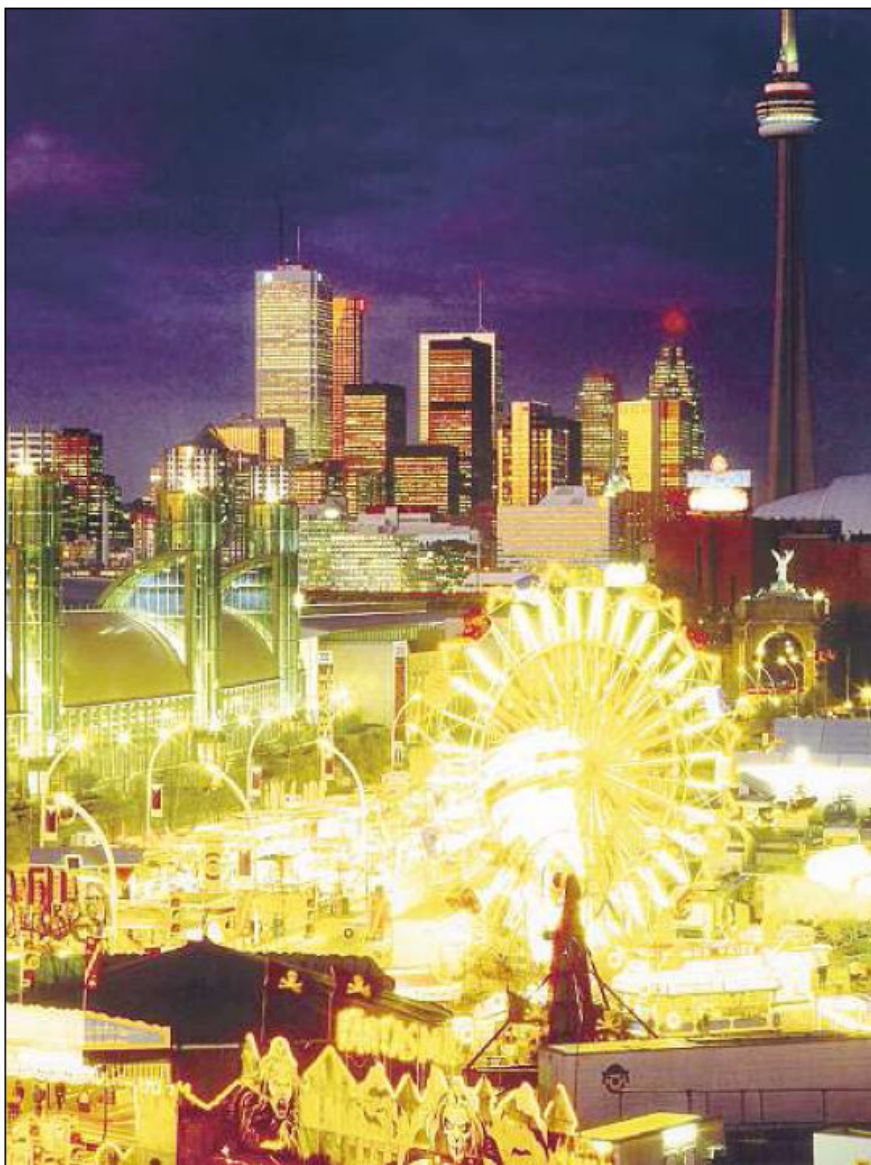
**The Warriors' Day Parade:** (10:30 a.m., August 18, Princes' Gates) The 86th annual Warriors' Day Parade is a unique and spectacular event that includes the colour, sound and traditions of Canadian Regiments and Squadrons. The parade recognizes the heroic efforts of veterans and provides an opportunity to thank the many men and women who continue to serve in the Canadian Forces. The longest running veterans' parade in the world and a part of the CNE since 1921, this year's parade will celebrate the 90th anniversary of Vimy Ridge and will be followed by "Salute to Heroes" — a brief military tattoo filled with the pomp and circumstance expected at such an event (Ricoch Coliseum, 12:15 p.m.).

