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Mayor's Message

As Mayor of the Town of Goderich, I wish to welcome you to our beautiful community! I am proud that our community can offer our visitors a safe and beautiful place to relax and experience.

Goderich offers breathtaking sunsets and beautiful beaches, and the Town takes pride in making sure our boardwalk and all public amenities are at their best. The Town welcomes another busy summer for visitors.

The Town of Goderich is the largest urban community in Huron County, not only are we a centre for shopping and entertainment, but the Town provides quality health care, state-of-the-art recreation, and community services to our residents and our neighboring communities. The Town has Wi-Fi available in the downtown Courthouse Square and at our waterfront. Moreover, the Town has many events throughout the year that engage any age; the Goderich Salt, Harvest and Blues Festival, Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, various cultural festivals, Art in the Park, weekly Farmers and Flea Markets, Goderich Little Theatre at the historic Livery Theatre, Winterfest, and many other events that create excitement and a 'buzz' in our streets. Please contact our Tourism Information Centre at 519-524-6600 or exploregoderich.ca, where you'll be sure to find something happening in Goderich.

Goderich likes to bring the community together, to promote outdoor activities by enjoying the best that Goderich and Huron County has to offer. Our golf courses and trails offer many ways to commune with nature and to achieve a healthy lifestyle. The Town provides many outdoor options like tennis, pickleball, playgrounds for families, basketball, splashpad, and the TSN Kraft/Heinz Project award winning Bannister Park that consists of three baseball diamonds, soccer pitch, inground skatepark and the Hunter Costello Memorial Playground.

The Town's waterfront is on beautiful Lake Huron where our 1.8 km boardwalk connects the almost turquoise-blue beaches (three of them) that the Town is proud to call their gem. The Town is pleased to offer free parking at the waterfront to all Canadian Veterans. The Town has installed Mobi-Mats for accessibility across the sandy beachfront straight to the waters edge. With the Town's commitment to accessibility, the Town launched a waterwheel floating wheelchair and beach wheelchair in 2023. Make sure to visit our website for more



information on these two amazing accessible services.

The Town embraces its local business community's reputation as an outstanding place to shop and dine, where you can browse extraordinary products and services, and experience amazing customer service. You will not be disappointed!

Please join us in Goderich, Canada's Prettiest Town, in 2024.

Trevor Bazinet
Mayor of the Town of Goderich



All About Goderich

Known as “The Prettiest Town in Canada,” Goderich charms visitors with its natural beauty and striking urban design. Set on the eastern shore of Lake Huron, in an area known as Ontario’s West Coast, the town’s location blesses its beaches with wonderful sunset views. The Town was founded by John Galt and William “Tiger” Dunlop of the Canada Company in 1827.

There is much to see and do in this architecturally rich port town, which sits on the bluffs overlooking the shores of Lake Huron.

Goderich’s natural setting along Ontario’s West Coast provides an incredible number of recreation and leisure choices.

As a port town, Goderich is fortunate to be graced with not one, but three beaches.

While walking our scenic 1.8 km boardwalk, playing with your dog at St. Christopher’s Beach, fishing along the Maitland River and in Lake Huron, or capturing one of our gorgeous sunsets, we encourage you to explore the heart of Goderich - ‘The Square’. This distinctive octagonal roundabout was designed as a “radial composition” - attributed to John Galt, one of Goderich’s two founding fathers of the Canada Company, inspired by ancient Roman city plans. The Courthouse Square is a jewel of Canadian heritage architecture. The County Courthouse and Administration Centre stands in the middle of the Courthouse Park.

Embrace Goderich’s rich history with a series of enjoyable scenic walking tours at goderich.ca/en/my-goderich/heritage-walks.

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aspx or listen to the South/East Street heritage audio tour, while also appreciating its many locally owned businesses and restaurants.

Trying new food is one of the great joys of life, especially when we travel. Visit our locally owned and operated bakeries, bistros, cafes, and restaurants for some delicious hot and cold beverages, baked goods, pastries, homestyle breakfast, sandwiches, pizza, and extremely satisfying casual and fine dining experiences.

For a real experience and to try something authentic, try a milkshake at Cravings, an IPA at Square Brew, or a refreshing cider at Goderich and Huron County's first premium craft cidery, East Street Cider Co.

For those looking to unwind from a day of shopping at Fincher's for the latest bestseller, antiquing at C'est la Rose Antiques, getting decked out at Something Irresistible, or visiting our Saturday BIA Farmer's Market, we suggest you drop into West Street Sushi for some California rolls, or Beach Street Station for their Great Lakes pickerel.

For those looking for a workout during their weekend stay, we encourage you to try your hand at one of many hiking trails including Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail (G2G), the Maitland Woods Trail, or the Tiger Dunlop Trail.

Some of the areas' visually appealing trails crisscross and surround Goderich, offering breathtaking views of nature and a window to our past with many heritage sites marked along the way.

For more recreation, golf at one of our two courses – The Maitland or Goderich Sunset Golf Club – or go for a climb at Maitland Valley Grotto.

For those looking for a relaxing weekend, rent a bike or paddle board from 360 Bikes 'N Boards or the Goderich Bike Shop to take a leisurely spin around town or a paddle along the shore, or head over to the Yoga Den for one of their outdoor yoga sessions.

If you want something different sign up for one of Elizabeth's Art Gallery's workshops or Linda Wiebe's Encaustic Workshops or take it to the skies with an aerial tour from Papple Aviation out of the Goderich Regional Airport.

Explore our many parks as more than one quarter of the land in Goderich is dedicated to parkland, many overlooking Lake Huron and our famous sunsets. Stroll through the town's tree-lined streets and enjoy the pride people take in the preservation of local architecture.

The town has a rich and colourful history, celebrated in its museums and destinations of historical interest.

While visiting Goderich, we trust you will be welcomed with the town's trademark hospitality.

We welcome you to experience the tradition of our award-winning Downtown Goderich. It is home to over 140 businesses and services and features free and accessible parking.

Courthouse Square features a weekly farmers' market and outdoor concerts during the summer, specialty shops, and outstanding restaurants and cafes.

From Courthouse Square it's just a short stroll along West Street, a designated heritage district, to our beautiful lakefront.

There is so much to see and do here. Visit us soon. Spend a few hours or a few days.

Once you have visited Goderich, your heart will never leave.



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Located 1,800 feet under Lake Huron, Compass Minerals' Goderich salt mine is the largest underground salt mine in the world and has operated since 1959. The mine is as deep as the CN Tower in Toronto is tall and takes up an area larger than the Town of Goderich. The rock salt produced at the mine is used to help keep citizens in North America safe as they travel through winter snow and ice. The salt is shipped to hundreds of communities around the Great Lakes and along the St. Lawrence Seaway. Some of the salt is trucked to Compass Minerals' Goderich evaporation plant, less than 4 kilometers away, to be packaged for distribution and sale at retailers in North America.



Goderich Evaporation Plant

Compass Minerals' Goderich evaporation plant has operated since 1867, after an unsuccessful search for oil uncovered a vast bed of rock salt under Goderich. Using mechanical evaporation, the plant produces high-purity, fine- and coarse-grained salt products in packages and in bulk for commercial, agricultural and industrial applications. The plant also packages rock salt from the mine that is used for deicing and water conditioning.



Goderich Salt Experiences

Due to safety and liability, there are no public tours of Compass Minerals' Goderich salt mine or evaporation plant. The company has collaborated with the Town of Goderich to create various "Salted" experiences. This includes the Goderich Salt and Harvest Festival, videos, virtual reality tours and information cards with rock salt samples. Additionally, there is information about salt mining in Huron County at the Huron County Museum.



