



PUB

THE

magazine

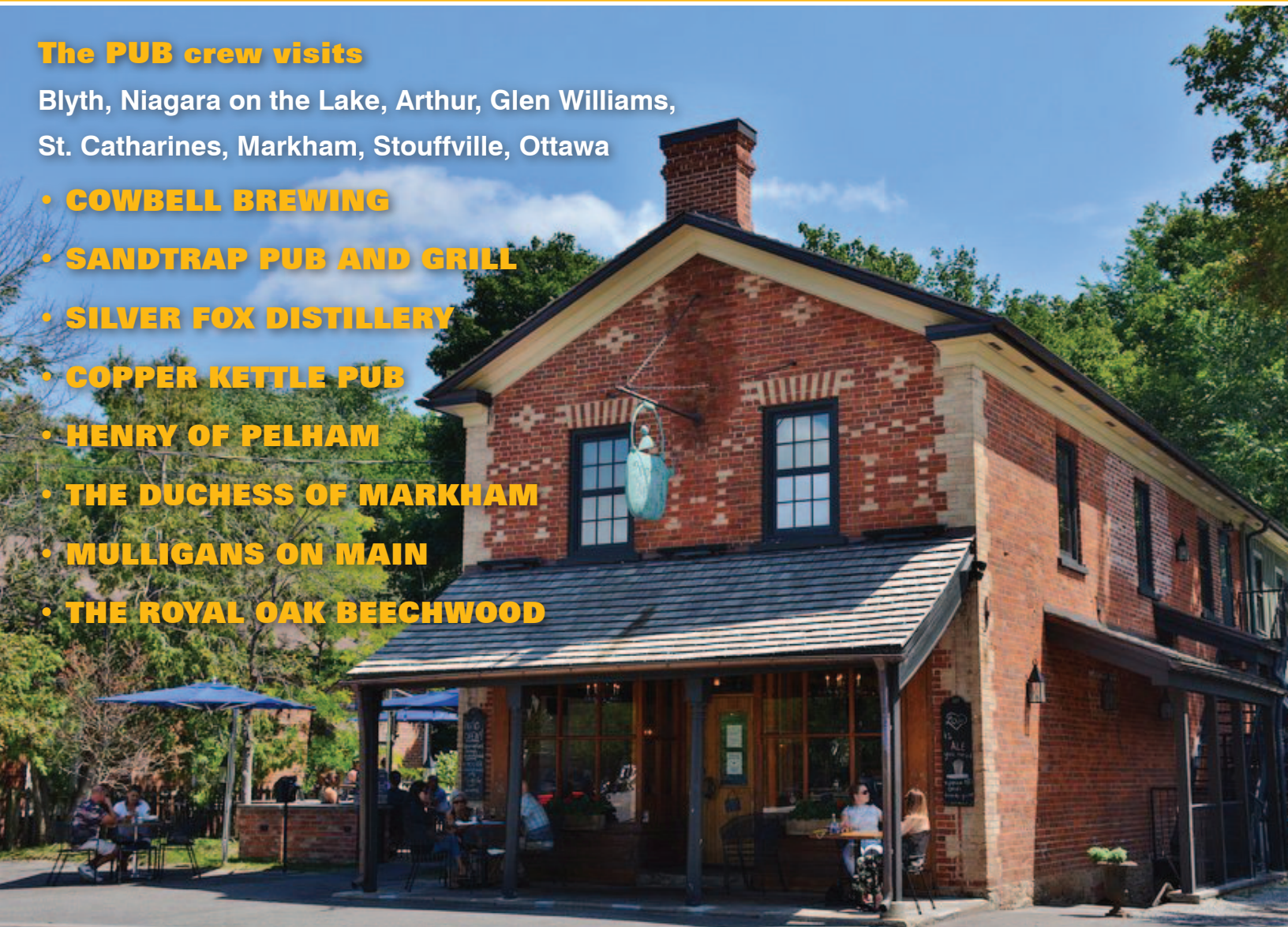
June 2026

DISCOVER ONTARIO'S BEST PUBS

The PUB crew visits

Blyth, Niagara on the Lake, Arthur, Glen Williams,
St. Catharines, Markham, Stouffville, Ottawa

- COWBELL BREWING
- SANDTRAP PUB AND GRILL
- SILVER FOX DISTILLERY
- COPPER KETTLE PUB
- HENRY OF PELHAM
- THE DUCHESS OF MARKHAM
- MULLIGANS ON MAIN
- THE ROYAL OAK BEECHWOOD



Welcome to the first issue of The Pub Magazine online, each month we will visit several pubs, a brewery, distillery and let you know what they are like. We'll feature a wine and a beer or two.

