# DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION

**27 SITES • FREE ADMISSION**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**
**10 A.M. – 4 P.M.**



## 2026 EVENT GUIDE

*A day of discovery.*

Doors Open Waterloo Region

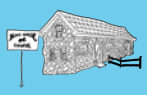
DOORS OPEN ONTARIO
ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

Region of Waterloo

# DOORS Open Waterloo Region

## Saturday, September 19
## 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
## Free Admission

A day of discovery.



**Ghost Village of Black Horse Corner**
1784 Northumberland St., Ayr



**McDougall Cottage Historic Site**
89 Grand Ave. S., Cambridge



**Tapestry Hall**
74 Grand Ave. S., Cambridge



**Cambridge Arts Theatre (Home of Cambridge Community Players)**
47 Water St. S., Cambridge



**Ferguson Cottage**
37 Grand Ave. S., Cambridge



**Central Presbyterian Church Cambridge**
7 Queen's Square, Cambridge



**Fire Hall Museum & Education Centre**
56 Dickson St., Cambridge



**Doon Presbyterian Church**
33 Roos St., Kitchener



**Waterloo Pioneer Memorial Tower**
300 Lookout Ln., Kitchener



**K-W Musical Productions**
14 Shaftsbury Dr., Kitchener



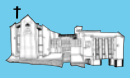
**The JR Inc.**
124 Sydney St. S., Kitchener



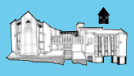
**Schneider Haus National Historic Site**
466 Queen St. S, Kitchener



**GSP Group**
72 Victoria St. S., Suite 201
Kitchener



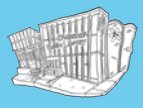
**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**
49 Queen St. N., Kitchener



**Indwell - Magnolia Apartments**
49 Queen St. N., Kitchener



**Waterloo County Gaol and Governor's House**
73-77 Queen St. N., Kitchener



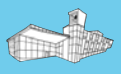
**Grace Schmidt Room of Local History (Kitchener Public Library)**
85 Queen St. N., Kitchener



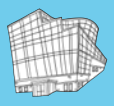
**Holly's Neighbourhood Cafe & Bar**
27 Roy St., Kitchener



**Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour**
33 Allen St. E, Waterloo



**Centre for International Governance Innovation**
67 Erb St. W., Waterloo



**Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA)**
250 Laurelwood Dr., Waterloo



**Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics**
**Free tickets required*
31 Caroline St N., Waterloo



**Brubacher House**
Frank Tompa Dr., Waterloo



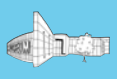
**Elmira Masonic Centre**
7 Arthur St. S., Elmira



**YMCA Camp Ki-Wa-Y**
3738 Hessen Strasse Rd.,
St. Clements



**Peel St. Beverage Co.**
68 Huron St., New Hamburg



**Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum & Doon Heritage Village**
10 Huron Rd., Kitchener

regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen
@doorsopenwr

**Explore 27 local sites for free!**

DOORS OPEN ONTARIO
ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

Region of Waterloo

PASSPORT

DOORS Open Waterloo Region

# Your passport to a day of discovery & local prizes

A day of discovery.

## HOW IT WORKS:

At the end of the day, scan the QR code to access the Passport Form.

List the site(s) you visited and tell us briefly what you liked most about each one.

## QUALIFY FOR PRIZES:

For each site you visit, you'll receive one entry to win one of three (3) $100 gift certificates for downtown shopping dollars in Kitchener, Waterloo or Cambridge.

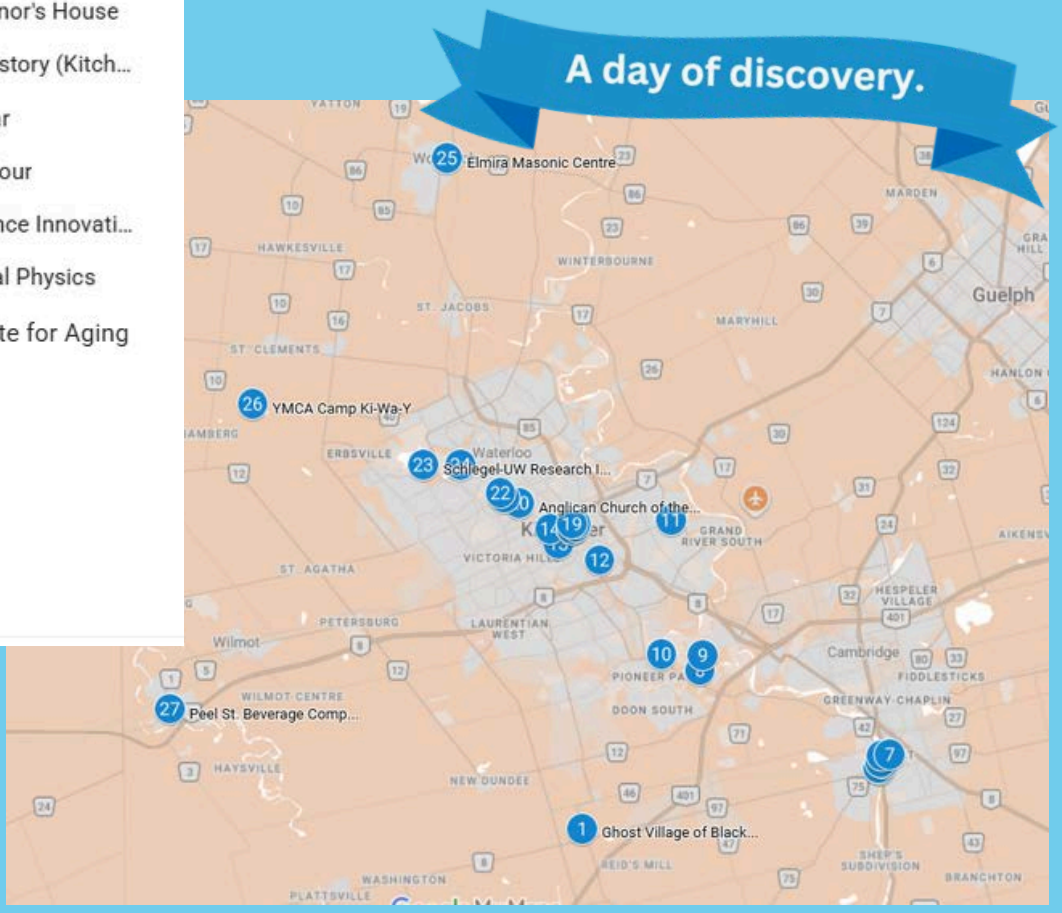
No device to scan the QR code? Just send us an email to the address below with the names of the sites you visited and one sentence describing what you liked most about each one.

Enter by Sept. 20/26. One entry per person. All ages welcome. Winners are drawn at random and contacted by email after Sept 24/26. Questions? Email us at doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca

1. Ghost Village of Black Horse Corner
2. McDougall Cottage Historic Site
3. Tapestry Hall
4. Cambridge Arts Theatre (Home of Cambridg...
5. Ferguson Cottage
6. Central Presbyterian Church Cambridge
7. Fire Hall Museum & Education Centre
8. Doon Presbyterian Church
9. Waterloo Pioneer Memorial Tower
10. Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum and D...
11. KW Musical Productions
12. The JR Inc.
13. Schneider Haus National Historic Site
14. GSP Group
15. St. Peter's Lutheran Church
16. Indwell - Magnolia Apartments
17. Waterloo County Gaol and Governor's House
18. Grace Schmidt Room of Local History (Kitch...
19. Holly's Neighbourhood Cafe & Bar
20. Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour
21. Centre for International Governance Innovati...
22. Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics
23. Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging
24. Brubacher House
25. Elmira Masonic Centre
26. YMCA Camp Ki-Wa-Y
27. Peel St. Beverage Company

DOORS Open Waterloo Region

**SCAN OR CLICK THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE ONLINE MAP**




# DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION

*2026 EVENT GUIDE*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## DOORS OPEN Q&A

Q

What is Doors Open?

A

One day. 27 local sites. An open invitation to explore them all for free! *A day of discovery.*



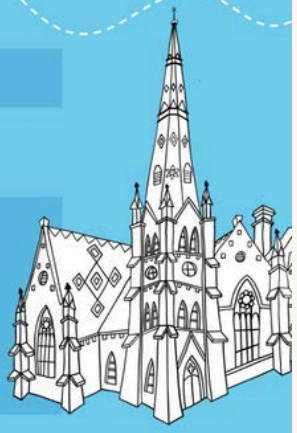
## DOORS OPEN Q&A

Q

When is it?

A

Doors Open Waterloo Region is held on the third Saturday in September. This year's 24th edition is on Saturday, September 19 from 10am - 4pm.



## DOORS OPEN Q&A

Q

How much is admission?

A

Admission is always free at every site, every year, at every Doors Open event across Ontario.



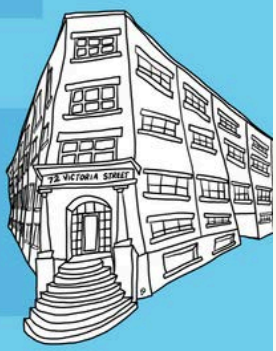
## DOORS OPEN Q&A

Q

Are children welcome?

A

Yes! Supervised children are always welcome. Some sites will appeal to them more than others, but they are all suitable for children.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## DOORS OPEN Q&A

**Q** Is it all *old* buildings?

**A** Some of the sites are heritage buildings. Some of the sites are newer buildings. Some of the sites' appeal isn't really about the building, but what happens *inside* the building!



## DOORS OPEN Q&A

**Q** Do I need tickets?



**A** Generally, no. There are 27 sites to choose from. All sites are open from 10am - 4pm for Doors Open. Just pick the sites you'd like to visit and show up during those hours. It's that simple!

Occasionally, a high-traffic site (such as Perimeter Institute in 2026) will require free tickets available on its website.)

## DOORS OPEN Q&A

**Q** Is there a printed map or guide?

**A** Brochures (which include a QR code for the map) are available at select locations throughout Waterloo Region and at each site on Sept. 19. Find the map, brochure and other resources on our website.



