

PARKS, FACILITIES & LEISURE SERVICES

The City of Welland prides itself on the availability of facilities and leisure activities offered to families and individuals visiting and/or living in this community. Additionally, outdoor recreation is available in the hundreds of hectares/acres of city parks, sports fields, and recreational facilities found throughout the city. Nearby, abundant water recreation activities may be enjoyed on the Welland Recreational Canal and the Great Lakes of Erie and Ontario.

A discussion of the facilities, sports venues, special events that occur during the year, and information about community parks and highlights about a few of the local tourist and visitor attractions are included in this section.

FACILITIES

Welland prides itself on the recreational opportunities and facilities it has to offer to families and individuals visiting or living in this community. There are a number of facilities available for community use, with a strong emphasis on sports venues. Welland is the home to a variety of over forty recreational and competitive sports organizations. Outstanding contributions to these sports organizations are honoured by the Welland Sports Promotion Committee during the annual Sports Awards Banquet and by Induction's to the Sports Wall of Fame, a permanent display located in the Seaway Mall.

In addition to sports venues, the City of Welland is the home of many beautiful parks and nature areas. With a commitment to reinvesting in its community parks system, the City is currently in the process of replacing playground equipment; a ten-year reinvestment project in community parks. The City also has:

Parks		Facilities		Sports Fields	
Neighbourhood parks	25	Outdoor pools	3	Baseball diamonds	52
Community parks	11	Wading pools & sprayers	5	Concession stands	2
Major city parks	6	Senior Centre	1	Soccer pitches	8
Tot lots	10	Showmobile/stage	1	Soccer club	2
Beautification areas	13	Court House	1	Lawn bowling green	1
Pavilion areas	12	City Hall	1	Bocce court	1
Bush & natural area	1	Rowing course	1	Basketball courts	5
Floral beds & displays	6	Sports complex	1	Natural ice rink areas	5
Cemeteries	2	Farmers' Market	1	Tennis clubs	2
Canal lands & Merritt Island (Canal Parkway Trail)	1	Ice rink/ arena (includes community room)	2	Recreational track/joint use at Niagara College	1
Youth Centres	1	Meeting rooms	3	Skate Park	1
		Community Halls	3		

Source: Parks, Facilities, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, 2010

SPORTS VENUES

The Sports Complex

The Sports Complex is a state of the art baseball stadium with seating for 3,000 spectators and a ball field that meets the requirements for major league play. The stadium is further enhanced by other amenities which baseball players and fans would expect, ample parking and two softball diamonds, available for professional and amateur play.

Arenas / Ice Rinks

The City has two arenas, located at 501 King Street, that operate year round with a variety of sports, recreation and specials events. The arenas operate with ice mid-August to the end of April with a full slate of ice-related organizations including Jr. B Hockey, Welland Minor Hockey and the Welland Skating Club. During summer months the arenas host a number of sports including minor lacrosse and Jr. B lacrosse. Our facility is available for special events such as wrestling and boxing matches, concerts, circuses, conventions, trade shows and community events also take place in this venue.

The Parks, Facilities, Recreation and Cultural Services Department encourages everyone to get active and stay fit throughout the year by offering the whole family the opportunity to get some exercise and have some family fun! Some of the family activities include Family SK8's; FREE Holiday SK8's - Christmas and March school breaks and SK8's for adults and seniors!

Community Pools are Kool!

Try the City pools for free public swims! The City of Welland has three outdoor pools for your enjoyment, thanks to the generosity of local business and service club sponsorships.

