



Southern Ontario

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Southern Ontario

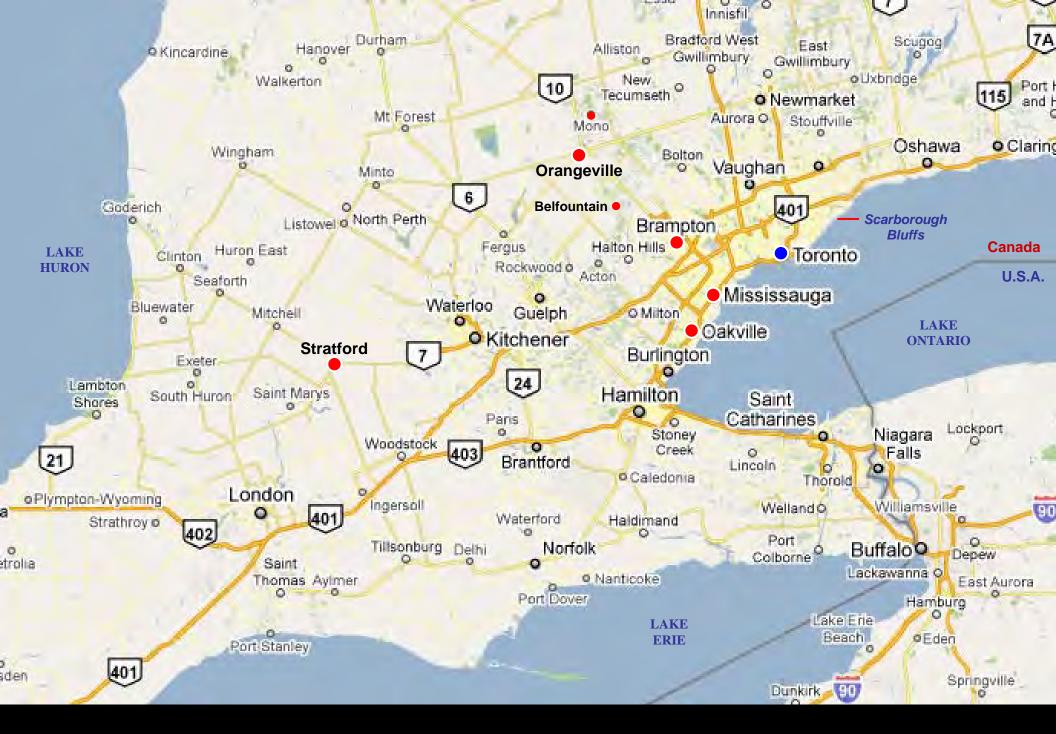
Introduction

Many place names in North America were copied from Europe, so it's not surprising that the town of Stratford in Ontario, Canada is located on the Avon River, itself a tributary of the Thames.

In the early 1950s, just as its special expertise in the repair of steam locomotives was becoming irrelevant, this town of 20,000 about 160 km / 100 miles west of Toronto pushed its parallels with its English namesake one step further and launched a Shakespearean theatre company. In some ways that completely transformed the town, but in other important ways not much has changed, as I hope you'll be able to see for yourself.

Also included in this Southern Ontario file are images of places on the north shore of Lake Ontario and of the fall colours in communities just north-west of Toronto.

- Bruce McKay



Southern Ontario

This file presents images from Stratford and then from the north shore of Lake Ontario, followed by fall colour photos from around Orangeville.



Stratford The main streets running through Stratford look much the same as those of other small Ontario cities founded in the mid 1800s.



Stratford

The Court House is strategically located as a reminder to behave.



Stratford

A unique City Hall dominates the triangular market square.



But it's the parks that set Stratford apart. Stratford created a Parks Board in 1904, and reserved most of the land on both sides of the Avon River for public use.



Swans were introduced in 1918. Today there are about two dozen white swans and two black ones.



The Shakespearean Gardens were added to the parks system in 1936 ...



... complete with a bust of the bard himself.





