

## WHAT'S NEW



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## Family routes: Ottawa outtakes

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By Dee Van Dyk



The Saunders Farm (See more images)

Less than an hour from the American border is Canada's capital, Ottawa, with its historic architecture, scenic parks and beautiful waterways.

"A little known fact about Ottawa is that ten per cent of its population lives in ninety per cent of its area," says Jantine Van Kregten, Director of Communications for Ottawa Tourism and Convention Authority. "So ninety per cent of its area is rural."

**Saunders Farm — advertisement**  
**Happy trails to you!**

Located at 7893 Bleeks Road in Munster, the Saunders Farm sports the largest

collection of hedge mazes in North America. The Mile Maze, made of nearly 1500 white spruce trees, offers secret passageways and a three-story cedar teepee in its centre. Set some time aside for this one — it's a real maze-lover's challenge!

Younger children will want to try the Spiral Maze, a 3-feet high cedar hedge that is simpler to navigate than other mazes on the farm.

### A must-try: The new Canadian maze experience

Officially opening on June 28, 2004, this maze covers more than 23,000 square feet and features hundreds of trees, natural indigenous plants, bridges, waterfalls and more than a hundred large boulders. It was designed by the worlds' leading Maze designer, Adrian Fisher.

**Tip:** Mark Saunders, Director of Fun for Saunders Farm, recommends you think of the mazes as a giant board game — one you physically travel through.

**Literary Accompaniment to the Maze Experience:** Read *Larry's Party*, a wonderful story of an ordinary man and his mazes, by award-winning Canadian author Carol Shields.

### Hunker down to the Diefenbunker

Travel back in time to Cold War Canada, to the Diefenbunker, a four-story underground structure built to



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ensure the continuation of the government in the event of an all-out nuclear attack. Located in Carp, Ontario, Canada's Cold War Museum is a 35-kilometre drive from Ottawa.

Check out the mini hospital, cafeteria, reconstructions of the departmental and ministerial offices, Emergency Government Situation Room and the Bank of Canada Vault.

Cold War exhibits include a walk-in community fallout shelter, Cold War paraphernalia and a chilling Hiroshima-Nagasaki exhibit.

**A must-hear: CBC Radio tapes**

Be sure to stop at the CBC Radio Studio and Control Room, where you can listen to the original reel-to-reel that would have been played if any one of 1,700 air raid sirens across Canada had sounded. A chilling bit of Canadian history.

**Getaway to Gatineau Park**

Fifteen minutes from Parliament Hill sits Gatineau Park, 363 kilometres of land dedicated to the preservation of natural territory and the pleasure of residents and visitors. Pack your swimsuits and make a point of visiting one of the five serviced public beaches.

Gatineau Park boasts 165 kilometres of hiking trails, of varying difficulty and length. If you visit the Lusk Cave Trail, remember to bring a flashlight and change of shoes to explore the cave.

**A must-see: King Mountain Trail**

This hilly 2.5-kilometre trail will take about an hour to traverse, but when you reach its end you'll be rewarded with a spectacular view of the Ottawa River Valley.

Whether your particular family interests are cultural, physical or educational, Ottawa and its surrounding area can deliver the goods.

**For more information, take a virtual trip to:**

**Ottawa**

[www.ottawatourism.ca](http://www.ottawatourism.ca)

**Saunders Farm**

[www.saundersfarm.com](http://www.saundersfarm.com)

**The Diefenbunker**

[www.diefenbunker.ca](http://www.diefenbunker.ca)

**Gatineau Park**

[www.capcan.ca/gatineau](http://www.capcan.ca/gatineau)

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