

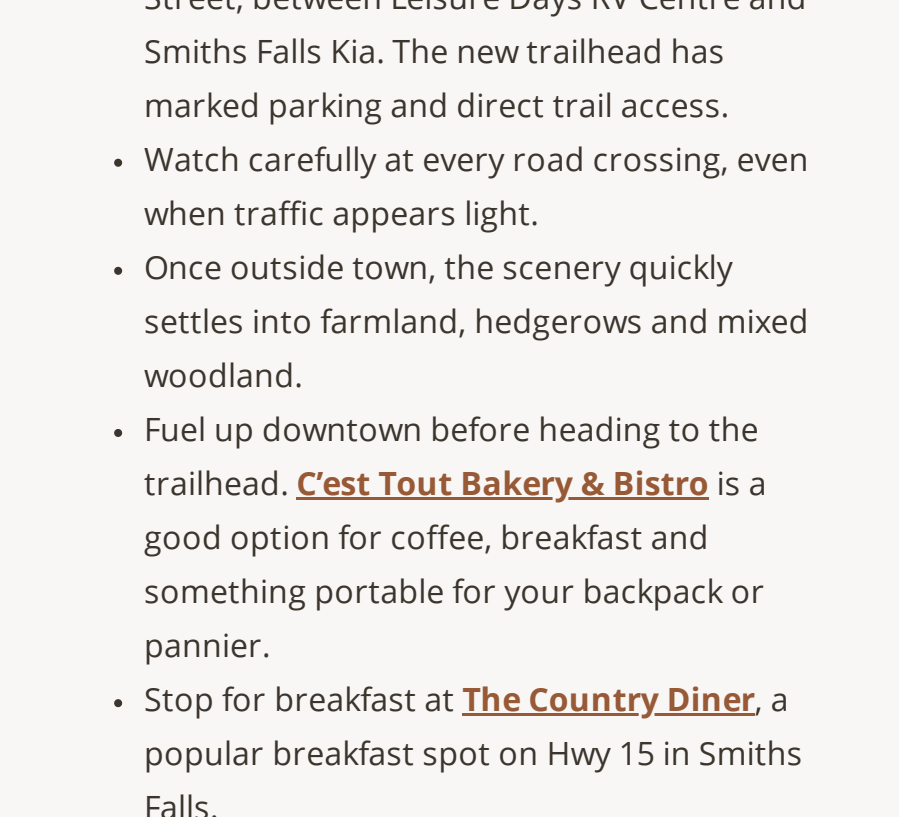
## CYCLING SMITHS FALLS TO CHAFFEY'S LOCKS

1 Day | Total Distance: 47 km

### Day One

#### Start Here: Smiths Falls

Smiths Falls has always been a place of connections. Rail lines once radiated from the community, while the Rideau Canal continues to flow directly through its centre. It is a fitting place to begin a rail-trail journey, and especially one that eventually reunites with the canal at Chaffey's Lock.



#### What you need to know

- The [Cataraqui Trailhead](#) is at 145 Lombard Street, between Leisure Days RV Centre and Smiths Falls Kia. The new trailhead has marked parking and direct trail access.
- Watch carefully at every road crossing, even when traffic appears light.
- Once outside town, the scenery quickly settles into farmland, hedgerows and mixed woodland.
- Fuel up downtown before heading to the trailhead. [C'est Tout Bakery & Bistro](#) is a good option for coffee, breakfast and something portable for your backpack or pannier.
- Stop for breakfast at [The Country Diner](#), a popular breakfast spot on Hwy 15 in Smiths Falls.
- Stop by the [Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario](#) to learn more about Smiths Falls' railway history before hitting the trail.
- Take a photo at the permanently raised [Bascule Bridge, a National Historic Site](#) and another reminder of Smiths Falls' importance for the railroad.