MORE INFORMATION, CALL 519-524-6600 OR EMAIL TOURISM@GODERICH.CA

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Goderich Boat Launches

North Side of the Harbour:

The Town of Goderich offers two boat launches located on the North side of the harbour, accessible from North Harbour Road.

Overflow parking is available on the North side of North Harbour Road, West of the rail crossing.

South Side of the Maitland Inlet Marina:

For convenient lake access via the river channel, there is a daily/weekly use launch available at the following rates:

- Daily Rate: \$18.65 + HST
- Weekly Rate: \$45.00 + HST

An onsite electronic kiosk is provided to facilitate a quick and simple transaction.

Seasonal Use Launch at Snug Harbour:

Exclusive Lake Huron access via the harbour at Snug Harbour with a seasonal rate of \$110 + HST annually.

Seasonal passes can be obtained at Goderich Town Hall, located at 57 West Street in Goderich.

In an effort to ease congestion, a limited quantity of seasonal passes are available for each boating season.



Enjoy your visit to Goderich! Thinking of relocating to the area?
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Goderich Parks and Recreation



The Maitland Recreation Centre: This facility is an active and vibrant part of Goderich and for communities near and far. The facility's footprint is over 70,000 square feet, the building houses a five-lane 25-metre lap pool, a children's leisure pool, an on-deck whirlpool and sauna, gymnasium, indoor track, an NHL size ice rink, a wellness area consisting of cardio and strength training equipment, and aerobic studio. The Town manages the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC) while the YMCA of Southwest Ontario maintains responsibility for recreation memberships, aquatics, wellness and group fitness programming, day camps, gymnasium and squash court bookings, childminding services, and the walking track. The MRC is wheelchair accessible.

Bannister Park: This park was designed as an active park for everyone's use. It is inclusive

for local baseball and soccer communities, skate park enthusiasts, children, youth, seniors, and families. The park area includes multipurpose pavilion, two softball diamonds, one hardball diamond, multipurpose soccer field, children's playground, and a skate park.

Victoria Park: Formerly known as the Judith Gooderham Park, this park is home to two well-maintained tennis courts that are open to the public spring through fall, as well as play equipment and a pavilion.

Columbus Park: The fastest growing sport in North America has found a beautiful home in Columbus Park. One of the newest outdoor facilities in Goderich, Columbus Park boasts six pickleball courts to be enjoyed spring through fall.

Goderich is home to 32 parks. They are spread out around town with various green

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Goderich Parks and Recreation

space, playgrounds, viewpoints and more. Twelve of these parks overlook the water from the bluffs around town and make for excellent sunset viewing.

Bingham Park: This special park is dedicated to the Monarch Butterflies, who in the fall, use this park as a layover on their migration south. Play structures are designed with the Monarch in mind, this quiet, serene space sees the most weddings throughout the year.

Lighthouse Park: One of the best spots to see all of Goderich's waterfront. This park is home to our historical lighthouse.

Waterfront Parks: Goderich is home to almost two kilometres of waterfront access! Enjoy three waterfront parks all accessible and connected by the boardwalk and accessible by vehicle.

Main Beach: This beach welcomes you to the Goderich Waterfront! Come and watch the vessels being loaded and unloaded at the only deep-water port on the east side of Lake Huron, servicing regional mining, manufacturing, and agricultural industries. Enjoy the various play structures. The Town has installed Mobi-Mats for accessibility across the sandy beachfront

straight to the waters edge. A waterwheel floating wheelchair and beach wheelchair are now available to rent for free.

St. Christopher's: A more shaded stop along the waterfront boardwalk, this rockier beach is a dog-friendly area and sits in a shaded area in the centre of the Goderich Waterfront. Pavilions, washrooms, and play equipment make your stay at the Goderich Waterfront perfect for family picnics.

Rotary Cove: The final stop on the waterfront boardwalk is the Rotary Cove. A grand archway welcomes visitors as they pass by the heart-healthy, year-round fitness structures. Play structures and loads of sandcastle-ready sand, entice folks of all ages to come and play. Ping-pong tables, generously donated by the Rotary Club of Goderich, add to the fun on Goderich's Waterfront. The Cove's design means that the waterfront here sees smaller waves and maintains a shallower waterfront, perfect for younger or novice swimmers. The Cove is also home to a beach Mobi-Mat allowing folks using wheeled transportation to enjoy the waterfront too!

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The Port of Goderich: Canada's 'Prettiest Town'

By: **DAVID YATES**

Welcome to the Port of Goderich! An 'outport' on Ontario's west coast.

Our history on land, air and sea runs deep. When courier du bois, Etienne Brule, 'the immortal scoundrel' set foot in the area in the 1620s, the Attawandaron culture thrived on the banks of the Huron lake shore.

The Ojibwa made the present location of Goderich their summer encampment because of the plentiful supply of fish and game.

Menesetung, the Ojibwa phrase for 'healing waters' was the earliest known name for the Maitland River.

Fur traders, Frank Deschamps and William Gooding were the first Europeans to settle in Goderich's present location near where Lions Park overlooking the harbour is today.

In June 1827, the erratic Scottish novelist and Canada Company agent met the eccentric Dr. William 'Tiger' Dunlop in the harbour basin and officially founded the settlement after Frederick John Robinson, Viscount Goderich, Secretary of State for War, and the Colonies.

The 'Tiger' was a War of 1812 Veteran and army surgeon. Stories of his heavy drinking, practical jokes and eccentric behaviour are

the stuff of local folklore. His grave site on the north bank of the Maitland River overlooks the town he built.

Dr. Dunlop may have built the town, but John Galt designed it.

Contrary to popular myth, the town plans for Goderich and Guelph were not switched but Galt did create Goderich's unique 'Square' with eight streets radiating out from the Court House Park.

Look carefully at the map and one can clearly discern the pattern of the Union Jack forming the town's centre.

The Square is Galt's statement of loyalty that is forever embedded into the heart of the town.

Until the opening of the Huron Road (now King's Hwy #8), Goderich harbour was the point of entry for emigration into the Canada Company lands of the Huron Tract.

The harbour had a hand in making the area unique in that this is the only part of Ontario where settlement moved from west to east rather than the more typical westward movement.

As the Canada Company's western headquarters, Goderich had aristocratic pretensions.

Company Commissioner Thomas Mercer Jones and his wife, Elizabeth Strachan Jones, daughter of Bishop John Strachan of Toronto, held court in their Georgian style manner now known as

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the Park House Restaurant on West Street.

The palatial home seen on the north shore of the Maitland River was built by Dutch Baron Vincent van Tuyll in 1832.

His English wife, Baroness Charlotte Mansfield, is the great-great-grandmother of Samantha Cameron, wife of former British Prime Minister David Cameron.

Baroness van Tuyll and Elizabeth Strachan Jones were the first people recorded to have enjoyed the sublime beauty of a Lake Huron sunset.

They were known to sit on the lake bank to watch 'the going down of the sun.' A local tradition which endures to this day.

During the 1837 Upper Canadian Rebellions when tensions ran high throughout the province, Goderich remained a Tory bastion.

'Tiger' Dunlop led the local militia, which was sent to the Sarnia frontier to guard against American invasion. They called themselves the 'Huron True Blues', or 'Huron Braves' but their uneventful service earned them the more accurate title of 'Bloody Useless.'

Yet, the threat to Goderich was real. In June 1838, a band of American brigands, under the guise of liberating Canada from British rule, pillaged the Goderich harbour carting off whatever loot they could carry.

