



## *GREAT LAKES SAILING*

### Great Lakes Museums

Around the Great Lakes, we are blessed with a wide variety of museums devoted to preserving and caring for our historical, scientific, artistic and cultural heritage. From large, nationally sponsored institutions to small community museums, there is a wealth of information and artifacts that can truly capture your imagination. As you cruise these waters, take time to investigate these gems. (And they make a great trip by car too!).

This list is organized by lake. It is not exhaustive. There are many more fine community museums in the towns and villages that dot the coastline of the Great Lakes. If you see one that you think should be added, by all means send me a note. I will be happy to update this list. For each entry, I have included only its name, the relevant port and a website if they have one. Where useful, I have also included a brief note about each.

Enjoy!

*Michael Leahy*, Publisher

### LAKE ONTARIO

HMCS Haida  
Hamilton, ON  
hmcshaida.com

HMCS Haida is the last surviving Tribal Class destroyer from WWII. She sank the most tonnage of any Canadian warship in WWII. During service in the Korean War, she joined the famous "Trainbusters Club" - that small group of daring warships who closed close enough to the enemy coastline to shell and destroy individual freight trains. Now a National Historic Site, she is open for tours.

Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston  
Kingston, ON  
www.marmuseum.ca

The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston was founded in 1975. Located at the only

federally built dry dock on the Great Lakes, the Marine Museum houses the original pumping station and steam engines built in 1891. The Museum has on display a wide ranging collection of marine artifacts and exhibits, a significant fine art collection, and is home to the Gordon C. Shaw Study Centre, and Audrey Rushbrook Memorial Library. Exhibits highlight the growth of ship building and shipping technologies, the history of boat building, the life of the sailor, as well as regional Kingston's maritime history and our place on the Great Lakes. The recently opened Eco Gallery focuses on environmental issues/successes related to the Great Lakes.

The Museum Ship Alexander Henry was built in 1959. A former buoy tender and light icebreaker for the Canadian Coast Guard, the Alexander Henry is a fine example of shipbuilding from the last century. With its twenty ton crane, block and tackle, hydraulic ram and other functional machinery, visiting students can learn first hand about this purpose built structure and about ice breaking in Canadian waters. The ship is available for tours from May - October, weather permitting.

H. Lee White Marine Museum  
Oswego, NY  
[www.hleewhitemarinemuseum.com](http://www.hleewhitemarinemuseum.com)

Preserving and presenting the diverse maritime history of Lake Ontario and the surrounding region, the Museum complex consists of a main building exhibits and galleries, outdoor exhibits and a fleet of historic vessels tied up along the length of Oswego's West First Street Pier.

St. Catharines Museum  
St. Catharines, ON  
[www.stcatharines.ca/en/experiencein/StCatharinesMuseum.asp?\\_mid\\_=10457](http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/experiencein/StCatharinesMuseum.asp?_mid_=10457)

The history of St. Catharines comes to life through exhibits, such as the award-winning Follow the North Star, which chronicles the journey of runaway slaves to Canada, the Welland Canals exhibit and Interactive Centre, the Sports Hall of Fame, Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame & Museum, and special travelling exhibits.

## TORONTO

The largest city on the Great Lakes, Toronto has several outstanding museums and science-oriented facilities.

Royal Ontario Museum  
[www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca)

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is a museum of world culture and natural history. It is one of the largest museums in North America, attracting over one million visitors every year. The museum is

Canada's largest field-research institution, with research and conservation activities that span the globe. With more than six million items and forty galleries, the museum's diverse collections of world culture and natural history are part of the reason for its international reputation. The museum contains notable collections of dinosaurs, minerals and meteorites, Near Eastern and African art, Art of East Asia, European history, and Canadian history. It also houses the world's largest collection of fossils from the Burgess Shale with more than 150,000 specimens. The museum also contains an extensive collection of design and fine arts.

I never tire of visiting the ROM and probably my most memorable was when I had the opportunity to gaze at part of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Ontario Science Centre  
[www.ontariosciencecentre.ca](http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca)

The Ontario Science Centre delights, informs and challenges the communities by enriching people's lives and understanding through engagement with science of local, national and global relevance. Since 1969, the Ontario Science Centre has welcomed more than 48 million visitors, with an interactive approach that was the model for Science Centres around the world. It is the public centre for innovative thinking and provocative dialogue in science and technology, aiming to inspire a lifelong journey of curiosity, discovery and action to create a better future for the planet. I begs the visitor to get involved, to touch and manipulate – making the wonders of science real. It really is outstanding.

