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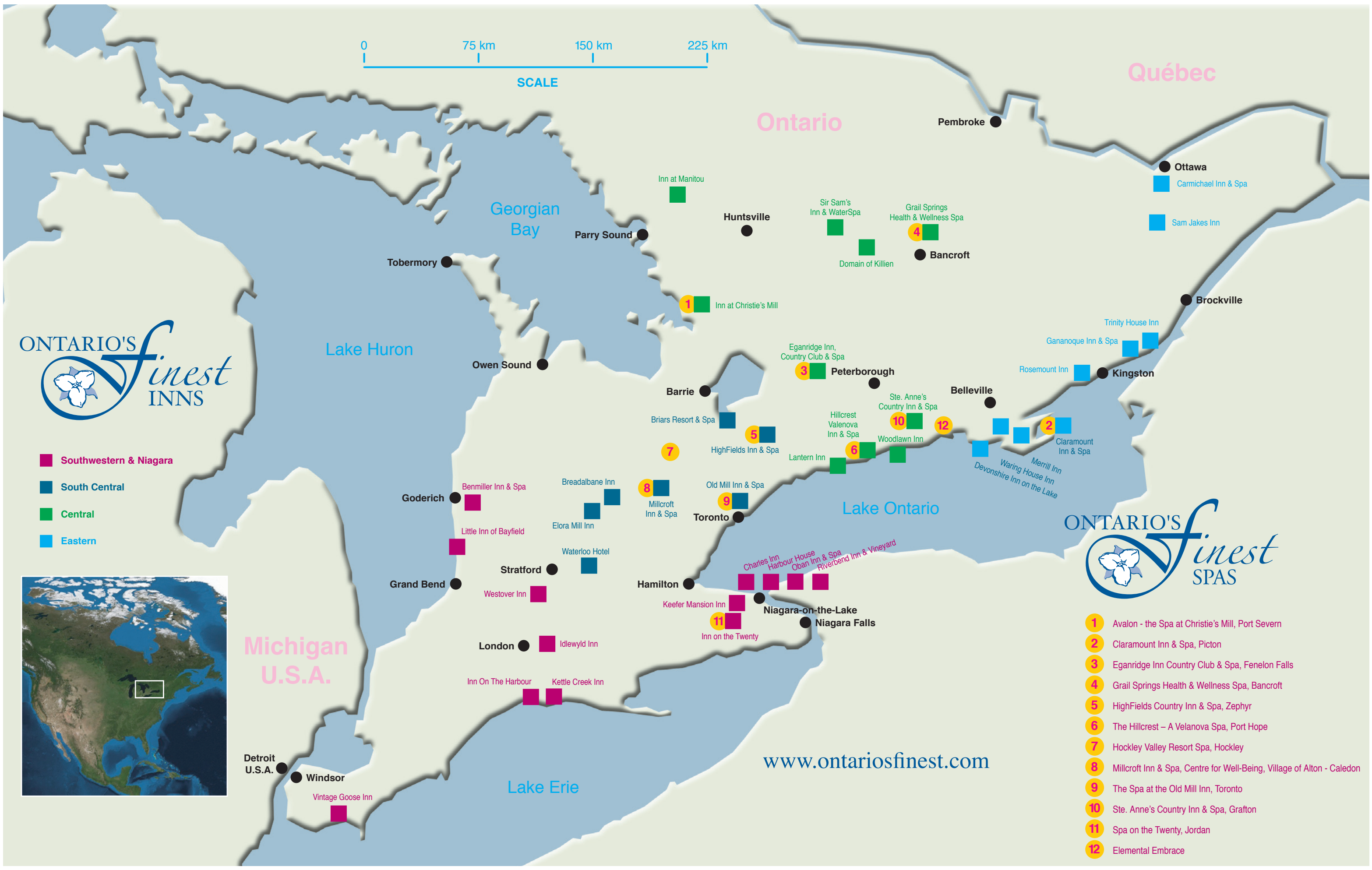


Michigan  
U.S.A.



