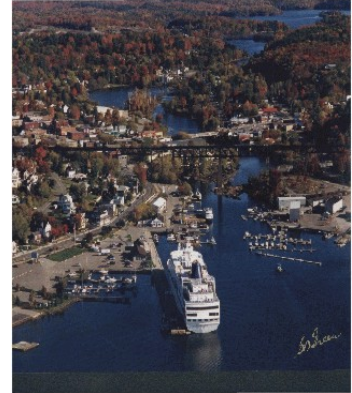


# GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE CITIES

## INITIATIVE CONFERENCE



**June 21, 22, 23, 2006**



***“The World-renowned Jewel of the 30,000 Islands on Georgian Bay”***

The Town of Parry Sound is pleased to be your host for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Conference! Just two hours north of Toronto’s Pearson International Airport, Parry Sound is in the heart of cottage country!

Conference organizers are working hard to ensure that your visit to Parry Sound and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Conference will be educational, informative & sociable. Themed as the “Conference at the Cottage”, preliminary discussions regarding agenda items have focused on recreation/tourism on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence as well as environmental issues.

The venue for the conference seminars is the Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts and Bobby Orr Hall of Fame. The Stockey Centre opened its doors in July 2003 and is located at 2 Bay Street, hugging the shores of Georgian Bay. You may visit their web site at [www.stockeycentre.com](http://www.stockeycentre.com)

A draft conference agenda will be posted within the next two weeks.

We look forward to being your host and offering you Northern Ontario hospitality!

For more information, contact Lynn Middaugh, Economic Development/Project Manager at 705-746-2101 or by e-mail at [middaugh@townofparrysound.com](mailto:middaugh@townofparrysound.com)

Sincerely,

Ted Knight  
Mayor

## **TOWN OF PARRY SOUND ONTARIO, CANADA**

### **History**

Located on the shores of Georgian Bay, the Huron First Nation recognized this area as a “holiday land” more than a century ago. The Ojibway established the first village - “*Wausakwasne*” - at the mouth of the Seguin River, and the area still fits the translation as the “*shining shore.*”

The first outside visitor to Georgian Bay was Samuel de Champlain who came by way of Pointe au Baril in 1915. Later, European colonists came for the lumber. Schooners and steamers were the lifeline for the settlements. Homesteaders were soon followed by vacationers who came to relax in a town that is at the heart of the 30,000 islands, forests, lakes, streams and the rugged beauty of pink granite of the Canadian Shield. Georgian Bay has been called the sixth Great Lake as it is almost as large as Lake Ontario. The trees and rocks of these island shorelines were inspiration for the Group of Seven who painted its wild beauty.

Much of Parry Sound’s history is recaptured in the West Parry Sound District Museum’s exhibitions.

### **Recreation**

How to explore all that Parry Sound has to offer? Obviously a boat cruise through and around some of the islands is one relaxing and informative approach, but an air tour by float plane or helicopter gives a truly unique perspective. There are four provincial parks within easy reach of Parry Sound, as well as many walking tours and a fitness trail that takes in many of the historic & visual attributes of Parry Sound as it ambles 6.5 kilometres (4 miles) along the Georgian Bay shoreline.

### **Shopping**

History and shopping go hand-in-hand in Parry Sound as many of the historic buildings are still in use as stores, galleries and studios. Parry Sound is the home to many fine artists and craftspeople - working in oils, watercolors, wood carving and turning, stained glass, antique printing, sculptures, fine stoneware and porcelain, photography, weaving and traditional canoe building.

## **Arts & Entertainment**

Parry Sound is rich with arts & entertainment. The 480 seat, acoustically-perfect performance hall located in the Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts is home to the Festival of the Sound, Canada's premier summer music festival. It is the winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Arts in recognition of its exceptional level of community involvement. The Stockey Centre's architecture combines the cottage theme with the natural surroundings of Georgian Bay. Featuring everything from folk/roots music to classical/blues/jazz, the Stockey Centre offers year-round entertainment for many.

The Parry Sound Station Gallery is a working gallery, showcasing local artisans. Located in a former Canadian Pacific station, the Station Gallery is also an exciting venue for train/railway enthusiasts.