

## **BACKGROUND**

Friday, January 11, 2008

### **‘THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE ONTARIO’ THIS WINTER!**

With thousands of festivals, resorts, outdoor adventures and cultural experiences to choose from, Ontario has it all this winter. For Ontarians of all ages and interests, there’s so much to discover right in our own backyard!

#### **- Outdoor Adventure -**

This year, Jack Frost is not holding back, and there are endless winter sports and activities for thrill seekers and families alike. From ski lessons in Collingwood and guided wine tours of the Niagara region to dogsled adventures in Algonquin Park and ice climbing in Northern Ontario, the possibilities are endless for outdoor excitement.

#### **- Winter Festivals -**

Seasonal festivals across the province make winter something to get excited about!

The Ontario Winter Carnival Bon Soo in Sault Ste. Marie is celebrating 45 years of winter carnival fun this year (February 1 – 10, 2008). “Bon Soo” is Sault Ste. Marie’s highly acclaimed winter festival featuring ten fun-filled days of carnival events including sporting events, competitions, outdoor fun and culinary delights.

Mississauga sparkles during WinterWorld (February 9 - 10, 2008), where the city square comes to life with live entertainment, children’s activities and a skate to the tunes of a live DJ and videos.

The Bloor-Yorkville neighbourhood in Toronto celebrates winter’s creative side with its third annual IceFest (February 21 - 24, 2008), a community event with activities for all ages. Visitors can stroll through the neighbourhood to admire the many creative and awe inspiring ice sculptures and watch professional ice-carvers face off in the eighth annual Sassafras Ice Carving Competition.

#### **- Family Fun -**

Winter in Ontario is the perfect opportunity to share in some family fun. Learn a new skill such as snowshoeing or dog sledding in beautiful Northern Ontario. Or snowmobile along Northern Ontario’s 43,000 km of maintained, interconnected snowmobile trails, the longest network of recreational trails in the world. Hit the slopes at a ski resort such as Blue Mountain in Collingwood, or lace up your skates and carve your way down the Rideau Canal, which becomes the largest skating rink in the world in winter and was recently designated Ontario’s first UNESCO World Heritage site.



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For those who wish to escape the cold, dive into fun at the indoor water parks in Niagara Falls, or explore the interactive, family-focused museums in London, Ottawa, and Toronto.

Outdoor adventures can be found across the province with many resorts and destinations offering special family getaway deals.

**- Romantic Retreats -**

The winter season also presents an enchanting atmosphere for spending time with that special someone. Ontario's smaller communities offer cozy inns and charming restaurants that provide the perfect romantic getaway. Ontario is also home to some of Canada's finest spas and resorts that offer exclusive couples packages. Spend your blissful retreat indulging in fine cuisine, tasting Ontario wines or enjoying a relaxing spa treatment.

**- Winter in the City -**

Ontario cities offer a mix of authentic cuisines, exceptional shopping and a variety of entertainment and nightlife to choose from. Many getaway packages are available for urban destinations incorporating accommodation, culinary experiences, theatre, shopping and culture.

While visiting Ottawa, take a tour of Parliament Hill and enjoy the unique culture of downtown's ByWard Market. In Toronto, enjoy some world renowned culinary experiences by top chefs or a stroll through Yorkville. Venture back in time in Kingston while staying at any number of historic inns and bed & breakfasts - all a great base from which to explore the city.

Across the province, Ontario offers an abundance of activities, attractions and getaways for all ages and tastes. For more information and getaway packages visit [www.ontariotravel.net/winter](http://www.ontariotravel.net/winter).

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