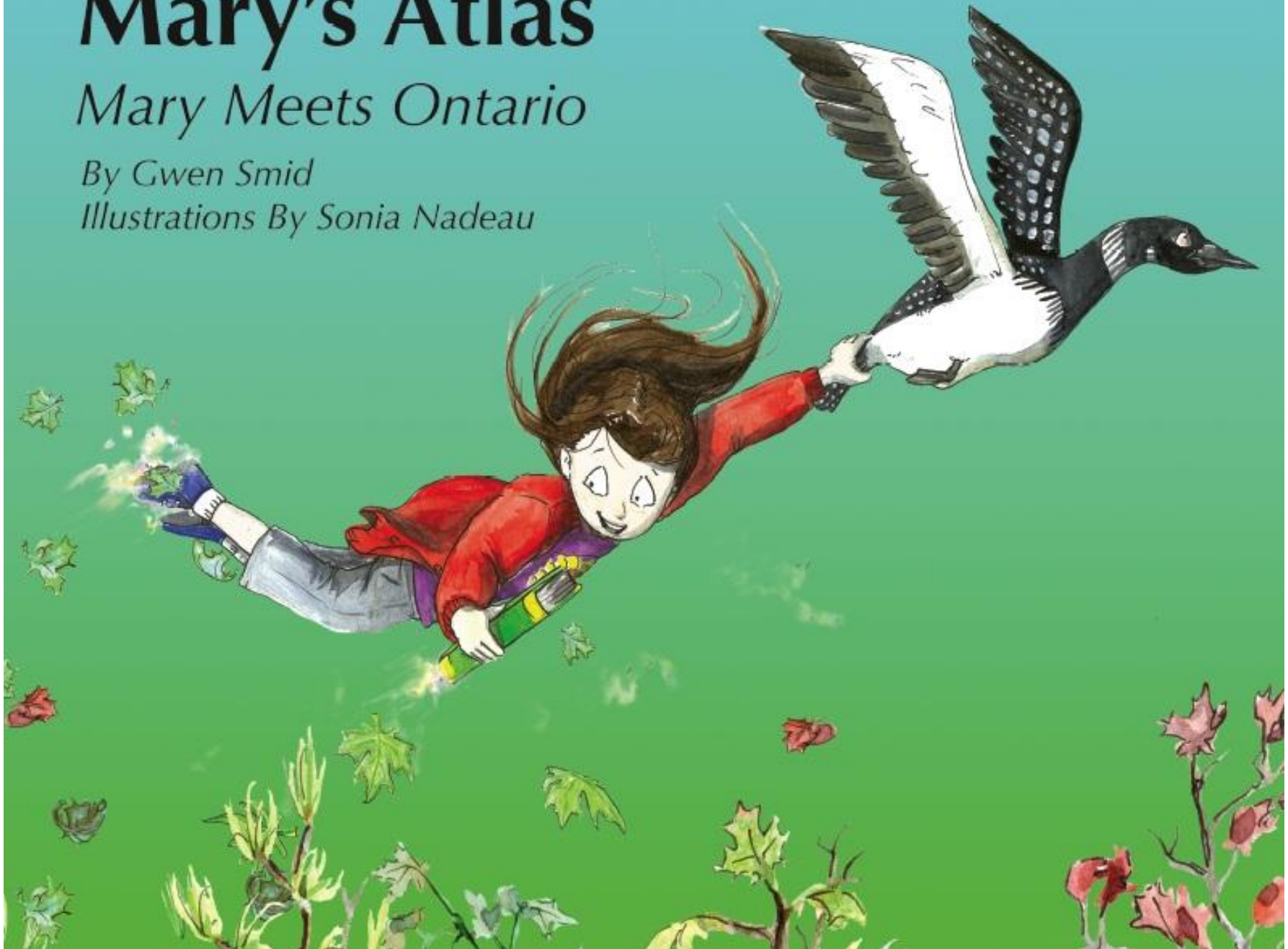


Mary's Atlas

Mary Meets Ontario

By Gwen Smid

Illustrations By Sonia Nadeau



MAP of ONTARIO

Zip and zoom with Mary and Gavi as they explore the province.

