

THE OPINICON RESORT



Fiona McKean of The Opinicon Resort



For over a century The Opinicon has been a beloved and essential destination in the Rideau Lakes region. Multiple generations of vacationers have made this popular resort their home away from home. First built as a private residence in the late 1870s, its prime location on Opinicon Lake at Chaffey's Lock made it a draw for fishermen and tourists alike.

In 2015, Fiona McKean and Tobias Lütke purchased The Opinicon. Their goal has been to reinvigorate and modernize the 'Grand Old Dame of the Rideau', while maintaining its distinctive character. After a period of extensive renovation, The Opinicon is once again welcoming visitors.

Fiona wants to continue being a strong link in the community – and is always brainstorming with her staff to develop new ideas. The main goal is to make The Opinicon an ongoing destination for activities, music, entertainment and special events.

A strong proponent of promoting the entire waterways region, Fiona was asked what her top three things are that make Rideau Lakes ideal for many businesses. Her reply:

1. **Its natural assets:** "You just don't get a world heritage site outside your doorstep that often! The region is the epitome of Canadiana."
2. **Supportive local government:** "They are open minded, forward looking, and keen to engage and support."
3. **Its proximity:** "Rideau Lakes is far enough away to say *"Get away from it all!"*, and close enough to say *"You could be there for your next meal!"*"

The Opinicon is closed for the winter months, with reopening scheduled for May. "We've got plans to make the Ice Cream Shop more physical-distancing compatible, more landscaping plans to reduce the intermixing of crowds," concluded Fiona. "And there's always the ongoing maintenance required for ancient buildings made of wood in the Canadian climate."

"The region is the epitome of Canadiana."

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