

Doors will be open at area sites

Posted By HEATHER IBBOTSON, [EXPOSITOR STAFF](#), September 18 2008

Looking for an interesting day trip without having to break the bank to gas up the car?

This year, Doors Open Brant offers a new lineup of 18 intriguing, fantastic and unusual sites throughout Brantford and Brant County to visit.

The sites, representing a range of historical, architectural and cultural significance, will be open on Sept. 27 from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m., with free admission to all locations.

Doors Open Brant 2008 brochures, including maps, are available at each site and at the Brantford Visitor and Tourism Centre. For more information, visit www.doorsopenbrant.ca or call 1-800-265-6299.

Here's a preview: Penmarvian: This impressive Paris residence, built in 1845 and originally the gracious Penman family home, has been restored as a retirement home. St. Jude's Anglican Church: This Brantford church has an important history, some of which revolves around its famous murals.

Paris Historical Society & Museum: This site holds fascinating histories and artifacts telling of the development of Paris and area. Holstein Canada: Visitors are invited inside the Holstein archives at its head office on Corporate Place in Brantford. Maple Hill Farm: This St. George farm was the site of the first office of Holstein Canada. The 1840 board-and-batten house has a fieldstone foundation, walls made of square four-by-fours with square nails and other original features.

Bridgeview Holsteins & Jerseys: A visit to this working dairy farm near Newport will offer a rare glimpse at a modern farm operation on the grounds of a century farm.

Ontario Genealogical Society, Brant County Branch: Located at Smokey Hollow Estates on Powerline Road, the branch offers information, resources and records for family historians, as well as an important collection of area Women's Institute Tweedsmuir histories.

Six Nations Genealogy Society: This group, located at Veteran's Hall on Chiefswood Road in Ohsweken, also caters to family researchers.

St. Andrew's Church: This Brantford church, nearly destroyed by fire in 2006, reopens in time to hold a public open house as part of this year's Doors Open Brant. MMMC Inc. Architects: The architectural firm responsible for the St. Andrew's Church reconstruction, will open its Brant Avenue office to showcase some of its other projects. A highlight will be the drawings of local architect, F. C. Bodley. F. C. Bodley Public School: The former Brantford elementary school will be open to share some of the history that has been preserved in the archives of the Grand Erie District School Board.

Brant County Courthouse: The Wellington Street building will open to allow viewing of extensive renovations that preserve the stylish courtrooms and interior architectural details in the 156-year-old building. The Bodega Inn: The new Brantford hotel will profile the past of its historic namesake while showcasing the new face of downtown. Paris Baptist Church: This significant local landmark opened in 1885 and boasts exceptional interior features.

Asa Wolverton House: This Paris home, built in 1851 in the Greek Revival plantation style, is undergoing heritage restoration. Six Nations Public Library: Located in Ohsweken, the library is housed in one of the oldest preserved structures on Six Nations.

The LUNA Project: As a nod to "green" architecture, the yurts of St. George will welcome visitors. Built with conservation in mind, the yurts have become a model site for school groups to visit.

Sweet Grass Gardens: Located on Sour Springs Road on Six Nations, the site revels in natural heritage, featuring indigenous plant species and stressing the importance of reestablishing Carolinian plants.

Article ID# 1205506