Let us know your favourite pub or brewery and why you like them, e-mail us at pubmagazine@outlook.com and we'll put them on the list to visit.

At 1.66 an issue delivered to your inbox,
The Pub Magazine is a great deal.

In issue 1 we visit the Silver Fox distillery, Cowbell brewing, Henry of Pelham's winery and our pubs are the Copper Kettle, Sandlot, Mulligan's on Main, Duchess of Markham and Better Beer's Pub of the month.

So pull up a bar stool, pull yourself a pint and enjoy Issue # 1.

Cheers

Bill Perrie
The Pub Guy

*Cheers
Belly Perrie*



The Duchess and I

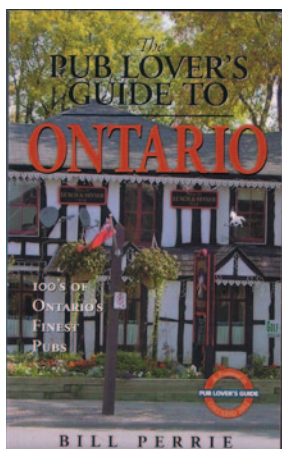
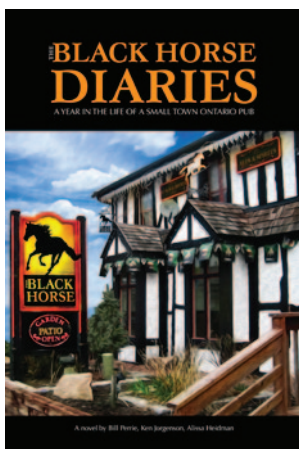
The Duchess of Markham was one of the first bars I ever went to after arriving in Canada from Scotland in 1982. I loved the place as it reminded me of pubs back home. Here you met people from all walks of life, it was friendly, welcoming and the staff were excellent. Sunday night jam sessions with Bongo Bob and friends were awesome. Friday nights with the legendary Syd Simkins was always a great sing along and you couldn't move when 3MDM were in the house.

When I wrote my first 'Pub Lover's Guide to Ontario' there was only one pub going on the cover and that was the Duchess. It was fascinating when people buying my book at signings would say "that's the Duchess" it seemed everyone loved this pub.

My friend and publisher Jim Williamson and I co founded the Canadian Brewing Awards, we chose the Duchess as our tasting headquarters as we knew Paul and Gerry would accommodate our 400 bottles of beer and a room full of judges. This carried on for a good many years, I still don't know what they did with the empties. When the Beer Magazine TAPS was released in its new format we had an artist paint the Duchess with me and magazine owner Rob sitting out front. The original is up for all to see in the Duchess along with a framed copy of the book cover depicting the pub. When I wrote my first novel 'The Black Horse Diaries' I put the Duchess on the cover as the fictitious Black Horse.

So you see the Duchess and I have been having a love affair since 1982.

Bill Perrie
The Pub Guy





Destination Brewery

Cowbell Brewing Co.

40035 Blyth Road, Blyth. 1 844 523 4724

Cowbell Brewing Company is making quite the impact on the Ontario craft beer scene with their incredible line up of beers, ciders and Twelve Apostles spirits. The brewery's distribution through the LCBO and the Beer Store is widespread, so check out a Cowbell product near you.

Their three most popular beers are the Donnybrook IPA, the Absent Landlord Kolsch and their flagship brand, Hazy Days juicy IPA. The Hazy Days is a blend of Galaxy, Mandarinina, Mosaic and El Dorado hops which creates a tropical flavour without the bitterness of most IPA's. An easy drinking beer that packs a punch.

The brewery itself should be on everyone's must visit list. Cowbell is situated in a beautiful building that is awe inspiring when seen from the parking lot, the architecture is outstanding on this large barn that houses the brewery, dining areas, the bar and a good sized games room.

Play a game of pool while waiting on your table or shop the apparel and merchandise at the Cowbell store. The menu is varied and suggestions as to which beer or cider to pair it with are very helpful. Wood fired pizzas are very popular along with the burgers and chicken sandwiches. They also do an amazing Pork belly BLT that is braised in the Absent Landlord Kolsch Ale.

Their Twelve Apostles spirit division is home to award winning Vodka, Gin and Canadian Whisky.

Two large patios wrap around the east side of the building and this extra seating is needed in the busy summer months. Check them out at cowbellbrewing.com for details of private tours and tastings.

Put them on your visit list or try a Cowbell at home, we all need more Cowbell.