## DOORS OPEN Q&A

**Q** Is every site accessible? Bathrooms at each site?

**A** Each site is different. If you have concerns about accessibility, please contact us or the sites directly beforehand to confirm. Bathrooms are available at most sites.





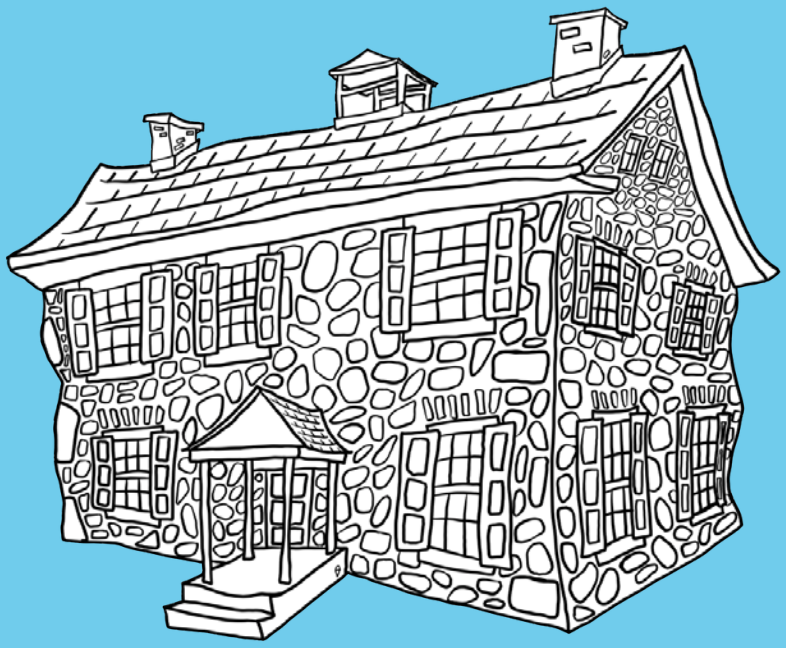
# ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR

This beautiful church with recent renovations in Uptown Waterloo has an abundance of richly carved oak woodwork by Globe Furniture of Waterloo, including paneling, pews, choir stalls, a chancel screen, a pulpit and lectern, and a reredos carving of the Last Supper. Other highlights include murals and windows. Enjoy a talk: "Seagram's: Family, Faith, and the Shaping of Waterloo."

## AROUND THE GLOBE

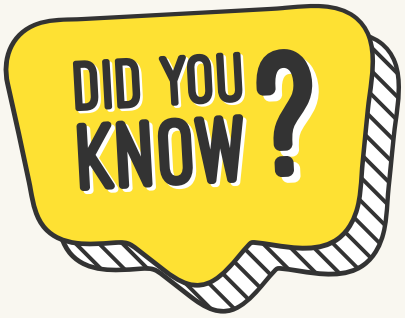
The Globe Furniture Company was a renowned worldwide. It began in Detroit in 1890 and moved to Waterloo in 1910. Master woodcarvers produced ornate oak woodwork for churches and interlocking oak-and-iron desks. Their products shipped across Canada and internationally to places like South Africa and Peru.

33 Allen Street East
Waterloo



# BRUBACHER HOUSE

Step into a restored 1850s Mennonite farmhouse. Featuring 19th-century furnishings and family artifacts, this fieldstone home built in the Mennonite Georgian style offers a glimpse into rural life and the traditions of Waterloo's early Pennsylvania German Mennonite settlers. This hidden gem within the University of Waterloo's R+T Park has been named a significant Cultural Heritage Landscape in Waterloo.




The original owners, John E. and Magdalena Brubacher, raised 14 children inside this historic home. Today, a family still lives in it! Live-In Caretakers live in a second-floor apartment to manage daily museum operations.

Frank Tompa Drive
Waterloo

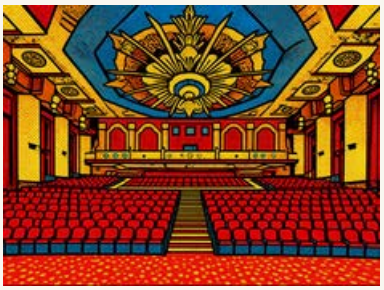


# CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE
## (HOME OF CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAYERS)

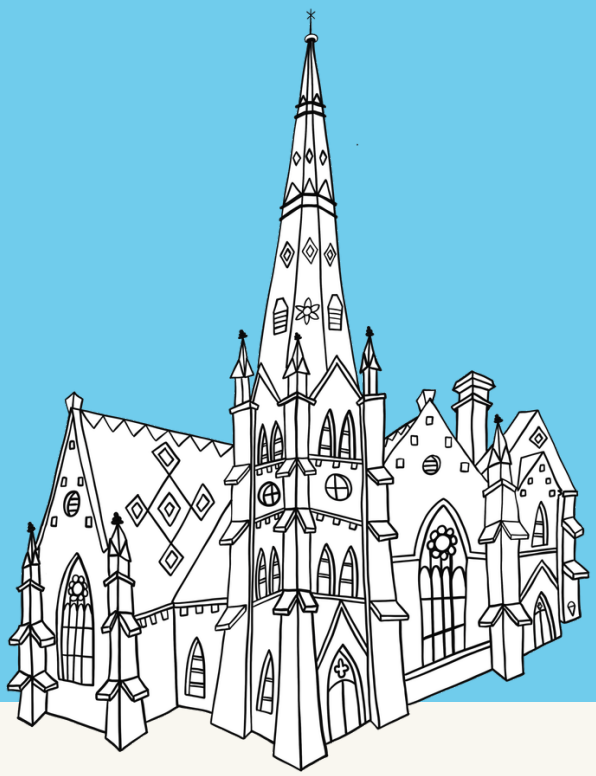
Go behind the curtain of one of Cambridge's longest-running theatre companies. Unique to local church architecture, the former South Water Street Baptist Church is constructed of yellow and red brick in a blend of Italianate and Romanesque styles. The City of Cambridge purchased and renovated the empty church in 1982 to create a permanent home for the Cambridge Community Players (formerly the Galt Little Theatre, which started in 1933).

DID YOU KNOW?

The seats were once located in the famous Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.



47 Water Street South
Cambridge



# CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

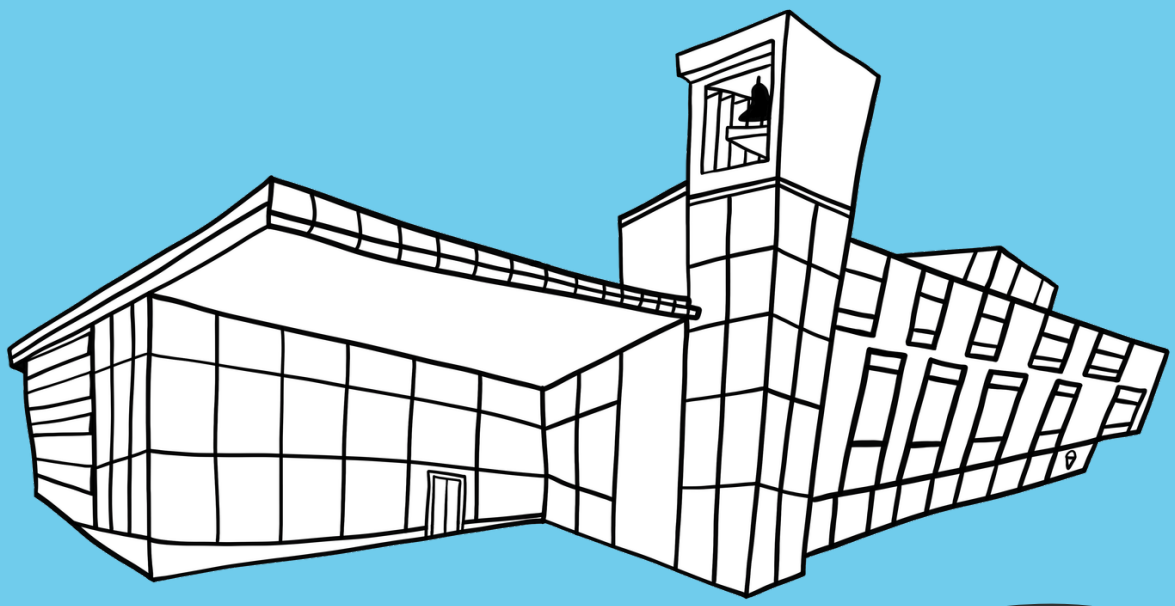
A striking landmark overlooking Queen's Square beside the Grand River, this historic church features a 56-metre (184-foot) spire which contains ten memorial bells, chimed regularly. The interior has 11 stained glass windows, a beautiful curving gallery, a three-manual Casavant organ and a Schimmel concert grand piano. Explore the Sanctuary's main floor and balcony and climb the bell tower.

## Did You Know?

A massive $2.5-million revitalization project in 2021-22 included replacement of the original, deteriorating 1880 slate tiles across the southern portion of the church and its soaring spire. The spire also received brand-new copper panels and updated lightning protection.

The church is a popular filming location for TV shows like The Handmaid's Tale and  Murdoch Mysteries!

7 Queen's Square
Cambridge






# CIGI CAMPUS
## (CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE INNOVATION)

The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) is celebrating its silver jubilee in 2026, marking 25 years of governance innovation and global impact. Explore the CIGI campus (awarded a Governor General's Medal in Architecture), watch engaging presentations and learn how our work has contributed to bettering global policy making and improving people's lives around the world.



The CIGI Campus is built on the historic site of a 19th-century Seagram distillery and barrel warehouse.