LEGEND

- ⊙ National capital
- Provincial capital
- Other populated places
- +— Trans-Canada Highway
- Canadian Shield
- Time zone
- - - International boundary
- - - Provincial boundary



NATIONAL and PROVINCIAL PARKS

- 1 Point Pelee National Park
- 2 Bruce Peninsula National Park
- 3 Pukaskwa National Park
- 4 Georgian Bay Islands National Park
- 5 St. Lawrence Islands National Park
- 6 Algonquin Provincial Park
- 7 Bon Echo Provincial Park
- 8 Sandbanks Provincial Park
- 9 Petroglyphs Provincial Park

Source: Adapted from the Atlas of Canada, Natural Resources Canada.
To learn more about Canada's geography, go to www.atlas.gc.ca.

For my mother-in-law, Louise Smid, who would have loved reading this story to her grandchildren.
- Gwen Smid

To the first important man in my life, my father, who has always loved loons.
And to June, who helped make this book possible.

- Sonia Nadeau

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Mary is in trouble.

Her brother just discovered the icky tangle of fake spiders she put in his cereal.

Mary is in her living room frantically searching for her atlas. An ordinary atlas is a collection of maps.

This isn't an ordinary atlas.





When Mary taps the cover three times, she can enter any map. She finds her atlas just in time and – *tap tap tap* – whips it open. The province of Ontario is staring up at her.

The atlas fizzles and sizzles. It splutters and splatters. It bubbles and pops. Mary shrinks smaller and smaller, tinier and tinier, itsy bitsier and itsy bitsier. In a flurry of sparks and mist, Mary vanishes.



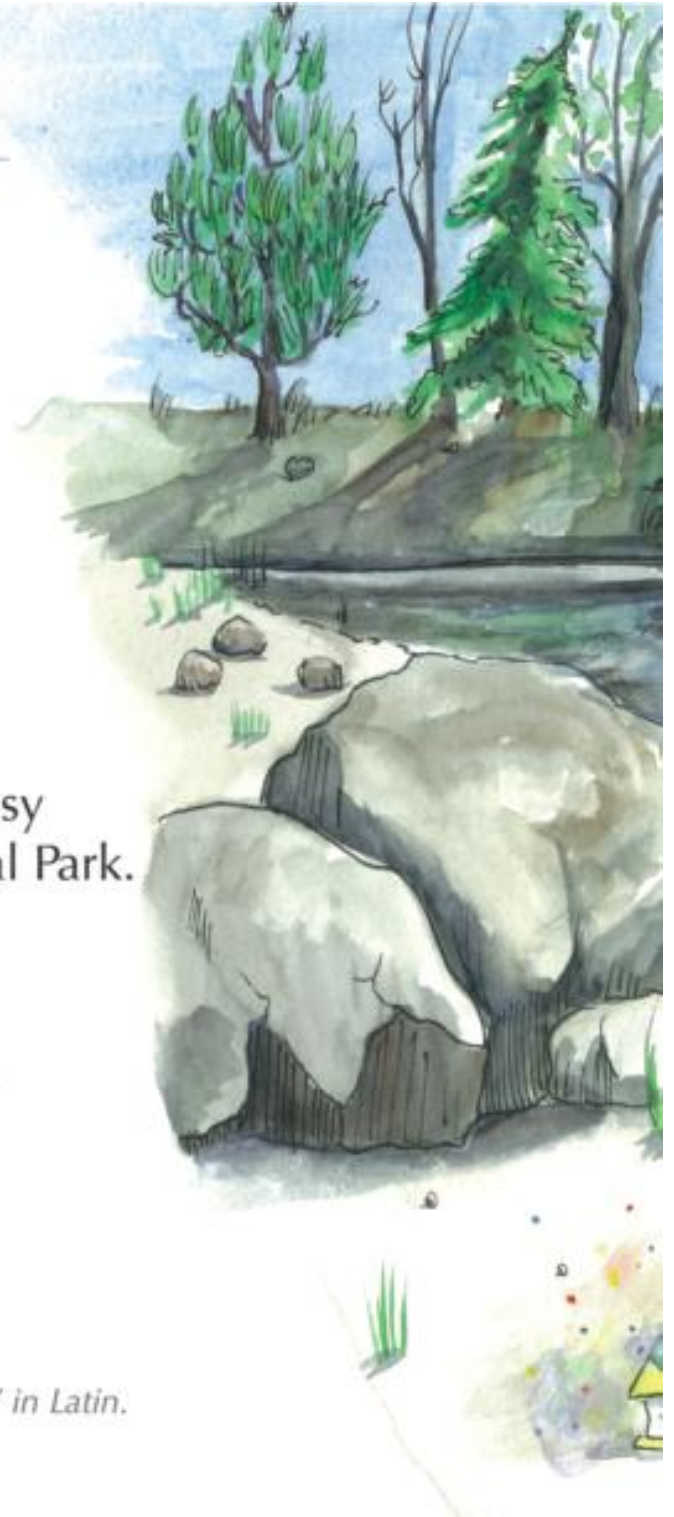
The sparks and mist twirl away. Mary is
by a lake.

