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A Winter Day Trip in Port Hope, Ontario



It was the last weekend of March Break. Most families and their kids likely had their fun filled during the week and were now getting ready to go back to school or work. For us big kids, we were invited by the Municipality of Port Hope to spend a day there to experience activities in their heritage town, located only an hour's drive away just east of [Toronto](#).

We stayed overnight at [Hotel Carlyle](#), a historic building originally built in 1857 as a branch of The Bank of Upper Canada.



We stayed at Room 10 which was the largest room in the hotel

Most people might have heard of Port Hope's annual salmon migration event from Lake Ontario up the Ganaraska River, the Float Your Fanny Down the Ganny, or their Festival of Trees held at the Capitol Theatre during the Christmas time.

When my friends asked me "What are you going to do there when neither one is happening at this time of the year?", I told them, there are actually other things to do in Port Hope than what the town's best known events!

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Ganaraska Forest Centre

Website / Address: 10585 Cold Springs Camp Rd., Campbellcroft, ON, Port Hope, L0A 1B0

March is not only just March Break, but it is also Maple Month. Therefore, Maple Syrup Festivals around in Ontario starts too.



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March 17 marks “Maple Syrup Day” at the Ganaraska Forest Centre, held annually by the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority. Ganaraska Forest Centre is located about a 20 minute drive from downtown Port Hope and is located in the heart of 11,000-acre Ganaraska Forest.



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The centre itself is a multi-use facility for various community activities and also used for outdoor educational purposes.



We arrived in the morning and started our day in the Great Hall with a lovely warm serving of pancakes and sausages, all topped with Maple Syrup of course. The hall was filled with highly spirited live music, and also had a station for face painting to keep the kids busy while everyone enjoyed their breakfast.



We then joined the Sugar Shack tour where we were taken down to the forest to learn about the history of traditional maple syrup production, and even got to sample raw sap in its liquid form before it is turned into syrup.



Traditional boxes for collecting Maple tree sap



Modern buckets for collecting Maple tree sap

At the campfire pit, we learned how sap was traditionally evaporated via a big pot cooked over an open fire.

