

# Mills in Ontario

(Mills Open to the Public)



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In Support of the Canadian Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills

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## Mills of Ontario - Open To The Public

### Southwestern Ontario

#### **Aberfoyle Mill Restaurant**

City: Aberfoyle  
Location: In Aberfoyle; 2 km/1 mile north of Hwy 401(exit # 299) on Hwy 46 (Brock Road)  
Phone #: 1-888-858-4684  
Website: [www.aberfoylemill.com](http://www.aberfoylemill.com)  
Hours: Daily for lunch & dinner  
Description: The yellow brick structure was an oatmeal mill built by Scottish immigrant George MacLean. In 1867 MacLean won a gold medal at the Worlds Fair in Paris for his oatmeal. Some milling equipment still present in the mill. Now a restaurant since 1985.

#### **Ancaster Old Mill Inn**

City: Ancaster  
Location: 548 Old Dundas Rd., near the intersection of Wilson St. East and Montgomery Dr.  
Phone #: 905-648-1827  
Hours: Luncheon - Monday through Saturday, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Brunch - Sunday, 10:30 am - 2 pm  
Dinner - Monday through Thursday, 4:30 - 9:00 pm  
Sunday, 4:00 - 8:30 pm  
Open year round  
Description: The present mill is the fourth on the site, with the first one dating to 1792. On site restaurant, gift, and bakery.

#### **Arva Flour Mills Ltd.**

City: Avra  
Location: 2042 Elgin St., Avra; just north of London on Hwy 4  
Phone #: 519-660-0199  
Website: [www.avraflourmills.com](http://www.avraflourmills.com)  
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sunday noon - 5:00 pm  
Cost: Free  
Description: Built in 1819. One of the oldest roller flour mills in the Middlesex area still producing flour. Mill uses half water power (turbine) and half hydro power. Store on site where flour products are sold.

### **Backus (Backhouse) Mill - Backus Heritage Conservation Area**

City: Port Rowan  
Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession; 2 km north of Port Rowan off Regional Rd. 42, accessible via Hwy. 59 or 24  
Phone #: 1-877-900-9932 or 519-586-2201 or 519-586-2019  
Website: [www.lprca.ca](http://www.lprca.ca)  
Hours: Park open May 1 through October 31  
Heritage Village open daily only in July and August, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Nature Centre and Mill open weekends in May, June, September, and October, noon - 5:00 pm, daily in July and August, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: Grist Mill built 1798. Saved during the American raid in 1812. Overshot water- powered wheel, then turbine driven in 1850s, then a roller mill driven by natural gas and coal oil combination in the 1890's; sold to Long Point Regional Conservation Authority in 1956. Operations ceased in the 1950's. See how stone ground flour was produced 200 years ago at the Backhouse Mill. Built of hand-hewn beams and in operation from 1798 to 1955, this wooden mill is Ontario's oldest continually operating grist mill. It has been designated as a National Historic Site in June 2002.

### **Benmiller Inn & Spa**

City: Goderich  
Location: From Hwy 8 between Clinton and Goderich, turn onto Benmiller Line (at Benmiller Inn road sign) and drive 3 km to the inn  
Phone #: 519-524-2191 or 1-800-265-1711  
Website: [www.benmiller.on.ca](http://www.benmiller.on.ca)  
Description: Named for Benjamin Miller and dating back to the 1830s when he built a grist and saw mill. Today an inn comprises several restored mills and mill owners' home sheltered in the valley of the Maitland River. The woollen mill and grist mill were built in 1878. The woollen mill produced blankets and other wool goods until 1964, and the grist mill, a few hundred yards away, ground flour until 1971. Both mills were purchased and restored in 1974 as the Benmiller Inn and Country Inn.

### **Caledonia Old Mill**

City: Caledonia  
Location: 146 Forfar St. West, Caledonia  
Phone #: 905-765-1838  
Hours: By appointment or July 1 to September 1  
Description: Grand River Mill or Caledonia Mill built by James Little in 1853 and operated by waterpower (turbine) until the 1960s. This is the oldest mill on the Grand River. Mill is a 4 storey frame structure surmounted by an attractive cupola. Since 1999 the mill is undergoing restoration by the Caledonia Old Mill Corporation.

### **County of Grey-Owen Sound Museum**

City: Owen Sound  
Location: 975 6<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Phone #: 519-376-3690  
Hours: Open all year  
July through August, Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Remainder of the year, Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday - Sunday, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: Gallery displays portray human habitation in Grey County from Ojibwa culture to 19<sup>th</sup> - century Europeans. On-site buildings include a farmstead house, a log cabin, a log house, a blacksmith's shop, a frame barn, and a sawmill.

