



**TRAVERSE
CITY**

Media Contact Mike Norton, media@visittraversecity.com

What's Up North

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

October - December 2008

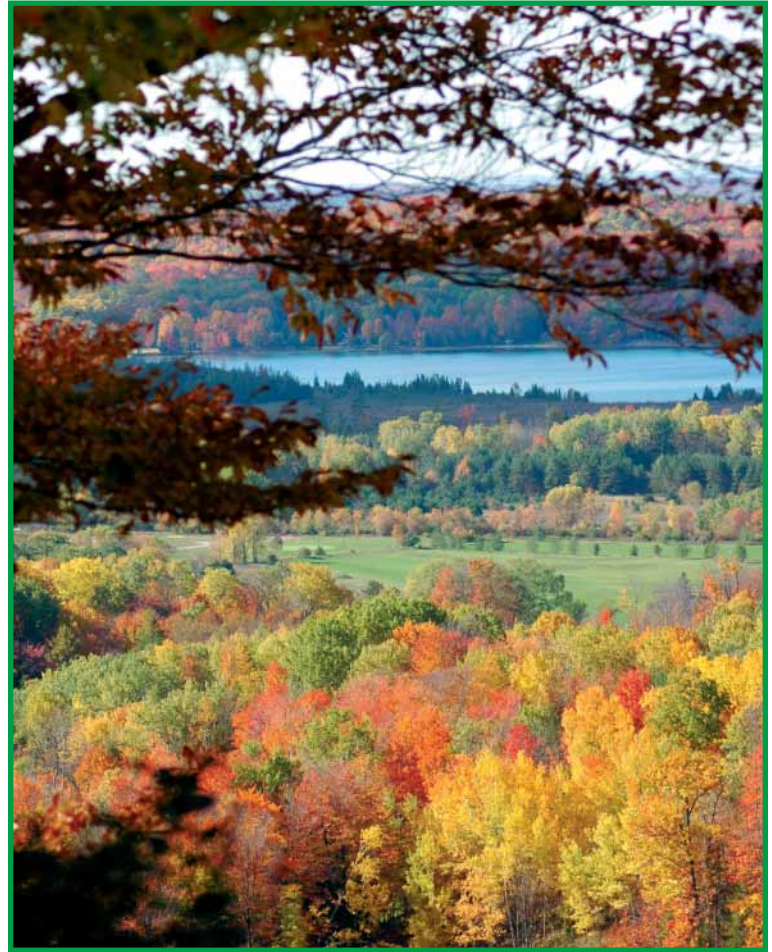
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HALLOWEEN EVENTS CONTINUE TO PROLIFERATE

Once a largely slapdash affair of neighborhood trick-or-treaters, Halloween seems to be a growing event in the Traverse City area, as more communities and venues get into the act. This year the shenanigans start as early as Oct. 3 at Shanty Creek Resorts in Bellaire with the Shanty Creek Haunted Woods, where visitors will encounter strange and fascinating sights, sounds and characters in a variety of scenes befitting Halloween during their passage through the woods. The event is held every Friday night in October, culminating with a special Halloween show on Oct. 31.

In a similar vein, on Oct. 17 the Field of Screams Haunted Hayride gets underway in the countryside of the southern Leelanau peninsula. Guests travel in the dark through the haunted forest on a tractor-pulled hay wagon amid eerie theatrics, startling events, ghouls and spooks. (231) 325-6021. On Oct. 18, ghosts, goblins & ghouls pay a visit to the Grand Traverse Lighthouse near Northport for their annual Haunted Lighthouse celebration, and on Oct. 25 the Music House Museum in Acme presents its Haunted Halloween Family Fun event – featuring a showing of Buster Keaton's classic silent film "Haunted House." (231) 938-9300.

And since Halloween this year is on a Friday night, there's a great deal going on in downtown Traverse City on Oct. 31. At the annual Downtown Halloween Walk, hundreds of costumed children and their parents go trick-or-treating at participating stores from 3:30 to 5 pm, when they can amble over to the Grand Traverse Heritage Center for some special surprises in the Halloween at the Heritage. Then, from 8 until midnight, the City Opera House is hosting two audience-participation showings of the cult classic "Rocky Horror Picture Show." Guests are encouraged to "dress to kill," bring props and join in the fun.



EVEN UP NORTH, GOLF DOESN'T STOP FOR WINTER



It's not quite the same thing as a stroll in the Great Outdoors, but the Winter Golf Center at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa gives golfers a great opportunity to improve their game during the frosty months, with lessons, clinics, and practice sessions from renowned PGA Professional Scott Hebert, winner of the 2008 PGA Professional National Championship and six-time Michigan Open Champion.