- 1 Avalon - the Spa at Christie's Mill, Port Severn
- 2 Claramount Inn & Spa, Picton
- 3 Eganridge Inn Country Club & Spa, Fenelon Falls
- 4 Grail Springs Health & Wellness Spa, Bancroft
- 5 HighFields Country Inn & Spa, Zephyr
- 6 The Hillcrest - A Velanova Spa, Port Hope
- 7 Hockley Valley Resort Spa, Hockley
- 8 Millcroft Inn & Spa, Centre for Well-Being, Village of Alton - Caledon
- 9 The Spa at the Old Mill Inn, Toronto
- 10 Ste. Anne's Country Inn & Spa, Grafton
- 11 Spa on the Twenty, Jordan
- 12 Elemental Embrace

[www.ontariosfinest.com](http://www.ontariosfinest.com)





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## Niagara's OSpa the latest to join Ontario's Finest

The Oban Inn's new OSpa is welcome news for spa goers who love to take in a play at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Manager Celia Liu says her inn and spa's intimate setting on one of Niagara on the Lake's quieter streets attracts small groups of friends and couples. The inn's new Spa 'n Shaw getaway (two Shaw tickets, overnight accommodation, continental breakfast, and a 55 minute spa treatment for each) and is priced from \$285 pp, do. A three course dinner prepared by Niagara culinary wiz Tony de Luca can be added for \$55 pp. [www.obaninn.ca](http://www.obaninn.ca)

## Also in Niagara...

At the Spa on the Twenty, spa director Becky Doyle uses a grapeseed extract in her spa's signature Wine Country Wrap and Manicure. The spa packages with the Inn on the Twenty and its famous On the Twenty Restaurant to offer the Wine Country Experience, a two-night package that combines the spa's signature wrap and manicure with a hot stone pedicure, hot stone massage, two nights of accommodation, breakfasts, lunch, a three-course dinner, wine tasting at neighbouring Cave Springs Winery and a bottle of Cave Springs to enjoy in their suite. [www.innonthetwenty.com](http://www.innonthetwenty.com)

## "Green"-related inn and spa story ideas...

Part of the inns and spas' mandate is to support local growers and producers wherever possible. Niagara fruit and wine-inspired dishes are served in Niagara. Fresh perch and pickered dinners are served at Lake Erie and Lake Huron area inns. Perth County pork is served at the Westover. Prince Edward County cheese and wine is served at the PEC inns and so on. Many of the executive chefs have helped the inns' marketing teams create special foraging packages that introduce their guests to some of their favourite local growers. Guests are encouraged to take a self-guided tour of the countryside, visit local producers and then enjoy an inn dining experience that represents the local food scene. The Vintage Goose Inn in Kingsville encourages local foraging on its County Farmers' Trail. The Little Inn of Bayfield offers year-round foraging adventures to Chef Chappuis's favourite fishmonger, butcher and

cheese maker. In Prince Edward County, the Merrill Inn, Waring House, Claramount Inn & Spa and Devonshire on the Lake encourage their guests to forage their area farms, vineyards, even a cheese factory and a cidery with orchards dating back to the American Revolution. Eganridge Inn chef Moghini's favourite producers include a local honey maker and an organic greens producer. The latter is actually his sous-chef. In summer, this young fellow hand-picks his organic greens daily for the Eganridge dining room. You'll also find that at many of the inns and spas, organic is the norm. In Port Hope, for example, the Hillcrest supports several local organic producers.

## Take the train to an inn or spa

The next time you are stuck on Highway 401, consider taking VIA Rail to one of Ontario's Finest Inns. We surveyed the innkeepers about shuttle services and had a flood of positive responses from those in towns with VIA Rail stations. Ste. Anne's and the Hillcrest package with VIA Rail.

## Huron County is hot, hot, hot when it comes to green initiatives.

In fact, the little town of Brussels, home of Ontario's Finest admin offices, is where you will find the Centre for Applied Renewable Energy. Given Huron County's natural advantages (access to wind, feedstock crops, animal waste, etc.), this area will likely reap the benefits of growth in Ontario's renewable energy sector. Not only is it home to some innovative green projects, it is also where you will find some of Ontario's best cheese makers, butchers and produce farms. A foodie with his ear to the ground is the Little Inn of Bayfield's executive chef, Jean Jacques Chappuis. You can read his blog at [littleinn.com](http://littleinn.com) for the latest on food on this area.

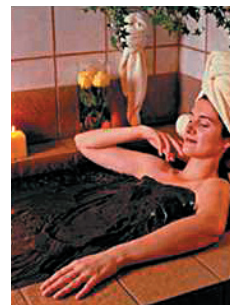
## Many of the inns feature period antiques from their region or they have purchased local handcrafted furniture.

