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Official Guide for
the Blue Water Area **2015**

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Discover the Blue

The warm weather season is the Blue Water Region's time to roll out the welcome mat. When the fresh breezes start blowing in from Lake Huron, the charming downtowns begin blooming with "open" flags and eager sandwich board messages. The clusters of boutiques beckon passersby to come in and browse the unique collections of lake-style decor and Michigan-made merchandise. One-of-a-kind restaurants and cafes line the downtown streets and create a wondrous aroma. Sidewalk seating and open window walls welcome anyone with an appetite for good food and good friends.



and through wooded areas of each community. Golf courses abound in the Blue Water Region. Their rolling landscapes and pristine greens are located in nearly every community along the shoreline and further inland.

One of Port Huron's newest and largest charms is the Blue Water Convention Center which features 34,000 square feet of meeting and convention space. Perched on the edge of the St. Clair River, its location is a magnificent site beneath the incredible span of the

Blue Water Bridges. Inside, Lake Huron Hall grants over 20,000 square feet of space and includes towering windows to reveal the waterfront view. The Great Lakes Reception Hall is a grand welcome overlooking the St. Clair River and its impressive wall of windows leads to the International Deck. A ballroom and several break-out rooms are also available, some presenting a waterfront view.

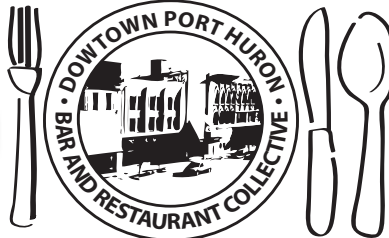
The welcome flags are also waving at the area's many attractions and family-favorite locales. The Blue Water Region harbors six lighthouses, many available for guided tours and tower climbs. Captivating museums concentrate on the local lore and maritime history as well as host national exhibits and splendid family events. Enjoy freighter watching and beautiful water views along the many river walks and boardwalks that line the St. Clair River and Lake Huron. Paved bike paths and nature and water trails also weave their way along the shoreline

Please accept the warm welcome of the Blue Water Region and discover the blue shores of eastern Michigan. For more details on the Blue Water Region visit www.bluewater.org.

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About Our Cover:

Thousands of visitors and racers come to Port Huron for the start of the annual Port Huron to Mackinac Island Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Race. The year's cover photo, taken by Lisa Downing of Desmond Marine, shows the opening of the Military Street Bridge and the activity on the Black River as sailboats arrive for the start of the race. Always a festive time in Port Huron, this year's race is slated to begin on Saturday, July 18th.

For almost 50 years the staff of RadioFirst-Liggett Communications has been producing Vacationland for you to enjoy. You'll find a wealth of information in this publication. Check out the events calendar that will offer lots to do all summer long and see the tourist sites

that you and your family will enjoy. Get information about tours, museums, walks along our rivers and trails into the rural areas of the county. Vacationland is designed to make your stay even more enjoyable and will give you information about the area's restaurants and services.

Stay in touch with what's happening by listening to one of our radio stations. We'll keep you posted on weather, traffic, news, sports and all the local information you need to make your visit special.

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Port Huron's New Rock Alternative - 105.5, 1540 WHLS, 1590 AM WHLX. Playing the best alternative rock from the 90s through today.

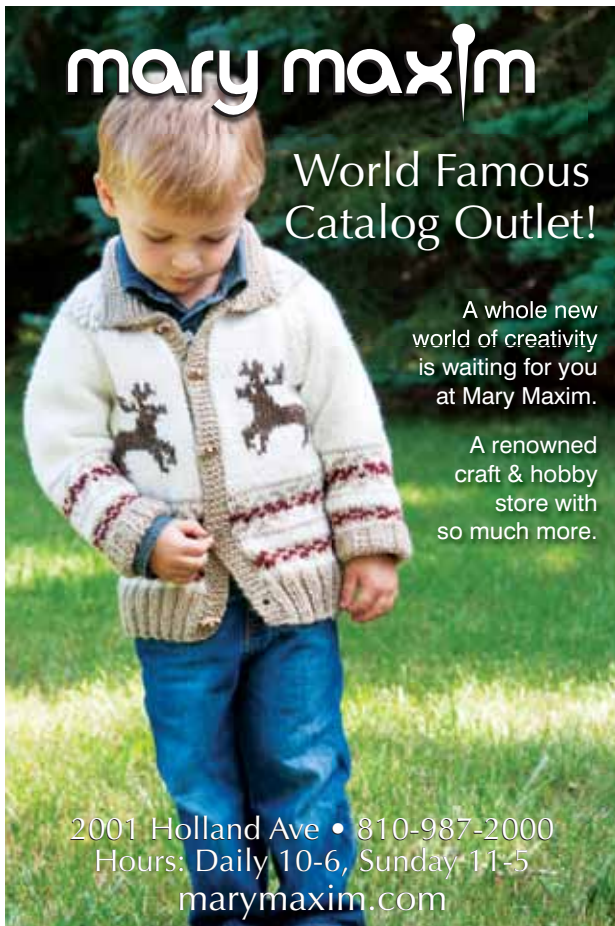
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2015 Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Race - July 18th

The Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Race (the Port Huron to Mackinac Race) will celebrate its 91st consecutive year when the sailing vessels leave the starting line in southern Lake Huron on Saturday, July 18th.

Almost 300 boats are expected to compete in this year's race, which will finish in front of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Fans from around the world will be able to follow individual boats or the entire fleet on the Bell's Brewery and Bayview Yacht Club websites as GPS tracking devices will be placed on all participating sailboats.

Significant changes have been made to the 2015 race in order to enhance the race experience. The changes start with setting a "speed limit" for participation on the Shore Course, the shorter of the event's two courses, which follows the Michigan shoreline and covers 235 statute miles. The shore course is no longer an option for larger boats with a PHRF rating below 99 seconds per mile. The faster boats will have to sail the longer Cove Island course, a distance of 298 statute miles. Slower boats will have the option of sailing either course. The plan is to have the bulk of the fleet to finish together. The minimum boat length for the entry has been reduced from 27' to 24' that will open race opportunities to those who have been previously shut out.

The year marks the return of the Super Mac where boats racing from Chicago will go past Mackinac Island and finish in Port Huron. This is done in partnership with the Chicago Yacht Club and the Port Huron Yacht Club and means that many boats will sail from Chicago to Port Huron non-stop and then after a few days' rest, will sail back to Mackinac Island.

The starting line is in southern Lake Huron just north of the Blue Water Bridge. The smallest boats start first and the largest vessels are the last to cross the starting line. Boats typically begin finishing at Mackinac Island on Sunday evening through Tuesday.

Boats are measured to determine handicaps. The fastest boat in the fleet is the scratch boat and has no time allowance. All other boats have time allowance handicaps which are subtracted from the elapsed sailing time.

Racers who have competed in 25 of the annual Port Huron to Mackinac races are called "Old Goats", while those who have completed 50 are called "Grand Rams".

Bell's Beer has extended its title sponsorship of the race and the company feels that they'll be able to continue to showcase our state and build awareness with their sponsorship. Bell's is well known for its famed summer Oberon wheat ale and Two-Hearted Ale, among many other premium and specialty brands.

The race runs concurrently with the annual family festival in Port Huron- the Blue Water Fest- that is held before, during and after the boats leave from the starting line.

Food and merchandise vendors will be located along the Black River in Port Huron and many activities will take place in town. The International Day Parade is held on Wednesday, with Family Night and a Fireworks display over the river on Thursday. Friday night is the traditional Boat Night celebration and Saturday features a lighted boat parade and bands at several different stages around downtown.

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Huron Lightship Museum History

Lightships were like floating lighthouses anchored in areas where it was too deep, expensive or impractical to construct a lighthouse. Lightships displayed a light at the top of a mast and in areas of fog also sounded a fog signal and radio beacon. The fog signals used over the years consisted of bells, whistles, trumpets, sirens and horns. Foghorns were powered by steam in the early days and later by air compressors. Stationed at various shoals on Lake Michigan until 1935, the Huron Lightship was transferred to Corsica Shoals in Lake Huron, approx. 6 miles north of the Blue Water Bridge and 3 miles east of the Michigan shoreline. For the next 36 years, she guided mariners into lower Lake Huron leading to the St. Clair River. When retired from active service in 1970, she was the last lightship on the Great Lakes.

Acquired by the City of Port Huron, the ship was enshrined at Pine Grove Park in 1972 as a tribute to her vigilance and in fond memory of a by-gone era. In 1989 the Huron Lightship was designated a National Historic Landmark and is the only lightship on the Great Lakes to be so honored.

LIGHTSHIP 103 (WAL 526) built in 1920 at a contract price of \$147,428 by the Consolidated Shipbuilding Corp., Morris Heights, NY (No Hull Number assigned) was commissioned on Dec. 22, 1920, with 340 tons



displacement in fresh water. It's powered by an 185 ihp compound steam engine and two coal-fired Scotch boilers. Her hull was painted red with the lettering "RELIEF" on her sides. Their number officially designates lightships; however, they bear the name of their current station, or duty, on their sides. LIGHTSHIP 103 completed her sea trials Dec. 4, 1920 and was delivered to the 12th District HQ in Milwaukee on June 9, 1921 to begin her Great Lakes

career. Her hull was painted black with the white lettering "HURON" on both sides of her hull since she was assigned the black buoy side of the entrance to the Lake Huron Cut. In 1939, the Service merged with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Her crew consisted of 6 to 7 men, with tours of duty 18 days on and 6 days off. In Nov., 1952 the lightship at Gros Cap Reef in Whitefish Bay was withdrawn from service leaving LIGHTSHIP 103 as the last lightship on the Great Lakes. LIGHTSHIP 103 was withdrawn from service on Aug. 20, 1970 as the oldest lightship in the Coast Guard. Five days later she was decommissioned and laid up in the Black River at Port Huron, MI.

Huron Light Ship Tour Hours: May 2-June 14: Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm; June 15-Sept. 4: Open 7 days 10 am to 4 pm. Groups of 20 or more, open year round by appt. Located in Pine Grove Park at Prospect Place.

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 Krafft 8, Krafft Road (810) 984-8301

Marine City

Riverside Cinema, 6742 S. River Road (810) 765-1500

Sandusky

Firebird Theatre, 280 E. Sanilac Road (810) 648-6684
 Highway Drive In, 2778 E. Sanilac Road (810) 657-6684

Imlay City

Cinema III, 3 screens (810) 724-6577

Sarnia

Lambton 9 Cinema, 1450 London Rd. (519) 542-5539

Color Craze Fun Run is Back!



Come join this family friendly run on **Friday, July 31st** that will leave you with plenty of colorful memories! Be sure to wear your white and let your true colors shine! Walk or run through our color trail. Get doused with color dust at different stations throughout the course! This fun run is for ALL ages and abilities! Invite your friends and family to participate or watch as there will be family fun activities, vendors and a performance by Earth Angels. Pre-registered participant fee will include a t-shirt, color pouch, and goodies provided by event sponsors. All proceeds benefit the *Port Huron's Parks & Recreation* and *Port Huron Area School District's R.E.C.E.S.S. Program* and the *Port Huron Capture Program*. Fun run begins at 6:00p.m. For more information call (810) 984-9760.

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Blue Water Fest 2015

The 6th Annual Blue Water Fest opens in downtown Port Huron on Tuesday July 14, and runs through Saturday July 18, 2015. Blue Water Fest is our area's premiere summer festival with the 91st Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Race as the centerpiece of the five day festival.



Two stages will feature Detroit area bands: Lookin' Back, the Luddites & Air Margaritaville, The Muggs, and the Sun Messengers along with popular local bands.

This year the Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Race will run a Super Mackinac taking racers all the way from Chicago to Port Huron. This challenging race promises more participants and even more spectators to the shores of the Blue Water area.

Zip Line anyone? As another new attraction, Blue Water Fest will feature a Zip Line on Thursday, July 16th from noon to 8 PM on Quay

The 2015 Blue Water Fest kicks off with the Rotary International Parade on Wed., July 15 at 6:30 PM. Thousands of spectators line the streets of downtown Port Huron for this traditional hometown parade. The Big Rock Carnival begins on Tuesday, July 14 at 6 pm with thrilling rides and amusements for all ages. The carnival will be located in the AT&T parking lot.

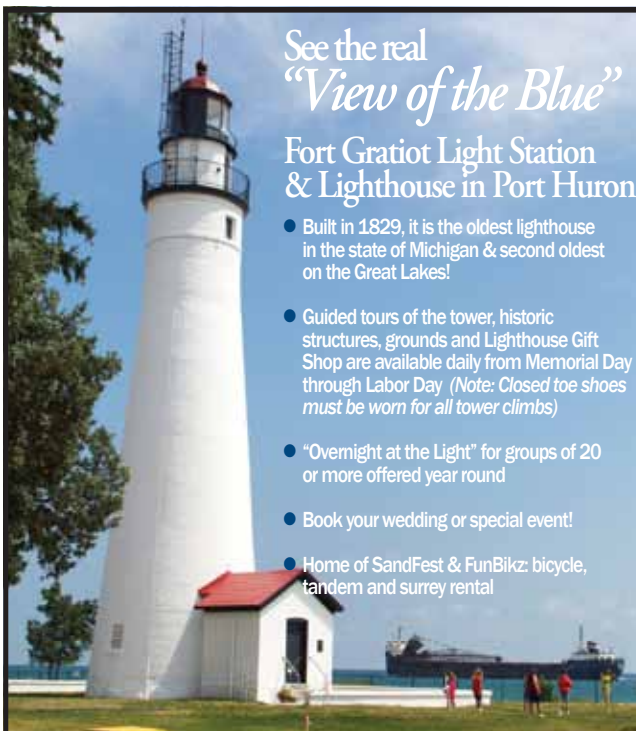
Street. Zips are \$5 each. Proceeds from the Zip Line will support the Fireworks presented at dark on Family Night, Thurs., July 16. American fireworks will be returning to Port Huron for a spectacular display held at Desmond Landing on the St. Clair River.

Operation Transformation will have all kinds of family activities by the 10th St. Bridge on Thursday, July 16 from 5-9pm. There will be entertainment, pony rides, free hot dogs, musical performances, bounce houses and many more family oriented activities.

Saturday night July 18 brings the popular Boats-A-Glo, lighted boat parade at dark in the Black River. The parade of boats dripping with lights and decorations is coordinated by the Port Huron Power and Sail Squadron.

The main attraction of the Blue Water Fest is the running of the 91st Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Sailboat Race. Racers start arriving early in the week and fill the downtown marinas until race time on Saturday morning.

If you are interested in volunteering, call MainStreet 810-937- 5049. For vendor or sponsor information, visit www.thebluwaterfest.com.



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- FunBikz, bicycle tandem & surrey rentals located at the Fort Gratiot Light Station
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Blue Water River Walk

Since its grand opening in July of 2014, the Blue Water River Walk has become a very popular tourist destination. Located along the blue waters of the St. Clair River on the south side of Port Huron, the River Walk is gaining a reputation as an innovative example of how a public and private partnership can turn a damaged and neglected waterfront into a community treasure.

The Blue Water River Walk is owned by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County. The land was gifted to the foundation at Christmas of 2011 by noted philanthropists James and Suzanne Acheson. The Foundation created a vision of a restored and naturalized



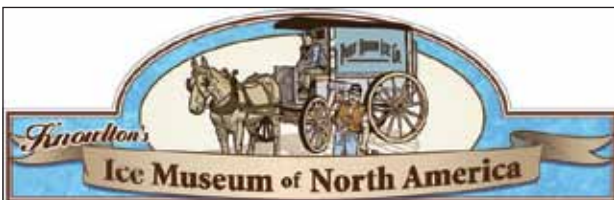
shoreline that would allow visitors to enjoy the waterfront in a way unique among river walks.

Beginning with the Outdoor Classroom on the northern end of the walk, and including a restored railroad ferry dock and two pebble beaches, the Blue Water River Walk allows visitors to directly access the water while they learn about the massive, multi-million dollar effort to restore and naturalize the shoreline.

By mid-summer of 2015 the two final major components of the River Walk should be nearing completion. On the very southern end of the property a new wetlands park is being constructed by St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Nearby, just south of the Gray Fox ship, the Community Foundation will be building a fishing pier to enhance shoreline fishing opportunities for anglers. The fishing pier will extend out approximately 50' into the fast moving waters of the St. Clair River, and is being paid for completely by donations from private individuals.

To learn more about the Blue Water River Walk, including how to join other donors in leveraging private gifts to support the River Walk, visit the Community Foundation's website at www.stclairfoundation.org.



The museum has the largest collection of ice tools and implements in the nation that date from the early 1800's to the early 1900's. From old ice picks to horse drawn ice wagons those who visit experience real history brought to life. Newly located in downtown Port Huron the museum boasts over 10,000 square feet and displays over 5,000 items.

See artifacts, ice tools, ice boxes and real video footage from the 1920's.



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Sports Hall of Fame

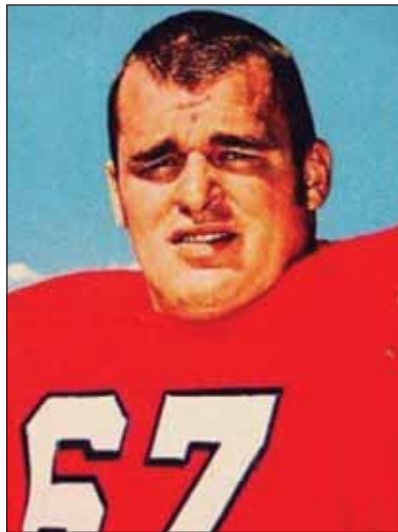
The Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame is located in the North Building at St. Clair County Community College in downtown Port Huron. Hours for viewing coincide with the college's hours of operation. The North Building also houses the college's gymnasium.

With over 250 plaques of athletes and teams on display, the Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame has been honoring the accomplishments of individuals and teams for 39 years. The mission of the Hall of Fame is to recognize and permanently honor those athletes and teams that have distinguished themselves in their respective sport. In addition, the Hall of Fame chooses to recognize those individuals that have contributed to sports, not necessarily as athletes, but in a manner of significant nature warranting recognition.

The Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame Annual Induction Dinner is held every October. This is a special night to honor new inductees, award winners, and scholarship recipients. The public's presence at this event supports these outstanding individuals as well as the Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame. Guests at the banquet also enjoy a fabulous dinner and the privilege of hearing an outstanding sports hero speak.

This year's Hall of Fame Induction Dinner is scheduled for 5:30 pm on Saturday, October 24th, 2015 in the Atrium at SC4's Student Center. In addition to honoring area athletes and teams, the Hall of Fame is privileged to host George Goeddeke as this year's keynote speaker.

George Goeddeke, a Detroit native, played college football for Ara Parseghian at Notre Dame, and was part of the 1966 National Championship Team. Drafted



by the Denver Broncos, George was starting offensive guard for seven years until a career-ending knee injury in 1974. George played in the 1969 American Football League All Star Game in Houston, Texas at the Astrodome.

Past keynote speakers include Henry Aaron, Gordie Howe, Brooks Robinson, Charlie Sanders, Ted Lindsay, and Ernie Harwell, to name a few.

Candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame are nominated by members of the community, and all nominations are reviewed and considered for induction by the Board of Directors. Candidates are limited to residents, teams, or groups within the boundaries of the Port Huron Area School District, but do not have to be a current resident.

Consult the website at phsportshalloffame.com for additional information, or call Ronald Toles, Chairman of the Board at (810) 841-2564.

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Blue Water Area transit buses circulate around the route taking passengers to each site at no cost from 10am to 4pm that day.



Many locations have performers at their site and all offer tours and information about their businesses.

Also, don't miss an opportunity to enjoy a special, one-hour cruise along the Port Huron shoreline for just \$5 per person.

For more information contact the Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at (810) 987-8687 or www.bluewater.org.

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From entrepreneurial start-ups to million dollar corporate investments, organizations such as the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County, work to promote the area's assets and business advantages. The EDA works with many local leaders and organizations to grow the local economy through economic development and will serve as a partner in developing your business. They are a non-profit agency and offer confidential services at no cost to you.

If you are looking to invest in waterfront development opportunities, including hotel & leisure, condominiums, retail or restaurants, we invite you to consider St. Clair County. Several opportunities with magnificent waterfront views are currently available for development or redevelopment: **Former YMCA Site** – 5 Acres set just 100' back from the river; **St. Clair Inn Hotel** – prime riverfront frontage with historic Inn; **MOC Site** 100 McMorran Blvd – 4 acres with 900' of riverfront frontage; **Desmond Landing** – 2.5 Acres (Northern Section) or 16.5 acres (Southern Section)

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Blue Water Young Professionals

The Blue Water Young Professionals (BWYP) are catalysts for community enhancement and pride themselves on enhancing the Blue Water area. The non-profit group started in the fall of 2009 and has continued to grow and prosper in both membership and involvement in the area.

The group's two main focus areas are downtown and nightlife enhancement and arts appreciation and growth.

The group believes that place-making is a critical element in today's economy. Developing an attractive place will draw the type of young, creative people who in turn create jobs and stability for the future. They are dedicated to making the Blue Water Area a place young professional people want to live, work and play.

They have been a key part of the area's collaboration in developing the Black River Walk in downtown Port Huron. In December 2013, the BWYP's in partnership with the City of Port Huron Recreation Department, were awarded a \$45,000 grant



from the Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport program, a \$5,000 donation from the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, and an additional \$10,000 from the City of Port Huron to continue work on the Black River Walk.

Phase 1 of the project wrapped up in the fall of 2014 with the final installation of six bike racks, six benches and 32 painted picnic tables.

Phase 2 projects are in the planning stages, with trail heads, gathering areas and way finding signage being added to the river walk.

You can see more project details by visiting www.bwyp.org/black-river-walk. Enjoy yourself while strolling along the Black River Walk.

Facebook: Blue Water Young Professionals

Twitter: @ BWYPs

Website: www.bwyp.org

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Downtown Port Huron Restaurants

One of the best ways to experience a new town is finding its great places to eat and drink. Over the last several years downtown Port Huron has evolved into one of the most diverse and exciting restaurant scenes anywhere in Michigan.



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entertainment updates during your stay. You'll discover a one-of-a-kind atmosphere in downtown Port Huron with outdoor bocce ball courts, a bowling alley, locally brewed craft beers, fantastic fresh air seating at a number of

locations, and plenty of dock space for any size boat to come and enjoy great food and drink!

You'll find just about any type of fare you can imagine and in settings that you are unlikely to find anywhere else. An easy way to find information is to visit the Downtown Port Huron B.R.C. Facebook page (which stands for the bar and restaurant collective). You can find out about recent customer feedback and get

So whether you decide to dock on the Black River or drive to downtown Port Huron, take some time and experience all that Port Huron's restaurants have to offer. From lunches to late nights you will surely find places you'll want to share with your friends and future visitors.



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Art on the River

Art on the River is an art and music festival that will return for the 5th year to the banks of the Black River on June 13th and 14th, 2015!

The party will begin on June 13th with the arrival of the NSCS Grayfox. The Grayfox is a training ship used to offer cadets training in all aspects of the ship's operations.

She is currently the largest Sea Cadet training ship in the United States and is cared for and maintained by all cadets in Michigan and sometimes even ambassadors from the North, the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets. The ship is run by cadets with the officers serving in a supervisory role. Regular Navy and Coast Guard personnel along with several civilians, volunteer their off duty time to assist in the ship's operations. A ceremony to honor this great ship and our local veterans will begin at 9:30 a.m. near the Grayfox with music provided by The New Horizons Band. The Grayfox will be docked in the Black River during Art on the River and will offer tours and cruises to be announced prior to the event.



