

# • 2019 • Orleans County VISITOR'S GUIDE



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• FREE •

## In Orleans County, You're Welcome to Slow Down and Relax

Photos and article by Tom Rivers, Editor of OrleansHub.com



Veterans Park in Lyndonville offers a peaceful place to take in a view of the pond in Lyndonville.



Take a walk through the Canal Culvert in Ridgeway, the only place where a road goes under the Erie Canal.



About a dozen marching bands participate in the Albion Strawberry Festival Parade, which is the second Saturday in June.

Orleans County moves at a slower pace than the bigger cities and larger metro areas nearby. We don't apologize for it.

You'll find some of us parked along country roads with binoculars in hand, gazing at a snowy owl or a bald eagle. In the fall, we enjoy a walk in the woods, or along the historic Erie Canal. You'll see us out jogging, riding a bike or enjoying the local waterways by boat or kayak.

Some of us prefer fishing. Our Oak Orchard River is world-famous for its Chinook salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout. You can catch these fish in a lot of our smaller streams, too.

We have our favorite fishing spots – maybe an old quarry or a spot off the beaten path. (I know where I like to go, and I'm not telling.)

This is a beautiful county with lush landscapes. We still have plenty of unpaved roads out among the farms. I can't help but smile when I drive along Woodchuck Alley or Johnny Cake Lane. "Progress" can wait. I'm happy out here.

We're a big apple-growing county. The best time for a country drive may be in the spring when the blossoms on our fruit trees are in full bloom. Roll down your window because it smells as pretty as it looks.

If you want to feel inspired by the American Dream, Orleans County showcases the grit and determination of immigrants and pioneer settlers from the 1800s. They dug the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825 and cuts through Orleans County. Prosperity followed, with ornate residences, soaring churches, and spare-no-expense government buildings and downtown commercial sites.

Other communities knocked down their mansions to make way for chain stores. They demolished historic downtown buildings for malls and parking lots. Our Orleans ancestors cleverly kept the buildozers at bay.

The downtown business districts in Albion and

Medina are on the National Register for Historic Places. So is Courthouse Square and the seven churches within that block. Many of our grand old houses and cemeteries also are on the National Register, a nod to their significance to the American experience and their remarkable preservation for nearly two centuries.

The industrious pioneers in the early- to mid-1800s built houses featuring cobblestones on the exterior walls. Orleans and surrounding areas are a treasure trove of these unique structures, including the oldest cobblestone church in North America (1834), which is part of the Cobblestone Museum – one of only a few sites in Western New York deemed a National Historic Landmark.

That museum includes lots of surprises. One of my favorites is the outhouse that belonged to Rufus Bullock. Rufus grew up in Albion and went on to become governor of Georgia just after the Civil War. He is buried in the historic Mount Albion Cemetery.

You can learn and experience a lot around here. Best do it by foot, or by boat. Take your sweet time.





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2019 SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

immer Catch" by John

- Canal Village Farmers Market, Medina: Saturday Mornings
- 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival, Albion: June 7-8
- Oak Orchard Open Fishing Tourney, Point Breeze: June 8-9
- Concerts on the Canal, Albion: Thursdays, June 13-August 1
- OONA Summer Concert Series, Point Breeze: Tuesdays, July 2-August 6
- 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Independence Day Celebration, Lyndonville: July 4<sup>th</sup>
- 73rd Annual 4-H Fair, Knowlesville: July 22-27
- Rotary Fishing Derby, Point Breeze: August 3-18



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"Blue Heron" by Ann Kimmel

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Photo courtesy Oak Orchard Tackle & Lodge Early season fresh king action at Point Breeze!









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Photos on page 8 courtesy The Cobblestone Society & Museum

#### The Romans Road to Heaven

"There is none righteous, no, not one."

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

"So that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Je<mark>sus</mark> our Lord."

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness and with the mouth confession is made to salvation."

"For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord <u>shall</u> <u>be saved</u>."

