



24TH ANNUAL

HOLIDAY
HOUSE
TOUR

Rotary
Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake



December 1-2 ❄️ 2023

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WELCOME TO THE 24TH ANNUAL

ROTARY HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Once again, we welcome and thank everyone who comes to Rotary's Annual Holiday House Tour. I am constantly amazed at how many people tell me that they have come every year with their family and friends to tour the beautiful homes decorated for the holiday season.

We all have a critical role to play in the success of this year's Holiday House Tour. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you.

- To our very generous homeowners who welcome us into their residences and the talented decorators who make those homes so beautifully festive.
- To our generous sponsors and supporters who provide complimentary goods and services as well as significant donations to our funds.
- To our Holiday House Tour Committee who work diligently year-round to ensure the success of this project.
- To our hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly to make sure that the Holiday House Tour operates efficiently and safely, come what may.
- And finally, to you, our outstanding patrons, who travel from a great distance in any weather, to join our Holiday House Tour event.

Over the years of the Tour, the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake has raised a significant amount of money which each year is allocated 50% to Local Community Projects and 50% to International Projects. We help people near and far.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support of the NOTL Rotary Holiday House Tour. Enjoy The Tour and our delightful Town. We wish you all the best of the holiday season.

Carol Lipsett, President 2023-2024

Rotary



Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake
www.niagaraonthelakerotary.ca
info@niagaraonthelakerotary.ca

HOUSE TOUR PROCEDURE:

Proceed to any of the six homes to begin your tour and get your wristband. Your day tour ticket may be used on both days. Please remove shoes while in homes. In an effort to reduce single-use plastic, we ask you to bring your own reusable shoe bag. There will also be souvenir reusable totes available for a small donation. Interior photographs are only allowed through pre-approval.

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How does the day tour work? This is a self-guided tour. You can start at any of the 6 main houses to get your wristband and view the sites in any order you wish. Many of the properties are close together and easily walkable if you are fully mobile, however, some distances will require a vehicle. For those with limited mobility, cars will be able to drop off and pick up at the front of the house. Write to the email above for more info. Please bring your own shoe bag or, for a small donation, reusable souvenir Holiday House Tour totes will be available.

Is your Day Tour ticket valid for both days?

YES, you can use your Day Tour ticket for both days from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm but please leave your wristband on. Evening Tour tickets are only for the specific day and time stated on your ticket. Visit our website for more **FAQ**.

NEW THIS YEAR: Check out our mobile-friendly booklet at www.holidayhousetournotl.ca.

Questions: notlhht@gmail.com
www.niagaraonthelakerotary.ca/page/holiday-house-tour

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [l](#) [p](#) [v](#) @NOTLrotary



Can you buy tickets at the event? Tickets are available **ONLINE ONLY** and sell out quickly. If you need help, a volunteer will be available at **Niagara Pumphouse until 1:00 pm both days.**

Day Tour: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, Dec. 1 & 2
\$45* early bird | \$50* after November 17
A Candlelight Christmas details are on the evening tour pages. *Eventbrite fees apply.

Stay for the weekend! Our beautiful, seasonally decorated town has many special events: the annual Candlelight Stroll sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, a Shaw Festival performance of 'A Christmas Carol' or 'Brigadoon', winery tours, local shopping, fabulous dining, our annual sites, and lots of other activities.

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DECORATOR: VAN NOORT FLOWER STUDIO, JUNE FLORAL & GARDEN, & JULIE BALLARD



©COSMO CONDINA PHOTOGRAPHY

DECORATOR: THE VILLAGE FLOWER
WILLOW CAKES MAGICAL PASTRY ARTS DISPLAY

1

HOUSE

Ballard Barn 135 CENTRE ST, NOTL
PRESENTED BY: NOTL REALTY



One of Niagara-on-the-Lake's most enchanting houses, today's Ballard Barn was a simple, 150-year-old barn when it was discovered in Vermont in 1998, brought to Niagara in pieces, then transformed into the house that exists today. But it was the home's current owner, Lori Morris Design's Creative Director, Julie Ballard, who crafted the luxurious comfort and magical garden that captivates hearts now. A soft, almost Moroccan pink colour unifies stunning rooms in the gorgeous, multi-level, French country interior. In the backyard, an exquisite greenhouse fronts a luxurious hideaway and tricks the eye into seeing the garden's small triangular shape as double its size with multiple 'rooms' carefully positioned throughout. Squirrels tap at windows, and whimsy rules in this fairy tale, one-of-a-kind, Niagara-on-the-Lake dream.