Music will begin on the main stage at 1 p.m. on June 14th. This stage will be located in the West Quay Street parking lot, under the direction of Jim Sommerville. There will be a wide variety of music for everyone to listen to! Our local musicians are very excited to share their music with everyone.

This year there will be two headline bands, one on Saturday night at 9 p.m. and the other on Sunday at 5 p.m. The band list will be found on the website.

The beverage tent will feature local sommelier, Andy Bakko, of Wolverine Market in Port Huron. Andy will feature Michigan beers and wines! The tent is sponsored by Gerry's Distributing of Port Huron.

Art on the River features many fine artists and crafters with many different types of arts and crafts for people to purchase. There is such a wide range of items to choose from, it's sometimes hard to decide! Make sure you check out all the arts and crafts featured. Many make great gifts for that hard-to-buy for family member or friend. For the first time, Art on the River will be a juried art fair. This means that all items found will be handmade and handcrafted by the artists. The Art on the River jury were very careful to pick the finest artists and crafters for you to purchase from. There will be a list of artists and crafters that will be attending on the website at www.artontheriverph.com.

The event will run from 9:30 a.m. until midnight on June 14th and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on June 15th. Come show your support for our local artists, crafters, musicians, businesses and non-profits. There is something for everyone at Art on the River so mark your calendars!



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Blue Water Bridges

The Blue Water Area has a lot to offer tourists and visitors, including the only international border crossing that is owned jointly by the State of Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario.

Located between Port Huron, Michigan and Point Edward, Ontario connecting both Interstate 94 and Interstate 69 with Highway 402, it is one of the fastest links between the Midwest and Ontario as well as the Northeast United States.

The Blue Water Bridge crossing is a large complex consisting of toll and inspection plazas on each side of the border where you pay tolls and interact with inspection agencies such as Immigration or Customs.

The crossing consists of two unique spans, the original Blue Water Bridge, opened in 1938 and renovated in 1999, is a three-lane westbound bridge. The second Blue Water Bridge, which carries three lanes of eastbound traffic, is an impressive modern bridge opened in 1997. State of the art facilities make the Blue Water Bridge crossings one of the smoothest and most modern



crossings in the world.

The original span celebrated with dignitaries from both the United States and Canada meeting in the middle of the bridge for celebrations on October 8, 1938, the same day that local radio station WHLS signed on the air. The bridge opened to traffic on October 10, 1938.

The original bridge is 1.25 miles long and 152 feet high at the center of the main span. It contains some five tons of rivets and weighs slightly over 87 thousand tons.

The second span opened with a three day grand opening celebration which began on July 11, 1997 on both sides of the border. Over 200,000 participants participated in the International Bridge Walk during the celebration.

Today the bridges carry over five million vehicles each year between the two countries. Tolls are paid at the entrance to the bridges in both Ontario and Michigan.

Duty Free shopping is located prior to the bridge entrances and toll booths on both sides of the bridges.

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St. Clair River Lodge, 3573 5. River Rd. 810-329-2581

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Westpark Inn, Sandusky 810-648-4300

What's the Temperature?

Canada operates on the Celsius (formerly centigrade) scale while the U.S. remains on the Fahrenheit scale of temperature. So that you can know the temperature in the scale most familiar to you, here's a conversion of the more common Vacationland summer-time readings. (Fahrenheit figures rounded off.)

Celsius

10
20
30
35



Fahrenheit

50
68
86
95

Fort Gratiot Lighthouse



Since its re-opening in May 2012, the Fort Gratiot Light Station allows visitors and citizens to roam the grounds and experience life at the historic Fort Gratiot Light Station.

The entire campus has undergone a historic restoration under the ownership of St. Clair

County Parks & Recreation and the Port Huron Museum.

A new program called 'Overnight at the Light' has been created. This is an opportunity for 20 or more people to spend the night, bunking room style in the duplex building on the grounds of the historic lighthouse.

This unique activity is well-suited for Scouts, youth groups, school groups and families. Your 'Overnight at the Light' stay will include a tour of the entire facility, highlighting the historic uses and current renovation plans. A planned program relating to the site will be presented, then a snack and lights out! Sleep in the newly renovated duplex and enjoy breakfast the next day. A minimum of 20 people are required to reserve a date, a maximum of 42 may participate.

The original lighthouse was established in 1825 to guard the juncture of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. That lighthouse was destroyed by a storm in 1828. The current lighthouse, the oldest in Michigan, was built north of the fort in 1829.

Originally 74 feet high, the white painted brick tower was extended to its present 86 feet in the early 1860s. The green flashing light was automated in 1933 and may be seen for 17 miles out in Lake Huron. The two-story brick duplex, with its hipped gable roof and a pointed gothic porch was built in 1874-75. The single keepers dwelling was constructed in 1932, along with the Coast Guard Station structure.

The lighthouse watches over one of the busiest waterways in the world.

Today, Coast Guardsmen are stationed adjacent to the site in a new modern facility, opened in 2004.

The Fort Gratiot Light Station will be open May 1st through June 15th on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. From June 15th until September 6th, the Light Station will be open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For additional information call the Port Huron Museum at (810) 982-0891.

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Blue Water Trolley

The one hour tour, which includes a swing by various local points of interest, takes you through the heart of Port Huron and along the riverfront for a panoramic glimpse of the Blue Water Bridges, the Thomas Edison Statue and Depot. The starting point for each run is downtown Port Huron at 331 Huron Avenue. You can also catch the trolley at Blue Water Area Transit's Michigan Street transfer point, where other system buses interconnect and at other designated stops shown on the Tour Map.

Blue Water Trolley Points of Interest:

1. Trolley Stop Sign on Military
2. Military Street Bridge (1st one - 1833)
3. Federal Building
4. Red Cross Museum of Arts & History (1904)
5. St. John United Church of Christ (1869)
6. Museum of Arts and History (1904)
7. Grace Church
8. St. Joseph Rectory (1880s)
9. St. Joseph Church (1923)
10. John Davidson Home (1896)
11. Railroad Tunnel
12. St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron
13. Seaway Terminal and Retired Coast Guard Cutter BRAMBLE
14. Wilbur Davidson Home (1870s)
15. Standard Oil Gasoline Service Station (1950s)
16. Dr. Wilson Home (1840)
17. Woman's Life Insurance Society (1917)
18. Studio 1219 / Dairy Queen
19. J.M. White Building (1865)
20. Harrington Hotel (1896)
21. Vantage Point / Great Lakes Maritime Center
22. Times Herald Building / Michigan Mutual (1981)
23. Huron Lady II
24. MainStreet
25. Blue Water Area Transit (Transfer Point)
26. Port Huron Office Center
27. St. Clair County Library (1968)
28. St. Clair County Court House (1953)
29. P.H. Municipal Office Center (1980)
30. RadioFirst (WHLS, WSAQ, WPHM, WBTI)
31. The McLaughlin Home (1880s)
32. Ladies of Maccabees Building (1904)
33. The Meno Home (1887)
34. U.S. Coast Guard Cutter - HOLLYHOCK
35. Old Water Works (1872) / War Memorials
36. Children's Peace Gardens
37. Huron Lightship (1921-1970)
38. Thomas Edison Statue / Depot Museum
39. Blue Water Bridges (1938-1997)
40. U.S. Coast Guard Station
41. Fort Gratiot Lighthouse (1829)
42. Fort St. Joseph Possible Location (1686)
43. Old Fort Gratiot Trading Post
44. B.W. Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
45. DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton
46. McLaren Port Huron
47. Old Tyler School
48. SC4 Main Building (1923)
49. McMorran Arena (1957) McMorran Tower (1965)



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Diving in the St. Clair River

Experienced and properly trained divers flock to the St. Clair River near Port Huron to dive in swift waters. Current speeds can exceed 4 knots making the river dangerous and hazardous at times, but the lure of historical artifacts and shipwrecks, plus the thousands of pieces of lost fishing equipment make diving it hard to resist.



Photo courtesy of Brian Martin

is one of the only spots in Michigan where a diver is not required to tow a dive flag because boats have the right of way. Instead, divers must put out two flags, one at the point of entry and one at the exit point. Because of the heavy boat traffic, divers treat this area as an overhead environment dive, surfacing only near their exit point.

Diving in the St. Clair River isn't for everyone. The fast current makes navigation and diving difficult if you are not properly equipped and trained. The depths range from 20' along the shore to over 80' in the center. The river is also one of the busiest waterways in the world with hundreds of ships and boats passing through the narrow channel every day, adding to the danger for divers.

On the bottom you can find the remains of at least five shipwrecks, an old steam crane that fell off a barge, a model A Ford and many other interesting items in a relatively small area. Additionally, you'll see lots of fish and hundreds of lost sinkers and other fishing tackle. It

Because the river is a dangerous place to dive, proper training is required, as well as a good level of physical fitness. Even though this dive requires a lot of extra training, it's definitely worth it. On good days the visibility can be up to 80 feet and the ecosystem is one of the most diverse found in the Great Lakes. The way the bottom of the river constantly changes, you never have the same dive twice.

The shores of the St. Clair River are loaded with divers on both the American and Canadian sides throughout the summer months. In the winter, the brave and adventuresome jump into the cold, crystal clear waters just for the thrill of diving into the St. Clair River.

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USCG Cutter Hollyhock

The United States Coast Guard cutter Hollyhock has been permanently based and moored in Port Huron at Pine Grove Park since 2003.

The cutter is named after a previous Coast Guard cutter with the same name that served the United States from 1937 through 1982. The original Hollyhock was launched at Bay City,

Michigan and commissioned as part of the fleet operated by the U.S. Lighthouse Service. She was decommissioned from the Coast Guard's fleet on March 31, 1982.

The new Hollyhock was launched on January 25, 2003 and after sea trials, took up her station in Port Huron in November of 2003.



Hollyhock is the 14th Juniper Class Seagoing Buoy Tender built out of a projected 16 of this class. She is 225 feet long, displaces 2,000 long tons, and is powered by two diesel engines which power a single controllable pitch propeller. Hollyhock is also equipped with bow

and stern thrusters, in addition to a 20-ton hydraulic, 60-foot telescoping beam Appleton crane. She carries a crew of eight officers and 42 enlisted personnel.

Hollyhock's primary missions are aids-to-navigation (maintenance, removal and replacement), search and rescue, environmental protection and ice breaking.

The Hollyhock's Dynamic Positioning System, which allows a computer to take control of the engines, rudder, propeller and thrusters, can hold the ship within a 10-meter circle in winds up to 30 knots and eight foot seas, which allows pinpoint positioning of buoys. The vessel is responsible for nearly 150 aids-to-navigation on the lower Great Lakes. For more information visit their website at www.usgc.mil/d9/chcHollyhock.



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Blue Water Convention Center



Michigan's newest waterfront convention center located in Port Huron has recently opened their doors. The Blue Water Convention Center located on the scenic St. Clair River was designed to be as versatile as it is attractive. No matter the configuration your event requires, with over 34,000

Accommodations are made easy for any event with connection to the 149-room DoubleTree by Hilton and Freighters Eatery and Taproom.

The Blue Water Convention Center is managed by SMG, one of the leading private management companies for public assembly facilities worldwide and is committed to providing an exemplary destination for your next event.

The Blue Water Convention Center is located at 500 Thomas Edison Parkway alongside the Blue Water Bridge.


square feet of state of the art and flexible space, it is the perfect place every meeting planner envisions for conventions, consumer or trade shows, as well as meetings and banquets.

The Blue Water Convention Center features the Exhibit Hall, the largest space at 21,000 sq. ft. that can be used as an impressive main hall or split into two halls. With seating for up to two thousand attendees there are many possibilities. The Grand Ballroom can be separated into five spaces, ideal for hosting banquets or providing additional exhibit space. This captivating facility also offers two additional function rooms one with an exceptional view of the St. Clair River. Each would be perfect for the smaller meeting or banquet with seating for up to 100 people.

The pre-function area, located adjacent to the Exhibit Hall, is perfect for a registration or reception area with impressive 40 ft. wide floor to ceiling windows overlooking the St. Clair River. Just through the glass doors is the observation deck with a picture-perfect view of the Blue Water Bridge that would make an ideal reception area.




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Port Huron Yacht Club

Beautifully placed on the edge of the Black River this member constructed facility is one of the most complete Yacht Clubs in the United States. Known by many Great Lakes sailors as one of the friendliest yacht clubs, it keeps a “members make it happen” mentality that allows the club to be completely run by its members (volunteers).



One must go back over a century to find the first written reference to the Port Huron Yacht Club. In 1906 the city directory listed Thomas Major as Commodore, Dr. Frank Sharp as Secretary/Treasurer and John V. Sullivan as the Corresponding Secretary.

Official status began in 1924 with membership in the Detroit Regional Yachting Association and the Interlake Yachting Association. Membership in these two organizations has been continuous since that time.

The club moved to its present day location in 1954. The most legendary and interesting story regarding the move is the transport of the piano down the St. Clair River on the bow of the 6 metre Irene. The property at 212 Quay St. has gone through quite a transformation over the last 54 years. From having a dockage facility once known as the “Snake Pit” to the facilities that were completed in 2003 is amazing. Almost all the physical labor that went into the clubhouse (completed in 1996) and the marina (completed in 2003) was done by members of the club. Sweat equity is a term that is used religiously within the clubhouse walls.

Competitive sailboat racing is the fundamental purpose of the Yacht Club and the 2015 sailing season presents plenty of challenging racing for its members. The Port Huron and Sarnia Yacht Clubs International sailing program begins on Lake Huron Saturday, May 23rd, with the start of the Spring Series. Racing continues throughout the summer concluding with the King of the

Castle/Cock of the Walk Race on Saturday, October 4th. Over 50 races will be sailed on lower Lake Huron during the 2015 season.

A number of premier events will be hosted by the Port Huron Yacht Club this summer beginning with the Lake Huron International (LHI) set to sail on the evening of July 3rd. This

over-night distance race includes two separate courses designed to accommodate any sailing size vessel within the over 125 boat international local fleet. Each course demands a good tactician and a great navigator as racing these lower Lake Huron waters at night proves to be a tremendous challenge. This race has been utilized by many skippers and crews as a dress rehearsal or tune-up for the soon to follow Bell’s Brewery Bayview Port Huron to Mackinac Island Race.

The club is also widely known for its excellent social scene. Each Great Lake sailor has a good story or two about being in Fiddlers Green at the Port Huron Yacht Club. Boat Week is the pinnacle for such activities. Family Night (Thursday, July 16th) the clubhouse and grounds are open to the public with a tasty chicken dinner served to all. Boat Night (Friday, July 17th) the PHYC is the place to be with live entertainment, endless adult beverages and the best view of the best boats competing in the 2015 Bell’s Brewery Bayview Port Huron to Mackinac.

The largest sailing event takes place on Labor Day weekend with the sailing of three different races. The Lake Huron Offshore One-Design Regatta, The Friendship Race and the Memorial/Leukemia Cup make up an excellent weekend of racing. Sunday evening marks the conclusion of the fundraising effort for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Michigan. This is the 21st year that this event has been held at Port Huron Yacht Club with over \$1 Million being raised in that time.

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FAMILY NIGHT THU 16

11:00AM-MIDNIGHT
FOOD CONCESSIONS & HURON AVE. MARKETPLACE
12:00PM-8:00PM
ZIP LINE - QUAY ST. - \$5 per ZIP
5:00PM-CLOSE
BIG ROCK CARNIVAL - Quay & Merchant
5:00PM-9:00PM
OPERATION TRANSFORMATION - 10th St. Bridge
5:00PM-MIDNIGHT
MAIN STAGE - "Lookin' Back" Seger Tribute Band
HURON AVE. STAGE - Local & Detroit Area Bands
9:30PM
FIREWORKS - Desmond Landing

BOAT NIGHT FRI 17

11:00AM-MIDNIGHT
FOOD CONCESSIONS & HURON AVE. MARKETPLACE
5:00PM-CLOSE
BIG ROCK CARNIVAL - Quay & Merchant
5:00PM-MIDNIGHT
MAIN STAGE - The Muggs, The Luddites & More
HURON AVE. STAGE - Local & Detroit Area Bands

RACE & FAMILY DAY SAT 18

9:00AM
BOATS DEPART FOR MACKINAC - Black River
11:00AM-MIDNIGHT
FOOD CONCESSIONS & HURON AVE. MARKETPLACE
5:00PM-CLOSE
BIG ROCK CARNIVAL - Quay & Merchant
5:00PM-MIDNIGHT
MAIN STAGE - Air Margaritaville / The Sun Messengers
9:30PM
BOATS A GLO - Boat Parade on Black River



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Lakes Pilot Boats Stationed in Port Huron

The accompanying photo is one of the Lakes Pilot Association's boats that are stationed in Port Huron.

These boats ferry pilots to all foreign flag vessels that travel the St. Lawrence Seaway. All foreign-flag vessels over 300 gross tons are required to carry pilots while transiting the St. Lawrence Seaway/Great Lakes System.

In addition, many vessel operators voluntarily request pilotage when transiting unfamiliar waters and ports.

The Port Huron office is responsible for supplying pilots to foreign ships that travel Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers. The boats stationed in Port Huron also transfer pilots to vessels traveling in Lake Huron.

The two boats stationed in Port Huron are the Huron Belle and the Huron Maid. Both are all-weather vessels and operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the shipping season.

The vessels are berthed at the mouth of the Black River, just east of the Desmond Marina in Port Huron.

You'll see them traveling to and from the foreign ships as pilots are put on and off the ships in Lake Huron just coming into the channel that leads to the St. Clair River.

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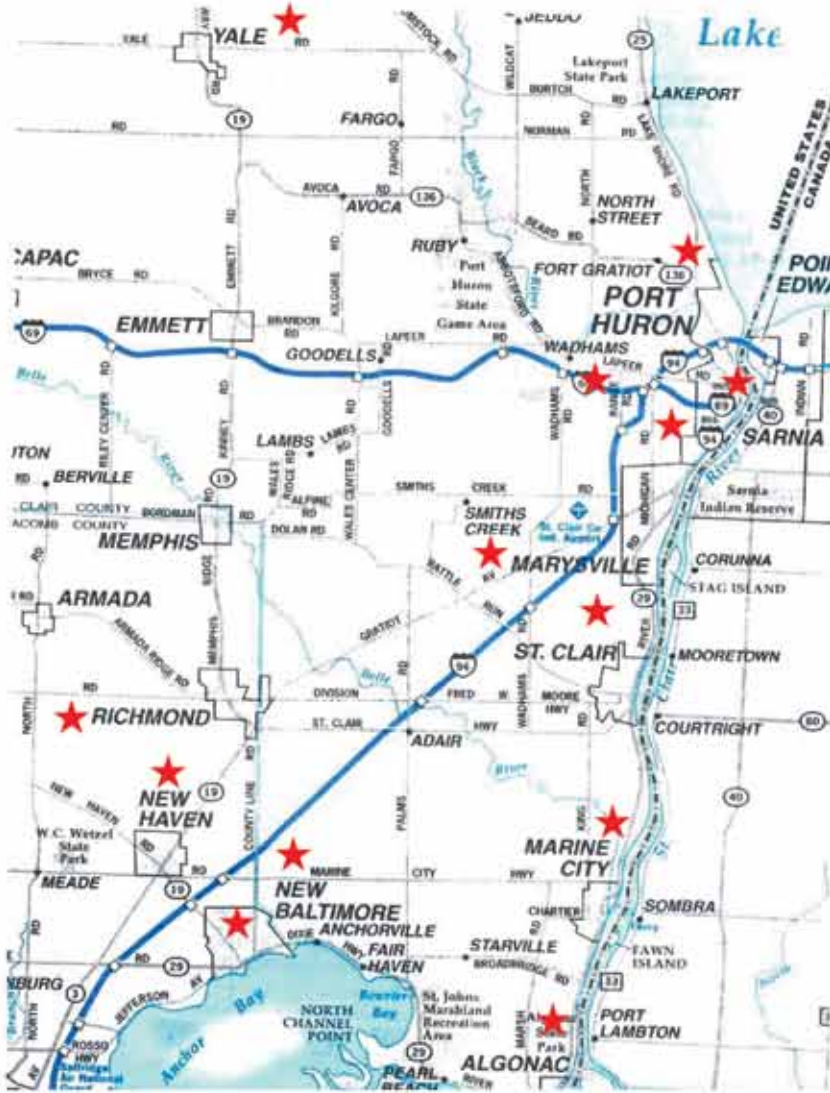
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Tours of Bramble Now Available

Tours of the retired USCGC Bramble will resume this summer daily, seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting May 1st. The vessel is docked at the AV Seaway Terminal on Military Street in Port Huron.

The ship was purchased by Bob and Sara Klinger from the Port Huron Museum in 2013 and was not open to the public last year. The Klingers along with about 20 retired US Coast Guard volunteers have been working to restore the ship.

The Bramble is one of thirty-nine 180-foot Seagoing Buoy Tenders designed and built in the early 1940's for the US Coast Guard. The ship was commissioned in 1944.

The Bramble has a rich history. Following World War II the Bramble participated in "Operations Crossroads" the



first test of the atomic bombs effect on surface ships at Bikini Island. In 1957, along with two other cutters, she headed for the Northwest Passage, traveling through the Bering Straits and Arctic Ocean. The ships traveled for 64 days and were the first to circumnavigate the North American Continent.

In 1962 the Bramble transferred to Detroit to perform missions of search and rescue, icebreaking and law enforcement throughout the Great Lakes. In 1975, the Bramble reported to Port Huron where the cutter's area of responsibility included eastern Lake Erie, southern Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay maintaining 187 buoys, a

NOAA weather buoy and three fog signals. During winter months she was employed as an icebreaker and escorted ships through the ice.

Bramble was decommissioned in May of 2003.

Tour groups or individuals have the option of taking the Boatswain's Tour- a general tour of the ship and its different areas- or a Commandant's Tour- an in-depth tour of the ship and its history.

Two audio visual stations were added last year to show the work the Bramble did in atomic testing and Arctic navigation. A radio room plays excerpts from the distress calls of the Edmund Fitzgerald.

New for 2015, the Bramble is available for hosting special events as well as youth group overnight stays. For more information or to book an event, visit www.uscgbramble.com

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Professional Hockey Returns to Port Huron

Following an absence of several years, professional hockey will return to Port Huron's McMorran Arena this fall.



Port Huron has had a long love affair with professional hockey. The Port Huron Flags played in the original International Hockey League from 1962 through 1981 and won three Turner Cup Championships during their tenure. It has been the home of North American Silver Stick Hockey finals since 1963, drawing youth

The Federal Hockey League has granted an expansion franchise to the Blue Water Area that will begin with the 2015-2016 season. The club, owned by Barry Soskin, will compete for the Commissioner's Cup against six other FHL opponents from Danville, Illinois, Dayton, Ohio, Steel City, Pennsylvania, Watertown, New York, Berkshire, Massachusetts, and Danbury, Connecticut.

Soskin is no stranger to the hockey world having accumulated over 25 years experience as an owner of professional and junior teams spanning North America.

The Federal Hockey League will be entering its sixth season of existence and features young prospects that have moved up from the college and junior hockey ranks, making the move from amateur to professional. It is known as a single A league.

hockey teams from all over the continent each January. It also has served as the training camp for the Detroit Red Wings and St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League & the (UHL) Port Huron Border Cats for 6 years, the Port Huron Beacons for two seasons and the Port Huron Flags of the UHL for two seasons. The Main Arena is currently the home ice for the Port Huron Minor Hockey Association, and the Port Huron Figure Skating Club.