**Rising Star Youth Talent Competition:** Celebrating 21 years of talent, the Rising Star Youth Competition is back making dreams come true for contestants from all over the country. Founded in 1986, this competition has auditioned over 20,000 youth, among them such notables as: singer Matt Dusk, the Creagan Brothers (Berenaked Ladies), and Jason Sermonia, star of The Lion King. Junior and senior preliminaries will be held over the opening weekend at the Kids' World Feature Stage (Presented by 98.1 CHFI).

## The 36th Annual Ambassador of the Fairs Competition:

The competition final comes to the CNE on Sunday, August 19, when 2006 Ambassador Jocelyn Badder of the Dresden Exhibition will crown this year's Ambassador of the Fairs. Every year, approximately 80 young women and men from across Ontario come to the CNE to proudly represent their local fair and share their knowledge of Canadian Agriculture.

## TTC Busker Auditions: The



auditions will once again be taking place at the TTC Stage just west of the Food Building. Don't be fooled, these buskers are willing to go anywhere and any place to insert a little music into the day. Hundreds of hopefuls come to the CNE and will audition for the chance to entertain TTC riders on the commute to and

from work.

For more than 128 years, The EX has marked the spot for fun.

As one of North America's largest annual fairs, the CNE attracts more than a million people over 18 days each summer.

The 2007 CNE takes place from Aug. 17 to Sept. 3, with the CNE

Horse Show and Casino opening on July 30 and continuing throughout the fair. General admission is \$14, while attendees 60 and over, and children (13 and under) pay \$10.

For more information, visit the CNE website at [www.theex.com](http://www.theex.com) or call 416-393-6300.

Let's go to The EX!



THE TORONTO SUN 393 King St. East, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3K5 ■ VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVERTISING: Sandy Muir ■ DIRECTOR, ADVERTISING SALES: Lesley Annett  
 ■ MANAGER, SPECIAL SECTIONS/CREATIVE SERVICES: Penelope Wild ■ EDITOR: John Chick ■ GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Rick Payne  
 ■ ON THE COVER: Fallsview Indoor Waterpark, Cleveland's House Resort, Downsview Park and the Canadian National Exhibition.

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**VILLAGE PEOPLE**  
FRI, AUG. 17, 8 PM

**APRIL WINE**  
SAT, AUG. 18, 7 PM

**DAVID WILCOX**  
SUN, AUG. 19, 7 PM

**DON'T MISS: CNE RIBFEST!**

**MIDDLE WEEKEND**

**SEAN KINGSTON**  
FRI, AUG. 24, 8 PM

**SLOAN**  
SAT, AUG. 25, 7 PM

**ILL SCARLETT**  
SUN, AUG. 26, 7 PM

**THURSDAYS @ THE EX!**

**WALTER OSTANEK**  
THU, AUG. 23, 7 PM

MEET THE STARS FROM **THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS**  
THU, AUG. 30, 2 PM

JOHN ABBOTT FROM "YES" IN CONCERT!  
**JERRY DOUGLAS**  
THU, AUG. 30, 7 PM

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Don't miss your chance to play and win with the Global Quest at the EX and be sure to check out all of the hot shows coming to Global this fall!

Instant Prizes courtesy of:

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\*Cash Prices: General Admission = \$18; Children (12 yrs. & under) and Seniors (60 yrs. plus) = \$12; Baby in Arms (2 yrs. & under) = free; On-site unlimited rides = \$10 per admission. Retail Partner Prices (all ages): Fun Pass = \$10; Magic Pass = \$31. Prices are GST exempt and include 6% GST #R120262761. \*\*Valid at mid-way rides only. Does not include helicopter rides. All programming subject to change.



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# Escape to Falls Avenue ... Just for FUN!

From water fun at Fallsview Indoor Waterpark, to Spider-Man themed Skee Ball tournaments and special family movies at Planet Hollywood, Falls Avenue in Niagara Falls offers your family a special getaway.

With games galore, Marvel Superhero Adventure City is the right place for kids of all ages. The tiny ones will love Spider-Man & Friends Fun House, while older kids can play Hulk Mini Golf or test their strength and agility with High Striker. For dancers, there's Revolution in the Groove 2.

On the Spider-Man Ultimate Ride, kids can help our hero battle the Green Goblin. Be sure to check out the bumper cars too, they're a real blast.