The port became the centre of the town's commercial activity as fish, lumber and were shipped out of the harbour.

Today, the Goderich elevators ship grain across the continent and around the world.

Safe navigation required a lighthouse to guide vessels into the harbour.

The present Goderich lighthouse was constructed in 1852 and is

the oldest lighthouse on the Canadian side of Lake Huron.

The lighthouse owes its 'squat and square' design to the height of the bluffs and, perhaps, to the primitive skill of early Goderich stonemasons.

The arrival of the Grand Trunk Railway in 1858 brought more economic development as Goderich became a vital transportation link for westward expansion into the interior of North America.

In 1866 while drilling for oil, Samuel Platt, and Peter S. MacEwan accidentally discovered a rich salt bed.

Today, the Sifto Salt Mine is the world's largest producer of salt. Sifto salt is shipped by lake, rail and truck throughout the continent and remains a vital mainstay of the local economy.

Also, in 1866, the Fenian scare brought out the local militia once again to ward off the threat of invaders.

Although the Fenians never showed, General William Tecumseh Sherman visited the port in June to calm Canadian fears of Fenian invasion.

A Royal Naval gunboat, the 'HMS Cherub', was dispatched to Goderich later that summer.

In 1867, with the arrival of the Dominion gunboats 'Prince Alfred' and 'Rescue,' Goderich may justly claim the title of 'Cradle of the Royal Canadian Navy' as the Dominion boats were crewed by local militiamen and sailors.

As a result of the Fenian scare, the artillery pieces overlooking the harbour were placed here to be manned by the Goderich Garrison Artillery.

The Goderich Gaol constructed between 1839-42 is a National Historic Site.



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The imposing structure was built from stone quarried in the Maitland River. In its early days, it served as county council chamber, courthouse, and insane asylum.

It has also housed some of Canada's most infamous criminals. In 1858, James Donnelly, the patriarch of the notorious Donnelly clan from Lucan, was sentenced to hang here for the murder of Jim Farrell (his death sentence was commuted to 10 years in Kingston Penitentiary).

In 1869, the last public execution took place outside the gaol's walls when Nicholas Melady was hanged in front of a large and enthusiastic crowd for the murder of his father and stepmother.

Steven Truscott was incarcerated in the Goderich gaol during his trial at the courthouse.

In 1959, Truscott was sentenced to hang for the rape and murder of classmate Lynne Harper.

After Truscott's death sentence was overturned in 1960, he spent the next nine years in prison. In 2007, Truscott's guilty verdict was set aside.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Goderich was famous as a Victorian resort town. With grand luxury resorts like the Hotel Sunset and the Point Farm Hotel, Goderich hosted nobility and U.S. President Chester Arthur.

The Great Storm of 1913 left its mark on Goderich history when over 30 ships were wrecked, and another eight vessels foundered on Lake Huron with all hands.

Of the 244 lives lost in the storm, several were Goderich and area men lost on the 'Wexford'. An annual Mariners' service held at Knox Presbyterian Church every February commemorates this marine disaster.

The cenotaph in the Goderich Square was erected on Dominion Day 1924 as a lasting tribute to the scores of Goderich and area men who made the Supreme Sacrifice during the Great War.

The bronze soldier atop the cenotaph who faces the railroad station at the end of East Street waves his helmet in eternal farewell to those who did not return.

During the Second World War, Goderich men and women rallied in overwhelming numbers to serve King and Country.

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan established four bases in Huron County. Locally, Goderich Sky Harbour airport was home to Elementary Flight Training School #12 and, later, a training station for the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm.

The Royal Air Force established an Air Navigation School in Port Albert. The Maitland Cemetery located just east of Goderich on highway contains the graves of over a dozen airmen killed in training while stationed in Huron County.

The current Art Deco style Huron County Court House located in the centre of the Square was built in 1954 after the original courthouse burned down. It is now the seat of Huron County Council and court system.

From 1910 until 2009, Goderich was renowned for the manufacture of road graders. Operating under the names Good Roads Machinery Company, Dominion Roads Machinery Co., Champion Road Machinery and finally, in 2000, Volvo Road Graders, Goderich was world famous for its heavy machinery production.

The Huron County Museum on North Street located in the old Goderich Central School is a great place to start the discovery of the county's rich and varied history. Special rates are available for visits to the gaol and Marine Museum.

On Sunday, August 21, 2011, an F-3 tornado swept through the town's centre.

In 16 seconds, the tornado took one life, injured 37 others, and destroyed dozens of historic homes, buildings, and businesses.

The town is continuing its recovery as evidenced by signs of new building throughout the town. The tornado may have destroyed much of the town's historic core, but it did not take its heart.

It is hard to know the exact origins of Goderich's label as 'The Prettiest Town in Canada' but the term has been variously attributed to Queen Victoria, the Queen Mother and even Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Yet, despite the fact none of these Royal Ladies ever visited the town, there is no doubt that if any of Their Majesties ever came, they would certainly agree that Goderich is Canada's 'the Prettiest Town.'

The Town of Goderich has the privilege of being within the Traditional Territory of the Attawandaron and the Ojibway peoples.

This land is covered by Treaty 29 of 1827, and in the lands protected by the Dish With One Spoon agreement.

We recognize that Indigenous people have been using and caring for this land since time immemorial.

We are grateful for their past and ongoing stewardship of the lands and waters and wish to show them our respect today.



Where is the photo? Scavenger Hunt

Look at these pictures, figure out the location and write it down in the box below.
Send in your completed sheet to Goderich Tourism and you could win a prize!



Location



Location



Location



Location



Location



Location

GODERICH
Canada's Prettiest Town

Contest Entry Information

Name: _____

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No purchase necessary. Available to Canadian residents only. Skill testing question required to win. Prizes announced December 1, 2023. To read the full contest rules visit: www.exploreghoderich.ca. Scavenger Hunt forms can be emailed to tourism@goderich.ca, dropped off or mailed to: Tourism Goderich, 91 Hamilton St, Goderich, ON N7A 1R1

Towels? Check. Sunscreen? Check. Bathing suit? Check. Parking App?

Goderich's Waterfront draws folks from all over the world. With two kilometres of accessible water, sandy beaches, mesmerizing sunsets, and turquoise waters, how can anyone resist these beaches?

As you get ready to visit, be sure to have everything you need to make the most of your day at the beach.

In 2020, Goderich adopted a paid parking system at our accessible waterfront. When you visit Goderich between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., May 15 to October 15, you will be responsible for paying for your parking anywhere along the waterfront. Rates for this season are as follows:

Hourly rate \$5.00 per hour

Daily rate \$25.00 per day

Seasonal Permit \$60.00 + HST (one car per permit)

Getting your permit is simple and is something that you can have ready long before you hit the beach. The easiest way to pay for your parking is to make use of the Passport Canada Parking App, available on the App Store or Google Play, or by scanning the QR code.



Simply enter your vehicle information, payment information, and Zone Number 20804, and you can book your parking for the day. Save yourself the

additional headache and pay in advance. When you use the Passport Canada App, you can even opt into notifications when your time might be expiring and renew from the comfort of your sandcastle.

If you like to pay upon arrival, our parking machines are located at various points along the waterfront and can accept loonies and toonies (exact change), or VISA, MasterCard, American Express, as well as ApplePay, Android Pay, and Interac Flash. Any way you want to pay, Goderich can make that happen.

To avoid a waterfront parking violation ticket of \$50, it is important that you register the licence plate of the current vehicle you are driving, when parking at Goderich's Waterfront.