Many youth and senior men's hockey leagues and high school teams compete at McMorran Arena and other hockey rinks during the season.



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Vacationland Weather, It's Terrific!

Why is Vacationland so popular in the summer? Perhaps it's the fresh blue waters of the St. Clair River and Lake Huron for an afternoon boat ride. Or, it could be the sandy beaches and the miles of walkways along the beautiful blue waters. Or, it could be that the average temperature during the warmest month of July is 70.1 degrees.

The average Vacationland rainfall per year is 32.07 inches. The average temperature during the coldest winter month, January, is 23.6 degrees - just perfect for skating, sledding and ice fishing.



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Rockin' the Rivers

Great entertainment and fun for the entire family is waiting for you along the St. Clair River next to Port Huron's Municipal Office Center at 100 McMorran Boulevard. Grab your blankets and lawn chairs and join us for a night full of musical entertainment, food vendors, inflatable bouncers, beer tent and wonderful family fun! The fun begins at 6:00pm with the main act taking the stage at 7:00pm. Join us Thursday evenings in August!



- August 6** **Motortown Allstars**
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- August 13** **Your Generation in Concert**
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- August 20** **80s Inc.**

- August 27** **Highwaymen live Tribute**
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Ride the Wave!

While young Thomas Edison was selling fruit and newspapers on the train traveling between Port Huron and Detroit, his older brother, William, was operating the community's first public transit system - a horse-drawn bus.

Blue Water Area Transit, a publicly-owned service that daily carries passengers throughout its 69.4 mile service area, now meets the community's transportation needs in the following ways:

- ◇ Seven regular bus routes in Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Townships enable riders to catch a bus anywhere in the system every 45 minutes.
- ◇ Residents - including those needing ADA accommodations, in Port Huron and Burtchville, Port Huron and Fort Gratiot townships may board a bus at their homes with prior-day reservation.
- ◇ A shuttle runs to all major shopping centers every 45 minutes.
- ◇ All buses are equipped with bicycle racks.
- ◇ Monday - Thursday service to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday to 3 a.m.
- ◇ Two routes connecting to the SMART Bus Service in Macomb County, following I-94 and M-29.

Fares range from 35-75 cents per ride, including transfers. Monthly passes are available.



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Island Loop Route National Water Trail

The Island Loop National Water Trail is the first national water trail in Michigan and one of only fourteen in the nation. The 10.2 mile long trail traverses four different water bodies, including the Black River, the Black River Canal, Lake Huron and the St. Clair River.



kayak launch. Head downriver and then up the Canal heading to the east. Enter Lake Huron after passing under the Taintor Gate and then paddle under the Blue Water Bridges, along the international border with Canada while in the St. Clair River. Enter the mouth of the Black River to the west, paddle through the City of Port Huron and then

The Island Loop provides boaters and paddlers with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to navigate four bodies of water, pass by Michigan's oldest lighthouse and travel underneath the Blue Water Bridges.

Begin your journey either at the new Bakers Field Park in Port Huron Township or at the North River Road Park in Ft. Gratiot Township. Both sites have an ADA accessible

you're back to where you started from.

Most of the water trail meanders through Fort Gratiot Township, Port Huron Township and the City of Port Huron.

Waterways along this route are calm and slow, except near the Blue Water Bridges. The route is best attempted in the morning before weekend recreational traffic creates rough water conditions under the Blue Water Bridges.

The Taintor Gate at the mouth of the canal closes automatically where there is a strong North or Northeast wind. It is open 96% of the time. Closure protects the canal from getting filled up with silt and sand from the lake.

The designation of the Island Loop Route is the result of the Blueways of St. Clair initiative, a joint project between the Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission, funded in part by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Department of Environmental Quality Office of the Great Lakes and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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It is our hope that your time in Vacationland is safe from accidents and protected from illnesses. However, should you need help, it can be quickly acquired by dialing the "0" for operator assistance, dialing "911" in those areas with such service, or by contacting one of the hospitals in the area.

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St. Clair County Sheriff

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MDOT Road Work

The Port Huron area finds itself as the location for the largest investment in road work in the state this year. Construction projects involve everything from the Blue Water Bridge to the interstate interchange. Earlier this year, work on the Military Street Bridge over the Black River in Port Huron and the M-29 Bridge over the Pine River in St. Clair was completed. The drawbridges each received extensive rehabilitation and repainting in the three month projects. Work has been underway most recently on the original span of the Blue Water Bridge. The bridge, built in 1937, is seeing a complete resurfacing on both sides of the border. During the work motorists will find only one lane of traffic open when entering each direction crossing the new bridge. The Michigan Department of Transportation hopes to have the work finished by early July.

Meanwhile a project that began in late 2013 continues this year at the I-94/I-69 interchange. Work on eastbound lanes of I-94 and I-69 was largely completed last year meaning this year work will center on the westbound lanes. Bridge beam placement and other events may require some lanes to be detoured. The state estimates the entire project will cost around \$80 million. MDOT hopes to have the work finished by the fall of this year.

But wait...there's more. Eastbound lanes of I-69 west of Port Huron and Wadhams get a redo this year. The state has budgeted nearly \$50 million to rehabilitate 11-miles of freeway from Kinney to Taylor Roads in Riley, Wales, and Kimball Townships. Three reconstructions of interchanges and work on a half dozen bridge structures are included in the project which is expected to see most of the work done this year. MDOT says they hope to be able to budget work for westbound lanes in the same area next year.

The state has various ways in which to keep you updated on construction work including a new phone app that makes the popular MiDrive web site mobile. More information is available at mi.gov/mdot.



Town Hall Series

Welcome to the 61st season of the Town Hall Series. Each year, Town Hall presents a series of five programs on Monday mornings at 10:30 am at the McMorran Place Theatre. The celebrity performances cover a range of topics of interest to the community. In conjunction, Town Hall also offers a Luncheon Series available to those holding lecture tickets.

Port Huron Town Hall, a non-profit corporation, was founded in 1955 with the object of presenting lectures and entertainment for cultural, education and charitable purposes. We encourage you to experience Town Hall by purchasing a series ticket through the McMorran Box Office at (800) 858-6166 or (810) 985-6166.

Speakers scheduled this year are:

- Monday, October 5, 2015 -
Stephen Bogart and Cass Warner
- Monday, November 9, 2015 -
Sissy Spacek
- Monday, December 14, 2015 -
The Lennon Sisters
- Monday, February 8, 2016 -
Jennifer Weiner
- Monday, March 14, 2016
Jo-Ellen Dimitrius

Cruise the Blue

Huron Lady Cruises in downtown Port Huron offer a one-of-a-kind experience of the Blue Water Area. Hop aboard the Huron Lady II and take a 90-minute narrated cruise of the St. Clair River and hear the story of Port Huron and Sarnia's waterways. The cruise will take you into Sarnia Ontario's "North Slip" for an up-close look at Great Lakes and ocean-going freighters docked here for repair or to load cargo. This



relaxing cruise will then take you under the famed twin Blue Water Bridges that connect Port Huron, Michigan to Sarnia, Ontario. Then it's out into beautiful Lake Huron for a cruise past the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse- Michigan's oldest working lighthouse. On the way back down river to the Huron Lady dock, you'll hear more history of the area, and learn

about Thomas Edison- one of Port Huron's historic figures. The Huron Lady II is Coast Guard inspected and operated by a Great Lakes certified captain and friendly crew.

The Huron Lady II offers dinner cruises three nights a week. Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the summer, you can enjoy a fun, music-filled cruise down to the River Crab Restaurant's dock. Guests then feast on a delectable dinner inside the restaurant, with dessert aboard the Huron Lady on the way back to Port Huron. Select Thursdays throughout the season, the Huron Lady II will also depart from the Thumb Coast Brewing Company's dock in downtown Port Huron and enjoy a relaxing cruise and sumptuous dinner for an evening of fun on the water.

Many folks rent the Huron Lady II for private parties. A full bar and catering menu is available to create a special event that will have your guests talking about it for years to come!

Jenny Olsen is part-owner and full-time manager of Huron Lady Cruises. Jenny is also Co-Host & Producer of Michigan Out-of-Doors TV show that airs weekly in the Midwest & Canada. Jenny is able to share her passion for the beautiful "Great Lakes State" with all of her guests aboard the Huron Lady II. You'll find her aboard the vessel or in the ticket booth all summer long, helping folks enjoy this incredible Blue Water Area.

Huron Lady Cruises run from Memorial Day Weekend through the end of September. For a full schedule and to purchase tickets, visit www.huronlady.com or call 810-984-1500.

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Port Huron Parks

The city of Port Huron owns and operates 17 waterfront areas containing 102 acres and 3 1/2 miles of water frontage; two public beaches, six parks with picnic facilities and nine scenic turnout sites. Port Huron operates the largest municipal marina system in the state and has five separate locations for boat mooring.

Lakeside Park – 1050 feet of water frontage with clean, sandy beaches. Playground facilities, picnic areas and restrooms. Beach volleyball and lots of boats anchoring off shore.

Lighthouse Park – one of the most historic parks in the area with 900 feet of waterfront and beach.

Thomas Edison Park – is one of our newer and more popular areas with 3800 ft. of waterfront.

Blue Water Bridge Park – provides another 900 feet of observation deck at a scenic turnout right under the Blue Water Bridge.

Pine Grove Park – One of our older and most popular parks. Picnic areas, softball diamond, playground equipment, horseshoe and shuffleboard courts. While there, visit:

- **Veterans' Memorial**, originally a military cemetery for Fort Gratiot, where you can view the Veterans' memorial that was erected to honor veterans of all the wars.
- **Children's Peace Garden**, is on the world's longest, unprotected international border. It was dedicated in 1985 in recognition of two young girls, Samantha Smith of the United States and Katerina Lycheva of Russia, who promoted global peace.

Sanborn Park – 12 outdoor lighted tennis courts, an outdoor pool facility that boasts a "toddler pool", dressing room facilities, diving area, swim classes, swim team, swim exercise, etc. This park has playground equipment, a baseball diamond, basketball courts and picnic tables.

Court Street Park and Swimming Pool – offers a wonderful swimming pool and "toddler pool" with dressing room facilities. Tennis courts adjoin the area and connects with Memorial Stadium and the Port Huron High School field and track facility.

Palmer Park – hosts a Recreation Center building where the recreation staff is housed. The wooded park has playground equipment and picnic areas for families.

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P.H. Parks (Cont'd)

The Mansfield Tot Lot – on Stone Street at Elk is truly a joy for children. A large play structure provides room for many to climb, slide and crawl.

Lincoln Park – on Electric and Military between North and South Blvd., is a lovely area with 9.8 acres of variety. Outdoor tennis and basketball courts, playground equipment and picnic tables.

Gratiot Park – is a neighborhood park with 1.8 acres of playground equipment and basketball courts.

Optimist Park – contains a softball field, an outdoor skating rink, playground, a shelter and picnic facilities.

White Park – is adjacent to Woodrow Wilson School, with swings, ballfield, soccer field and basketball.

Haynes Park – close to downtown marinas; with a children's playscape and basketball courts.

Tot Lot 11th and Division – a neighborhood park with play equipment and safety features for the children.

Knox Field – at 24th and Dove has a myriad of facilities with two softball fields (one lighted).

16th and Dove Park – contains two softball fields, three tennis courts and wooded walking areas.

How Many Miles To?

(Distances measured from the Blue Water Bridge at Port Huron, Michigan and Sarnia, Ontario)

Michigan

Algonac..... 27 mi.
 Avoca..... 17 mi.
 Chicago..... 329 mi.
 Croswell..... 28 mi.
 Detroit..... 57 mi.
 Emmett..... 15 mi.
 Flint..... 69 mi.
 Lexington..... 21 mi.
 Marine City..... 21 mi.
 Marysville..... 6 mi.
 Peck..... 33 mi.
 Richmond..... 19 mi.
 St. Clair..... 13 mi.
 Yale..... 24 mi.

Ontario

Bayfield..... 75 mi.
 Chatham..... 50 mi.
 Corunna..... 7 mi.
 Grand Bend..... 50 mi.
 London..... 62 mi.
 Petrolia..... 20 mi.
 Sombra..... 21 mi.
 Stratford..... 96 mi.
 Toronto..... 194 mi.
 Watford..... 20 mi.
 Wallaceburg..... 34 mi.
 Windsor..... 99 mi.



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Knowlton's Ice Museum

Ice harvesting was the second largest industry in the United States at one time. Knowlton's Ice Museum has the largest collection of ice tools and implements in the nation that date from the early 1800s to the early 1900s. From old ice picks to horse drawn ice wagons, visitors experience real history brought to life.



Located in downtown Port Huron, the museum boasts over 10,000 sq. ft. and displays over 5,000 items. Six horse drawn ice wagons are centerpieces.

Michigan was one of the main sources of ice harvesting because in those times people cherished the clear blue ice harvested from the beautiful Great Lakes. In the winter months farmers would make money to feed their families by working on the ice fields (rivers and lakes). Using primitive ice tools, they would scrape snow off of the field, measure ice thickness, and saw ice cakes or blocks of ice. The 300 lb. blocks would then be loaded onto horse drawn flat-bed type wagons and moved off the ice field. The ice was stacked and packed inside the ice house. Sawdust was used for insulation and placed in between layers of ice.

Once a luxury, ice became a common household and business commodity by 1900. The ice delivery man would weigh ice blocks and deliver ice by horse drawn covered wagon to homes and businesses. An ice box was used to keep food fresh. As time went on and the natural ice industry boomed, hand saws were replaced by horse drawn saws and then later gasoline powered saws. There were over 30 ice companies between 1871 and 1960 in Port Huron alone. The museum has actual video footage for visitors to view of many of these processes as the industry developed throughout the years. Besides being used for cooling beverages, ice was commonly used in hospitals for medical supplies. Meat shops and small grocery type general stores used ice to keep and sell meats and other grocery items. By the 1920s many of the waters were too polluted to use ice for consumption but it was still used for keeping food

and medical supplies cold.

As electricity became available, the use of electric refrigerators replaced the old ice box so the natural ice industry fizzled out. What developed in the early 1900s was artificial ice manufacturing with the invention of ice making machines that froze water through an aeration process. Once

frozen, the ice was broken up, packaged and stored in freezers to sell. Knowlton's Ice Museum of North America houses equipment from all eras of the natural ice industry and the beginning of the artificial ice industry.

Mickey Knowlton, founder of Knowlton's Ice Museum of North America, has dedicated much of his life in an effort to keep this forgotten industry alive. He actually started his own ice company in his garage back in the late 1960s when he was a home delivery milk man. He was 48 years old and knew the home delivery of dairy products was on the brink of ending as neighborhood party stores took over and sold the same products. He grew his ice business for over 37 years and by the time he sold his company to Arctic Glacier in 2004 he was 85 years old. At the time he had three manufacturing plants and several distribution areas throughout Michigan that made ice. He sold his packaged ice in 7lb. or 25 lb. bags to companies like Detroit Metro Airport and grocery chains such as Kroger and Meijer.

The museum's collection also includes: antique cars, an antique ice truck, license plate collection, milk industry bottle collection and milk trucks, antique collection of hundreds of dolls and buggies and a gift shop.

The museum is located at 317 Grand River Ave., Port Huron. A small admission charge is requested. Guided tours are available for kids and adults.

Open June thru September: Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. October through May: Saturday 11 am. to 5 p.m. For more information or to make a group appointment call 810.987.5441.



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Be Safe on Vacationland Trails

There are many bike trails in St. Clair County. When choosing a trail, make sure it is safe and fun for the whole family. The McLaren Port Huron Helmet Safety Committee recommends the Bridge to Bay Trail or the Wadhams to Avoca Trail. Both trails have much to offer for families with young, inexperienced riders.

The Bridge to Bay Trail extends from Port Huron on Lake Michigan, south to Algonac along the St. Clair River. The longest continuous sections lie south of Port Huron to Marysville and between St. Clair and Marine City. The trail surface is a mix of boardwalks, asphalt paths, rail-trails and safety paths, which are best for bike riding families. The trail links neighborhoods, state and local parks, beaches, museums, lighthouses, commercial districts, schools and government centers. Choosing either section is recommended for small, first time riders. This section offers easy riding while keeping the little ones entertained; there is lots to see and do while enjoying the woodlands and wetlands.

The Wadhams to Avoca Trail offers a variety of opportunities for walkers, rollerbladers, bikers and even



horseback riders. The scenic beauty of the Wadhams to Avoca Trail also makes it great place to do some bird watching or see the fall colors. The centerpiece of the trail is Mill Creek Trestle. Four overlook areas have also been installed on the trestle so trail users can enjoy the beautiful views up and down Mill Creek Valley. At the south end of the trail in Kimball Township, over five miles of trail have been paved starting at McLain Road running southeast to Griswold Road. This is where we recommend beginning your ride. The paved section

of the trail passes through a developing residential area and is already being heavily used by residents. To ensure user safety, a traffic signal was installed at the Wadhams Road crossing.

It's recommended that all riders wear helmets while enjoying the trails. If you don't have one, contact the McLaren Port Huron Foundation at 810-989-3776. The Foundation sells them at cost of \$5 and has all sizes available from toddler to adult. The office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m. Remember, children are 17% more likely to wear their helmet if their parents wear a helmet.

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Vacationland Tastes of Wine

Mention Michigan wines and generally one's thoughts initially conjure up visions of vineyards on the western side of the state. But did you know that the Mitten's sunrise side also provides several places where you can uncork your inner wine connoisseur- and all within a short drive?

The Thumbs Up Wine Trail includes 12 vintners stretching north from Bad Axe to Harrison Township, and as far west as Rochester. The group is dedicated to raising awareness of the wine industry in the Thumb region as well as Southeast Michigan.

The Trail membership includes four wineries located right in the heart of the Blue Water Area:

- **Green Barn Winery**, 775 N. Wadhams Road, Smiths Creek
- **Sandy Shores Winery**, 5697 Harris Road, Jeddo
- **3 North Vines**, 5940 Peach Road, Croswell
- **Sage Creek Winery**, 80890 Main St., Memphis



Photos of Green Barn Winery

The other wineries include:

- **Dizzy Daisy Winery**, 1288 Crown Road, Bad Axe
- **Washington Street Wine House**, 50969 Washington St., New Baltimore
- **Superior Lakes Hand-Crafted Mead & Wine**, 36241 Jefferson, Harrison Township
- **Filipa Marc Winery**, 39085 Garfield Road, Clinton Township
- **Westview Orchards Adventure Farm & Winery**, 65075 Van Dyke, Washington Township
- **Village Winery**, 134 W. St. Clair, Romeo
- **Blake's Ciderhouse and Winery**, 17985 Armada Center Rd., Armada.

Each of the wineries has their individual specialty and offer wine tasting to visitors. So follow the trail and uncork your inner connoisseur!

For more information, log onto ThumbsUpMI.com or find them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ThumbsUpMI](https://www.facebook.com/ThumbsUpMI).

3rd Annual Beer Festival

In celebration of Craft Beer, Wolverine Market Port Huron and Citizens for a Vibrant Community announce the 3rd Annual Beer Festival, simply called "Fall Beer Festival", held in Kiefer Park in Port Huron, Michigan on September 26, 2015. This event will be an amazing experience in taste and sound including hot music to compliment the cool brews and the beautiful view on the banks of the St. Clair River, overlooking Lake Huron to the north. Over 25 breweries from Michigan, the Blue Water Area (and a few others thrown in for good measure) will showcase their unique brews. Over 100

beers to sample! The focus of the fall festival is the promotion of craft beers and the brewers who create them. This event is the perfect opportunity for beer aficionados, beer lovers and the casual beer drinker to speak to company representatives and brewers responsible for some of their favorite brews. And it's an opportunity to discover and taste new brews and special "Limited Release" beers and ales. Mark your calendar now for September 26th. Keep an eye on www.wolverinemarketporthuron.com for more information or call 810.982.0966.

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Boatnerd.com

When the popular website BoatNerd.com got its start in 1995, it was a hobby project for its founder, Neil Schultheiss, and an outlet for his casual interest in lake boats.

Today Boatnerd.com is a very comprehensive website with information about ships and the Great Lakes. You can even track your favorite ship with the AIS feature on the site. Boatnerd.com will also give you information

about vessels passing through the Lakes, facts and figures on just about any shipping topic, current news and lots of photos of Great Lakes and foreign vessels.

Dedicated to Great Lakes shipping and the Great Lakes in general, BoatNerd has since grown into a community website that averages over 27,000 visitors a day and more than 2.25 million page views each month. It offers an on-line archive of more than 210,000 vessel images, sponsors gatherings of ship enthusiasts at various locations around the Great Lakes, and even has a real-world headquarters at the Great Lakes Maritime



Center in Port Huron, Michigan. In 2006, BoatNerd was turned over to a 501 (c)(3) non-profit Corporation which operates the sites today with a small army of volunteers updating and creating new content.

One of BoatNerd's most popular components is a daily news page that reports on the comings and goings of lake vessels, port news and other industry concerns such

as water levels and invasive species, as well as what ships have been renamed, sold or are headed for scrap.

In addition, BoatNerd maintains more than a dozen AIS reporting stations around the Great Lakes that collect vessel positions electronically and makes that information available on the site.

Visitors can also participate in online forums, such as an information search and post their own boat picture for others to see, the latter remains a popular aspect of the site. Parts of the BoatNerd site were inspired by the 'Know Your Ships' freighter guide book.

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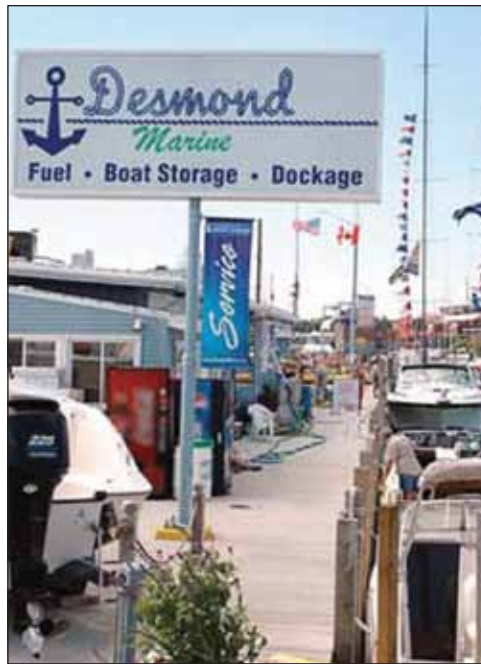


Marina Facilities in Port Huron

Port Huron offers one of the largest marina facilities on the Great Lakes... with docking for over 350 vessels in the immediate area.

Desmond Marine and the River Street Marina are managed and operated by Acheson Ventures. Desmond Marine is located at the mouth of the Black River. Among Desmond Marine's amenities are marine supplies, pump-outs, gas and hi-speed diesel fueling stations, rack 'n' launch, heated and cold inside storage, mast-up storage, professional mechanical, electronics, canvas, upholstery and boat brokerage services.

Desmond Marine also has two 10-ton marine forklifts on site for rack 'n' launch service and a newly constructed 30,000 square foot inside heated storage facility. Along with this new building, Desmond Marine has added a new 55 ton marine travel lift and a 23 ton self-propelled mobile



trailer. For information call 810-982-3990 or visit www.desmondmarine.com.

River Street Marina has the State reservation system for their docking facilities in Port Huron. You can call 800-44-PARKS, the Harbormaster's office for reservations at 810-984-9746 or visit midnrreservations.com.