(Romans 3:10,23; 5:8,21; 6:23; 10:9-10,13) My Messenger Ministries (585) 356-9250



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### 2019 ORLEANS COUNTY VISITOR'S GUIDE Cobblestone in Orleans County

By Douglas Farley, Director, The Cobblestone Society & Museum

In the early-20th century, cobblestone buildings were more or less taken for granted. After all, they seemed ubiquitous, stretched out like gingerbread cottages along the Lake Ontario plains. Distinctively Upstate New York, about 1,000 cobblestone structures were built from 1825 until the beginning of the Civil War, with the epicenter of construction located around Rochester N.Y. Moving outward along the historic Ridge Road, the earliest cobblestone buildings were constructed from glaciated field cobbles, an Ice Age residue that were found in abundance when the early settlers cleared their land of trees and first tilled their soil. For about 30 years, masons created a variety of cobblestone walls on hundreds of buildings before the Industrial Revolution rendered such craftsmanship economically obsolete.

The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 opened up new market places and reduced shipping prices for local farmers, allowing them to enjoy new found prosperity. Soon, these nouveau riche desired to replace their simple log cabins with a home that demonstrated their new found affluence. While first attempts at building cobblestone homes seemed rather simple, by about 1840, the craft had become highly artistic in design. Beautiful lake-washed cobbles were transported from the nearby Lake Ontario shoreline to build stunning architectural structures that contained stylistic stone designs that rival the beauty of any other form of building construction.

Originally masterfully artistic, by the 1940s and 50s, many cobblestone buildings became neglected and abandoned. Fortunately, in the second half of the 1900s, cobblestone ambivalence turned to genuine concern and The Cobblestone Society was birthed out of a grass-roots effort and passion to save these vanishing 19th-century treasures from the 20th-century wrecking ball. A handful of men and women established the Cobblestone Society in 1960 to preserve the oldest Cobblestone Church in North America (1834), which was attended by George Pullman, the sleeping car industrialist. Visitors to the resulting Cobblestone Museum can also see the Victorian splendor of the adjacent cobblestone parsonage (1836), once owned by New York Tribune editor Horace Greeley, and a one-room cobblestone schoolhouse (1849) where John Cunneen taught classes before becoming New York State Attorney General. The District #5 Cobblestone School was closed after 100 years of service to the community and now serves as a time capsule of the early American education system.

Twenty five years ago, the museum's three cobblestone structures were recognized by the US Department of the Interior (National Park Service) as the Cobblestone National Historic Landmark District, a distinction unparalleled in Orleans County. The cobblestone buildings are supplemented in the present day Cobblestone Museum by four wooden buildings that represent the 19th and early-20th century trades of blacksmithing, farming, printing, woodworking and leatherworking. These buildings have been painstakingly restored to accurately depict what life was like in a by-gone era. The Museum showcases a very extensive taxidermy collection, including a beautifully restored diorama of a vixen fox by Orleans County's own internationally acclaimed taxidermist, Carl Akeley.

The Cobblestone Museum is open to the public for daily tours from June to October and other times by appointment. The National Historic Landmark Cobblestone Church is also available for weddings or vow renewal services of any faith. The beautifully landscaped gardens and grounds provide a stunning backdrop for photography.

Several unique, interesting and educational events are held each year during the summer and fall season to highlight the beautiful buildings, as well as offering a glimpse of 19th century life in Orleans County. Popular events are the Progressive Organ Concert in May, Community Patriotic Service in the old Cobblestone Church in July, Old Timers Fair and Cobblestone Tour of Homes in September, Ghost Walk in October, and Christmas Tours of Homes in December.

For more information about exhibits and our 2019 event schedule, please visit our website at CobblestoneMuseum. org or call (585) 589-9013. Mark your calendars and make plans to experience the heart of cobblestone country. As America's only museum completely dedicated to cobblestone architecture, we know you will enjoy your visit!













# Strawberry Festival

#### Fri., June 7 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

- Arts & Crafts
- Food
- Entertainment
- Car Show
- Chicken Barbecue

2019 ORLEANS COUNTY VISITOR'S GUIDE

How's Fishing? By Capt. Bob Stevens, Sunrise II Sportfishing

This is the question that a professional charter captain gets asked every day, from my wife to the guy at the gas dock, to friends and anyone else that I talk with, doesn't even have to be fishing season and I still get asked how was the fishing? One thing that is almost as good as fishing, is talking about fishing.

It's really a loaded question...one that I always have the same answer to...fishing is great!

Now some days the weather isn't all that good, and other days the fish might not cooperate like I want them to, but as far as getting to fish every day, that is great.

One thing I have learned over the past 36 years is that everyone that fishes has different expectations, whether they charter a boat, have their own, go with a buddy, or just sit on the bank. Some people, like my father for example, must have fish biting every minute, in fact one of the things we always say about him is that he has plenty of patience because he hasn't used any up yet!. Then there are those that could care less if they ever caught a fish, had a customer once say " I don't want to be interrupted with fish today" what an easy day on the water. When a guy tows his boat up from Ohio or Pennsylvania or down from Maine, they want to catch fish!

