

Summer Tour 2003

Summer Fun from French Creek to Canadohta



Discovery is an exciting part of life. New places, new things and new ideas give us a chance to break out of the daily routine and renew our perspective. A summer drive in Crawford County offers a wealth of discovery. A new landscape, an out of the way diner, a chance to step back in history or a stunning work of art are just a few the things you'll come across on this trip.

We'll get started in the town of Saegertown on the banks of French Creek. (Accessed from I-79 at the Conneautville/Saegertown exit, then head east on Route 198 for about 3.5 miles). Saegertown was founded in 1796 and because of the ample water from French Creek quickly became established as a mill town.

Route 6 and 19 run together here to form the main drag through town. We will be headed north, which is officially 6East/19North, but before heading out of town take a few minutes to look around. If you like browsing for antiques try stopping in at Memory Lane Antiques and Jewelry. This shop has a nice display of new and estate jewelry, clocks, antiques and other collectibles. It is easy to find, tucked in behind the Saegertown Plaza, just a block off of 6E/19N. If you've been driving for awhile you could grab a bite to eat at the Break Time diner or stop in at an ice cream stand on the edge of town before moving on.



As we head north the road is flanked by rural homes built along French Creek. The creek is off to the left and the road roughly follows the contour of its banks. As we pass into Mayfield Township, the road passes over the creek but continues to follow it's course with the creek now off to the right.



If you are a golfer you might want to call ahead, (814) 398-4330, and reserve a tee time at the Venango Valley Golf Course and Inn. Located approximately four miles north of Saegertown, this beautiful eighteen hole course offers a nice challenge. Even if you are

not a golfer, the Inn features fine dining in a relaxing atmosphere.



Continuing north a few miles we will arrive in the village of Venango. At the stop sign we will part ways from 6E/19N for awhile. We will follow our northern path by heading straight, this

will be Plank Road although it is not clearly marked. We are now heading towards Campbell Pottery which will be our next stop. After going through this intersection you will pass by the Country Meadows Golf Course which is another fine option for golfers.



As we head on, the horizon begins to open up into wide farm fields. In early summer, fields of corn and green meadows dotted with wild flowers punctuate the landscape. The bright sun and blue sky melt away the stress of busy schedules and demanding lifestyles.

Campbell Pottery, located about five miles north of Venango in Cambridge Springs, is the largest art pottery in Pennsylvania. It features the designs of Bill Campbell, an internationally acclaimed porcelain artist. Housed in a renovated barn, the gallery itself is a work of art. It features 3 stories of, not only Campbell's creations, but also



housewares, tasteful garden accessories, quilts, jewelry and other gift items. The gallery frequently hosts art exhibits, glass blowing demonstrations and other activities.



Surrounded by lily gardens and beautiful landscaping, Campbell Pottery is a must see. You might want to visit them online at www.campbellpotterystore.com to check for

upcoming events of special interest.

Leaving Campbell Pottery, we will take a left back onto Plank Road and proceed just a few tenths of a mile to a stop sign. At the stop sign we will turn right onto Route 99 and head towards Cambridge Springs. On 99 we will pass through the village of Drakes Mills which is home to Grandpa's Gift Barn and the Finney Pumpkin Farm. You might want to plan on stopping by here in October for Finney's yearly pumpkin festival which runs on weekends throughout October.



The next town we will come to is Cambridge Springs which rose to prominence in the late 1800's due to the therapeutic mineral springs discovered there. While here, we will visit the historic Riverside Inn, first operated as a health spa for the wealthy at the turn of the last century. It is now a renowned hotel, restaurant and dinner theater. Due to the excellent food prepared here, it was voted

as one of the top 20 restaurants in Pennsylvania.

Entering Cambridge Springs on Route 99 we will come to a stop sign. At the stop sign take a left, this will be a continuation of Route 99 South. Proceed a few tenths of a





mile to a stop light at the intersection of Route 99 and Route 6/19 (Ike's Custard is on the left). Cross straight through this intersection and directly ahead you will see the Riverside Inn. Take some time to stroll around the immaculate garden areas. Entering the Inn is like stepping back in history. Feel free to walk through the Inn and soak up the atmosphere. If you're ready to eat, there is no better place to satisfy your appetite. If you would like an extended stay or would like to catch a

dinner theater performance, visit them online at www.theriversideinn.com and check out schedules and prices.

To return to our tour go back to the intersection of routes 99 and 6/19. At this intersection turn left. You will quickly cross a steel bridge spanning French Creek. Once you cross the bridge 6/19 will bear to the right and another road will bear left. Follow the left fork (route 86) which will take you into the Cambridge Springs business district. At the first light, about a tenth of a mile from the fork, take a left onto 408 east. This will take us east toward Canadohta Lake.