There are many transit docking spaces along the Black River in the heart of downtown Port Huron. You can spend the afternoon or evening enjoying many fine restaurants and entertainment venues just a short walk from your boat.

Bridge Harbor Marina, located right next to I-94 at the Water Street exit, is a private facility with both transient and seasonal wells available. Bridge Harbor features a friendly atmosphere with a heated pool, jacuzzi and tennis courts. For information and reservations call 810-982-2492.

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Blue Water SandFest

In its first two years Blue Water SandFest has been a huge success, with over 21,000 people attending and over \$88,000 raised to fund restoration work at the Fort Gratiot Light Station County Park. This year, SandFest returns again to the park from July 3rd through July 5th, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever with additional sculptors and amateur sculpting plots.

This three day family oriented event has something for everyone. SandFest will feature six master and eight advanced amateur sand sculptors from across North America, competing for the Michigan State Championship in their respective levels. There will also be an Amateur Contest held on Saturday, July 4th, using the same sand as the Masters and Advanced Amateurs that is open to the public. Enjoy live music all three days of the event along with a concert Saturday night featuring Alan Turner and the Steel Horse Band, watch sand sculpting demonstrations with hands on lessons, a quick sand competition and a



Kid's Zone round out the festivities. And while you're visiting SandFest, don't forget to take a guided tour and climb the oldest lighthouse in Michigan (closed toe shoes required), or shop in the gift shop, located just inside the main gate to the park.

SandFest is produced by the Sand Lovers of Fort Myers FL, a professional sand sculpting and event management company and is hosted by the Friends of the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, Port Huron Museum and Saint Clair County PARC. The average sculpture can be 15 feet by 15 feet wide and 12 feet high. Approximately 400 tons of "strong" sculpting sand is being donated by Mid Michigan Materials, Inc. of Jeddo Michigan for

use in the competitions and Kid's Zone.

Free parking is available at the St. Clair County Community College parking lot near the MTEC Center and the Blue Water Trolley will provide free transportation to and from the park.

This year there will be two free Welcome Days on Wednesday, July 1st and Thursday, July 2nd that are open to the public. Come and watch as the Master Sand Sculptors "Pound Up" and then do a "Group Carve" of the large Welcome Sculpture, complete with supporter logos. Admission cost is \$5.00 on Friday, July 3rd through Sunday, July 5th while the sand sculpting competition is occurring, children 4 and under are free. Event and park hours are 10:00am to 6:00pm Friday and Saturday, and 10:00am to 4:00pm Sunday. Concert and park hours Saturday night are 7:00pm to 10:30pm.

All proceeds raised from Blue Water SandFest will be used for the renovation and restoration of the historic buildings on the grounds of the Fort Gratiot Light Station County Park, 2802 Omar St., Port Huron.

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Ben Coburn WBTI Program Director



It's hard to believe, but I've been working for 96.9 WBTI at RadioFirst since November 2005. It's crazy to think that it's nearly been 10 years since I've moved my life here. Doing what I do for a living, and not having children (yet) I could choose to live and work anywhere. I choose to live

here because I love what I do, where I work, where I live, and most everything about this community.

Working for this group of radio stations is fun and rewarding for a variety of reasons. Here, you actually get to know your listeners, and they get to know you. There's a true sense of community in the Blue Water area.

Being involved with the RadioFirst group of radio stations, you get to have fun, while giving back. I'm fortunate enough to be able to volunteer for events that happen throughout the year; The March for Babies, various events with The Blue Water Young Professionals, Gus Macker, and other things that come up around the year. Taking a day off, or coming in late, or leaving early to help with a community event is never an issue here. In fact, it's encouraged. Yes, it's fun to be on the radio! However, I personally find the behind the scenes work just as rewarding. We've recently created a new radio station for Port Huron which I'm proud to have had a little hand in building. Check it out at 105.5, or listen to me in the afternoons on 96.9 WBTI.

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McMorran Civic Center

A visit to Port Huron isn't complete without a visit to McMorran Place, the Blue Water Area's largest sports and entertainment venue. And, a trip to McMorran Place isn't complete without a trip to the top of the McMorran Tower.

Standing 150' tall, the McMorran Tower is literally the most visible landmark in the Port Huron area and can be seen for miles around. Those who "Top the Tower" will climb 180 steps and will be rewarded with spectacular views of the Blue Water Area and beyond. There is a \$2 charge for climbing the tower and visitors need to check in at the box office.

The tower is only one reason why visitors to Port Huron are drawn to McMorran. The civic center, first opened in the early 1960s, is home to two ice rinks, meeting/banquet rooms, and a full theatre facility.

Wedding receptions, sporting events, concerts, theatrical productions, conventions and trade shows all take place at McMorran.



The civic center is a year-round hub of activity in the community, partnering with other organizations to bring entertainment and people to downtown.

McMorran Place is the home base for the Port Huron Minor Hockey Association and will have a team playing in the Federal Hockey League beginning this fall. The FHL is a Class A Pro League and will play a 56-game schedule.

The McMorran Theatre is the center for performing arts in the Blue Water Area. The Port Huron Civic Theatre, the Port Huron Town Hall Lecture Series, the International Symphony Orchestra and the St. Clair County Community College Symphonic Band all call the McMorran Theatre home.

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Chad Noetzel is the captain at the helm of TowBoat US of Port Huron, the on-the-water towing service that gives boaters and

anglers a reliable way to call for assistance when their boats break down on the water.

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Blue Water Antique & Classic Boat Show



This year's show in Port Huron will be the weekend after Labor Day weekend, September 11 and 12. The show kicks off for boaters Friday, September 11th, afternoon with a cruise down the St. Clair River to St Clair's Voyageur Restaurant for dinner.

The public boat show is Saturday, September

12th, at the River St. Marina on the Black River between 7th and 10th Streets. Free antique boat rides will be offered from 11am until 2 pm. This was a huge success in 2014 as more than 200 men; women and children took advantage of the free rides.

The theme of the show this year will be race boats and the famous Miss America X will be in attendance on land display.

The famous boat designer and racer, Gar Wood, won the 1931 Harmsworth trophy in Miss America IX. Britain knew that it needed a better boat and designed Miss England III. Gar Wood knew he had to come up with a faster boat for the 1932 Harmsworth race. He began in January of 1932 to build a new boat which was to become Miss America X. It was a 38' Mahogany hull with 4 Packard V-12 engines, with 2 in line on the right side and the other 2 in line on the left side. Each pair of engines were directly connected by a gearbox designed by Gar Wood to create in fact a 24 cylinder engine driving a propeller. The engines were supercharged to the limit and consumed a fuel mixture of benzol, alcohol and gasoline and burned 10 gallons per mile. The 4 engines had a combined horsepower of 7600 hp. The completed boat weighed 8 tons.

Gar Wood met the British challenge in Miss America X and won the Harmsworth in 1932 and again in 1933.


He retired from racing at this point. Between 1920 and 1933, Gar Wood's boats won every Harmsworth trophy and Gar Wood himself piloted the boats in every race but one.


On September 20, 1932 Gar Wood set a new speed record with Miss America X at 124.86 mph. This was the average speed of 2 runs, one upstream and one downstream. The run was conducted on the St.Clair River just north of Algonac.

Miss America X was painstakingly restored by the Maye Boat and Aero plane works of Fair Haven, Michigan. It is owned by Detroit boating enthusiast and historian Mr. Henry Mistele.

Registration forms for boaters to participate in the Port Huron show will be available in late April on the website: www.michacbs.com/events/shows/port-huron-boat-show. Please contact Leroy Stevens at 810-987-3755 or Larry Krabach at 810-434-2540 with any questions.







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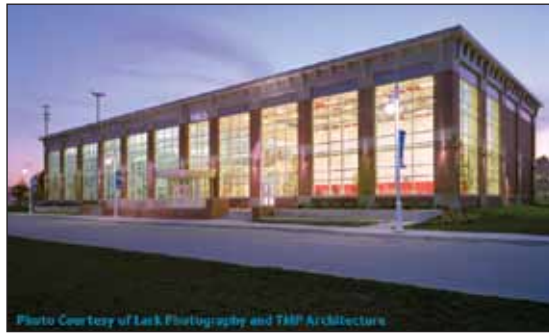
522 Quay Street, Port Huron





YMCA of the Blue Water Area

You can be part of something MORE at the YMCA of the Blue Water Area. The Y is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the community. With a focus on developing the potential of kids, improving individual health and well-being, and giving back and supporting our neighbors, your participation will bring about meaningful change not just within yourself, but in your community, too.



together to volunteer and help our community become stronger.

- We all build relationships that further our sense of belonging and purpose.

As one of the first YMCAs in Michigan, the Y seeks to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, income

or background, has an opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. When you join the Y, you join a community organization that offers more health, more hope, and more opportunity:

- Parents find a safe, nurturing environment for their children to stay active, be engaged and learn positive values.
- Families come together to have fun and spend quality time with each other.
- Children and teens play, develop self-confidence and know they are accepted.
- Adults connect with friends, pursue interests and learn how to live healthier.
- People from all backgrounds and walks of life come

or background, has an opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. The Y is the largest single provider of health, wellness, fitness, and child care in the Blue Water Area, serving more than 20,000 people a year. Most programs are open to the public, membership is not required to participate. In addition, the Y is part of the national Y-AWAY program, welcoming members from Ys around the country.

Overlooking the St. Clair River in the Desmond Landing area of Port Huron, the Y offers a wide variety of programs and services for the entire family. With competitive and recreation pools, multi-sport gym, Duffy Wellness Center, aerobics studio, and Child Watch and Kid Zone services, there is something for everyone at the Y.

To learn more about the YMCA of the Blue Water Area, visit www.bluewaterymca.com. The Y. So Much More.

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Visit the Maritime Center at Vantage Point

The Great Lakes Maritime Center (Maritime Center) offers a variety of opportunities to learn about the history and current events of the Great Lakes. Video formats, displays, and speaker programs present a wide range of information.

Inside the Maritime Center, you'll also meet "Freighter Frank"

Frisk and his world headquarters for BoatNerd.com. It is the most widely-used website for Great Lakes maritime information.

Looking for a snack, lunch, or a cup of coffee and donut? Try the Maritime Center's Waterfront Deli!

A live underwater camera (also inside) lets you view



Photo by "Freighter Frank" Frisk

activity under the St. Clair River. Plus, a displayed schedule of ship travels - in actual time - is available. The Maritime Center is at the junction of the Black and St. Clair Rivers. You can watch giant freighters pass right in front of you - less than a quarter mile away. You can sit on a sun-soaked

deck outside or - in the winter - watch from inside the Maritime Center.

The Great Lakes Maritime Center is open daily, except holidays. Summer hours (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.): Memorial Day thru Labor Day. Winter hours (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.): Labor Day thru Memorial Day. (810) 985-4817.

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Swimming and Beaches



The parks of Port Huron have something for everyone: swimming, sunbathing, boating, beaches, pools, picnicking, playgrounds and lots of water.

Lakeside Park

On the clear waters of Lake Huron, Lakeside Park boasts 1050 feet of water frontage with clean sandy beaches. No lifeguards are on duty during the summer season. Lots of playground facilities, picnic areas, beach volleyball and restrooms are available. On the weekends you will find lots of boats anchoring offshore to enjoy the swimming and socializing. It is located just north of Holland Avenue and Gratiot Avenue intersection. A parking fee is in effect from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Lighthouse Park

This is one of the most historic parks in the area with 900 feet of waterfront and beach on Lake Huron. Lighthouse Park is not recommended for swimming, due to the deep water and strong current. No lifeguards are on duty during the season. Picnic areas are available and the sunbathing is great. It is located at 3002 Conger Street, close to the newly renovated and opened Ft. Gratiot Lighthouse.

Court Street City Swimming Pool

Court Street offers a wonderful swimming pool and toddler pool with dressing room facilities. Tennis courts adjoin the area and the whole area connects with Memorial Stadium and the Port Huron High School field and track facility. A summer favorite located at 2025 Court Street in Port Huron's south end.

Sanborn Park City Pool

Sanborn Park has great variety in its almost 42 acres, with 12 outdoor lighted tennis courts, an outdoor pool facility that boasts a toddler pool, dressing room facilities, diving area, swim classes, swim team, swim exercise and more. This heavily wooded area also has playground equipment, a baseball diamond, outdoor basketball courts and picnic tables. It is located at the intersection of Sanborn and Pine Grove Avenue on Port Huron's north end.

Ride the Wave!

While young Thomas Edison was selling fruit and newspapers on the train traveling between Port Huron and Detroit, his older brother, William, was operating the community's first public transit system - a horse-drawn bus.

Blue Water Area Transit, a publicly-owned service that daily carries passengers throughout its 69.4 mile service area, now meets the community's transportation needs in the following ways:

- ◇ Seven regular bus routes in Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Townships enable riders to catch a bus anywhere in the system every 45 minutes.
- ◇ Residents - including those needing ADA accommodations, in Port Huron and Burtchville, Port Huron and Fort Gratiot townships may board a bus at their homes with prior-day reservation.
- ◇ A shuttle runs to all major shopping centers every 45 minutes.
- ◇ All buses are equipped with bicycle racks.
- ◇ Monday - Thursday service to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday to 3 a.m.
- ◇ Two routes connecting to the SMART Bus Service in Macomb County, following I-94 and M-29.

Fares range from 35-75 cents per ride, including transfers. Monthly passes are available.



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Blue Water Museums

Vacationland's link is strong with the sea, agriculture and the military. You can see from the museum listing below that — whatever your interest in history — you will find a place for learning more about it without going too far.

Algonac - Clay Township Historical Society Log Cabin- 4710 Pointe Tremble Rd., Algonac (810) 794-9015. Open the fourth Sunday in June to the public with craft and quilt shows and ice cream social. 1-4 p.m., open other times by request. www.algonac-clay-history.org.

Algonac - Clay Township Historical Society Museum 1240 St. Clair River Dr., Algonac (810) 794-9015. Open year-round, Saturday-Sunday, 1 -4 p.m.; June-Aug., Wednesday, 7- 9 p.m., and by appointment.

Capac Community Historical Museum - Open Saturday & Sunday (June - September) 1 - 4 p.m., (810) 395-4469.

Gallery Lambton - Open Monday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Located at 150 N. Christina Street, Sarnia Ontario (519) 336-8127.

Huron Lightship Moored at Pine Grove Park. (810) 982-0891. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Memorial Day- Labor Day, Sept.-May, Thursday-Monday.

Knowlton's Ice Museum - 317 Grand River Ave., Port Huron (810) 987-5441. Pre-arranged tours. June-Sept., Thurs.-Sat., 11a.m.-5p.m. Oct.-May, Sat. 11a.m.-5pm. Tours offered by appt.

Lambton Heritage Museum - Open year round. Located on Highway 21, near the Pinery Provincial Park just outside of Grand Bend, Ontario, (519) 243-2600.

Marysville Historical Museum - displays several rooms with a single theme such as Pioneer's Parlor, Marine Room, Indian History, Fashion Display. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Special tours may be arranged. Located at 887 E. Huron St., Marysville (810) 364-6613.

New Baltimore Historical Society - Open Wednesday and Saturday from 12 noon to 2 p.m., or by appointment (810) 725-4755. Located in the New Baltimore Public Library.

Pride and Heritage Museum - Open Saturday and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibits include artifacts from Marine City's Nautical history and a fully equipped blacksmith shop. Located at 405 S. Main Street in Marine City (810)765-5446. A group of 15 or more can call to make an appointment (810) 765-0206.

Port Huron Museum of Arts & History - 1115 Sixth Street, Port Huron (810) 982-0891. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m., year-round, Wednesday - Sunday (Closed most holidays), Group tours must be prearranged.

Sanilac County Museum - Open mid June through Labor Day, Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. More info. available from the Sanilac County Historical Society (810) 622-9946, 2285 Ridge Street, Pt. Sanilac.

St. Clair Historical Museum - Open 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tours available at other times. 308 S. Fourth Street, St. Clair (810) 329-6888.

St. Clair County Farm Museum - Open Sundays (June - Sept.) 1 - 5p.m., (810) 325-1737.

Thomas Edison Depot- Includes hands on displays that pertain to Edison's life in Port Huron. Open daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., June 19 - Sept. 3. Can also be seen by appointment (810) 982-0891.

Wills Ste. Clair Auto Museum - 2408 Wills St., Marysville - Open 2nd Sunday of month, 1-5 p.m. or by appt. (810) 987-2854.

Mariner's Coalition

In late spring of 2008, a group of boating enthusiasts in the Blue Water Area, concerned over a perceived lack of consistency in the enforcement of regulations covering border crossing, organized a meeting with local law-enforcement agencies; in an effort to try to clarify the laws and regulations and present them in plain English for ease of understanding and to dispel misconceptions of boaters. A secondary focus was an attempt to minimize boardings, which had become irritating to local boaters and increasingly discouraged visiting, cruising families from enjoying area waters.

Working together with county, state and federal agencies it was apparent rules were often considered vague, ambiguous or inconsistent. In order to better understand the extent of the public's concern, it appeared prudent to involve the whole maritime community in a dialog. Individual boaters, marina operators, boating schools, yacht clubs and others throughout the area on both sides of the border were invited to join with law-enforcement agencies in a symposium held at the Great Lakes Maritime Center at Vantage Point. The goal was to promote clarity and consistency on the issues and to dispel rampant misinformation. Key subjects were reporting and document requirements for entry into the US and

Canada, the status of a boat anchored in foreign waters, the value of I-68's, NEXUS cards and boater reporting ("BR") numbers, and the roles and authority of the various enforcement agencies.

At the symposium a record was kept of the concerns and frustrations expressed, particularly those which needed to be clarified later by county, state and federal agencies.

Capitalizing on the remarkable cooperation of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the St. Clair County Sheriff's Marine Division, the original organizers formalized the Mariners Coalition, sponsored through a grant from Acheson Ventures. A dialogue began.

Over the ensuing two years, the once vague and ambiguous regulations were clarified, reporting procedures were simplified and avenues of communication were established to disseminate information to the boating community in both countries. The information, compiled by the Coalition, is available on DVD and can be viewed or downloaded at marinerscoalition.com along with links to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Canada Border Services Agency websites.

The public is encouraged to e-mail questions or concerns to info@marinerscoalition.com.



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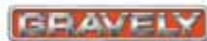


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Richmond offers a wide variety of recreational activities for the outdoor enthusiast through its many municipal parks as well as a comprehensive sidewalk system throughout the city. The Macomb Orchard Trail, a 23.5 mile linear park, begins in Richmond and connects to a network of trails. Join us for fun and fitness!

The retail business districts offer turn of the century charm and unique modern Main Street architecture. The pedestrian friendly downtown is the perfect location for shopping and services. Special events are held year round to promote our businesses.

Additionally, the city is working with private property owners on the development of prime industrial property. Richmond is ready for your business!

For more information on the City of Richmond, please visit our website at www.cityofrichmond.net or contact us at (586) 727-7571.

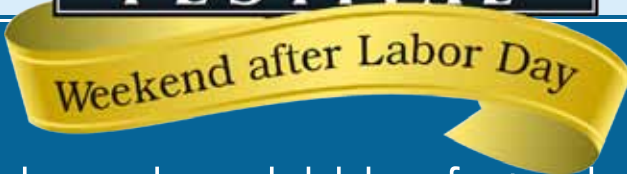


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richmondgoodolddaysfestival.org



Richmond

This year is the 52nd annual Richmond Good Old Days Festival. In 1964, Leroy Rix and others came together with an idea to draw attention to the wonderful city and raise money to improve the downtown area. The first committee was made up of General Chairman Leroy Rix, Mrs. Robert Ross, Village manager Leonard E. Hool, Harold Volkenant, Rev. Larry E. Blunden and Superintendent of Schools Urey B. Arnold.

As the years passed the festival continued to grow and more events were added. The "Kangaroo Kourt" is an event where local business owners are apprehended and taken to a mock up jail. The tug-o-war competes groups of business owners against each other. The first year's events are still held today, including a queen's and little miss pageant; and grand parade.

All through the years, the Rix family has helped in every way. Leroy served in multiple positions on the board and chaired a few events until he passed. Tim and Lori Rix are on the Festival Board and have served for many years, Tim since 1976 and being the chairman for many.

However the family tradition isn't theirs alone, there are and continue to be multiple families in the community that are and have been involved for decades whether they served as festival board members or chairman of events. Together, with countless other volunteers, they

work year round to bring it all together.

The Richmond Good Old Days Festival is about family traditions and community. The grand parade, which is the largest musical marching parade in Michigan, draws in thousands on Sunday. Richmond is known statewide because they have one of the greatest festivals around and strive to continue to make it better every year.

Mark your calendar, this year's Good Old Days Festival is September 10-13.

Richmond Events

May 23rd, 2015

Perennial Plant & Bulb Exchange - 9 a.m. at the Beebe Street Park Pavilion, Free

June 5th, 2015

Richmond Community Pool Opens - \$3 Open Swim Fee per person, Located inside of the Beebe Street Park

July 25th, 2015

Community Garage Sale at the Beebe St. Park, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., each 10' x 10' space is \$10; call 586-727-3064 to register.

August 7th, 2015

Park It Family Fun Night Free entertainment beginning at 6 p.m. at the Beebe Street Park, Featuring a big screen presentation of *Big Hero 6* at dusk

September 10-13th, 2015

Richmond Area Good Old Days Festival, Includes

children's parade, outhouse races, demolition derby, entertainment, midway, beer tent, grand parade, figure 8 derby, and more.

September 20th, 2015

6th Annual Romeo 2 Richmond Half Marathon & 5K walk/run, Entire race is held on the Macomb Orchard Trail, starting in Romeo and ending at the Trailhead Park in Richmond

October 31st, 2015

Treats in the Street, Local businesses have decorated booths and pass out treats to costumed trick-or-treaters.

December 4th, 2015

Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony

February 2016

Richmond Winter Festival Chili Cook Off, Ice Carvings, Family Activities, Vendor & Craft Show

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Blue Water Area Higher Education

St. Clair County Community College (SC4) is a premiere community college, serving students with a variety of on-campus and online classes. The college offers associate degrees, certificate programs, programs that transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and workforce training.

The SC4 University Center provides bachelor's degree options locally through partnerships with Ferris State University, Madonna University, University of Michigan-Flint and Walsh College.

The college was established as Port Huron Junior College in 1923 and became St. Clair County Community College in 1967.

SC4's beautiful 25-acre, full-service campus is located along the Black River in downtown Port Huron. The college also offers classes at extended learning centers in Algonac, Crosswell, Peck and Yale.

The college provides learning opportunities for about 6,000 credit and non-credit students each year. Business and industry professional development and customized training is on campus, online and at company sites.

SC4 also sets the stage for cultural experiences that include art, music, theatre, global awareness programs and other lifelong learning adventures.

Baker College, the largest private college in Michigan,

uses a focused approach to education and training and now has two locations in Port Huron with the opening of the Culinary Institute of Michigan.

Dorm rooms are under construction at the culinary school site and are expected to open this Fall. The main campus is located on 12 acres in Port Huron Township, and the new culinary institute is located on St. Clair Street near the renovated Hilton Double Tree Hotel along the Edison Parkway in Port Huron.

Baker is a not-for-profit career college, providing job-specific education and training so students can enter a career right out of college or advance their current careers.

Founded in 1911, Baker College serves more than 40,000 students on 12 campuses and in three satellite locations. Baker grants certificates and associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in business, health sciences, education and human services, and various fields as well as a doctorate of business administration.