A little loon is wibble wobbling about.

"I'm Gavi. Welcome to Ontario."

"My name's Mary."

Gavi trips on a pinecone. Loons are clumsy
critters on land. "This is Algonquin Provincial Park.
Let me show you around."







They zip and zoom over tall white pines on the Canadian Shield.

Flying above the Ottawa River, Mary and Gavi spot a school of floppy trout. The fish, with backpacks and bindle sacks, are swimming in formation of the letters H – E – L – P.



Gavi, a delightful diver, deposits Mary on shore and disappears underwater. He pops up. “The fishvine gossip is that Ontario’s Great Lakes are drying up. Those pesky beavers probably built too many dams.”

“Let’s help,” says Mary.



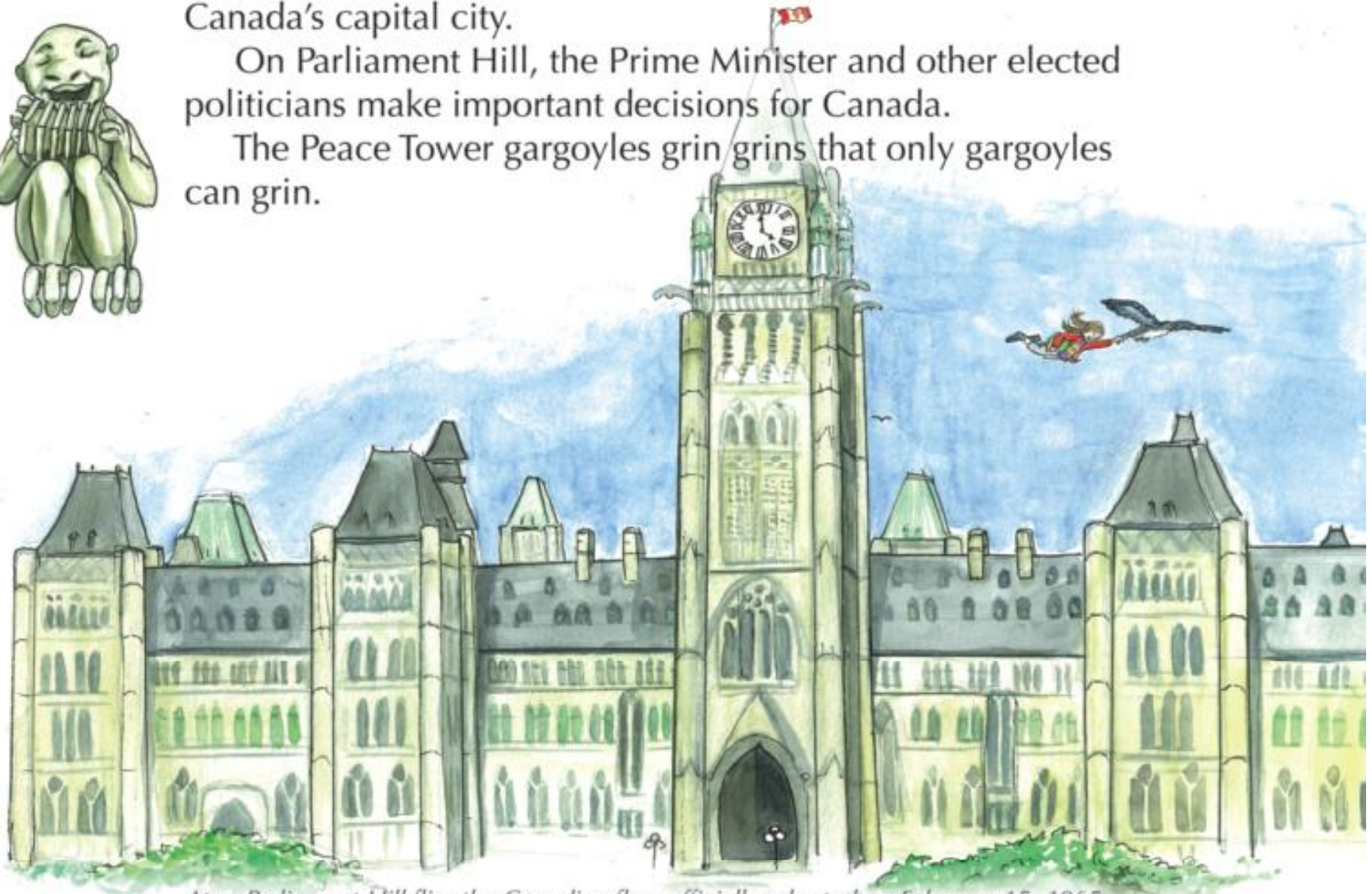


Ontario holds one-third of the world's fresh water. Only four of the five Great Lakes border the province.

They swish and swoosh along the Ottawa River to Ottawa, Canada's capital city.

On Parliament Hill, the Prime Minister and other elected politicians make important decisions for Canada.

The Peace Tower gargoyles grin grins that only gargoyles can grin.