Huron Street Bridge seen from Shakespearean Gardens



An island in the middle of the Avon River is a favourite picnic spot.



In 1997 Stratford was named "Prettiest City in the World" at the Nations in Bloom Awards in Spain.



The theatre wasn't there until the 1950s, but everything else had been in place for decades.





The thrust stage designed for Stratford has been the blueprint for others worldwide.



The permanent Festival Theatre replaced the tent for the 1957 season and, like the tent, occupies pride of place in the parks system.



The pie-crust roof design is a nod to the original tent. Seating capacity of the Festival Theatre is over 1,800.



In its first season Stratford attracted major international stars like Sir Alec Guinness. Now it creates them.



The main Festival Theatre's backstage area, expanded in 1985, is one of the largest in North America.



Stratford's newest facility is the Tom Patterson Theatre, named in honour of the Festival's founder.



The Tom Patterson Theatre is actually a massive theatre complex and community hub that stretches almost a full block along the river.



The architectural design hides the bulk and blends into the landscape.



This is Stratford's second thrust stage, with a similar stage house and multiple entrances for actors.



The audience wraps around the thrust stage, as in the original Festival Theatre. Capacity 600 here, versus 1800 there,



In 1960 the Festival introduced musical productions, starting with Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*, in the Avon Theatre.



The Avon Theatre had been built in 1901, still had its conventional proscenium arch stage, but had been in use as a movie theatre.



A major renovation of the Avon Theatre in 2002 expanded and improved backstage facilities, and ...



... added the Festival's fourth venue. The Studio Theatre is used for experimental works, one act plays, and new Canadian works.



The Festival itself operates a tasteful Theatre Store.



Stratford

Some restaurants now have predictable names ...





Stratford Boutiques for tourists have appeared on quiet side streets, but the town has escaped over-commercialization.



Stratford

The city has converted an old water pumping station into an art gallery ...

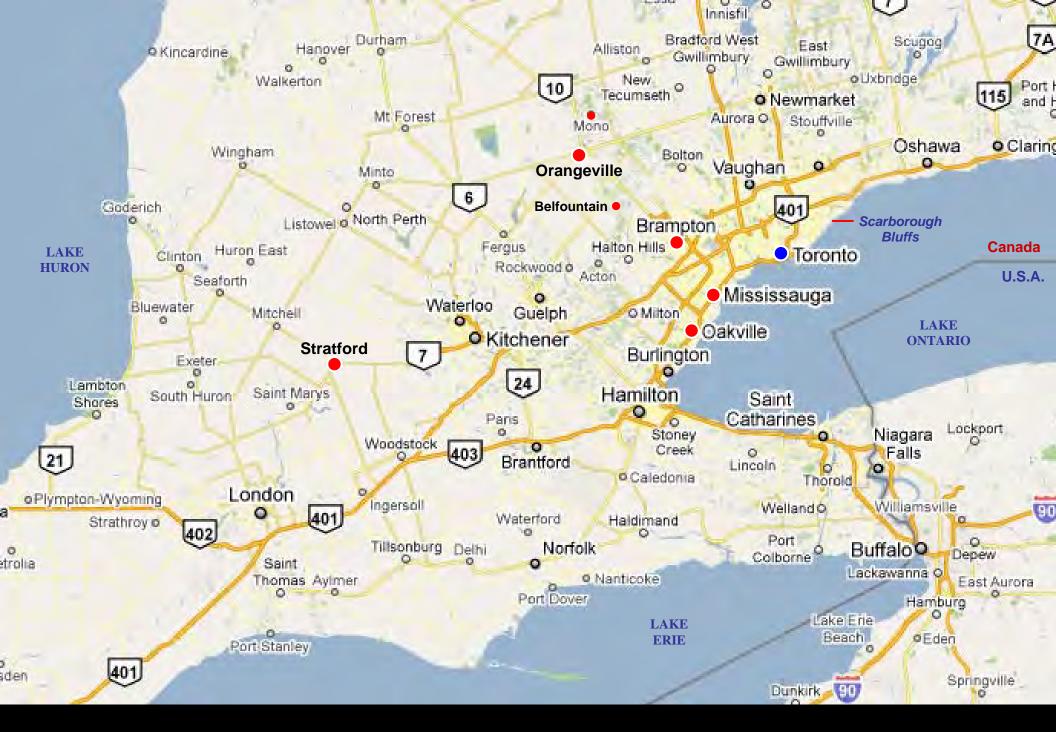


Stratford

... and artists present their works in the park on Sundays.