Programs are structured for students of all ages and circumstances. Baker offers some of the most advanced classroom and lab environments found on any college campus in the state, as well as dedicated instructors with real-world experience. Students receive personalized attention in smaller classroom settings.

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Antique Paradise

The Blue Water Area is a paradise for antique hunters with many of the finest antiques available. An association of over 30 qualified antique dealers have joined forces to assure you an area of exciting, affordable antique shopping.

The dealers association will again sponsor the longest yard sale in Michigan **August 14th-16th**. Over 200 miles of antiques and yard sales will run from Sebewaing in the north to New Baltimore in the south. The giant sale will run along M-25 and M-29 and follows the rugged and majestic shoreline of Lake Huron, and continues along the banks on the St. Clair River to the picturesque shores of Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay. Many of the communities along the route offer unique shops, antiques, museums full of local history and small diners for convenience and comfort.

Antique Shopping Tips:

Go early in the morning, as soon as the yard sales start. The good stuff goes fast.

Take plenty of cash in small bills, and take more than you think you'll need. Most sellers won't take checks. If you find an unexpected treasure, someone else will likely snag it while you're hunting for a cash machine.

Plan your yard sale route in advance to make sure you hit the best of the advertised sales. It's a treasure hunt. Think of your route as the map where X marks the spot-- or spots in this case.

Watch for yard sale signs, and take the detour if you find one pointing to an unadvertised sale nearby. Unadvertised sales don't get as much traffic, and you



might score big. You can pick up your original trail afterward.

Drive your largest vehicle or pull a trailer, especially if you're hoping to find furniture.

Don't be afraid to haggle when you'd like a lower price. If the seller won't budge, swing back by later in the afternoon-- when the sale is about to end and the seller is tired.

Don't overlook pieces that just need a little cosmetic work, but beware of costly repairs that exceed the item's worth.

Don't head out without packing a yard sale tool kit -- a collection of basic supplies to help you make smart, fast buying decisions and get your goods home safely.

Imagine how you could use items instead of getting stuck on their original purpose. For example, a piece of iron fencing makes a good headboard or pot rack. You can reupholster chair seats with the good parts of a damaged rug, or use an old chenille bedspread as a tablecloth.

Don't buy something if you can't figure out how to use it. It becomes clutter instead of treasure.

Bed and Breakfast Listing:

Inn the Garden Bed & Breakfast

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Port Huron/Sarnia Power Boat Races

Following four very successful years, the big powerful offshore boats will be firing up their engines again this summer. Activities begin in downtown Port Huron Friday evening, August 7th through August 9th.



The race village opens on Friday morning with the dry and wet pits along the Black River in the area around Desmond Marine. Testing of the boats takes place on Friday and Saturday and the big race event happens on Sunday. A new Start/Finish

line is located just south of the Maritime Center.

Top boats can exceed 120 miles per hour on the course, and great viewing is available along the banks of the St. Clair River just south of the Black River. Spectators get up close views of the boats on the course, as

well as in the dry and wet pits.

Viewing stands, VIP tents and a motor home viewing area will be set up along the Desmond Landing property.

Paul Miller, *Mornings with Paul Miller, WPHM*



WPHM has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. It was the radio station we listened to when I was a kid getting ready for school every morning. It was the radio station where I first worked when I was a student at St. Clair County Community College. WPHM is where I was a news reporter after college, before moving on to Flint and Detroit. And it's the radio station where I've been the morning show host, waking people up for the past dozen years. Right now there are a lot of interesting

things happening in our Blue Water Area - listen weekday mornings from 6 to 10 and we'll talk about it. Each day you'll hear from local community leaders who are dedicated to making this a great place to live, work and play. Speaking of play - we now have more sports on WPHM. Dennis Stuckey talks about local sports each weekday from 10 to noon, and WPHM now carries the NBC Sports Network, along with the Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons, Lions and Michigan State football and basketball. Find out more about our lineup, and listen to interviews from my show and Dennis's at www.wphm.net.

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Great Lakes Maritime Center Vantage Point



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Great Places to Take Photos

Many people are attracted to this part of the state to take advantage of the incredible water and its views. Included below are some opportunities along the beautiful water and some other less thought about, but equally fabulous places to take breathtaking photos.

Blue Water Bridges: From the parkway south of the bridges, point your camera north and east toward the bridges. Use a wide-angle lens to get the entire span in your photo. Wait for a ship to enhance the picture.

Thomas Edison Statue: Also south of the bridges, is the Thomas Edison statue. By standing south and looking northwest, you can capture the statue and the depot (Thomas Edison Museum) in the background.

Ft. Gratiot Lighthouse: On Lake Huron, just a short way from the bridges, is the oldest lighthouse on the Great Lakes. Use a wide-angle lens to accentuate the height of the tower. A polarizing filter would also help make the sky a deeper blue.

Huron Lightship: Slightly downriver from the Blue Water



by Terry Ernest, Ernest Camera Shop

Bridges in Pine Grove Park, the Lightship Huron is permanently moored. From a position south and looking toward the north, you can capture the lightship with the Blue Water Bridges in the background.

Vertical Train Bridge: Near the mouth of the Black River in Port Huron, stands the open, turn of the last century train bridge. Try shooting from the south side of Black River and work a reflection of it in the water.

St. Clair Boardwalk: St. Clair has a wonderful boardwalk that is ideal for photographing your family and friends with the water in the background. You can also take some amazing “up close” photos of large ships and pleasure craft.

Ships along the St. Clair River: From multiple locations along the river, all the way to Algonac, are many places to pull over and take some amazing photos of the many “Lakers” and “Sallies” that ply the great river. Photos taken toward dusk will give your photos spectacular color.

Lighthouse in Marine City: The former Peche Island lighthouse was moved to Marine City many years ago and is a good spot for taking pictures with the river and freighters in the background.

St. Johns Marsh: In Algonac, the marsh comes alive with many birds and interesting plants and cattails. Use a large telephoto for bird photos and a micro lens to capture close ups of plants.

Beards Hills: West of Port Huron, along M-136 past Wildcat Road, begins the State Game Area. Here’s a great chance to hike into an area full of nature and plants. Bring a variety of lenses to photograph everything from animals to flowers. This area also has incredible color in the Fall.

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New Transit Center Under Construction

The summer of 2015 will see lots of work going on in the center of downtown Port Huron as construction begins on a new bus transit center.

City officials approved the plan last year with the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission who secured grants that allow for not

only the center to be built, but a new parking area as well. The north side of McMorran Place parking lot has needed work for years and the project this summer will essentially remove all of the pavement for a new base.

Extensive electric work is also planned as Detroit Edison has several transformers in what many considered a mini sub-station area.

Highlights of the \$9.8 million dollar project include a new 7,400 square foot facility with the latest use of LED lighting and snow melt technologies. The parking area will be redesigned into three separate lots while the adjacent Superior Street will end up with two-way traffic



and street-side parking. Transit officials say the center's design will reflect Port Huron's history as a maritime community. In the passenger area free Wi-Fi will be available as well as charging stations and over a half dozen public restroom stalls. An attendant is to be on duty at all times.

A plaza area will be set aside as well for public gatherings. The transit center's main purpose involves the handling of the Commission's buses for seven routes that cover the City of Port Huron, Marysville and Fort Gratiot Township, as well as a dial-a-ride service in Fort Gratiot, Burtchville and Port Huron Townships.

The system has seen record ridership now topping over 125,000 passengers a month. Rides are less than a dollar each with discounts for seniors, youth, and riders with disabilities. The monthly pass for the service is \$25 while the popular Trolley Tour is still just ten cents a ride.



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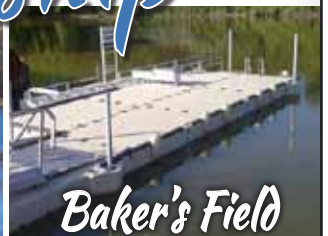
RV Park



Memorial Park



40th St. Pond



Baker's Field

RV Park

On Water St. - Campsites Available Weekly, Daily & Seasonal
(bathhouse, laundry facilities, community hall, dump station, horseshoe pits, basketball courts)

40th St. Pond

William P. Thompson Pond - Free Fishing Clinic:
June 13th 10am-2pm

Memorial Park

On Beach Rd. - Free Movie Night on Aug. 7th at dusk
Fall Festival on Sept 26th
(pumpkins, petting zoo, face painting)

Baker's Field

On Strawberry Lane - new park with access to the Black River, including a new ADA Kayak launch



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Meet the Q-Country 107 Morning Show

Chuck Santoni, Jonel Jaksa and Dennis Stuckey are your Q Country 107 Morning Show. The Michigan Association of Broadcast award winners for Best Morning Show 2014 are excited about all the positive things on the horizon for the Blue Water Area! From Port Huron's designation as an official Main Street Michigan City, to the revitalization of the River Walk and Downtown District, to the many



settings for entertainment that are sure to bring in visitors from far and wide. The Blue Water Area is a gem ready to be discovered and rediscovered! While you're visiting, be sure to tune your radio to 107.1 FM. Q Country 107 plays all the country music you love, from today's hottest hits straight out of Nashville to the country classics you love to sing-a-long to! Enjoy your visit to the Blue Water Area. We know you will!

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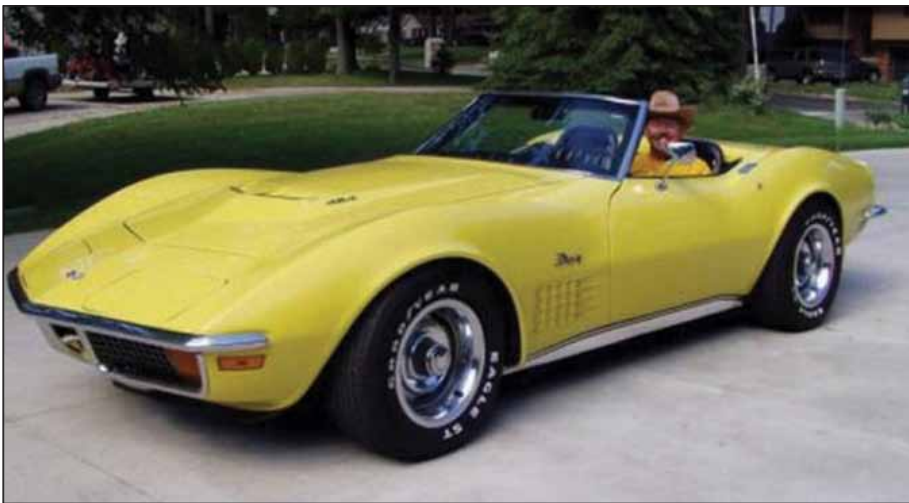


Blue Water Cruise Weekend

Friday night, June 26th, will provide one of the most festive atmospheres in the Blue Water Area. Up to 50,000 spectators are expected to turn out to view the car cruise along M-25 at the north end of Port Huron and into Fort Gratiot Township.

Businesses along the strip welcome cars and spectators, with many of them setting up tents in their parking lots and inviting cruisers and viewers to park and watch the cruise go by. Several locations will set up DJs outside and some will even provide live bands for entertainment. A drive-in movie will be shown in the evening.

You'll be able to view all types of vehicles from all your favorite eras. Several hundred cars are expected to



participate in the cruise.

On Saturday, June 27th the Keith Peterson Memorial Car Show will be held in the Birchwood Mall parking lot in front of Carson's. The show hours are from 10 a.m. until

3:30 p.m. and the organizers of this year's event have added a fireworks display for Saturday evening. The car show expects to have over 150 vehicles on display. Entertainment will go on throughout the car show on stage in the parking lot.

Cruise Night: Friday, June 26th

**Keith Peterson Memorial Car Show:
Saturday, June 27th**

Offshore Power Boat Race

Port Huron, Michigan / Sarnia, Ontario



Friday, August 7th - Kick Off Party
Saturday, August 8th - Time Trials
Sunday, August 9th - Race Day
Desmond Landing



www.downtownporthuron.org

The Area's Best Kept Secret- the Fishery!

Great fishing includes the shore towns of Algonac, Marine City, St. Clair, Port Huron, Lakeport, Lexington and Port Sanilac. Within thirty minutes North or South of Port Huron, you could catch King salmon, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, Steelhead, Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Walleye, Silver Bass, Small Mouth Bass, Sturgeon, Whitefish, Muskie, Northern Pike, Suckers, and Carp.



YOU! The best fishing is on the shoreline in the river, and the edge of the shipping lane in Lake Huron just above the Blue Water Bridge, so stay OUT of the shipping channel!

Make sure your boat stickers are correct, and that the boat operator is NOT drinking. Unless you reported into Canadian customs by phone and you have a Canadian

fishing license, STAY ON THE AMERICAN SIDE!

You don't need a boat to fish, but if you have one, there are boat launches at every one of the mentioned shore towns except Lakeport. How to catch fish out of your boat requires a stop at one of the local bait and tackle stores to get the "good stuff" and info on local tried and true techniques for catching fish.

Some of the locals have been long lining successfully behind their kayaks outside of the harbors and break walls for silver fish. This technique caught the locals by surprise a few years ago and many are gearing up to do this. With a kayak, you can get crazy close to the break walls, jetties, and other structure while giving your line more personal attention as to how it's deployed in tow. For some, it's a preferred method of fishing. Kayaks available in the area have specialized rod holders.

While you are here in the Blue Water area, be aware of the hazards. We have very heavy current and massive freighters that you need to pay attention to. The St. Clair River is one of the busiest shipping waterways in the world AND THEY WILL NOT SWERVE TO GO AROUND

In the Port Huron area, many fishermen use a railing attached winch-like device that remotely resembles a

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The Area's Best Kept Secret (Continued)

fishing pole. That is a patented local fishing technique for fishing in the heavy current. They use a 2 lb. triangle sinker with swivel, a two foot 2 lb. test line leader up to a 3 way swivel, with a three to four foot length of 10 lb. test line leader fastened to a Rapala-type lure, all fastened to a 30 lb. test line on the rod's reel. The poles are close to being a salt water pole, but even these local poles are somewhat customized for this type of fishing. The pole is put into a railing clamped rod holder, and at the end of the rod, something just smaller than a church bell, is clipped to pole to notify the fisherman that they have a bite. Penn 201 reels are the minimum standard on those poles.

In many of the Blue Water communities, there are miles of public seawall available to the shore fishermen. If you have a physical impairment, YOU are ENCOURAGED to come here! It's all accessible!

Without knowing what's down there, you can lose a LOT



of very expensive fishing equipment! Here's my advice for blind fishing those miles of seawall without knowing what's down there to snag on. You will need a railing attached rod holder, available locally, and a noodle rod. A noodle rod is around 9 to 12' long with a medium weight bail cast reel. You will have no more than six to eight pound test line with a very simple Eagle

Claw type fish hook with a minnow attached. You will have a slip sinker or tear drop sinker about four feet above the hook. You lower the assembly into the current, find bottom, then bring it up four feet off the bottom. With this method, you can catch bass, walleye, brown trout, steel head, and everything else in the river! This technique is not widely used, but for the unaware visitor, it's one of the safest techniques to catch fish along that seawall.

Story by Brian Martin

Photos by Joel Anderson, Anderson Pro Bait

An advertisement for Marysville Tire & Auto. The background is a blue sky with a Goodyear blimp flying over a Goodyear service station. The blimp has "GOODYEAR" written on it. The service station has a sign that says "GOODYEAR TIRE & SERVICE NETWORK" and "Marysville TIRE & AUTO".

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The Float Down

It's the Blue Water Area's favorite unorganized, unsanctioned, and unsponsored event ... it's called the Port Huron Float Down, and it somehow seems to take place every third Sunday in August, despite a cancellation each and every year by the United States Coast Guard.

The event sees 3,000 or more people gathering at Lighthouse Beach in the early afternoon and floating down the St. Clair River to Marysville. There's even a website, but those who run it at porthuronfloatdown.com say they are in no way organizing, sponsoring, planning, or promoting the community event.

The website says the Float Down is a tradition steeped in history, even though it's impossible to know who the first people were to float down.

The event, as it's known today, dates back over 30 years. In 1986, a storm put an end to the fun, and it was officially ended by the United States Coast Guard in 1987. Although people continued to float every year, the Float Down did not officially resurface until 2008.

The website says if you decide to float down the St. Clair



Photo by Rich Kelly

River in August, there are several things you must consider before jumping in. Tips from experts include having a reliable inflatable and being able to paddle to stay out of the shipping channel. It's also wise to choose a float that can keep you dry and out of the water to prevent heat loss or hypothermia. Also, you should have a Personal Floatation Device or a Life Jacket. Children should wear them at all times, and adults should at least keep them at an arm's-length reach at all times. Most importantly, if you cannot swim then do not enter the water. There are no lifeguards or safety personnel.

The traditional course of the Float Down is launching at Lighthouse (Conger) Beach, and then floating 8-miles downstream to Chrysler Beach in Marysville. The current moves quickest under the Blue Water Bridges, and then pulls you out towards the center of the river, near the mouth of the Black River. If you want to watch, the Edison Parkway, the Flag Plaza, the Blue Water Bridges, Pine Grove Park, Kiefer Park, or Lincoln Park are all the best places to watch the floaters.

This year's event is **Sunday, August 16th.**



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St. Clair Riverfest and Power Boat Races



The St. Clair River Classic Offshore Power Boat Race will be held **July 23rd-26th** in downtown St. Clair. Rated as one of the top offshore racing sites in the United States, great viewing is available from Palmer Park in downtown St. Clair.

Thousands of spectators can watch the races, but can also get up close and personal in the dry pit areas around town. Everything in the small town is within walking distance.

Several classes of boats take part in the races with as many as 11 potential classes. The larger class boats are capable of speeds in excess of 175 miles per hour.

Teams from all over the country come to the community and love racing on the fresh blue waters of the St. Clair River and comment on the friendly people of the area who make this an enjoyable stop on the race circuit.

The St. Clair River Classic Offshore Boat Race has been a tradition in Southeast Michigan for 21 years. It is produced by the Bluewater Offshore Racing Association and has been partnered with Funfest Productions since 2006. Free music and weeklong events are part of the race which attracts upwards of 100,000 attendees.

- July 24- Starship wsg Sponge
- July 25 - Candlebox



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Recreational Softball

Recreational softball is one of the most popular sports in the Blue Water Area. Almost any night during the summer you can watch a competitive softball game in several locations throughout Vacationland.

One of the most popular spots to take in a game is at Pine Grove Park. The diamond features new viewing stands and a popular concession trailer. There are many other diamonds located in most cities and townships in the area.

District 14 MASA Memorial Day Tune Up starts the summer season of Modified Softball games for the 2015 season. Teams from Port Huron Competitive Sports Modified, Blue Water Church League, Marine City Modified, along with teams from Bay City and Saginaw start the modified season at the 16th Street Knox Field diamonds.

On June 26th the Fast Pitch Tournament will return to Pine Grove Park. Teams from Michigan, Ohio and Ontario will play round robin tournament games throughout the weekend. Port Huron and Sarnia were hotbeds of Fast Pitch softball in the 50s, 60s and 70s. This tournament draws thousands of spectators during



the weekend for exciting games.

July will feature two modified softball tournaments. The Blue Water Invitational is a Pine Grove Park summer classic for the past 10 years and will run on the July 4th weekend. The MASA State 9 men modified state finals will also be held in July. Teams from around Michigan will be in Port Huron competing for the state championship.

If you enjoy watching competitive softball, Vacationland diamonds are the place to be this summer.

2015 Summer Softball Tournaments

May 22-23 Memorial Day Modified Tune Up - 16th Street and Kno Field diamonds

June 26-28 D14 Men's Fast Pitch Tournament at Pine Grove Park

July 3-5 D14 Blue Water Invitational 10 Man Modified National Tune Up for Nationals. Featuring the top teams from Michigan, Wisconsin, and New York.

July 24-26 MASA State 9 Man Modified State Finals at Pine Grove Park

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History of the SCS Grayfox

The Grayfox is a training ship used to offer training in all aspects of shipboard operations. She is currently the largest Sea Cadet training ship in the United States. Finances needed to operate the vessel come from donations, grants, and fund raising activities conducted by the crew.

The Grayfox is utilized to train young men and women in sea going skills. She is used mostly for Sea Cadets, Marine Cadets, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, NJROTC, Sea Rangers and other youth organizations that train aboard the vessel. She is also used as a designated Navy Reserve site.

The Grayfox is operated and maintained by cadets with Navy and Coast Guard personnel serving in a supervisory position. There are also several civilians who volunteer their time to assist in their endeavors.

Built by Marinette Marine in Marinette, WI in 1985, she was one of ten 120-foot type Torpedo Weapons Retrievers. Originally designed TWR 825, she was used to launch and retrieve test torpedoes and targets. It was assigned to the U.S. Navy Atlantic Undersea Testing and Evaluation Center (AUTEC), Andros Island, Bahamas. Due to the changing development of underwater weapons, TWR 825 was no longer needed by the Navy. The ship was taken to Green Cove Springs, Florida and placed in

mothballs in 1995. It was here that the vessel was discovered by an enterprising group of sponsors who decided the Sea Cadets needed a ship to train on. A request was then made to the Secretary of the Navy to have her transferred to the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Paperwork was set into motion, and TWR 825 was obtained on August 15, 1997. She arrived in Port Huron, Michigan on August 26, 1997 to a group of excited and anxious onlookers.

Since she had been dead, cold and quiet for some time, the Grayfox needed a lot of attention. All of the torpedo rollers had to be removed from the after deck and returned to AUTEC. The ramp had to be welded over and she needed to be chipped and painted. Most of the systems required attention in one form or another. After a long winter of hard work by the cadets and volunteers, she was finally starting to look like a navy ship.

She was commissioned the United States Naval Sea Cadet Ship (USNSCS) Grayfox -on April 26, 1998 at Hart Plaza in Detroit, following services held at Mariners Church by Rev. Richard Ingalls. The Christening Sponsor was Mrs. Jack Kennedy, wife of the former national President of the U.S. Navy League.

The Grayfox is presently moored in Port Huron.