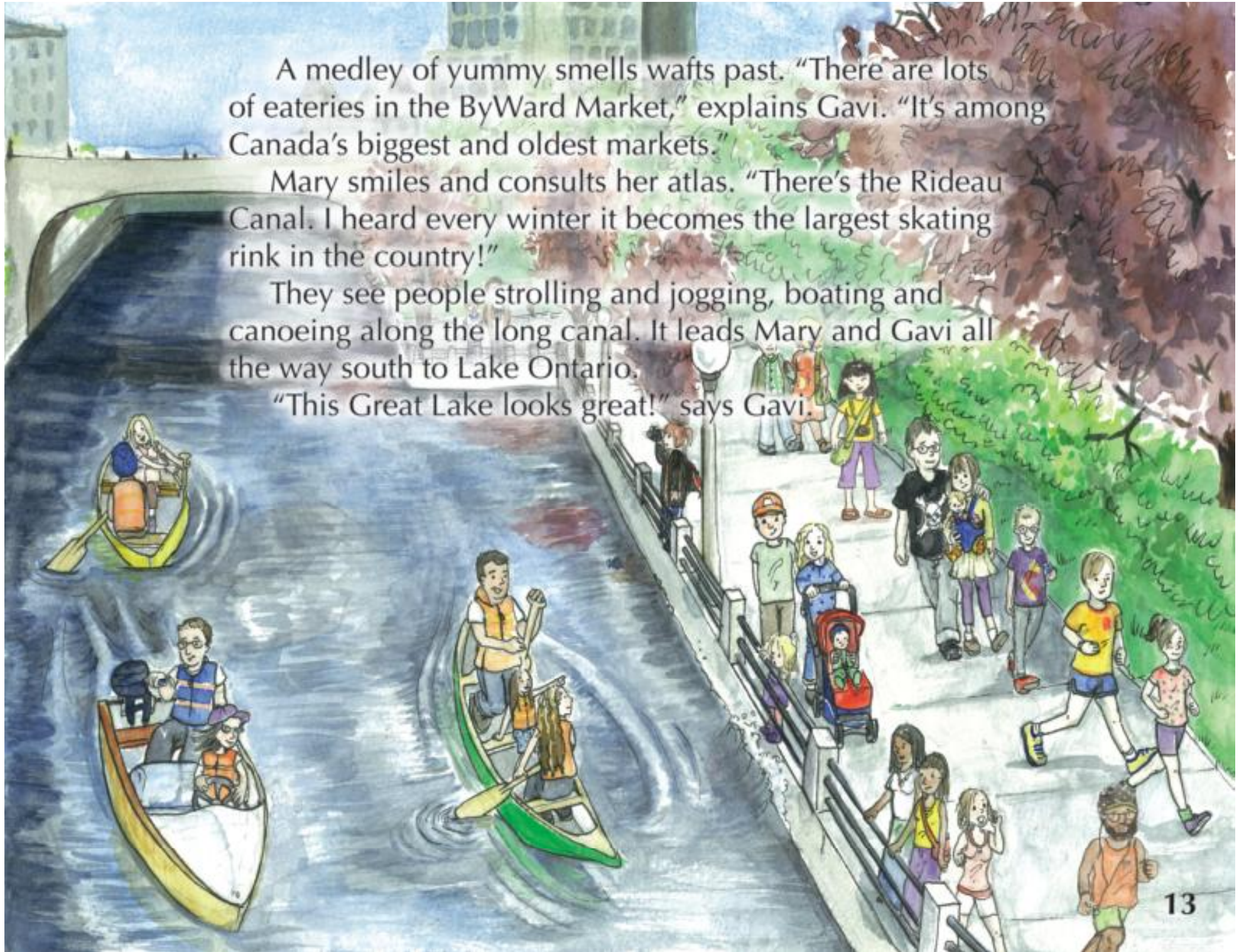


A medley of yummy smells wafts past. "There are lots of eateries in the ByWard Market," explains Gavi. "It's among Canada's biggest and oldest markets."

Mary smiles and consults her atlas. "There's the Rideau Canal. I