All waterfront parking areas are patrolled by Paid Parking Enforcement Officers. They have a tool that checks if the licence plate has a valid permit associated with it. They do not have access to any further personal information.

Please help us keep our waterfront clean and accessible for all to use. When you pay and stay at our waterfront, these funds are committed to the future health of Goderich's Main, St. Christopher's, and Rotary Cove Beaches.

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Goderich Sun

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Trails in Goderich

Goderich has a total of 12 scenic trails, including six easy hiking trails.

Hikers can explore forested areas, enjoy river views, and spot wildlife while hiking in this area.

The G2G Rail Trail:

A safe, continuous, and fully inclusive trail, the G2G Rail Trail is 132 kilometres of linear, multi-use green space from the 401 corridors as Guelph to the shores of Lake Huron in Goderich.

It runs along the former CPR railway line and is overseen and maintained by volunteers and steward groups who are passionate trail enthusiasts.

The G2G Rail Trail is a natural, historical, and culturally significant conservation corridor that supports community recreation and active transportation and promotes health and well-being. The trail brings awareness to rural agriculture, heritage, and the environment.

Falls Reserve:

Set along the scenic Maitland River, just minutes from Goderich, Falls Reserve is a 230-acre natural outdoor playground.

Falls Reserve is nearly enclosed by the winding Maitland River.

The steep slopes of the river valley, particularly from Auburn to Goderich, are well vegetated and provide important wildlife habitat.

Pack your camera and spend a day or a weekend hiking along the trails accessible from the park.

Morris Tract Provincial Nature Reserve:

This 58-hectare upland forest is an area of steep

valleys and fertile river bottom that front on the Maitland River.

The forest and river valley support 21 distinct plant communities and is a haven for birds.

Hikers can follow a trail down through towering trees to the Maitland River valley.

This area is accessible to hikers on the Maitland Valley Trail from Goderich.

Maitland Trail:

Stretching between Auburn and Goderich, the Maitland Trail covers approximately 50-kilometres meandering along the Maitland River.

This trail offers outdoor enthusiasts a captivating journey through well-maintained paths, and varying levels of difficulty.

The trail showcases diverse natural landscapes, making it a popular destination for hikers seeking both day trips and multi-day treks.

Millennium Trail:

This 3.7-kilometre lightly trafficked out and back trail features the Maitland River.

The trail is hilly with terracing and boardwalks, steep slopes, and exposed tree roots.

The Millennium Trail is great for hiking and walking, and dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.

Menesetung Trail to Sifto Loop:

Explore this 6-kilometre loop trail that is popular for hiking and walking, and during quieter times of day, hikers can experience some solitude.

This trail can begin in Goderich near the entrance to the Sifto Salt Mine. Hikers cross the Maitland River on



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Trails in Goderich

the historical Menesetung Bridge and head towards the Tiger Dunlop Tomb.

Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.

Maitland Woods Trail:

Come check out this 3.4-kilometre loop trail that is popular for birding, hiking, and walking.

Located in the middle of Goderich with lots of parking, this trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime.

Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.

G.A.R.T.:

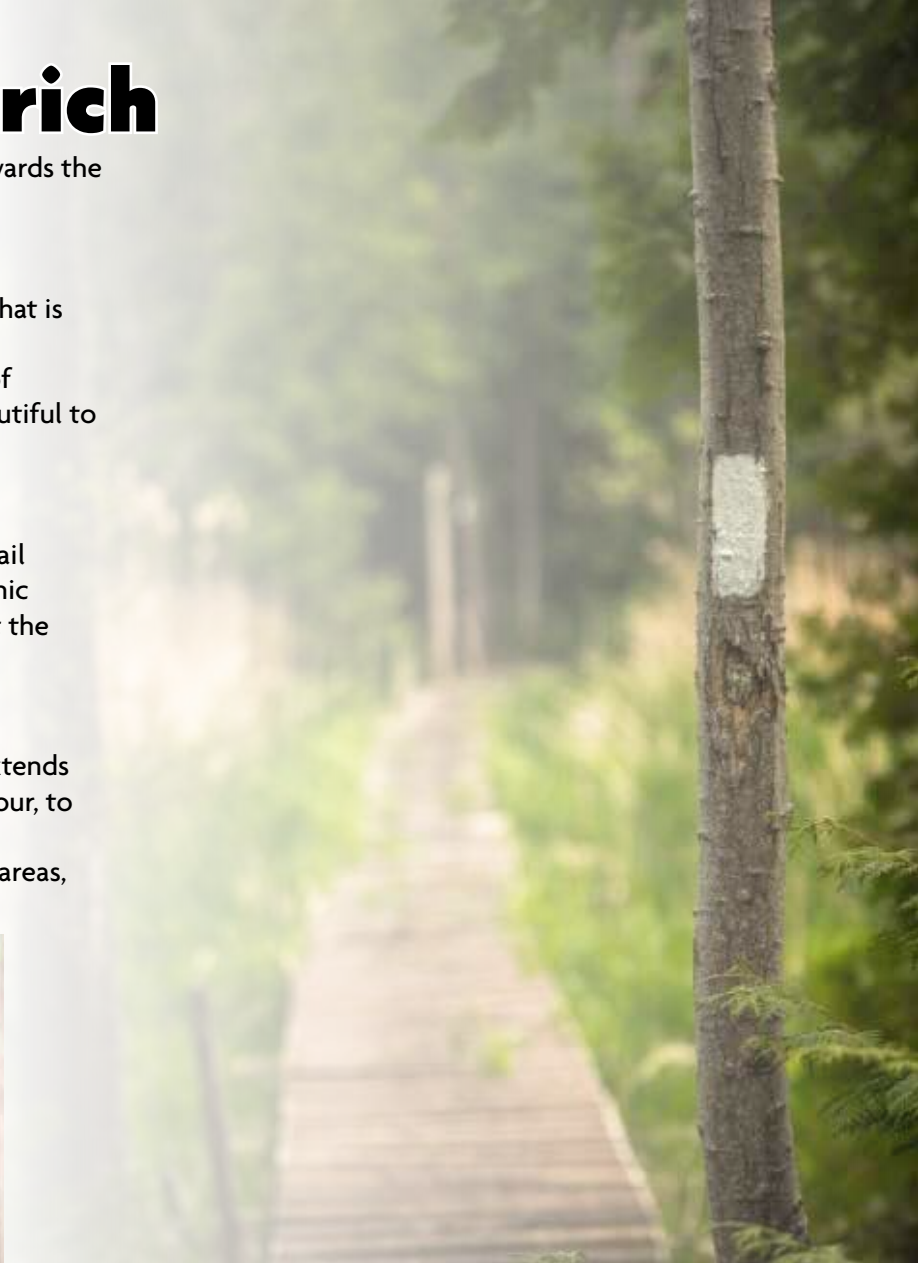
Also known as the Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail (GART), this 13.6-kilometre trail passes two scenic ponds, crosses over Sharpe's Creek, and ends at the intersection of the Maitland Trail.

Horseback riding is permitted along the trail.

Waterfront Trail:

This 1.5-kilometre trail along the boardwalk extends from the Main Beach at the mouth of the harbour, to the Rotary Cove.

Enjoy sunsets on Ontario's West Coast, picnic areas, playgrounds, rest stops, and a leisurely stroll.