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MAY, JUNE AND JULY

MAY EVENTS

- 1-5/3 Arts, Eats & Beats - Grub Crawl, Grand Bend
- 2-3 Lexington In Bloom
- 9-10/25 Vantage Point Farmer's Market (8am-2pm) (Every Sat), P.H.
- 9 Women's League Flower Sale-Riverview Plaza, St. Clair
- 9 Point Edward Town-Wide Garage Sales
- 9 MMA Walleye Classic (6:00am-2:00pm), P.H.
- 9 Run for Recovery- St. Clair County CMH (8:30am), Port Huron
- 9 Yesterday: A Tribute To The Beatles, McMorran Place, Port Huron
- 15-6/30 Sunny Fields Botanical Garden (By appt. 810-367-2765) thru June, Emmett
- 15-17 Marble-eye Walleye Tournament, St. Clair City Boat Harbor
- 16-18 Canadian Appreciation Weekend, Port Huron
- 16 Women's League Flower Sale-Riverview Plaza, St. Clair
- 16 Marine City Chamber of Commerce Flea Market
- 16-17 Relay for Life of Greater Port Huron - 10am, Birchwood Mall, Fort Gratiot
- 16-17 Betty Ropposch Memorial Tournament, Port Huron
- 17 Victorian Tea, Moore Museum, Mooretown
- 20 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington
- 22 Art Hop in Downtown Port Huron (6:00pm-9:00pm)
- 22-23 Softball Tournament- Knox Field Diamonds, Port Huron
- 23-24 Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball All-World Tour, YMCA, Port Huron
- 23-24 Feast of the Ste. Claire, Pine Grove Park, P.H.
- 24 Memorial Day Parade- 10am, Marine City
- 25 Memorial Day Parade - 11am, Lexington
- 25 Memorial Day Parade- 9am, Crosswell
- 25 Memorial Day Parade 11a-Memorial following at Pine Grove Park, Port Huron
- 30 Blue Water Sturgeon Festival (10am-4pm)- Vantage Point, Port Huron
- 30 Blue Water Anglers Kid's Training Day (10am-2pm), Point Edward (Under Bridge)
- 30 Petrolia Lions 2nd Annual "Baconfest" (3pm-8pm)
- 30 Indiefest- Battle of the Bands, Sarnia



JUNE EVENTS

- 3-8/20 Sarnia Waterfront Concert & Entertainment Series (Nightly @ 7pm), Band Shell, Canatara Park
- 3-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September (5:00pm-9:00pm), A&W Lexington
- 5-6 The Sarnia Craft Beer Show, Sarnia
- 6 Be A Tourist In Your Own Town (10am-4pm) P.H.
- 6 Town-Wide Garage Sales-Oil Springs, Watford
- 6 Pine Groove Electronic Music Festival (10:00am-10:00pm), Pine Grove Park, Port Huron
- 6 Black River Canoe & Kayak Race-Riverside Boat Launch, Port Huron
- 6-7 Artwalk 2015 Festival-Christina Street (11am-5pm), Sarnia
- 6-7 Civil War Weekend, Lexington
- 6-7 St. Clair Spring Craft Show-Riverview Plaza
- 7 Annual YMCA-CHOK International Bridge Race, Sarnia/Port Huron
- 7 Kirkin' of the Tartans- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Sarnia
- 9-10/31 Vantage Point Farmer's Market- Saturdays (May-October), Port Huron
- 10-14 Marysville Days Festival, Marysville
- 10-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September (5:00pm-9:00pm), A&W Lexington
- 11 Senior Games, YMCA, Port Huron
- 13 20th Annual Kidsfest 2015, Sarnia
- 13 Dirty Dash Family Fun Mud Run, Canatara Park
- 13 Antique Tractor Show (11:00am-4:00pm), A&W Lexington
- 13 Fishing Contest (8:00am-11:00am), Crosswell
- 13 River Day (www.RiverDayFun.com), St. Clair County
- 13 Kid's Fishing Derby & Free Canoe/Kayak Rental- Pine River, St. Clair
- 13 SC4 Twilight Concert Series- Marysville Pavilion (2:00pm)
- 13 Second Annual Marysville Days Car Show (10:00am-4:00pm), Marysville
- 13 Marysville Days Fireworks (10:00pm)
- 13 Lk Huron Lower Marine Society Flea Market-Riverview Plaza, St. Clair
- 13-14 Michigan Free Fishing Weekend, Statewide
- 13-14 Art on the River, Port Huron
- 16 Walk Michigan- Beach Party (6:00pm), Lakeside Beach



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE EVENTS (Continued)

- 17-20 Croswell Fair
- 17-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September (5:00pm-9:00pm), A&W Lexington
- 19 Camp Out with Dad - Sanborn Park Ball Diamond (6:00pm), Port Huron
- 19 Summer Concert Series-Downtown St. Clair
- 19-21 Sarnia Kinsman Ribfest, Sarnia
- 19-21 Harleys By the Beach, Grand Bend
- 20 Blue Water Ramble Bicycle Tour, St. Clair
- 20 A&W Antique Tractor Show , Lexington
- 20 Marine City Chamber of Commerce Flea Market,
- 20-21 54th Annual Aamjiwnaang First Nation Pow Wow, Sarnia
- 20-21 Lexington Lakeside Craft Show-Tierney park
- 21 Father's Day Car Show, Petrolia
- 21 Huron House Boys Home 29th Annual Run/Walk/Skate/Bike, Bright's Grove
- 23 Big Screen in the Park-Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible Day-dusk, Keifer Park, Port Huron
- 23 Walk Michigan-Cops-n-Robbers- Keifer Park (6:00pm), Port Huron
- 24 Concert in the Park (7:00pm-9:00pm) Double Play, Marysville City Park
- 24-9/16 Classic Car Nights- Wednesday thru September, A&W Lexington
- 24-6/28 Kromer Flight Singles, Sanborn Park, Port Huron
- 24-6/28 Bay-Rama Fishfly Festival, New Baltimore



- 25 Blue Water Half Marathon, YMCA, Port Huron
- 26 Music in the Park-Collision Six (7:30pm-9:00pm), Lexington
- 26 Blue Water Cruise Night (6:00pm-10:00pm), P.H.
- 26-28 30th Annual Antique and Classic Boat Show, Algonac
- 26-28 Capac Days
- 26-28 Men's Fast Pitch Tournament- Pine Grove Park
- 26-28 13th Annual Mopar Canadian Nationals, Grand Bend Motorplex
- 27 A&W Classic Car Show (10:00am-5:00pm), Lexington Harbor Park
- 27 St. Clair Rotary Club's 5k Run
- 27 Canada Day in Bright's Grove, Bright's Grove
- 27 Keith Peterson Memorial Car Show (8:30am-3:30pm), Ft. Gratiot
- 27-28 Grand Bend Buskerfest, Grand Bend
- 27-28 St. Clair Art Fair-Riverview Plaza & Palmer Park
- 27-29 Michigan Thumb Festival, Sandusky
- 28 Blue Water Half Marathon, YMCA, Port Huron
- 28 Sarnia Street Machines- Cruise the Park (8:00am-4:00pm), Canatara Park
- 30 Walk Michigan- Walk to Remember- Flag Plaza (6:00pm), P.H.
- 30 Big Screens in the Park- Amazing Spider Man 2-dusk, Keifer Park

JULY EVENTS

- 1-8/20 Sarnia Waterfront Concert & Entertainment Series (Nightly @ 7pm), Band Shell, Canatara Park
- 1 Canada Day Celebrations-Fireworks @ dusk, Petrolia, Forest
- 1 Canada Day Celebrations-Fireworks @ dusk, Grand Bend






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JULY

JULY EVENTS (Continued)

- | | | | |
|----------|---|---------|--|
| 1 | Canada Day Parade-Lakeshore Rd to Canatara Park (11:30am), Sarnia | 7 | Walk Michigan- Dog Days of Summer (6:00pm), Pine Grove Park, Port Huron |
| 1 | Canada Day Celebrations Canatara Park- Fireworks @ Dusk, Sarnia | 8-12 | Harbor Beach Maritime Festival |
| 1 | Concert in the Park (7:00pm-9:00pm)-Kat Beal, Marysville City Park | 8-9/16 | Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington |
| 1- 10/31 | Vantage Point Farmers Market - Tues & Sat thru Oct 31, P.H. | 8-10/28 | Blue Water Farmer's Mkt - Wed. thru Oct.-Pine Shores Golf Course, St. Clair |
| 1-9/16 | Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September (5:00pm-9:00pm), A&W Lexington | 8 | Concert in the Park (7:00pm-9:00pm)-Dynasty, Marysville City Park |
| 1-5 | Algonac Lions Pickerel Tournament | 10 | Music in the Park -Boogie Dynamite, Lexington |
| 3 | Fireworks (10pm), Algonac | 10 | Summer Concert Series- Palmer Park, St. Clair |
| 3 | Fireworks @ Dusk, Lexington | 10-11 | Marine City Music Festival |
| 3 | Summer Concert Series-Palmer Park, St. Clair | 11 | River Classic Car Show-Palmer Park, St. Clair |
| 3-5 | Blue Water Sand Fest, Port Huron | 11 | Flat Track Motorcycle Races, Croswell |
| 3-5 | Sailfest Sarnia - Sarnia Yacht Club, Sarnia | 11 | Blue Water Angler's Family Fun Fish Day, Point Edward |
| 4 | Fireworks, St. Clair | 11-12 | Kettle & Stony Point Annual Pow Wow |
| 4 | Parade (11:00am-1:00pm), Lexington | 12 | Southside Music Festival- Lincoln Park, Port Huron |
| 4 | Algonac Antique Boat Show (12:00pm-5:00pm) | 13 | Kid's Garage Sale-Riverview Plaza , St. Clair |
| 4 | Antique Boat Parade-4:00pm, Algonac | 14 | Walk Michigan- Boat Walk (6:00pm), River Street Marina |
| 4 | Music in the Park - Allen As Tim- Tim McGraw Tribute (7:30pm), Lexington | 14 | Senior Picnic- Pine Grove Park (11:00am), P.H. |
| 4 | Port Sanilac Independence Day Parade @ 12pm | 14 | Bike Parade-Riverview East HS & Downtown, St. Clair |
| 4 | Fireworks, Port Sanilac | 15 | Concert in the Park (7:00pm-9:00pm)- Elvis & the Burning Love Band, Marysville City Park |
| 5 | Fireman's Pancake Breakfast 7a-12p - Village Hall, Lexington | 15 | International Day Parade, Port Huron |



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY EVENTS (Continued)

- 15-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington
- 15-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Mkt - Wed.thru Oct.-Pine Shores Golf Course, St. Clair
- 16 Family Night-Mackinac Race Boat Preview, P.H.
- 16-7/19 Blue Water Fest, Port Huron
- 16-7/19 Family Fun & Perch Festival, Anchorville
- 17 Boat Night, Port Huron
- 17-7/18 Bridge Bash 2015-under the Bluewater Bridges, Point Edward
- 17 Music in the Park- Thornetta Davies (7:30pm-9:30pm), Lexington
- 17 Park-It Family Fun Nights, St Clair
- 17 Summer Concert Series- Palmer Park, St. Clair
- 18 Marine City Chamber of Commerce Flea Market
- 18 Kiwanis Club Blue Water Area Breakfast - Talmer Bank (Downtown), Port Huron
- 18 Port Huron to Mackinac Yacht Race, Port Huron
- 18 Lighted Boat Parade (10:00pm), Port Huron
- 18 5th Annual Antique & Classic Boat Show, Sarnia Bay Marina
- 18 Tashmoo Days in Sans Souci, Harsens Island
- 18 Triathlon (7:30am-12:00pm), Lexington
- 18-19 Marine City Antique Show
- 19 26th Hobbyfest-Canatara Park (10am-4pm), Sarnia
- 20-25 St. Clair County 4H & Youth Fair, Goodells Fairgrounds

- 21 Walk Michigan- Christmas in July- Fort Gratiot Trail (6:00pm),
- 21 Big Screens in the Park-Big Hero 6 (dusk), Keifer park
- 22 Concert in the Park (7:00pm-9:00pm)- Voodoo Doctors, Marysville City Park
- 22-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Mkt - Wed.thru Oct.-Pine Shores Golf Course, St. Clair
- 22-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington
- 24 Music in the Park - Katmandu- Bob Seger Tribute, Lexington
- 24-25 Blueberry Festival, Imlay City
- 24-26 MASA State Softball Tournament-Pine Grove Park
- 24-26 St. Clair River Classic - Offshore Powerboat Racing, St. Clair
- 24-26 St. Clair Riverfest
- July 24 Starship wsg Sponge @ St. Clair Riverfest
- July 25 Candlebox @ St. Clair Riverfest
- 24-26 BlueWater Volleygrass, Port Huron Northern
- 24-26 Yale Bologna Festival
- 24-26 Port Sanilac Summer Festival
- 25 SC4 Twilight Concert Series- Yale Bologna Festival (2:00pm)
- 28 Walk Michigan- Tiger Mania- River Walk (6:00pm), Port Huron
- 28 Eastern Michigan Fair, Imlay City
- 29 Concert in the Park (7-9pm)- Toppermost, Marysville City Park
- 29-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Mkt - Wed. thru Oct.-Pine Shores Golf Course, St. Clair
- 29-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Weds. thru September, A&W Lexington



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JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

JULY EVENTS (Continued)

- 30-8/2 Marine City Maritime Days
- 31 Color Craze 5k Fun Run-Kiefer Park, Port Huron
- 31 Music in the Park – Devin Scillian with Arizona Sun, Lexington
- 31 Summer Concert Series- Palmer Park, St. Clair
- 31-8/1 Swinging Bridge Festival, Croswell
- 31-8/2 Maritime Days, Marine City
- 31-8/1 East Ports Blues Festival, Port Sanilac
- 31-8/2 Captain Kidd Days, Corunna



AUGUST EVENTS

- 1-8/20 Sarnia Waterfront Concert & Entertainment Series (Nightly @ 7pm), Band Shell, Canatara Park
- 1-3 Swinging Bridge Festival, Croswell
- 1 Mardi Gras Weekend-St. Clair Boat Harbor
- 1-2 Lexington Fine Arts Street Fair
- 2 SC4 Twilight Concert Series- St Clair Plaza Park (4:30pm)
- 2-10/31 Vantage Point Farmers Market - Tues & Sat thru Oct 31, Port Huron
- 4 Walk Michigan- Pool Party (6pm), Sanborn Pool
- 4 Big Screens in the Park-Into the Woods-Dusk, Keifer Park
- 4-9 Francis G Robinson Memorial International Tournament, Sanborn Courts, Port Huron
- 5-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Market-Wed. thru Oct. Fred Moore Hwy., Pine Shores Golf Club, St. Clair

- 5-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September (5:00pm-9:00pm), A&W Lexington
- 6 Rockin' the Rivers- Motortown Allstars (6:00pm), Keifer Park, Port Huron
- 6 Sarnia Street Machines-Hot August Nights, Canatara Park
- 7 Music in the Park -Persuasion, Lexington
- 7-8 Bluewater Angler's Walleye Derby, Point Edward
- 7-9 International Offshore Powerboat Race, Port Huron/Sarnia
- 7-9 Aquafest 2015, Grand Bend
- 7-9 Sarnia Greekfest 2015, Downtown Sarnia
- 8 Lexington 5k run (9am-11am)
- 10 St. Clair Jr. Golf Tournament- Pine Shores Golf Club
- 11 Big Screen Movie in the Park-Earth to Echo-Dusk, Keifer Park, Port Huron
- 12-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Market-Wed. thru Oct. Fred Moore Hwy., Pine Shores Golf Club, St. Clair
- 12-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington
- 13 Rockin' the Rivers Concert - Your Generation/50 Amp Fuse (6:00pm), Keifer Park, Port Huron
- 14 Music in the Park- The Madcat Midnight Blues Journey, Lexington
- 14-15 Port Sanilac Antique and Classic Boat Show (9:00am-3:00pm)
- 14-16 Western Ontario Steam Threshers Show, Forest
- 14-16 Antique Yard Sale Trail, Algonac to Sebawaing
- 15 Jimmy Buffett Parrothead Party, Algonac
- 15 Marine City Chamber of Commerce Flea Market
- 15 Rumble in the Park (10am-4pm), Marysville Park
- 15-16 Art in the Park, Marysville Park
- 15-16 ARTZscape by the Bay, Bridgeview Marina (9am - 4pm), Sarnia
- 16 23rd Annual "The Past & its Wheels" Car Show (9:00am-3:00pm), Marysville Park
- 16 Port Huron Floatdown - Lighthouse Park/Beach (1pm), P.H.
- 17-22 Beach Week- Fort Gratiot Light Station County Park, Fort Gratiot
- 17- 23 Armada Fair
- 19-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Market-Wed. thru Oct. Fred Moore Hwy., Pine Shores Golf Club, St. Clair
- 19-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST EVENTS (Continued)

- 20 Rockin' the Rivers Concert - 80's Inc.- The Ultimate 80's Tribute Band, Keifer Park, Port Huron
- 21-23 St. Clair County Farm Museum Harvest Festival - Goodells County Park
- 21-23 Lapeer Days
- 22 Harsens Island Bluegrass Festival
- 22 Fishing Contest- Riverbend Park (8:00am-11:00am), Crosswell
- 23-29 Sanilac County 4H Fair, Sandusky
- 26-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Market-Wed. thru Oct. Fred Moore Hwy., Pine Shores Golf Club, St. Clair
- 26-9/16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington
- 27 Rockin' the Rivers- Highwaymen-Tribute to Willie, Waylon & Johnny (6:00pm), Keifer Park, P.H.
- 28-8/29 Margaritafest, Lexington

- 4-6 Petrolia & Enniskillen Fall Fair- Petrolia Fairgrounds
- 5-6 Algonac Art Fair
- 5 Thumbfest Music Festival (11am-10pm), Lexington
- 7 Trek the Trestle Trail Walk (11:00am), Avoca
- 9-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Market - Wed. thru Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy., Pine Shores Golf Club, St. Clair
- 9 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington
- 10-13 Richmond Good Old Days, Richmond
- 11-13 28th Annual Woods-N-Water Outdoor Weekend, Imlay City
- 12 Fireworks- 10:00pm, Richmond
- 12 Port Huron Hobo Fest
- 12 Blue Water Antique & Classic Boat Show, P.H.
- 12 Art in the Park, Bright's Grove
- 12-13 St. Clair Fall Craft Show-Riverview Plaza, St. Clair
- 12-13 St Clair Kennel Club Dog Show, Goodells County Park
- 13 Blue Water Social Club's Paddle & Pour-Black River, P.H.
- 13 17th Annual Algonac Classic Car Show
- 13 SCC Child Abuse Neglect Council Walk for Kids' Sake, Lakeside Park, Port Huron
- 13-18 SCC Child Abuse Neglect Council Roof Sit, Birchwood Mall
- 16 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington
- 16-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Market - Weds.-Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy., Pine Shores Golf Club, St. Clair

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2-10/31 Vantage Point Farmers Market - Tues & Sat thru Oct 31, Port Huron
- 2-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Market - Wed. thru Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy., Pine Shores Golf Club, St. Clair
- 2 Classic Car Nights - Wednesdays thru September, A&W Lexington
- 3-7 Michigan Peach Festival, Romeo
- 4-5 Festival of Good Things, Sarnia Bay Marina



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SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND D

SEPTEMBER EVENTS (Continued)

- 18-19 Jazz & Blues in the Village-McGibbon Park, Sarnia
- 19-20 Marine City Heritage Days
- 18-20 Plympton Wyoming Fall Fair-Wyoming Fair Grounds
- 19 Marine City Chamber of Commerce Flea Market
- 20 Downriver Craft Sale, Moore Museum, Mooretown
- 23-10/28 Blue Water Farmer's Market - Wed. thru Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy., Pine Shores Golf Club, St. Clair
- 25-27 St. Mary's Fall Festival-St. Mary's Church, St. Clair
- 26 Scarecrow Saturday - Fort Gratiot Bike Path & Nature Preserve, Fort Gratiot
- 26 Lexington Days- OktoberFest 2015
- 26 Bluewater Angler's Big Fish Derby, Point Edward
- 26 Whistles on the Water/Chalk on the Walk-Palmer Park & Downtown, St. Clair
- 30 Blue Water Farmer's Market - Wed. thru Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy., St. Clair

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 3 Corks, Caps and Cuisine, Sarnia
- 4-10/31 Vantage Point Farmers Market - Tues & Sat thru Oct 31, P.H.
- 5 Port Huron Town Hall - Stephen Bogart and Cass Sperling, McMorran Place
- 7 Blue Water Farmer's Market-Wed. thru Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy, St. Clair

- 10-11 Thanksgiving Market & Sidewalk Sale, Grand Bend
- 11 6th Annual Fall Colors Bicycle Tour, Harsens Island
- 14 Blue Water Farmer's Market-Wed. thru Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy, St. Clair
- 16 Port Huron Museum's Hoptoberfest 2015
- 17-18 Pinery Provincial Park Road Race, Grand Bend
- 17 Haunted Village- Family Event (7:00pm-9:00pm), Port Sanilac
- 17-18 Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival -Heritage Museum, Lambton Shores
- 21 B.W. Farmer's Market-Wed. Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy, St. Clair
- 24 Haunted Village- Family Event (7:00pm-9:00pm), Port Sanilac
- 24 Halloween Stroll (10:00am-1:00pm), Sanborn Park, P.H.
- 28 Blue Water Farmer's Market-Wed. thru Oct.-Fred Moore Hwy, St. Clair
- 31 Halloween in Lexington

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 7 St. Clair River Turkey Trot - 5K, St. Clair
- 7-8 Blue Water Antique Dealers- Antique Show, New Haven
- 7-8 Holiday Market Open House Weekend, Lexington
- 9 Port Huron Town Hall -Sissy Spacek, McMorran, Port Huron
- 13-15 Christmas Comes Early in Grand Bend, Grand Bend
- 13-15 Girlfriend's Getaway Weekend, Lexington
- 20 Jingle Bell Walk-Bayside Center to Centennial Park , Sarnia
- 20-22 Ft Gratiot Light Station Holiday Open House



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NOVEMBER EVENTS *(Continued)*

- 20- 12/31 Celebration of Lights -Centennial Park, Sarnia
- 20 Celebration of Lights & Christmas Parade - St. Clair
- 21 Christmas Art and Craft Show (9:00am-5:00pm)
Elks Lodge 343, Port Huron
- 21 Candlelight Tours of the Lightstation (5:00pm-8:00pm),
Fort Gratiot Lighthouse
- 24 Lighted Santa Parade (7:00pm), Marine City
- 27 Santa Parade, Port Huron
- 27 Lighted Christmas Parade (5:30pm), Croswell
- 28 Candlelight Tours of the Lightstation (5:00pm-8:00pm),
Fort Gratiot Lighthouse
- 28 Forest Kiwanis Santa Claus Parade
- 28 Santa Claus Parade, Corunna
- 28-12/24 Forest Glen Herb Farm - "Christmas Open House"

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 11/28-24 Forest Glen Herb Farm - "Christmas Open House"
- 1-31 Celebration of Lights -Centennial Park, Sarnia
- 4-6 The Nutcracker Ballet, McMorran, Port Huron
- 4 Christmas in the Park, Petrolia
- 5-6 Festival of Trees - McMorran, Port Huron
- 5 Candlelight Tours of the Light Station (5pm), Ft. Gratiot Lighthouse
- 5 Jingle Bell Run, YMCA, Port Huron
- 5 Merchant Luminary Walk & Tree Lighting, Lexington



- 5 Santa Claus Parade, Watford and Petrolia
- 5 Michigan's Original Country Christmas Lighted Farm
Implement Parade-7p, Sandusky
- 5 Sarnia Kinsmen Christmas Parade of Lights, Sarnia
- 10 Gourmet Gallop- Restaurant Tour (6:00pm-10:00pm), St. Clair
- 12 Good Ol' Fashioned Christmas, Canatara Park
- 12 Candlelight Tours of the Light Station (5pm), Ft. Gratiot Lighthouse
- 12 Christmas Horse Parade (2:00pm-3:00pm), Lexington
- 14 Port Huron Town Hall- The Lennon Sisters, McMorran, P.H.
- 19 Candlelight Tours of the Light Station (5pm), Ft. Gratiot Lighthouse
- 31 New Year's Eve Anchor Drop, McMorran, Port Huron

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1/8-1/11 North American Silver Stick Hockey, Port Huron
- 1/22-1/25 North American Silver Stick Hockey, Port Huron
- 1/22 Chilly Fest, Port Huron
- 1/24 RadioFirst Bridal Show, Port Huron
- 2/8 Port Huron Town Hall - Jennifer Weiner, McMorran, P.H.
- 2/12 Richmond Winter & Ice Festival, Richmond
- 3/14 Port Huron Town Hall -Jo-Ellan Dimitrius, McMorran
- 3/12 Pub Crawl, Lexington
- 3/20-3/22 RadioFirst Home, Sport & Garden Show, Port Huron
- 3/12 St. Patrick's Parade and Pub Crawl, Port Huron
- 4/30 Blue Water Salmon Stakes - Voyageur Restaurant, St. Clair



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Solitude Links Golf Course (Public) 810-982-3673

Lenox Township

Oak Ridge Golf Club (Public) 586-749-5151
Richmond Forest Golf Course
(Public) 586-727-4742

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Lakeview Hills Golf Resort
(Public) 810-359-7333

Marysville

Marysville Golf Course
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Huron Shores Golf Club
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E.M.S. Links Golf Course
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Solitude Links Golf Course

The four lakes at Solitude Links Golf Course and Banquet Center were created when sand was needed for construction of the new span of the Blue Water Bridge from Port Huron to Canada back in the 1990s. At the time, natural long grasses covered the meadows amid the trees.

