

SUN READER PHOTOS ONLINE



MEET THE LOCALS
On a Canadian vacation

This week's reader photos theme is your favourite Canadian destination. Whether you travelled far across this great country of ours or enjoyed a "staycation," close to home, we want to see photos of your Canadian vacation. To share your photographs with Sun readers, upload them to our site:



FEATURE ONLINE

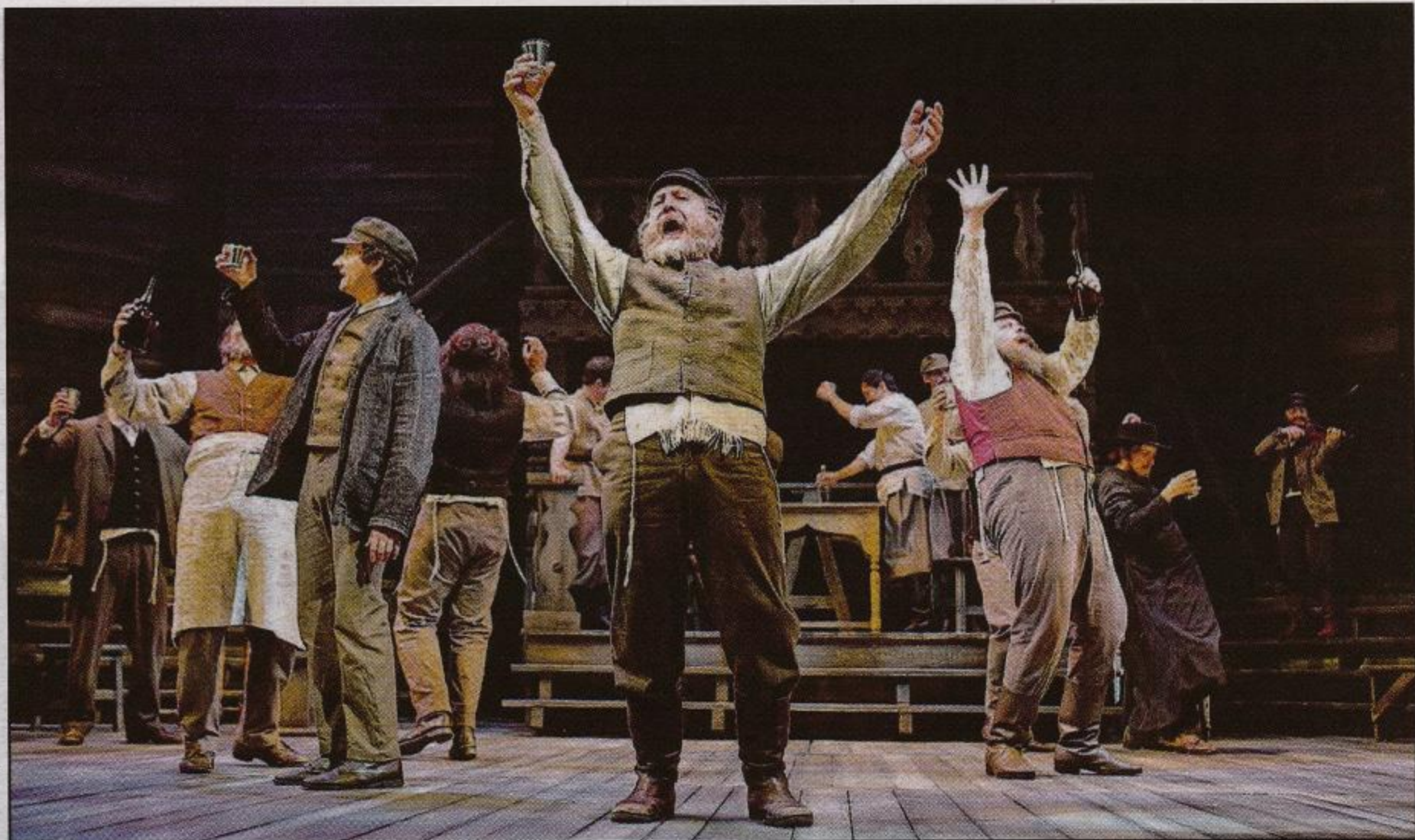
We count down the Top 10 travel deals for a memorable summer vacation — whether travelling as a twosome or with the entire family, whether you want to spend your summer vacation in the great outdoors of British Columbia or the also amazing indoors of a four star hotel. See canoe.ca/summerdeals.