### **Doon Heritage Crossroads**

City: Kitchener  
Location: 10 Huron Rd. at Homer Watson Boulevard, Kitchener; 3 km north of Hwy 401 at Interchange 275  
Phone #: 519-748-1914  
Website: [www.region.waterloo.on.ca](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca)  
Hours: Open daily - May 1 to September 5 - 10:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Weekends - September 6 - December 23 10:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: A living history village, recreating a rural village and 2 farms. Depicts the year 1914. Over 20 historic buildings, farm animals, and heritage gardens. Baechler Sawmill present on site. Sawmill originally located on the Bartholomew Property, Strasburg, Waterloo County. A gift of the Pannill Veneer Co., 1967.

### **Elora Mill Country Inn**

City: Elora  
Location: 77 Mill Street West  
Phone #: 519-846-9118 or 866-713-5672  
Website: [www.eloramill.com](http://www.eloramill.com)  
Description: The Elora Mill Inn is one of the very few early Ontario, five-story grist mills still in existence. Built in 1870 and overlooks the Elora Gorge. It has been carefully restored and turned into an inn. Its 100 - foot stone walls rise dramatically from the edge of the Grand River. This mill is not open for viewing the inside unless staying there, but is beautiful from the outside as an example of early architecture in the area.

### **Goldie Mill**

City: Guelph  
Location: Cardigan Street (behind Guelph Youth Music Centre), Guelph  
Description: Year built 1867. Guelph celebrated Ontario's 1984 Bicentennial by stabilizing and landscaping the ruins of this once - prominent riverside landmark. The location since 1827 of various mills, including the Goldie family's flour - manufacturing operation (1867 - 1918), this historic site now forms part of the walk/bike path system along the Speed and Eramosa rivers.

### **Harrington Mill**

City: Harrington  
Location: Victoria Street, Harrington. Village of Harrington is south of Stratford; From Hwy 7, turn south onto Hwy 19, at Uniondale turn left onto CR 28 and travel 4-5 km to Harrington  
Phone #: 519-475-6535  
Website: [www.ocl.net/projects/harrington\\_grist\\_mill/](http://www.ocl.net/projects/harrington_grist_mill/)  
Hours: Open on special events or by appointment  
Cost: By Donations  
Description: The mill was built on the site of an 1846 mill which burned in 1923. The present structure was built immediately after the fire and operations ceased in 1964. The mill is owned by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and since 1999 the Harrington Community Club is working on preserving and restoring this old mill.

### **Inglis Falls Conservation Area**

City: Owen Sound  
Location: Inglis Falls Road, just south of Owen Sound  
Phone #: 519-376-3076  
Hours: All year, day use only  
Cost: Free, donations welcome  
Description: Inglis Falls is 18 metres high located where the Sydenham River meets the edge of the Niagara Escarpment. The site also features the remains of a 1862 grist mill. This conservation area is a very popular area for photography, hiking, and skiing.

### **Nicolston Grist Mill**

City: Alliston  
Location: Line 5 of Essa Township # 5140; Hwy 89, north one block on Line 5 of Essa Township  
Phone #: 705-435-7946  
Hours: Open to the public. Open all year, except for January

May - August, open everyday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Friday, 9:00 am-8:00 pm  
September - April, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed Mondays and some Sundays

Open on statutory weekends from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Not open Christmas and New Years

Website: [www3.sympatico.ca/nicolston-dam/](http://www3.sympatico.ca/nicolston-dam/)

Cost: Free

Description: Built in the mid - 1800's by the Nicol family, this mill was one of the only in the area to stay in business when the Prairie lands were opened to settlement. The mill was powered by a mill race and is now powered by an antique tractor. The present owner has opened the doors to the public for viewing. The mill can be fully operational upon request.

### **Otterville Mill**

City: Otterville

Location: Main Street, in the village of Otterville

Phone #: 519-879-6444 or 519-879-6804

Website: [www.kwic.com/~lewis/tours.html](http://www.kwic.com/~lewis/tours.html)

Hours: Open to the public on Historical Society events and/or by appointment

Cost: By donation

Description: Originally a flour mill, then a grist mill, then a feed mill. Mill built in 1845 by Edward Bullock and closed in 1980. Now the South Norwich Historical Society maintains the restored property as a heritage/education site. This turbine powered mill is operable for tours.