<i>Maple Pool</i> on South Pelham Road	905-732-3040
<i>St. George Pool</i> on St. George Street	905-732-9776
<i>Memorial Pool</i> on Memorial Park Drive	905-732-0684

Season: July 1 – September 1 (yearly) 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM **weekdays**
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM **weekends**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Welland is a community featuring many special events geared toward the family. The choices are numerous. Here is a short list of the opportunities:

January	Tribune Basketball Tournament
February	Winter Carnival
March	Spring Soccer Tournaments, Little NHL/All Ontario Peewee Hockey Tournament, March Break Family FREE Skates
April	Welland Curling Club Tournaments & Easter Egg Hunt at Merritt Island, East at the Market, Sports Awards Banquet
May	International Youth Week, Victoria Day Celebrations, South Niagara Rowing Club Season Opens
June	Variety Nites by the Canal, Kids Arts Day, Rose Festival, International Luncheons, Festival of St. Jean & Senior's Month at Rose City Senior's Activity Centre, Dragon Boat Festival, IlluminAqua, Strawberry Fest-ival at the Market, Welland Triathlon
July	Variety Nites by the Canal, Canada Day Celebrations, The Folklore Festival & World Ball, Dirt Bike Racing at Welland Motorcycle, Raceway, IlluminAqua, Ontario Provincial Masters and Junior Rowing Championships, Ontario Cup Canoe Championships, Community Concert Series
August	Variety Nites by the Canal, Welland Folklore Festival, Help a Child Smile Variety Extravaganza, Regatta of the Americas, Rowing Regattas, and Cruise Nites at Seaway Mall, Family Day at St. George Park, IlluminAqua, Welland Recreational Waterway Open Swim, Paddle by Fire – Welland Dragonboat Challenge, Community Concert Series
September	Niagara Regional Exhibition – Fall Fair, Last Chance Car Show, United Way Fundraising Campaign, Community Information Days, Head of the Welland-Five Bridges Fall Classic
October	Niagara Food Festival, Halloween Party, Women's Place Arts & Crafts and Antique Show and Sale
November	Toys For Tots Concert, Remembrance Day Ceremonies, National Child Day Free Skate, Santa Claus Parade
December	Santa Claus Parade, Winter Lights Events & Tours, Christmas Hockey Tournaments, Christmas Family FREE Skates & New Year Eve Celebration

For additional information, including a comprehensive calendar, important telephone numbers and a leisure directory, consult the City's Leisure Guide. The **Leisure Guide**, published twice a year, is released to 20,000 homes in February and August and showcases many of the programs and leisure services in the community. Copies of the *Leisure Guide* are available at City Hall, Rose City Senior's Activity Centre, and Welland Public Library, as well as online at www.welland.ca.

TOURIST/VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

Community Parks

Welland is indeed the “*City of Roses*” with many of the finest displays in the City parks. One of the premier locations is the Chippawa Park rose garden. This floral garden is the site of many wedding pictures as it features many varieties of roses with the City of Welland rose as a part of the display.

Other major parks with excellent facilities include Memorial Park, Cooks Mills Park, Maple Park and St. George Park. Amenities do vary so contact Parks, Facilities, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. Looking for a place for a family reunion, a City park might be the spot!

A Welland Downtown Tradition – City of Welland Farmers’ Market

The Welland Farmers’ Market operates year round in its historic downtown site. The Market is available for use as a hall suitable for seating of 100 -150 people, ideal for small business meetings, workshops, community group meetings and family gatherings. Furthermore, the Farmers’ Market is a place where local farmers provide visitors and Welland residents alike with a wide variety of fresh produce for purchase. During peak season well over seventy vendors are on site. The market is a full year operation with an indoor market in the two market buildings on Saturdays only.

Full Market Saturdays - inside and outside market stalls

Mini-Market Wednesdays - indoors only, two buildings, May to December only.

Amenities - Full demonstration kitchen, large outdoor canopy, accessible companion washrooms

Hours - 6:00 AM to 12 NOON

Canal Lands & Merritt Island

Looking to spend some time in the great outdoors? Discover the Canal Lands and Merritt Island, treasures in the City of Welland. These lands are both an outdoor paradise, now to be managed by the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation. Suitable for family picnics, walking, hiking, biking and jogging, everyone is sure to enjoy the fresh air and good times to be sought at the Canal Lands and Merritt Island!

For more details, contact:
Welland Recreational Canal Corporation
(905) 735-1700 ext. 2311
www.canalcorp.ca