WWE Niagara Falls is the home to the PileDriver. Rising over 200 feet from the ground, hold on and get ready to be shot upwards at 3 g's, and enjoy the Fallsview as you are dangled at the top of the tower. A family favourite is the Pink Panther Balloon Ride, a "balloon gondola" that gently lifts upward and spins you slowly so you can see the Falls.

Falls Avenue also has a great selection of popular themed restaurants: Planet Hollywood serves California cuisine; the Always Refreshing Soda Shop has traditional floats and hotdogs; HardRock Café has authentic Tex Mex; and Perkins serves family favourites and breakfast all day.

Rainforest Café has great food in a rainforest atmosphere and at the Hershey's Store you can get your picture taken with Hershey Kiss and Reese.

For that special family get-together, enjoy the view at the Fallsview Restaurant at the Sheraton on the Falls, home to Niagara's longest (80 foot) hot and cold buffet. Remember kids eat free from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. when dining with their parents.

Don't miss MGM Studios 4D Theatre, specially designed to provide the most convincing 4D experience ever.

At Ride Over The Falls, take a death-defying voyage over the natural cataract. Experience Dino Island 4D, where you'll more than imagine being chased by dinosaurs through a rainforest covered island. The Legend of the White Horse is an epic tale of a young warrior on his white horse on a quest reminiscent of *Lord of the Rings*, while Deep Sea — The Ride is an iWerks-4D production that takes you down to the depths of the ocean. A must-see for those who love movie classics and action adventure is The Great Movie Journey.

There's something for everyone on Falls Avenue.

The Sheraton on the Falls, Brock Plaza, Skyline Inn and Hampton Inn at the Falls are the only hotels that can offer this kind of name-brand excitement — all directly on-site, all directly across from the Falls. Now enjoy family time, a superb hotel, exciting family events and great world-class attractions all on one site.

For more information on Great Escape Packages, call 1-800-263-7135 or visit [www.NiagaraFallsHotels.com](http://www.NiagaraFallsHotels.com).





# Summer's last blast

Pop music sensations Jesse McCartney and Hi-5 headline Downsview Park's FamilyFest

**B**rush up your smile, warm up your vocal chords and get out your autograph books for your opportunity to see your favourite music and television superstars on stage in one park. Parc Downsview Park Inc. (PDP) is pleased to add pop music sensations Jesse McCartney and Hi-5 to the lineup at Downsview Park's FamilyFest — Toronto's biggest and best outdoor family festival of the summer — on Sunday, Sept. 2, in association with Family Channel.

From noon to 8 p.m., Downsview Park's FamilyFest features live concert performances, autograph sessions, games, food vendors and exhibits.

In addition to performances by Jesse McCartney and Hi-5, the Fam Jam stage also features Corbin Bleu, who stars in both the Emmy Award-winning pop culture phenomenon *High School Musical* and its upcoming sequel, *High School Musical 2*; Drew Seeley, who co-wrote the hit "Get'cha Head in the Game" and contributed vocals to the *High School Musical* soundtrack; Canadian actress Kate Todd, who is best known for her lead role as Lily on the award winning hit television

show *Radio Free Roscoe*; Drake Bell, from the hit television series *Drake and Josh*; Juno Award winning Canadian R&B superstar Keshia Chanté; and 2006 *Canadian Idol* winner Eva Avila.

Appearing on the Junior Jam stage and catering to younger fans are Fred Penner, Caillou and Franklin the Turtle.

"We're thrilled to present a new event at Downsview Park that welcomes families to celebrate quality time together," said Tony Genco, president and CEO of PDP. "Downsview Park's FamilyFest features superior family entertainment and supports the Corporation's mandate of social sustainability."

Tickets are \$29.99 each, or save \$20 with a family four-pack of tickets. Admission is free for children two years of age and younger. Tickets are available now online at [www.pdp.ca](http://www.pdp.ca), or by calling 1-877-TIX-4PDP (1-877-849-4737). Visit [www.pdp.ca](http://www.pdp.ca) frequently for exciting updates, including a schedule of events for Downsview Park's FamilyFest 2007.

Downsview Park's FamilyFest is proudly supported by Family Channel, Toronto Sun, EZ Rock 97.3 and Wal-Mart.

