



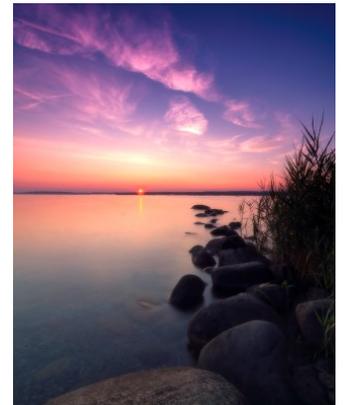
## Sound Outlook – Part 4: The Sunrises and Sunsets in the Scenic City

Words and Photos by Zak Erb

The Scenic City tends to look great at all hours of the day, but it truly shines at sunrise and sunset. And is it any wonder why? Hugging both shores of an inlet of Georgian Bay, Owen Sound boasts waterfront views facing both east and west. Experienced sun chasers know this translates to beautiful, dramatic scenes at both dawn and dusk. In addition, thanks to the Niagara Escarpment cutting right through town, there's no shortage of elevated lookouts to take in the golden hour light. Pair these features with nearby waterfalls, nearly 50 outdoor parks and our iconic waterfront features, and you've

got a massive number of options for your sun viewing pleasure.

With so many locations to choose from it can be hard to know just where to begin. You might find yourself thinking “If only there were a concise list of the best locations for sungazing in Owen Sound...” Well unfortunately that list doesn't exist, because ranking a sunny vista, much like appreciating art, jazz, or coffee, is totally subjective. Besides, the best way to find YOUR favourite sunny location in “the Sound” is to get out and explore. That being said, what follows is a list of locations from which to begin your search. Whether you're after a quiet introspective morning, the perfect golden hour selfie, or something a bit more dramatic, sunny Owen Sound has got you covered.



### Beautiful Morning Light - Kelso Beach Park



Ask a local photographer where they love to catch sunrise in town and Kelso Park is bound to be a top pick. Right on the water on the West side of town, Kelso offers a splendid view of the sun peeking over the escarpment across the water to the east. The beach is closed but the trail is open. As the sun clears the escarpment, radiant golden light washes over the park and the entire western shore. Watch the light creep up our iconic grain elevators (you can't miss 'em), catch some rays beside the “Summerfolk Tree” (a lone willow standing in the water behind

the bandshell), or listen as the birds (mallards, geese, even a swan or two) begin their day.

### Massive Waterfront View - the Breakwaters at Georgian Shores Marina



Just to the north of Kelso, and best accessed by foot from the park, lie the twin breakwaters of Georgian Shores Marina. Their primary purpose of course is to protect the vessels moored in the marina from wave action, but they enjoy a thriving second life as beautiful walkways enjoyed by fishermen, marina patrons, wildlife, and sun chasers alike. The view across the water is simply breathtaking at dawn as reflected sunlight colours the water of the bay. Take in the sights from the south arm as boaters motor out of the marina, or head to the north arm for an absolutely massive view out to the open waters

of Georgian Bay. Please note that swimming around the breakwaters is dangerous and prohibited.

## **Elevated Lookout - Timber McArthur Park**

West is not necessarily best when it comes to sun gazing in the Sound. To take in a truly memorable sunset you'll want to set up on the east side of town. Timber McArthur Park is one of our best kept secrets (shhhh!), and sits atop a long stretch of Niagara Escarpment beginning at 16th Street and 5th Ave. East. This gives the park an impressive vantage across the inlet to the opposite side of town and beyond. Make your way through the park and you'll come across one or two lookouts which offer the clearest viewing locations for sundown.

## **Incredible Drama - Inglis Falls**

The waterfalls near Owen Sound are some of our most awe inspiring features. This is never more true than when the sun is low in the sky offering softer light than at midday. Water thunders as it cascades down the broad 18 meter drop. The fiery sun, be it at dawn or dusk, casts a warm glow across the surrounding forest. Mighty boulders, toppled by the force of the rushing water, lie along the riverbed below. Without doubt this is one of the most impressive scenes in the area, and it only gets better during the golden hour after sunrise and before sunset.



So there you have it! A few suggestions to get you started with your sungazing adventures in Owen Sound. Get outside, explore the Sound, and soak in that summertime sunshine!

*Words and photos by Zak Erb*