

By land or by water, Port Carling offers the best in scenery, adventure and shopping



The Wall in Port Carling features a mosaic mural of more than 9,000 images that depict the RMS Sagamo passing through the historic Port Carling locks.



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One of the first things you may notice when you visit Port Carling is The Wall.

It’s a towering mosaic mural that spans a south-facing exterior of one of the village’s many shops nestled in the heart of the downtown core. It’s made up of more than 9,000 historical images, and when viewed together, they reveal a snapshot of the RMS Sagamo passing through the historic Port Carling locks back in 1922. But that’s certainly not the only thing you’ll notice.

Port Carling is a charming village where all three of Muskoka’s biggest lakes meet. It’s a water-lovers paradise about two hours north of Toronto, dotted with waterside businesses that offer everything from everyday essentials to seriously [iconic Canadiana](#) (such as the famous Muskoka Chair) and first-class cuisine. And now is the perfect time to plan a visit, says Norah Fountain, Executive Director of the Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

“This is the prime time to shop in Port Carling,” she said. “All of our stores are open, and you don’t want to miss out on the unique items they sell.”



Port Carling’s shops are open and welcoming visitors. Supplied.

Fountain points to the [Muskoka Emporium](#), where you’ll find stores specializing in cottage décor, luxury clothing, jewelry and activewear. You can find the latest in on-the-water gear and furniture at the [Indian River Trading Company](#). The boat of your dreams could be waiting at [Muskoka Boat Gallery](#), or [Summer Water Sports](#). You can also discover unique souvenirs while learning about the region’s history at the [Muskoka Lakes Museum](#) on Bartleman Island.

“No visit to Port Carling is complete without a cruise on a stunning [tour boat](#), or you can rent a [vintage boat](#) to take out on your own,” Fountain said, noting Port Carling is “the only place in North America where you can do that.”

For those looking to get active there are ample trails to explore, including Huckleberry Trail with its gorgeous lookout over Lake Muskoka in nearby Milford Bay. The rocks you’ll find along this 2.5 kilometre trail are some of the oldest in the world — more than 1 billion years — and over time, the gentle pink hue of the granite surface has been uncovered. Or, you can check out one of the nearby private or public golf clubs, take a [rowing lesson](#) or join in [dockside yoga](#).



Port Carling is dotted with waterside eateries. Supplied.

When you’ve worked up an appetite, there’s something for every taste. [York and Mason](#) is well known for its delectable breakfast and lunch selections. And in the evening, consider fine dining on a patio overlooking the small boat locks at [Portside Fusion](#). Prefer to whip up your own gourmet meal? Stop at [Stephen’s Butcher Shop](#) or [Field of Greens](#). At the locks, indulge in your favourite flavours at [Mooskoka’s](#) ice cream.

For a more relaxing day away, consider making an appointment for a refreshing new ‘do or treatment at [The Hudson Hair Salon](#) and Spa or [Beginnings Spa](#). If it’s something truly unique you’re after, the [Heart of Nature Gallery](#) and [Muskoka Place Gallery](#) are both found along Foreman Road. At the other end of the village, stop in at [Red Barn Antiques](#), housed in a charming 130-year-old barn.

“The great thing about Port Carling is that it’s the hub of the three big lakes of Muskoka, and you can boat in and out to explore them all,” Fountain says. “Safety measures are in place everywhere, and residents and visitors alike have been great about doing their part and following the guidelines while still enjoying everything the village has to offer.”

To find out more about what you can discover in Port Carling, visit [muskokalakeschamber.ca](#).

This story was created by Content Works, Postmedia’s commercial content division, on behalf of the Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce.