

tobermory

sauble
beach

lion's head

101 Places to Explore

wiarton

southampton

port elgin

45.0°N 81.3°W

BRUCE
county

lucknow

kincardine

Be an explorer.

We are the explorers.

The dreamers who take roads less travelled. Here's to children who look under rocks. And parents who help with the lifting. Here's to active, inquiring minds, and those with the vision to look beyond obstacles.

You hold in your hand the map to finding Bruce County's hidden treasures. From breathtaking scenes of nature, to one of a kind country stores, each page of this book features a new and exciting place to explore.

Here's to the explorers – here's to us.



1

Flowerpot Island, Tobermory

Famous for its natural “flowerpot” rock pillars, caves, historic light station and rare plants, the boat tour to this island alone is worthwhile, passing over ancient shipwrecks.



Big Tub Lighthouse, Tobermory

Charles Earl once hung a lantern on a tree to safely guide sailors into Tobermory. Now, in that historic spot, stands the fully automated Big Tub Lighthouse.



3

MS Chi-Cheemaun, Tobermory

Her title derived from an Ojibwe word meaning “big canoe”, the Chi-Cheemaun ferry seasonally connects the Bruce Peninsula to the world’s largest freshwater island: Manitoulin.



Bruce Trail Cairn, Tobermory

Proudly overlooking Little Tub Harbour, the Bruce Trail's northernmost point is marked by a stoic stone cairn, beckoning adventurers to start their hike south.



5

Tobermory Brewing Company, Tobermory

With a picturesque location overlooking Little Tub Harbour and downtown Tobermory, this restaurant and craft brewery offers local ingredients and menu options even the most discerning foodie will love.



Parks Canada Visitor Centre, Tobermory

An incredible Visitor's Centre for Fathom Five and Bruce Peninsula National Parks with captivating exhibits, informative films, and a twenty metre lookout tower offering a stunning park view.

6



7

Burnt Point Loop - Bruce Trail, Tobermory

This five kilometre hike through pine forest trails, over rocks and roots, offers beautiful boardwalks and lovely views of Little Dunks Bay.



Dunks Bay Beach, Tobermory

Swimming in the clear, turquoise water of Georgian Bay at this clean, small, sand beach is an essential Bruce Peninsula experience.



9

Overhanging Point, Tobermory

Jutting out into Georgian Bay, expect exquisite views of crystal-clear waves and lush, green forest from this limestone cliff edge.



Grotto, Bruce Peninsula National Park

A big cave carved out over thousands of years as Georgian Bay's waves crashed against the escarpment, the iconic Grotto is deservedly visited by thousands each year.



11

Little Cove Adventures, Tobermory

Improve your balance and have an adventurous outdoor excursion with family and friends on Little Cove's high and low rope obstacle courses.



Singing Sands, Tobermory

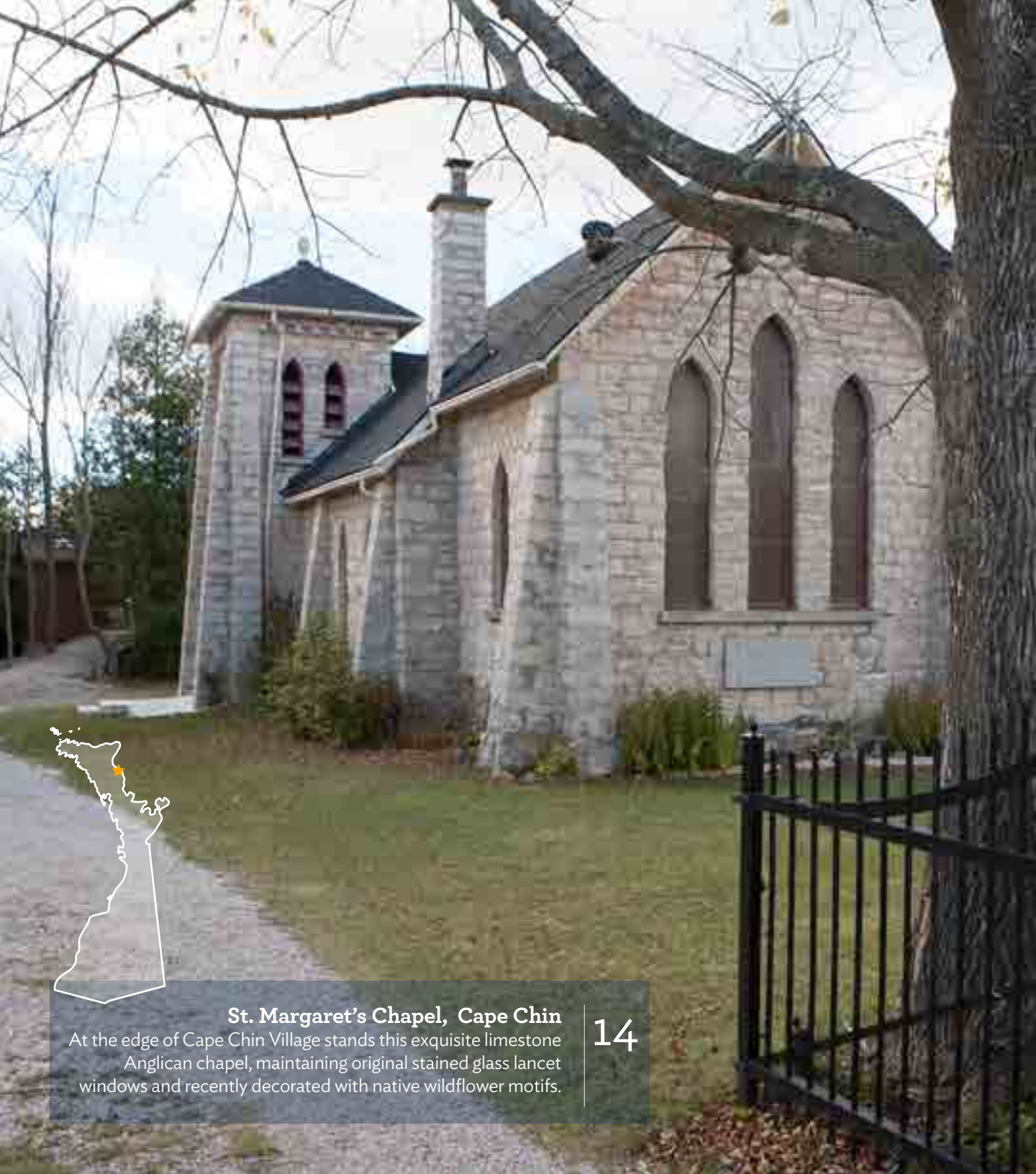
Named after the sound of the wind whistling through the sand dunes, this Bruce Peninsula National Park beach is a great family destination with acres of sandy shoreline, boardwalk hiking trails, and shallow water.



13

Lindsay Tract, Miller Lake

One of the largest forests in Bruce County, with more than 8000 acres of land, the Lindsay Tract contains diverse, rocky, multi-use trails and also provides important habitat for Black Bear and Eastern Massasauga Rattle Snake.



St. Margaret's Chapel, Cape Chin

At the edge of Cape Chin Village stands this exquisite limestone Anglican chapel, maintaining original stained glass lancet windows and recently decorated with native wildflower motifs.



15

White Bluff, Isthmus Bay

Rising fifty meters above Georgian Bay, the rugged limestone bluff showcases unusual rock formations naturally created over millions of years.



Lion's Head Lighthouse, Lion's Head

Using the blueprints from the original 1903 structure, the lovely Lion's Head Lighthouse seen today was built by students from a local high school.



17

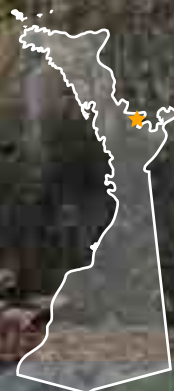
Picture Frame, Lion's Head

The first settlers in Isthmus Bay saw the profile of a lion's head in the Escarpment, and so named their settlement below. Here, you can find that historic natural formation from a perfectly positioned picture frame.



Pot Holes, Lion's Head

Formed from the swirling of boulder-laden glacial melt water, a cluster of potholes in the Niagara Escarpment is known locally as the “Eagles Nest”. When seen from Isthmus Bay, large boulders appear almost egg-like.



19

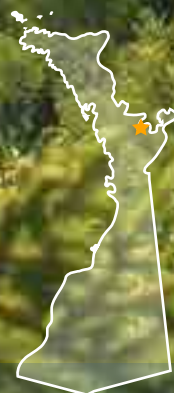
Greig's Caves, Lion's Head

A self-guided adventure, over rocky trails and steep inclines, leads to these impressive limestone caves.



By the Bay General Store, Pike Bay

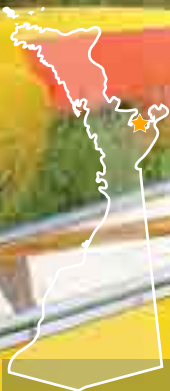
Found on the small resort, this general store carries all you might need for a great experience in Pike Bay. Pick up some bait and fish off the dock, or rent a boat and head into Lake Huron to watch the famous sunset.



21

Bruce Trail, Hope Bay

Grand, panoramic views of Hope Bay can be seen from many of the Bruce Trail lookouts north of Hope Bay and the hike to reach them is equally spectacular.



Cape Croker Park

This campground encompass 520 acres, has 315 campsites, is nestled between limestone bluffs and hugs the shoreline of MacGregor Harbour.



23

Sydney Bay Lookout

This hidden Bruce Peninsula gem can be difficult to find, but is well-worth the effort for the lookout's stunning, panoramic view of Sydney Bay.



Petrel Point Nature Reserve, Red Bay

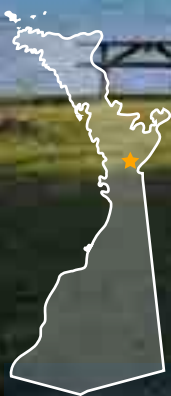
A boardwalk winds through this Great Lakes Coastal Meadow Marsh habitat, exposing rare wildflowers and orchids to the observant nature-lover.