In the case of Don Rungay, however, not only is he the innkeeper at the Lantern Inn in Port Hope, he is its master craftsman, too. Don single-handedly handcrafted all the inn's circa 1840 end tables, desks and wardrobes, in his own basement. He also designed each of the inn's four poster beds. [www.lanterninn.com](http://www.lanterninn.com)

## When Jim Corcoran, owner of Ste. Anne's Spa, went looking for the best mud to fill his new mud baths, his quest took him around the world.

His search ended when he discovered that one of the world's purest deposits of moor mud is found in Casselman, Ontario, only three hours from his spa. Derived from ancient peat bogs, moor mud is

the result of a 30,000-year-old process. Decomposing prehistoric plants were compressed into a deep, rich, black magma. As the glaciers receded during the Ice Age, draining melt water deposited the magma in clay beds along what is now the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valley.



Golden Moor mudbath, Ste. Anne's Inn & Spa.

## Is romance alive and well in Ontario?

Just ask one of Ontario's Finest innkeepers. Romance was the number one package booked by inn guests in 2006 and close to 1200 couples also chose an inn to celebrate their wedding day last year. There are also some wonderful story angles related to romance and weddings at the inns:

- Four of Ontario's Finest properties have chapels on site, including Niagara's Inn on the Twenty which has its own vineyard chapel.



The Old Mill Inn Chapel in Toronto. One of four inns with on-site chapels

- Historically, romance has played a role in the construction of at least two properties. The Hillcrest Inn & Spa, in Port Hope, was built as a wedding gift in 1874. The Claramount Inn & Spa was originally part of an estate that Edward Young, a Prince Edward County lawyer, named in honour of his new bride, Clara.



Edward Young built Claramount for his sweetheart, Clara Boulter, in 1904. Now known as the Claramount Inn & Spa.

- The Elopement, offered by London's Idlewyld Inn, is one of the more intriguing romance getaways. The Idlewyld supplies the wedding officiant, two witnesses, photography, bouquet and boutonniere, candlelight dinner for two, wedding cake for two, couples massage, wine, and a two-night stay in a Jacuzzi ensuite with breakfast in bed both mornings. Priced at \$1450, taxes included.
- Toronto's Old Mill Inn & Spa hosts the most weddings per year out of all the inns. Not only does this inn have its own chapel on site, for couples who choose to be married here, an overnight stay in one of its luxurious honeymoon suites is offered at half price. The generous suites feature magnificent views of the Humber River Valley, king-sized beds, double-sized jacuzzi tubs, fireplaces, and full living and dining areas.

## New 2007 golf and inn/spa angles

The Inn at Manitou, near Parry Sound, has paired with the new Ridge at Manitou golf course, named Best New Canadian Course 2006 by Golf Digest Magazine. New inn Play & Stay packages include accommodation, meals, tee times and golf academy instruction. The Millcroft Inn & Spa, just 45 minutes northwest of Toronto, has His 'n Her golf packages combined with spa treatments. Likewise with Hockley Valley Resort and Spa. Near Goderich, the Benmiller is introducing a new two-night Links & Luxury package that includes tee times at nearby Sunset and Woodlawn golf courses. The Globe and Mail has put Timber Ridge GC in Brighton on its top 100 list of public courses in Canada. Look for Ste. Anne's to package spa and golf with it. In Port Severn, the Inn at Christie's Mill offers golf at nearby Bonaire Golf Club along with great spa and culinary packages.

Another neat golf-inn angle is the number of walkable courses that Ontario's Finest have teamed up with across Ontario. The Eganridge Inn & Spa near Fenelon Falls has its own nine-hole lakeside course. The Westover Inn in St. Marys, 15 minutes west of Stratford, pairs with the delightful St. Mary's Golf & Country Club. Trinity Inn in Gananoque has an arrangement with the pretty Gananoque GC and with Glen Lawrence, another 1000 Islands gem. The Briars on Lake Simcoe offers a nostalgic golf experience that includes a Lake Simcoe cottage stay, golf on the Briars GC and dining in its 1920s clubhouse. Port Hope's Hillcrest Inn often packages with Port Hope Golf & Country Club (circa 1900).

[www.ontariosfinestinn.com/packages.cfm](http://www.ontariosfinestinn.com/packages.cfm)

## Summer theatre 'round Ontario

Some of the best summer haunts in Ontario are also home to the province's best summer theatre. In the heart of the 1000 Islands, the Gananoque Inn and Trinity House Inn package with the 1000 Islands Playhouse, a former canoe club on the St. Lawrence River. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, four of Ontario's Finest, the Oban, Riverbend, Harbour House and the Charles have new Shaw Festival packages planned for 2007. In Port Stanley, the Inn on the Harbour and the Kettle Creek Inn partner with the Festival Theatre. The Blyth Festival and the Huron County Playhouse near Lake Huron are included in the Benmiller Inn's offerings each summer. And in Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe, The Briars Inn & Spa and Canada's oldest professional summer theatre, the Red Barn, have summer theatre getaways.