Ripley's Aquarium of Canada  
[www.ripleyaquariums.com/canada/](http://www.ripleyaquariums.com/canada/)

Ripley's Aquarium is Canada's largest indoor aquarium. With more than 16,000 marine animals, it has the largest shark collection in North America and the most extensive jellyfish exhibition in the world. Included in its area (135,000 sq ft/12,500 sq m/5.7 million litres) is a Great Lakes locks exhibit and a Great Lakes marine exhibit of over 100,000 litres.

## LAKE ERIE

Great Lakes Marine & U.S. Coast Guard Memorial Museum  
Ashtabula, OH  
[www.ashtabulemarinemuseum.org](http://www.ashtabulemarinemuseum.org)

The Ashtabula Maritime Museum, the former home of the Ashtabula light keepers and the Coast Guard Chief, built in 1871/1898. The museum contains models, paintings, maritime artifacts, photos of early Ashtabula Harbor, ore boats and tugs, miniature hand-made brass tools that actually work, and

the world's only working scale model of a Hulett Ore Unloading Machine. Construction has begun in 2010 to build interactive model train layouts of the Ashtabula Harbor circa 1940-50.

Lower Lakes Marine Historical Society  
Buffalo, NY  
[www.llmhs.org](http://www.llmhs.org)

The Lower Lakes Marine Historical Society has established a maritime museum to collect, preserve and display objects of historic, artistic and scientific interest. The museum exhibits provide an overview to the history and development of the waterfront while relating artifacts and photographs to the trade and industry that made Buffalo the port of commerce. A research library is maintained by the museum and is open to the public along with regular meetings that feature guest speakers who discuss topics of maritime interest.

Steamship William G. Mather Museum  
Cleveland, OH  
[www.greatscience.com/exhibits/steamship-william-g-mather.aspx16-574-6262](http://www.greatscience.com/exhibits/steamship-william-g-mather.aspx16-574-6262)

Discover what life onboard a working Great Lakes freighter was like when you tour this restored 618-foot historic flagship. Explore the 1925-built *Mather* from stem to stern and see its huge cargo holds, brass and oak pilot house, elegant guest quarters and four-story engine room. Walk the decks and marvel at the “engineering firsts” that helped transform Northeast Ohio into a great industrial center. Experience the golden era of steamboats on one of the best.

Also, discover more than a dozen interactive exhibits that tell the story of how the Great Lakes were formed, what environmental threats they face, and how we’re using science and technology to help restore the health of these great bodies of water.

Great Lakes Science Center  
Cleveland, OH  
[www.greatscience.com](http://www.greatscience.com)

Great Lakes Science Center encourages and motivates hundreds of thousands in the community to consider and use science in their everyday lives. Its many fascinating programs and exhibits inspire learning through a wide variety of unique and sophisticated programs including: summer camps, overnight experiences, workshops and exhibits.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame  
Cleveland, OH  
[www.rockhall.com](http://www.rockhall.com)

The greatest stories and biggest names in rock and roll shine on at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio. The experience includes 4 theaters, multiple interactive stations and 7 floors of exhibits that tell the story of the world's most powerful art form

Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse & Veterans Park Museum  
Dunkirk, NY  
[www.dunkirkighthouse.com](http://www.dunkirkighthouse.com)

The light was first established in 1827. The Dunkirk Lighthouse museum has an extensive collection of military artifacts. The large collection of museum pieces are displayed in the Keeper's Home, Gift Shop and a building on the grounds

Erie Maritime Museum & the U.S. Brig *Niagara*  
Erie, PA  
[www.flagshipniagara.org](http://www.flagshipniagara.org)

From the War of 1812 through present day, the Erie Maritime Museum will take you through time, the people, and the events surrounding Lake Erie. The museum is also homeport to the U.S. Brig *Niagara*. When in her homeport, the ship herself is the premier "exhibit". Berthed within yards of the museum, the U.S. Brig *Niagara* is visible from the museum's bayside picture window. Inside, the centerpiece exhibits of the museum range from a former steam-powered electricity generating station and a reconstruction of the mid-ship section of the *Lawrence* to a separate section of the *Lawrence* replica that has been blasted with live ammunition from the current *Niagara's* own carronades.