### **Rockwood Conservation Area - Harris Woollen Mill**

City: Rockwood

Location: The Conservation Area is located just off Hwy 7, within the village of Rockwood, 11 km east of Guelph

Phone #: 519-856-9543

Hours: May - October

Cost: Fee charged to enter the park

Description: The ruins of the Harris Woollen Mill in the Rockwood Conservation Area is an interesting study of early industry and architecture. Remains of an old woollen mill that was run by the Harris family in 1867 to 1925. The mill sat idle until 1967 when it was destroyed by a fire leaving the stone shell you see today. The mill is popular for wedding ceremonies, wedding photos, and family gatherings. The two large millponds which formerly supplied waterpower now serve as park lakes for swimming, fishing and non-motorized boating.

### **Sheaves Tower**

City: Cambridge

Location: Old Mill Road, Blair; From Hwy 401 take Homer Watson Blvd. south to

Cambridge, take first right (Regional Road) then second left onto Old Mill Rd.

Hours: View inside of tower by appointment  
Cost: Free  
Description: Built in about 1876 to provide extra power for the Blair Flour Mills until 1929. The tower was erected on Bowman Creek and was located 240 feet from the mill. It was 31 feet high and had a 12 foot square base. The tower housed a water-powered turbine for the gristmill and a outside cable ran from the tower to the mill. The Sheaves Tower is particularly significant because it represents a unique method of the mechanical transfer of power and may be the only early example of this technology still extant. The Sheaves Tower was restored by Heritage Cambridge in 1999.

### **St. Jacobs Country Mill**

City: St. Jacobs  
Location: 1441 King Street North, St. Jacobs; Exit Hwy 401 at Kitchener Waterloo Hwy 8; then follow Hwy 85 north Waterloo; exit Hwy 85 at Rd. 15 or 17.  
Phone #: 1-800-265-3353  
Hours: Daily Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; Sunday 12:30 - 5:30 pm  
Cost: Free  
Description: Built in 1851 by Jacob Snider, the village's namesake. His nephew, E.W.B. Snider, later imported machinery from Europe to convert it into the first roller mill in North America in 1875. It has the longest mill race in Ontario. The water-powered turbine used to create electricity for the mill and later the village, is still housed here. The mill and silos has been turned into retail space since 1981- country store with shops of all kinds, arts, crafts, Quilt Gallery, and the Maple Syrup Museum. Some milling equipment remain on display.

### **The Riverbank Mill**

City: Cambridge  
Location: From Hwy 401, take Hwy 24 south to Cambridge for 6 km to 4 Parkhill Road West  
Phone #: 519-740-2900  
Website: [www.riverbanksteakhouse.com](http://www.riverbanksteakhouse.com)  
Hours: Daily for lunch and dinner  
Description: The building was first erected in 1842 as Dickson Mill, named after Robert Dickson, the son of Galt's founder. Mill overlooks the Grand River. It was a grist mill but went through several changes. Now a restaurant since 1980.

### **Walter's Falls Mill**

City: Walter's Falls  
Location: County Road 29; from Hwy 10 take Cty Rd 40 east to Cty Rd 29, from

Hwy 26 take Cty Rd 40 west to Cty Rd 29  
Phone #: 519-794-3333  
Hours: Tours available on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Call in advance  
Cost: Free  
Description: The present water-powered feed mill dates back to 1924. Prior to this mill, there was another mill on the site that burnt down in 1923. The pond, which houses the water used to fuel the mill, dates back to 1853.

### **Welbeck Sawmill**

City: Durham  
Location: 7.5 miles north of Durham on Hwy 6 then 2 miles west at sign, on Welbeck side road  
Phone #: 519-369-2144  
Website: [www.welbecksawmill.com/](http://www.welbecksawmill.com/)  
Hours: Daily Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Sunday closed  
Description: Authentic working reproduction of an 1872 sawmill. The sawmill is powered by a turbine but there is also a 9 foot overshot waterwheel to generate electricity for lighting and heating. Tours of the shingle mill by appointment only. Nearby hardware store very interesting and worth the visit.

### **Westfield Heritage Village**

City: Rockton  
Location: 1049 Kirkwall Road (Regional Road # 552)  
Phone #: 519-621-8851 or 1-888-319-4722  
Website: [www.westfieldheritage.ca](http://www.westfieldheritage.ca)  
Hours: Open during the summer - weekends 12:30 - 4:00 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: Living history village of over 30 heritage structures including a sawmill. It is a step back into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Hammond Sawmill non-operating or open.