Concrete Savings: It was the first project in Ontario to use BubbleDeck technology. This structural system uses hollow plastic spheres inside concrete slabs to reduce the required volume of concrete by 30%

67 Erb Street West
Waterloo

DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION
*2026 EVENT GUIDE*



# DOON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

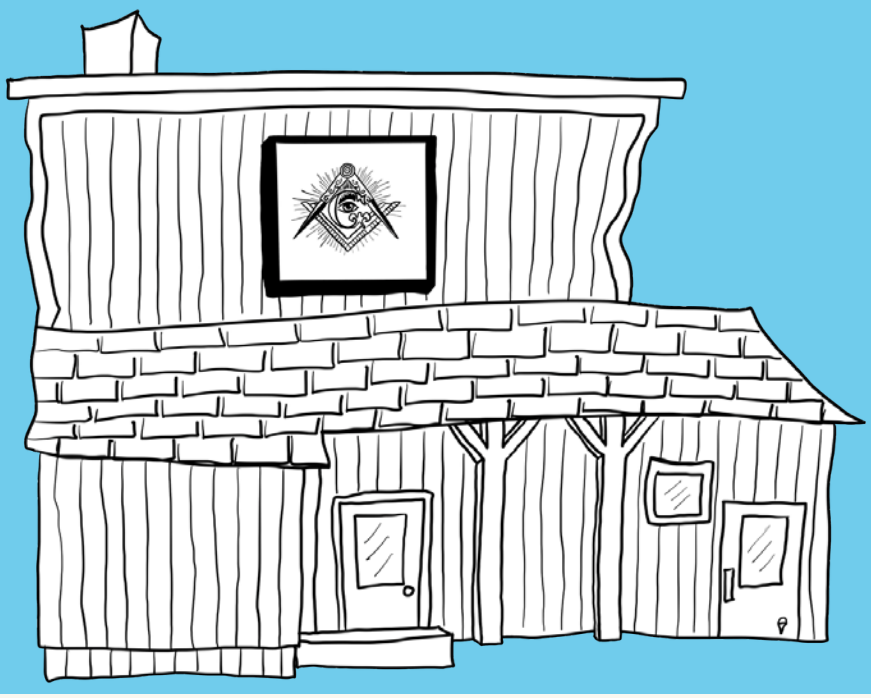
This picturesque church was founded as a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland in 1853. The present building site was offered to the congregation by mill operator Mr. Ferrie, and the church became the spiritual home of Scottish settlers of the historic village of Doon. The 1853 building is still in use today (with an extension) and retains many original features.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The church is older than Canada itself! (Confederation was in 1867.)

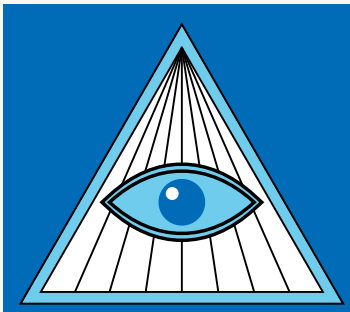
Ancestors of a long-time congregant supplied 98,124 handmade bricks used to construct the historic building.

33 Roos Street
Kitchener



# ELMIRA MASONIC CENTRE

Uncover the traditions and symbolism of Freemasonry, and how it has been involved in the life of this community for 150 years. See historical furnishings and symbols in the lodge room, browse heritage displays, chat with Freemasons from Glenrose Lodge No 628 (est. 1924) and sister Lodge, New Dominion Lodge No. 205 (est. 1868), who moved to Elmira in 2020.



Freemasonry is the oldest secular fraternal organization in the world, tracing its operational roots back to medieval stonemason guilds in Europe. The term "Freemason" originally referred to skilled medieval craftsmen who worked with "freestone"—a fine limestone or sandstone ideal for delicate architectural carvings.

7 Arthur Street South (2nd floor - enter at rear)
Elmira



# FERGUSON COTTAGE

One of the earliest surviving Scottish stone cottages in Cambridge, this charming 19th-century building offers a glimpse into early life in Galt. It was the home of William Ferguson, a blacksmith from Scotland and remained in the Ferguson family for about 80 years. The tiny, designated heritage building, built of local stone, is now home to the Galt Horticultural Society.

Early Roots: In its early days, much like other provincial societies, the Galt Horticultural Society took direct charge of planting and tending to public flower beds in local parks before that responsibility shifted over time to the city. The group's start remains a bit of a historical mystery, with official records dating back to newspaper mentions in the 1850s, while its modern re-establishment is tied to an inaugural meeting reported in 1891.

37 Grand Avenue South
Cambridge



# FIRE HALL MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTRE

Built in 1898, this was the community's primary fire station until it closed in 1979. The ground floor is the museum's main gallery, featuring vintage fire equipment and displays. The second floor was the firefighters' living quarters and now serves as the fire safety education centre. Please note there are no elevators or accessible washrooms at this site.



The museum is run by volunteers, many of whom are retired firefighters, sharing their knowledge and passion for the history of firefighting.

56 Dickson St,
Cambridge

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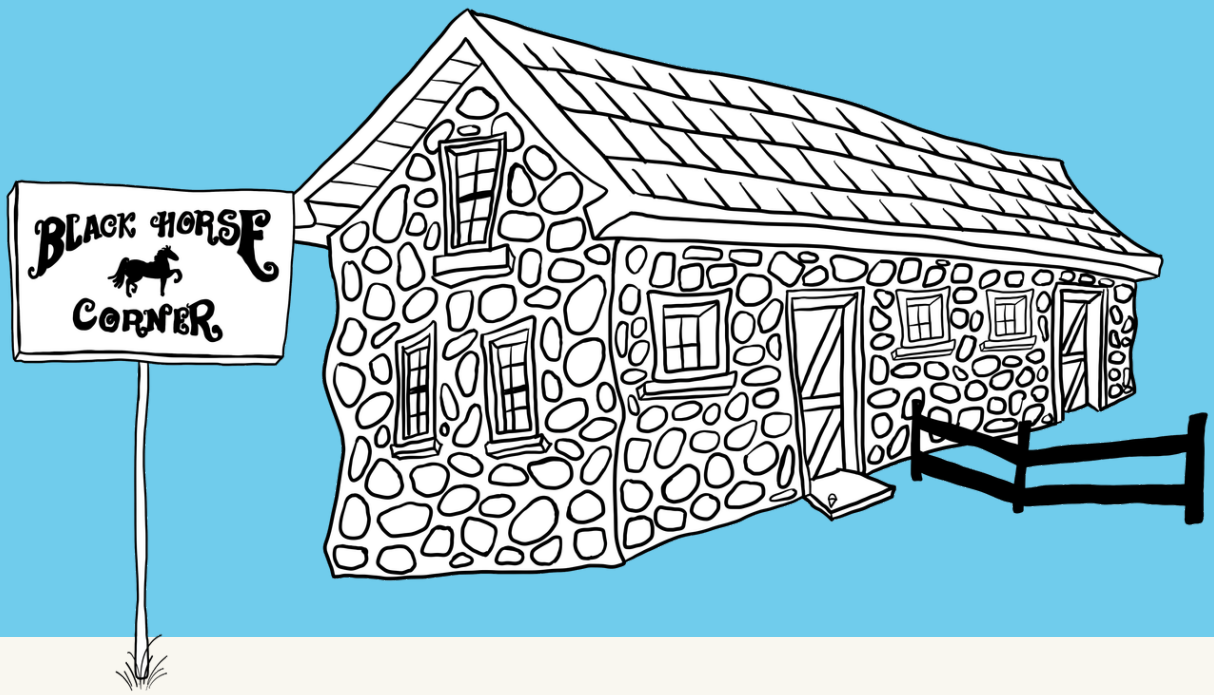


# GHOST VILLAGE OF BLACK HORSE CORNER

Step into a vanished rural crossroads where only traces remain. This evocative site reveals the story of a once-thriving hamlet centred around the Black Horse Inn (1853-75), a fascinating glimpse into the region's early settlement and the forces that led to its disappearance. See inside three outbuildings from that era: a barn, smokehouse and stone-built former cheese factory from 1835.

The Name: Local lore suggests the name came from an incident where a group of black horses mysteriously vanished from the area's central inn on a dark night.

1784 Northumberland Street
North Dumfries Township

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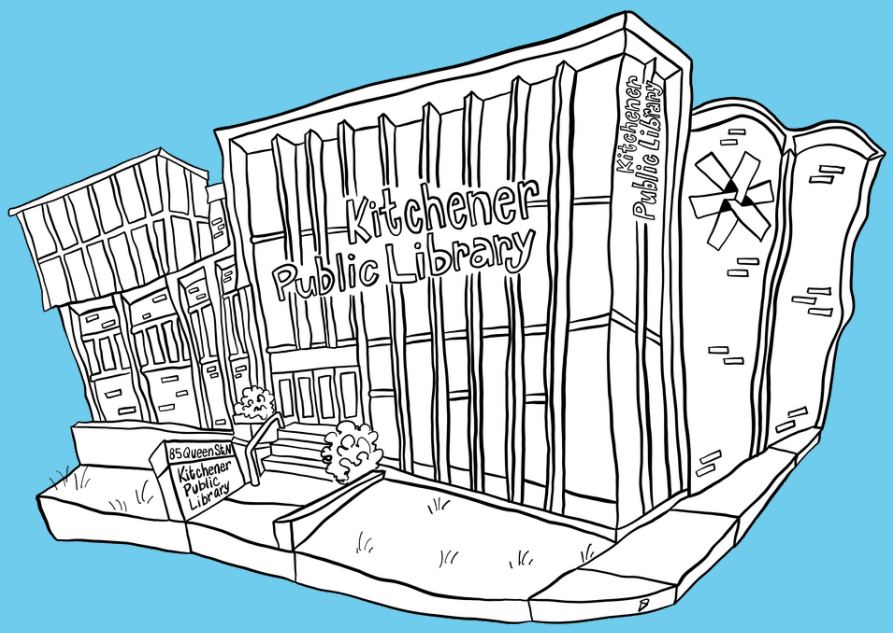



# GRACE SCHMIDT ROOM
## OF LOCAL HISTORY
## AT KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dive into Waterloo Region's past through maps, photographs, postcards, yearbooks and archival collections. This dedicated research space is a treasure trove for anyone curious about local history, genealogy and the stories that shape the community. Plus discover a range of services and resources you may not expect, including specialized scanning and conversion equipment and reference and research support.

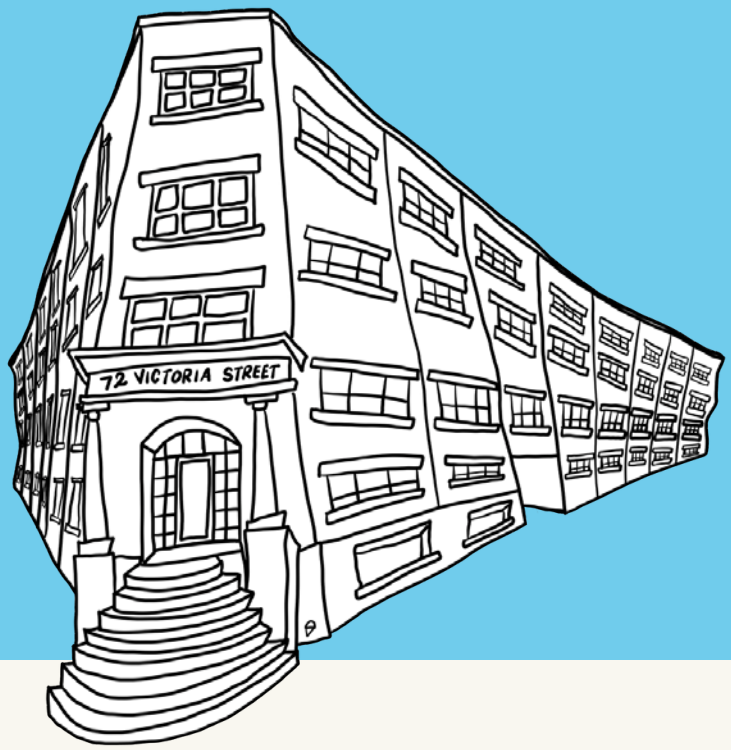
**See What's Inside**

A massive collection of local high school yearbooks.

500+ digitized interviews with prominent local figures and everyday citizens tracing decades of changing life in the city.

Deeply personal World War I and World War II Soldier Information Cards, offering an intimate look at the residents who went to serve abroad.

85 Queen Street North (2nd floor)
Kitchener




# GSP GROUP

Explore the studio of a leading planning, urban design and landscape architecture firm shaping great communities throughout southwestern Ontario. They create, collaborate and innovate solutions addressing community development needs and challenges. Their renovated office is in a building constructed in 1903 for industrial manufacturing for the Berlin Interior Hardwood Company and is part of the Warehouse District Cultural Heritage Landscape.




The Kitchener studio sits at 72 Victoria Street South, which was the former Interior Hardwood Company factory – one of the first brick-and-beam factory conversions in downtown Kitchener.

72 Victoria Street South, Suite 201
Kitchener

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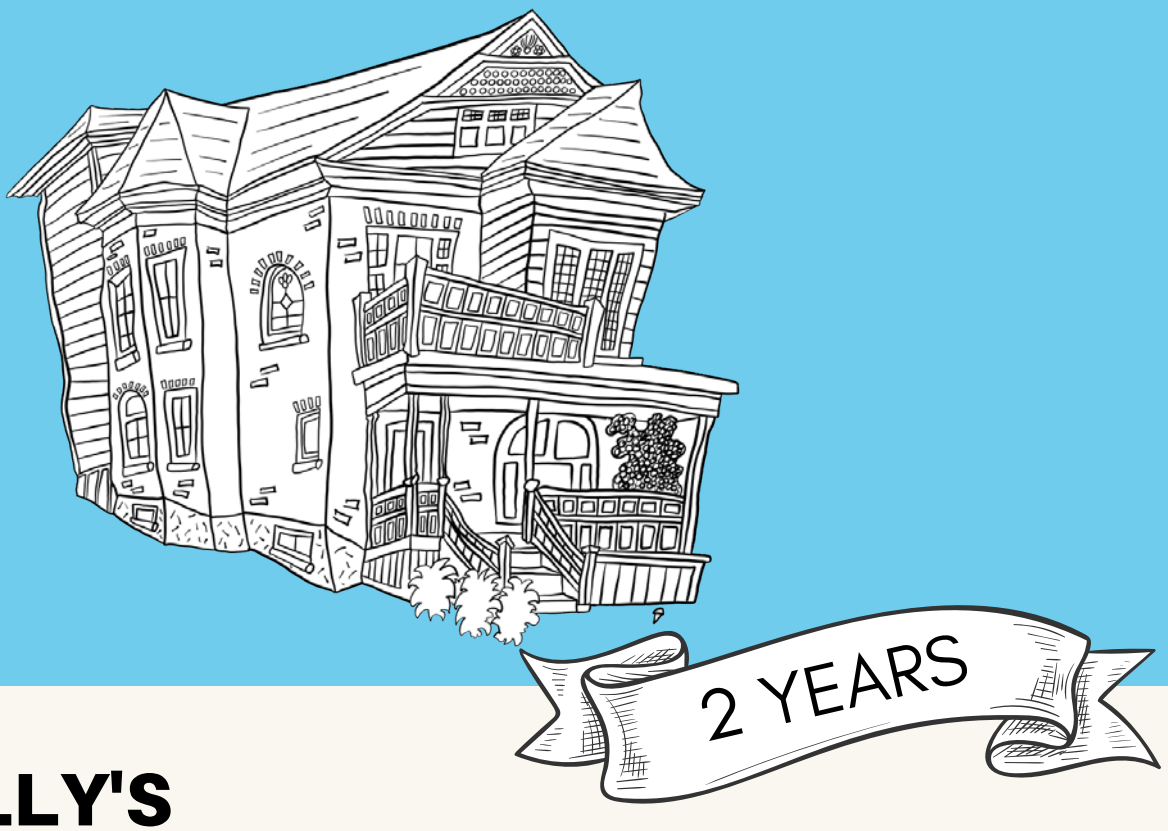
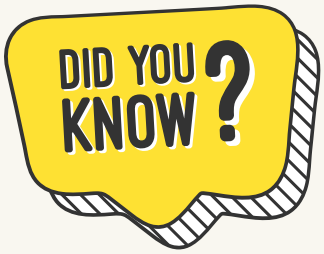


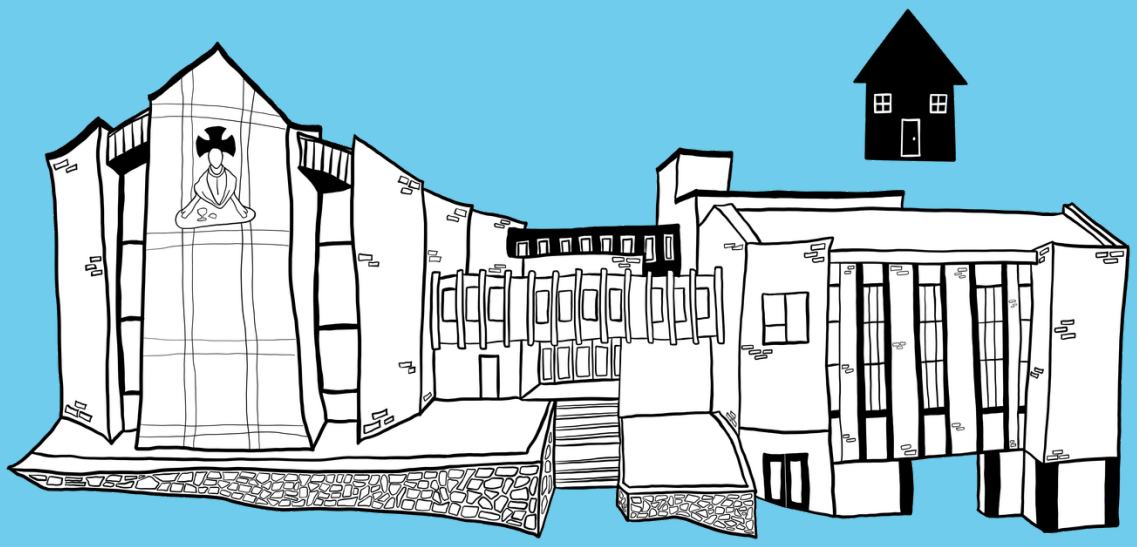

# HOLLY'S NEIGHBOURHOOD CAFE & BAR

This former heritage home is an award-winning adaptive reuse success story. Join local heritage developer RFB Development as they celebrate the two-year anniversary of transforming this single-family home into apartments, a café and a gallery space featuring rotating artist exhibitions. Peruse displays and chat with developers about re-envisioning built heritage to serve new purposes for local communities.




Holly's is one of 13 adaptive-reuse buildings in this year's edition of Doors Open – nearly half of all sites! Waterloo Region boasts several examples of transforming historic industrial, institutional, and commercial buildings into modern residential, tech, and community spaces. Think of Seagram's Lofts, Google, and Gaslight District to name a few!

27 Roy Street
Kitchener

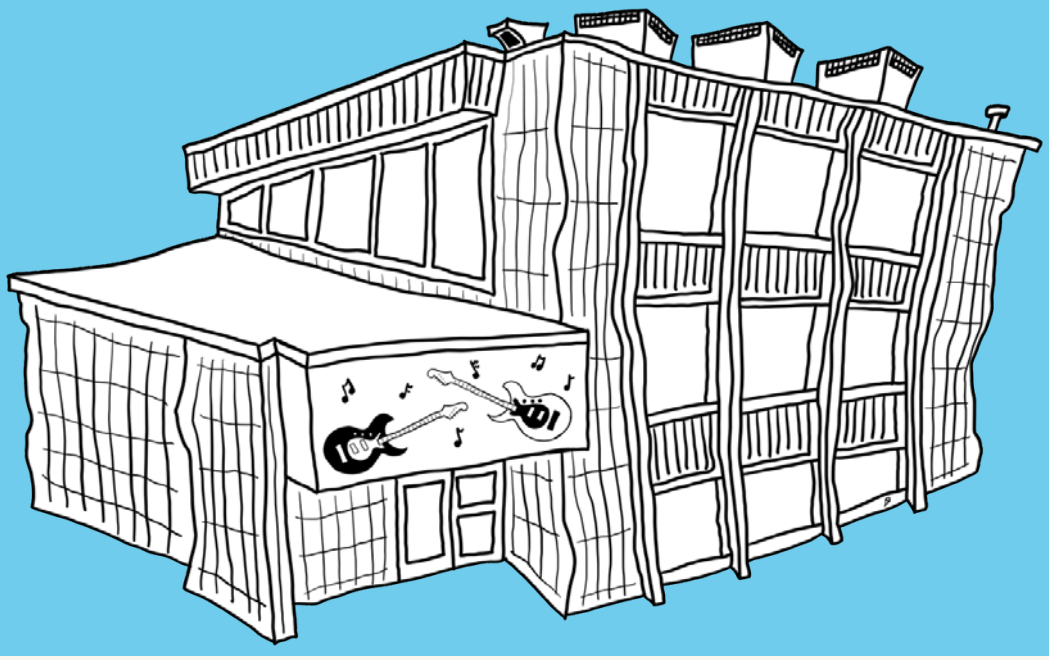


# INDWELL MAGNOLIA APARTMENTS

Magnolia Apartments is Indwell's newest supportive housing community in the city of Kitchener. This location is a conversion of three-quarters of the beautifully maintained St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church into 41 new deeply affordable supportive rental units. Onsite amenities and supports include community space and outdoor gardens. See how Indwell staff meet tenants' health and housing needs.

Indwell is a Hamilton-based Christian charity that has been supporting vulnerable adults dealing with mental health challenges for 50 years. They are the fastest growing developer of new supportive affordable housing in Ontario. Indwell empowers tenants to achieve health and wellness goals, and to constructively engage with their communities.

49 Queen Street North
Kitchener



# THE JR

Adaptive reuse gets loud! The JR transformed an office building into a 650 square-metre (7,000 square-foot) modern community hub for musicians. Explore the rehearsal rooms, performance venue (The Union), skate park common area and Sherwood Music Lessons space. Chat with founder Adom Postma about his inspiration for the project and how it's impacting the local music community.

DID YOU KNOW?

Waterloo Region has a rich history of music including a legendary 1960s and '70s rock scene when it became a major stop for superstar bands like Led Zeppelin, Elton John, the Bee Gees, Frank Zappa. The Guess Who guitarist Randy Bachman famously worked out the opening guitar hook for the mega-hit "American Woman" while taking a break at Waterloo's Glenbriar Curling Club in 1969.

124 Sydney Street South
Kitchener



# K-W MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

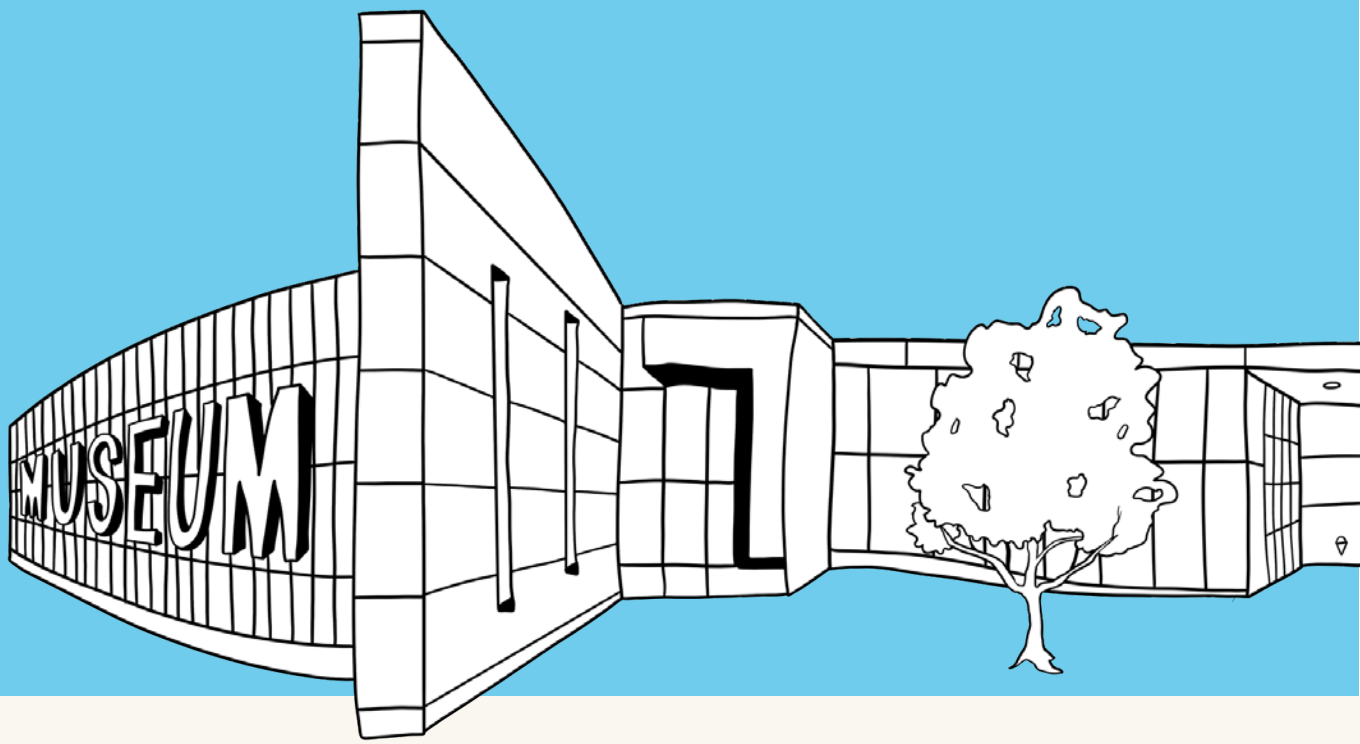
Step inside KWMP, one of Waterloo Region's longest-running musical theatre organizations, established in 1948. Explore the historic 1925 building (originally a school), purchased by KWMP in 1964, and tour rehearsal halls, costume and prop storage and workshop spaces. Meet the volunteers behind the productions and discover how local musicals come to life on and off stage.



Built in 1925 in Kitchener as S.S. #6 Natchez School, photos from its closing in 1963 (yes, those are cows!) illustrate the major urbanization of the area in the past 7 decades.



14 Shaftsbury Drive
Kitchener




# KEN SEILING WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM

Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum is the largest community museum in Ontario. Explore an exhibit that covers 15,000 years of human history of the land now known as Waterloo Region. Visit three Doon Heritage Village buildings — train station, blacksmith shop and Sararas House — and learn about how these buildings have changed and evolved over the years.

Built in 2011 and designed by Moriyama + Teshima Architects, the main building is the first museum in Canada to earn LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification.

10 Huron Rd.,
Kitchener

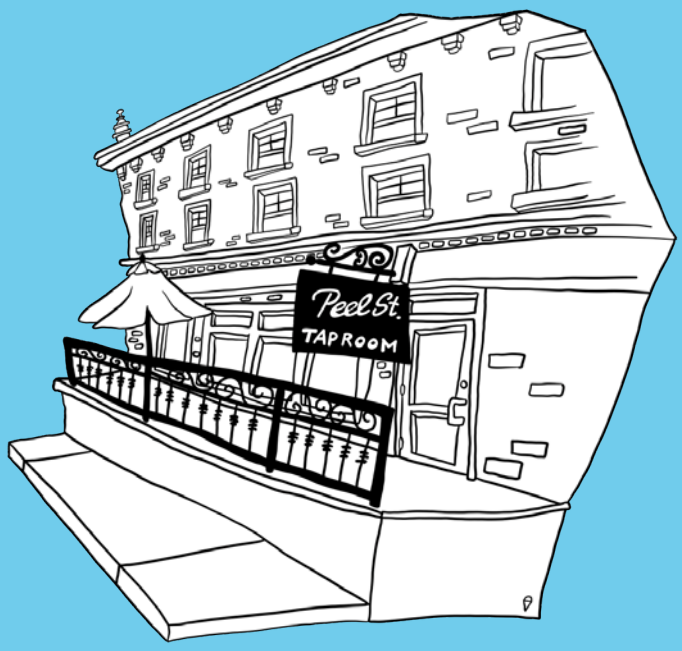


# MCDOUGALL COTTAGE HISTORIC SITE

Step inside McDougall Cottage, Cambridge's hidden gem on the Grand! Learn the stories of the two Scottish-settler families who first called this lovely stone Cottage "home" and view its remarkable hand-painted murals. McDougall's newest exhibit, Snapshots in Time: Nostalgia and Memory, will be displayed. During Doors Open, enjoy Scottish shortbread and kids' crafts!

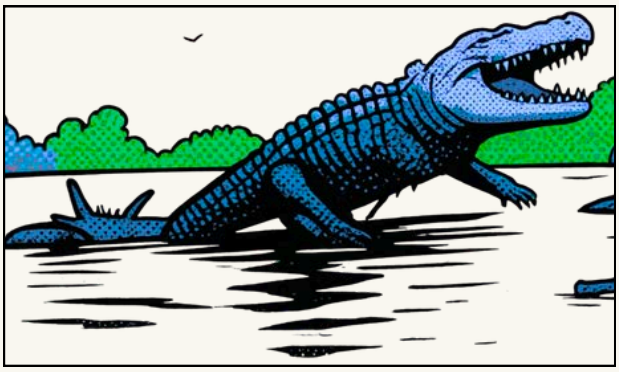
The cottage features stunning, hidden hand-painted murals and trompe l'oeil ceilings created by local amateurs or itinerant artists, which were revealed and restored in the early 2020s.