Downsview Park consists of 572 acres of land in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area. Formerly a military base (CFB Toronto), the site was designated by the Government of Canada in 1994 to be developed as "a unique urban recreational green space for the enjoyment of future generations." Plans and designs for building the Park have been steadily in development since then. The Park attracts more than 900,000 visitors annually and is home to numerous enterprises, including the Toronto Aerospace Museum, Downsview Park GrandPrix Kartways, The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, The Toronto Wildlife Centre, Rail Skate Park, Area 51 Paintball and Downsview Park's Action Sports Complex which features the HoopDome and the Hangar, which offers indoor soccer and beach volleyball. Downsview Park also hosts a roster of community and school programs year-round to create a vibrant resource for the national community. All these attractions and a host of other business relationships and opportunities help to set the stage for the future development of an internationally significant sustainable



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in association with Family Channel

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Drew Seeley  
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Eva Avila  
2006 Canadian  
Idol winner

Drake Bell  
from hit television series  
"Drake and Josh"

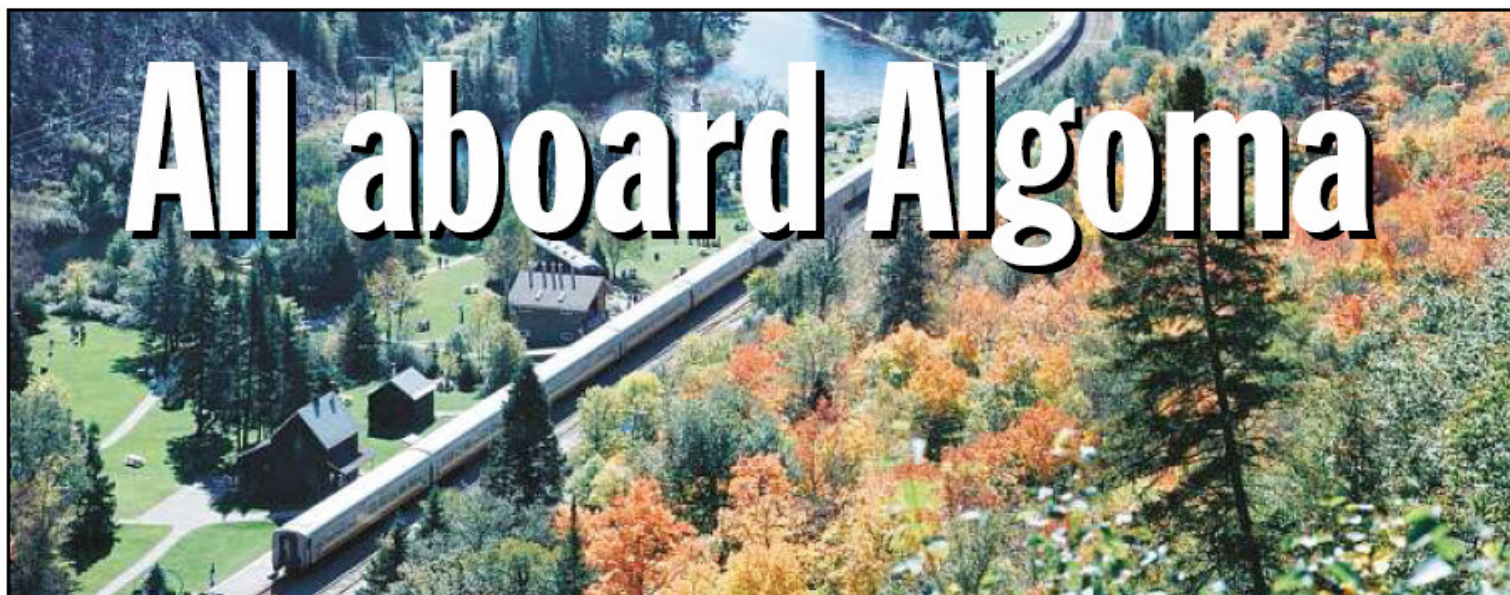
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Through the large picture windows of your comfortable coach, you will experience the same vistas and panoramas that inspired the Group of Seven to create some of Canada's most notable landscape art.

Just when you thought you'd seen it all, you'll travel 500 feet down to the floor of the Agawa Canyon where you will have almost two hours to

experience the pristine beauty up close. The whole family can enjoy scenic walks on gravel trails, cascading waterfalls, a quiet picnic lunch beside the Agawa River, or they can climb up over 300 stairs to the breathtaking Lookout, perched 250 feet above the Canyon floor.