*Inspired by the eclectic collection of art, antiques, and hand curated items in this unique property, **VanNoort Flower Studio** and **June Floral & Garden** will be using foraged and collected greenery, mosses and other natural elements, intending to present a tranquil, forested and lush feeling to this holiday home.*

2

HOUSE

Gate Street Studio 358 GATE ST, NOTL
PRESENTED BY: LIDA KOWAL CPA



The current owners were living in Virginia when they heard that a Niagara-on-the-Lake house, an exact replica of an historical home they loved in neighbouring Williamsburg, was up for sale. Having both grown up in Niagara, and anxious to return to their families, they followed up. Fast forward a few months and the two were busy expanding the space of their new home while taking great care to respect its authentic character. With one of the two being a celebrated artist, the most important work centred around the creation of an art studio. Construction on that project moved quickly and the result was the beautiful, light-flooded space that exists off the garden today. Paintings crowd the studio's walls and floors, and admirers, both local and international, come to see the work you'll be enjoying on the tour.

*Award-winning florist, **The Village Flower**, will be bringing lush evergreens and beautiful, seasonal blooms into the home, accented with natural dried florals and wood elements. Traditional holiday warmth will greet you from the moment you arrive at the entrance and throughout this incredible space.*



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DECORATOR: HOMEOWNER & TEAM WITH REGAL FLORIST & GARDEN CENTRE

DECORATOR: REGAL FLORIST & GARDEN CENTRE

3

HOUSE

The Garden Party 94 PRIDEAUX ST, NOTL
PRESENTED BY: BOSLEY REAL ESTATE

❄ It was the brick fireplace in the kitchen of this 180-year-old heritage home that The Garden Party's current owner first fell in love with. Then, there was the gorgeous wainscoting and trim in the dining room, plus the solarium, of course, which always seemed to be bathed in sunlight. She was also enchanted by the flow of the house. But this owner, a renowned creator of her own magic, had a vision of what the house could be, and work began. Months later, with painters, carpenters and trades of every kind having come and gone, that vision was unveiled. This historical building, once an inn, a pub, and a popular B&B, had been brought back to life. Now resplendent with the old-world charm of its roots, and finished with more than a sprinkling of 'Glam', the home had become the cozy, country sanctuary she had promised.

Renowned for her legendary Christmas decorations, the Garden Party's new owner is expected to outdo herself again this year. Elegant florals and shades of hot pink, soft green, and navy will set the mood, as trees studded with glamorous silver and toile balls steal the holiday show.

4

HOUSE

Davy House 230 DAVY ST, NOTL
PRESENTED BY: DESJARDINS INSURANCE, TRAVIS CAIRNS

❄ Built by a local shipwright in 1842, the original Davy House reflected the period's fondness for elaborate verandahs and whimsical trims in the front of a house, and steep, sloping roofs with lean-to kitchens in the rear. Reflective of the owner's vocation, the bay window in the kitchen was designed to replicate a view from the Captain's quarters of a ship, and remains in place to this day. A century-and-half later, the same care that went into creating the original house was used to seamlessly integrate a new wing into the existing structure. Also added were a coach house, hot tub, multi-hole putting green, and modern amenities which cemented Davy House's position as one of the most alluring and popular country inns in the area. Now privately owned, former guests continue to knock on the front door to ask if they can still book a stay.

Regal Florist & Garden Centre has participated in the Holiday House Tour for 24 years. We create unique designs that reflect the style of the homeowners while preserving the integrity of their home. Our original plans often take a surprise direction as we experience the unique personality of the home.