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Tiger Dunlop Trail

Mill Road

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Maitland River

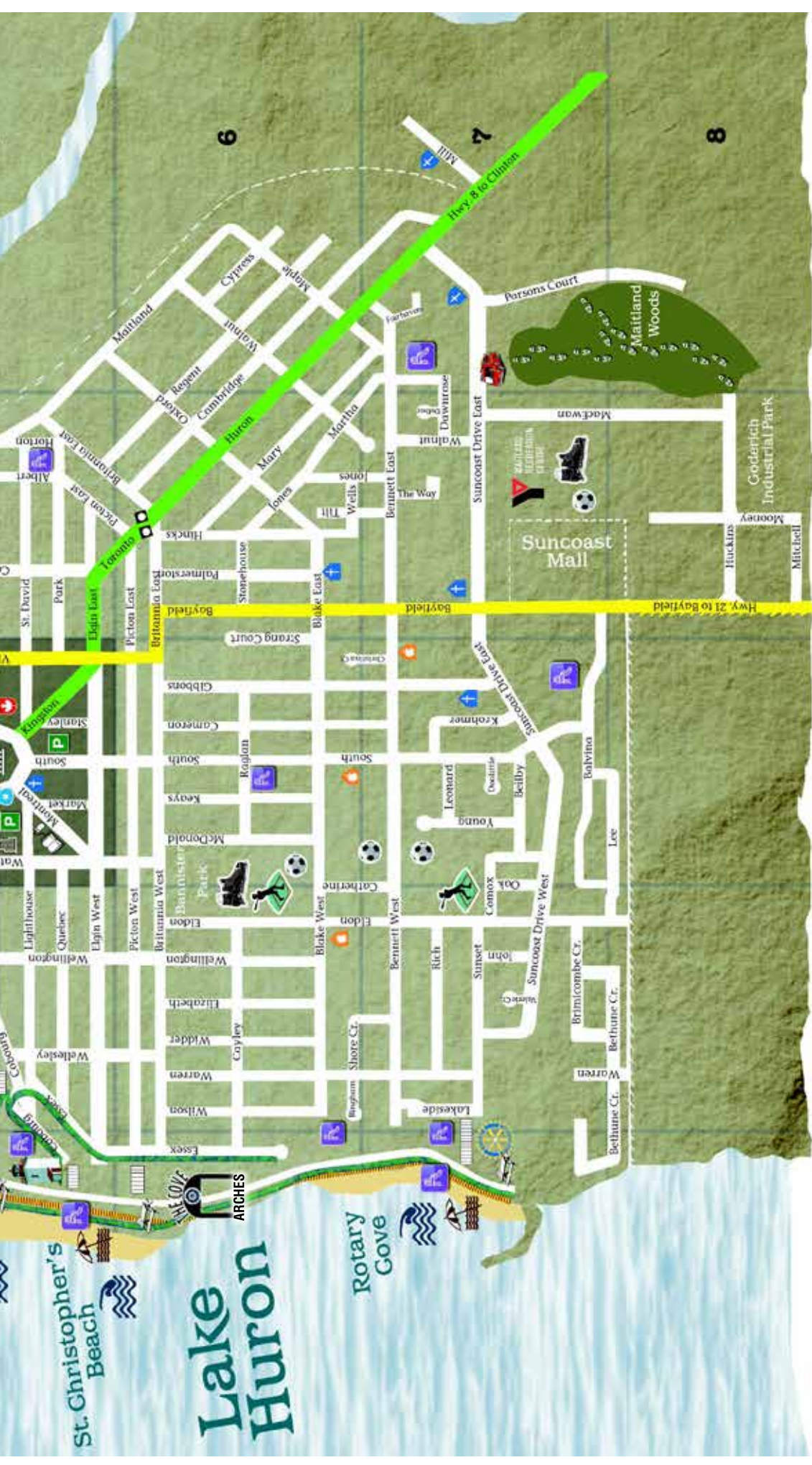
Harbour

Salt Mine

Main Beach

Map of downtown Goderich showing streets and landmarks:

- Streets: Terrace, Napier, Gloucester Terrace, North, West, East, Hamilton, Nelson, Bruce, St. Vincent, Calabona, Arthur, St. Patrick, West, East, Newgate, Brock, Nelson, Bruce, Trafalgar, Wolfe, Anjlesca, Montclair, Gloucester Terrace, North, West, East, Hamilton, Nelson, Bruce, St. Vincent, Calabona, Arthur, St. Patrick, West, East, Newgate, Brock, Nelson, Bruce, Trafalgar, Wolfe, Anjlesca, Montclair, Gloucester Terrace.
- Landmarks: Hospital, Post Office, Police, Fire, and various businesses.



- Alexandra Marine & General Hospital** D4
- Arenas** C6, D7
- Bannister Park (Memorial Arena)** B6
- Baseball Diamonds** C6, C7
- Beaches** A5, A7
- Boat Launch** B4
- Churches** C4 C5, C7, D4, D6, D7, E7
- Huron County Courthouse** C5
- Huron Historic Gaol** C4 (Gaussester Terrace)
- Huron County Museum** C4 (North Street)
- (Concession Booth) Beach Hut** A5
- (Concession Booth) Wheelhouse** A7
- Entrance to Rotary Cove** A6
- Fire Station** E7 (Suncoast Drive, East)
- Fishing** (Various locations along Maitland River)
- Huron County Courthouse** C5
- Huron Historic Gaol** C4 (Gaussester Terrace)
- Huron County Museum** C4 (North Street)
- Huron County Library & Sallows Gallery** C5
- Online only**
- Lighthouse Park** A5
- Lions' Harbour Park** B5 (West Street)
- Municipal Office** C5 (West Street)
- Marinas** A4, B4
- Maitland Valley Medical Centre** D4
- Maitland Recreation Centre** D7
- Marine Heritage Walking Trail**
- Municipal Gardens** (Various locations)
- Parks & Playgrounds** A5, A6, A7, B5, C6, C7, D5, E7
- Picnic Area**
- Pillars** D6
- Police Station** C5 (The Square)
- Post Office** C5 (East Street)
- Service Canada** C5 (East Street)
- Schools** B6, C6, C7
- Sky Harbour Municipal Airport** D1
- Soccer Field** C6, C7, D7
- Steps To Waterfront**
- Tiger Dumlop's Tomb** D3
- Walking Trails**
- Visitors' Centre** C5 (Hamilton Street)
- Major Highways** into/out of Goderich

Goderich's Salt Story

By: KATHLEEN SMITH

Even though dazzling white salt from Goderich outclassed the more famous English salt by winning first prize at the 1867 Paris Exhibition, mass production of salt in Goderich did not begin until 1880.

In September of 1858, James Miller Williams discovered oil while attempting to drill a water well in the Ontario town of Oil Springs, in Lambton County.

The discovery of oil brought hundreds of speculators and workers into southwestern Ontario, and many profitable refineries were started in nearby towns such as Petrolia.

With oil excitement at its height, a company was formed in Goderich by local merchants and politicians with the intent of striking oil.

The Goderich Petroleum Company secured \$10,000 in capital and contracted local mill owner Samuel Platt to oversee the drilling process.

Platt contacted and hired Peter MacEwan to perform the actual drilling. As a chief driller, MacEwan had successfully drilled over 20 oil wells since 1861 and was well known for his experience.

On November 17, 1865, drilling commenced on the north bank

of the Maitland River in what was then known as Maitlandville, or present day Saltford.

Platt and MacEwan drilled to a depth of 686-feet but failed to strike oil.

The Goderich Petroleum Company had exhausted its funds and the investors decided to abandon the project.

The local municipal council, optimistic that striking oil was still a possibility, offered up to \$1,500 to anyone who would drill to a depth of 1,000-feet in search of the black gold.