### **Visual Arts Centre - Williams Mill**

City: Glen Williams  
Location: 515 Main Street  
Phone #: 905-877-8203  
Website: [www.williamsmill.com](http://www.williamsmill.com)  
Hours: Open all year, Wednesday - Sunday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Cost: Free  
Description: Once the site of a small sawmill, the location is now the site of a larger sawmill built in the 1850's. On the bottom level, there are the cement



remains of what is thought to be the support for the axle of a water wheel. The Williams Mill and the Creative Art Studios are open to the public. These restored historic buildings house the studios of area artists. Their handicrafts include glass, silver, textile, clay, wood, oil, watercolour, etc. and may be purchased.

## **Niagara Region**

### **Balls Falls Heritage Conservation Area**

City: St. Catharines  
Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue; south off the QEW (exit 57) on Regional Rd. 24, Vineland to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Phone #: 905-788-3135  
Hours: Buildings open Victoria Day through Labour Day, daily 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Labour Day - October and April - Victoria Day, Sunday through Thursday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
November, Monday through Friday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: Picturesque flour and grist mill circa 1809 set in a 200 acre conservation area located on the Niagara Escarpment. Other facilities include 19<sup>th</sup> century log cabins, a kiln, a blacksmith's shop, a church, and a scenic picnic area.

### **Morningstar Mill**

City: St. Catharines  
Location: 2716 DeCew Rd.; from Hwy 406 take St. Davids Rd. West exit, left on Merrittville Hwy, right on DeCew Rd.  
Phone #: 905-937-7210 or 905-384-2530  
Website: [www.morningstarmill.ca/](http://www.morningstarmill.ca/)  
Hours: Open Victoria Day weekend through Thanksgiving weekend.  
Weekends and holidays Monday, noon - 5:00 pm  
Cost: Free, donations accepted  
Description: The mill was originally constructed in 1872 and presently a group of volunteers called the Friends of Morningstar Mill are restoring the grist mill and sawmill to full working order. The miller's house on the site is restored as an interpretive centre. The mill is set on 7.4 acres adjacent to DeCew Falls. The mill is operational on special dates. The site also includes a gorge, grasslands, and wooded areas.

## **Greater Toronto Area**

### **Bruce's Mill Conservation Area**

City: Whitchurch-Stouffville

Location: 3291 Stouffville Road, Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Phone: 905-642-3147  
Hours: By appointment  
Description: Located on the Oak Ridges Moraine on a tributary of the Rouge River, this fully restored flour mill with an overshot water wheel opened in 1858. Bruce`s Mill operated until the 1960s and today the building contains original milling equipment from the early 1900s, including its Fitz overshot water wheel and Greey`s roller mill.

### **Millcroft Inn & Spa**

City: Alton  
Location: 55 John St.; Alton is 70 km/45 miles north of Toronto  
Phone #: 519-941-8111 or 1- 800-383-3976  
Website: [www.millcroft.com](http://www.millcroft.com)  
Description: A pre-Confederation stone knitting mill with its own millpond and waterfalls is now extensively renovated and converted into an inn and restaurant. Nestled in the Caledon Hills.

### **Roblin`s Mill at Black Creek Pioneer Village**

City: Toronto  
Location: 1000 Murray Ross Parkway; from Hwy 401 travel north on Hwy 400 to Steeles Ave. exit, east on Steeles to Murray Ross Parkway (one block east), south to parking lot  
Phone #: 416-736-1733  
Website: [www.blackcreek.ca](http://www.blackcreek.ca)  
Hours: Open May 1 - December 31  
May and June, weekdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, weekends and holidays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
July through September, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
October through December, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Closed January 1 through April 30  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: Roblin`s Mill was built in 1842. It is typical of the many mills that were along the streams and rivers of south-central Ontario in the nineteenth-century. It has been reconstructed of Humber River stone and the interior working parts of a historical mill from Ameliasburg. Mill has overshot waterwheel. Approximately 1600 kg of hard wheat kernels was ground into flour in 2002. The village also includes staff in period costume performing pioneer tasks, wagon rides, over 35 restored historical buildings, farm animals, gift shop, and dining facilities.

### **The Distillery Historic District**

City: Toronto  
Location: Downtown east; Parliament and Mill Streets, part of Toronto`s Old Town

Phone #: 416-866-8687  
Website: [www.thedistillerydistrict.com](http://www.thedistillerydistrict.com)  
Hours: Summer 11:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Winter 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Cost: Fee for tours and site interpretation  
Description: A national historic site with 44 heritage buildings and brick - lined courtyards that feature art galleries, artisan boutiques, specialty retail stores and cafes. Toronto`s newest centre for arts, culture, food, and entertainment. Opened in 2003. This complex of buildings dating back to the 1880s was originally the Gooderham and Worts distillery.