© ROSE ELLEN CAMPBELL

DECORATOR: GARDEN CLUB OF NIAGARA



© JAMES GENDIA PHOTOGRAPHY

DECORATOR: GAULD NURSERIES, JOANNE YOUNG, & ELAINE BARTOLINI

5

HOUSE

Willowbank 14487 NIAGARA RIVER PKWY, QUEENSTON
PRESENTED BY: SHAW FESTIVAL

❄ Built in 1834 as a private residence for Alexander Hamilton, Willowbank is considered a Heritage Site of national historic significance. In 2001, its future was jeopardized when its owner threatened to demolish the home if his request to build a subdivision on the property was not approved. Thanks to the intervention of a group of concerned neighbours, Willowbank was saved and today is home to a School of Restoration Arts that attracts students from around the world. Although their work on the main house is ongoing, layers of exposed wallpaper in the living and dining rooms continue to serve as a testament to lives well lived. Local folklore has it that Alexander's wife, Hannah, can sometimes be glimpsed peering out a second-floor window as she continues to watch over her beloved home.

Garden Club of Niagara: Willowbank will be festooned with garlands, dried and fresh florals for a celebration reminiscent of a bygone era, resplendent with a formal dining table, a luscious desert table laden with floral culinary delights, and a tall, sparkling tree adorned with dried flowers from local gardens.

6

HOUSE

Woodlands Cottage 2051 YORK RD, NOTL
PRESENTED BY: ST. DAVID'S VETERINARY CLINIC

❄ Woodlands Cottage likely originated as a farmer's house in the mid-1800s, built on property owned by David Secord, (Laura's brother-in-law). Even then, the town was a popular visitor destination. Steamers would drop passengers at nearby Queenston wharf and horse-drawn rail cars would carry them across the escarpment to the Falls. Reminders of that history remain with the property to this day. When the current owners bought the home two years ago, they discovered remnants of railway ties from the Erie & Ontario Railroad hidden in the forest, halfway up the escarpment in their backyard. During subsequent renovations that included a new kitchen, they uncovered original foundation walls, beneath the current living and dining rooms, that were two feet thick – strong enough to support a modern condo building!

Gauld Nurseries and their gardening coach, **Joanne Young**, have collaborated with the owner, **Elaine Bartolini**, in bringing to life her vision of a Woodland Cottage Christmas. The team has integrated handmade ornaments, dried flowers and natural greenery to create a charming country ambiance.



Lake Ontario

This map is not to scale.

= PARKING
 = PUBLIC WASHROOMS



INSET NOT TO SCALE
FROM NOTL (JOHN ST)
TO RIVERBRINK = 8.1 KM

Queenston

7. ANNUAL SITE NOTL: DECORATED BY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS
St. Mark's Anglican Church 41 BYRON ST



St. Mark's is the oldest Anglican Church building in continuous use in Ontario. It was completed in 1804. The transepts, galleries and high pulpits were added in 1839. After the removal of the galleries and box pews in 1892, memorial windows began to be added. The original organ was in the chancel, but moved to the balcony in 1968. The two newer organs, both made by Ontario organ builder Gabriel Kney, are additions in recent years. Many concerts are held here, including the Music Niagara Festival, because of the excellent acoustics. Although the history of the parish is present in every stone, this is very much an active place of worship.

A guide will be available 9:30 am-5 pm
 Friday and Saturday. <https://stmarksnotl.org>

*Enjoy a hearty lunch at a thrifty price
 in the Church Hall from 11 am-2 pm,
 Friday and Saturday.*

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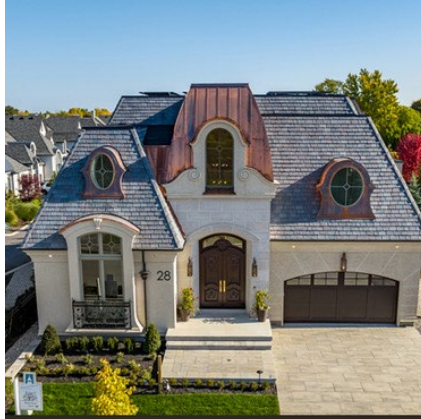
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*a
Candlelight
Christmas*