heard every winter it becomes the largest skating rink in the country!"

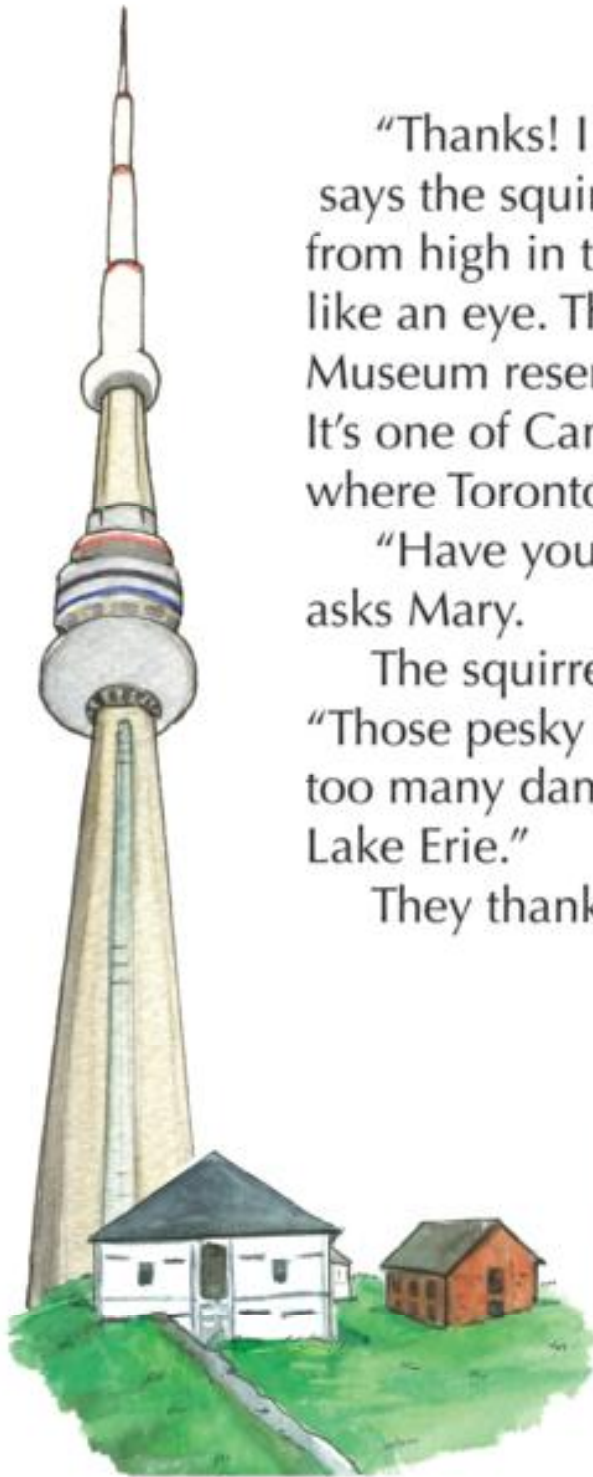
They see people strolling and jogging, boating and canoeing along the long canal. It leads Mary and Gavi all the way south to Lake Ontario.