Amazing place. A friendly small town that just happens to have one of the world's best theatre companies.



Southern Ontario

Next: Port Credit (part of Mississauga), Bronte (part of Oakville), and the Scarborough Bluffs, followed by fall colour photos from around Orangeville.



Port Credit is 22 km / 14 miles west of downtown Toronto.



Port Credit The Credit River empties into Lake Ontario here.





Port Credit is now part of the larger municipality of Mississauga.







Port Credit Snug Harbour is one of my favourite marina restaurants.





Bronte Outer Harbour Marina.
Bronte is now part of Oakville.

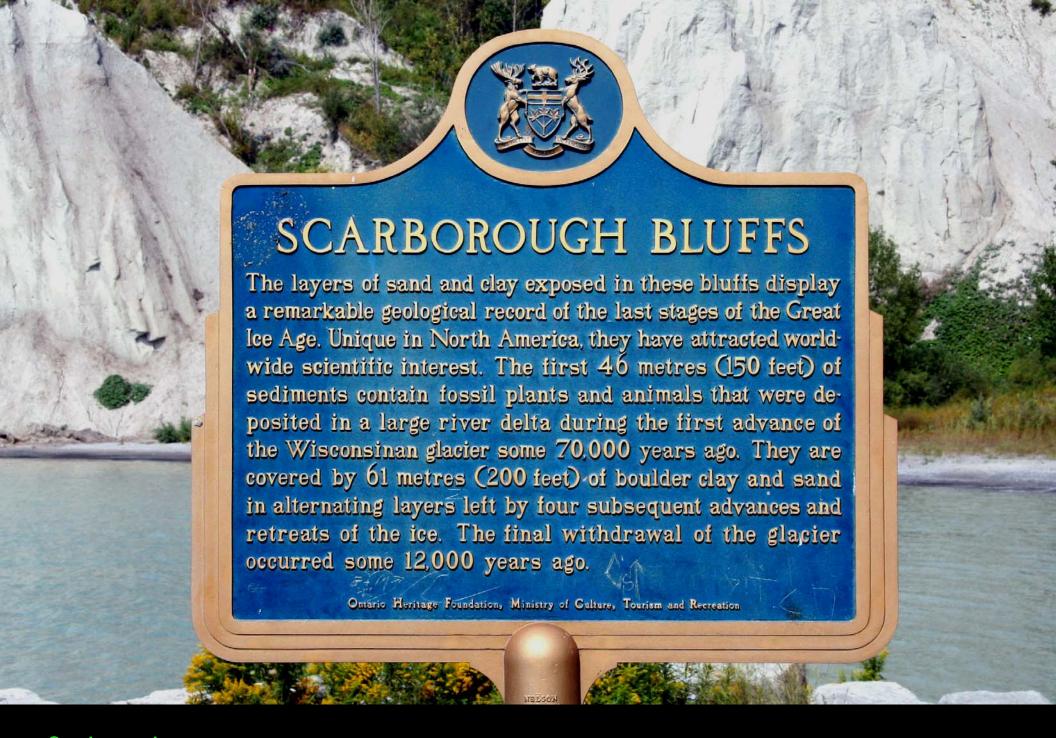


Bronte Another favourite marina restaurant



Scarborough Bluffs

The Scarborough Bluffs are 14 km / 9 miles east of downtown Toronto.











Scarborough Bluffs

A public marina and four yacht clubs are nestled beneath the cliffs at Bluffer's Park.