The Resort's Winter Golf Center is the only facility in Northern Michigan where golfers can watch the flight of their golf balls when practicing during winter months. It features three heated practice tees, each with a garage door that opens so golfers can hit golf balls from the indoor practice tee to the practice range outdoors. For information, contact Scott Hebert at 231-534-6476.

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JUNKYARD GHOST REVIVAL: THE POET AS POP PERFORMER

Traverse City's restored 19th century City Opera House has been busy this past year, with dinner-and-a-movie nights, stand-up comedians, and community swing dances. On Oct. 4, it's participating in the national revival of poetry as a performance art. The Junkyard Ghost Revival puts a cast of the world's top performing poets on stage, includ-

ing Buddy Wakefield, a two-time individual World Poetry Slam Champion who has been featured on NPR, BBC, CBS, HBO's Def Poetry Jam and venues all across the globe. Joining Wakefield is Anis Mojgani, a two-time National Poetry Slam Individual Champion, and Derrick Brown. (231) 941-8082 or www.cityoperahouse.org

TRAVERSE CITY CELEBRATES A SMALL-TOWN CHRISTMAS

Fall color hasn't even gotten a decent start Up North, and here we are making plans for Christmas! It's understandable, since this merriest of winter holidays seems to bring out the elements of friendliness, coziness and charm that small towns are particularly good at.

By mid-October, shoppers are already drifting toward Traverse City and its neighbors for the holiday arts and crafts fairs for which the region is justly famous. Every weekend, it seems, there's at least one of these huge fairs going on, but the most spectacular is undoubtedly the three-day **Holiday Art Fair** at the **Dennos Museum Center**, held Oct. 24-26, featuring work from 55 Michigan artists. (231) 995-1586. A close runner-up has to be the Nov. 21-22 show held by **ArtCenter Traverse City** under the dome at the Park Place Hotel. (231) 941-9488. And there's the Dec. 6 **Merry Marketplace** at the **Old Art Building** in the village of Leland, which has holiday gift packages, fresh & dried holiday wreaths, jewelry, specialty foods, pottery, ornaments, cards and hand knit items. (231) 256-2131.

Beginning Nov. 1, the **Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum** near Northport will be decorated for a typical Christmas as it was celebrated by the families who served at the isolated lighthouse in the 1920s and 1930s. The annual **Christmas At The Lighthouse: A McCormick Christmas** celebration culminates Dec. 7, with a traditional visit from Santa Claus and a Coast Guard helicopter. The last-day program includes refreshments and entertainment by local musicians. (231) 386-7195.

In late November, residents and visitors gather at the magnificent **Hagerty Center** on West Bay for the **Festival of Trees**, where over 40 professionally decorated holiday trees are on display, together with trees decorated by local elementary school students. This year's festival will be Nov. 19-23, and will include light sculptures created by local artists. Special events include a Nov. 21 **"Gals, Glam & Glitz" Party** and a Nov. 22 **Pancake Breakfast with Santa**. (231) 883-4775.

One of Traverse City's most charming Yuletide events is the **Wellington Inn's** annual **"Inn at Christmastime"** open house, a fundraiser for the Grand Traverse Historical Society. For six years, area florists and artisans have literally 'decked the halls' of this beautifully restored 1905 neoclassical mansion with a spectacular display of holiday designs and decorations. This year's event will be held Dec. 5-7, and guests will be able to tour the entire mansion, enjoy holiday entertainment by local musicians, and take refreshments provided by local businesses in the third floor ballroom. (231) 922-9900.

An entirely different kind of holiday tradition is on display at the **Grand Traverse Heritage Center**. It's the seventh annual Festival of

Trains, a delightful event that attracts thousands of visitors each year to watch dozens of working model train layouts, so extensive that they take up several rooms. This year's festival will be held Dec. 13 to Jan. 1, and includes a new **"gingerbread train"** competition. The Heritage Center is



located at 322 6th St. (231) 995-0313 or gthc@charterinternet.com.

Traverse City is an intensely musical community, thanks in part to the nearby presence of the **Interlochen Center for the Arts**, which means its annual slate of holiday concerts is among the best in the country.

One of the area's longtime musical traditions is the annual **Messiah Community Sing**. For 30 years, Traverse City residents have gathered to sing Handel's magnificent Christmas oratorio at **Central United Methodist Church**, joined by an 18-member orchestra, organist and guest soloists. This year's event takes place Dec. 7. (231) 946-5191.