### **The Old Mill Inn**

City: Toronto  
Location: 21 Old Mill Road.  
From west of Toronto: Hwy 401 to Hwy 427 south to Gardiner Exp. eastbound. Exit at Islington Ave. north to Bloor St. eastbound. Turn left on Humber Trail. Turn right on Old Mill Rd. From east of Toronto: Hwy 401 to Don Valley Parkway south to Gardiner Exp. westbound. Exit South Kingsway Blvd. northbound to Bloor St. Turn left to Old Mill Trail then right to Old Mill Rd.  
Phone #: 416-236-2641 or 1-866-653-6455  
Website: [www.oldmilltoronto.com](http://www.oldmilltoronto.com)  
Description: The restaurant is situated in a building adjacent to the standing walls of the original old mill. Ruins of mill nearby.

### **Old Schomberg Feed Mill**

City: Schomberg  
Location: Main Street, Schomberg; North of Toronto; Corner of Hwy 9 and 27  
Phone #: 905-939-4640  
Description: A former feed mill built 1884 now used as a collection of shops, a tea room and other businesses.

### **Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Art Centre**

City: Toronto  
Location: 67 Pottery Rd.; off Broadview Ave., just north of Danforth Ave.  
Phone #: 416-396-2819  
Hours: May through September, Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 am -4:30 pm, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, noon - 5:00 pm October through December, Monday through Friday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Special events throughout the year. Closed December 25,26, Easter Friday and Monday, Victoria Day  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: This industrial site on the Don River was an important mill site during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It contains two restored pre-Confederation houses, a former

brewery renovated to feature various displays, the Old Don Station, and an exhibition gallery in the paper mill building.

### **Tyrone Mills Limited**

City: Tyrone  
Location: Liberty Street; 7 miles (13 km) north of Hwy 401 at the Liberty Street exit at Bowmanville  
Phone #: 905-263-8871  
Hours: Open daily; Monday - Saturday 9 am - 6 pm; Sunday noon - 5 pm  
Cost: Free  
Description: The Tyrone mill has been in operation since 1846. It is one of Ontario's oldest operating water-powered mills still using milling methods and machinery from the last century to produce lumber, flour and apple cider. Apple cider and cider doughnuts are available from September through June. Jam, honey, apple butter, stone-ground flour, and cheese are available all year round. There is also an antique woodworking shop on the second floor.

## **Central Ontario**

### **Austin Sawmill**

City: Kinmount  
Location: In village of Kinmount, on Station Street; 35 km north of Fenelon Falls  
Phone #: 705-488-2635  
Hours: By appointment  
Cost: Donation to the restoration effort  
Description: This water-powered sawmill was built in the late 1880's but fire destroyed the top section. A mill was brought from Haliburton area and erected on top of the foundation which survived the fire. Operations ceased at the mill in 1972. Plans are to restore the mill and surrounding park area as a heritage site and tourist attraction.

### **Bygone Days Heritage Village**

City: Collingwood  
Location: 879 6<sup>th</sup> Street; 3 km west of junction of Hwys 24 and 26  
Phone #: 705-445-4316  
Hours: Open daily from May 1 through October 31, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: The Heritage Village includes two mills; a gristmill and a sawmill. Contains over 29 authentic pioneer buildings taken from their original locations in the region and relocated in the village. Buildings include several nineteenth-century homes, a church, stores, and much more. Pioneer implements, vehicles, and tools are on display. Guided tours available.

### **Coldwater Mill**

City: Coldwater  
Location: In the village of Coldwater, north of Barrie; midway between Midland and Orillia  
Phone #: 705-686-7847  
Hours: Open by appointment  
Cost: By Donations  
Description: Grist mill built in 1833/34 by the Government for the Natives in payment for their land. Water powered until 1955 then converted to electricity. Operations ceased in 1995. Millstones and gears are on display. Plans are to establish the mill as a museum by the Coldwater Mill Heritage Foundation.

### **Fowlds Mill**

City: Hastings  
Location: In the village of Hastings, near Peterborough  
Phone #: 7 05-696-3557  
Hours: By appointment only  
Cost: Free  
Description: Built by James Fowlds in 1871. Originally a gristmill producing flour under the brand name "Avon". In 1912 mill converted to a hydroelectric plant for a nearby tannery. Since 1988 now a private residence.

### **Hope Mill Conservation Area**

City: Keene  
Location: County Road 34; take Hwy 7 east 8 km, then Cty Rd 34 south 5 km to Conservation Area signs, go east 1 km  
Phone #: 705-745-5791 or 705-295-6250  
Hours: By appointment.  
Cost: Donations to the restoration effort  
Description: Site of the historic Hope Sawmill (1870's). Under restoration.

