

It's HOW Big?



At more than 12 metres in height, the famous **Husky the Muskie** is located near Kenora.

Campbellford, located just east of Peterborough, boasts an **8-metre high two dollar coin**, the Toonie.

A **giant Loonie** was erected in Echo Bay, the hometown of its designer.

Beardmore, located northeast of Thunder Bay, is home to an **11-metre high statue of a snowman**.

Jumbo, famed as the largest elephant ever held in captivity, was killed by a train in St. Thomas. A life-size, 4-metre high statue in this southern Ontario town commemorates the joy he brought children at the Barnum and Bailey circus.

An **8.5-metre statue of a Canada goose** is seen by countless visitors each year in Wawa.



Planning a trip across Ontario and want to learn about more big things to see? Check out www.bigthings.ca/bigon.html.

Ontario Road Map Rally

Grab an Ontario road map and take this challenge! Using the road map (and some of the information found in this Nature Note), unravel the clues and write the name of the city, town or landmark in the space provided. Once you have solved all three clues, write the letters in the corresponding numbered spots to decipher the secret phrase. Once you have uncovered the secret phrase, make your next challenge to get out and visit some of the amazing places that Ontario has to offer.

Clue 1: This community is located along the shore of Lake Huron and is the site of the world's largest salt mine.

— — — — — 7 — — — — — 9 — — — — — 4 — — — — —

Clue 2: This community is located the furthest north in Ontario and is only accessible by airplane.

— — — — — 10 — — — — —
3 — — — — — 6 — — — — —

Clue 3: This Provincial Park is located along the border between Ontario and Manitoba.

— — — — — 5 — — — — — 1 — — — — —
— — — — — 8 — — — — — 2 — — — — —

Secret Phrase: Ontario —

1 — — — — — 2 — — — — — 3 — — — — — 4 — — — — — 5 — — — — — 6 — — — — — 7 — — — — — 8 — — — — —
9 — — — — — 10 — — — — —

Answers: Clue 1: Goderich, Clue 2: Fort Severn, Clue 3: Woodland Caribou Secret Phrase: Ontario - Discover it!

For more information about what to do and see in Ontario, check out these web sites:

Government of Ontario: www.gov.on.ca

Facts about Ontario:

<http://www.2ontario.com/facts/home.asp>

Ontario Tourism: www.ontariotravel.net

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All About Ontario

With more than 250,000 lakes and countless rivers and streams, over one-third of the world's freshwater is found within Ontario.



Although Quebec is Canada's largest province, Ontario, the second largest, has a lot to offer! Read on to find out more about the amazing province that we call home.

The name "Ontario" originates from a native Iroquoian word meaning "sparkling" or "beautiful" water. With more than 250,000 lakes and countless rivers and streams, it's not hard to see how our province got its name. In all, more than one-third of the world's total freshwater is found within Ontario.

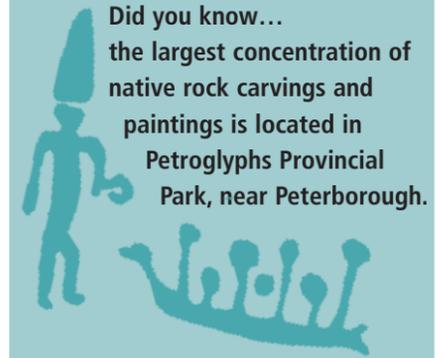
Our province's abundance of water has helped shape its history. Aboriginals used the waterways for both transportation and as a source of food where they would fish. Early Europeans also took advantage of our many navigatable waterways, and settlements were built along major rivers and lakes.

Did you know...Manitoulin Island, located in Georgian Bay, is the world's largest freshwater island!

The five Great Lakes, **Superior, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Erie** contain 20 percent of the world's freshwater and are located almost entirely within Ontario. Lake Superior is the world's largest freshwater lake. Lake Erie is the smallest and shallowest of the Great Lakes, and frequently freezes over in the winter. Here is a neat trick to help you remember the names of the Great Lakes. Spell the word HOMES and you've got them all - Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior.

The building of a series of in-land ports along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, known as the **St. Lawrence Seaway**, was completed in 1959. This construction allowed ships carrying cargo such as wheat and corn from the prairies to travel from Thunder Bay to the Atlantic Ocean despite the large difference in elevation of the lakes.

Did you know... the largest concentration of native rock carvings and paintings is located in Petroglyphs Provincial Park, near Peterborough.



Did you know... in the winter, the Rideau Canal in Ottawa is transformed into the world's longest skating rink which is 7.8 kilometres long. That's as big as 90 Olympic-sized rinks!

Did you know... Ontario's most southerly point is Middle Island, which is located south of Point Pelee at about the same latitude as northern California.



It happened in Ontario...



Baseball legend Babe Ruth hit his first professional home run in Toronto on September 5, 1914.

Sir Fredrick Banting, born in Alliston Ontario, changed the lives of millions world-wide and won a Nobel prize for discovering insulin.

Henry Woodworth and Matthew Evans of Toronto invented **the light bulb** and later sold their design to Thomas Edison.

Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone in 1876, placed the first long distance phone call from Brantford to Paris, Ontario.

Alexander Graham Bell's first telephone



During World War 1, Captain Harry Colbourne stopped in White River, bought a young orphaned black bear cub and named her Winnipeg, Winnie for short. Winnie travelled with him to England and eventually became an attraction at the London Zoo. A young boy named Christopher Robin Milne was particularly taken with Winnie, and his father, A.A. Milne, was inspired to write his famous series of stories about **Winnie the Pooh**.



The highest point in Ontario is the Ishpatina Ridge at 693 metres, located 95 kilometres north of Sudbury.

Ontario's first gold rush was in 1866 near what is now the town of Madoc which is located just north of Belleville. Since then, there have been several other gold rushes and gold is still mined in Ontario. Nickel, a silvery-white metallic mineral, is used to make coins (such as five-cent nickels) and stainless steel. A 9-metre high nickel is found in Sudbury, the world's largest producer of this mineral.



The largest salt mine in the world is located far below the water of Lake Huron, just off the shore of the town of Goderich. Your box of table salt is probably either Windsor or Sifto brand, both of which are mined right here in Ontario!

Sault Ste. Marie is the city closest to the halfway point of the **Trans-Canada Highway**, which runs from St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador to Victoria, British Columbia.

The water held within the Great Lakes eventually flows out to the Atlantic Ocean but first it must travel over the mighty Niagara Falls. At about 20 storeys in height, Niagara Falls is the second largest waterfall in the world. About 2.3 million litres of water flow over the Canadian portion of Niagara Falls — called Horseshoe Falls — every second!

Ontario's first Provincial Park, Algonquin, was created in 1893 and has been enjoyed by millions of people and many generations ever since.

More than 12 million people call this great province of ours home — that's about one in every three Canadians! Toronto, the provincial capital, is one of the most multicultural cities in the world with more than 80 ethnic groups speaking an astounding 170 different languages. **Toronto's Yonge Street** is the world's longest road. At nearly 2,000 kilometres in length, it stretches from Toronto's harbour front in the south all the way to Rainy River near the border between Ontario and Manitoba.

Provincial Emblems



The white trillium, Ontario's floral emblem, symbolizes peace and hope. One of the first flowers to bloom in the spring when the robins return, the trillium is sometimes called a "wake-robin." It grows throughout the shaded, damp forests of southern Ontario. A trillium grows in the same spot for up to 26 years and requires 15 years of growth before it will flower. If picked, the leaves and roots may become weakened to the point where it will take an additional seven years before the plant will flower again. It is commonly believed that there is a law in Ontario against picking trilliums. This is, in fact, not true. No such law exists. But remember to let others enjoy the beauty of this flower, stay on well-marked trails and, instead of picking the flower, sketch it or take a photograph.



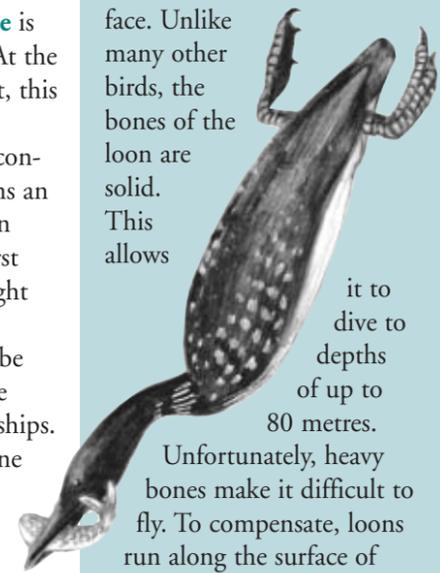
Amethyst, a semi-precious stone that is mined near Thunder Bay, Bancroft and North Bay, is Ontario's official mineral. It ranges in colour from pale lilac to deep purple and is not only the birthstone for people born in February, but is also found in the fine jewellery of kings and queens.

The eastern white pine is Ontario's official tree. At the time of early settlement, this tree was an important resource for trade and construction, and it remains an important resource even today. When settlers first arrived, these tall, straight trees were logged and shipped to England to be made into masts for the Royal British Navy's ships.

The eastern white pine is found throughout the boreal forest and can live to be over 300 years old! These large evergreens are fairly easy to identify. The bottom half of the trunk is branchless and the needles grow in bunches of five.

Memory trick: There are five letters in the word white and the needles of the white pine grow together in bunches of five!

The common loon is the official avian (bird) emblem of Ontario. This water bird can be easily identified by its black and white checkered back, black head and black neck which is adorned with a white "necklace." Loons swim low in the water. Sometimes, only their heads can be seen peeking above the lake's surface. Unlike many other birds, the bones of the loon are solid. This allows



it to dive to depths of up to 80 metres. Unfortunately, heavy bones make it difficult to fly. To compensate, loons run along the surface of the water into the wind in order to become airborne. Although babies can swim immediately, they can often be seen riding on the backs of their parents to conserve energy and avoid predators such as snapping turtles and eagles. Many cottagers and canoeists find comfort in the soothing chorus of loons in the early evening.