25

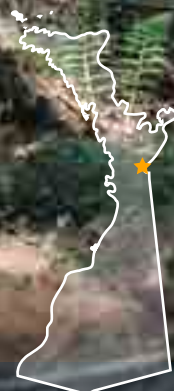
Isaac Lake, Mar

A nature-lover's dream come true, this serene lake presents superb kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and wildlife, including the elusive Bald Eagle.



Berford Lake

This quiet, sand bottom lake feeds the Rankin River and is perfect for fishing, swimming, and kayaking. Grassy parks on the shore also offer fresh drinking water and playgrounds for children.



27

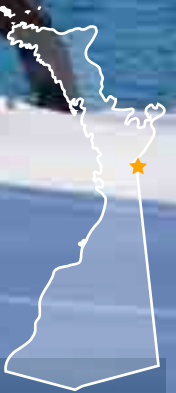
Bruce County Mountain Bike Adventure Park, Warton

This park is home to the Pump Track, a continuous loop of packed dirt track that can be ridden without pedalling your bike.



Spirit Rock Staircase, Wiarton

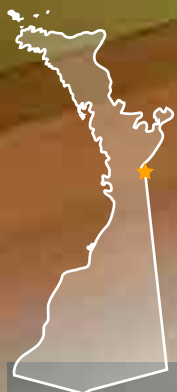
A slightly nerve-racking climb up the winding, red staircase at Spirit Rock Conservation Area yields impressive views of Colpoy's Bay and access to Bruce Trail hiking paths.



29

Spirit Rock Trail – Bruce Trail, Wiarton

This beautiful trail has been called a microcosm of the entire Bruce Trail, with incredible birdlife, numerous species of orchids, natural limestone erosion, and one of the highest points on the Bruce Peninsula.



Northern Confections, Warton

Handmade fudge, chocolate, brittles, and many more gourmet goodies can be found at this fantastic confectionery cafe that promises to “make life a bit sweeter every day”.



31

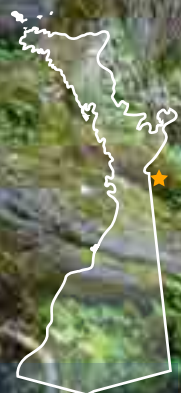
Wiarton Willie's Den, Wiarton

Wiarton is home to the only albino prognosticating groundhog in the world. When he's not busy predicting spring, one might find him in his den at Bluewater Park.



Bluewater Park, Wiarton

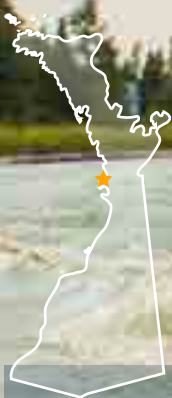
This massive park on Colpoy's Bay has handsome gardens, waterfront camp sites, Wiarton's historic train station, a splash pad, and is home to Wiarton Willie himself.



33

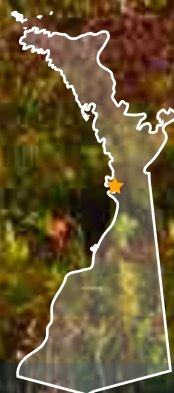
Bruce's Caves Conservation Area, Warton

These unique caves were formed along the escarpment thousands of years ago by the waves of post-Ice Age Lake Algonquin - Demonstrating just how high lake levels once were.



Kite Surfing, Oliphant

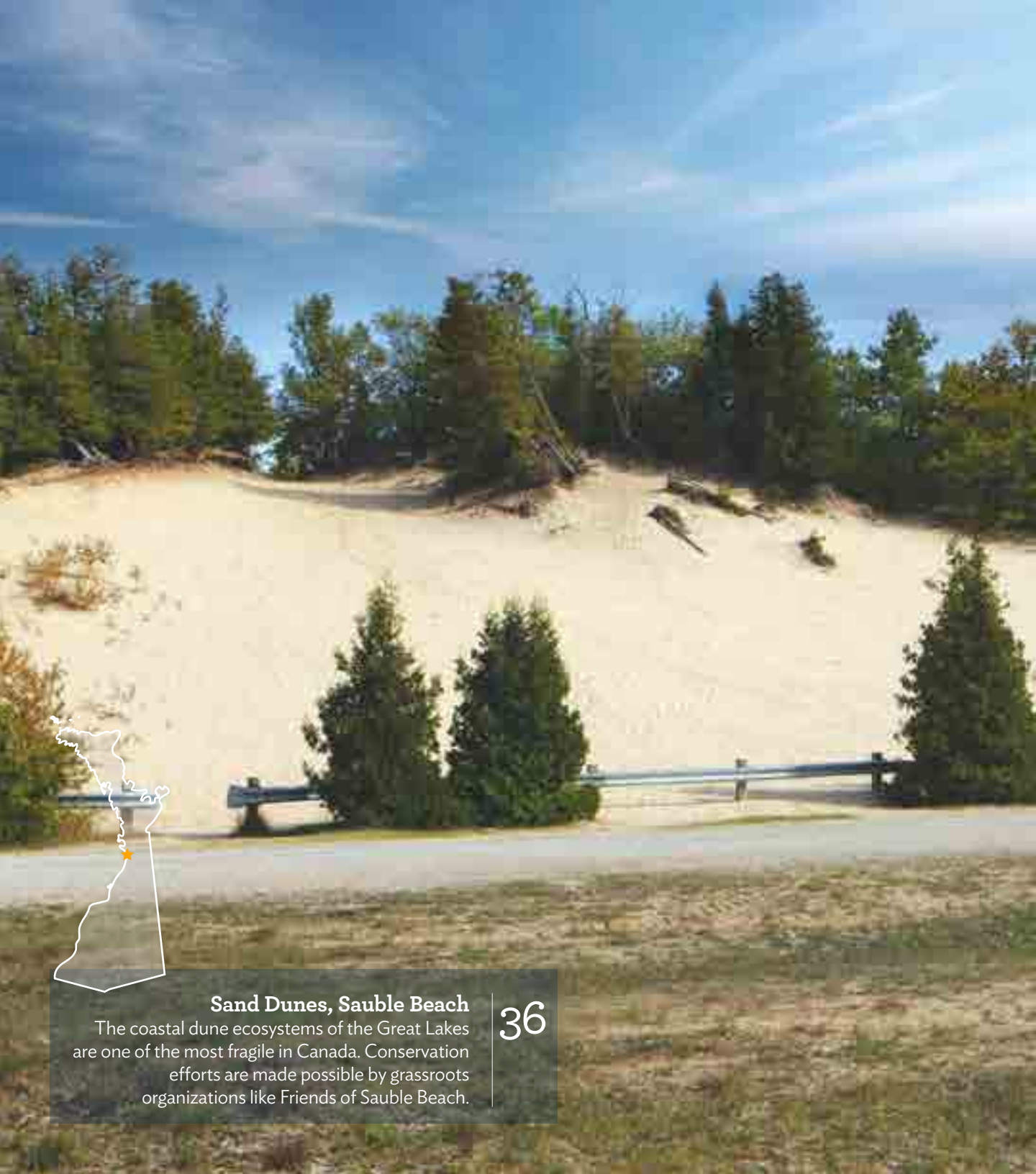
In Oliphant, Lake Huron is shallow for as far as the eye can see and the wind blows in from two different directions almost daily. It is, quite possibly, Ontario's best kite surfing location for beginners and experts alike.



35

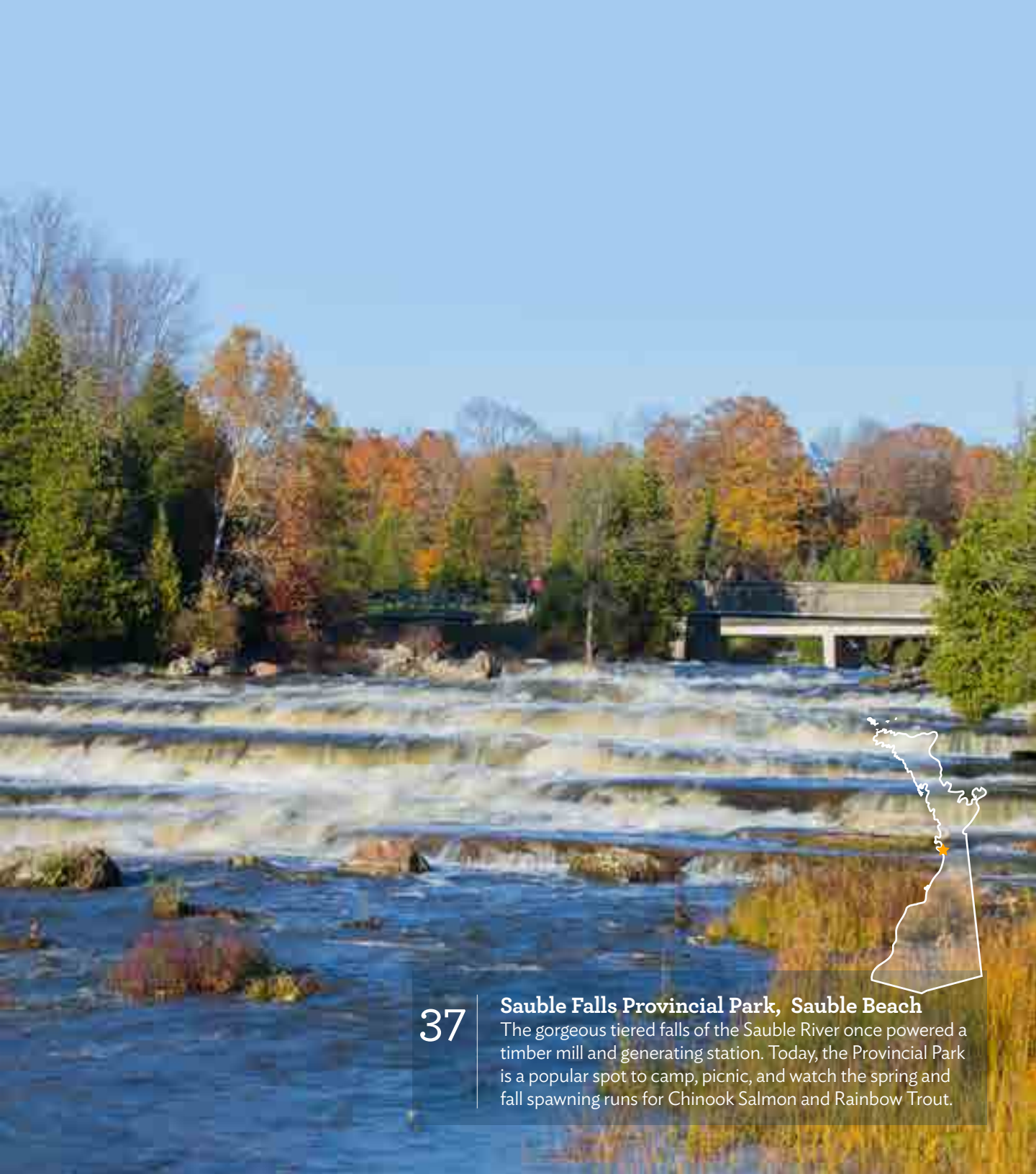
Fen Boardwalk, Oliphant

This wheelchair accessible boardwalk built by local naturalists, winds through Oliphant's fen, exposing wildflowers and birdlife galore.