### **Lang Pioneer Village Museum**

City: Keene  
Location: County Road 34; 10 km east of Peterborough near Keene, Hwy 7, then County Rd 34 south 6 km, watch for signs  
Phone #: 705-295-6694  
Hours: Interpretation Centre open all year, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Historic Village open from Victoria Day weekend to Labour Day, Monday through Friday and Sunday, noon - 5:00 pm, Saturdays and holidays, 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: Lang Pioneer Village is situated between two restored mills, the Lang Grist Mill (1846) and the Hope Sawmill (1870's). The admission to the village

includes a visit to the Lang Grist Mill. The village recreates rural life in Peterborough County from 1800 to 1900 with over 20 restored buildings and staff dressed in historical costume.

### **Markham Museum and Historic Village**

City: Markham  
Location: 9350 Hwy 48; west side of Hwy 48, 2 km north of Hwy 7  
Phone #: 905-294-4576  
Hours: Open all year.  
Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 PM, Sunday, 1:00 -5:00 pm  
Closed Good Friday, Labour Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year`s Day  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: There are over 25 acres of historical buildings, including a cidemill and sawmill, modern exhibits, and special events. Buildings dating from 1832 to 1910. Explore historic railway cars, interactive exhibits, homes, a church, stores, and more.

### **O`Hara Mill Museum**

City: Belleville  
Location: O`Hara Mill Road; 4 km north of Madoc on Hwy 62, then 3 km west on O`Hara Mill Road, look for signs to O`Hara Mill Conservation Area  
Phone #: 613-473-2084 or 613-968-3434  
Hours: Buildings open from July through August, Wednesday - Sunday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Conservation area is open dawn till dusk  
Cost: Fee charged  
Description: The main feature is the O`Hara Mill, which is a historic sawmill on its original site. Other buildings on-site include a schoolhouse, blacksmith`s shop, farmhouse, tool shop and carriage house.

### **Old Mill Park**

City: Lindsay  
Location: Kent Street East, Lindsay  
Cost: Free  
Description: Mill built in 1869 to replace earlier mills destroyed by fire, the existing structure once contained a stone flour mill and a lumber mill. A tramway was built across the river to the railway tracks. Destroyed by fire in 1978, the remaining structure has been incorporated into a park.

## **Eastern Ontario**

### **Alexandria Priests Mill**

City: Alexandria

Location: 8 Main Street; Mill Square (near Bishop and St. Paul Streets), Alexandria  
Phone #:  
Hours: Daily  
Description: The old Priests Mill dates back to 1902. Originally a water-powered gristmill, and then steam powered, the mill operated until 1960 and is now a restaurant.

### **Babcock Mill**

City: Odessa  
Location: 20 km west of Kingston; in village of Odessa; follow Millhaven Creek south off of Hwy 2 until you reach the site  
Phone #: 613-386-3858  
Hours: Open to the public by appointment  
Cost: By Donations  
Description: Mill type - Box Making, sawmill, planing mill and basket factory. Built in 1856 and operations ceased in 1994. Now a museum with demonstration purposes. It is a fully operational water-powered turbine mill and home of Better Baskets by Babcock.

### **Cumberland Heritage Village Museum**

City: Cumberland  
Location: 2940 Queen Street; 20 km east of Ottawa in Cumberland Village  
Phone #: 613-833-3059  
Hours: Mid May through Thanksgiving Day, daily 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: The village includes a sawmill and a shingle mill, as well over 20 other historic buildings. It interprets the lifestyles, occupations, and industries of the Lower Ottawa Valley between 1880 and 1935.

### **Keirstead Mill**

City: Glenburnie  
Location: At Kingston, exit from Hwy 401 north on Montreal Street for 3 km - turn right on Aragon Road to the end of the road. A prominent Keirstead sign identifies the house  
Phone #: 613-549-4044  
Hours: By appointment  
Description: Privately owned. Miniature stone and wood siding mill with a water wheel built in 1987 to decorate the artists riverside lawn. Water is pumped from the river into a pond and with this flow turns the wheel and the water flows back to the river. This ornamental mill sits 6 feet tall.

### **Lyn Heritage Place**

City: Lyn  
Location: 19 Main Street West, Lyn; Brockville & Thousand Islands area

Phone #: 613-342-3785  
Hours: Open Sundays  
Description: Lyn "Heritage Place" is a community museum dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Lyn and the surrounding area. In the 1800s, Lyn was the major mill town in Upper Canada with its rail, road and waterway systems. Heritage Place" was founded to protect the proud rich past of this area. Museum exhibits include models of the town, its waterways and machinery recovered from a historic stone flour mill. Heritage Place Museum is housed in a beautifully renovated 19<sup>th</sup> century building with a two storey addition. One of its interior and an exterior wall are constructed with stone from the water powered five storey flour mill which was the main stay of the once bustling village.