89 Grand Avenue South
Cambridge



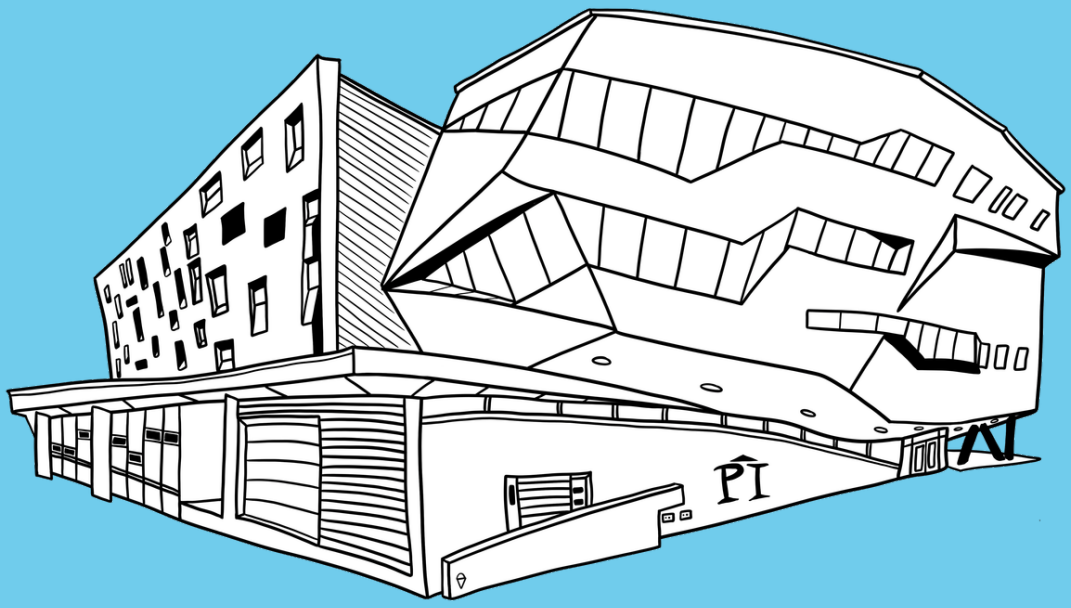

# PEEL ST. BEVERAGE COMPANY

Named for the street that connected the 1832 settlement that become New Hamburg, and located in an area of rich historical relevance, this taproom and craft beverage producer blends heritage character with a contemporary social experience. Explore the nano-brewery and revel in the architecture and stories deeply connected to the early industrial and residential growth of downtown New Hamburg.



To celebrate the town's local lore of Nithy, Peel St. brews a signature beer called the Nith River Monster Hazy IPA. The beer embraces the regional New England/Hazy style, utilizing a fruitier, unfiltered profile that feels fittingly "murky" for a legendary river creature.

68 Huron Street
New Hamburg




# PERIMETER INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

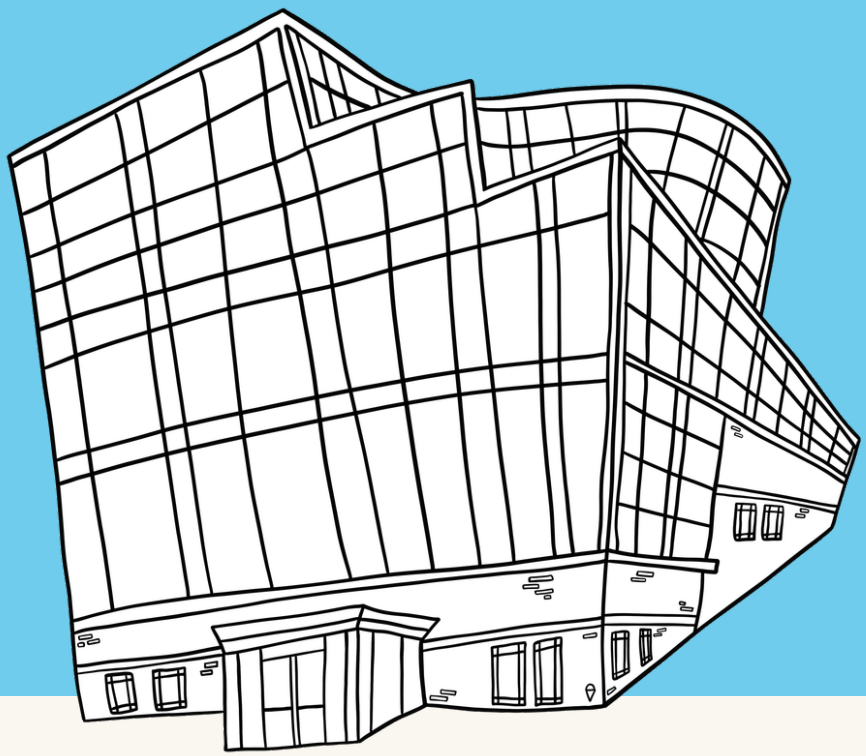
Explore the world's largest independent research institute devoted to theoretical physics, a place where scientists investigate the fundamental workings of the universe, from the smallest particles to the entire cosmos. During your visit, you can explore the institute's award-winning design and get behind-the-scenes access through an informative building tour.
Free tickets are required for entry.

Opened in 2004, this custom-built facility is a deliberate marriage of form and function. In 2011 it opened a sizable expansion, the Stephen Hawking Centre at Perimeter Institute, which doubled capacity to 250 researchers and trainees.

**Did you know?**

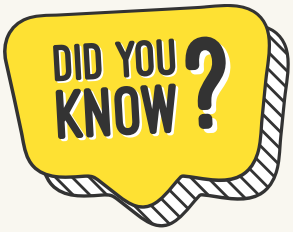
The building design won the national Governor General's Medal for Architecture in 2006.

31 Caroline St. N.,
Waterloo



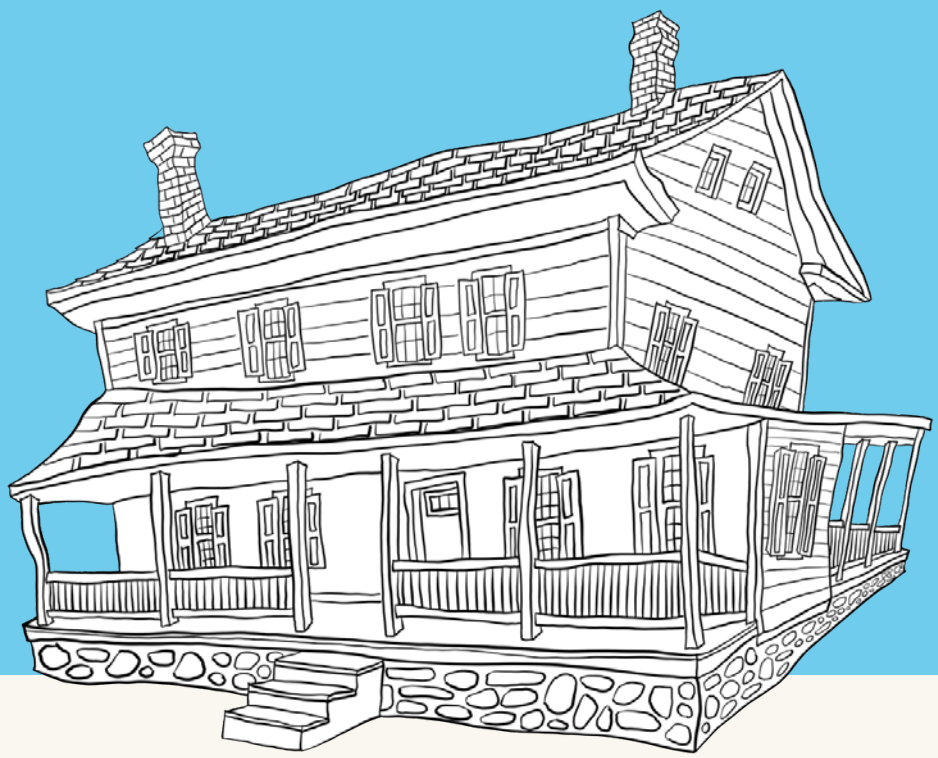
# SCHLEGEL-UW RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AGING

Do you envision a future where older adults live life to the fullest? Our goal is to change the way we age in Canada. The RIA supports research in several areas and mobilizes that research into programs, resources and education. Explore their state-of-the-art building and lab spaces, meet their researcher and staff and learn how you can get involved.



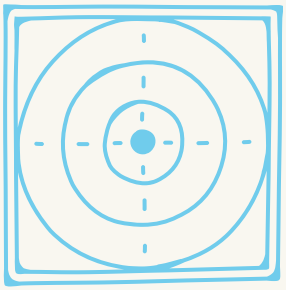

**Unique "Living Classroom":**
The RIA is co-located with the Village at University Gates, a long-term care home, providing a unique environment where researchers, students, older adults, and care partners can learn and collaborate in real-time.

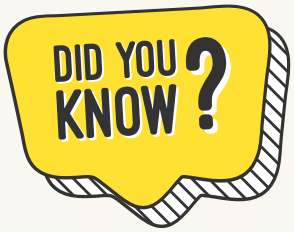
250 Laurelwood Drive
Waterloo



# SCHNEIDER HAUS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Explore the different decades of Schneider Haus and get hands on with some artifact replicas, including the world's oldest dated crokinole board! Meet Nathan Walsh, a member of the World Crokinole Championship organizing committee and a competitive crokinole player and past winner of the Schneider Haus crokinole tournament. Try crokinole and enjoy other outdoor games in our green spaces.






Built in 1816, it was restored and opened as a living history museum in 1981. The Haus was built by Joseph and Barbara Schneider, Pennsylvania-German Mennonites. The site began as a family home, became a rental property, then a provincial historic site and finally the community museum it is today.

