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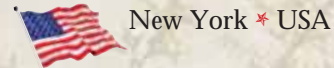
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## Credits

Cover	
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Back Cover	
Life Imitating Art on the Erie Canal .....	Paula Bensley



## Welcome to Orleans County!



The Lake Plains Region that is Orleans County was originally settled due to its fertile soil, lush forests and easy access to natural waterways. The area evolved with the advent of man-made waterways and rail, yet today, Orleans County's strengths continue to lie in the natural resources and agricultural heritage of the region. From world class fishing to wonderful farm markets, historic canal port towns to heritage festivals, natural charms to architectural treasures, Orleans County features a wide array of attractions for individual, family and group travelers.

*"No artificial additives or sweeteners," just the real thing—fresh air, fresh water and fresh experiences—so visit us for a day, a weekend or more and you're sure to be refreshed!*



### LOCATE IT! *Only in the OC*

*"Huckle Buckle Beanstalk!" • "Punch Bug!" • "I Spy..."*

Remember riding along the countryside when you were a kid and competing with your "travel mates" by playing these games to help pass the time by? Ahhh, those were the days—discovering new territory! We embrace that kind of nostalgia and would like to invite the kid in all of you to be the first in the car to "Locate it!" To help make your journey stimulating and exciting, we've provided you with an entire guide featuring *Only in the OC* attractions. Use the LOCATE IT map on page 14 & 15 to spot your favorite activity or fishing hole. Search the backroads for unique "barn quilts" or dive for sunken treasures off the shores of Lake Ontario. Visit Geocaching or Letterboxing internet sites for more challenges, or simply rummage our antique shops and historic downtowns to find that unique cache on your own.

And, when you find what you're looking for, don't hesitate to claim your victory and shout:

*"Huckle Buckle Beanstalk!"*



I grew up in Orleans County and like most every teenager I couldn't wait to leave once I graduated from high school. To me Orleans County was nothing more than orchards that blossomed in the spring, boats that cruised down the Erie Canal and sunsets over Lake Ontario at Point Breeze. In short, boring.

It is only now, as a native son who returns whenever he can, that I appreciate what Orleans County has to offer.

Like orchards that blossom in the spring, boats that cruise down the Erie Canal and sunsets over Lake Ontario at Point Breeze. And a good old-fashioned snowstorm, too.

When I drive the county roads now I notice things I never saw before. Proud elegant barns. Canada geese flying overhead. The weather vane on the top of the county courthouse in the middle of Albion.

Orleans County isn't for everyone. Big city lights it does not have. In fact the county has no cities. Just villages and hamlets and crossroads. But if a band concert on a school lawn, a strawberry social, a Fourth of July parade or a church supper strike your fancy, this might be the place to pull over for a while.

Orleans County even boasts things that can't be found anywhere else. A road that goes under a canal, buildings made of cobblestone, an art form long since vanished. There's even a "shoe tree" down by the lake north of Lyndonville. I'm not going to tell you where exactly. That's part of the fun. Exploring the back roads.

But what the county is probably best known for are the most beautiful apple and cherry orchards to be found anywhere.

Every spring friends ask me to walk the Tidal Basin with them to view the cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C.

"No thanks," I'll always say. "I've seen the real thing. Years ago in a place called Orleans County."

Enjoy.

*Craig Wilson*

Columnist, "USA Today"