### **Martintown Grist Mill**

City: Martintown  
Location: In village of Martintown on the Raisin River  
Phone #: 613-528-4484 or 613-528-4997  
Hours: By appointment  
Cost: Donations welcome  
Description: Grist mill constructed in 1846 by Alexander McMartin. Water wheel and steam engine then gasoline engine. The mill is not in running condition but most of the old equipment is still in it including the horizontal water wheel. Operations ceased in 1947. Stabilization is on going by the Martintown Mill Preservation Society Corp.

### **McDougall Mill Museum**

City: Renfrew  
Location: O'Brien Park on Arthur Street; follow Bruce St. entrance to Renfrew  
Phone #: 613-432-2129  
Hours: Mid -June through Labour Day, daily 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Cost: Fee for admission  
Description: Once a flour mill, built in 1855, the three-storey building displays period clothing, wartime souvenirs, military uniforms, and collections of local history. The basement houses a collection of pioneer tools, artifacts, and Renfrew memorabilia. No milling machinery present.

### **Mill of Kintail**

City: Almonte  
Location: Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, off Hwy 291, 7 km north of Almonte  
Phone #: 613-256-3610 or 613-259-2421  
Hours: Open mid-May through mid-October, Wednesday-Sunday and holidays, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Cost: Fee for admission



Description: The Mill of Kintail was built in 1830 and restored to a studio and home in 1930 by Robert Tait McKenzie. The mill is now a museum housing McKenzie's sculptures and pioneer artifacts from the Ottawa Valley Region.

### **Old Stone Mill National Historic Site**

City: Delta  
Location: On Hwy 42 in Delta  
Phone #: 613-928-2584  
Website: [www.rideau-info.com/stonemill](http://www.rideau-info.com/stonemill)  
Hours: Open daily, Victoria Day - Labour Day, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Other times by appointment  
Cost: Free, donations accepted  
Description: The Old Stone Mill was built in 1810 and operations ceased in 1963. Today it is a National Historic Site which houses a museum showcasing the history and technology of milling. The mill is not operating, but includes exhibits of the grist milling process, two millstones, two turbines, industries of the region, agricultural equipment, and traditional crafts and trades. Restoration work is being done to bring it back to its original condition. It is one of the earliest surviving, fully automatic, grist mills of Upper Canada.

### **Rideau Canal Museum**

City: Smiths Falls  
Location: 34 Beckwith Street South, Smiths Falls; halfway between Ottawa and Kingston  
Phone #: 613-284-0505  
Hours: Open daily Victoria Day - mid October 10:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Weekends mid October to Mid December  
Winter open by appointment  
Cost: Fee for admission  
Description: The Rideau Canal Museum is housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century stone building, which was once a mill: the Woods Mills Complex. It is now the home of the flagship interpretation and orientation centre for the historic Rideau Canal - a National Historic Site of Canada. High technology displays, images and artifacts tell the story of the canal from its construction in 1826 - 1832, to present day.

### **River Walk Mill (Robert Shepherd Grist Mill)**

City: Brockville  
Location: 123 Water Street West, Brockville  
Phone #: 613-345-7098  
Hours: Open daily  
Description: Built in 1852. The Robert Shepherd Grist Mill site constitutes one of the oldest areas in Brockville - where early industry located on the waterfront

and Buell's Creek. Shepherd's is the last of nine buildings still in use that once utilized the water power of Buell's Creek. It's now a pub, restaurant and conference room.

### **Spencerville Mill**

City: Spencerville  
Location: On Water Street in Spencerville; just west of Hwy 416 on County Road 44  
Phone #: 613-658-5885  
Website: [www.spencervillemill.com](http://www.spencervillemill.com)  
Hours: Open during the summer months. Wednesday - Sundays, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Cost: Free, donations accepted  
Description: Formerly an establishment of three mills ( a sawmill, a grist mill, and a fulling and carding mill), there remains only one mill. Built in the 1800's, these mills founded the town of Spencerville. Two of the mills suffered destruction from fires, but the third building (grist mill) is still standing today. The Spencerville Mill Foundation is working towards the preservation of this historical mill. This turbine powered mill has a display of artifacts and provides museum tours.