466 Queen Street South
Kitchener

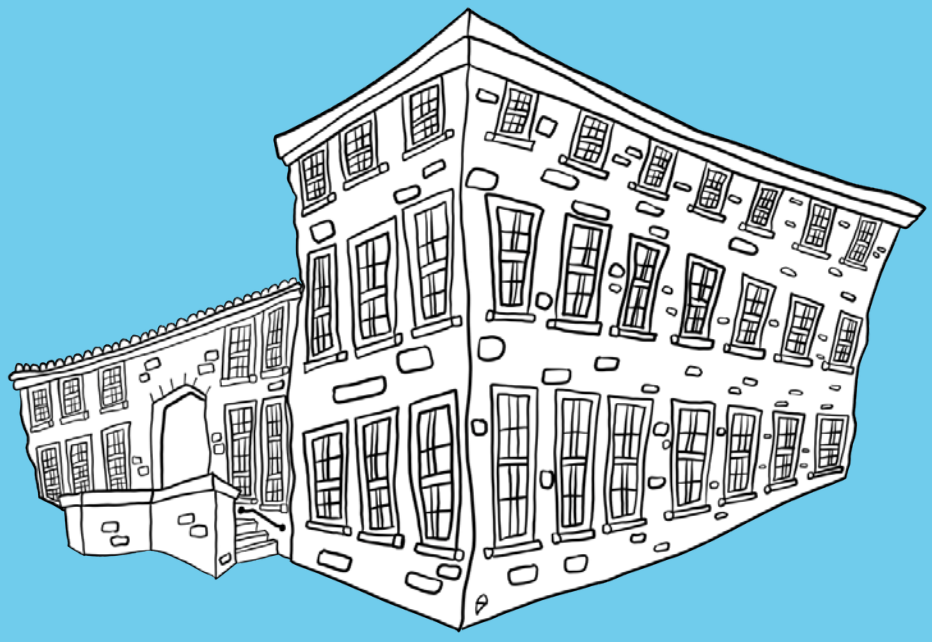


# ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Newly renovated in an innovative and ambitious adaptive reuse project to share space with Indwell's Magnolia Apartments, St. Peter's boldly holds space for faith, community, justice and the arts. Their grand architecture, upgraded Hallman pipe organ, beautiful courtyard and multi-use spaces provide an inspiring, completely modernized, accessible and climate-controlled setting. (Indwell's Magnolia Apartments is also part of Doors Open; see both.)

"This partnership started many moons ago," said Pastor Mark Ehlebracht of St. Peter's church. "We were behind the church and discovered that there was a family living in a subterranean air vent . . . as a community of faith, we realized that we could no longer remain idle." The family had taken a marker and scrawled on the wall over top of the air vent, "Mr. and Mrs. Nobody."

49 Queen Street North
Kitchener



# TAPESTRY HALL

Once a 19th century limestone foundry, Tapestry Hall is now a striking event venue in Cambridge's Gaslight District. Guests can experience its soaring two-storey hall, restored industrial architecture and Meander, an internationally recognized interactive installation suspended above. Outside, Gaslight Square offers a vibrant pedestrian space with a permanent stage, large screen and public art.



Meander is a fusion of art, architecture, science and technology. Created by internationally acclaimed Canadian architect Philip Beesley, its network contains approximately 500,000 individual components.

74 Grand Avenue South
Cambridge



# WATERLOO COUNTY GAOL & GOVERNOR'S HOUSE

Explore Waterloo Region's oldest buildings — the 1852-53 Gaol (jail) and the 1878 Governor's House — and learn how community action saved them from demolition. By combining designation with adaptive reuse, the granite Gaol houses Provincial Offences courtrooms. And the Governor's House (jail warden's home) contains legal offices.



The gardens surrounding the property have their own interesting backstories and were selected to represent plants and flowers which are historically accurate for the period.

73-77 Queen St. N.,
Kitchener

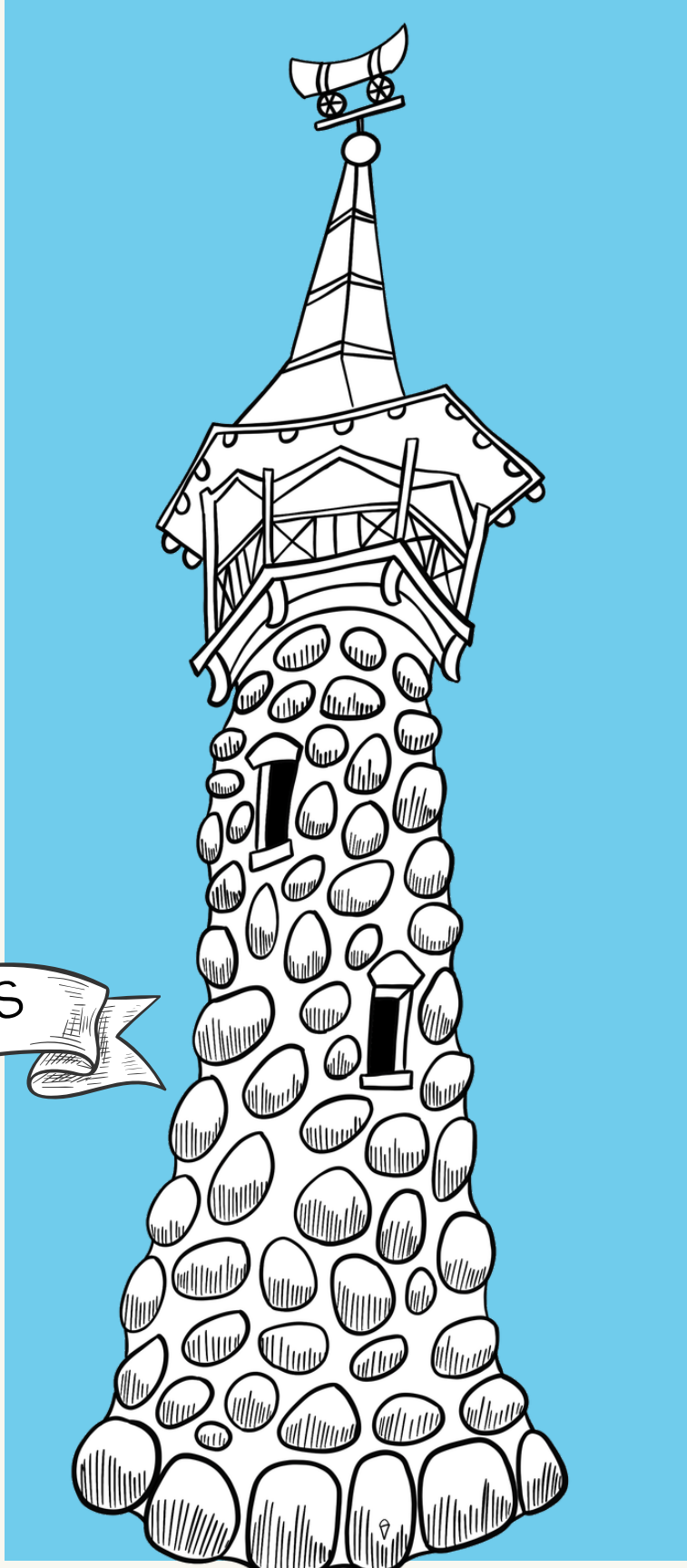
## HIDDEN TREASURES



A display case in the Goal showcases some of the items hidden by prisoners which were recovered during restoration!

# WATERLOO PIONEERS MEMORIAL TOWER

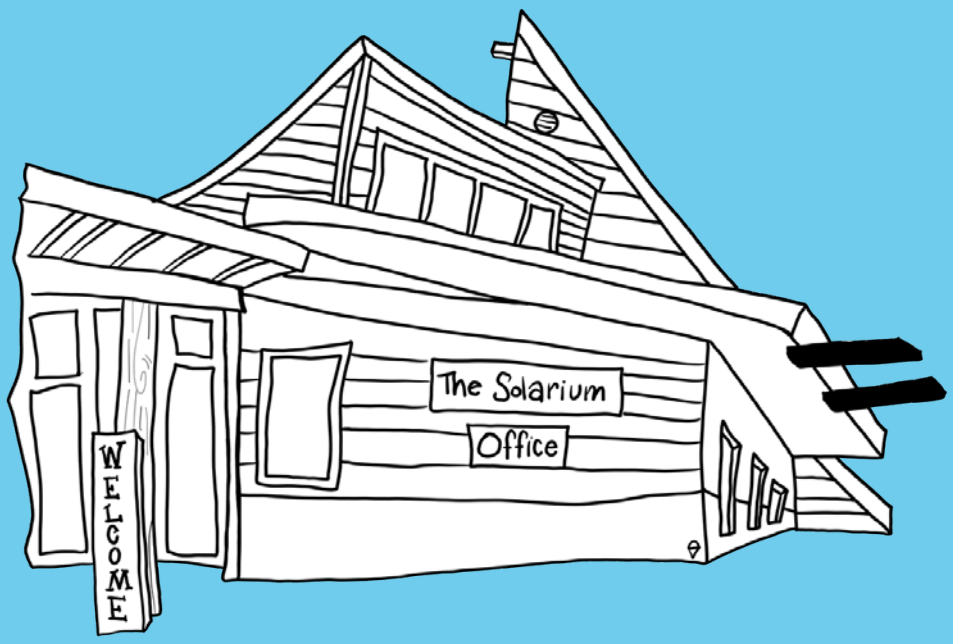
Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower commemorates the arrival of Pennsylvania-German pioneers to the Waterloo region. The 18.9-metre tower (62 feet) is located along the banks of the Grand River. A viewing platform at the top provides a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape. Visitors will have access to the viewing platform for a short time as part of Doors Open.




DID YOU KNOW?

Built in 1826, it is designated as a Classified Federal Heritage Building and a National Historic Site.

300 Lookout Lane
Kitchener

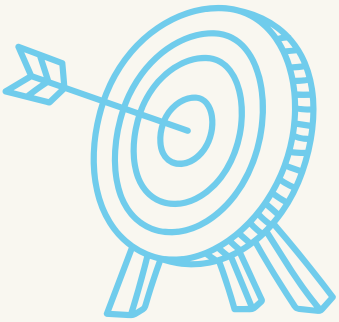



# YMCA CAMP KI-WA-Y

At YMCA Camp Ki-Wa-Y, adventure starts here for all ages. For more than 100 years, Camp Ki-Wa-Y has inspired connection, confidence and outdoor exploration on the shores of Paradise Lake. During Doors Open, guests can explore indoor spaces, visit the waterfront and experience activities like archery and high ropes while discovering the magic of camp life.

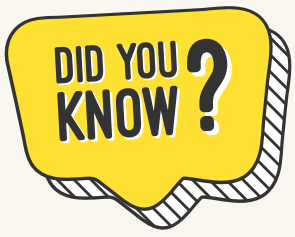



This historic 77-acre year-round outdoor education center and summer camp was established in 1924. The unique name "Ki-Wa-Y" is actually a clever acronym honoring its founding roots: Ki represents the Kiwanis Club, Wa stands for Waterloo, and Y represents the YMCA.