But all this musical celebrating comes to a head the weekend of Dec. 12-14, when three separate events all jostle for the attention of concertgoers. First, there's the **Interlochen Dance Ensemble** and Orchestra's production of **Coppélia**, one of the jewels of classical ballet. An enchanting comedy about a love triangle between a feisty village girl, her fiancé, and an alluring clockwork doll, **"Coppélia"** sparkles with sumptuous costumes, spirited music and magnificent dancing. (800) 681-5920. Then there's the **Traverse Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Spectacular!** concert, in which renowned conductor Franz Anton Krager leads the TSO in a program of holiday favorites. (231) 947-7120.

Finally, about 25 miles to the north, the isolated village of Northport at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula puts on a two-day Christmas Concert that never fails to sell out. This year's concert, held Dec. 13-14, features remarkably well-honed performances by the **Village Voices** and the **Northport Community Band**. (231) 386-5001.

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Other Holiday Events

Nov. 8-9 & 15-16 Toast the Season – Gifts, Wine & Food Celebration – The annual Toast the Season wine trail tour features a wine pour, accompanied by holiday themed gourmet food, at each of the Leelanau Peninsula member wineries. Each guest receives a souvenir glass, a holiday gift basket and an ornament. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. www.lpwines.com

Nov. 7-9, 14-16 \$croogical – Northport Theatre Company – A new musical by the well-known composer and musician, Kirby Shaw, based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*...Performing at the Northport Community Arts Center.

Nov. 23 Suttons Bay Holiday Open House – Shops and businesses in Suttons Bay will be open from noon to 5 p.m., thanking customers for their patronage through the year with refreshments and activities during this traditionally festive afternoon.

Nov. 28-29 Pajama Party Sale, Tree Lighting & Carols – Stores in the village of Glen Arbor offer specials to shoppers in pajamas on Friday evening. At 7 p.m. there's a tree-lighting and carol sing at the township hall. On Saturday, the town holds its annual Holiday Market Place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 28 Santa's Arrival in Downtown Traverse City – Families and friends gather at the town Christmas tree at 5 p.m. for a community sing-along of favorite holiday carols. Santa arrives by fire truck to join

the singing, receives the key to his house from the city mayor, helps light the tree, and spends the rest of the evening chatting with the little ones. Meanwhile city firefighters will be giving rides aboard the antique 1936 La France Fire Engine. www.downtowntc.com (231) 922-2050.

Dec. 1 Leahy: A Celtic Christmas – This Canadian powerhouse of eight musical brothers and sisters celebrate their Irish and Scots roots with a holiday concert of favorite Celtic medleys and traditional Christmas carols. Corson Auditorium, Interlochen Center for the Arts. www.tickets.interlochen.org (800) 681-5920.

Dec. 12-14 Holiday Resort – This holiday revue follows the story of a hardy group of performers who audition and eventually perform in a holiday show at a popular Traverse City resort that combines secular and sacred holiday songs with dance and humor. Grand Trunk Theater, 620 Railroad Place. www.theatrenorthtc.com.

Dec. 31 "A Motown Celebration" The Grand Traverse Resort & Spa rings in the New Year with live music from The Simone Vitale Band with plenty of vibrant vocals, big brass horns and lively sounds. Please note, the New Year's Eve "A Motown Celebration" concert is not black tie, although proper attire is requested. (231) 534-6000.

Dec. 31 Snowball – Traverse City's Great Wolf Lodge welcomes 2009 with medieval themed activities including face painting, bingo, karaoke, live music, crafts, a balloon drop and a New Year's toast. (231) 941-3600.

THE CHERRY CAPITAL WINTER WONDERFEST RETURNS FEB. 13-15

Just two years ago, Traverse City decided to organize a February winter festival—something that would blend plenty of outdoor fun with lots of indoor activities. The Cherry Capital Winter WonderFest, a three-day winter celebration of music, pageantry, food, wine and winter sports, co-sponsored by the National Cherry Festival and Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, has proven to be a big hit with visitors. The centerpiece of the 2009 festival will be a "Winter Fun Zone" with ice skating, pony rides, inflatable play structures, horse-drawn sleigh rides, sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and a selection of competitive events that range from the familiar (a 5K "frozen foot race" and a broomball tournament) to the bizarre (a cherry pit spitting contest, a frozen fish toss and a "Polar Plunge" event where daring swimmers jump into an icy pond for as long as they can stand it).

www.grandtraverseresort.com/index.php/do/Winter_WonderFest_-_Feb._13-15



TRAVERSE CITY WINERIES TAKE MORE HONORS

Wines from the Old Mission and Leelanau Peninsulas continue to enjoy success at state and national competitions. At the 31st annual Michigan Wine and Spirits Competition, "Best of Class" honors went to Chateau Fontaine Winery for its 2007 Dry White Riesling, Longview Winery for its 2007 Rustic Red, and Brys Estate Vineyard and Winery for its 2007 "Dry Ice" Ice Wine. Bowers Harbor Vineyards also received a

Judges' Merit Award for its 2007 Pinot Noir Rose.