Paul D'Anna, the new owner, had always dreamt of owning his own golf course. He has not only brought the golf course back to prime condition, he has brought back the long grass with the planting of 10 acres of fescue.

Solitude Links is looking good, from an improved playing condition on the bent grass fairways and tees to the flowing grass and vistas created via a combination of Michigan hardwood trees, sand and beautiful blue water on the 300-acre site.

Originally designed and created by Angelo Torello's construction company in 1999, the course opened in 2000 and enjoyed some early popularity. In 2006, a large facility became even larger at 25,000 square feet with an impressive ballroom addition that can host large events and has hosted weddings with 600 or more guests.

D'Anna has the golf course and banquet center to make his dream a reality. Golfers should come back. It's a Golf Association of Michigan must-play because it offers 6,711 yards with five tee positions to a very fair 4,289 from the front tee positions. While those afraid of hitting golf balls into water face a few challenges, it's not near as intimidating of a golf course as it looks from the tees or the impressive wrap-around balcony of the banquet center.

"It's very playable," said D'Anna, who is trying the

addition of 15-inch cup options on his greens for those who want a much easier putting option.

"That's just trying things to get more golfers and I've gotten some good feedback. We have several leagues that play here and get around very well and love it. Seniors like it, especially with our senior rates. It's a very good golf course, and we have regular cups on the greens for the traditional golfer, and it is public. I think people get a look at the huge building and the beauty of the place and think it must be private. We're public and we want that public golfer."

The rates are maximum at \$45 this year for 18 holes and a cart at prime time in the summer, and as low as \$25 in twilight and other seasons. GPS technology has been added to the carts and it is easy to book on www.solitudelinksgolf.com.

"My number one goal when I took over was to get the golf course in the best shape possible as soon as possible," D'Anna said. "We've done that. Now it's getting the golfers to come back that is the challenge."

D'Anna gets some golfers from Port Huron, and many from Canada, but would love the Detroit metro market to drive the 35 miles north of Mt. Clemens to check out the place.

"I really believe we have a great golf destination here, a great public golf course, a great place for groups, everything," D'Anna said. "We just want people to come on over and check us out." Put 5810 Flinchbaugh Rd., Kimball, Mich., in your GPS device to find the latest GAM must-play destination. It's just through the trees, framed by the long grass and waiting off I-69 to be rediscovered.

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For more information and events:
marysvillefriends.org

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City of Marysville

A nice place to visit... a better place to live!

Whether it's for business, pleasure or putting down roots, the City of Marysville, on the banks of the St. Clair River, has a lot to offer. Thriving industry, exceptional schools and outstanding parks make this family friendly waterfront community a premier destination.

- Marysville's prime location on the U.S.-Canadian border, gives it international business appeal - several major corporations make their homes here.
 - The award-winning high school is consistently ranked in the top 50 schools in the state- and received the U.S. News & World Report Silver Medal in 2013 and 2014 as one of the top 1,000 schools in the country.
 - Marysville City Park draws visitors and events from around the region, hosting a Little League tournament, as well as seasonal festivals. The beautiful 18-hole municipal golf course along the St. Clair River attracts golfers from across Michigan and Canada. The recently completed boardwalk Shoreline Restoration Project features a new wooden boardwalk and natural shoreline along the riverbank.
- To learn more about what makes Marysville an ideal place to visit and a great place to live, give us a call. Better yet, visit us and see for yourself.

City of Marysville

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Art in the Park



The Marysville Friends of the Arts is proud to sponsor its 23rd Annual event at the beautiful 58-acre Marysville Waterfront Park this August 15th and 16th, 2015.

Set in the park under the trees, 7,000+ visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy and purchase the original work of over 50 artisans. Artists from across Michigan and Canada join locals in displaying their hand-made creations.

Drink in the beauty of works fashioned with oils, water color, pen & ink, pastels; fresh water pearls, beads, glass and gems; wood-turning, wire, metal, stained-glass and porcelain; pottery, sculpture, florals and photography. You'll find all these textures and treatments take the shape of jewelry, ships, landscapes, plates, portraits, furniture, pottery, marine art, garden art & more.

Aiming to stimulate the creative talents of all ages, special art activities are scheduled throughout the weekend at the "Future Artists" area. "Make & Take" projects will be offered for budding artists for tots through middle-school ages. In addition, the Marysville High School Art Department proudly displays the best student work from the previous school year.

The atmosphere will be punctuated both days by several great musical performances including all the annual favorites with new talent to round out the performance arts. Sunday begins with an Ecumenical Service in the bandshell.

Fine art in any medium or a unique piece of fine craftsmanship is always a great addition to one's home or business. You're sure to find reasonable prices on amazing original works of art.

Complementing the fine art show will be two distinct auto shows sponsored by the Blue Water Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America. Saturday's "Rumble In The Park" is open to all classic cars including Hot Rods and Custom Muscle Cars. Sunday is the Antique Car Invitational. Autos 1959 and older original restorations will be displayed behind the Museum on Huron Blvd. This show's Honored Mark is Wills Ste. Claire automobile. For complete details, visit marysvillefriends.org.





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Wills Ste. Claire Automobile

The history of the car of Marysville is woven around the "Wills Ste. Claire" automobile and the automobile, photos and memorabilia of the Wills Era is on display at the new Wills Sainte Claire Auto Museum in Marysville with 10 actual Wills.

Opened in May of 2002, the museum is an effort of local antique car enthusiasts, who through a grass roots effort, have converted a former factory into a museum in the Marysville Industrial Park off Busha Highway in Marysville.

The museum educates about the history of C. Harold Wills and the Wills Sainte Claire impact on the automobile industry.

Approximately 12,000 Wills Sainte Claire automobiles were produced in Marysville, from 1921 to 1926. Possibly more important than building luxury autos of the era, was Wills' foresight in building an ideal community for his employees. C. Harold Wills (1878 - 1940) began working as a draftsman for Henry Ford in 1902. When the Ford Motor Company was organized in 1903, Wills was the chief engineer and metallurgist. He designed every Ford car until he resigned in 1919. Deciding



Photo by Terry Ernest

to manufacture his own car, Wills selected Marysville, a hamlet of 200 on the banks of the St. Clair River, as the site for C.H. Wills & Company. In 1921, the first overhead-cam V8 Wills Sainte Claire was produced. Remembered for its Flying Goose radiator emblem, it utilized strong, lightweight molybdenum steel and was the first car to have back-up lights. Hydraulic brakes, balloon tires

and a six-cylinder engine were added before the factory closed in 1926. The Chrysler Corporation purchased the property in 1935.

The Wills Sainte Claire Auto Museum was established in 2001 when the Donahey Foundation donated a 12,000 square foot building on Wills Street in Marysville to house the records, literature and actual Wills Sainte Claire Automobiles. The museum is located in Marysville, off Busha Hwy at 2408 Wills Street in the Marysville Industrial Park, across from Mueller Brass. The museum is open the second Sunday of the month from 1-5 pm or by appointment for schools and other groups.

For more information, contact Mr. Terry Ernest, Director at 810-987-2854 during regular business hours or visit their website willsautomuseum.org.

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St. Clair Art Fair

Artists and art lovers alike have long recognized St. Clair for a summer event featuring some of the finest presentations of original art found anywhere.

This year the Art Fair will be held on Saturday, June 27th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 28th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 42nd annual Art Fair includes the Riverview Plaza and Palmer Park with its famous boardwalk along the St. Clair River.



The Art Fair is sponsored and coordinated by the members of the Art Council. Offices are located in the Riverview Plaza in St. Clair.

An exciting change will be in store at the 2015 Art Fair. The Community Foundation of St. Clair County has

generously funded the renovation of the Center Courtyard in the Riverview Plaza. Work started in September, 2014 with completion in the Spring of 2015. Along with the new, improved courtyard, will come some changes to the Art Fair artist booth locations.

Visitors can expect to see and have the opportunity to acquire paintings in oil, water color, and pen and in pastels and chalks. Photography is always popular as is pottery and porcelain. Artists from all over the state have registered to be at this year's event.

Annual Events in St. Clair

- Summer Concert Series in Palmer Park
- Blue Water Farmer's Market
- Offshore Boat Race
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St. Clair Boat Harbor



Situated on the Pine River, a tributary of the beautiful St. Clair River, the Saint Clair Boat Harbor has earned its reputation as a first choice accommodation for boaters arriving from throughout the Great Lakes area. It is a spectacular marina centered in the Blue Water Area and located just minutes from the downtown of quaint and serene St. Clair.

Officially named for community pioneer Charles F. Moore, the municipal harbor boasts new floating and fixed docks as a part of the main harbor and broad-side docking on the city-side of the river. The well-planned mix of harbor features and amenities complement the diversity of opportunities that exist within the harbor confines. Boat clubs and small groups will find the

Harbormaster's staff anxious to reserve a pavilion on the banks of the harbor for their use. The Harbormaster's building offers washrooms and showers 24 hours daily during the boating season. Boat launch facilities are available.

Nine new DNR compliant campsites have been added at the St. Clair Boat Harbor. Kayak and canoe rentals are also available.

For more information, contact the Harbormaster at 810-329-4125. For reservations call 800-447-2757.



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Welcome to St. Clair

St. Clair is located at the center of the memorable Blue Water Area. It is a place where your journey suddenly concludes where the forever-blue St. Clair River meets the Pine River on the international boundary separating Canada and the United States.



St. Clair is a place left by a time when timber ruled the area and the wooden vessels that sailed the Great Lakes were built. It is an area rich in history dating back to pre-Revolutionary War times and was a major stop for the underground railroad of the Civil War era. It was the place of majestic hotels and excursion boats as we moved from the

St. Clair is a place for seekers of the serenity of beautiful sunrises and for enthusiasts of mystic lake freighter traffic. It's a place where historical preservation and modern community development merge in a seamless transition. This is the greater St. Clair area, one of the most unique visitor destinations in the entire state of Michigan.

19th to the 20th century. This is a place not forgotten; one you will always want to remember.

Here you can stroll in Palmer Park along the world's longest freshwater boardwalk or take a canoe trip up the meandering Pine River. On your visit you will experience tree-lined streets providing an inviting backdrop for the community's historic and vintage architecture. You'll visit the beauty of the picturesque old churches of the city, one of which houses the St. Clair Historic Museum.

Pickerel (walleye) and perch fishing are especially popular here. If you're like most fishermen, you'll be excited to find yourself in the same spots the locals have favored for years. As a boating enthusiast, you'll fall in love with the Saint Clair Boat Harbor with its 120 boat slips. And, if you're a golfer, don't forget the clubs; there are a number of popular courses.

There's so much more you'll want to know about the greater St. Clair area and the best way to find out is by visiting. So, pack your bags and plan on a wonderful and relaxing time in St. Clair.

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Marine City

Marine City is located in the heart of the St. Clair River District, and is only 15 minutes from I-94. A scenic drive along M-29 river route will also bring visitors to this picturesque river community. The city can also be reached by taking a short ferry ride from Sombra, Canada.



Historically, in the days of the wooden freighters, Marine City was known as a shipbuilding center of the Great Lakes. Because of this status, many captains and sailors made their homes here, as evidenced by the grand residential architecture throughout the historic downtown area. Gracious “Victorian Painted Ladies” sit

side-by-side with turn-of-the-century cottages.

Marine City is one of three international crossings to Canada in St. Clair County. The city is also known for its’ friendly people, lovely homes, churches, registered historical sites and the “Nautical Mile”. The Nautical Mile, dotted with mini-parks allows visitors a close-up look at ocean-going and Great Lakes freighters. Visitors may also enjoy the calm Belle River that winds through the city, making it perfect for canoeing.

Today, waterfront parks are interspersed between unique shopping and dining venues along the historic waterfront. The Pecha Island lighthouse stands guard, keeping a watchful eye over the ever-changing waters of the St. Clair River and our neighbor, Canada.

Shoppers will find a variety of choices including specialty, discount and convenience stores in downtown Marine City, Broadway, Parker and the Riverside Plaza. There are motels, restaurants and lounges available to suit all tastes - many carrying out a nautical theme and displaying items of the local shipping industry.

Although freighter building has long since outgrown our Belle River and the maritime building barns are long gone, on occasion, you can still see a sailor’s family standing by the shore, waiting to catch site of their seafaring loved one on a passing ship.

Visitors will find plenty to do and see, including spring salmon fishing, summer festival and antique show, and the Fall color river tour. Conveniently located in and near Marine City are marinas, camping, golfing, horseback riding and a public access boat launch.

The Snug theatre opened in July 2013 to overwhelming support from Marine City and nearby areas. Sold out shows like *Hello, Dolly!* and *Gypsy* prompted owners to open a second venue, Riverbank Theatre in order to meet demand. The Snug continues to offer professional live theater and special events like Comedy Nights, Puppet Shows, Guest Speakers and more.

The restoration of Marine City’s homes and buildings is evident, especially in the downtown shopping area. New sidewalks and turn-of-the-century lamps have created additional charm and add to the uniqueness of this downtown shopping area.

The Riverbank Theatre, just a few blocks down from The Snug, is located in the historic Marine Savings Bank building. With its bank vaults and early 1900s architecture still intact, theatre-goers will feel as though they are stepping back in time. Riverbank accommodates 179 patrons with tiered and box seating and will feature state-of-the-art lighting and sound technology.

Marine City has a regular ferry service to Sombra, Ontario. Sombra offers a museum in a restored Victorian home, a tea room and many antique and gift shops.



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Armstrong's Lakeport Resort* (810-385-5887)
7024 Lakeport Drive, Lakeport

Emmett K.O.A.* (810-395-7042)
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Blue Water Bridge Park - Under bridge at State St. Boardwalk

Fort Trodd* (810-987-4889) 6350 Lapeer Road, Clyde. Barth Road exit off I-69, 6 miles west of Port Huron.

Lakeport State Park* (810-327-6224) Twelve miles from Port Huron on US-25 camping, fishing, swimming

Lakeside Park - Port Huron, Gratiot Ave. north of Holland Ave., swimming

Lake Huron Campground* (866-360-2267)
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Lighthouse Park - Port Huron at foot of Garfield St., swimming, picnicking

Marysville City Park - Marysville, on River Rd. and Huron Blvd. - fishing, abundant picnic facilities, 58 acres

Mermaid Park - Marysville, just north of the junctions of US-25 and M-29 small "turnout" park for viewing river

Pine Grove Park - Port Huron, on Pine Grove Ave. just north of business district - picnicking, recreation, fishing

Pine River Center - 2585 Castor Rd., Goodells, natural heritage of area

Port Huron KOA* (810-987-4070) 5111 Lapeer Road, Port Huron - camping, recreation

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Algonac

Algonac, the Venice of Michigan. First settled in 1805 by John Martin, Algonac was the fourth village laid out on the St. Clair River. Today Algonac embraces its nautical contributions, being the birthplace of Chris Craft Boats and the former home of Gar Wood. The downtown area offers 1,800 feet of boardwalk along the beautiful St. Clair River and many canals wind their way throughout the city, which has given Algonac its nickname "The Venice of Michigan".

It's situated on the largest fresh-water delta in the world at the mouth of the St. Clair River. It is also known as the Pickerel Capitol of the World and each year hosts the annual Pickerel Tournament, this beginning on July 1st through July 5th. It's the 77th year of the event.

When you visit the greater Algonac area you'll hear the stories of the great power boating era. A man by the name of Chris Smith motored his rowboat at 9 miles per hour with the first gasoline powered boat and changed the world forever.

Smith joined with John "Baldy" Ryan in 1911 and built a speedboat. The "Baby Reliance" won the first race it ran. Smith continued to build boats and in 1915 his boat entered the famous Gold Cup race on the Detroit River. The "Miss Detroit" was the fastest boat in the race and brought the "Gold Cup" to the Midwest for the first time.

Smith teamed with Gar Wood and built and raced boats for years. On February 5, 1932, Wood raced his boat at over 100 miles per hour in Florida and in September of that same year the "Miss America IX" traveled 124 miles per hour in the St. Clair River at Algonac.

The Chris Smith & Sons Boat Company was formed in Algonac in 1922 and for over 60 years this worldwide boat building empire was a leader in production of powered pleasure boats by the name of Chris Craft.

Today Algonac is one of the most beautiful river settings in Vacationland. Rich in nautical history the city features Offshore Boat Races, Antique Boat and Car shows each summer.

There is also ferry access to Walpole Island, Canada located in Algonac.

Algonac Pickerel Tournament

- Antique Boat Show June 26th-27th
- Fishing Tournament July 1st
- Kids' Parade July 1st, 6 p.m.
- Crowning of Queen July 3rd, 6 p.m.
- Fireworks July 3rd, 10 p.m.
- Kids' Fishing Tournament July 4th
- Antique Boat Parade July 4th, 4 p.m.
- Parade July 5th, 2 p.m.

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Lakeport

Discover a bit of Michigan paradise in your own backyard. This lakefront community is situated between the day-use and campgrounds of Lakeport State Park. The park features over 347 acres of well-cared for grounds with 286 campsites to enable anyone to enjoy a picnic or for activities such as camping, swimming or fishing on the shores of beautiful Lake Huron. The park also offers a picnic area with shelters, mini-cabins, a beach house, concession stand, a playground, and hiking trails with an Interpreter and Adventure Ranger Programs.



Basketball courts, playground, volleyball courts are also available at the park. There is auxiliary parking available, paved interior roads, showers and tenting areas. Fire

rings/fire pits and shade trees are available at most camp sites.

For the boating and fishing enthusiast there is a state managed boat launch site in Lexington, about 10 miles north of the park. The Port Huron State Game Area, with over 6,000 acres is within a 15-minute drive and provides opportunities for

hiking year round and hunting in season.

Reservations are required for camping sites, cabin and picnic shelters. Be sure to call in advance for site and camping availability.

For camping reservations to the Lakeport State Park and other Michigan campgrounds, call: 1-800-444-PARKS.

For information on local events and activities at the park, please call 810-327-6224. The park is 10 miles north of Port Huron and 68 miles north of Detroit.

Lakeport is the commercial hub of Burtchville Township and offers residents and visitors many conveniences without traveling very far. Shoppers can find groceries, fishing bait, firewood, banking services and more at area businesses. To satisfy your appetite, visit one of the family style restaurants, or relax at one of the cozy pubs with friends. To cool your taste buds, ice cream is available for everyone. Bed & Breakfasts, and resort cabins are also available for overnight travelers.

For more information on Lakeport and Burtchville Township, call (810) 385-5577.

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Wadhams

One of Wadhams' best natural resources is its' people. The almost forgotten charm of a slower, more gracious era is still found in this small community on the crossroads. Perhaps, since the bridge over the Black River has been a funnel to thumb-area traffic for decades, the residents are experts with directions and helpful advice, but there is more, much more.



This community believes in progress in the best sense of the word. It is unwilling to relinquish a strong hold on traditional values, but Wadhams is growing to meet the needs of its' citizens. With easy access to I-69 and I-94, this little community once again finds itself on the crossroads of change. With easy access to metropolitan areas, many new residents are seeking the gentle, rolling hillsides of Black River for a home. In fact, Wadhams is one of the fastest growing areas in Vacationland.

Fast food restaurants, banks and many other commercial

businesses have located in this growing area recently. A KOA Campground that features over 300 sites and 119 cabins and the adjacent Sawmill City.

Sawmill City features putt-putt golf, batting cages, bumper boats, viper style go-carts, bankshot basketball for non-stop entertainment for the whole family.

And Sawmill City has two brand new water slides and a Giant Jumping Pillow for kids of all ages.

Sawmill City is located in Wadhams just off I-69 at 5055 Lapeer Road. Just two miles to the west is Fort Trodd, a private campground that is situated on a 40-acre private lake.

Hundreds of new homes have been built in the area in recent years. While these developments have had a tremendous impact on the area, it's only a portion of the bright, new future for Wadhams.



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Goodell's County Park

Located in the center of St. Clair County, close to I-69 and Lapeer Rd. (Old M-21). The park is open daily from 8 am to 10 pm. Admission is free (except during some special events). Goodells County Park is also home to a state of the art Splashpad, which is open



Memorial Day through Labor Day. The hours of operation are 10 am to 8 pm.

The Historical Village, which includes the Columbus Baptist Church, Murphy/ Ryan Farmhouse (1872), Lynn Township School (1885), C.C. Peck Bank (1908), and the Mudge Log Cabin (1860) are tributes to St. Clair County's rich history. The St. Clair County Farm Museum represents over 150 years of farming in the county. The museum is housed in the

historic barns of the St. Clair County Poor Farm/Medical Centre (1873-1993).

The Butterfly Garden provides the perfect place for some quiet reflection, while providing a colorful habitat for caterpillars and butterflies.

The BMX Track allows members to compete on a challenging and exciting race course. Radio controlled model cars, trucks and planes find action and excitement at the Redline Racing dirt track and the Propbusters airfield.

The playground area offers equipment for both younger and older children.

Equestrian areas provide opportunities for young people and adults alike to develop or strengthen their horse handling skills.

The beautiful setting at Goodells County Park makes it the ideal place for an outdoor wedding.

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St. Clair County Farm Museum

2015 Events

Museum Open Days
May 2-3-9-14-20-24
May 9 Plow Days
June 10-14-24-28
July 1-5-15
During 4-H Fair
July 20-25
Aug 2-12-16
Harvest Days
August 28-29-30
Sept 9-13-23-27
Oct 7-18-21-25
Corn Maze
Oct 10-11,17-18,24-25
Dec 5 Lighted Christmas Parade

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The St. Clair Tunnel

This rail route under the St. Clair River is more than a mile in length and 15 feet under the St. Clair River bottom. The Canadian National railway tunnel connects Port Huron Michigan and Sarnia, Ontario. The tunnel is a major highway for double stack container trains that are used to move vast amounts of freight across the Canadian – U.S. Border.

At the time of its completion in 1995, the tunnel was one of the largest construction projects in North America and replaced the first underwater tunnel in the world that was opened in 1891.

A state-of-the-art boring machine that was guided by satellite, lasers and computer technology burrowed under the river into soft clay deposits to carve the new tunnel. Following completion of the St. Clair River project, the boring machine, nicknamed “Excalibore”, was dismantled and moved to another tunnel boring project in Europe. Excalibore weighed over 724 tons and was powered by eight 300 horsepower motors and cost over \$17 million dollars.

The exact length of the tunnel is 6,130 feet and the top of the tunnel is 15 feet below the river bottom.



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Bridge to Bay Trail

The Bridge to Bay Trail extends from St. Clair County's northern border, under the Blue Water Bridges, through Port Huron, Marysville, St. Clair, Marine City, and Algonac; past state and municipal parks, museums, gazebos, and lighthouses. In most cases, the trail is within reach of the water's edge and in others it is a few miles inland.

