

ICCA In-Person Meeting 2026: Location & Timing Options (For Discussion)

Proposed Location: Niagara Falls, Ontario

- Easy U.S. access via **Buffalo (primary airport)**; Toronto or Hamilton airports are **1–2 hours** away by car.
 - Significant **tourism options** for guests or extended stays.
 - Proximity to **wine region**; potential for **ice wine vineyard tour**.
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Option A: August 24–28, 2026

Pros

- Week **before** the Farm Progress Show (Iowa).
- Opportunity for **peach harvest + automated packing line tour** (harvest typically ends Sept 1).
- Falls after most **U.S. school start dates**, which may help families.

Considerations

- **Canadian school year** starts later (Sept 7), which may increase **hotel/conference costs**.
 - Favorable **USD–CAD exchange rate** may help offset costs.
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Option B: September 14–18, 2026

Pros

- Weather generally still excellent; **minimal harvest activity** underway (some corn silage/dry beans).
- Alternative location option: **Windsor, Ontario** (across from Detroit).
 - Strong **vegetable production** region (tomatoes, carrots, onions, sweet corn, peppers) for potential tours.
 - Access to another **wine-producing area**; vineyard tour possible (less scenic than Niagara).

Considerations

- Falls after a large **Ontario farm show** the previous week—minimal added draw for agronomists.
 - **Peach harvest tour not feasible** in this window.
 - Windsor has **fewer tourist attractions** compared to Niagara Falls.
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Next Steps

- Chair proposes presenting these two options (timing + location) during the **December meeting** (5–10 minutes).
- Follow-up **board survey** after the call to determine preferences.