#### About the area

#### Smiths Falls

Lanark County

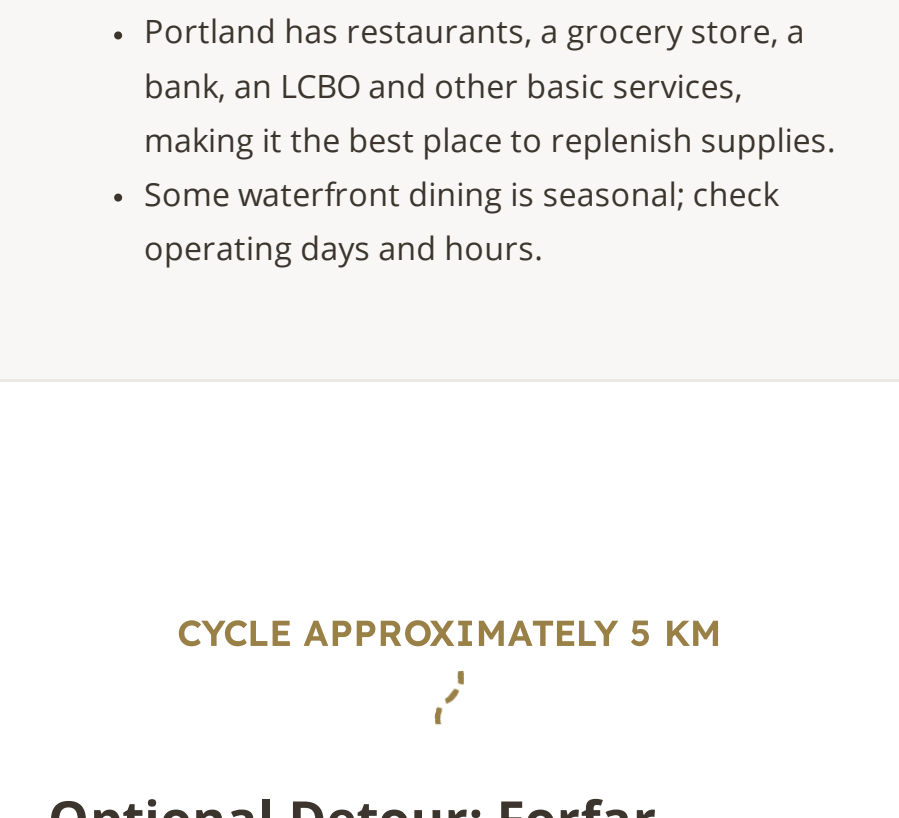
🕒 From Toronto: 340km • 4 hr 17 min  
From Ottawa: 80km • 1 hr 10 min

- ☆ Since Smiths Falls was once a hopping railway hub, it's only natural that it's home to the [Eastern Ontario Railway Museum](#). And what's more unique, you can stay overnight in one of the Museum's [caboose cars](#). Knock that one off your bucketlist!

**CYCLE APPROXIMATELY 25 KM • GRAVEL RAIL TRAIL • MOSTLY LEVEL**



#### Next Stop: Portland



Portland does not sit directly on the trail, but the short road detour is worth it. The village rests on the shore of Big Rideau Lake and has been welcoming boaters, cottage-goers and travellers for generations.

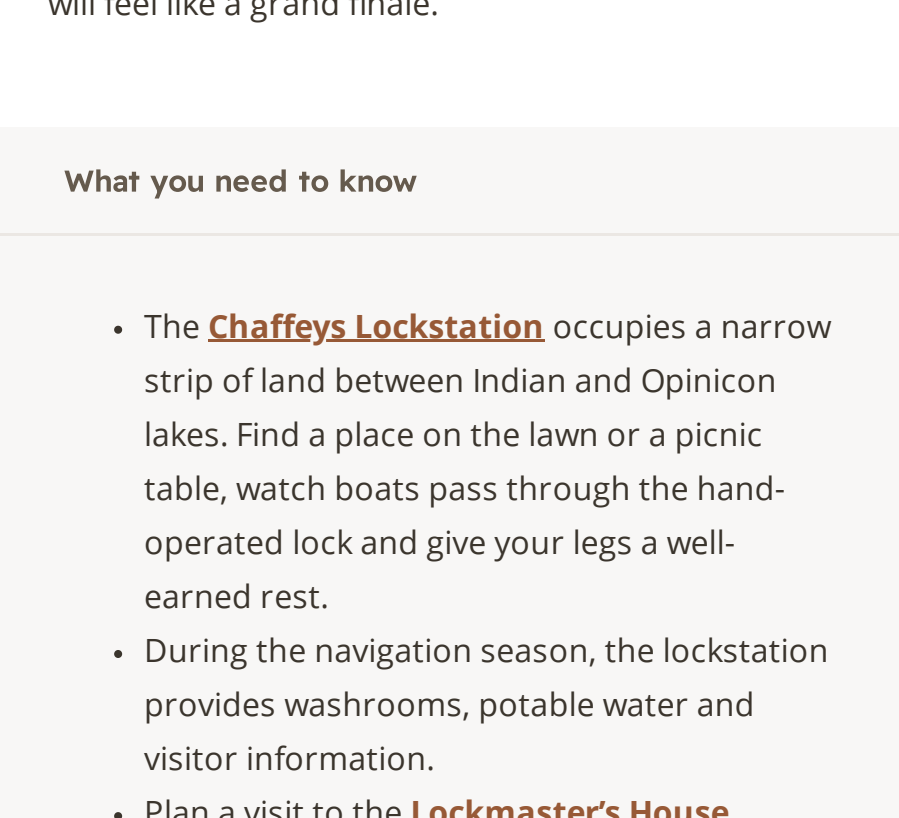
#### What you need to know

- By now, grabbing a bite to eat will be more than welcome. Closet to the trail, is the [Portside Pub & Eatery](#), at the corner of Station Road at 2786 ON-15. In season, [The Galley](#) serves meals in its restaurant with big views of Big Rideau Lake.
- The [Portland Family Restaurant](#) is another practical option. Specializing in pizza, pick up some take out to munch for the second leg of your journey as the final section has few services.
- After lunch, give your legs a short break at the picnic tables at beautiful [Hanna Park](#) or dip your toes into the lake at [Portland Beach](#). On a hot day, the lake will be the perfect spot to cool off and refresh.
- The [Portland Community Hall](#) and library offer public washrooms and free Wi-Fi during opening hours.
- Portland has restaurants, a grocery store, a bank, an LCBO and other basic services, making it the best place to replenish supplies.
- Some waterfront dining is seasonal; check operating days and hours.