AT THE
MCARTHUR ESTATE

M

A CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS

The McArthur Estate 210 JOHN ST E, NOTL
PRESENTED BY: THE MCARTHUR FAMILY

❖ Like a dreamy snow globe, the enchanting 1829 McArthur Estate radiates a special magic in the moonlit glow of winter. Guests will be offered a **glass of Peninsula Ridge bubbly** as they wander through fairy tale rooms, bathed in the light of **hundreds of candles**. **Santa** and friends will be waiting en route as melodies by **Eddie Pizzo on the grand piano** and **The Soenen Sisters on harp, flute and cello**, provide the perfect musical accompaniment.

Outside, the mood continues with **Bubble Taps** offering samples of **wine from Peller Estates** and **Wayne Gretzky Estates** serving nips of **whiskey in a whiskey lounge**. **Hors d'oeuvres** and a **cheese bar** await, while **live guitar music by Will Wilson** enhances the seasonal ambience and **Santa's reindeer** lounge in their stables.

Finally, with **hot apple cider** and **gingerbread** in hand, guests will be invited to stroll down candlelit pathways, past snow-topped statuary and ice-capped ponds, to cosy up around crackling fires and savour the beauty of this magical candlelit night.

AN EVENING INDOOR/OUTDOOR TOUR OF THE STUNNING MCARTHUR ESTATE

This event has been made possible by the incredible generosity of the McArthur family. Thank you, McArthur family, for opening your home and your hearts to us all.

The Soenen Sisters, a talented ensemble of **2 harps, cello, and flute** have been bringing stellar performances to concert stages for years. They are a top choice in Ontario at celebrity events and weddings, and even opened last year at an exciting concert of 'The Tenors'.

Pianist, Eddie Pizzo has been entertaining fans with his vast repertoire of songs for more than 60 years. A Niagara legend, beloved by fans across the region, his talent and charm have ensured his place as a highlight of the McArthurs' annual Holiday House Tour event.

Friday or Saturday, December 1 and 2 | 5:00-6:30 pm | 7:00-8:30 pm - ADULTS ONLY
Adults - \$75* | Youth 11-18 years - \$15* | Children 0-10 years - Free
Adult Combined Day and Evening Tour ticket : \$110* (save \$10)

**Eventbrite fees apply. Your evening tour ticket is only good for a specific date & time.*

For more information, please email us at notlhht@gmail.com or visit our website at niagaraonthelakerotary.ca/event/holiday-house-tour.

Tickets will not be refunded. Your donation benefits local & international charitable projects.

8

ANNUAL SITE NOTL: DECORATED BY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS
Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum 43 CASTLEREAGH ST



The Niagara Historical Society opened Memorial Hall in 1907 as the first purpose-built museum in Ontario. It is linked to the former Niagara High School (1875) and houses one of the most significant local history collections in Ontario.

During the tour, visitors are welcome to explore the Museum's permanent and temporary exhibits exploring the rich history of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The main gallery will be decorated for the holidays.

You are invited to enjoy a cup of hot apple cider and browse the lovely selection of holiday and historical gifts and books which can be purchased in the Gift Shop. www.notlmuseum.ca

9

ANNUAL SITE NOTL: DECORATED FOR THE SEASON
Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre 247 RICARDO ST



Rotary volunteers will be on hand at the Pumphouse as an information station until 1:00 pm.

Experience the 'Holiday Market' at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. www.holidaymarket.ca

Make the art hub of the community your holiday shopping destination! Explore a wide selection of one-of-a-kind treasures by local artisans. Christmas trees are adorned with unique ornaments and stocking stuffers, while gallery walls showcase winter-themed artworks. Holiday helpers and festive treats are available on-site to enhance your shopping experience. The Holiday Market runs from December 1st to 10th.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre hosts year-round events, exhibitions, and programs, giving back to the community by providing access to the arts for those in need. www.niagarapumphouse.ca

10

ANNUAL SITE NOTL: DECORATED BY THE GARDEN CLUB OF NIAGARA
McFarland House 15927 NIAGARA PARKWAY

The Garden Club of Niagara will decorate both the inside and outside of McFarland House in the theme, 'Christmas Through the Ages'. The club uses authentic natural materials for designs and decorations suitable to the period of the home.