Sand Dunes, Sauble Beach

The coastal dune ecosystems of the Great Lakes are one of the most fragile in Canada. Conservation efforts are made possible by grassroots organizations like Friends of Sauble Beach.



37

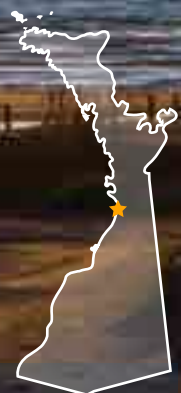
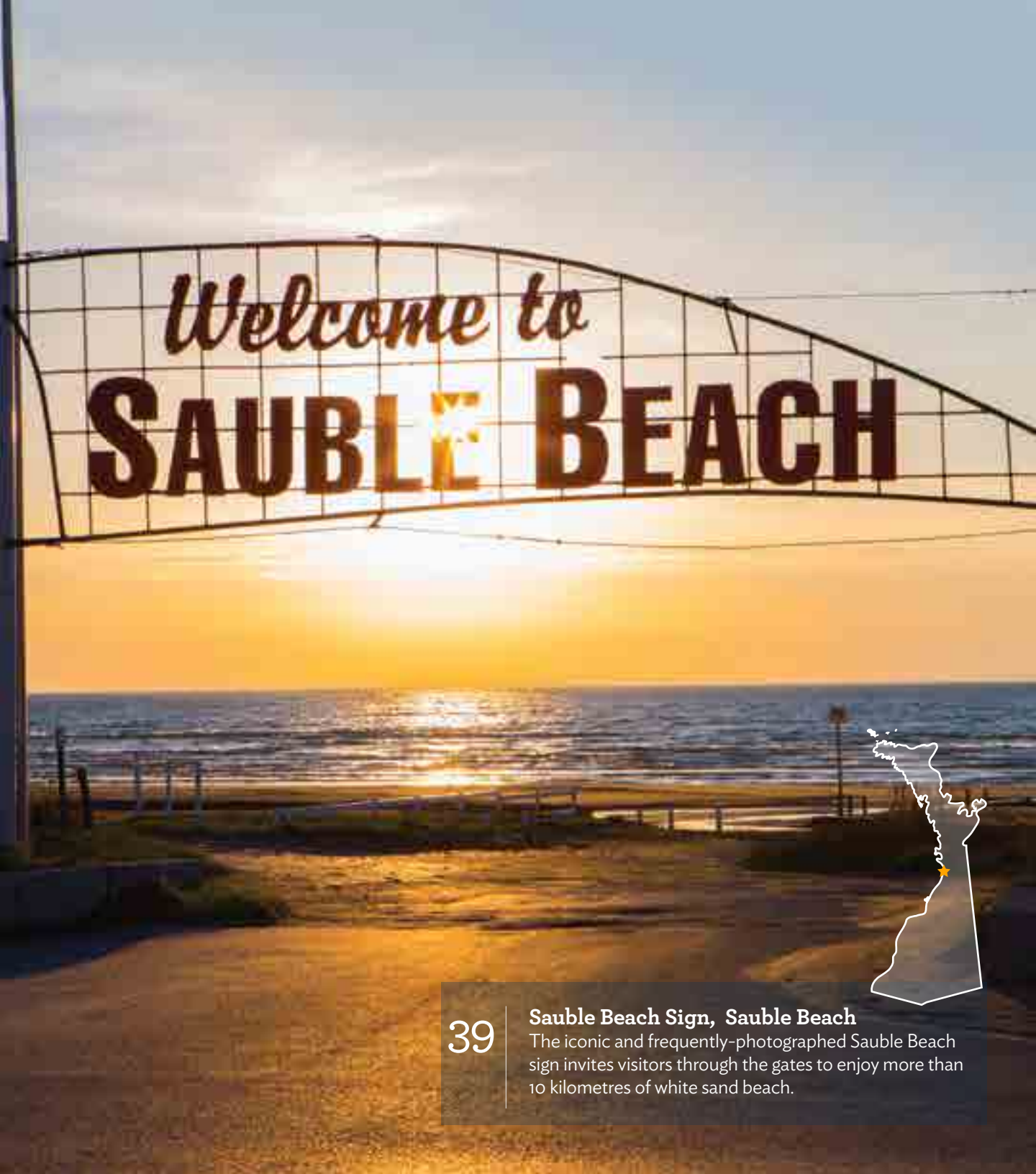
Sauble Falls Provincial Park, Sauble Beach

The gorgeous tiered falls of the Sauble River once powered a timber mill and generating station. Today, the Provincial Park is a popular spot to camp, picnic, and watch the spring and fall spawning runs for Chinook Salmon and Rainbow Trout.



Bannister Park, Sauble Beach

A pleasant park with tennis courts, horseshoe pits, pavilion facilities, and 2 kilometres of peaceful marsh boardwalk trails curve around Carson Lake's shoreline.



39

Sauble Beach Sign, Sauble Beach

The iconic and frequently-photographed Sauble Beach sign invites visitors through the gates to enjoy more than 10 kilometres of white sand beach.



Sauble Ski Trail, Sauble Beach

More than eighteen kilometres of groomed ski trails and eleven kilometres of snowshoe trails make up this winter wonderland. The trails are also open for hiking year round.

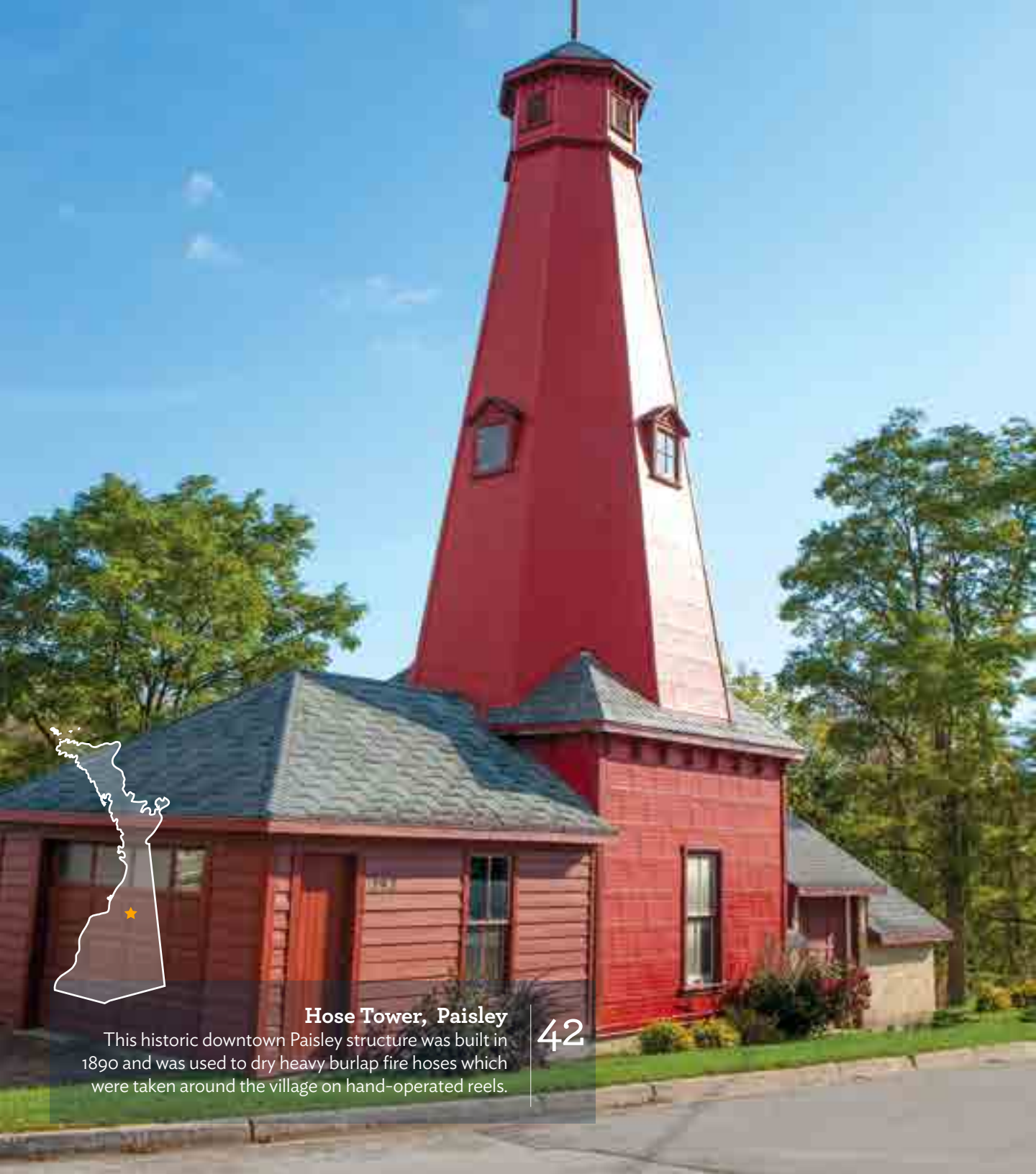
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41

Back Eddies, Paisley

Enjoy the riverside patio for wonderful meals, made with conscience using primarily local and organic ingredients, plus fair trade, organic coffee from around the world, roasted on site.



