



# 10 FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

By Jonathan Vickers

Here are some things you and your family can do in and around the area for FREE or a small admission charge this summer.

## 10 RCMP Musical Ride Fort Wellington

Prescott, ON. - Wednesday July 4th Parks Canada is proud to offer Free Admission with a full day of activities for the whole family. A Canadian tradition since 1876. A troop of 32 scarlet coated "Mounties" on majestic black horses presents a show of intricate figures and cavalry drills of 30 minutes choreographed to music. For more information, contact the site between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 613-925-2896.

**9 Straw-Bear-y Festival** - Canada Day Celebration, all weekend long at Hardy Park Brockville, ON. No admission fees. Saturday offers a huge vendor village/ face painting/ silent auction and BBQ. Sunday (Canada Day) you will find the usual fun for the kiddies, with the teddy bear hospital and adoption centre, games and much more. So come out and enjoy our city park along the beautiful St. Lawrence River just west of Tall Ships Landing. This is the event that brings strawberries and teddy bears together each year.

**8 Summer Concert Series Prescott** - Starting Sunday June 24th @7pm-9pm each Sunday, until Late August. Check out the various FREE musical acts for the whole family. at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre in Prescott, ON.

**7 The Garden Trail** - This is a mix of fourteen private and public gardens with garden centre displays that connect to make up the Garden Trail throughout Leeds Grenville. The trail features many unique gardens that feature perennials, shrubs, trees and food production. Specialty beds include shade, sun, bog, woodland, scree and pollinator gardens. Added experiences include native butterflies, honeybees and birds, monarch butterfly way stations, fountains, ponds, contemporary art exhibits and statuary.

Hours and contacts vary per garden see <https://discover.leedsgrenville.com/en/see-do/garden-trail.aspx> for details.

**6 Visit or have a Yard Sale this Summer** - There's nothing like having a yard sale to clear out the clutter, or visit one in one of our various communities, to find that special bargain. Imagine what you can do with just \$20 to spend for the day! Some communities have just one day or weekend that the whole town holds sales. There are also other areas that have a lot going on in June and part of July weekends for sales as well.

**5 Have a picnic with your family or date** - There are a lot of "Hidden Gems" in our area to hold a picnic with your family or with that special someone, from Hardy Park or Blockhouse Island in Brockville to

The Shakespeare Gardens in Prescott on the harbor front. Check out the Galop Canal in Iroquois and watch the ships on the Seaway come through.

Seeleys Bay offers a new paddling station where visitors can easily enter and exit the water. There is a community park with a playground and picnic tables. Secure your belongings in the paddling lockers and take a walk into the village. Visit Lyndhurst which is the home to the oldest bridge in existence in Ontario. The stone masonry constructed three span bridge, built in 1856-57, is still in regular use today. A park is nearby where you can enjoy a picnic and stroll the town.

Joel Stone Park in Gananoque provides an excellent view of the St. Lawrence and some of its famous islands. Bring your bathing suit and a picnic lunch, an umbrella to shade from the sun and enjoy a dip in the river at the Joel Stone Beach. A great way to spend a warm summer afternoon.

**4 Check out the Murals in Athens On.** and visit the Athens and Area Museum and Heritage Society. Preserving and promoting the heritage of Athens Township is the mandate of the Athens and Area Heritage Society. AAHS is a committee of the municipality that maintains a one room museum in the Athens Lions Hall at the corner of Henry and Wellington St.

**3 BBQ for the whole family** - Celebrate Canada Day or just any weekend in the summer with a good ole' fashioned family BBQ. At the end of the day its "Family that Matters!"

**2 Pirate Invasion Gananoque** - Joel Stone Park July 7th & 8th. (passports are free with \$2 admission to the festival - great prizes for those that follow the map); a Sponsor/Donor Draw for prizes and a 50/50 Draw. During the festival, visit Downtown Businesses for a treasure hunt. Visit the website [www.pirateinvasion.ca](http://www.pirateinvasion.ca) or visit our facebook page for details and events.

**1 Brockville Railway Tunnel** - Canada's First Railway Tunnel is a must-see for families visiting Brockville. The tunnel was completed in 1860 and was recently re-opened in August of 2017. The walk through the accessible tunnel is 1.5km each way and is a great free activity for the family to discover. [www.brockvillerrailwaytunnel.com](http://www.brockvillerrailwaytunnel.com) for details.