Some groups come in from out of town with more people than one boat can handle so we run multiple boat trips. On one occasion I remember we stayed in to catch salmon, the second boat went out to fish steelhead, back at the dock my guys said "look at all those fish" the other captains guys said "look at the size of those fish" that was the day I realized that catching a lot of big fish is the ultimate goal.

So how do the charters do it, day in and day out, producing enough fish to keep everyone happy?



Two words, consistency and communication. Let's start with the first, we try to stay consistent by fishing the temperature that best suits the fish you are fishing for. Like kings for example, they prefer to feed in water that is anywhere between 47 and 52 degrees, however, that is not always the rule, like in the spring (April, May) we catch feeding salmon in water that varies from 39 to 44 degrees, that's where the smelt like to linger. Remember this too, historically my biggest kings have come way out of temp, up to 60 degrees.

Steelhead like temperatures between 55 and 65 degrees, but will actively feed on surface bait in the summer months, you probably won't see too many on your fish finder in that situation, fun to catch though. Coho salmon like things just a bit colder, finding them in 40 to 48 degrees is common in the spring, summer and fall they are a bit more scarce, but usually when you get one, you will get two or three in the same area. Lake trout are more apt to hang out in water that is cold as well, we try to fish 45- to 50-degree water for them. Brown trout are more temperature tolerant, depending on the season, they can be found in water from 39 in the spring up to 65 in the fall time.

If you don't have a down probe to tell you specific temps, you can rely on your fish finder, if you are seeing fish at a certain depth, fish em.

The second is communication, with the marine radio, cell phones, and today's social media, we try to stay in touch with what is happening, not only where we are fishing at the moment, but other areas near where we are fishing, as well as lake wide. One of the reasons I chose Oak Orchard to make my living, is the fact that we have a very friendly fleet of fishermen here, from chatting at the docks, to the local campgrounds, to the local watering holes, people are always ready to answer the question...how's fishing?!





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A 4-H member competes in a horse-riding event at the Orleans County 4-H Fair, which is held the fourth week of July every year and draws about 25,000 people.







# Medina









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## It's Still Called Fishing...

by Ron Bierstine, owner of Oak Orchard Tackle and Lodge

If you're looking for a trophy trout and salmon fishing challenge then the Oak Orchard River and Orleans County tributaries are where you'll want to be for world -class action! Johnson Creek, Marsh Creek and Sandy Creek are other smaller "tribs" that offer the same king salmon, Coho salmon, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and steelhead hookup chances as the famous "Oak." The three seasons of fall, winter and spring provide for the cool water rod and reel angling when the salmonids migrate out of Lake Ontario. The unmatched opportunities are only bruiser salmon. Fly fishing in the trib waters doesn't have to be a complicated affair, and the aforementioned egg pattern flies with good presentations are the most productive. Some flash back nymphs and streamers can round out a well-stocked fly box. Centerpin techniques making perfectly natural drifts with floats are perhaps the most effective in the cool or cold trib waters. The straight line dead drift on light line that rarely contacts the stream bottom is key to the overall success of centerpin fishing. A float matched best to the water conditions

from your own two wading feet – all the tackle you need for a fly fishing or float fishing or spin fishing adventure you can carry in a vest or pack. It's a one on one experience with what may be the biggest trout or salmon of your life! Let's find out why it's still called fishing...

You have to get out there and make some casts, drifts and swings is why it's still called fishing. Anytime

through the months of Sep/Oct to Apr/May can be productive in the cool running trib waters. King salmon are the heavyweights at the trib mouths in Sep/Oct that kick off the action as they stage for soon to be upstream spawning migrations. Closely following are the Oak's renowned brown trout. The football browns first feast on the abundance of salmon eggs in Oct/Nov and then get on with their own spawning lasting into December. Atlantic salmon are found in the Oak anytime in the fall months of Sep/Oct/Nov with recent years showing exciting returns. No exotic or expensive travel to some far flung location required for your "reel" chance at these prized game fish. Anglers in the fall anytime through Dec/Jan can encounter sporty Coho salmon. And finally the hard-fighting and wildcard steelhead round out the trophy fish potential in the tribs. Steelhead might be encountered anytime fall, winter or spring, but are typically most abundant in the fall and again in the more traditional winter/spring runs of Feb/Mar/Apr.