Sandtrap Pub and Grill

358 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. 905 468 8727



Niagara-on-the-Lake is a tourist hot spot with many fine restaurants and bars, but where do the locals call home, well the answer to that is the Sandtrap Pub and Grill. The closest thing you will get to 'Cheers' in the Niagara Region. This warm and welcoming pub is a very busy spot, luckily the bar is big enough to accommodate many customers. The pub, as in its name, is golf themed with plaques and pictures depicting famous courses and players everywhere. Plenty of big screens around for all sporting occasions. A long bar takes up the length of the large room and this is where the many regulars congregate, if you want to know the area's history or where the best wineries are, this is the place for you to take a seat. A large dining area takes up the main floor with plenty of tables for couples or large groups. Four large booths are also available along with a good sized side patio.

A cozy back lounge makes up the rest of the pub and fills up quickly on the busy weekends.

18 Beers on tap including many local craft selections. A good selection of cans and bottles are visible in the large fridge behind the bar. The pub also has a good selection of Niagara VQA wines. The menu is varied with good sized portions that include brick oven pizzas, Bam Bam Shrimp with a sweet chili sauce and 7 oz home made burgers. A daily home baked pot pie is a pub favourite.

When in Niagara-on-the-Lake, take a break from sight seeing and shopping and visit this local favourite. Friendly staff and on premise owners will make your visit that more special.



Silver Fox Distillery

7999 Wellington County Road 109, Arthur ON. 519 848 3235

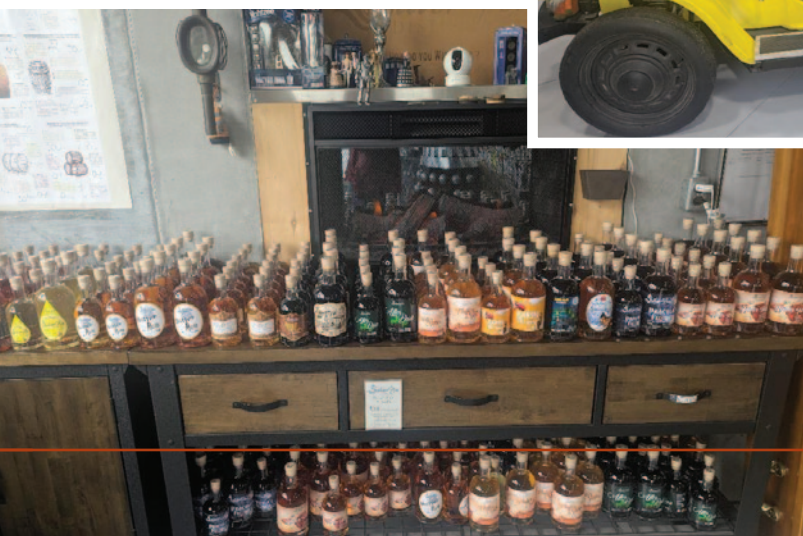
This remarkable distillery is the purveyor of award winning spirits, this small town set up astonished many at the U.S. Open Spirits Awards by winning 1st place in 2022 and then for the first time by any distillery won again in 2023, its no surprise as the quality and selection of their products are truly exceptional, so good that they won again in 2025. Owner Mark attributes his success to never entering the same spirit twice, it's all new product they send. The awards are on show at the distillery along with an awesome array of gins, rums, vodka, rye and liqueurs. A flavour to suit all tastes.

The showroom also pays homage to the popular British television show Dr. Who, Mark has a replica Dalek, Tardis and the doctors car Bessie. This is almost as fascinating as looking at his drink selection.

The Silver Fox also hosts a gin school where attendees can make their own personalized gin along with their own custom label. For details of how to apply for gin school please check out their Facebook page or silverfoxdistillery.ca.

One of their most popular spirits is the Fox Shine white lighting, this corn, oats and wheat mix turns this spirit into a very smooth moonshine. There is so much flavours and choices at the distillery that it would take a long time to try every product, but if you ever travel through the small town of Arthur you have to stop by, you will be pleasantly surprised, both by the assortment and the quality of Silver Fox products. Owners Mark and

Lisa are on hand to talk about the styles and will offer a sample to help qualify your decision. Around Christmas they have a unique Advent Calendar that has 12 different liqueurs, the kind of gift you give to yourself. This place is a hidden gem and so worth the visit.





The small village of Glen Williams sits on the outskirts of Georgetown, the Glen as the locals call it, is home to a couple of antique stores, a market and one of the best little pubs in the province.

Built in 1852 the Copper Kettle has been a dry goods store, a post office and a surf shop until becoming the local pub. In 2016 Jasper and Janet Martin took over and revitalized the building into what it is today. They maintained the 'integrity' of the building by using authentic techniques and materials.

