

Travel Scene



Bunking up in comfort

The best stays in Niagara-on-the-Lake

By Iris Sanderson Jones
travel editor

Where should I stay in Niagara-on-the-Lake? I learned a lot of things, and ran up quite a telephone bill, while trying to answer that question.

The Chamber of Commerce, (416) 468-4263, has an unusual reservation service. Call or write ahead, tell them what your priorities are and for \$5 they'll find you accommodations that fit your needs.

They list 12 hotels and inns, with rates in Canadian dollars. Multiply by .86 to convert to U.S. dollars. Hotel rates range from \$112 to \$325 (U.S. \$96-\$280) a night for two. Inns range from \$78 to \$140. They also list bed-and-breakfast accommodations from \$55 to \$95.

I was surprised rates were so high, but Ontario prices are high for everything, and you pay extra for staying in a tourist town that can usually fill its beds, especially on weekends.

THE LARGEST and newest hotel, two blocks from town and overlooking the marina and lake, is Queen's Landing (416) 468-2195, \$135 to \$325. It is owned by the same family that



photos by MICKY JONES

The Kiely House welcomes visitors with a delightful ambience.

owns the well-known Piller and Post (416) 468-2123, \$132 to \$195.

A new hotel across the street from the Festival Theater, the Royal Park (416) 468-2010, offers special rates of

\$95 to \$120 this year. The best known historic hotel is the Prince of Wales (416) 468-3246, on the main street in the middle of town, for \$112 to \$228.

I started calling my friends and learned that many B&B's are not listed with the chamber.

SALLY SAWYER of West Bloomfield recommended the bed-and-breakfast home of Dorothy McCullough, "a delightful elderly woman who loves to play cribbage," at 300 Niagara (416) 468-4688. A Canadian friend told me she stayed there for \$35 last year. But nobody was ever home when I called.

Al and Shirley Sandner of Lansing stay in the Old Bank House bed-and-breakfast (416) 468-7136, overlooking the lake three blocks from town. Rates: \$88 with a bathroom down the hall or \$125 "en suite" (with a bathroom in the room).

I couldn't get a room there, but they recommended The Wellington House (416) 468-4081, rate \$65, run by Richard and Monica Taylor. By this time my phone bill was rising.

Mrs. Taylor was full too. She recommended Carol Grey (416) 468-



Heather Pettit

5423 and Lee and Beth Alma's place (416) 468-4635; rates \$50 to \$60, (nobody answered their phones) and the Kiely House (416) 468-4588, \$75 to \$145.

"TAKE HIGHWAY 55 until it dead ends at Queen Street and you'll see a large white house with black

shutters," Heather Pettit said.

Our room at Kiely House was in the "new wing" built in the 1850s. It's a nice house. The room was small, up a long flight of stairs. The breakfast and ambience were delightful.

It cost \$88 plus tax for the night, which still seems high to me as I adjust to village prices.

I ASKED two local people where they would put their relatives if they came to town. One said the Moffat Inn or the Prince of Wales. The other said the Prince of Wales or the Moffat Inn (416) 468-4116.

The Moffat, next door to the Prince, runs \$75 to \$90. It doesn't have much public space, no lounge, but it is highly rated and in the middle of town.

The Oban Inn (416) 468-2165, overlooking the golf course and lake, is the most popular place in town for dinner and probably has nice rooms for \$90 to \$130.

YOU MAY not have a choice. Al Sandner of Lansing always gets his

accommodations before he buys the theater tickets; after that he reserves dinner.

"I called the Oban Inn for a Friday night dinner reservation three weeks ahead and just barely got in," he said. "Niagara-on-the-Lake is a very popular summer destination."

Where did you stay in Niagara-on-the-Lake? Where do you stay in that other popular Ontario theater town: Stratford? There is no question in my mind that the best recommendations are word-of-mouth, friend-to-friend.

Send your suggestions, travel questions, etc. to Iris Sanderson Jones, Travel Editor, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Chuck and Mickie Diamond of Southfield, and David and Melody Arndt of Northville, were in Niagara-on-the-Lake recently and will check in to Travel Scene next week with their suggestions and impressions.

Restored German plane holds memories of the flying heyday

Continued from Page 1

per hour and carry 17 passengers, made both passenger aviation breakthroughs at the time.

The Ju 52 became the plane of the 1930s in both scheduled services and pioneering achievements, easily winning a race over the Alps from Zurich to Geneva to Milan and back to Zurich.

"It is legendary in Germany," Krauss said. "My whole flying career I've loved flying piston aircraft. And this is the one I most wanted to fly."

THIS PARTICULAR model has an unusual history of its own, almost an encapsulation of all Ju 52s.

One of 5,000 planes built at the Junkers factory between 1932 and 1952, the "Fritz Simon" with its D-AQUI marking went into service on April 10, 1936.

In July 1936, it was sent to Norway, where it was fitted with floats and renamed the "Falcon" for air travel in the country's remote coastal region.

In 1940, the German army confiscated the plane and used it to transport troops.