Platt and MacEwan continued, and after 102 days of drilling, were compensated for their efforts.

The joint stock company known as Goderich Petroleum Company that funded the drilling efforts, changed their name to the Goderich Salt Company.

They began to market salt to buyers predominantly in Chicago and Milwaukee throughout the early months of 1867.

The company saw huge profits during the first year of production, and shareholders were paid a 51% dividend.

Production facilities were soon built and by 1872 the facility was producing 21,000 barrels of salt annually.

Workers placed rows of 100 cast iron kettles, carrying 120 to 140 gallons of pumped brine each, on wood-burning furnaces.

This evaporation process produced a fine flake salt. However, as wood fuel was consumed the cost escalated.

To streamline the process, mine managers replaced the shallow steel pans with kettles and introduced coal. Still the process proved too expensive and the salt too coarse.

By 1910, managers modernized operations with the vacuum pan process, consisting of one vertical steel tank with internal heating tubes conducting steam. This cost-effective operation produced granular salt crystals widely used for table salt.

Surprisingly, mining directly in Goderich didn't occur until the late 1950s. Engineers finished construction of a mine shaft in 1959 so miners could descend almost 550 meters to crush rock salt for winter roads and water softeners.

A second shaft became operational in



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1968 and a third shaft was added in 1983. Since then both the Goderich evaporation and the Goderich salt Mine have both operated in the Town of Goderich.

Compass Minerals' Goderich salt mine, located 1,800-feet under Lake Huron, is the largest underground salt mine in the world. The mine is as deep as the CN Tower in Toronto is tall. It has operated since 1959 and was acquired by Compass Minerals in 1990.

The rock salt produced at the mine is used to keep citizens in North America safe as they travel through winter snow and ice.

The salt is shipped to hundreds of communities around the Great Lakes and along the St. Lawrence Seaway. Some of the salt is trucked to the Compass Minerals plant less than four kilometers away, to be packaged for distribution and sale at retailers in North America.

The salt is also sold in bulk to manufacturers that make plastics, detergents, disinfectants, and other important products.

The Goderich Evaporation Plant uses mechanical evaporation, the plant produces high-purity, fine- and coarse-grained salt products in packages and in bulk for commercial, agricultural, and industrial applications.

The plant also packages rock salt from the mine that is used for de-icing and water conditioning.

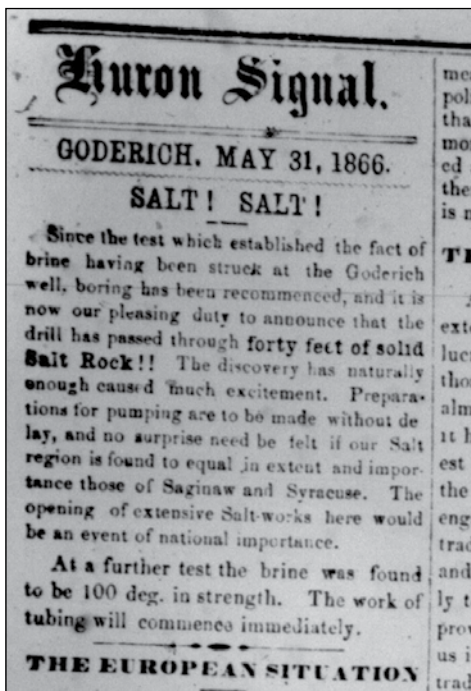
The salt mine is currently owned by Sifto Salt and its parent company Compass Minerals.

The Goderich salt mine is the largest underground salt mine in the world.

The mine extends for three kilometres from the shoreline under Lake Huron and produces nine million tonnes of salt a year.

To celebrate the history and culture of salt in Goderich, the Goderich Salt and Harvest Festival is taking place from August 30 – September 1.

Visit www.saltedgoderich.ca for more information.



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Golf In Goderich

SUNSET GOLF CLUB:

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Golfers or newcomers to golf can practice every club in their bag on Sunset's Par 3 Course, as well as on the beautiful bluegrass driving range and putting green.

The Sunset Golf Club has been serving its customers for more than 45 years.

The course features an 18-hole championship course, practice putting green, two Sunset Leagues for members, open to the public, open to tournaments, power carts and pull cart rentals available, PGA of Canada Golf Professional lessons and clinics, junior camps, and a licensed club house and snack bar.

Sunset also offers a Baby Boomer Par 3 nine-hole course where beginners or those wishing to practice clubs come to golf.

Holes are anywhere from 86 to 213 yards in length, and you only need a couple hours to complete the par 3 course.

There are also Par 3 Leagues for members and guests through the golfing season.

Green fee rates for the spring season (until May 17) are \$32 for walking nine holes, up to \$65 riding a power cart for 18 holes.

Summer rates increase to \$39 for walking nine holes, to \$76 to ride a power cart for 18 holes.

Membership rates range in price from \$395 (Junior) to \$918 (Adult nine-hole), and \$1,315 (Adult 27-hole, seven day).

Sunset Golf Club will play host to several tournaments this season beginning at the end of April all the way through to end of October.

On Saturday, April 27 Knock the Rust Off Scramble will kick off the tournament season. Other tournaments include a two-man 27-hole scramble, a ladies' scramble, the club championships, swinging grandmothers four-lady scramble, and a couple's tournament.

To register, email todd@sunsetgolfclub.com

A round of golf at Sunset Golf Club or for any inquiries about tee times contact: 519-524-8047 or visit:

www.sunsetgolfclub.com

Sunset Golf Club is located just north of downtown Goderich at 33937 Golf Course Road.

THE MAITLAND GOLF CLUB:

The Maitland offers golfers newly refurbished scenic fairways along the Maitland River.

Founded in 1921, The Maitland Golf Club is a place where recreation meets community, and where history and modern

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Golf In Goderich

enjoyment intertwine.

With the creation of The Maitland Golf Club, the picturesque fairways of the golf club graced the river flats.

The Maitland provides recreation, exercise, social events to members, public and visitors.

The Maitland is not just a golf course, but it also offers pickleball, and tennis facilities. It can also be a great place to host a special event, whether a family gathering for 20, or an office part for 90 people.

Accessible by car, bicycle and even on foot, many rounds of golf are enjoyed at The Maitland every season.

Boasting a scenic and challenging nine holes, the well-established Maitland Golf Club course stretches along the shores of the Maitland River.

The club offers a fully stocked pro shop, rental clubs, pull carts, power carts, as well as junior, senior, men's and women's golf leagues and tournaments throughout the season.

Guided by new ownership and management, the clubhouse and amenities are in a state of perpetual enhancement.

Memberships for the 2024 season are now available, while visitors to the course can play by paying a course fee.

On weekday and weekends, walking nine holes costs \$32.

A junior membership (18 and younger) costs \$252 for the season, and an adult membership cost \$924 for those aged 40-64 years old.

By choosing to become a member at the Maitland Golf Course, golfers gain unlimited access to one of the most scenic golf courses in the area.

To book a tournament, or for more information email: info@themaitland.com or call 519-524-9641.

For more information on The Maitland Golf Club, visit: www.themaitland.com

WOODLANDS LINKS GOLF COURSE:

For those who are willing to put in a 15-minute drive south of Goderich, Woodlands Links Golf Course offers another venue to get out during the golf season.

Woodlands Links Golf Course is located just outside of Goderich, along Highway 8, heading towards neighbouring town of Clinton.

Golfers are treated to lush, manicured landscapes, challenging water hazards and beautifully wooded areas, which makes Woodlands Links a top choice for any golfer.