The challenge of fooling a fish to bite with legit angling techniques is why it's still called fishing. Leave the heavy tackle snagging methods behind and instead opt for lighter line and realistic baits like egg pattern flies, jigs & beads or egg sacks. Fly fishing is popular among anglers in the fall under what are typically moderate and clear flows. Seven- or 8-weight rods up to 10 feet for single-hand rods and 11.5 feet for switch rods are about ideal. Maybe you'd choose a 9-weight if you're targeting



Wintertime reward: fresh chrome steelhead!

will suspend those jigs & beads or flies or egg sacks or bait or lures. Be sure to keep a sharp eye on that float for any drift changes! Spin fishing with noodle rod setups is versatile and can get you casting at trib mouths early in the fall. It can carry you through all the fall, winter & spring drifting in the tribs and keep you out there later in the spring in Apr/May casting again on the lakeshore for brown trout.

In this day and age of nearly unlimited information at your fingertips and the social media craze - you still are up against the nuances of weather, water flows, fish migrations and any host of things less sure then say grocery shopping. That's why it's still called fishing. You don't get that same rush of excitement as pulling a gallon of milk out of the cooler as you do pulling in a 15-pound brown trout, right?! So come enjoy your experience and outdoor time here in Orleans County for some fantastic trib action. Orleans County is also a great central WNY location to target waters from the Genesee River to the Niagara River. To round out a year-long fishing experience, you might want to try out the Lake Ontario summer trolling action. However and whenever you choose to fish be sure it's about having fun. Consider catch and release angling, especially for trout, so that future good fishing is preserved. Be sure you check with a local area business specializing in trout & salmon run timing, the weather, water flows and fishing techniques. Reliable info can be found at Oak Orchard Tackle & Lodge at 585-682-4546 or www.fishoakorchard.com. The Orleans County Fishing hotline at 585-589-3220 or www.OrleansCountyFishing.com are good resources too.

Are you up for the casting, the challenge and briefly unplugging from instant unlimited information for your Orleans County Oak Orchard River trib fishing experience?





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## Wildlife in Orleans County

By Douglas H. Domedion

If you visit Orleans County, don't miss out on all the wildlife we have here. All kinds of waterfowl from Canada geese to tundra swans along with just about every species of duck on the east coast. Eagles nest and fly here and are seen on a regular basis. The osprey has also had a great comeback to our area with some nests in areas of easy viewing. Deer, fox, coyotes, raccoon, mink, muskrat, beaver and even a few otters make our marshes their home. For those of you interested in birding, there are too many species to list. It is possible to get a glimpse of a endangered short-eared owl, barred owl, sand hill cranes or even a peregrine falcon. Large numbers of snow geese, along with tundra swans, often stop over on their spring migration giving some spectacular views. Recently a pair of trumpeter swans have nested in the area giving some great views this past year. The great white egret has become a regular summer resident here now and they are always a thrill to see.

Yes, there is a lot of wildlife to see in Orleans County, but where do you start? Your search for observation of these species should start at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge headquarters (585-948-5445) on Casey Road in the Town of Alabama (on Route 63). The NYS DEC also has two Wildlife Management Areas on either side of the INWR (585-948-5182) and their office is also located in the INWR headquarters so a stop there will give you a pretty good idea on what's going on at the time and where to go see it. The total area engulfed by these wildlife refuge areas amounts to over 20,000 acres of marshes, upland areas and forests which give you a lot environment to observe wildlife in.

In the spring, waterfowl numbers can reach over 100,000 making a sight to behold. Over 250 species of birds and 30 species of mammals are found in the refuge areas. There are plenty of hiking trails and a number of overlooks that can give great views of wildlife.

Outside the refuge areas are great places to search to as much of the waterfowl heads to the rich farm lands surround these area to feed. A canoe or kayak trip down the Oak Orchard River (it starts in the INWR and runs north to Lake Ontario) gives you a great opportunity to observe wildlife. You may even want to take a fishing pole along as the "Oak" is known for great trout and salmon fishing at certain times of the year.

Once you get a "taste" of wildlife in Orleans County, I think you will be coming back again and again!