"During that time it was (painted) green," said Krauss. "That was not such a good time."

After the war it was returned to

the Norwegians, when in 1947, maintenance crews discovered major corrosion damage from wartime service. Another plane was cannibalized for spare parts, and in February 1948 the plane went back into service.

In 1956 the Ju 52 was retired as jetliners were taking over the skies. With its large wingspan (30 meters), museums weren't even interested. But the plane found another life when an airline in Quito, Ecuador bought the plane, renamed it "Amazonas" and began flying passengers, cattle and cargo across the jungle.

In 1963, after 8,000 flying hours, the decrepit aircraft was falling apart. It was abandoned on the perimeter of Quito Airport. But once again it was rescued when a former U. S. Air Force pilot, Lester Weaver, bought the wreck in 1969 for \$5,200 and had it repaired.

Another American, writer Martin Caidan bought the plane for \$52,500 and gave it the name "Iron Annie."

"I just had to buy the damned plane," Caidan said.

After some stunts with air shows in the United States, Caidan overhauled the plane in 1976 and put in new Pratt & Whitney engines. He then sold the plane to Lufthansa, which flew it back to Germany in 1984.

THE PLANE was restored, with some parts having to be made from scratch. The restoration took a year and a half. The plane is now named "Berlin-Tempelhof" for the famous airport.

And it flies as well as ever, or says Krauss, a Hamburg native. "One year before it showed up in Germany, I signed up to fly it," he said.

Krauss and his crew took the plane easily off the ground at Midway Airport in Chicago, much to the delight of those who found space on flights of 30 minutes to downtown and back.

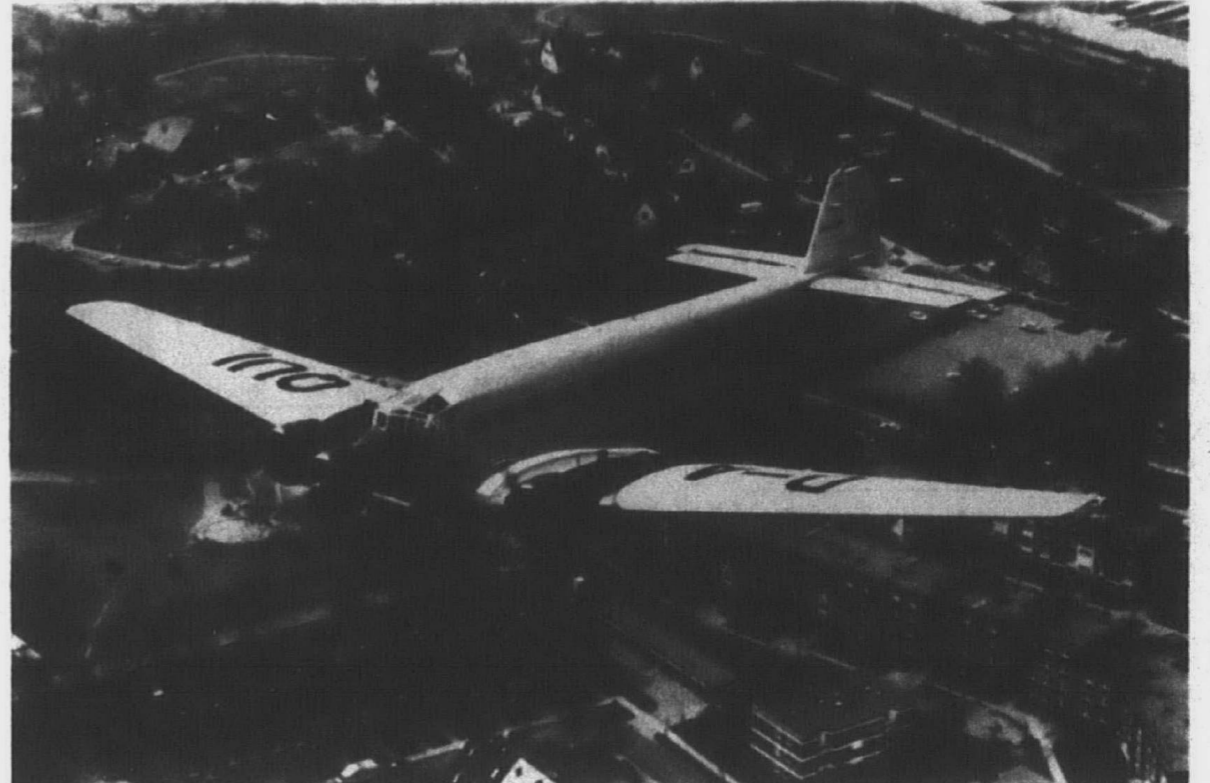
The plane is luxurious, with deep leather seats and, for a propeller plane, a quiet ride. It billows up and rides easily, as the Windy City's turbulent winds move the plane around.

And the view from the venerable aircraft?

"It was incredible," said one passenger. "It flew by Sears Tower, not above it. That was something."

And the landing is smoother than many given by more modern craft.