Hose Tower, Paisley

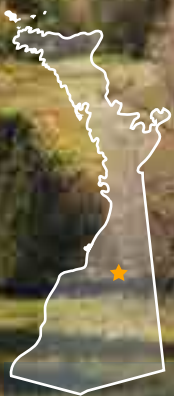
This historic downtown Paisley structure was built in 1890 and was used to dry heavy burlap fire hoses which were taken around the village on hand-operated reels.



43

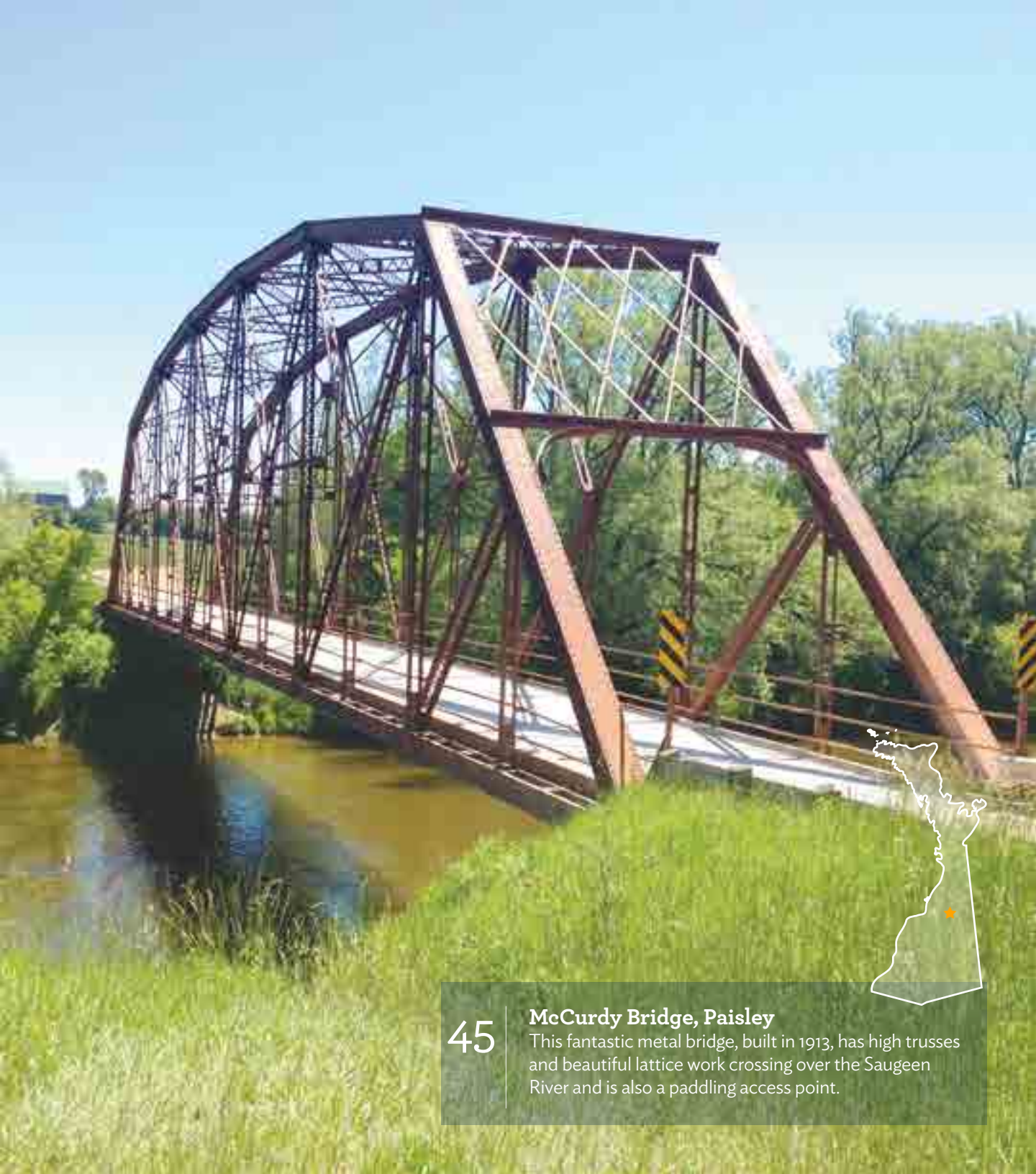
Saugeen River, Paisley

The Saugeen River makes up the hearts of Paisley's artistic, riverside community. Paddling and fishing are popular pastimes on the beautiful Saugeen.



Saugeen Bluffs Lookout, Paisley

Nestled within two hundred and fifty acres of sugar maples, a beautiful trail system at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area leads to the spectacular lookout with breathtaking views of the Saugeen River. It is especially beautiful as the leaves begin to change in the fall.



45

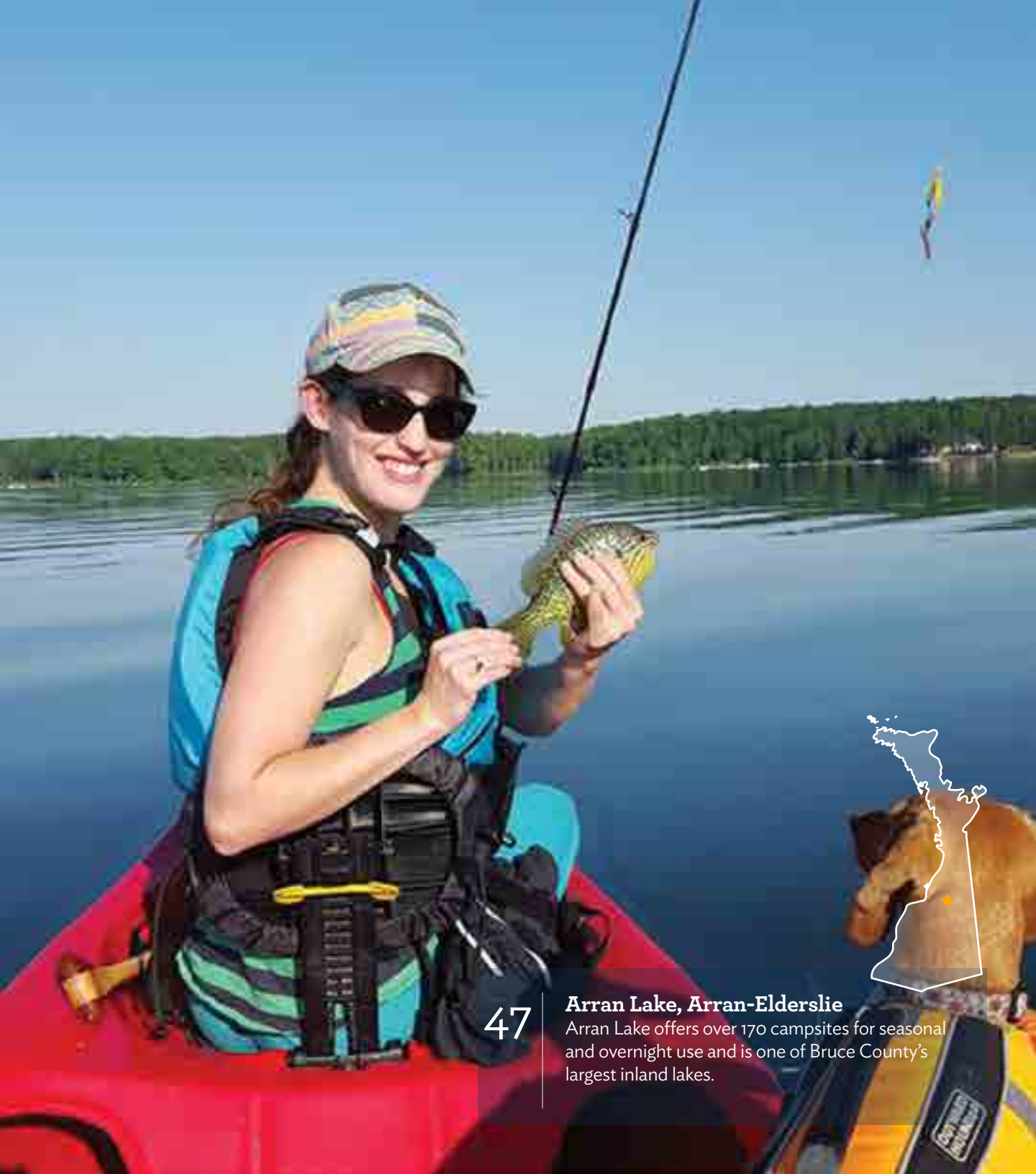
McCurdy Bridge, Paisley

This fantastic metal bridge, built in 1913, has high trusses and beautiful lattice work crossing over the Saugeen River and is also a paddling access point.



Brant Tract Trails, Paisley

An 800 acre, forested wilderness tract with bridges, boardwalks, and winding inclines on several multi-use trails that are especially popular with mountain bike enthusiasts.



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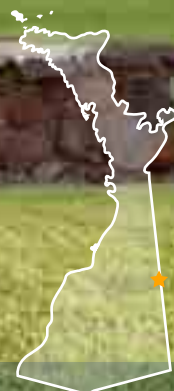
Arran Lake, Arran-Elderslie

Arran Lake offers over 170 campsites for seasonal and overnight use and is one of Bruce County's largest inland lakes.