Port Burwell Marine Museum  
Port Burwell, ON  
[www.bayham.on.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?PageID=109](http://www.bayham.on.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?PageID=109)

Port Burwell Marine Museum is intimately connected to the wooden lighthouse in the village. This is the oldest lighthouse on the Great Lakes and likely the oldest in Canada. The lighthouse was built in 1840. Maintained by the Sutherland family for over a century, the lighthouse went out of service in the 1950's. The museum owns what has been describe as one of the best collections of lighthouse lenses along with numerous other artifacts and models.

HMCS Ojibwe  
Port Burwell  
[www.projectojibwe.ca](http://www.projectojibwe.ca)

**HMCS Ojibwa** is a decommissioned Oberon-class submarine that served throughout the cold war. Permanently displayed in the village, it is open for tours and if you are lucky, your guide may be a submariner who served on her or in the service.

Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum  
Port Colborne, ON  
[www.portcolborne.ca/page/museum](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/museum)

The Museum interprets and exhibits the history of Port Colborne and the Welland Canal. Marine artifacts include the Wheelhouse from the Yvon Dupre Jr. Tug Boat, the anchor from the Raleigh and a Lifeboat from the S.S. *Hochelaga*. The Museum is the home of Canada's Century Car, the 1901 Neff Steam Buggy, one of Ontario's oldest existing automobiles, built by Benton Neff at the Neff Foundry in Humberstone, which is part of Port Colborne today. This little steam buggy had a 100-year adventure across North America, before returning home to Ontario on Sept. 8, 2001, exactly 100 years to the day it was put on the road Sept. 8, 1901.

Lake Erie Island Historical Society  
Put-in-Bay, OH  
[www.leigs.org](http://www.leigs.org)

The Lake Erie Islands are rich in local and American history. This 6,000 square foot museum has displays depicting early life on the islands and many aspects of life at the turn of the 20th century.

## LAKE ST. CLAIR

Detroit Historical Museum's  
Detroit, MI  
[www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org)

Cobblestone streets, 19th century stores, an auto assembly line, toy trains and a fur trading post from the 1700s are only a few of the wonders visitors see at the Detroit Historical Museum. For 83 years, the Museum has chronicled the life and times of the region, safeguarding its rich history. Here is “the history of its history.”

Dossin Great Lakes Museum  
Detroit, MI  
[www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org)

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum is dedicated to showcasing the story of the Great Lakes, with a special emphasis on Detroit's role in regional and national maritime history. Our visitors at this 16,000 square foot museum enjoy exhibits that tell more than 300 years of the region's rich maritime history, from the shipping fleets that rule the waterways to the varied roles that the Great Lakes and the Detroit River have played in the region's industrial and social history.

Moore Museum  
Mooretown, ON  
[www.mooremuseum.ca](http://www.mooremuseum.ca)

Moore Museum is located in Mooretown, about 1/2 hour south of Sarnia. With 12 historic and exhibit buildings, Moore Museum offers an engaging glimpse into our past. Take a stroll around the heritage village and discover the life and work of the past:

Port Huron Museum  
Port Huron, MI  
[www.phmuseum.org](http://www.phmuseum.org)

The Port Huron Museum has four sites: The museum building itself, the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, the Thomas Edison Depot Museum and the HURON lightship. The Museum displays the largest ship model collection in Michigan in its newly redesigned Marine Gateway. Local history is also shared through photographs, artifacts and stories from the first Native Americans in the Blue Water Area to the ground breaking medical advancements that took place in this town.

Fort Gratiot Lighthouse is the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest lighthouse on the Great Lakes and the first built in Michigan.

The Thomas Edison Depot Museum is located at the historic Fort Gratiot depot. It portrays Edison's multi-faceted story as one of the greatest inventors of our time. Re-created period environments and hands-on interactives invite and encourage visitors to become participants to apply their own creativity and ingenuity as they learn about Edison's life and his inventions.

Lightships are floating lighthouses that are anchored in areas where it was too deep, expensive or impractical to construct a lighthouse. The HURON Lightship was the last operating lightship on the Great Lakes, and served for over 50 years when she was retired in 1970. There is an extensive collection of artifacts, including many model ships, as well as a live camera feed of the bottom of the river, taken off a camera positioned at the bow.

Wyandotte Museum  
Wyandotte, MI  
[www.wyandottemuseums.org](http://www.wyandottemuseums.org)

The Wyandotte Museum is dedicated to inspiring and fostering public awareness, interest, understanding and appreciation of the unique history of the city of Wyandotte and its relationship to the downriver region of the Detroit River. The Museum does this through its historic buildings, collections, archives, publications, exhibits, programs and special events.

