

# **Parks, Recreation and Leisure**

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, benches and water sprayers in ten-year reinvestment project in community parks. The City also has:

<b>Parks</b>		<b>Facilities</b>		<b>Sports Fields</b>	
<i>Neighbourhood parks</i>	25	<i>Outdoor pools</i>	3	<i>Baseball diamonds</i>	52
<i>Community parks</i>	11	<i>Wading pools &amp; sprayers</i>	5	<i>Concession stands</i>	2
<i>Major city parks</i>	6	<i>Boat launch area</i>	2	<i>Soccer pitches</i>	8
<i>Tot lots</i>	10	<i>Senior centre</i>	1	<i>Soccer club</i>	2
<i>Beautification areas</i>	13	<i>Showmobile/stage</i>	1	<i>Lawn bowling green</i>	1
<i>Pavilion areas</i>	12	<i>Court house</i>	1	<i>Bocci court</i>	1
<i>Bush &amp; natural area</i>	1	<i>City hall</i>	1	<i>Basketball courts</i>	5
<i>Floral beds &amp; displays</i>	6	<i>Rowing course</i>	1	<i>Natural ice rink areas</i>	5
<i>Cemeteries</i>	2	<i>Sports complex</i>	1	<i>Tennis clubs</i>	2
<i>Canal lands &amp; Merritt Island (Canal Parkway Trail)</i>	1	<i>Farmers' Market</i>	1	<i>Tennis courts - public use</i>	1
		<i>Ice rink/ arena (includes community room)</i>	2	<i>Recreational track/joint use at Niagara College</i>	1
		<i>Community halls</i>	3	<i>SK8 Park</i>	1
		<i>Meeting rooms</i>	3		

Source: Parks & Recreation Department, 2007

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## Sports

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### 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, Jr. B and Sr. 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 & Recreation 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.

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

Season: July 1 – Sept. 1 yearly 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

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## Special Events

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

<b>January</b>	Tribune Basketball Tournament
<b>February</b>	Winter Carnival
<b>March</b>	Spring Soccer Tournaments, Little NHL/All Ontario Peewee Hockey Tournament, March Break Family FREE Skates.
<b>April</b>	Welland Curling Club Tournaments & Easter Egg Hunt at Merritt Island.
<b>May</b>	International Youth Week, Victoria Day Celebrations, South Niagara Rowing Club Season Opens
<b>June</b>	Variety Nites by the Canal, Kids Arts Day, Rose Festival, Ethnic Luncheons, Festival of St. Jean & Senior's Month at Rose City Senior's Activity Centre, Cruise Nites At Seaway Mall.
<b>July</b>	Variety Nites by the Canal, Canal Day CelebrationsThe Folklore Festival & World Ball, Dirt Bike Racing at Welland Motorcycle, Raceway, Cruise Nites at Seaway Mall.
<b>August</b>	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.
<b>September</b>	Niagara Regional Exhibition – Fall Fair, Last Chance Car Show, United Way Fundraising Campaign, Niagara Food Festival, and Cruise Nites at Seaway Mall.
<b>October</b>	Halloween Party, Women's Place Arts & Crafts and Antique Show and Sale.
<b>November</b>	Toys For Tots Concert, Remembrance Day Ceremonies.
<b>December</b>	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.

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## **Tourist/Visitor Attractions**

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### **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 & Recreation. 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.

Should you get hungry while making your fresh produce selections, the **Market Trattoria** is open early to serve Market visitors with breakfast during market hours. Call (905) 788 - 9851 to inquire about lunch and dinner of fine Italian cuisine.

**Full Market Saturdays** - inside and outside market stalls

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

**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: Parks & Recreation Department  
905-732-1700  
[www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca)**