Krauss, who generally flies non-stop, trans-Atlantic 747 flights from Germany, said he is lucky to fulfill his dream.



After a 16-day, 10,000 mile North Atlantic crossing in winter, this 1936 Junkers Ju 52 was restored at Lufthansa's Hamburg maintenance base. Its second maiden flight occurred on April 6, 1986.

"It is perfect," he said with a smile. "It took them a year and a quarter to fix it. But other than an engine change, it can last another 50 years — at least."

Krauss will be at the controls of his favorite aircraft when it lands at Detroit Metropolitan Airport Aug. 17.

The Junkers Ju 52 will be at Detroit Metro from Aug. 17-19. To see the vintage plane or to reserve a ride, call Lufthansa public relations in Chicago at (312) 751-0111.

Bavarian Village
SUMMER
SKI SALE

IT HAPPENS ONLY ONCE A YEAR-ALL STORES TREMENDOUS SELECTION-YEARS BEST PRICES. ALL THE TOP BRANDS. OVER 2 MILLION DOLLARS OF GREAT SKI GEAR AT SAVINGS UP TO 50% OFF AND MORE. SHOP TODAY-SURE IT'S CRAZY TO BUY SKIS & SKIWEAR NOW, CRAZY LIKE A FOX!

THE BEST SKI BUYS OF THE YEAR

- BLOOMFIELD HILLS 2540 WOODWARD at Square Lake Rd. . . 338-0803
- BIRMINGHAM 101 TOWNSEND corner of Pierce. . . 644-5950
- MT. CLEMENS 1216 S. GRATIOT 1/2 mile north of 16 Mi. . . 463-3620
- EAST DETROIT 22301 KELLY between B & 9 Mi. . . 778-7020
- ANN ARBOR 3336 WASHTEAW west of U.S. 23. . . 973-9340
- FLINT 4261 MILLER across from Genesee Valley Mall. . . 313-732-5560
- GRAND RAPIDS 2035 28th St. S.E. between Berlin & Kalamazoo. . . 616-452-1199
- SUGARLOAF/SKI AREA 18 miles N/W of Traverse City. . . 616-228-6700
- TRAVERSE CITY 107 EAST FRONT St. (Bay Side Entrance). . . 616-941-1999
- FARMINGTON HILLS 27847 ORCHARD LAKE RD. at 12 Mi. . . 553-8585
- NOVI NOVI TOWN CENTER south of I-96 on Novi Rd. . . 347-3323
- EAST LANSING 246 E. SAGINAW at Abbott. . . 517-337-9896

★ ★ NEW STORE NOW OPEN ★ ★

★ DEARBORN HEIGHTS 26312 FORD Rd. 1/2 mile west of Telegraph. . . 562-5560
OPEN NOON - 9. SAT. 10-5.30. SUN. 12-5. SALE ENDS AUG. 25th

MACKINAC ISLAND 3-DAY PACKAGE RATE

Last Chance for Summer at Mission Point Resort!

- Three day, two night package. • Children 12 and under receive all package benefits free. • Continental breakfast both mornings. • Dinner one evening.
- Sunset cruise on Lake Huron.
- Planned hikes and bicycle tours.
- Use of all resort facilities including outdoor heated pool and hot tubs, exercise facility, and outdoor tennis courts.

\$298* per couple

Package available August 28, 29, 30, 31 and September 3, 4, 5, 6. Ask about our other special packages.

For reservations call:
1-800-833-5583

*Children 12 and under free. Additional night \$95. Children 13 and over \$60 additional. Not available Labor Day weekend.

MACKINAC'S ISLAND RESORT

C H I C A G O

Summer Packages with a View.

Choose the hotel with the very best location on the Magnificent Mile! Ride the elevator to Bloomingdale's. Cross the street to the Hancock and Water Tower Place. Or Oak Street Beach. Of course, relax in Four Seasons luxury. Kids stay free. Swim in our skylit pool. Order breakfast in bed with Fruit Loops. It's Chicago's best vacation value!

Four Seasons Hotel CHICAGO

120 East Delaware Place at 900 North Michigan Avenue

Summer packages begin at **\$155***

*Prices based on double occupancy, per night, subject to availability.

WHAT VACATIONS WERE MEANT TO BE

For reservations call toll free 1-800-332-3442. Mention this publication when making a reservation and receive a complimentary 900 Card* for exclusive savings in forty 900 North Michigan Avenue shops.

FRANCES NESI-BERMEDEZ Announces With Great Pleasure, The Opening of:

TRAVELWORKS

A Full Service Travel Agency

EAST COAST
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, NY 10168
(212) 661-0530
Fax (212) 972-8554

MICHIGAN
Suite 603
29201 Telegraph
Southfield, Michigan 48034

Kathie Ambrose
General Manager
(313) 827-9920
1-800 729-9820
Fax (313) 355-1701

OCTOBER 13th - 20th

KING RANCH SPA
(Toronto)

\$1470 per person

Includes:

- All Meals
- 5 Personal Services
- All Exercise and Fitness Classes

For Details Call

travelmax
851-7760