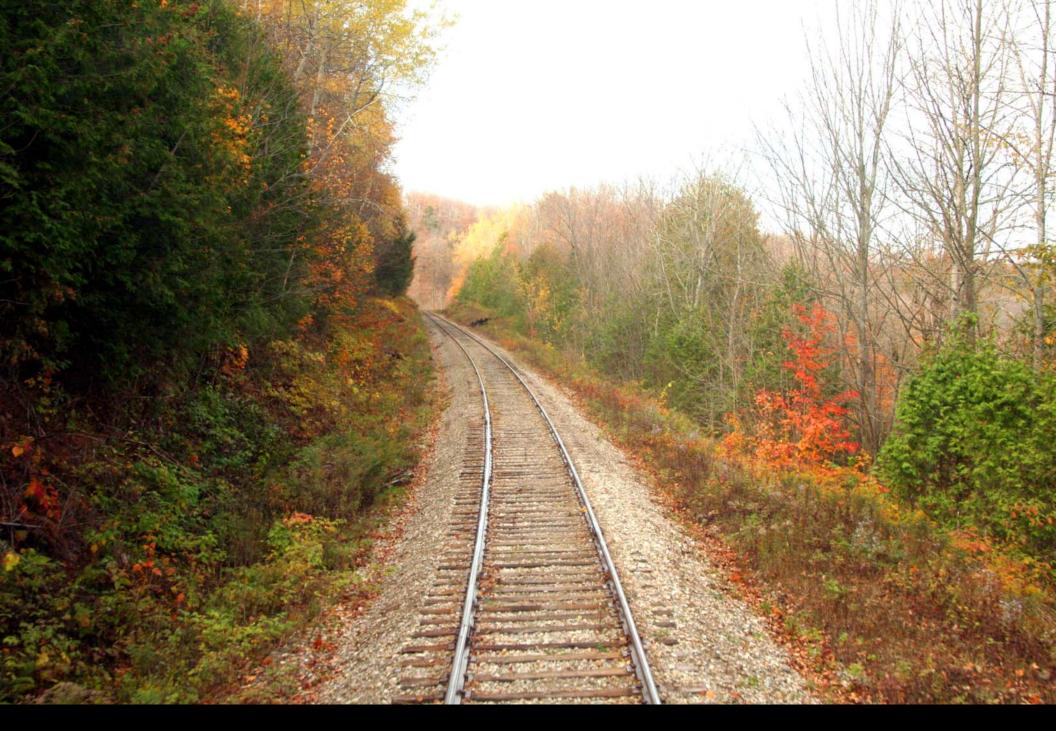






Credit Valley Explorer

The Credit Valley Explorer runs sightseeing excursions from Orangeville to Brampton and back.