This historic Georgian manor home was built by John McFarland and his sons. Descendants of the McFarlands lived in the house for over 140 years before it was restored by The Niagara Parks Commission and opened to the public in 1959. During the War of 1812, both British and American forces used the home as a hospital, and in 1813, the British attack on Fort Niagara was launched from the ravine on the property. McFarland House is one of the only structures to survive the burning of the town when occupying American forces retreated from the area, making it one of the oldest properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Today, McFarland House portrays early nineteenth century life in Upper Canada. **There will be sticky toffee pudding, scones, homemade hot chocolate, mulled cider, and tea. www.mcfarlandhouse.com**



11

ANNUAL SITE QUEENSTON: DECORATED FOR THE SEASON
RiverBrink Art Museum 116 QUEENSTON ST

Find unique, handmade gifts for everyone on your list at our **Holiday Market**, featuring one-of-a-kind local artists & artisans. The museum will be decorated festively, in holiday tradition. Visitors are also welcome to explore the beautiful grounds overlooking the Niagara River, while they enjoy hot chocolate and delicious goodies from Plant No.1.

We will have three new exhibitions on display for visitors to explore. With **'The Mom Project'**, Toronto-based artist Mark Bell brings a series of portraits of his mother, painted from observation during the final years of her life. **'On Aging'** features portraits from the permanent collection and is intended as a compliment to The Mom Project. Finally, Niagara-based artist and member of the Cayuga Nation, Samuel Thomas will present his contemporary beadwork in an exhibition titled **'New Beginnings'**.

RiverBrink is a collecting and exhibiting art museum open to the public since 1983. It is home to a collection of historical artworks created by Canadian, American, and European artists, including many of Canada's most celebrated artists, such as Tom Thomson and members of the Group of Seven. Located at the intersection of the Niagara Parkway and Queenston Street in the historic village of Queenston. www.riverbrink.org



12 WINERIES ON TOUR: NOTL
Peller Estates Winery & Restaurant 290 JOHN ST E



Enjoy a complimentary tasting of our award-winning, sparkling **Ice Cuvée Rosé** at the **2018 Winery of the Year** until 6:00 pm Friday & Saturday.

Take the opportunity to participate in our **Wine Country Silent Auction**, with all proceeds donated to the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Peller Estates Winery Restaurant will offer a **specially-priced lunch menu** from noon - 2:30 pm for House Tour guests, on Friday and Saturday.
www.peller.com

13 WINERIES ON TOUR: NOTL
Riverbend Inn & Vineyard 16104 NIAGARA PARKWAY



Join us for a tranquil escape at **Riverbend Inn & Vineyard**. You'll soak up incredible views and learn about the property's fascinating history. In 1860, the farm was purchased by Dr. Thomas Halliday Watt and a large 6,500 square foot Georgian red brick mansion was built as his stately residence where he grew fruit and worked as a consulting surgeon until his death in 1902. The property that became the Riverbend Inn & Vineyard has a fascinating, two-centuries-old history that you feel from the moment you arrive and around every corner.

While you are here, the **Oaklands Restaurant at Riverbend Inn** will offer House Tour guests a **specially-priced lunch menu** served Friday and Saturday from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm. Reservations are recommended. www.riverbendinn.ca

14 WINERIES ON TOUR: NOTL
Wine Country Vintners 27 QUEEN ST



Join us in the heart of downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake at our **Wine Country Vintners** store, featuring wines from Peller Estates, Trius Winery, Thirty Bench Winemakers and Wayne Gretzky Estates.

Holiday House Tour guests receive a complimentary tasting of **Thirty Bench Special Select Late Harvest Vidal** (offer available until 6:00 pm Friday and Saturday).