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CYLLA VON TIEDEMANN/STRATFORD FESTIVAL PHOTO

Scott Wentworth as Tevye, centre, with members of the company in *Fiddler on the Roof*, which continues at the Stratford Festival through Oct. 20.

Summer of applause

JIM FOX
Special to QMI Agency

The curtain is rising on a summer of scenic theatre trips around Southern Ontario.

Combined with some of the best theatre experiences is a one-stop-shopping reservations portal that allows visitors to book getaway packages online. These include theatre tickets, accommodations, heritage tours and fine dining as well as hiking

and relaxing beach escapes.

CENTRE STAGE

From world-class Shakespeare productions and musical favourites to Monty Python's hilarious take on the search for the Holy Grail, theatre buffs should be able to find something on the playbill to keep them entertained.

That's just within Regional Tourism Organization Four — a new tourism area made up of Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Wellington. It was incorporated by a volunteer board and supported by the Ontario tourism, culture and sports ministry.

"We're incredibly fortunate to have 12 professional theatre venues in our region," Napier Simpson, the group's head of marketing and operations, said. "They offer guests great variety and terrific entertainment value, whether they want to see a smaller, more-intimate production or something on a much grander scale."

With plays by William Shakespeare at its founda-

tions, the Stratford Festival has set the standard for classical theatre across North America for more than 50 years from its home base in the picturesque small city on the Avon River.

Among the 12 plays being performed this summer in Stratford are Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, through Sept. 21; The Who's Broadway hit, *Tommy*, until Oct. 19; Noel Coward's enduring comedy, *Blithe Spirit* and musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, both to Oct. 20. See stratfordfestival.ca.

Grand Bend, on the shores of Lake Huron, has the perfect spots for summer theatre at the Huron County Playhouse

and Playhouse II. These are part of seven intimate theatres run by Drayton Entertainment and offering more than two-dozen productions.

Other venues are the Drayton Festival Theatre, St. Jacobs Country Playhouse and Schoolhouse Theatre, Cambridge's Dunfield Theatre, and King's Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene.

"The Drayton Experience is all about discovering hidden gems in unique communities throughout Ontario," said Alex Mustakas, artistic director and CEO.

These "intimate" theatres offer Broadway-calibre productions at small-town prices where audiences "can't

help but become emotionally invested," he added.

Among the plays in this season's line-up at Drayton are the gourmet farce *Too Many Cooks*, July 10-27 and *Oliver!* from Aug. 14-31.

Monty Python's *Spamalot* runs through July 13 at the Huron Country Playhouse and from July 17-Aug. 3 at the St. Jacobs Country Playhouse.

The new 500-seat Dunfield Theatre beside the Grand River in Cambridge, presents *Sorry, I'm Canadian*, July 10-Aug. 3, the *Buddy Holly Story*, Aug. 7-31 and *Lend Me a Tenor*, Sept. 25-Oct. 12. For show details and tickets, contact draytonentertainment.com or 1-855-372-9866.

Other small-town theatre experiences include Blyth Festival in Huron County — a year-round venue for original Canadian plays. The theatre has six plays this year, including *Beyond The Farm Show*, through Aug. 16 and *Yorkville — The Musical*, July 3-Aug. 11. See blythfestival.com.

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NEED TO KNOW

■ To book a getaway to take in any of these theatre productions and explore the surrounding countryside, see betterweekending.ca.

■ Another resource is the link to the 21 members of the Association of Summer Theatres 'Round Ontario, summertheatre.ca.