Credit Valley Explorer

Sightseeing in comfort

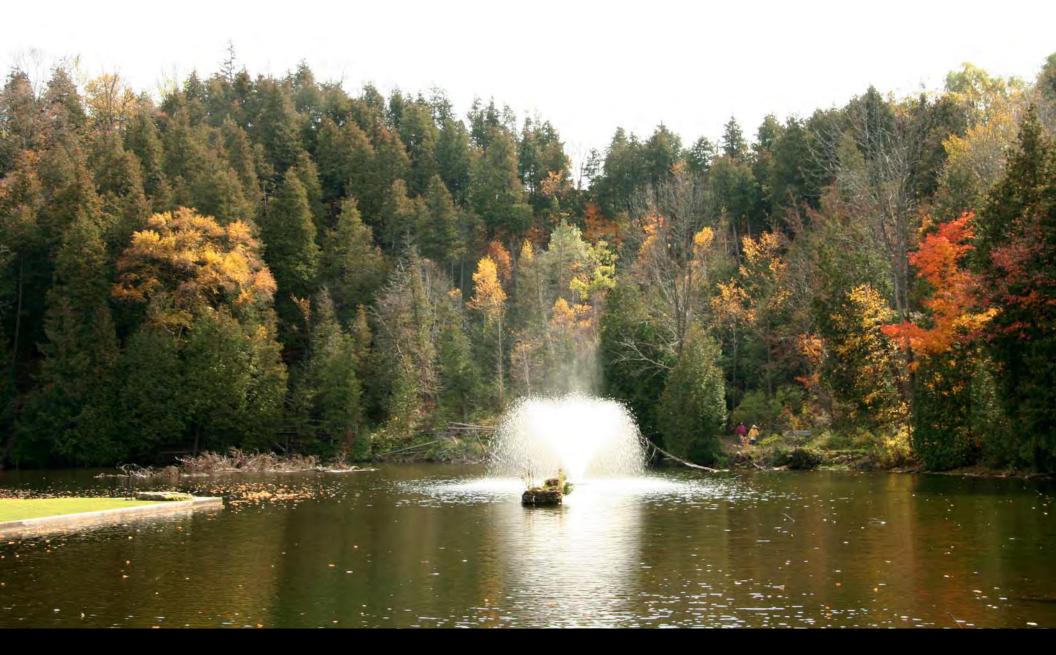




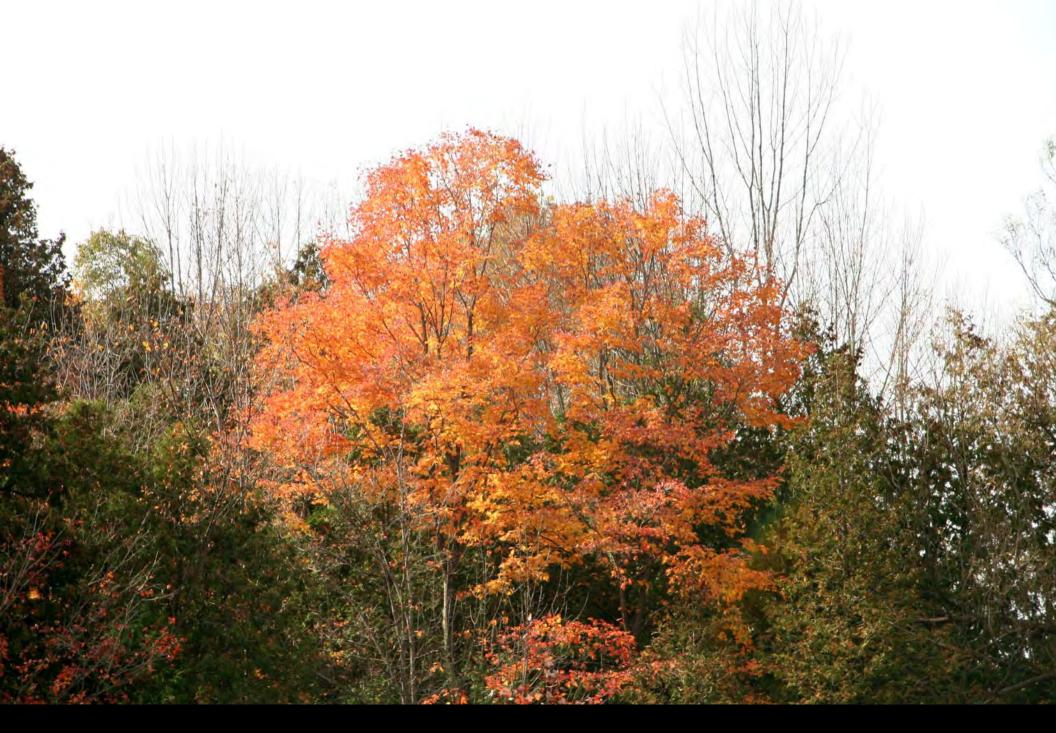
Credit Valley Explorer

Railway bridge in Forks of the Credit Provincial Park





BelfountainBelfountain is a village about 14 km / 9 miles south-east of Orangeville.