Chesley Heritage Trail, Chesley

This serene trail follows the beautiful North Saugeen River and old rail line through the Village of Chesley connecting some of its important historical sites.



49

Big Bruce, Chesley

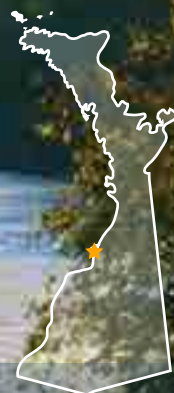
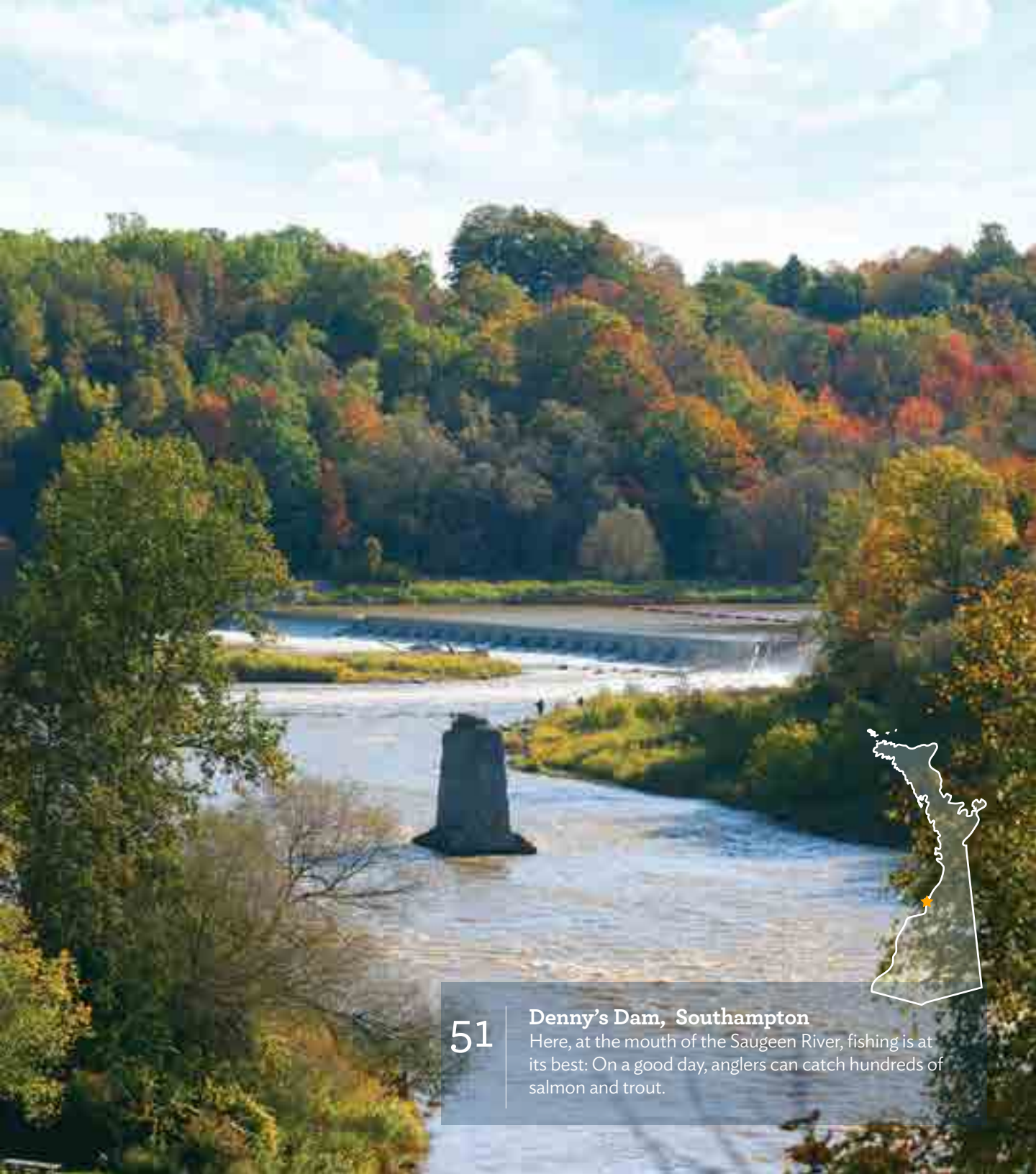
In the heart of Bruce County's cattle country stands Big Bruce, a proud icon of our strong agricultural roots.



Saugeen Amphitheatre, Chippewas of Saugeen F.N. 29

A charming tiered amphitheatre with beautiful gardens, impressive masonry, and terraced gardens accommodates weddings, concerts and workshops offered by local Ojibwe.

50



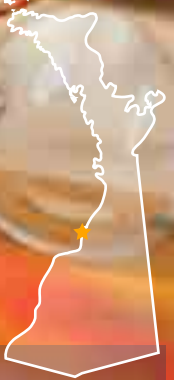
51

Denny's Dam, Southampton

Here, at the mouth of the Saugeen River, fishing is at its best: On a good day, anglers can catch hundreds of salmon and trout.



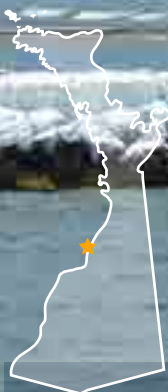
Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, Southampton
State-of-the-art, interactive exhibits facilitate an exploration of thousands of years of Bruce County history.



53

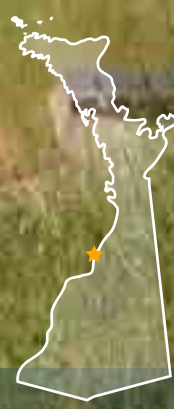
Southampton Arts Centre, Southampton

A wonderful teaching environment and impressive gallery can be found in the heart of downtown Southampton. This historic building showcases regional and local talent.



Range Light, Southampton

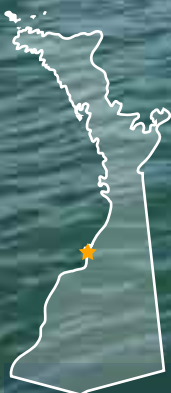
Working hand-in-hand, the Chantry Island Lighthouse warned sailors of surrounding danger, while the Southampton Range Light guided ships safely into harbour.



55

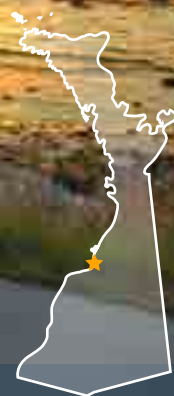
Flagpole, Southamptton

Stand next to Southamptton's gigantic flagpole for stunning views of Chantry Island, Lake Huron, and the historic Range Light. Many flock here to see the sunset with Chantry Island as a backdrop.



Chantry Island, Southampton

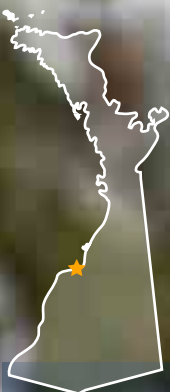
Chantry Island is a short boat trip from Southampton and houses a lighthouse which visitors may climb, a bird sanctuary, beautiful gardens, and the Light Keeper's Cottage decorated with 1800s period furnishings.



57

North Shore Trail, Port Elgin

North of Port Elgin's harbour, North Shore Park's trails amble through the woods and continue onto the spectacular water front trail. This trail is the perfect place to see a Lake Huron's sunset.



Beiner Trail, Port Elgin

Beiner Trail is relatively flat and winds through scenic cedar woods. This trail is easily accessible in both summer and winter.

58



59

BMX Racing Track, Port Elgin

This race track is a full out sprint on a hard packed dirt track that is approximately 1000 gruelling feet long with massive jumps, turns and berms.



Port Elgin Steam Train, Port Elgin

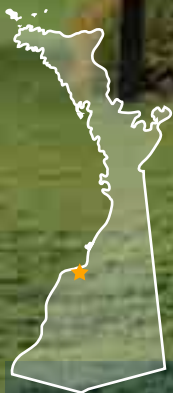
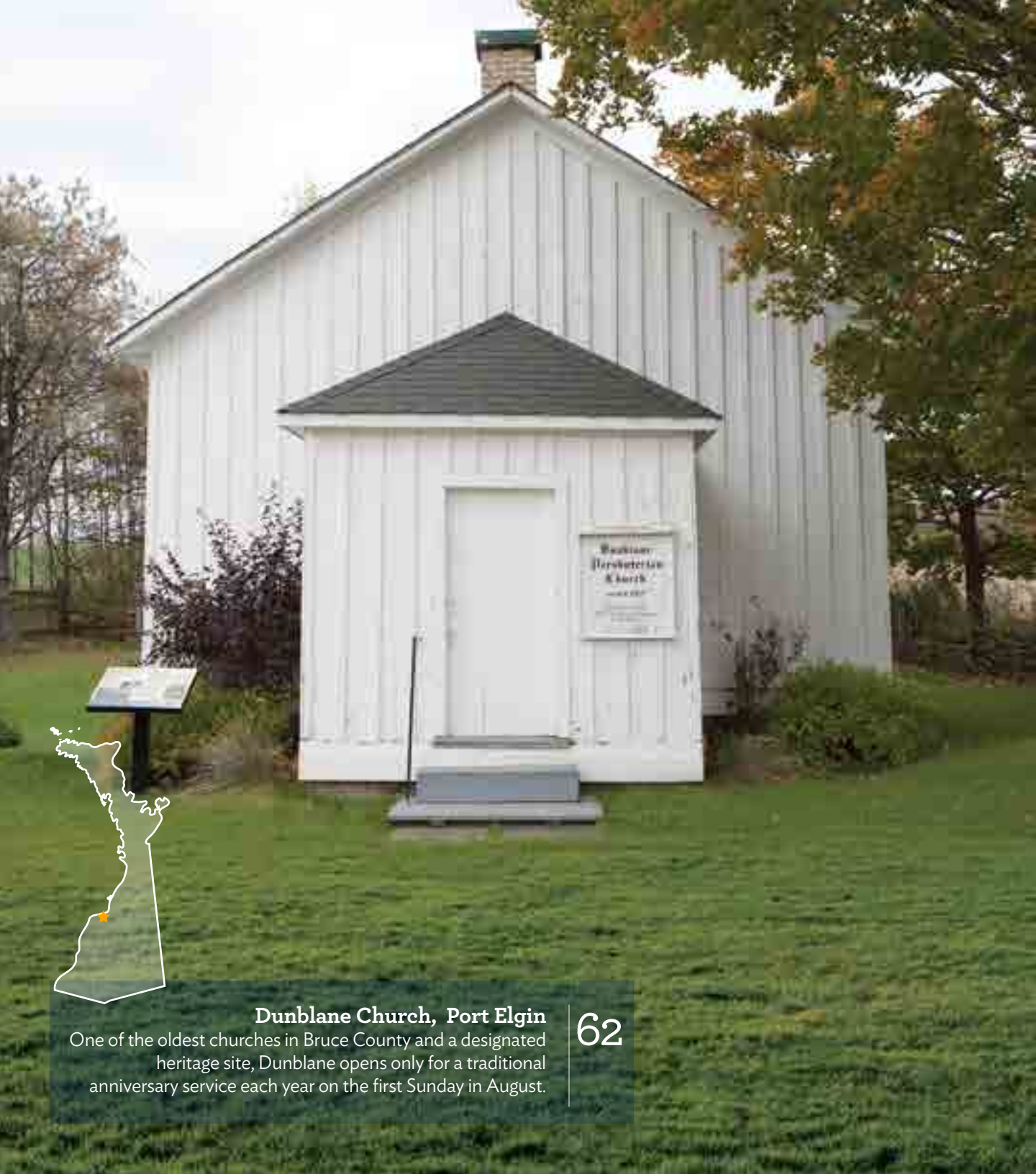
An authentic replica of an 1836 American Steam Engine takes riders on a scenic, fifteen minute ride through pretty North Shore Park.