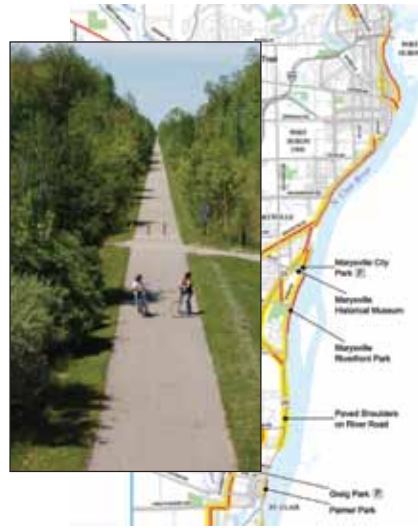
The Bridge to Bay Trail is a cooperative trail program involving the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission and 13 local units of government along the shoreline. Individual communities are responsible for designating trail routes, developing and constructing their trail sections, and maintenance, regulation, and policing.

The Bridge to Bay Trail is diverse in style, landscape and purpose. Various sections include boardwalks, riverwalks, rail trails, safety paths and bike paths. Parts of the trail share transportation corridors with state highways and county thoroughfares, while other sections pass through quiet wood lots and wetlands. Some sections - in and around Algonac State Park, the East China Township Park and Pine Grove Park - are purely recreational.

Wadhams to Avoca Trail is a non-motorized trail that is open year round. Currently the trail begins at Griswold Road in Port Huron Township and runs over 12 miles to the Northwest, ending in downtown Avoca. Over 5 miles of the trail are paved, starting at Griswold Rd. and ending at McLain Rd. The remainder of the trail (7.0 miles), between Avoca Rd. and McLain Rd. is surfaced with limestone fines.



The 640' Mill Creek Trestle is the showpiece of the Wadhams to Avoca Trail. Built in the Late 1800s, the 60 ft. high trestle is decked and railed to provide safe access for trail users. Four overlooks provide spectacular



views perfect for photo opportunities. The trestle is located between Beard and Imlay City Roads. Parking lots and vault toilets are provided at the Lapeer Rd., Imlay City Rd. and Avoca Rd. trail heads. Additional parking is available at the

Wadhams Road trail head provided by the By-Lo gas station.

Trek the Trestle Trail Walk - September 7, 2015

The St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission is hosting this 6th annual walk on Labor Day. The 5-mile walk is part of the Labor Day Community Walks, which are held throughout the state in conjunction with the Mackinac Bridge Labor Day Walk to support "Getting Michigan Moving."

The Wadhams to Avoca Trail utilizes more than 12 miles of a historic rail line formerly owned by the CSX Company. The centerpiece of the trail is the 640-foot long Mill Creek Trestle, which is the longest rail trail bridge in the State of Michigan. Built in the late 1800's, the 60-foot high trestle has been decked and railed to provide safe access for walkers and bicyclists. Four overlook areas have also been installed on the trestle so the trail users can enjoy the beautiful views up and down the Mill Creek Valley.

Tues. thru Fri. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
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Lexington

A charming harbor village on the shores of Lake Huron, situated 20 miles north of Port Huron, Lexington has earned the moniker of the first resort north. Visitors experience the relaxed feeling of an “up north” resort area with a short easy drive.



Nearby golf courses and driving ranges will please the golfer in the family. State parks, RV facilities and camping are only a few miles from Lexington.

Summer brings the Music in the Park series presented by the Lexington Arts Council, a

The Village of Lexington offers an appealing combination of sophistication and history, along with a touch of nostalgia for a way of life of years gone by. Unique shops, cultural entertainment and family dining, along with B&Bs and a wealth of quaint cottages await your visit. Visitors enjoy recreational facilities and modern facilities in a charming lifestyle of a century ago.

The historic downtown shopping district leads you to a State Harbor of refuge with a limestone seawall, featuring a walkway surrounded by breathtaking views of Lake Huron. The clean open beachfront area provides swimming, boating, kayaking and other water activities. Bike paths through the village and up to the Thumb area are just a part of Lexington’s recreational opportunities. Lexington’s Tierney Park and Lester Park are filled with tennis courts, walking trails, soccer fields, a pickle ball court and lakeside benches to relax and enjoy the view.

free concert series on Friday nights June 26th through August. The 36th Annual Lexington Fine Arts Street fair is held August 1st and 2nd, featuring over 125 artists and fine crafters to the streets of the downtown area. Thumbfest, a celebration of traditional music fills the streets of Lexington on Saturday, September 5th. A Bach Festival, classic car shows, motorcycle shows and tractor shows are also held in Lexington’s busy summer schedule. An active Lexington Business Association coordinates events and activities all summer long. One of the most popular events is the celebration of Independence Day with a harbor front display of Fireworks on July 3rd and an All American parade on July 4th. It is a celebration like you remember- family, friends and Americana at its best.

A schedule of events and details can be found at www.lexingtonmichigan.org.

Visit Lexington, you’ll find something for everyone in a relaxed setting. It’s the kind of Lakeside village you’ll remember fondly.



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May

- 2-3 Lexington In Bloom
- 7 LBA Spring Mingler
- 9 Tierney Park Clean-Up, 9 AM-1 PM (May 16th rain date)
- 22-23 Moore Public Library Book & Plant Sale, 9 AM-5 PM
Friday and Saturday
- 25 Memorial Day Parade, 11:00 AM

June

- 6-7 Civil War Weekend
- 20 A&W Antique Tractor Show, 10 AM-5 PM
- 20 Solstice Thumbfest Fundraiser, 7 PM-10 PM
- 20-21 Lakeside Craft Show, 10-6 Sat, 10-5 Sun
- 26 **Music in the Park-Collision Six, 7:30 PM**
- 27 A&W Classic Car Show, 10 AM-5 PM

July

- 3 Independence Day Fireworks, Dusk
- 4 Independence Day Parade, 11 AM
- 4 **Music in the Park-Tim McGraw Tribute, 7:30 PM**
- 5 Fireman's Pancake Breakfast, 7 AM – Noon
- 10 **Music in the Park, Boogie Dynamite, 7:30 PM**
- 17 **Music in the Park, Thornetta Davis, 7:30 PM**
- 18 Lexington Triathlon
- 24 **Music in the Park, Bob Seger Tribute, 7:30 PM**
- 25 Sanilac County Humane Society, Battle of the Bands, 7:00 PM
- 31 **Music in the Park, Devin Scillian with Arizona Sun, 7:30 PM**

*Events, dates and times are subject to change. Please check sponsored websites for details. **The Music in the Park Series and The Bach Festival** are sponsored by the Lexington Arts Council, lexarts.com. Events highlighted in green are sponsored by the*

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15-2016 Calendar of Events



August

- 1-2 Moore Public Library Book Sale, 9 AM-5 PM Fri, 10AM-3PM Sat
- 1-2 Lexington Fine Arts Street Fair, 10-6 Sat, 10-5 Sun
- 7 **Music in the Park-Persuasion, 7:30 PM**
- 7-9 Antique Yard Sale Trail
- 8 Lexington 5K Run, 9:00 AM
- 14 **Music in the Park, Madcat Midnight Blues Journey, 7:30 PM**
- 21 **Music in the Park, Dave Bennett "Rocking the 50s", 7:30 PM**
- 28-29 Margaritafest

September

- 5 Thumbfest, 10 AM-10PM
- 13-20 Bach Festival
- 26-27 Lexington Days Oktoberfest

October

- 31 Halloween in Lexington

November

- 7-8 Holiday Market Squares/Open House Weekend
- 13-15 Ladies Weekend

December

- 5 Christmas Tree Lighting & Merchant Luminary Walk
- 12 Christmas Horse Parade, 2:00 PM
- 23 6th Annual Christmas Eve-Sing-a-Long, 7 PM-10 PM

Lexington Business Association (LBA), lexingtonmichigan.org.
Margaritafest 2015 is co-sponsored by the Lexington Arts Council & The Lexington Business Association.

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Port Sanilac

The vibrant village of Port Sanilac is filled with activities and fun throughout the year!

Beginning Memorial Day weekend is the Farmer's Market every Friday from 3 -7 pm through October 30th. Stop by on your way to the cabin or campground to pick up some goodies.

The weekend following Memorial Day brings Civil War Days. With re-enactments of great battles and great speeches, and historical presentations on the underground railroad, this event is sure to be educational and enjoyable. This weekend also marks the beginning of our summer concert series, Music at the Harbor. Every Saturday night through Labor Day come to Harbor Park for a free concert.

Later in the summer is the fantastic 4th of July celebration which includes the annual parade. Don't miss the children's concert in the park immediately following the parade. The evening of the parade brings a dinner social at the Lutheran church followed by Music at the Harbor and finally the fireworks. Port Sanilac offers the finest fireworks in the Thumb. The third weekend of July brings the Bark Shanty Festival and all of its exciting



activities. From shanty races to 5K races, from talent shows to live entertainment, and from childrens' games to carnival adventure rides, the Bark Shanty Festival offers something for the entire family!


On August 14th and 15th, join us for our Antique Boat Show which features antique, wooden vessels from the early twentieth

century. There will be boat races and live entertainment, a beer tent and excellent food, and fun to be had by the whole family.


You can also participate in the Antique Yard Sale Trail. From Sebawaing in the north to Marine City in the south the Antique Yard Sale Trail is the place to be for bargain hunters and antique collectors.

As fall comes around the Boo Fest blows into town. Stopping at the Sanilac County Historical Museum, families will be able to participate in scarecrow decorating contests, treasure hunts, and other exciting events. All events are free.

These are just a few of the wondrous activities that Port Sanilac offers visitors.



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The Mariners Coalition is a direct means of interacting between boaters and enforcement officers. The mission of the Mariners Coalition is to facilitate and encourage dialog between boaters and law enforcement agencies to advise and disseminate information to the boating community regarding changes in rules and regulations and the expectations of boaters and law enforcement personnel.

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:
www.marinerscoalition.com
info@marinerscoalition.com

REPORTING NUMBERS:

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<p><i>NEXUS and Non-NEXUS Holders</i> including holders of I-68</p> <p>Northern Michigan: (906) 632-2631 North of Alpena and Upper Peninsula</p> <p>Port Huron Area: (810) 985-9972 Eastern shore of Michigan North of Metro Beach to Alpena</p> <p>Detroit Area: (313) 393-3793 or (313) 393-3949 Eastern shore of Michigan from Metro Beach to Lake Erie</p>	<p>NEXUS Holders: (866) 996-3987</p> <p>Non-NEXUS Holders: (888) 226-7277 (888) CAN-PASS</p>



Croswell



Croswell, home of the “Swinging Bridge”, (pictured) is a community with pioneer spirit, hometown values and progressive thinking. Visitors will find much to do and see in Croswell.

The Swinging Bridge Festival to be held July 31 - August 1, provides entertainment and

activities for the whole family. The festival highlights the community’s foot-traffic bridge. Affectionately known as the “be good to your mother-in-law bridge”, it is 139 feet in length and is a one-of-a-kind for Michigan. Completed in 1905 the bridge provides easy access to Riverbend Park. Festival highlights include cardboard boat races and a fireworks display.

Riverbend Park features a picnic area, covered pavilion and playground. To get to the park, go north on Howard to the traffic light, turn west, go over the Sanborn Bridge, then north on Nims. The park is on the banks of the Black River and is located in the downtown area.

Shoppers will find many goods and services in the downtown area and on M-90. Businesses offer groceries, hardware, appliances, furniture, automotive parts, jewelry, flowers, antiques, banking and family-style restaurants. A stop downtown wouldn’t be complete without a visit to some of the oldest family-owned and operated businesses in Croswell; Westbrook Hardware (1888) and Nehmer’s Jewelry (1919). If you remember the sound of old hardwood floors and the smell of “counter candy” then stop in the Pabst Ben Franklin dime store (1934), you won’t be disappointed.

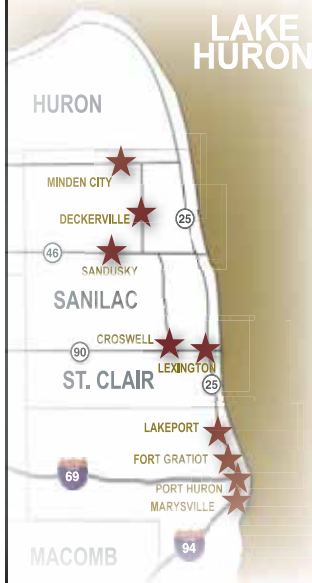
Also, if other time-honored traditions suit your fancy, then the Croswell Agricultural Fair is a must see. Events are June 14-20 at the Croswell Fairgrounds. You can’t beat the excitement of all this 131 year-old fair offers. To get to the fairgrounds, take M-90 to Croswell Road, turn North and follow the signs. The first train from Port Huron arrived in Croswell in 1879. The Croswell Historical Depot Museum features railroad and other area memorabilia. The museum is open Saturday and Sunday, 1-5pm and is located on Depot Dr., off Wells Street.

Call the Croswell/Lexington Chamber of Commerce at 810-359-2292 for more information.

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Since 1989 this quaint little town in the Thumb of Michigan has celebrated their heritage of local bologna making and along the way, the fun and excitement has continued to grow. We have been featured on radio, in magazines and on television for the quirky festival that just makes you laugh, and we love every minute of it. Hometown pride and the great importance of family and community spirit are all rolled into one during the three day extravaganza of everything ‘bologna’. It takes hundreds of volunteers to welcome you to this beautiful small town, and many of them have been helping the festival continue into the next generation.

We not only greet you like Royalty, we crown our Royal Family on Friday of the festival. Our King and Queen of Bologna and Prince and Princess of Hot Dog reign over the festivities and are cheered on for their hard work and dedication. The money they raise helps keep our festival virtually

For more information Bologna Festival

www.yalech
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and Yale Bologna Festival**

Yale Festival

& 26, 2015

free to everyone who comes. Our Main Street is shut down for the event and world class entertainment, as well as Outhouse Races, Cake Walks, Watermelon Eating Contests, Pet Parades and the best of all our Big Bologna Parade can be enjoyed by all ages.

Do you want to come home to a small town and experience a place that has everything you remember, and what you believe is the best about America? Then it's no bologna when we say that Yale is the place for you in July. The Yale Bologna Festival has fun for children of all ages and fun for the young at heart. From 1 to 100, we know you won't be able to resist a slice of our famous C. Roy, Inc. Yale Bologna and also a slice of life like you remember it.

Come and celebrate July 24, 25, 26, 2015 for the best party around. It's no bologna... you'll love Yale!

Check the Yale Area Chamber of Commerce website for updates on the festival schedule at www.yalechamber.com

Information about the festival, please visit: www.yalechamber.com
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Sandusky

Just 15 miles west of Lake Huron, ORV friendly Sandusky is located at the intersection of two state highways (M-46 & M-19) and is home to a growing industrial park, excellent educational and healthcare facilities as well as modern, well equipped, well trained police & fire departments.



implement sales and outdoor power equipment dealers are just a sampling of 200+ businesses ready to serve your needs.

Look just 5 miles east and you will find one of the few remaining Drive-In Theaters (Memorial Day-Labor Day).

Sandusky offers all of the services and resources you would expect from a much larger city, while maintaining its rural character and small town values. Agriculture, industry and retail converge in the area of this progressive, hardworking community.

Sandusky offers many recreational opportunities and is a beehive of activity. Not only are ORV's permitted on all city streets, it's also home to several annual celebrations including the Michigan Thumb Festival (last full weekend in June), the Sanilac County 4-H Fair in August, as well as the ever popular Country Christmas Lighted Farm Implement Parade and Miss Sanilac County Scholarship Pageant in December. The town features more than 60 acres of public parks, a tri-plex movie theater, as well as the Colleen J. Howe Hockey Arena (October-April). The arena was named in honor of the late wife of hockey legend Gordie Howe. Mrs. Howe was born and raised in the area and the Howes were instrumental contributors to the formation of the Sanilac County Hockey Association.

The Sandusky Municipal Airport (Y83) is located just 2.5 miles north of town. It features a modern paved 3100' runway and fuel service. Sandusky's Industrial Park is located on the east side of town and offers both lots and existing buildings for sale. Several incentives exist for developers.

Visitors will find quaint antique and specialty shops in the historic downtown shopping district, that are complemented by larger K-Mart and Walmart shopping on the west side. Two motels, 17 full service and franchise restaurants, gift stores, auto dealers, farm

Sandusky was incorporated as a village in 1885 and was named by Wildman Mills. He was a large landowner and lumberman in the area. Mills named the city after Sandusky, Ohio where he was a former resident and a tribute to his father who also named the Ohio city.

In 1879 Sandusky became the county-seat and was renamed Sanilac Centre because it was located in the exact center of the county. The name reverted back to Sandusky when the city was incorporated in 1905.

This year's events include:

Thumb Festival - In the heart of the thumb enjoy family fun during Sandusky's annual Thumb Festival. This year's dates are June 26, 27, and 29, 2015. There's something for everyone during the festival.

Country Christmas - December 4th and 5th are this year's dates for Michigan's original Country Christmas Lighted Implement Parade. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 4th at 7pm to be a part of the Tree Lighting Ceremony, caroling and sing-a-long. Then bring everyone back on Saturday, December 5th for kids activities, craft show, live manger scene, and the lighted implement parade at 7pm.

Ladies Night Out - Friday September 25, 2015 we are planning for this year's "Ladies Night Out" with a Hawaiian theme. Call your girlfriends, mark your calendars and shop for your Hawaiian themed costume. Light dinner, excellent shopping, sales specials, deals and prizes all await you and your friends. For more information email sanduskychamber.mi@gmail.com or call 810-648-4445.

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Going to Canada

Golf in Bluewater Country Sarnia-Lambton is a special experience for the daytrippers and vacationing groups alike.

With 20 courses to choose from, there's no lack of choice for the visitor looking for a new golf experience.

Bluewater Country is where 2003 Masters Champion Mike Weir got his start. In fact you can golf at the course where he learned his trade - Huron Oaks - or at the course where he played his first round at the 9-Hole Holiday Inn. You can even watch Weir golf when he returns home each July for his annual charity golf event.

Resort-style accommodations can be found in Forest, Camlachie, Ipperwash and Grand Bend, where stay and play golfing is available. South on the St. Clair River, the course in Mooretown offers a chance to play the legend of the big greens. To the east in Petrolia, Heritage Heights offers play on one of SW Ontario's oldest courses, carved out of a late 1800s oil field in the town that oil built.

Traveling north from Sarnia, golf courses can be found every 10 minutes, a fact reflected in the short wait for tee times at the courses that range from nine up to 27 holes of play.

Call Tourism Sarnia Lambton for details and a travel guide at (800) 265-0316 or log onto tourismsarnialambton.com for full details on the many great opportunities to tee off in Bluewater Country.

Duty Free Shopping

Duty Free shopping is located prior to the bridge entrance and toll booths. You may use duty free shopping on your trip to Canada. Once you have entered the Duty Free area you must pay a toll and cross the bridge into Canada, there are NO EXCEPTIONS.

Duty Free may be accessed off of Pine Grove Avenue (M-25) NOT from the Blue Water Bridge. Rules governing purchase of goods from duty free may be obtained at 810-987-7676.

Bridge Construction Until July 31st

The Blue Water Bridge international crossing in Port Huron, Michigan will be partially closed beginning April 1 for the resurfacing and waterproof undercoating on its original span, likely leading to traffic backups between the U.S. and Canada.

Work on the bridge, co-owned by the state of Michigan and Blue Water Bridge Canada, is expected to be finished by July 31.

The original bridge, built in 1937, currently serves westbound traffic entering the United States. The eastbound portion of the bridge, built in 1997, will be used to accommodate both directions of international traffic throughout the project. Normally, it just handles eastbound traffic entering Canada.

Only one lane of traffic will be open in each direction across the bridge. Two lanes will be available in each direction as vehicles approach the toll plazas at each end of the span.

Limited lane availability during this project will prevent the use of a dedicated lane for NEXUS and F.A.S.T. vehicles, as well as buses, according to the Michigan DOT. Wide loads will be restricted to less than 11 feet.

Due to the longer wait times expected at the border, drivers are encouraged to travel at off-peak hours.



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Crossing the Blue Water Bridge into Canada

Michigan - U.S. Currency (East Bound Entering Canada)

Automobiles	\$3.00
Trailers	+\$3.00/axle
Commercial Trucks	\$3.25/axle

Michigan - U.S. Currency (West Bound Entering the U.S.)

Automobiles	\$3.50
Trailers	+\$3.50/axle
Commercial Trucks	\$3.75/axle

Border Crossing Information

The following types of documents are the only documents accepted by the bridge authority as identification upon border crossing.

- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Passport Card
- Enhanced Drivers License
- Nexus Card

Tips for Crossing the Border:

1. Approach inspection booths in a safe and orderly fashion and follow all posted or directed instructions.
2. Have your proof of citizenship (above) ready prior to arrival at the booth.
3. Have children's birth certificates ready and if traveling with children, that are not immediate family, have a note or proof that they have permission to cross the border with you.
4. Turn off radio, cell phones, or anything that may be distracting to the border agent.
5. Declare all vegetables, fruits, animals, birds, plants and plant products, meat and meat products, and eggs.
6. Declare all personal items.
7. Resident aliens must carry residency cards at all times.
8. Don't fool around. Border agents take their jobs seriously.
9. Don't drive under the influence of alcohol.
10. Be patient. The border is a very busy place.

Visits Under 48 Hours

After a stay of less than 48 hours in Canada, a U.S. Citizen or resident may return to the U.S. with \$800 U.S. worth of goods per person, tax and duty free. Any purchases of alcohol or tobacco products may be subject to duties and taxes. Any purchases in excess of the U.S. \$200 allowance may be subject to duties and taxes. Additional information on border wait times, required documents and tolls or www.goborder.com. Receive updates on Twitter, www.twitter.com/MDOT_BWB.

Crossing the Blue Water Bridge or Algonac ferry (year round service) into Canada is just the beginning of a special adventure.

The bridge provides a bird's eye view of the bountiful water bodies of the St. Clair River and Lake Huron and the thousands of ships and boats that pass underneath the twin spans. The ferry, with non-stop service, brings the traveler even closer to that action, providing a unique experience unto itself.

The crossing is just the beginning of the Canadian journey. The Bluewater Country experience in Sarnia-Lambton offers something for everyone.

Parks are found throughout the shoreline of the river and lake, providing ample opportunities for day trips or summer vacations with their varied accommodation facilities ranging from 6,000 campsites to resort hotels.

Sarnia and Point Edward (the community at the foot of the bridge) are known for their beautiful waterfront vistas and entertainment. Almost every weekend during the summer there is a major festival on tap at a riverside park.

Year-round gaming is a popular attraction with the waterfront OLG Casino Point Edward providing 37 gaming tables and 450 slots. Hiawatha Horse Park has concerts and live-harness racing Thursday and Saturday nights to keep visitors coming back time and time again.

Just outside Sarnia, Bluewater Country offers unparalleled recreation with 20 golf courses, 9 unique museums and in-water events including high-speed boat racing, sailing and fishing for trout, salmon walleye, bass and more.

North along Lake Huron, spectacular beaches await visitors at Canatara Park (Sarnia), Ipperwash, Pinery and Grand Bend.

The varied entertainment offerings include professional summer theatres in Grand Bend and Petrolia, a presentation of The Promise in Forest, or a varied line-up at the Imperial Theatre in Sarnia's riverfront district.

Travelers can stop just over either border crossing and pick up a local travel guide providing a complete overview of the region. On the internet visit www.tourismsarnialambton.com for details and phone contact numbers (800) 265-0316 for the local office, and a chance to order brochures.



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