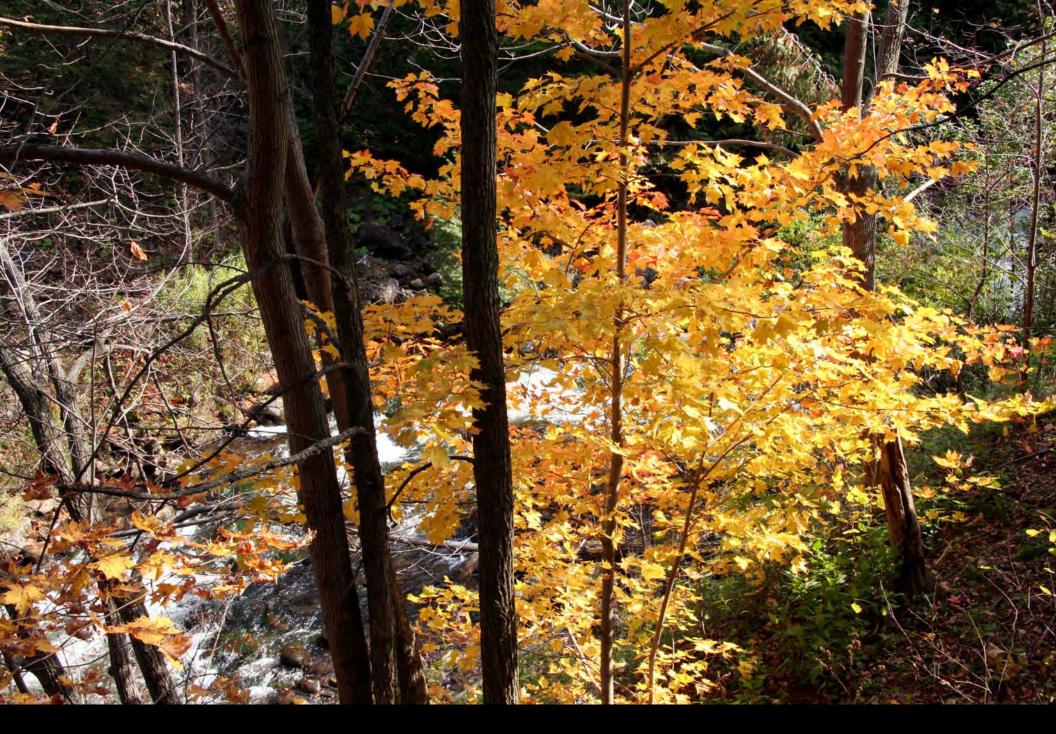




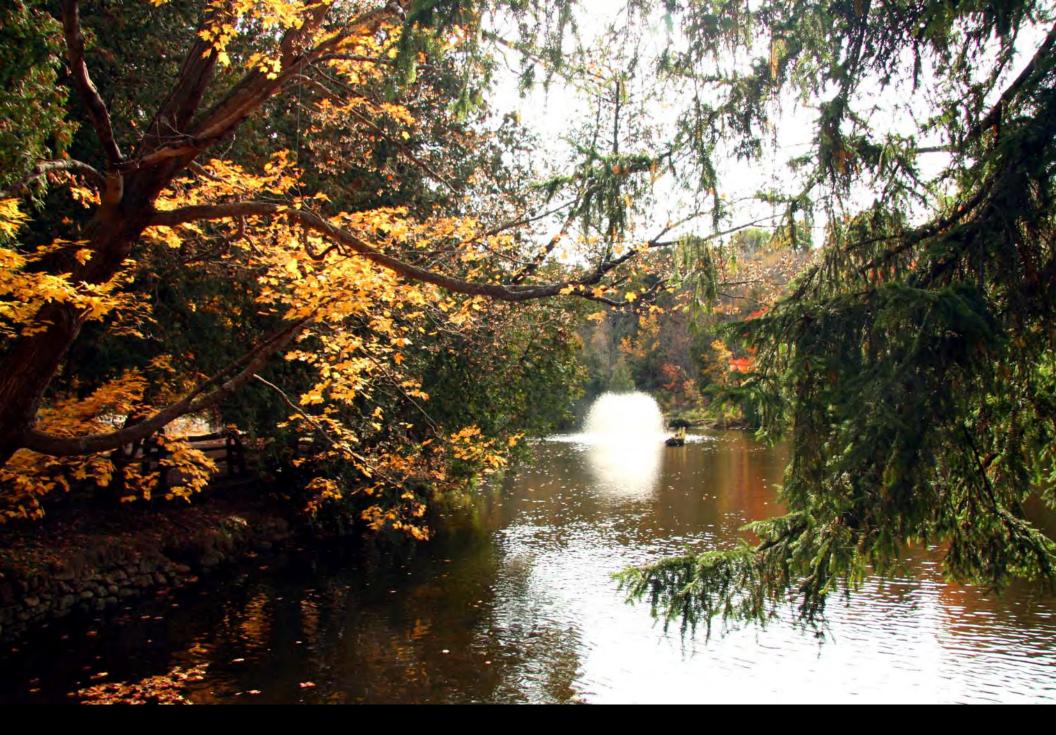
Belfountain This park was originally developed in the 1900s as a private estate ...