"This Great Lake looks great!" says Gavi.

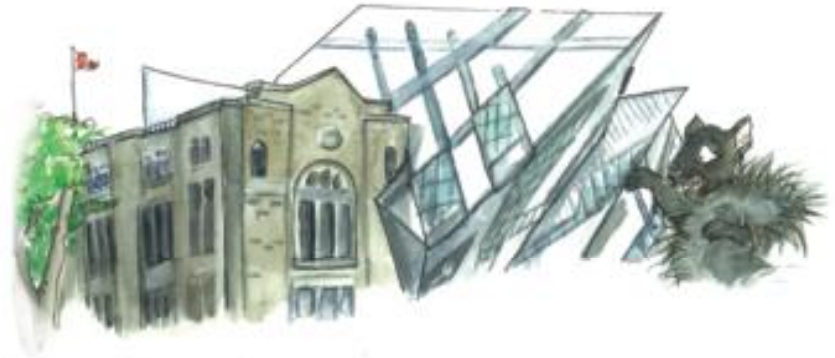




Mary and Gavi flip and fly around the lake to Toronto, Ontario's capital city. A black squirrel is at the tippy-top of the CN Tower. Gavi bounce-lands. "You have the best view!"



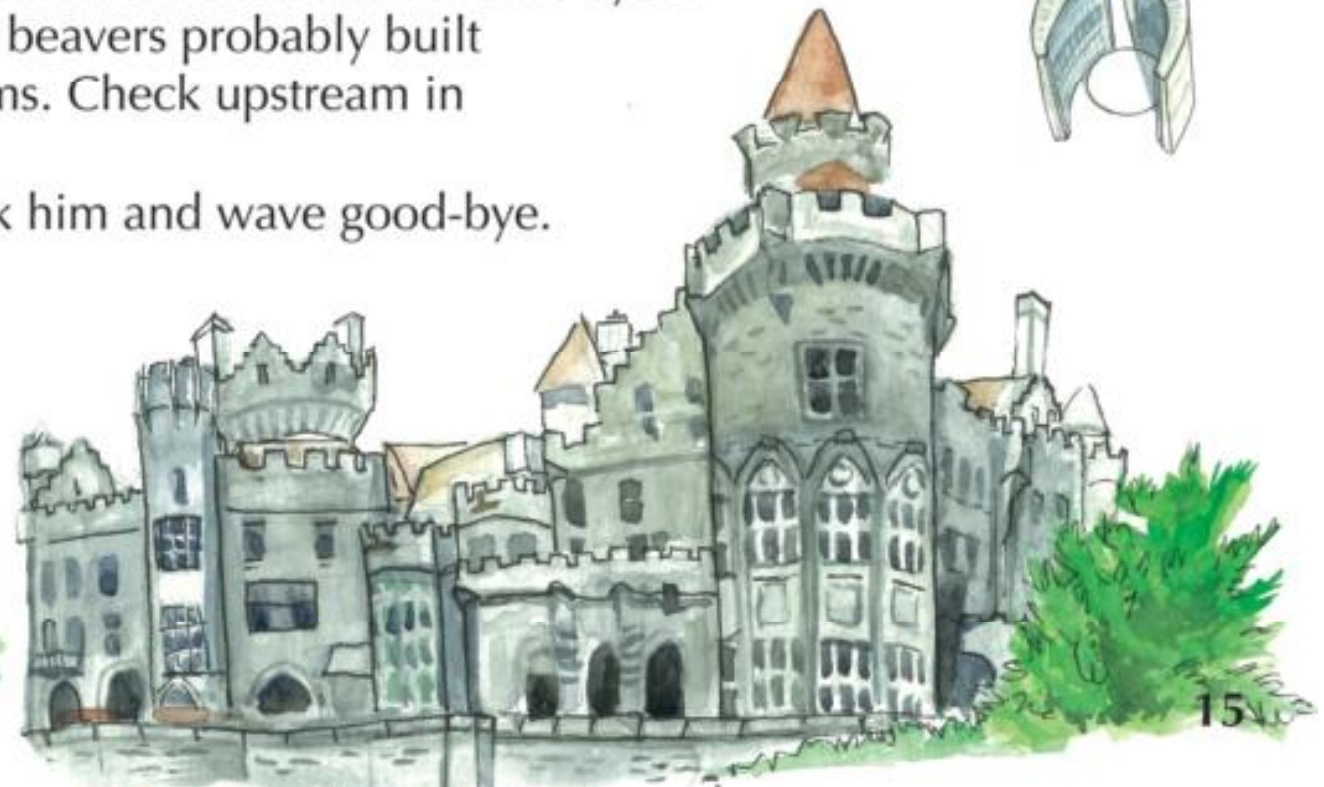
"Thanks! I do city tours," says the squirrel. "City Hall, from high in the sky, looks like an eye. The Royal Ontario Museum resembles a glittery crystal. See Casa Loma? It's one of Canada's most beautiful castles, and there's Fort York where Toronto began in 1793."