## LAKE HURON

Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center  
Alpena, MI  
[www.thunderbay.noaa.gov/maritime/glmhc.html](http://www.thunderbay.noaa.gov/maritime/glmhc.html)

The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center is one of NOAA's 14 marine sanctuaries. Here you can explore the history and archaeology of nearly 200 shipwrecks. The Marine Sanctuary's 20,000 square foot, river-front headquarters has exhibits on Great Lakes maritime history and shipwrecks including the new "Exploring the Shipwreck Century" exhibit. This 9,000 square ft. permanent exhibit features a life-sized recreation of a Great Lakes schooner and a shipwreck site. Visitors may also enjoy artifact displays, and interactive learning stations on technology and diving. It is a terrific place to visit, organized and run by the pre-eminent marine and weather organization in the world.

Jesse Besser Museum  
Alpena, MI  
[www.bessermuseum.org/](http://www.bessermuseum.org/)

The Besser Museum offers the community educational experiences in art, history and science that are exclusive to the museum. Where else can someone experience a historical village, planetarium show, Foucault pendulum, fossil digging pit, rotating art galleries featuring both regional and nationally renowned artists, wildlife exhibits, and thousands of artifacts from early man?

Bruce County Museum  
Southampton, ON  
[www.brucemuseum.ca](http://www.brucemuseum.ca)

Explore the all new marine heritage exhibit encompassing the rich marine history of Bruce County's shoreline. Through the lives of the people who lived here during the eighteen hundreds to present day, discover the stories of harbours and ports, fishing, delivery of supplies, dependence on the water, shipwrecks, shipbuilding, and navigational aids. There is a whole lot more to explore as well.

# LAKE MICHIGAN

## CHICAGO

As the second largest port on the Great Lakes, Chicago has a significant maritime history. As one of the great cities in North America, it also has many excellent museums and historic sites to visit. Listed below are some of them.

Chicago Maritime Society  
Chicago, IL  
[www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org](http://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org)

The Chicago Maritime Museum's goal is to be recognized as the leading authority on our waterways and their significance to Chicago and the world in the past, present and future. The Chicago Maritime Museum has collected more than 6,000 items that commemorate Chicago's maritime history, including watercraft, models, articles, books, displays, art, images and artifacts. The collection makes historic materials accessible to scholars or anyone seeking to understand Chicago's unique historical connections.

The Shedd Aquarium  
[www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org)

The Shedd is dedicated to "engaging, inspiring, entertaining and informing" the public about the life in our oceans and waterways. They feature an Oceanarium, Wild Reef exhibit, Amazon River exhibit, and they pride themselves on their dedication to conservation and the protection of wildlife habitats.

Museum of Science and Industry  
[www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org)

Since 1933, this enormous museum has been dedicated to educating the public about science and technology. From the coal mine exhibit with a working elevator to the captured German World War II submarine U505, the museum's collections and hands-on exhibits seem almost endless. I have visited the Museum and it is outstanding. It doesn't take much time in the cramped quarters of U505 to get a glimmer of an appreciation for the hard life at sea these sailors lived.

The Adler Planetarium  
[www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)

Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, founded in 1930, is America's first and oldest planetarium. It now houses two star-gazing theaters, a unique collection of antique instruments,

extensive exhibit space, and many hands-on exhibits. It also offers one of the most wonderful views of the skyline in the entire city.

The Chicago Museum of History  
[www.chicagohs.org](http://www.chicagohs.org)

The Chicago History Museum exhibits artifacts from the depth of their 22 million item collection and from the breadth of the city's history. From the Chicago Bulls to the Great Chicago Fire, the museum covers it all and offers contexts and exhibits to make Chicago's history relevant to our lives today.

The Field Museum  
[www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org)

The Field Museum is probably best known for its dinosaur displays, but it also has a rich and deep dedication to "the diversity and relationships in nature and among cultures." It currently holds, conserves and studies more than 20 million objects, a collection which grew from holdings received after the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.

Lakeshore Museum Center (formerly known as the Muskegon County Museum)  
Muskegon, Michigan  
[www.lakeshoremuseum.org](http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org)

Formerly the Muskegon County Museum, the Lakeshore Museum Center is made up of multiple sites and buildings. In addition to the natural and cultural history museum, there is the Hackley and Hume Historic Site, the Fire Barn Museum, the Scolnik House of the Depression Era, the Archives and much more!