During autumn, the Algoma region offers some of the most spectacular fall colour in North America and we have been a favourite destination of "fall leaf peepers" for decades. Due to the popularity of the fall colour season, it is recommended that reservations are booked early.

## WILDERNESS BY RAIL

The Agawa Canyon Tour Train departs from its depot in downtown Sault Ste. Marie at 8 a.m., returning at 5:30 p.m. and operates Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays until Oct. 13.

The railway also offers a variety of other wilderness by rail adventures, from the awesome one-day winter "Snow Train" tour, to a "Tour of the Line" on our regular passenger train to Hearst, Ontario, as well as access to remote wilderness lodges, an Agawa Canyon Park "Camp Car" experience, exclusive luxury by rail "Private Car" rentals and incredible "Tracks to Trails" snowmobile adventures.

No matter what you choose, the Algoma Central Railway can get you on track to a northern adventure.

For more information on all of the wilderness by rail experiences available, contact the Railway at 1-800-242-9287 or visit on the Internet at [www.agawacanyontourtrain.com](http://www.agawacanyontourtrain.com)

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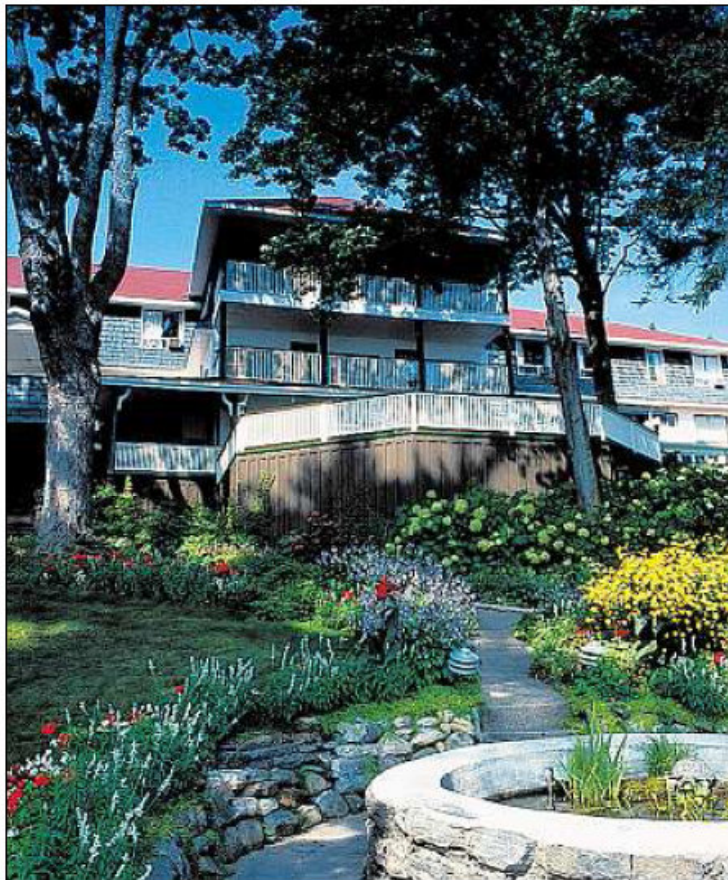
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The children's one-acre Play World is the largest of its kind and, combined with their two large kiddie pools, movies, arts and crafts, sport camps and nature exploration, makes Clevelands House a vacation your children will treasure for-

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Clevelands House truly is where great family vacations come true.

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Clevelands House Resort is also the ideal environment for group meetings and conference groups ranging in size from four to 375.

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# Going south

## The affordable cottage country solution for downtown condo residents

JOHN G. KELLY  
Special to Sun Media

We've never been victims of the big home front lawn/backyard fantasy that afflicts so many Torontonians and lures them into the daily three to four hour commute from the "burbs" to work downtown and back: the grind.

You're missing out on so many of the benefits of living in Toronto if you don't reside in a downtown condo. There is the tradeoff of living in a more compact space, but it's more than compensated for by being in the heart one of the urban residential gems of North America.