The course has no two holes that play alike, offering a challenge for both the beginner and avid golfer.

Water hazards exist on 11 of the 18 holes, there are 28 strategically placed sand and grass bunkers, and the natural roughs encourage golfers to take a sure swing.

Another attraction is the club house, which is designed from the existing post and beam bank barn dating back to 1840. The venue can also be rented for fundraisers, events, or tournaments.

Woodlands also offers over 300 years and 10 acres in size of a driving range, as well as a putting green and chipping bunker.

Green fees for 2024 include \$37 walking for nine-holes, up to \$70 riding for 18 holes. Prices drop slightly for twilight tee times, after 2 p.m. and Junior (under 14) prices range from \$19 to \$40.

Woodlands offers several leagues throughout the season including a senior men's league, a senior women's league, and a regular men's league and women's league.

Woodlands Links Golf Course is located at 37858 Huron Road.

For more information, or to book a tee time, email golf@woodlandlinks.com or call 519-482-7144. www.woodlandlinks.com



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Town of Goderich Visitors' Guide 2024 **29**

Museums and Art Galleries

Huron County Museum:

The Huron County Museum is home to historical and cultural exhibitions, both temporary and permanent. Thousands of artifacts illustrate the history of both our rural and urban communities in a variety of themes and topics.

Gratefully, we continue to accept donations of historical items from members of the local and larger community allowing our collection to grow.

Permanent exhibitions feature early settlement, agriculture, military, and main street galleries including a full-size steam locomotive central to the building. A variety of temporary exhibitions throughout the year investigate and explore topics of local significance.

We endeavour to tell the stories of Huron County in a variety of methods on-site, off-site, and online.

The Huron

County Museum typically offers a variety of events, activities and exhibits throughout the year to welcome the public through our doors.

Please regularly check our website or Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.



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Museums and Art Galleries

Huron Historic Gaol:

The Huron Historic Gaol is a unique octagonal building which served as the County Jail from its opening in 1841 until closure in 1972.

At the time of construction, it was viewed as a model of humanitarian prison design.

Originally the building served as Gaol for the Counties of Huron, Bruce & Perth but after the counties separated the building served only the County of Huron for most of its history.

Throughout its history the Gaol housed inmates registered for crimes from misdemeanors to criminal convictions, including three men who were hanged for crimes of murder.

It also provided shelter as the House of Refuge for the ill, destitute, and mentally ill.

Men, women, and children all spent time in the Gaol throughout its history.

The Gaol is now a National Historic Site visited by thousands of people each year.

Open May 1 to October 31.

Admission Charged.

Not wheelchair accessible.

Goderich Co-op Art Gallery:

The Goderich Co-op Gallery displays the work of more than 35 artists with a plethora of award-winning members and consignees featuring paintings, photography, encaustics, stained glass, fibre arts, pottery, and jewellery.

Many pieces have Huron County themes. Guest artists and community projects displayed monthly. Artist on site.

Elizabeth's Art Gallery:

Elizabeth's Art Gallery is located on the historic Courthouse Square in Goderich Ontario. Offering a wide range of services and products for all your art and framing needs.

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Local Food And Drink

We welcome you to experience the tradition of our award-winning Downtown Goderich, home to over 140 businesses and services and featuring free and accessible parking.

At the heart of our Downtown is Courthouse Square – a gem of Canadian heritage architecture. This octagonal core, known as ‘The Square’, serves as a guiding compass, with streets radiating outward into Goderich.

Courthouse Square features a weekly farmers’ market and outdoor concerts during the summer into fall, specialty shops, and outstanding restaurants and cafes.

Finding local, fresh, and delicious food doesn’t get any easier than in this bountiful town. As one of the largest food-producing regions in the Province of Ontario, the diversity of food products available all year long is incredible.

For a small town with less than 9,000 residents, Goderich boasts more than 10 venues that focus specifically on local food and drink, with more than 30 other foodie dining and shopping options available.

If you’re looking for a satisfying beverage and local Lake Huron fish, the Parkhouse, West Street Willy’s, Goderich Harbour Restaurant (a.k.a. The Old Saltie), and Beach Street Station will please your palate.

For a casual fine dining experience, head to Part II Bistro and try their famous perogies and pair them with one of the many micro-brews or wines.

Head down to the Waterfront for a view of the lake or the sunset in the evening by visiting Beach Street Station.

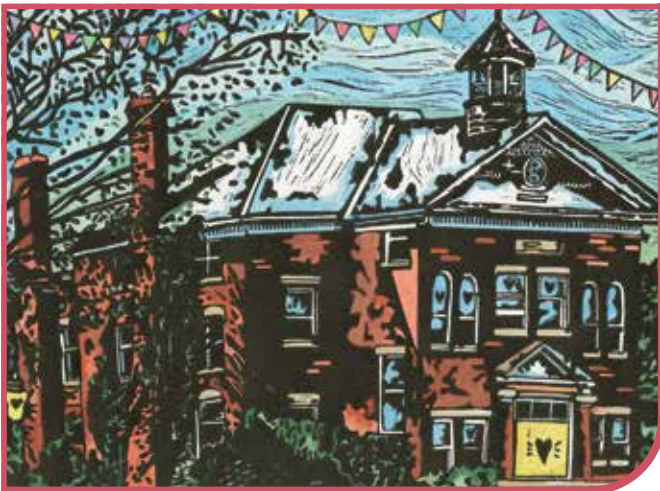
Goderich is also home to a brewery and a cidery.

Square Brew is located on the east end of town and is highlighted in many local restaurants. The casual atmosphere at this down-to-earth brewery has its patrons heading out to play games while enjoying a pint of one of their beers, the most well-known is a refreshing pilsner called Square One.

East Street Cider Co. has been operating since 2016, and their taproom and bottle shop is open Thursday to Saturday. They have seasonal ciders, and their Landmark Dry cider is available at the LCBO and many local establishments.

If you are looking for a great place to visit and enjoy the experience of local dining along the lakeshore surrounded by a beautiful natural setting, Goderich is the place you are looking for.

Once you have visited Goderich, your heart will never leave.



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- Take time to learn someone's name, and the proper way to pronounce it
- Connect new immigrants with your friends and colleagues with similar professional background
- Challenge a racist joke, generalization or stereotype
- Offer a new neighbour flowers or vegetables from your garden
- Invite newcomers to community events, birthday parties, or potlucks
- Be open to learning from others: everyone has something to offer



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Pickleball

Chances are, if you drive through Goderich on a sunny spring, summer, or fall day, you will see folks out on the courts, swinging what looks like giant ping-pong paddles around, chasing after a wiffleball, having the time of their lives.

Have Goderich's residents confused their sports? Or are they just getting on-board with the fast-growing sport?

On November 6, 2021, Goderich celebrated the grand opening of the Columbus Park Courts located at 35 Balvina Street East. These six, brand new Pickleball Courts were the product of a community-wide effort, spear-headed by the Goderich Kinsmen Club and the Rotary Club of Goderich.

In total, the Town has eight pickleball courts available to play on.

Packed with players of all ages and ability, Pickleball fever has hit Goderich hard. Not only is Pickleball the fastest growing sport in the world, but it is also Goderich's fastest growing sport, and its welcoming nature makes it so easy to get hooked.

"We've got people playing who have had knee and hip

replacements," reports Brian Chase, Goderich Pickleball Coordinator and Expert.

"And we have players who have run a marathon just that morning. People play to their ability and have a blast doing it!"