Belfountain ... but is now operated by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.



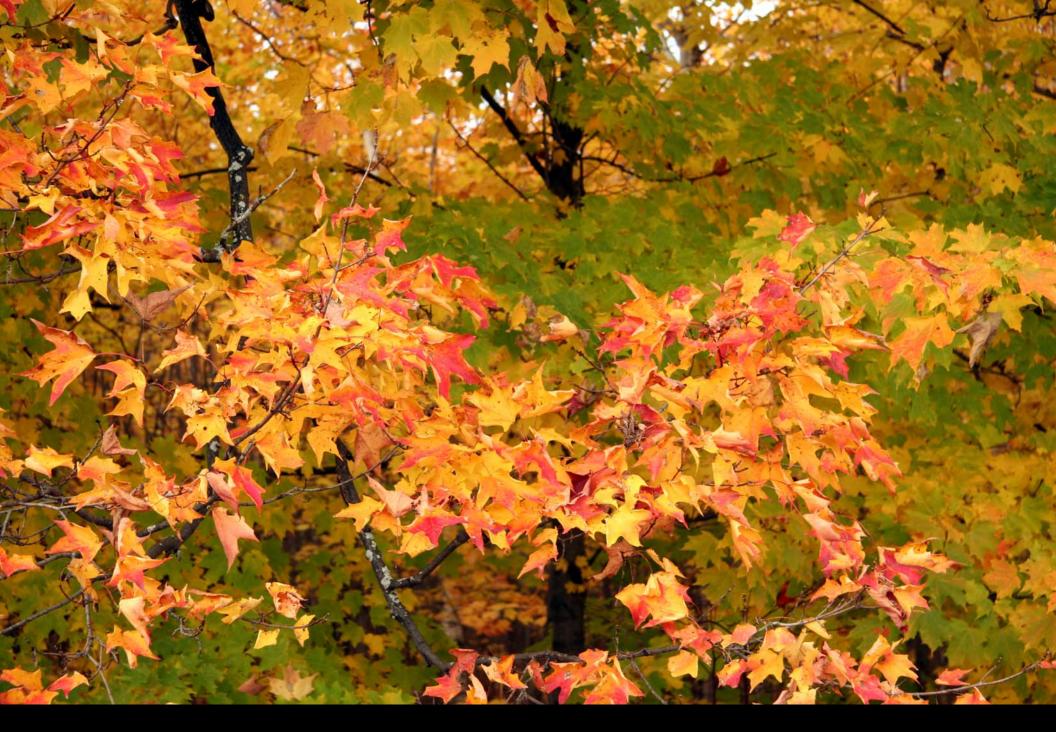
Belfountain



Belfountain



Mono Cliffs Provincial Park is 14 km / 9 miles north-east of Orangeville.





Mono Cliffs

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Southern Ontario