

Lots to see and do in Kingston

City bursting with events and Buskers' 20th anniversary

Kingston, Ontario, offers the amenities of a major centre, while retaining the allure of a small town.

Nestled where the Rideau Canal and the St. Lawrence River meet Lake Ontario, Kingston is a city blending historic beauty with modern sophistication. Kingston is now part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A stroll through Kingston offers vibrant boutiques and bistros, great dining from cuisines of the world, 19th century limestone architecture, a mix of historic neighbourhoods, and beautiful parkland and waterfront.

Kingston Buskers Rendezvous is a four-day Kingston festival July 10th to 13th featuring buskers from around the world. "We're really excited about our 20th anniversary," says Jan MacDonald, of *Downtown Kingston!* "Some of the original groups are returning, and we also have great new groups."

Here's a selection of attractions:

- Explore Canada's second-oldest city on the Confederation Tour Trolley, or visit www.kingstonaudiotours.com and download a personal walking tour.
- Visit 20-plus museums and historic sites, plus three art galleries.
- Enter a reproduction of 19th-century military life at Fort Henry National Historic Site.
- Enjoy great shopping, from quaint downtown shops and boutiques to malls and outlet stores throughout the city.
- Take a Kingston 1000 Islands Cruise.
- Play a round of golf on one of many public courses.



Kingston Buskers Rendezvous: Each year, a new cast of performers from around the world demonstrate fire-eating, juggling, rope-walking, acrobatics, magic and more over the four-day downtown Kingston festival which is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Activities include the gala Fools' Overture, Busker Play, Grand Giggles, Children's Tent, Fire Show, Carnival-by-the-Lake and the Grand Finale with proceeds going to a local charity.

- Discover Kingston's dark and ghostly secrets on a Haunted Walk.
- Stroll through Canada's oldest continuously run Farmers' Market.
- Rent a sailboat, kayak or canoe. Landlubbers can rent a bicycle and tour city streets with Ahoy Rentals.

Tourism Kingston staff can help customize your trip to Kingston. Contact the Tourist Information Office at (613) 548-4415 or toll-free at 1-(888)-855-4555.

While in Kingston, stop by the Tourist Information Office at 209 Ontario Street, across from City Hall, to pick up maps and information.

World-Class Brass – Kingston's Fort Henry joins World Heritage Site family

By Bryan J. Mercer

Ontario now boasts the one and only UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site: Fort Henry National Historic Site of Canada, the Kingston Fortifications and the Rideau Canal.

We proudly join the family of globally recognized locations and attractions such as the Great Pyramids, Stonehenge and the Great Wall of China. If history repeats itself, this worldly designation should increase the number of inbound travellers significantly beginning this year. The trend has been that European travellers are tuned into the World Heritage phenomenon – more so than North Americans – and are



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anxious to visit newly designated sites. In 2007, Fort Henry noted an increase in visitors from Germany, the United Kingdom and Asia.

It was built as a fort to be reckoned with. State of the art. Impermeable. But its

defence power was never tested. Fort Henry National Historic Site of Canada was originally built during the War of 1812 in response to the cold war of distrust between Great Britain and the United States. It was redesigned and rebuilt in the 1830s and restored in the 1930s.

Fort Henry is designated as a National Historic Site for its defence of the Rideau Canal and the Naval Dockyard, for being the largest and most costly fort built west of Quebec City and for its position as a key site in a network of other local fortifications. It stands proud and majestic, guarding the convergence of the Rideau Canal, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, gateway to the world-famous 1000 Islands.

Fort Henry was officially opened on

August 1, 1938. Renown restorer and Queen's University graduate Dr. Ronald L. Way created a team of costumed interpreters, now known worldwide as the Fort Henry Guard, to interpret the music, drill and artillery practices of the 1860s British garrison and civilian life.

Fort Henry is open daily from May 17 to October 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet our mascot, a white saanen goat named David IX, as he grazes in the Advanced Battery. Sentries change every hour on the half-hour. Museum exhibits transport you to our past heritage with themes featuring weapons and artillery, uniforms, officers' lifestyles and accommodations.

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