Double gold medal winners included Bel Lago winery for its Leelanau Peninsula Brillante, Black Star Farms' 2006 Arcturos Merlot, Chateau Fontaine's 2006 Pinot Gris, Left Foot Charley's 2007 Riesling and Peninsula Cellars' 2007 Kroupa Estates Pinot Blanc and 2005 Hogs Back Vineyard Merlot.

CHERRY FESTIVAL, FILM FESTIVAL BOTH RECORD SUCCESSFUL 2008 SEASON

After five years of red ink, Traverse City's National Cherry Festival defied a sluggish Michigan economy to post a profitable season in 2008. The eight-day festival – Traverse City's signature summer event -- saw record attendance and participation, and collected some \$1.68 million in revenues, with outlays of \$1.22 million. The 2009 Cherry festival will take place July 4-11.

Meanwhile, the Traverse City Film Festival recorded 80,000 movie-goers at its 71 films, an 80-percent attendance rate. Attendees spent \$475,000 on admissions and festival merchandise, said organizers, and increase of \$25,000 over 2007. Next year's Film Festival will be held July 28-Aug. 2.

Other EVENTS:

Oct. 4 Harvest Day at Chateau Chantal – A day of viticultural fun at this scenic Old Mission Peninsula winery. Take a tour, taste wine, stomp grapes and much more! www.chateauchantal.com (231) 223-4110.

Oct. 4 Fish with the Pros – Since 1999, some of the top fishing pros in the nation have been gathering in Traverse City to spend two days fishing with amateur guests. This year, organizers are inviting visitors to take part in one of the most exciting portions of the weekend: the Weigh-In. (231) 632-3535.

Oct. 4 Art Beat – All four art galleries in the village of Elk Rapids (Blue Heron, Mullaly's 128, Twisted Fish and Viola) hold a day-long open house. Visitors can meet artists, watch demonstrations, enjoy refreshments, and participate in other activities. 800-626-7328.

Oct. 11 Shanty Creek Resorts' Fall Festival – The Fall Festival pairs magnificent autumn scenery with such family-friendly events as chairlift rides to the top of Schuss Mountain, an outdoor barbecue, live entertainment and inflatable games for children. Admission is free, though some activities at the festival do have a nominal fee.

Oct. 11 Grand Traverse Commons Harvest Festival – The historic barns and community garden at the Grand Traverse Commons hold a celebration with food and fun for all to benefit the Little Artshram children's arts program for kids & the annual Earth Day Parade. (231) 995-0313

Oct. 25 Leland Fall Frenzy – A day for cider, donuts, special merchant sales and a late fall chance to watch the fish try to jump the dam in downtown, Leland. www.lelandmi.com

Nov. 8 Iceman Cometh Challenge – A grueling 27-mile off-road bicycle race through the Pere Marquette State Forest between Traverse City and Kalkaska. Rain, sunshine, sleet, snow or ice - nothing stops this race, which attracts nearly 2,500 cyclists and 4,000 spectators from across the U.S. & Canada. www.iceman.com



Nov. 29th Great Macaroni and Cheese Bake-Off – The Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula host local restaurants who have turned Macaroni and Cheese into culinary marvels! Tickets are available Nov. 1 at any Old Mission Winery or www.chateauchantal.com (231) 933-9787.

IN PERFORMANCE

Oct. 4 Bob James – Milliken Auditorium (231) 995-1553

Oct. 5 Kevin Cole Fall Color Concert – Northport Community Center. (231) 386-5001

Oct. 5 String Quartet Classics – Milliken Auditorium (231) 995-1553

Oct. 9&10 Interlochen's "Collage" – Corson Auditorium, Interlochen (800) 681-5920

Oct. 11 Encore Winds: Old, New, Borrowed and Blue – Milliken Auditorium. (231) 995-1553

Oct. 17 The Velveteen Rabbit – Corson Auditorium, Interlochen (800) 681-5920

Oct. 18 John Caparulo – City Opera House (231) 941-8082

Oct. 19 Soweto Gospel Choir – Corson Auditorium, Interlochen (800) 681-5920

Oct. 25 Jitro – Milliken Auditorium (231) 995-1553

Oct. 25-26 Traverse Symphony: Romeo & Juliet – Corson Auditorium, Interlochen (231) 947-7120