## The latest inn/spa "foodie" news....

- Inn at Manitou's executive chef, Bernard Ibanez has been invited to prepare a special five-course tasting menu paired with Ontario wines for the James Beard Foundation in New York City. From mid May to mid October, the same menu will be offered to Inn at Manitou guests. Ibanez's kitchen also hosts weekend cooking classes.
- The Rosemount Inn in Kingston, has a new chef and will start offering dining for two and small dinner parties using Kingston area produce.
- The owners of the Claramount Inn & Spa have bought a Prince Edward County brewery which they plan to open soon.



*Our name says it all!*

*Our promise is to provide the finest hospitality found anywhere in our beautiful province. In support of this promise, a stringent Quality Assurance Program has been developed for our inns and spas. Each inn and each spa is inspected anonymously at regular intervals and evaluated on every aspect of its operation: ambiance and character, initial reservation process, guest greeting, cuisine, guest rooms, public areas and overall hospitality. Members of Ontario's Finest Spas offer a selection of spa treatments and programs delivered by professionals. We encourage you to look for Ontario's Finest Inns and Ontario's Finest Spas as signs of quality hospitality.*



- Young dynamo Jonathon Hosick has taken over Elaina Asselin's post at the Hillcrest. He's getting rave reviews.
- The Vintage Goose Inn in Kingsville has a new package that incorporates the Erie North Shore Wine Route.

## Did you know?

- The Merrill Inn has an unusual new innkeeper adventure package that takes you behind-the-scenes at the Merrill and introduces you to the business of innkeeping.
- The newest member of Ontario's Finest Inns & Spas is the Keefer Mansion in Thorold, home of the Welland Canal. This 1886 property was built by Hugh Keefer, a member of an engineering dynasty involved in the construction of the canal and of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. The family engineering firm remains in operation today. Hugh is a romantic figure in Thorold history. In the 1870s, he traveled to the wild American west to seek his fortune and was reputed to have been a gambling partner of Jesse James.
- Three of Ontario's Finest Inns are located on or near the Rideau Canal (celebrating its 175th anniversary this year). The Rosemount is in Kingston. The Carmichael is in Ottawa and the Sam Jakes is in Merrickville. Three other member properties are also associated with the Trent-Severn Canal. The Inn at Christie's Mill is at Port Severn, near Georgian Bay. The Eganridge Inn & Spa is on Sturgeon Lake, part of the canal system, and the Claramount Inn & Spa in Picton offers private, deep berths for boaters headed to the Trent system from Lake Ontario.
- John Kiely, innkeeper at the Gananoque Inn, is a wealth of information on the Thousand Islands. His family first settled in the region in the 1700s.
- You can take cooking lessons from the chefs at the Inn at Manitou, the Little Inn of Bayfield, the Millcroft Inn & Spa, and the Waring House Inn & Cookery.
- Actor Christopher Plummer has his own suite at the Westover Inn in St. Mary's. The town is just 25 minutes west of the Stratford Festival.
- The Hillcrest Spa uses only Doctor Hauska skincare products. These plant-based products are produced from biodynamic farming. Biodynamics is a holistic, sustainable form of agriculture that dates back to the 1920s. It takes into account everything from the cycles of the moon



A summer grilling demo at the Millcroft Inn & Spa, one of several types of cooking lessons offered by the Millcroft's executive chef, Roberto Fracchioni.

and stars, to the soil, plants, animals and people, with the ultimate goal of making each garden or farm a healthy self-sustaining ecosystem. Dr. Hauschka manufacturer WALA Heilmittel has owned and maintained their own certified biodynamic gardens for over sixty years. Most of the botanicals used in Dr. Hauschka skin care preparations come from these very gardens.

- You'll find Ontario's Finest Inns represented in cities across Ontario. The Carmichael Inn & Spa is close to the Rideau Canal in downtown Ottawa. The Rosemount Inn is in downtown Kingston. The Old Mill Inn & Spa is in the west end of Toronto. The historic Waterloo Hotel is in Kitchener-Waterloo, and the Idlewyld Inn is in downtown



The newest member of Ontario's Finest Inns, the Keefer Mansion, Thorold, Ontario.