



All about Renfrew

Historical:

- The Town of Renfrew celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2008.
- Town founder M.J. O'Brien and son Ambrose created the NHA, the precursor to today's NHL.
- Renfrew was a logging and mining town that began to flourish with the arrival of the railroad in 1872.
- Every 25 pound shell Canada supplied to the First World War came to Renfrew to be filled with explosives developed here.
- Dr. Charlotte Whitton, the first female mayor of a large Canadian city (Ottawa) was born in Renfrew.

Area Attractions:

- Renfrew is home to an historic Swinging Bridge, built in 1895, that is still in use today. When it was built, the Swinging Bridge became an important pedestrian link between the two sides of town on each side of the Bonnechere River — one side a mainly residential area, and the other home to many of Renfrew's first industries. Today, many pedestrians still use the bridge to cross from one side of town to the other.
- Every fall the Renfrew Fair comes to town — as it has done for over 150 years. It is one of the oldest fairs in Canada.
- Storyland and Logos Land are two area family parks with rides, slides and adventures for kids of all ages.
- The historic O'Brien Movie Theatre, built in 1930, screens the latest movie releases and is home to Canada's largest operational theatre organ.
- Annual celebrations include: Canada Day, the Santa Claus Parade, the Rural Ramble, the Bluegrass Festival and more. There is a festivity for every season!
- The local Farmers' Market runs from late June until October and features everything from fresh produce to home baking.

Sports and Recreation:





- Renfrew is surrounded by over 2,500 km of groomed snowmobile trails.
- There are two premier ski resorts nearby, a curling rink located in town and ice fishing is a local favourite pastime.
- Boat, camp, waterski, fish or swim in one of the over 4,000 waterways around Renfrew; it is the vacation destination!
- For the avid golfer, Renfrew is the place to be with two prestigious 18-hole courses in town and many more in the surrounding communities.
- The Ottawa River is known as the mecca of paddling. There are two different channels and dozens of rapids with many resorts and campsites along the river.
- The Bonnechere Caves is an amazing natural wonder located a short-drive from Renfrew with caves full of fossils.

Services:

- **Restaurants and Accommodations:** From fine dining to fast food, Renfrew has a wide array of restaurants perfect for business meetings or family gatherings. There are also hotels, motels, suites, B&Bs and even housing available for short and long-term stays in the area.
- **Meeting Space:** There are a number of venues that provide meeting space for large or small gatherings including local hotels, town hall, the library, area churches and more.
- **Library:** With Internet, fax, photocopy, reference services and meeting space, the Library provides modern information resources along with an extensive collection of adult and children's books, movies and music.
- **Police:** Renfrew is policed by the Ontario Provincial Police, with two offices in town, a fleet of cars and marine equipment to patrol local waterways.
- **Fire:** The Renfrew Fire Department has a team of full-time and volunteer firefighters armed with modern equipment and is located in the centre of town in the Renfrew Fire Hall.
- **Ambulance:** The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service has provided Ambulance service to Renfrew since 2005, staffing both Primary and Advanced Care Paramedics.





- **Health Care:** The Renfrew Victoria Hospital, with over 450 staff, state-of-the-art equipment and a recent expansion, provides quality health care including many specialty clinics and a dialysis unit. RVH is home to over 20 Physicians and 25 clinics.

A recent addition to our community is Hospice Renfrew, which provides 24-hour end-of-life nursing care to people experiencing life-threatening or terminal illnesses. Quail Creek Retirement Centre, Bonnechere Manor and Groves Park Lodge are retirement/nursing homes that provide high-level care to their residents.

- **Media:** Get all the local news through the Renfrew Mercury newspaper, Cogeco Cable television or on the air with MyFM radio.
- **Clubs:** There is a group for every interest here from the Camera Club to Kiwanis, the Lions Club to the Renfrew Art Guild.
- **Education:** There are two local school boards with a total of two high schools and three elementary schools in town. Both boards also have rural schools and offer adult education.
- **Commerce:** The downtown area is home to unique, “Mom and Pop”-style shops and restaurants that offer up everything from the latest in fashion to specialty food items, fresh-cut flowers to home painting supplies, not to mention friendly, professional service.

In recent years, the Industrial Park in the east side of Renfrew has seen impressive growth, as a number of commercial giants such as Canadian Tire, Walmart, Staples, Mark’s Work Wearhouse and No Frills have taken up residence. These retailers draw customers to the area from across the Ottawa Valley and neighbouring Québec.

There is plenty of room to grow — commercial spaces are available at the Industrial Park, which is managed by the Renfrew Industrial Commission. Currently available spaces at the park range in size from seven to two hundred acres. This is a great opportunity to join a community of well-established commercial businesses that have already generated a large flow of customer traffic in the area.