Canadohta Lake, the second largest natural lake in Pennsylvania, is a spring fed glacial lake. It attracts visitors from all across the United States and is a preferred spot for summer homes and cottages for Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Buffalo residents who want a place to retreat from busy urban lifestyles. The Canadohta region features numerous attractions for

tourists such as swimming, boating, fishing, golfing, Putt Putt golf, water slides, game rooms, souvenir shops and dining. Sportsmen will enjoy fishing for bluegill, perch, bullhead, north pike and muskellunge to name a few of the fish in the lake's

well stocked waters. When summer fades, hunters will find public games lands that offer excellent hunting. To learn more about the area's many attractions and opportunities visit www.canadohtalake.org

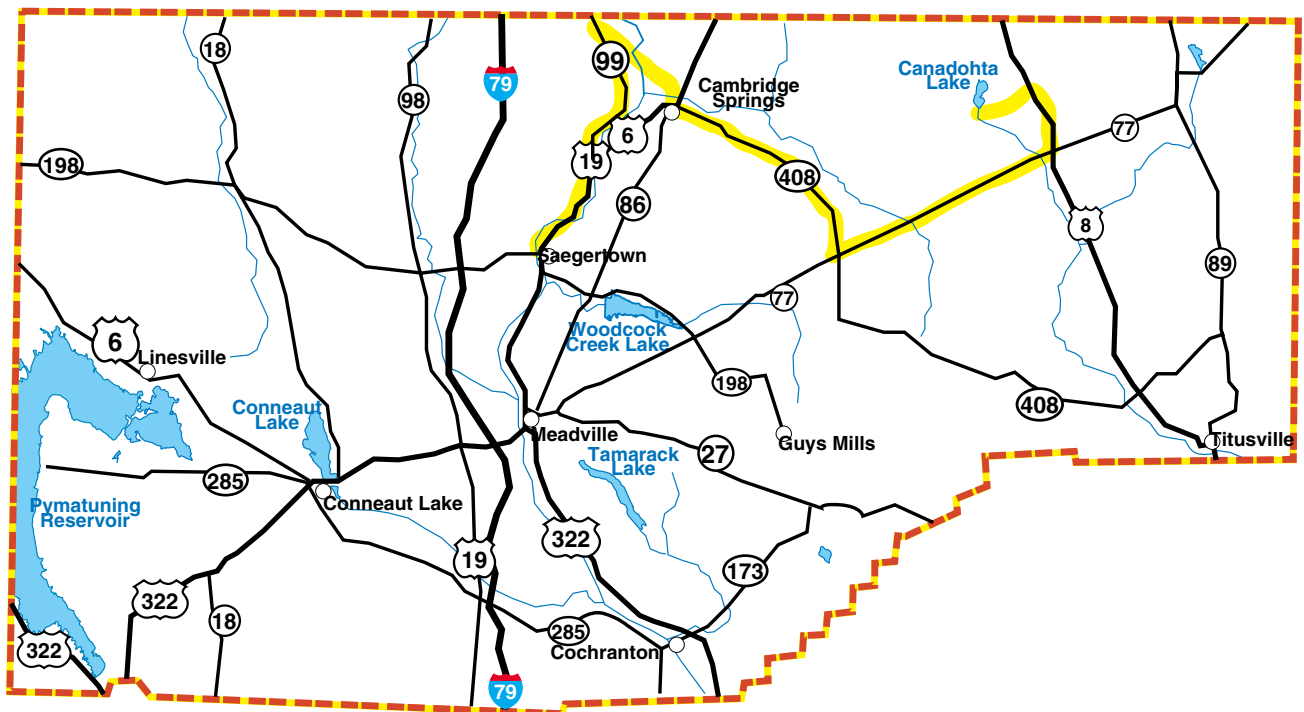


408 east will take us through a game management propagation area and a portion of the Erie National Wildlife Center. We will follow it until we reach the intersection of 408 and Route 77. There will be a stop sign at this intersection (Dave's Ice Cream and miniature golf is located at this intersection.) and we will turn left on Route 77 east.



Route 77 is a scenic road and it will take us through the village of Little Cooley. Once you reach Little Cooley, begin looking for a sign for Canadohta Lake. About a half mile or so out of town you see a sign directing you to turn left towards Canadohta. Follow this road (State Route 1037) for a couple of miles until you come to a stop sign. At the stop sign take a right and then

an almost immediate left at the sign reading "Canadohta Lake 1 mile". This is State Route 1024. After a mile or so you will see ice cream stands, putt putt courses, and souvenir shops. Look for a sign on your left that says "Welcome to Canadohta Lake Family Fun Resort Area". Take a left-hand turn here. Follow this road to the Frog Pond Restaurant where you'll find lake front dining, boat rentals and a beach with a 263 foot water slide and inner tube rentals. This is where our trip ends. You can take the time to discover the rest of Canadohta Lake on your own.



Routes Taken: 6East/19 North, Plank Road, Route 99, Route 86, Route 408, Route 77, Route 1037, Route 1024

Communities Visited: Saegertown, Venango, Drakes Mills, Cambridge Springs, Little Cooley

Attractions: Campbell Pottery, Riverside Inn, Canadohta Lake

Golfing: Venango Valley Inn & Golf Course, Country Meadows Golf Course

From Main Access Highway: I-79 to Conneautville/Saegertown Exit, Route 198 East