Nov. 1 Mauvais Sort – Milliken Auditorium (231) 995-1553

Nov. 2 The Prima Trio – Milliken Auditorium (231) 995-1553

Nov. 10 Martin Sexton – City Opera House (231) 941-8082

Nov. 15 Saffire - The Uppity Blues Women – Milliken Auditorium (231) 995-1553

Nov. 15 Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra – Corson Auditorium

Nov. 21 Xiayin Wang – City Opera House (231) 941-8082

Nov. 21- Dec. 7 "Little Women: The Musical" Harvey Theatre – Interlochen (800) 681-5920

Nov. 29 Musical: Junie B. Jones – City Opera House. (231) 941-8082

Nov. 29 "The Tramp" – Silent Film Series/Music House Museum (231) 938-9300

Nov. 29 Jeff Haas Little Big Band Betty Joplin – Milliken Auditorium (231) 995-1553

Dec. 4 Eric Alexander Quartet – Interlochen's Dendrinos Chapel (800) 681-5920

Dec. 27 "The Navigator" – Silent Film Series/Music House Museum (231) 938-9300

NEW STUFF

NEW HOTEL PROPOSED IN TRAVERSE CITY'S WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

A Grand Rapids development firm is exploring plans to build a four-story, 130-room hotel facing West Grand Traverse Bay in the city's warehouse district, with construction tentatively planned to begin in the spring. The firm, Wabash Traverse City Development, LLC, said it intends to affiliate the new hotel with a major national chain.

The hotel will occupy a half-acre of a 1.8-acre parcel between Garland Street and the Grandview Parkway, with hotel parking underneath the structure.

TIMBER RIDGE RV & RECREATION RESORT DOES BANQUET HALL FACELIFT

The Timber Ridge RV Resort, a rustic four-season bike and cross-country ski resort at the edge of the Pere Marquette State Forest, has revamped and expanded its banquet facility, adding a new roof, dormer windows and additional seating, doubling the hall's capacity to 150 seats. Additional improvements include new décor with lovely new lighting

options, and a tongue-and-groove ceiling. Owner Kristin Levesque says the redesigned facility will now suit "both the needs of a wedding party and a business meeting planner" in search of a unique Up North venue.

PIRATE'S COVE EYES HIGH-ROPES COURSE, ZIP LINE ADDITIONS



Pirate's Cove Adventure Park on East Bay intends to add a "pirate-themed" high-ropes course and a zip line to the existing park.

The zip line design would allow visitors to ride between the existing water slide tower and a new tower to be built near the southwest corner of the miniature golf course. With 36 holes of miniature golf, two water coasters, bumper boats, go-carts, kiddy cars and a game room, Pirate's Cove opened in 1983 in Traverse City and has expanded to 24 other locations across the country.

CHERRY TREE CONDO HOTEL INAUGURATES WINERY TOUR PACKAGES

The Cherry Tree Condo Hotel on East Grand Traverse Bay has put together a lodging package that allows guests a hassle-free tour of some of the Traverse City area's many wineries. The package includes free shuttle passes through By the Bay Transportation, a free movie or game rental for each night, and another "something special" waiting in each guestroom. (800) 439-3093. www.cherrytreecondohotel.com





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TRAVERSE CITY SKI AREAS: ALL DRESSED UP AND READY FOR SNOW

Sooner or later it's going to happen; the weather's going to cool down and the sky is going to let loose with big fat flakes of snow. After a particularly good 2007-2008 season, Traverse City's downhill ski areas have carried out some much needed improvements and are ready to welcome a new crop of skiers this winter.

At **Shanty Creek Resorts** in Bellaire, a \$10 million renovation has transformed the former Summit Village Hotel into the Lakeview Hotel & Conference Center, an upscale "lake house" design with an entirely redesigned lobby, restaurant, lounge and bar, guestrooms, meeting and banquet facilities (including a 9,600 square-foot Grand Ballroom) and other public areas.

Summit Mountain's 12 slopes, which were closed last season for the renovation, will open this winter with several terrain and equipment upgrades. Its most popular slope, Greenway, was widened and expanded, and the hill has installed all-new snowmaking equipment. At nearby Schuss Mountain, the halfpipe was moved and enlarged, increasing its overall length and width of the pipe, and the popular tubing park was moved to the backside of Schuss Mountain and enlarged with more and longer lanes.

Traverse City's **Mt. Holiday Ski Area**, meanwhile, has made several improvements to its lodge, including a renovated kitchen, concessions, and nutritional and health services area. There is also a new information and guest services check-in area, a new lesson center and snow sports school, and an enlarged equipment rental area.



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