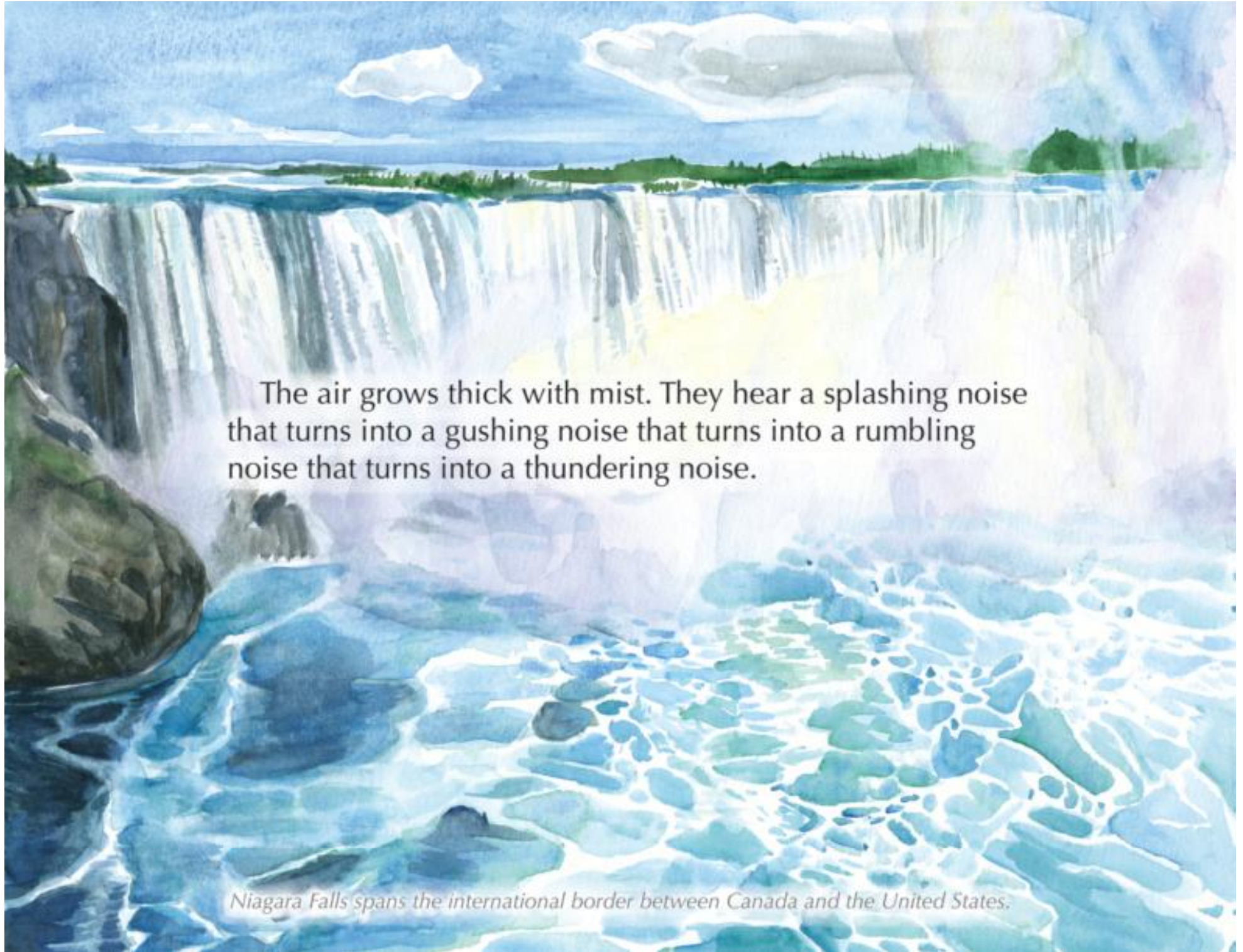


"Have you heard whether the Great Lakes are drying up?" asks Mary.

The squirrel fluffs his tail and rolls his eyes. "Those pesky beavers probably built too many dams. Check upstream in Lake Erie."


They thank him and wave good-bye.





The air grows thick with mist. They hear a splashing noise that turns into a gushing noise that turns into a rumbling noise that turns into a thundering noise.

Niagara Falls spans the international border between Canada and the United States.

A watercolor illustration of Niagara Falls. The scene is dominated by a massive, light-colored rock face that the water falls over. The water is depicted with various shades of blue and white, showing the turbulent flow and spray at the base. In the foreground, a small boat with a yellow and black striped cabin is navigating the rapids. The background shows a green, forested hillside under a pale sky. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Niagara Falls roars and cold water surges.
Mary grips Gavi's neck and shouts, "Watch out!"

Approximately 6 000 cubic metres of water go over the falls every second.



Then, as if a giant tap was turned off, Niagara Falls stops flowing.

Mary frowns. "The lakes upstream must be dry. Hurry!"

They sail and swoop over the drippy falls.

In the sludgy sludge of empty Lake Erie, some fish are playing *Go Fish*, while others are making mud pies to pass the time.

"Lake Erie is really empty," says Gavi. "Good thing there are puddles so the fish can be comfy."





Mary checks her atlas. "There's Point Pelee! We're as far south as we can get in Canada."

"If we keep travelling straight west, we'll reach northern California." Gavi is one brainy bird.

A blue jay tweedles, "Tool-ool! Tool-ool!"

A marsh wren twitters, "Chet! Chet! Chet! Chet!"

A robin tweets, "Tut! Tut! Tut! Tut!"

A cardinal squawks as Gavi collides into the choir. He picks himself up and bursts into song. Loons may be ungainly on land, but they sure can sing!

Mary applauds after Gavi's enchanting solo.

20 *Point Pelee is the best inland spot in North America to see hundreds of species of birds returning in spring.*