

FAST FACTS

- The idyllic Avon River winds its way through much of Stratford's parkland. Lake Victoria, created by a dam, is enjoyed by canoeists and dragon boaters. Each September the Rotary Dragon Boat Festival draws paddlers from near and far. The boats are launched on Tom Patterson Island, named for the reporter who had the idea to start a Shakespearian theatre in the city. A local group, AREA, recently undertook a project to restore the river to cleaner conditions. This involved creating an artificial wetland behind the Festival Bridge. A shelf of rock was built and then water plants such as cattails were planted. Many residents and tourists spend time along the river, feeding the swans and other waterfowl, walking or cycling, picnicking or exercising their dogs.
- There are walking, hiking, and bike paths throughout the City of Stratford and surrounding area. Many pathways are fully accessible. The bus system traverses the entire city. Stratford is a leader in reducing car emissions with a by-law that limits idling to five minutes. New trees, including native species, are planted every year. Stratford boasts the highest acreage of parkland per capita in all of Canada.