
Announcing the Seven Wonders of Lanark County!

Lanark County residents have spoken! After short listing several sites and tallying more than 3,000 votes, the Seven Wonders of Lanark County were revealed during the inaugural meeting of county council on Tuesday morning.

“It was not easy for the committee to narrow it down to just seven when there are so many outstanding sites of natural or built heritage located within these boundaries,” says 2008 Warden Bob Fletcher.

In alphabetical order:

Blueberry Mountain located within the Alba Wilderness (Lanark Highlands) features the highest point in the County, where the view is worth the hike. This nature sanctuary is home to countless species of flora and fauna. The Clifford family are stewards of the land, conserving and restoring the natural forests and wetlands and sharing them with the community.

The breathtaking Five-Span Stone Bridge in Pakenham (Mississippi Mills), built in 1903 by Scottish stone masons and restored in 1984, is unique in North America and is believed to be the only one of its kind in the world outside Russia.

The Showy Lady’s Slipper Orchids at Purdon Conservation Area (Lanark Highlands) are the greatest abundance found anywhere in Canada – some 10,000 plants. The site, owned by Mississippi Valley Conservation, features boardwalks, viewing areas and educational signage that make this an accessible destination - particularly during blooming season.

The Mill of Kintail in Mississippi Mills showcases the restored studio and home of Robert Tait MacKenzie: sculptor, physician and designer. This historic site pays homage to a great Canadian while showcasing nature and providing a learning centre and gathering place. The 152-acre site of beautiful conservation land is owned and operated by Mississippi Valley Conservation.

Stewart Park in Perth, a five-acre green space behind the town hall, was donated by the late Jessie Mabel Stewart in 1947 in memory of her husband, the Honourable John Alexander Stewart, who was a prominent figure in the town’s history. The Tay River flows through this beautiful park, which features majestic maples and rock wall gardens.

The Silver Queen Mica Mine is located at Murphys Point Provincial Park in Tay Valley Township. In the early 1900s minerals were mined and shipped by barge along the Rideau Canal and by train from Perth, providing extra income for local farming families. The mine symbolizes the hardships and importance of small-scale mining in this area and is open for tours in summer.

St. Peter Celestine Church in Pakenham (Mississippi Mills) is the only church in the county built in the French Classic style and is one of only three Canadian churches known to retain its particular Classic Italianate interior decoration. The superb original interior décor was restored as part of the church’s centennial celebrations in 1993.

More than 50 sites were nominated as part of the Seven Wonders initiative. “This was a fantastic exercise,” says Marie White, county tourism manager. “We’re looking forward to promoting these sites and we’re considering a publication to highlight the other nominations. It was enlightening to learn about all the special features of the county that are important to the people in the area.”

Warden Fletcher thanked the Seven Wonders committee and chair Bruce Horlin, who introduced the concept of a county version of the initiative and spearheaded the process. The committee also consisted of [Al Lunney](#), [Susan Freeman](#), [Paul Dulmage](#), [Bill Dobson](#), [Sharon Mousseau](#), [Aubrey Churchill](#) and [Wendy Laut](#).

“We have been working on this throughout my term as warden and it has been an exciting and fun project. Congratulations to our Seven Wonders and to all the nominees. This certainly shows that Lanark County is truly an outstanding place.”

For more information, contact Marie White, Tourism Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1530, or check www.county.lanark.on.ca.

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