Furniture and other fixings were all produced locally and the Copper Kettle once again became the focus and gathering point in the Glen. Word spread far and wide about the little village pub with the great food and beautiful patio. It became a destination and a popular Sunday drive for many, becoming a summer tradition to those escaping the city.

A large ornate chandelier hangs over the dining area and adds to the old



Copper Kettle Pub

517 Main Street, Glen Williams, 905 877 5551



world charm of the pub. The bar is to the right and seats nine. On tap are eight local craft beers including the Farmhouse Ale from the Goodlot farm brewery. A local cider is on tap also, ice cold and refreshing. The patio is very popular and fills up very quickly, there is a small adjacent garden patio which is sometimes used when really full. On chilly days a large central wood burning fireplace is lit and warms the whole bar.

The menu uses local ingredients when possible and features a good selection such as spicy crab cakes, braised lamb shank, bangers and mash, duck wings and an excellent chicken curry.

The pub also makes honey and maple syrup from their own local farm. A good selection of cocktails along with unique wines that are not available in the LCBO.

The Copper Kettle celebrated ten great years under Jasper and Janet's ownership on May 16th, 2026.

Great pub, well worth the visit and sadly for the locals, not a hidden gem anymore.



Henry of Pelham

1469 Pelham Road, St. Catharines. 905 684 8423

Paul, Matthew and Daniel Speck are the proud owners of one of the better known Niagara wineries. Their land is steeped in history and goes back to when their great great great grandfather was deeded the land in appreciation of his service during the American revolution.

Henry of Pelham has the largest underground working barrel cellar in Canada which can be seen as part of the winery tour experience. A wonderful mix of

old and new as the land still has many of their United Empire Loyalist forefathers buildings and the state of the art wine making facility.

No reservations requires for the Short Hills kitchen with its patio dining and views of the vines.

There is always something going on at this very busy and active winery, please check out their website for all the latest information on tastings and events.



Wine Lover's Choice 2025 Baco Noir

Full bodied red wine ripe with currant and blueberry flavours. Spicy, rich and smooth with a toasty oak finish. Pairs well with tomato based dishes or anything of the grill.

Available at most LCBO outlets.



The Duchess of Markham

53 Main Street N, Markham. 905 294 3181

Markham's grand old lady has been the hub of Markham's social scene since 1980, this quaint pub is full of memories for many who have called this their local. Even after being away from the area for years, when you walk into the Duchess it all comes flooding back.

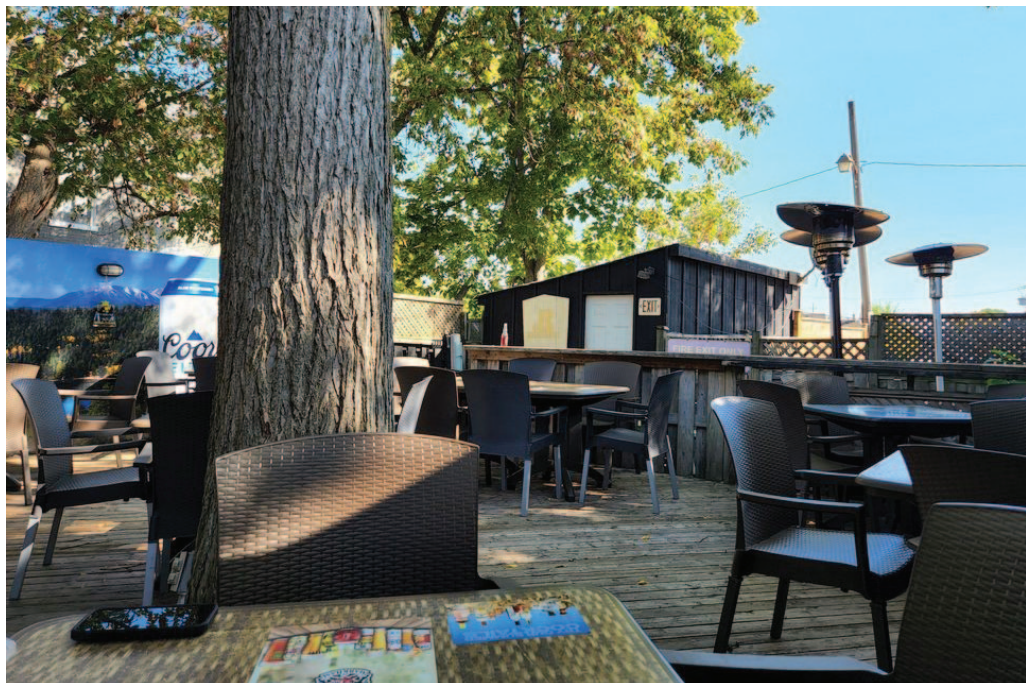
The main floor bar and dining room is fairly small and this adds to the coziness of the pub, an upstairs bar is used for private functions or back up for real busy nights. The pub has live music every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights including an open mic night hosted by the well know Kevin Ker. The pub has a small street side patio which is great for people watching on the busy Main St.

The back patio is one of the best in the province, spacious on two levels with its own cabana bar complete with numerous draught taps. This is the place to be on sunny days and on a Sunday afternoon live bands play for your entertainment. The staff at the Duchess know their customers well and are treated like family, owner Paul Cicchini is hands on and has put on many events over the years to give back to the customers who have supported his pub since the beginning.

When you talk to someone about the Duchess, a smile brightens their face and they will have a story to tell you, such as they met their wife there or their team celebrated winning a local championship and partied at the pub all night. The pub is still such a big part of the community today as it has been for over 45 years.

The Duchess is also know for its award winning chicken wings, many say the best ever. They are half price on a Tuesday night and the place is packed. The fall of the bone ribs are on special every Wednesday night after 5 pm.

The Duchess of Markham is more than a pub, its a tradition, its family and a must visit.





Mulligans on Main

6298 Main Street, Stouffville. 289 612 3003



Heather
pouring a pint

Downtown Stouffville is home to this lively local pub. Known for hosting many of the town's sports teams after games, Mulligans is a great supporter of local clubs.

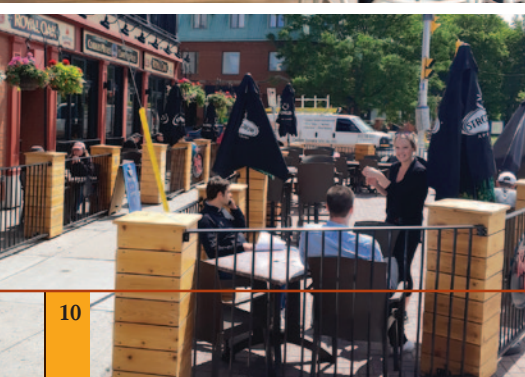
Weekends are busy as this popular spot has the best in live entertainment, check out their Facebook page for the weekly artists.

During the summer the sidewalk patio is a great place for cold drinks while observing the busy street.

The menu has a varied selection of traditional pub fare such as shepherd's pie, liver and onions and halibut fish and chips. A chicken, apple and brie sandwich is a popular hand held along with a good selection of burgers. The pub however is well known for having the best chicken wings in town, a must try if your a wings fan. Owner Lorrie is always on hand and her hard work has turned Mulligans into a town favourite.



Visit Stouffville, take a walk down Main Street and then pop into Mulligans for a drink and a meal, you'll be glad you did.



The Royal Oak Beechwood

1 Beechwood Avenue, 1st floor, Ottawa. 613 680 7130

Nestled at the corner of Beechwood and the Vanier Parkway, The Royal Oak Pub has been a vibrant neighbourhood staple since opening its doors in March 2017. Blending a warm, inviting atmosphere with a modern edge, it's the perfect destination for everything from casual weeknight drinks to lively weekend gatherings. Guests can explore a large selection of beer on tap, alongside a thoughtfully crafted menu of delicious pub fare that keeps people coming back.

Upstairs, the One Up Room offers a stylish cocktail lounge experience, ideal for private parties, celebrations, and special events. Whether you're planning an intimate gathering or a larger function, this versatile space adds an elevated touch to any occasion.

During the warmer months, our sunny patio becomes a favourite spot for relaxed outdoor dining, perfect for soaking up the neighbourhood's charm. With great food, refreshing drinks, and welcoming service, our Beechwood location continues to be a go-to destination for locals and visitors alike.



Since 2012, Better Beer has been proud to have all 12 Royal Oaks in the Better Beer Draught Quality Assurance Program.

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Featured Cider

Thornbury Strong Apple Cider

This crisp cider comes in at 7.1 % and can be found at most LCBO outlets.

The sweetness and the tart after-taste really balance each other out.

Crafted from the best local Ontario apples, this refreshing award winning cider pairs well with pasta as well as baked ham. At 7.1 % ABV this cider certainly has a bite to it.



Beer Facts

The oldest brewery in the world is based in Freising, Bavaria, Weihenstephaner was founded in 1040, the beers are available in Ontario.

The World's top five beer brands are Budweiser, Heineken, Bud Light, Stella Artois and Corona. So Bud really is the King of beers.