With easy and fun-to-follow rules and a low starting cost, Pickleball has become one of the most accessible sports to play.

For folks who have moved to town recently, it has become a great way to get active, meet new people, and find a new community to get involved with.

Goderich Pickleball is on the go even when the sport isn't in season; over 50 pickleball players walk in the Santa Claus Parade. This crew of Pickleballers love to get involved and support local initiatives.

At their indoor courts at the Goderich-Huron YMCA, Goderich Pickleball will often be hosting demonstrations and "Learn to Play" events for folks who are curious to give it a go.

You might just be visiting Goderich, but you might just fall in love with Pickleball while you are here.



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The Park Theatre: Goderich's Movie House

By: DAVID YATES

The Park Theatre is one of the Goderich Square's signature buildings. As Huron County's last operating movie house, the Park Theatre is one of the area's cultural treasures which has brought the best, and sometimes the worst, of Hollywood for more than 70 years.

In January 1946, H.J. Sutherland announced he had purchased the property on the Square in the block between West and Colborne streets. Sutherland was a small-town movie house entrepreneur.

In 1922, he purchased Goderich's silent movie house, the Model Theatre. In 1930, Sutherland built the Capital Theatre, "Goderich's All-Talking Theatre" on the southeast corner of Waterloo and West streets. The Capital was the first talking movie house in Goderich.

By 1946, Sutherland owned the movie theatres in Clinton,

Seaforth, St. Marys, Mitchell, Owen Sound and Cobourg.

He promised the Goderich Signal Star that the Park Theatre would be "an ultra modern place of amusement" with "a beautiful front and lighted canopy" which will be "a decided improvement to the Square."

It would not be until four years later, on March 6, 1950, that the new theatre held its premiere opening night.

In the era just before television, the local movie theatre was still the town's gathering place on Friday and Saturday nights to watch newsreels or catch the latest Hollywood movie hit.

In pop culture, it was loosely understood that the early showing was for parents and young families while the late show was for teens and dating couples. Saturday afternoon matinees were for children who thrilled to the latest installments of western serials, the comedies of Abbott and

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Costello or the Three Stooges while mothers shopped in the stores.

At the gala opening, Mayor George Mathieson and Air Vice Marshall Sully, Chair of the Goderich Board of Trade were on hand to make speeches and assist Sutherland in cutting the ribbon on Canada's newest movie house.

On opening night, excited theatregoers lined up an hour before the 7:30 p.m. start time to get one of the 500 seats in the new theatre.

Those lucky enough to get tickets passed under the triangular marquis' flashing lights and the neon lit "Park" sign jutting out from the theatre's facade.

Within minutes, the house was filled. Many more were turned away but could look forward to the 9:30 p.m. show.

Soon after the patrons sat down in the dunlopilla-cushioned seats and the house lights dimmed, projectionist George Jenner, who had been with Sutherland's for over 20 years, flipped on the state-of-the-art Northern Electric "rock steady" projector and modern sound system. The movie was projected onto a custom-built Cyclorama screen, "the first of its kind to be installed in the Dominion of Canada."

The Park Theatre's first movie was the hit MGM musical comedy *On the Town* starring Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra. The classic movie of a sailors on a 24-hour pass in New York City with two girls was dancer Gene Kelly's favourite movies. *On the Town* was a fitting film to inaugurate the area's newest movie theatre.

Although theatregoers went to the theatre to see the movie, the *Signal Star* believed the "most outstanding feature" of the building was its air conditioning system.

Sutherland had a 300-foot pipe drilled on the site to supply water to the cooling system, which pumped cold air

through the same ducts in the summer and heated air in the winter.

The Park Theatre was the last movie house opened in Huron County. In just a few years, television and, later, home entertainment systems, altered society's entertainment patterns. Within a just few years, movie houses were closing all over the county.

The Capital closed in 1955; Seaforth's Regent in 1958; the Roxy in Clinton in 1959; and Exeter's Lyric Theatre in 1963.

For over 70 years, the Park Theatre has been the town's movie house. Although few can recall Goderich's silent movie houses, like the Model, Star or Lyric theatres, many remember lining up around the corner on Colborne Street in the 1970's in anticipation of seeing Hollywood blockbusters like *Jaws* (1974) and *Star Wars* at the Park.

The late Paul Wheeler, the Park's manager from 1988-2010, said that the movies that bring out the crowds today are the *Harry Potter* or *Twilight* series.

The Park added a second screen in 1998. Most recently, it was badly damaged but survived the F-3 tornado that hit Goderich on Aug. 21, 2011.

Its re-opening in November of that year re-affirmed its place as a Goderich cultural icon and now it has survived two years of a pandemic.

Although the 1950s vintage red seats held together with duct tape have long since been removed, the Park has provided great small-town entertainment for generations of Goderich movie-goers.

Ticket prices for a movie at the two-screen theatre are at a cost of \$11, while matinee price is \$8.

Children (ages 13 and under) and seniors (65 and over) are \$8.

Prices are subject to change. Cash and Interac debit only.



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Casual restaurant serving great food.**Shanahan's Quality Meats & Deli**104 Courthouse Square • 226-421-6328
Butcher shop and fresh fish market.**Steve and Mary's on the Square (AD ON PAGE 10)**

58 Courthouse Square • 519-440-5110 • steveandmarysonthesquare.ca

**Subway Goderich**

42 Victoria Street North • 519-524-6113 • restaurants.subway.com

**Sweet Love Eats**

190 Suncoast Drive East • 519-441-8267 • sweetloveeats.com/

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**V's Sandwiches**

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**Wendy's Goderich (AD ON PAGE 13)**

307 Bayfield Road • 519-612-2699 • locations.wendys.com

**West Street Willy's Eatery**

42 West Street • 519-524-7777 • weststreetwillseatery.com

**West Sushi (AD ON PAGE 18)**

40 West Street • 519-612-1512 • www.westsushi.ca

**Wing Hong Restaurant**

116 Courthouse Square • 519-524-1191 • finbz.me

**Zehrs Food Plus (AD ON PAGE 12)**

35400 Huron Road • 519-524-2229 • www.zehrs.ca

**Bethel Pentecostal Assembly**

321 Bayfield Road • 519-524-8506 • www.realchurch.ca

**Berea-By-The-Water Lutheran Church**

326 Gibbons Street • 519-524-2235

**Calvary Baptist Church**

231 Bayfield Road • 519-524-6445 • www.cbcdgoderich.com/services

**First Baptist Church**

39 Montreal Street • 519-524-9049

**Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses**

172 Anglesea Street • 226-408-8579

**Knox Presbyterian Church**

9 Victoria Street North • 519-524-7512

**Lakeshore United Church**

56 North Street • 519-524-2103 • www.lakeshoreuc.org

**St. George's Anglican Church**

87 North Street • 519-524-2274 • stgeorges@hurontel.on.ca

**St. Peter's Catholic Church**

156 North Street • 519-524-8174 • lhcfp.dol.ca/

**Suncoast Citadel (Salvation Army)**

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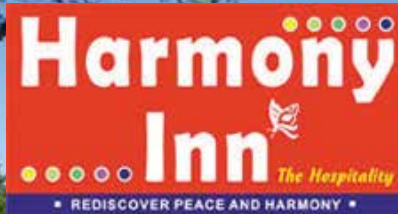
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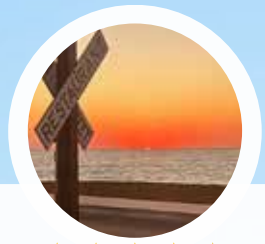


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Customer Review ”



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Customer Review ”



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