### **Upper Canada Village**

City: Morrisburg  
Location: County Road 2, exit #758 off Hwy 401, 11 km east on Cty Rd 2  
Phone #: 1-800-437-2233 or 623-543-4328  
Website: [www.uppercanadavillage.com](http://www.uppercanadavillage.com)  
Hours: Regular Season is May 20 through October 9, daily 9:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Special events throughout the year  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: There are three different mills at Upper Canada Village: Asseltstine's Woollen Mill, Bellamy's Steam Flour Mills, and Beach's Sawmill. Asseltine's Woollen Mill dates back to the 1820's in Ernest Town and is now the only nineteenth-century woollen mill still operating in North America. The mill is water- powered and most of the equipment is original. Bellamy's Steam Flour Mill represents Bellamy's Mill after its reconstruction in 1863. It was opened in 1822, but suffered a fire in 1863. This mill was originally located in Augusta. Beach's Sawmill is a water-powered mill that was recreated by combining the walls from the original Beach's Sawmill and reproductions of the machinery from a sawmill near Odessa. It was originally built in 1846 just outside the small town of Heckston.

### **Watson's Mill**

City: Manotick  
Location: Dickinson Square Conservation Area, 5525 Dickinson St.; off Hwy 416, 21

km south of Ottawa  
Phone #: 613-692-6455  
Website: [www.watsonsmill.com](http://www.watsonsmill.com)  
Hours: Summer hours, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm or by appointment  
Cost: Free, donations appreciated  
Description: Watson's Mill is considered to be the finest example of gristmill architecture that still grinds wheat today. The water-powered gristmill has been restored to its 1860 operating condition by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. It is four storeys high and built of limestone. Other sites include Dickinson house, which housed Sir John A. McDonald's 1882 campaign headquarters. Special events are held throughout the year.

### **Windmill Point Light**

City: Prescott  
Location: From Hwy 2 in Prescott, travel north about 1.3 miles through Wexford to a railway underpass. Turn right on Windmill Point Road - the first road after the overpass  
Hours: Open daily July and August 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Weekends June & September 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Description: The lighthouse was originally a windmill, which was built in the 1820s. The area was the site of "The Battle of the Windmill" in 1838 when Americans tried to capture Fort Wellington. After the battle, the windmill served as a military post. In 1872, the windmill was converted to a lighthouse. The lighthouse served until 1978. Today Windmill Point and Fort Wellington are preserved as historic sites by the Canadian Park Service.

## **Northern Ontario**

### **Domtar Inc.**

City: Espanola  
Location: 1 Station Rd., off Hwy 6: tours depart from Tudhope St.  
Phone #: 1-800-663-6342 (July - August)  
705-869-2020 (off season)  
Hours: July through August - Pulp and Paper mill tour, Monday - Friday, 1:00 pm  
Sawmill tour, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am  
Cost: Please call for prices  
Description: Tours of this extensive operation are available during the summer months. Tours lasting three hours cover the pulp and paper mill or the sawmill. Advanced booking recommended.

### **S.S. Norisle, Heritage Park**

City: Manitowaning

Location: On Manitoulin Island  
Phone #: 705-859-3977 or 705-859-3732  
Hours: Open daily throughout July and August, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Cost: Admission charged  
Description: Manitowaning Roller Mills were built in 1883 as a gristmill and a flour mill. They now house an agricultural exhibit. Also on-site, the S.S. Norisle, picnic area, playground, swimming area, docking, launch ramp, and much more.

### **Weyerhaeuser**

City: Dryden  
Location: Duke Street  
Phone #: 807-223-9202  
Hours: Tours run throughout June, July, and August at 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm. Closed holidays  
Cost: Free  
Description: The Weyerhaeuser Mill converts 750 to 800 tonnes of pulp into 1000 tonnes of paper daily. The minimum age to tour the facilities is 10 years old. There are no cameras allowed and comfortable footwear is recommended.

*Thanks and credit to Arin Donnelly, Ontario Travel Information Centre, Barrie, Ontario, October 2000*

***Help Requested for the Ontario Mill List - Mills open to the public. Please correct, add or change any information.***

Contact Maryanne Szuck, PO Box 352, Breslau, Ontario N0B 1M0 or email [mszuck@rogers.com](mailto:mszuck@rogers.com)

### ***Water Mills are Part of Ontario's History***

*If you are interested in old mills, their history, function and preservation, the **Canadian Chapter of SPOOM** (Society for the Preservation of Old Mills) is an organization for you. We are a nonprofit organization and was first started in 1999. We invite you to join us. For more information, visit our website at [www.hips.com/spoomcanada/](http://www.hips.com/spoomcanada/)*