61

Gobles Grove, Port Elgin

South of the excitement in downtown Port Elgin lies this peaceful cottage community and beautiful, shallow, sand beach.



Dunblane Church, Port Elgin

One of the oldest churches in Bruce County and a designated heritage site, Dunblane opens only for a traditional anniversary service each year on the first Sunday in August.



63

MacGregor Point Provincial Park Yurts, Port Elgin

One of the most ecologically diverse natural places along Lake Huron, this park is home to unique flora and fauna, yurt camping, tranquil trails, and fantastic seasonal events.



Ducks Unlimited Viewing Tower, Port Elgin

MacGregor Park's two-storey viewing tower overlooks wetlands, hardwood forests, and foraging wildlife, including more than 200 species of birds.



65

Bruce Power Visitor Centre, Tiverton

With more than thirty exhibits and informative videos, Bruce Power's Visitor's Centre provides an interactive insight into how electricity is generated at the biggest nuclear power facility in the world.



Walk of Memories, Tiverton

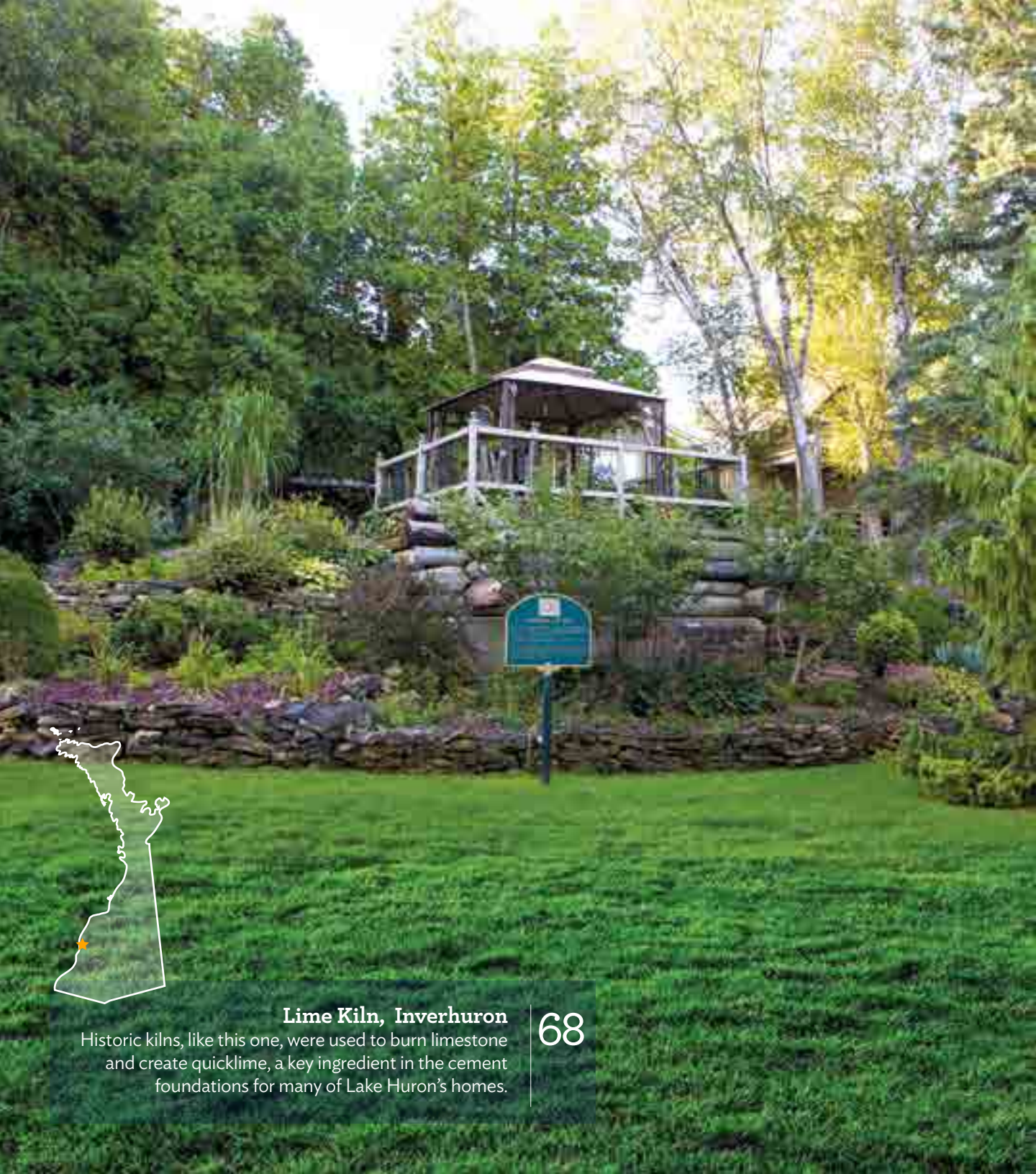
Each year, trees are planted in Tiverton's Walk of Memories to honour the memory of loved ones past.



67

Inverhuron Provincial Park, Inverhuron

A diverse habitat filled with rare plants and a variety of woodland fauna. This park also offers a quiet, sandy beach perfect for secluded swims.



Lime Kiln, Inverhuron

Historic kilns, like this one, were used to burn limestone and create quicklime, a key ingredient in the cement foundations for many of Lake Huron's homes.



69

Stoney Island Conservation Area, Kincardine

Over six kilometres of all-season trails which pass through evergreen woods, open forest and meadows. With excellent views of Lake Huron, this is a popular spot for hikers and skiers.



Rock Garden, Kincardine

This is a popular wedding spot overlooking the turquoise waters of Lake Huron, with its picturesque views and stunning gardens.



71

Station Beach, Kincardine

The word is spreading fast: the consistent waves, beautiful beaches, and contagious energy in Kincardine are the perfect combination for one of Canada's top up-and-coming surf destinations.



Kincardine Lighthouse, Kincardine

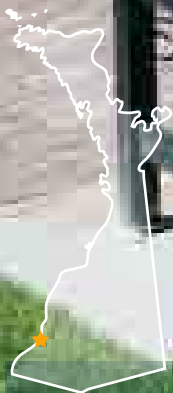
Downtown Kincardine's original wooden tower and Light Keeper's House, built in the late nineteenth century to support the once-booming salt and fishing industries, are now also home to a maritime museum.



73

Walker House, Kincardine

This oldest standing hotel in Bruce County now serves as a Heritage Centre, providing exhibits, programs and events that interpret local history.



Queen's Lookout, Kincardine

Catch a birds-eye view of the Pelee Island Lighthouse, the harbour and lighthouse, and an iconic Lake Huron sunset from Kincardine's Queen's Lookout.



75

Pipe Band, Kincardine

Kincardine's Scottish heritage is proudly remembered each Saturday night throughout the summer when bagpipers march down the street sporting kilts and good cheer.