USS Silversides Submarine Museum  
Muskegon, MI  
[www.silversidesmuseum.org](http://www.silversidesmuseum.org)

The USS SILVERSIDES Submarine Museum has been the home of the World War II submarine USS *Silversides* since 1987. In addition to the Silversides, the USS SILVERSIDES Submarine Museum is also home to the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *McLane*, a Prohibition-era Coast Guard Cutter that is one of the last of its class in existence.

Michigan Maritime Museum  
South Haven, MI  
[www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org)

Michigan Maritime Museum is one of Michigan's leading maritime research, preservation and education institutions. Five separate buildings offer a variety of engaging opportunities for the Museum visitor including permanent and changing exhibits on Michigan maritime history, a center for the teaching of boat building and related maritime skills, and a regionally renowned research library.

Waterfront festivals and events are complemented by the hustle and bustle of a modern harbor and vast sandy beaches in one of west Michigan's most picturesque shoreline communities.

The sloop ***Friends Good Will*** promotes tourism in West Michigan by providing the public with a wide variety of cultural and educational experiences. The historic replica is the only Tall Ship to sail the Great Lakes with a state-of-the-art, interactive, floating classroom.

Door County Maritime Museum  
Sturgeon Bay, WI  
[www.dmmm.org](http://www.dmmm.org)

Door County Maritime Museum has three museum sites that each highlight different aspects of Door County Wisconsin's maritime history.

The Door County Maritime Museum in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin was established in 1969 and now includes four amazing galleries that feature lighthouses, model ships and boats, shipwrecks, the area's numerous shipbuilding companies and more. The museum includes an in-water exhibit of a completely restored 1960s era tug boat that was built in 1919 and served until early 2000. Across the bay is Door County's largest shipbuilder, Bay Shipbuilding, which can be seen through a submarine periscope inside the museum.

Cana Island Lighthouse is a Door County treasure. The Lighthouse is located on an island, just north of Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin, which visitors reach by walking across the dry lake bottom. Once on the island, you can climb the light tower, tour the lighthouse keeper's home and explore the grounds, which include relics from the 1900s.

Gills Rock museum, which opened in 1975, is located in the small fishing town of Gills Rock, Wisconsin at the tip of Door County. A wooden fish shanty, the fishing tug *Hope* and exhibits on ice fishing, shipwrecks, maritime life-saving techniques and equipment tell the story of the area. The featured exhibit is the life of Dan Seavey, a Great Lakes Pirate.

Jackson Harbor Maritime Museum  
Town of Washington,  
Washington Island, WI

This former fishing village continues to expand into refurbished buildings with artifacts from the commercial fishing past, photographs and videos on local maritime history. Coast Guard, Ferryline and area shipwreck displays are also featured.

## LAKE SUPERIOR

Great Lakes Aquarium  
Duluth, MN  
[www.glaquarium.org/](http://www.glaquarium.org/)

The mission of Great Lakes Aquarium (GLA) is to “inspire people to explore their connection to Lake Superior and waters of the world.” Previously known as Lake Superior Center, the Great Lakes Aquarium has been located on the Duluth Waterfront since 2000. A freshwater aquarium, GLA features animals and habitats found within the Great Lakes Basin. The Aquarium also houses animals from other freshwater ecosystems such as the Amazon River. A changeable exhibit space is designed to interpret marine (saltwater) animals and habitat. Make sure you check out the newest exhibit, *Shipwrecks Alive!*

Museum Ship William A. Irvin  
Duluth, MN  
[www.decc.org/william-a-irvin/index.html](http://www.decc.org/william-a-irvin/index.html)

For more than 40 years, the S.S. William A. Irvin carried iron ore and coal to Great Lakes ports, often crashing through ferocious storms to reach her destinations. Yet the enormous vessel represents much more than impressive power. As the proud flagship of U.S. Steel's Great Lakes Fleet, she provided comfort and elegance to dignitaries and guests who traveled the Lakes with her. The Irvin set a record by unloading 13,856 tons of iron ore in 2 hours and 55 minutes using Hulett Unloaders. That record remains unbroken today and is unlikely to be broken,

Lake Superior Marine Museum Association Canal Park Marine Museum  
Duluth, MN  
[www.lsmma.com](http://www.lsmma.com)

The LSMMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Lake Superior regional history and to the support of the Army Corps of Engineers Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center

which is located in historic Canal Park in Duluth, Minnesota. The Lake Superior Maritime Collection archives are located at the University of Wisconsin-Superior Jim Dan Hill Library

Keweenaw County Historical Museum  
Eagle Harbor, MI  
[www.keweenawhistory.org](http://www.keweenawhistory.org)

Eagle Harbor Light Station, on the shore of Lake Superior is owned by the Keweenaw County Historical Society and is the site of its major museums. The lighthouse was built in 1871 and the light is still operated by the Coast Guard. The fog signal building houses a maritime museum. There is a commercial fishing museum and a depository for the Society archives.