## Fish Species Found in Lake Ontario

#### **CHINOOK SALMON**



Also known as King Salmon, they are some of the most sought-after trophies of Lake Ontario and its tributaries. They can be found from April through September on Lake Ontario and in October and November in the tributaries

of the lake in Orleans County. Although their preferred temperature range is from 42 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit, they will go outside their range when feeding or spawning. Chinook Salmon are the largest of the Salmon family, reaching weights in the upper 40-pound range.

#### **COHO SALMON**



Although smaller than the Chinook Salmon, the Coho Salmon is considered by many to give a more active fight than its big brother. They normally follow the Chinook Salmon up the tributaries for their spawning run in the fall of

the year. Their preferred temperature range is from 42 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit. The World record for Coho Salmon comes from Lake Ontario.

#### ATLANTIC SALMON



Once a native fish to Lake Ontario, this species disappeared from the lake in the very early-1900s. A restoration program is in progress for this great fighting fish and for that reason, the minimum size is 25 inches. Their

preferred temperature range is from 45 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Although the markings closely resemble a Brown Trout, the memory lasting fight will leave little doubt in your mind that you have done battle with an exceptional fish.

#### LAKE TROUT



Also a fish that was once very abundant in Lake Ontario and disappeared, they are now being brought back under a federal stocking program. Because of this, all Lake Trout between the lengths of 25 to 30 inches have to be released

as they are considered the best breeding sizes. Their 39 to 52 degree Fahrenheit preferred temperature range makes them a bottom fish in Lake Ontario.

#### **BROWN TROUT**



One of the most sought-after species of trout, Brown Trout in Lake Ontario sometimes exceed 30 pounds. Normally considered an April-May fish on Lake Ontario, they are available all summer long in 100 feet of water or

less. They prefer a gravel bottom in water 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. In the Fall of the year, when the Brown Trout go up the tributaries for their spawning run, fishermen from all over the world converge on Orleans County to target these magnificent fish.

#### **STEELHEAD/RAINBOW TROUT**



The acrobatics of these fish are known far and wide and are spectacular compared to the rest of the trout family. It is often said that they are out of the water more than in during a typical fight and leaves you spellbound by

their ability. Steelhead/Rainbow Trout are available all year round in Lake Ontario and its tributaries. They are considered an upper level fish in the water column due to their preferred temperature of 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. A diet which includes flying insects landing on the water make them a great fish for fly fishermen to target during the winter months.

#### WALLEYE



In the fishery, the Walleye is considered the new-comer to Lake Ontario. With a preferred temperature range of 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, it is considered a warm water fish. Walleye can be found along the shoreline of Lake Ontario and

in its tributaries, but also in many of the smaller lakes in Orleans County.

#### LARGE AND SMALLMOUTH BASS



The clearing waters of Lake Ontario and its tributaries, along with the waters of many spring-fed lakes and ponds within Orleans

County are the home of some great Bass fishing. The 65 to 75 degree Fahrenheit waters that they prefer make them a near shore fishery where weed cover is

available. Please remember that opening day of Bass Season is the third Saturday of June each year.

#### **YELLOW PERCH**



Anyone who has grown up on the Southern shore of Lake Ontario has most likely done battle with Yellow Perch at some point. It is a species of fish that is considered by many to be the best tasting fresh water fish. Because

they are a schooling fish and have a preferred water temperature of 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, it is fairly easy to get your limit of 50 perch once you locate them.

#### **BLUEGILL/PUMPKINSEED CRAPPIE**



This group of fish will help many a young person pass a sunny summer day enjoying the outdoors. With a preferred temperature of between 65 and 75 degrees, they are a near shore fish on all the waters within Orleans County. They can be mainly found around fallen trees, docks and piers

and can be caught with a wide variety of natural and artificial baits.

Other species that are available in the waters of Orleans County include Northern Pike, Channel Pickerel, Rock Bass, Channel Catfish, White Perch and Carp.

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Century-old trees at Mount Albion Cemetery tower over the Civil War Section at the historic site on Route 31 in Albion. Mount Albion is one of four cemeteries in the county on the National Register of Historic Places. Hillside Cemetery in Holley, Millville Cemetery in Shelby, and Boxwood Cemetery in Medina are the others on the National Register.





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Photo courtesy www.OrleansHub.com

Lyndonville hosts a big fireworks show every Fourth of July, which caps a day of activities in the village.



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Photo courtesy Oak Orchard Tackle & Lodge

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Thomas the Train Engine heads out for a ride in Medina. The Medina Railroad Museum hosts the popular attraction for two weekends every May.

Photo courtesy www.OrleansHub.com





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