Gay Lea Country Store, Teeswater

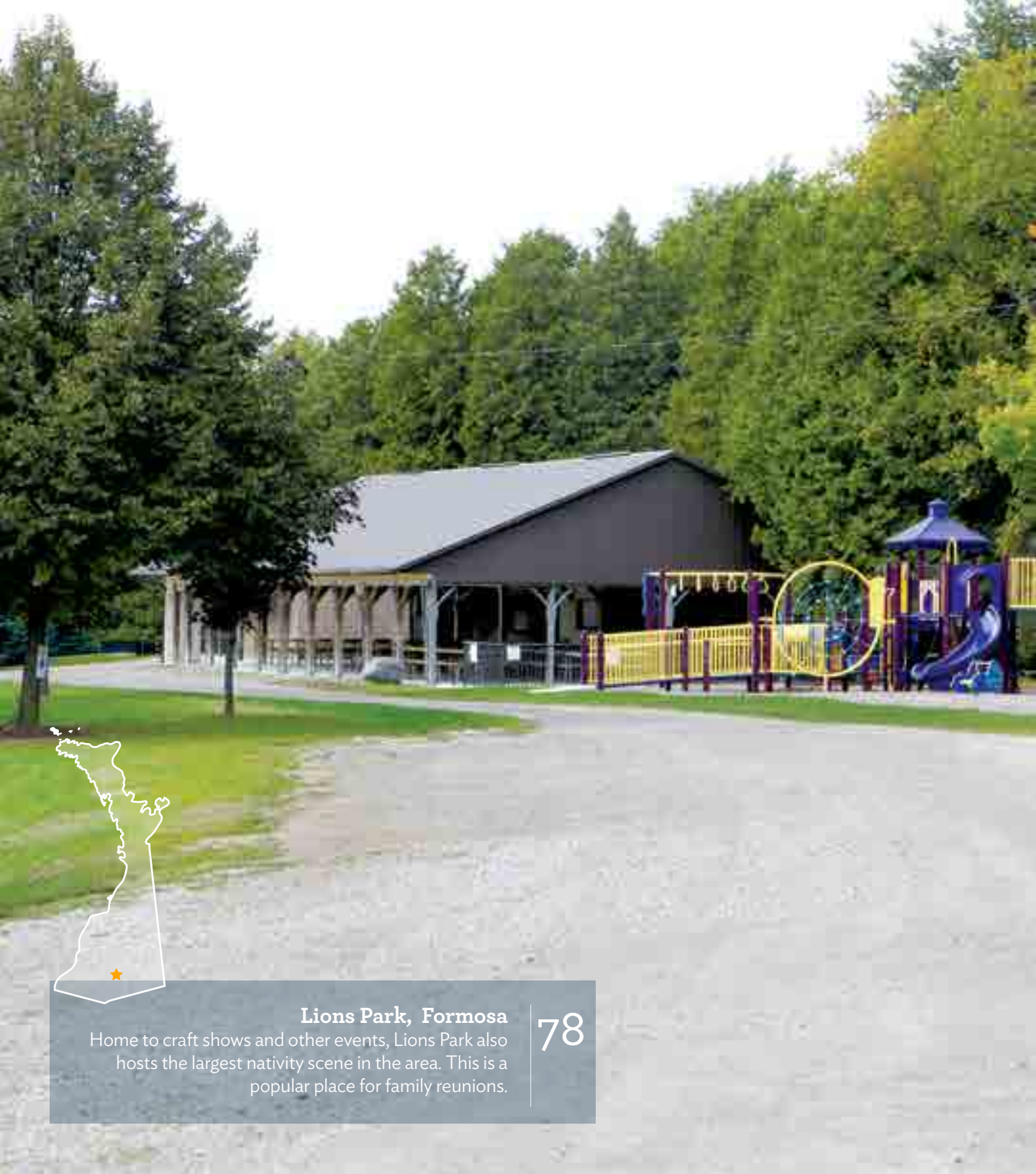
Purchase the complete line of Gay Lea dairy products at this charismatic, old-fashioned county store, including their award-winning butter.



77

Square Dancing Tractors, Teeswater

A whimsical celebration of rural, agricultural life in Bruce County where tractors and square dancers entertain local crowds.



Lions Park, Formosa

Home to craft shows and other events, Lions Park also hosts the largest nativity scene in the area. This is a popular place for family reunions.



79

Cheese Haus, Mildmay

This specialty shop is home to over two hundred kinds of cheese, including crumbly, 14 year old cheddar, and samples to help you find your favourite.



Harley's Butter Tarts, Mildmay

If you haven't eaten a Harley's butter tart, you haven't lived! Perfect, crumbly, pastry with pecan, coconut or raisin fillings will literally melt in your mouth.



81

Mildmay Rotary Park, Mildmay

Two kilometres of trails along Otter Creek, over bridges and open parkland. The Rotary Park is home to Mildmay's famous artesian well housed under a cedar gazebo.



Hoity Toity Cellars, Mildmay

A pretension-free winery and cidery with open doors and local ingredients. The winemakers even invite the public to stomp grapes with them on Harvest Day!

82



83

Carrick Tract, South Bruce

Locals say this is the best single tract in Bruce County. The soil and gravel mixture provides excellent riding conditions that are virtually dry all season.



Schmidt Lake, Chepstow

A floating boardwalk system, lookout platform, and interpretive signage make it fun to explore this wetlands ecosystem: Find Pitcher Plants and other unique acidity-loving flora.



85

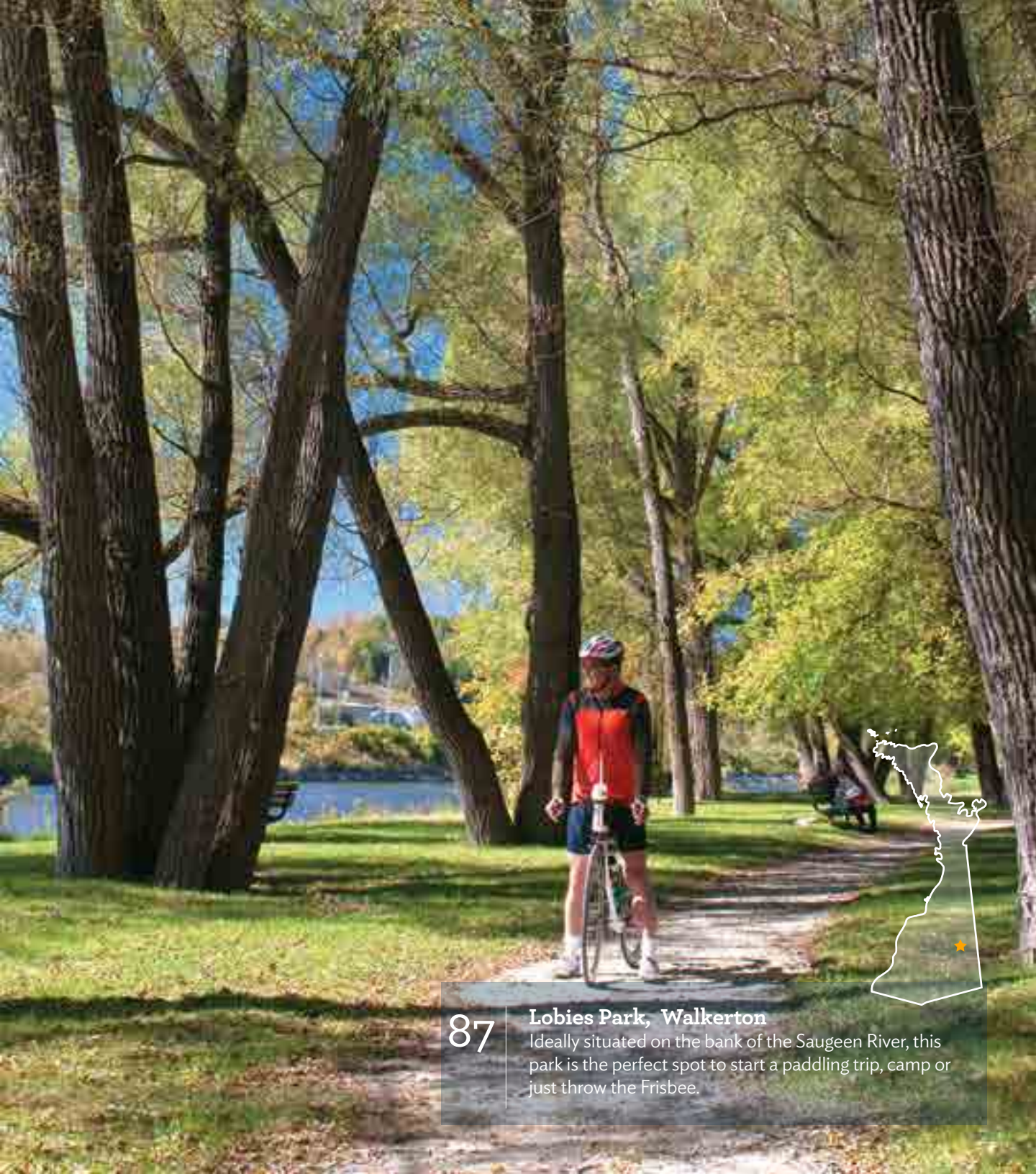
Greenock Swamp, Brockton

Spanning approximately twenty thousand acres, this swamp is Southern Ontario's single largest forested wetland. It once held vast stands of White Pine, which have long disappeared, and was home to a prohibition-era moonshine operation.



Folmer's Botanical Gardens, Walkerton

Thirty acres of display gardens, including a labyrinth, ponds, a waterfall, and rare and exotic plants make up the largest private Botanical Gardens in Southwestern Ontario.



87

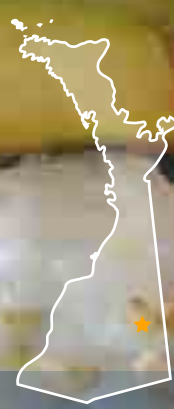
Lobies Park, Walkerton

Ideally situated on the bank of the Saugeen River, this park is the perfect spot to start a paddling trip, camp or just throw the Frisbee.