Marquette Maritime Museum  
Marquette, MI  
[www.mqtmaritimemuseum.com](http://www.mqtmaritimemuseum.com)

The museum has displays about the Edmund Fitzgerald and the Henry B Smith, both lost on Lake Superior. There are also lighthouse displays.

Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society  
St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
[www.shipwreckmuseum.com](http://www.shipwreckmuseum.com)

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society was founded in 1978 by a group of divers, teachers, and educators to commence exploration of historic shipwrecks in eastern Lake Superior, near Whitefish Point in Michigan's scenic Upper Peninsula. Today, this non-profit organization operates two museum sites on historic properties: The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Whitefish Point Light Station, Whitefish Point; and the U.S. Weather Bureau Building, Soo Locks Park, Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan

Sault Historical Sites Inc.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
[www.saulthistoricsites.com](http://www.saulthistoricsites.com)

Sault Historic Sites was founded in 1967 as a nonprofit corporation with the mission of preserving, restoring, and presenting the history of Sault Ste. Marie to visitors and local residents alike. Starting with the acquisition of the Museum Ship *Valley Camp*, Sault Historic Sites now owns and operates several locations in Sault Ste. Marie MI.

# GEORGIAN BAY

Owen Sound Marine & Rail Museum  
Owen Sound, ON  
[www.oscwc.ca](http://www.oscwc.ca)

Housed in a former Canadian National Railway Station, the museum features artifacts, scale models, archival photos and interactive stations. It also showcases exquisite ship models made by skilled artisans, along with CNR and CPR memorabilia. Each season, it hosts temporary special exhibits.

The Collingwood Museum  
Collingwood, ON  
[www.town.collingwood.on.ca/museum](http://www.town.collingwood.on.ca/museum)

Set sail with 150 years of marine heritage! There is a "Ship Sidelaunch" every 15 minutes. The Museum offers exhibits, special events, education programs, archives and research facilities as well as a store. A variety of exhibits throughout the year make the Museum a prime learning opportunity for anyone wishing to learn about the heritage of Collingwood. I have visited this museum several times and always find it interesting and appealing.

Hurononia Museum & Ste Marie Among The Hurons  
Midland, ON  
[www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca](http://www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca)

Located in Midland, ON in the beautiful Southern Georgian Bay area, this world-renowned reconstruction illustrates the interaction of the French and Wendat nations. Visitors get a unique opportunity to see the earliest Canadian pioneer life through guided or self-guided visits and interactive education programs. I have visited there many times and it never fails to impress me.

The Owen Sound Marine & Rail Museum is located in the historic CN Rail Station, on Owen Sound's harbourfront. Established in 1978, it preserves the area's marine and rail transportation history.

Housed in a former Canadian National Railway Station, the museum features artifacts, scale models, archival photos and interactive stations. It also showcases exquisite ship models made by skilled artisans, along with CNR and CPR memorabilia. Each season, it hosts temporary special exhibits. The former CN station is now listed on the city's Heritage Register.

Discovery Harbour  
Pentanguishene, ON

[www.discoveryharbour.on.ca](http://www.discoveryharbour.on.ca)

Discovery Harbour re-creates the days of the British Navy and Military on Penetanguishene Bay, from its beginnings late in the War of 1812 until it was turned over to the Canadian government in 1856. Discovery Harbour traces its roots back to the original British naval and military base in Penetanguishene, built to safeguard access to Upper Canada after the War of 1812. "His Majesty's Naval Establishment on Lake Huron", (as it was first called) kept ships prepared to supply British posts to the northwest. By 1820, it was home to over 70 people, including sailors, officers, shipwrights, and soldiers. Five large ships, 15 smaller vessels, and numerous workshops and dwellings were built. In 1828, a British garrison on Drummond Island was relocated to Penetanguishene. By 1834, Canada was defended exclusively by these forces. An impressive stone Officers' Quarters was built in 1845. The military occupied the site until 1856.