**CYCLE APPROXIMATELY 5 KM**



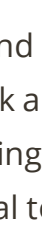
#### Optional Detour: Forfar



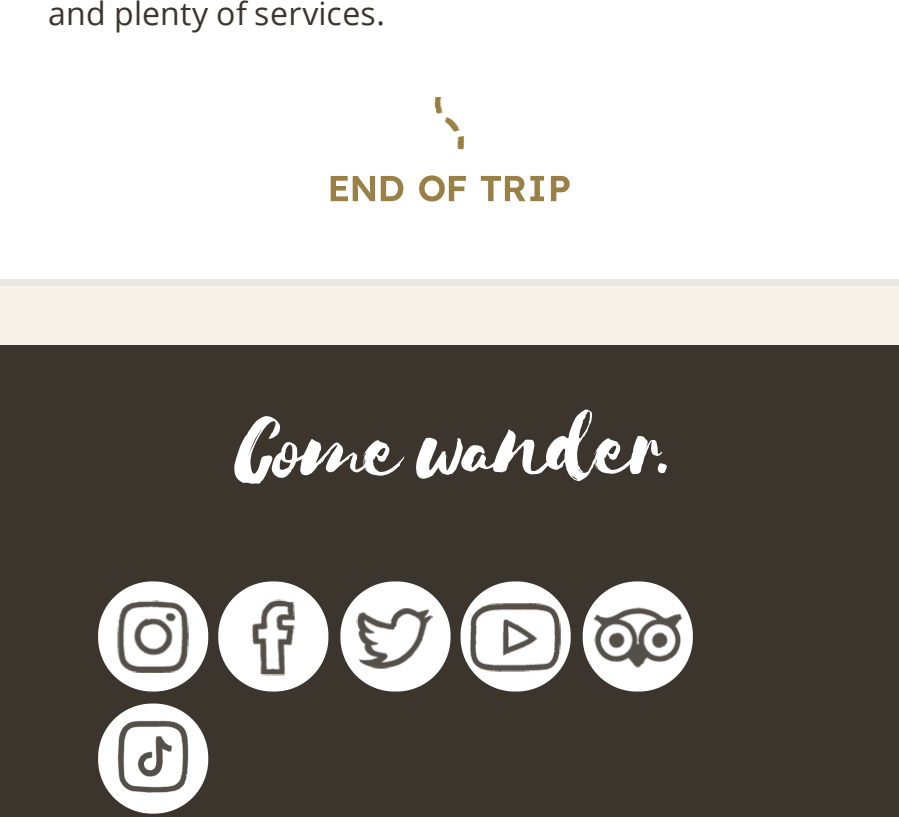
Forfar is a small rural crossroads, but it has one particularly compelling reason to leave the trail: cheese curds.

At the County Road 42 crossing, turn west and ride approximately one kilometre into the hamlet of Forfar. [The Forfar Restaurant and Cheese Shop](#) combines the Forfar cheese tradition with ice cream and casual food. Fresh curds make excellent ride nibbles, (assuming they survive the trip on your bike). The detour will add approximately two kilometres to your day. Exercise caution on County Road 42 and confirm opening hours before making the trip.

**CYCLE APPROXIMATELY 13 KM • ROUGH GRAVEL AND GRASSY SECTIONS • MOSTLY LEVEL**



#### End Here: [Chaffey's Lock](#)



As you approach [Chaffey's Lock](#), farmland gives way to thicker forest, wetlands and the first peeks of the Canadian Shield terrain found farther along the Cataraqui Trail.

Leave the trail near Indian Lake Road and follow the mapped connection toward Chaffey's Lock, approximately one kilometre away. After hours of gravel and green space, arriving at the Rideau Canal will feel like a grand finale.

#### What you need to know

- The [Chaffey's Lockstation](#) occupies a narrow strip of land between Indian and Opinicon lakes. Find a place on the lawn or a picnic table, watch boats pass through the hand-operated lock and give your legs a well-earned rest.
- During the navigation season, the lockstation provides washrooms, potable water and visitor information.
- Plan a visit to the [Lockmaster's House Museum](#) to learn how the canal transformed an early mill settlement into a transportation hub and, later, a summer resort community. The museum operates seasonally and admission is by donation.
- Finish the day across the road at [The Opinicon](#). Its restaurant, pub and old-fashioned ice cream shop make an appropriately nostalgic ending to a journey along a former railway. Reservations in advance are recommended.
- A self-guided heritage walk loops approximately one kilometre through the village.



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