15 WINERIES ON TOUR: VIRGIL
Trius Winery & Restaurant 1249 NIAGARA STONE RD (HWY. 55)



Trius Winery welcomes you to enjoy a complimentary tasting of our iconic **Trius Brut Rosé**. Offer available until 6:00 pm Friday and Saturday.

Trius Winery Restaurant will offer House Tour guests a **specially-priced lunch menu** with seating available from noon - 2:30 pm, on Friday and Saturday.
www.triuswines.com

16 WINERIES & DISTILLERIES ON TOUR: VIRGIL
Wayne Gretzky Estates 1219 NIAGARA STONE RD (HWY. 55)



NEW ON TOUR: Wayne Gretzky Estates invites you to stop by for a complimentary tasting of our **Maple Cream Liquor** available until 6:00 pm Friday and Saturday. Amazing things happen when The Great One turns his attention away from the ice.
www.waynegretzkyestates.com

ALL LUNCH SPECIALS ON TOUR (Friday & Saturday)
Restaurant reservations are recommended.



- 7 St. Mark's Hall:** a hearty lunch at a thrifty price from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 12 Peller Estates Winery & Restaurant:** special lunch menu from 12:00 - 2:30 pm
- 13 Oaklands Restaurant at Riverbend Inn:** special lunch menu from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm
- 15 Trius Winery & Restaurant:** special lunch menu from 12:00 - 2:30 pm

ROTARY CLUB OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Rotary is where neighbours, friends, and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and take action to create lasting change. Through Rotary clubs, people from all continents and cultures form friendships and professional connections while making a difference in their backyards and around the world.

Club activities, social events, and volunteer projects in picturesque Niagara-on-the-Lake offer networking opportunities that build personal and professional connections – and Rotarians can extend those networks by visiting other clubs around the globe.

FUNDED PROJECTS 2023

The mandate of the Local Service Committee is to use our members' talents and skills to identify, plan, and carry out projects within our community. Our focus this year is feeding the hungry, mental health, youth at risk, and violence against women and children.

Our club has been involved in numerous international projects from eradicating polio, providing shelter, clean water and food, to improving medical facilities and many more projects around the world. We have made a positive impact on thousands of lives.

Rotary International encourages us to develop projects that address priority needs identified by the communities they serve, to help people to help themselves, and to ensure projects are environmentally sustainable.

International Projects

- WASH and Economic Development Project, Chipata, Zambia
- Disaster Relief for Ukraine
- Maternal Health Project in Mali
- WASH Project in Kenya

Community Projects

- Red Roof Retreat
- Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum
- Newark Neighbours
- The Farmworker Hub
- Westview Centre4Women
- Niagara Regional Native Centre
- NOTL Palliative Care
- Gillian's Place
- Niagara Nutrition Partners
- The Heritage Trail
- Pumphouse Art Centre - Healing Arts for Kids
- Links for Greener Learning
- Yellow Door Theatre



The Holiday House Tour attracts people from all over the world to our little town. While we love that the tour has such a wonderful reputation, we are also aware of the carbon footprint that creates. In an effort to offset that footprint, we are donating \$1 per ticket to Landcare Niagara to plant trees in the Region.



This booklet is printed on paper certified by the **Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)**, made of responsibly sourced wood fiber and post-consumer recycled content.

Rotary

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May this be a time of celebration and cheer.

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Season's Greetings



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A photograph of two women standing on a white balcony, clinking wine glasses. They are framed by a large glass door. The woman on the left is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and jeans, with a headband. The woman on the right is wearing a maroon sweater and jeans. The background shows a green lawn and trees.

Rest Dine Explore

Riverbend Inn
guests receive a
complimentary wine
tasting at
Peller Estates!

Delight in the comfort of an intimate 21-room Georgian mansion surrounded by 17 acres of vineyards. Our on-site restaurant, Oaklands, takes its culinary cues from Niagara's ingredient driven cuisine and French influence.

Reserve your stay at [RiverbendInn.ca](https://www.RiverbendInn.ca)


1860
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INN AND VINEYARD