However, as much my wife and I love the pace, vibrant lifestyle and cultural amenities in the city's inner core, in our case St. Lawrence Neighbourhood adjacent to the market, we've always had a yearning for green space when we felt we were in a position to enjoy it. In other words, we wanted a cottage for the weekend getaway.

However, we weren't interested in exhausting ourselves with three to four hour drives through bumper-to-bumper traffic on antiquated two lane roads to reach the GTA's fabled North country. Nor were we prepared to pay an inflated price for a cottage property that we would then spend the rest of our lives maintaining through weekend work projects, not to mention taking on the risks that run the gamut from septic tank leakages to winter break-ins. Living in a compact but high quality affordable condominium where maintenance is the building manager's responsibility and access is controlled by a 24/7 concierge service spoiled us. We wanted to replicate that experience in our getaway weekend retreat.

Downtown condo owners are minutes away from the Gardiner Expressway and Q.E.W. This is the entrance to enchanted territory, a UN designated biosphere in the escarpment and Ontario's world class wine region, with one of Canada's most temperate climates and lush green landscapes. A total travel time from Toronto of two hours or less into cottage country with six months of guaranteed cottage country weather — spring kicks in on the Niagara Peninsula in April and warm fall weather extends into November — appealed to our senses and sensibilities and convinced us to go south.

All we needed was a resort that duplicated the services and amenities available to us through condo living. We knew from living in a condo that we didn't need a lot of space. What we wanted was maintenance-free, quality leisure space at an affordable price. A resort search led us to Sherkston Shores. It's located on Lake Erie just outside Port Colborne ("Port to the locals"). You're only 10 minutes off the Q.E.W. ramp, but you're mentally miles away from city life. Sherkston lays claim to having the longest non-interrupted beach frontage on Lake Erie. It's a Florida-style gated community and operates much like a condo in that you purchase your own compact, park-style, maintenance-free,

modular residence that sits on leasehold site, making it an affordable weekend getaway.

The resort takes on the responsibility of looking after your property needs. On-site maintenance staff mow your lawn and is on call to fix what needs fixing in your cottage. Everything from air conditioning repairs to propane delivery is a phone call away. 24/7 security ensures that someone is keeping an eye on your cottage all year.

Recreation facilities are par excellence for both adult couples and families with children. Tennis courts, a par three golf course, a café, and a choice of restaurants with everything from fast food to full course dining cater to adults. Two pools, a waterslide park, skateboard park and daycare cater to families of all shapes and sizes, including us with a granddaughter due for her inaugural visit.

All of this leaves us with one responsibility: to relax and enjoy ourselves — and we do. The resort is adjacent to the Niagara Region bike trail network. We pick out a section of the trail that suits our mood and usually do a 10 to 15K bike ride every day, weather permitting. This is biking as it should be: stress-free exercise, rather than a risky battle for survival in downtown Toronto bike lanes. We have two Lowchen dogs, Samson and Delilah, who we take down to the beach for water play early in the morning. Evening dog walks can be done on the beachfront boardwalk, watching the setting sun shimmering over the expanse of Lake Erie. Adult swims are a pleasure in a warm, spring-fed, freshwater quarry in the resort. However, after a long busy week, a favorite leisure experience for me is sitting on the back deck, beer in hand, minding the barbecue and taking in the glory of my wife's spectacular garden: a resort attraction in its own right.

An added bonus in having a weekend getaway in the heart of the Niagara Region is the wealth of cultural and leisure activities accessible within a short drive of the resort. One of the reasons we live in downtown Toronto is because we're theatre buffs. The Shaw Festival featuring Canada's top actors in great plays is a short drive away and we take full advantage of it, along with leisurely strolls through Niagara On-the-Lake, Canada's most picturesque town. If you're so inclined, you can take in a different wine tasting almost every weekend in one of Niagara's internationally recognized "QVA" wineries. Casino Niagara beckons for those with a taste for gaming and gambling.

Going south has given us the best of urban living in a downtown condo during the week, when juggling hectic work schedules with cultural pursuits is a priority, balanced with easy access to carefree weekend escapes to cottage country. And choosing compact, maintenance-free options for both urban living and weekend cottage escapes makes owning two properties an extremely affordable arrangement. I highly recommend it.

—Kelly is a law professor in the Centre for Financial Services, Seneca College.

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