Saugeen River Trail, Walkerton

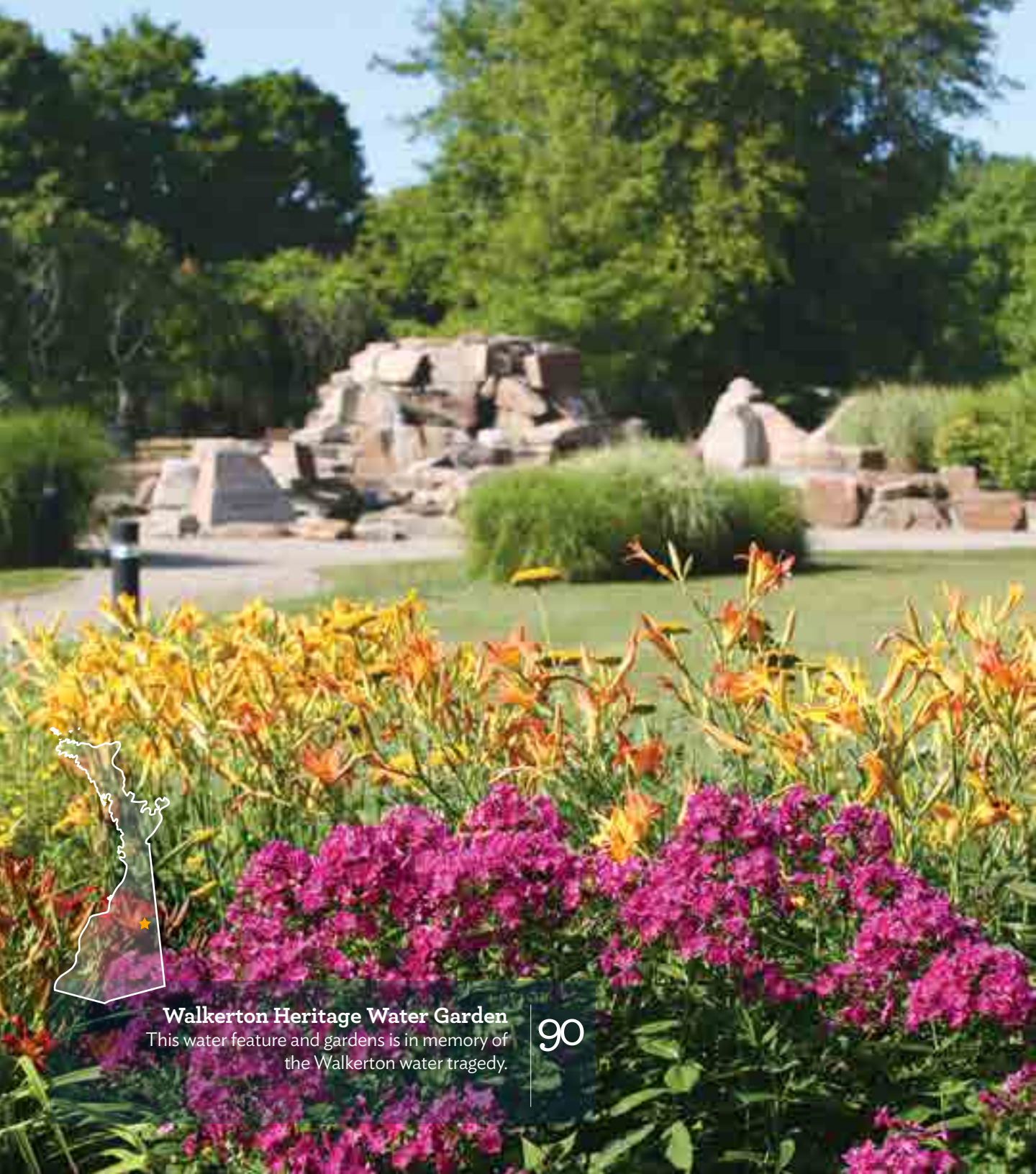
Winding around the Saugeen River, this tranquil, forested trail path is home to beaver, deer, and other wildlife.



89

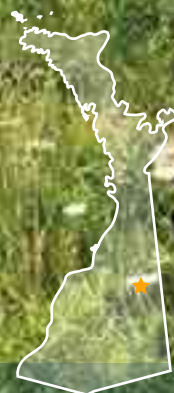
Walkerton Sushi, Walkerton

Highly-rated and much loved, Walkerton's first sushi restaurant has a huge menu including a special Walkerton maki roll with scallops, crab and avocado.



Walkerton Heritage Water Garden

This water feature and gardens is in memory of the Walkerton water tragedy.



91

Cunningham Rotary Nature Park, Walkerton

A breathtaking Walkerton vista can be seen from the covered lookout found in this natural area after climbing an uphill path.



St. Michael's Church, Brant

St. Michael's Church held masses from 1856 until 1950. Its ruins can be found in the ghost town of Vesta, once an Irish community known as the "Ferguson Settlement".



93

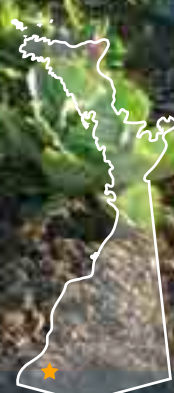
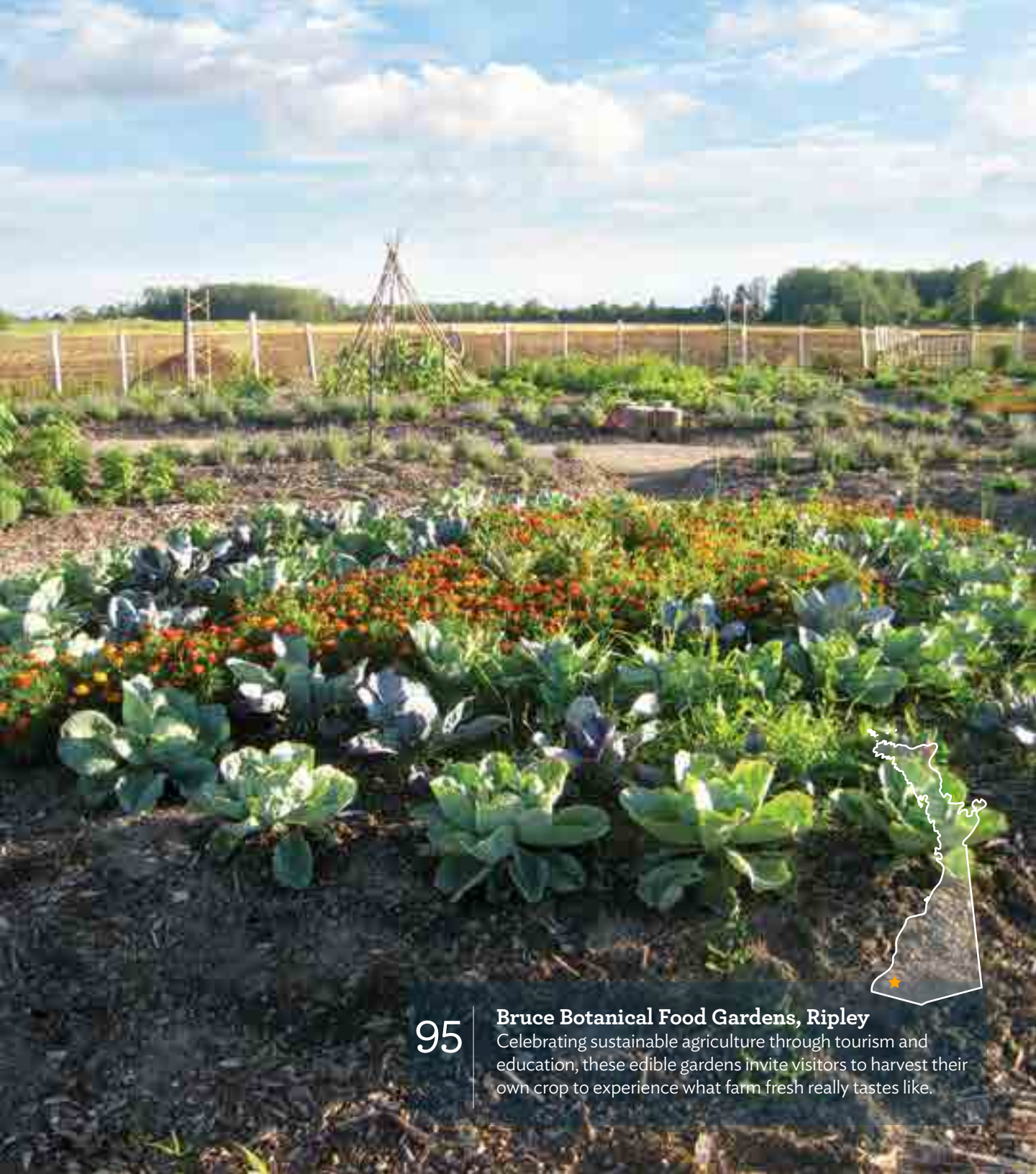
Holyrood General Store, Holyrood

Ice cream cones don't get much bigger than at Holyrood General Store and people come from all around to grab a legendary sugar fix.



Apple Rail Trail, Ripley

Planted with apple trees and flower gardens representative of the early railway times, this charming green trail also includes a new heirloom apple - The Ripley Apple.



95

Bruce Botanical Food Gardens, Ripley

Celebrating sustainable agriculture through tourism and education, these edible gardens invite visitors to harvest their own crop to experience what farm fresh really tastes like.



Ripley Splash Pad, Ripley

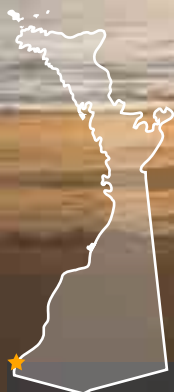
Located in Lewis Park is where locals gather to cool off on those hot summer days.



97

Pine River Cheese, Pine River

Owned and operated by Bruce County dairy farmers, this cheese house has a reputation for high quality aged Cheddar and is one of the few remaining farmer's cooperatives.



Lurgan Beach, Point Clark

A beautifully secluded stretch of white sandy beach south of Kincardine, Lurgan's gradual slope into shallow water makes this a perfect location for children.



99

Point Clark Lighthouse, Point Clark

Declared a national historic site of Canada in 1966, and completely restored, this Imperial-style lighthouse marks the location of a dangerous shoal 2 miles offshore.



Paul Henderson Memorial, Lucknow

The winning goal for Team Canada in 1972's Summit Series was scored by Lucknow's Paul Henderson, allowing Canada to emerge victorious over the USSR. This mural, painted in his honour, can be seen in downtown Lucknow.

100

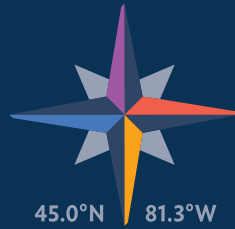


101

Donald Dinnie, Lucknow

Donald Dinnie is a Scottish athlete that competed at the Caledonian Games in Lucknow in the nineteenth century. His statue stands as a symbol of Lucknow's proud Scottish heritage.





45.0°N 81.3°W

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