

Custom Content Feature



## Visit [CanadaSelect.com](http://CanadaSelect.com) to plan your autumn adventure

By Chris Muise

The halcyon days of summer have all but come to an end, and for many, that means prime camping season has passed us all by for another calendar year. But that's not really true — sure, the leaves are beginning to lose their rich, chlorophyll jade colouring, and the temperatures are beginning to cool, but there are still plenty of camping opportunities to indulge in during the autumn months.

If you're travelling in Canada, but are lost as to where to stay, and what accommodations have all the amenities you're looking for in a getaway location (especially fall-friendly ones), the one-stop shop to find all that out and more is [CanadaSelect.com](http://CanadaSelect.com).

For those not in the know, Canada Select (and its sister site [CampingSelect.ca](http://CampingSelect.ca)) is a nation-wide online resource for travellers to peruse the different accommodations available in the different regions they plan to travel to, each of which will have a rating out of five stars.

"The concept of a rating program started here in Atlantic Canada with the Atlantic Canada Tourism Grading Authority in the late 1980s. That evolved into the Canada Select brand," says Ronald van der Weegen, the managing director of Quality Visitor Services, the organization that oversees the Canada Select service. "The system gives customers the confidence to book a vacation or make business travel plans even if they've never been here before and are unfamiliar with the properties."

"Having a standard that everybody is working toward helps, more than anything, it helps the travelling public," says Deborah Bourden, co-

owner of the Anchor Inn Hotel & Suites in Newfoundland, which has a 4.5 star rating for its cottages, as well as a 3.5 star rating for its hotels and suites. "That's what we're here to serve, is the travelling public."

Of course, to achieve a certain star rating on Canada Select, an accommodation must live up to certain standards set by Canada Select inspectors. On the surface, that might seem like something of a chore, but many accommodators not only don't mind the standards — they're happy for it, seeing it more as guidance.

"Canada Select is the organization that's staying on top of trends and what the travellers expect," says Bourden. "By meeting their criteria, we know that we're always on the leading edge of what clients are looking for."

"I was very lucky and fortunate that I used Canada Select as a guide to what people are looking for, and what people want out of accommodations," says Lyne Larade, manager of Maison Fiset House in Cheticamp, Nova Scotia. "[They] really helped me and guided me, as to what people who are staying at accommodations look for."

This doesn't mean a rating that falls short of five stars is doomed to fail — far from it. The rating system is designed to help people find the sort of accommodations that will suit their needs — not every client is going to want the same levels of amenities or recreation, for example, as the next.

"Our operators provide their customers with the amenities that reflect their property's specific market appeal," says van der Weegen.

Take the Grand Codroy RV/Tent Camping RV Park in Newfoundland, for example. They have a three-star rating for facilities, but only one-and-a-half for recreation. But given the clientele they cater to, that's not a problem.

"Our campground is certainly geared more towards the senior clientele - they don't bother with the teeter-totters," says Alice Keeping, co-owner of Grand Codroy



RV Park. "A lot of people do not want to go to a place where they're focusing more on the recreation side ... it paints a good picture."

And the criteria that they rate accommodations is always changing with the times to reflect new trends, even going so far as adding a whole new category to

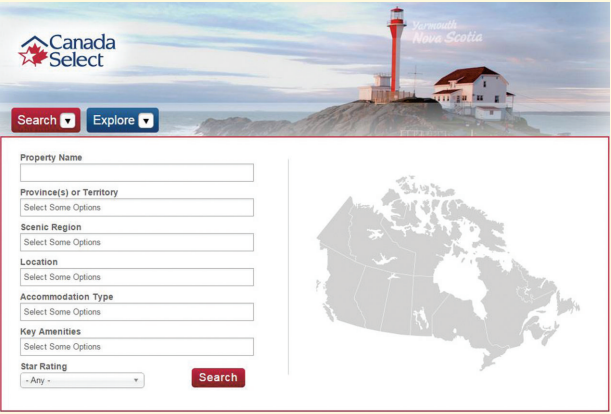
their accommodation categories this year.

"We haven't been part of Canada Select, just for the issue that there wasn't a category for hostels," says Shane Pizzariello, executive director for Hosting International Atlantic Region. "That just recently changed last year."

So far, only three Maritime hostels are listed with Canada Select, but the plan is to add more as a nationwide hostel standard is agreed upon.

"I believe it'd be a definite positive for the hostels," says Pizzariello. "We're very excited about the category getting developed with Canada Select. I'm hoping that will have a real strong effect on the province for Nova Scotia tourism."

To start exploring your accommodation options wherever it is you're planning to stay in Canada, and to find the lodgings there that best fit your needs, visit [www.canadaselect.com](http://www.canadaselect.com) or [www.campingselect.ca](http://www.campingselect.ca).



**CanadaSelect.com's** sleek design helps you find the location that's right for you. In addition to being able to filter by region and accommodation type, such as hotel or bed and breakfast, you can filter by the amenities you need such as air conditioning, beach front or pet friendly!