3738 Hessen Strasse Road
St. Clements

DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION
*2026 EVENT GUIDE*



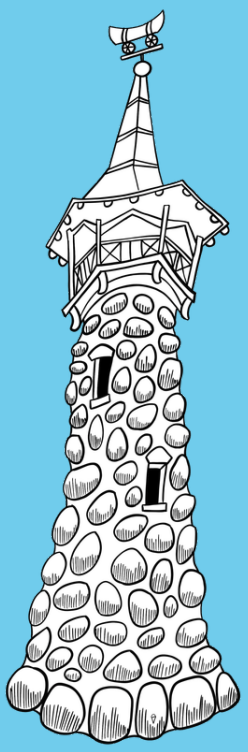
DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE.

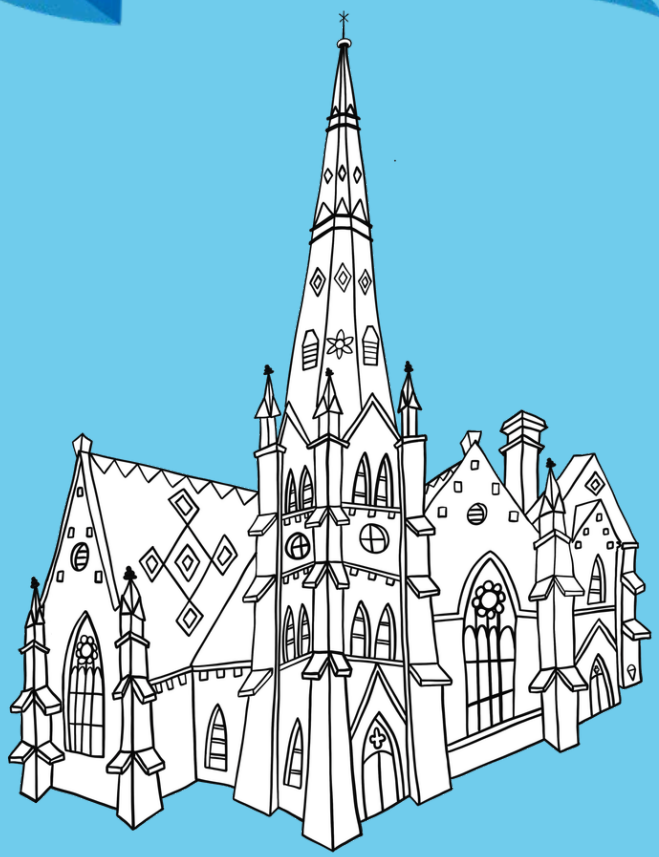
8 themed itineraries to help you explore Waterloo Region one fascinating stop at a time during Doors Open.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026**
10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

A day of discovery.









# 1. SACRED SPACES

For stained glass, soaring architecture and remarkable transformations.

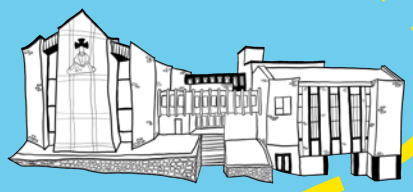
Route:
Waterloo → downtown Kitchener → Doon → Galt

Four locations, representing five Doors Open sites.

**10:00 a.m. – Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour, Waterloo.** Admire the richly carved oak interior, murals and stained-glass windows.



**11:10 a.m. – St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Indwell Magnolia Apartments, Kitchener.** Two Doors Open experiences at one address: see how a historic church now accommodates both a modern worship space and 41 supportive homes.



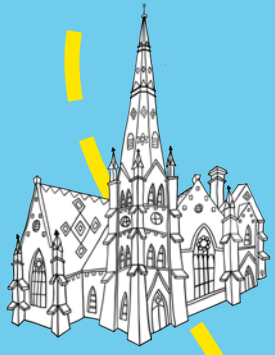
**12:30 p.m. – Lunch in downtown Kitchener.** Try The Yeti Café for creative sandwiches and brunch dishes. It is normally open Saturdays until 3 p.m.



**1:25 p.m. – Doon Presbyterian Church, Kitchener.** Visit an 1853 church that remains closely connected to Doon's Scottish-settler history.



**2:45 p.m. – Central Presbyterian Church, Cambridge.** End beneath its 56-metre spire, with memorial bells, stained glass and a magnificent Casavant organ. Allow additional time if climbing the bell tower.



A day of discovery.

DOORS Open Waterloo Region

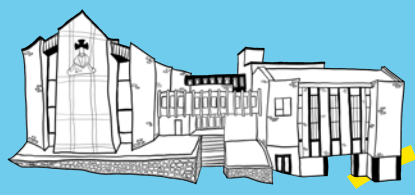
# 2. Old Buildings, Bold New Lives

A concentrated adaptive-reuse route through central Kitchener.

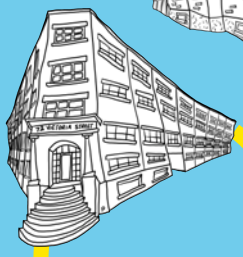
Route: Downtown and central Kitchener

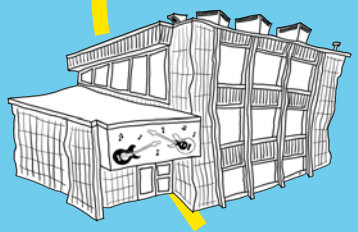
Five sites with relatively little driving











**10:00 a.m. — Waterloo County Gaol and Governor's House.** Discover how an 1852–53 jail was saved and converted into courtrooms and offices.

**11:00 a.m. — St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Indwell Magnolia Apartments.** Explore one of the region's most ambitious recent heritage conversions.

**12:15 p.m. — Holly's Neighbourhood Café & Bar** Tour a former 1895 residence transformed into apartments, a café and gallery — then stay for coffee or lunch.

**1:30 p.m. — GSP Group.** Step inside an architecture and planning studio occupying a former hardwood factory in Kitchener's Warehouse District.

**2:40 p.m. — The JR.** Finish at an office building reborn as a lively music hub with rehearsal rooms, a performance venue and a skate-park-inspired common area.

A day of discovery.

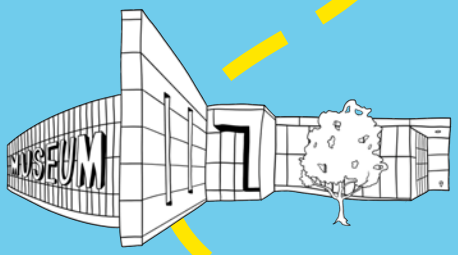
DTRS Open
Waterloo Region

# 3. Big Adventures for Curious Kids

Hands-on history, firefighters, outdoor games and a living sculpture.

Route: South Kitchener → Doon → Cambridge

Four sites with solid kid-appeal!



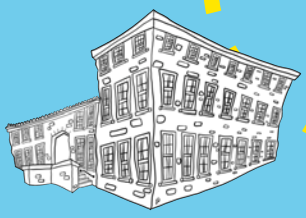

**10:00 a.m. – Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum**
Explore 15,000 years of regional history and visit three reopened buildings in Doon Heritage Village.



**11:30 a.m. – Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower**
Climb the historic stone tower for a panoramic view of the Grand River landscape. The viewing platform is accessible for a limited time during Doors Open.



**12:40 p.m. – Lunch in Cambridge's Gaslight District**



**1:35 p.m. – Tapestry Hall**
Look up at Meander, an enormous responsive "living architecture" installation, and explore the restored industrial hall.



**2:50 p.m. – Fire Hall Museum & Education Centre**
See vintage firefighting equipment inside Cambridge's former 1898 fire station.




**Alternative for outdoorsy families:** Build the day around YMCA Camp Ki-Wa-Y, where activities may include archery, waterfront exploration and high ropes.

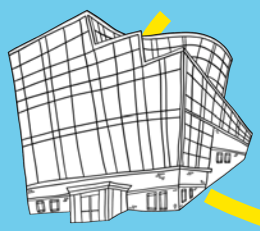
A day of discovery.

DOORS Open Waterloo Region

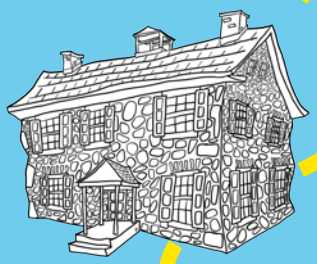
# 4. Big Ideas: Science, Research and Global Innovation

A compact Waterloo route connecting world-class research with award-winning architecture.

Route: Northwest Waterloo → University of Waterloo area → Uptown Waterloo

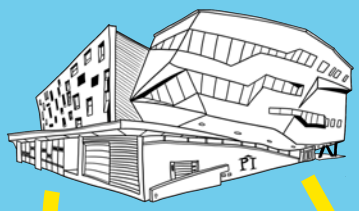


**10:00 a.m. — Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging.** Tour contemporary research and laboratory spaces and learn how researchers are helping older adults live well.

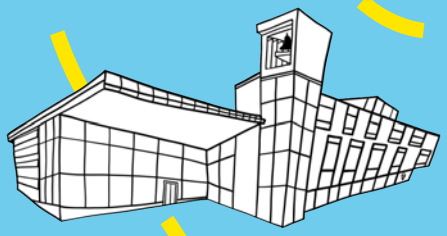


**11:15 a.m. — Brubacher House.** Shift from future-focused research to an 1850s Mennonite farmhouse hidden within the University of Waterloo's Research and Technology Park.

**12:20 p.m. — Lunch at Seven Shores Community Café.** A locally minded Uptown Waterloo café convenient to the afternoon stops.



**1:20 p.m. — Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.** Explore the award-winning home of research into particles, spacetime and the universe. Free timed tickets are required, so schedule the rest of this route around the reserved entry time.



**2:50 p.m. — CIGI Campus**
Finish at another Governor General's Medal-winning campus and discover how Waterloo-based research informs global policy.

A day of discovery.

DORS Open Waterloo Region

# 5. Local History Detective

For genealogists, archival researchers and anyone who enjoys uncovering the stories behind familiar places.

Route: Central and south Kitchener

**10:00 a.m. – Schneider Haus National Historic Site**
Explore changing eras of domestic life and try your hand at crokinole.

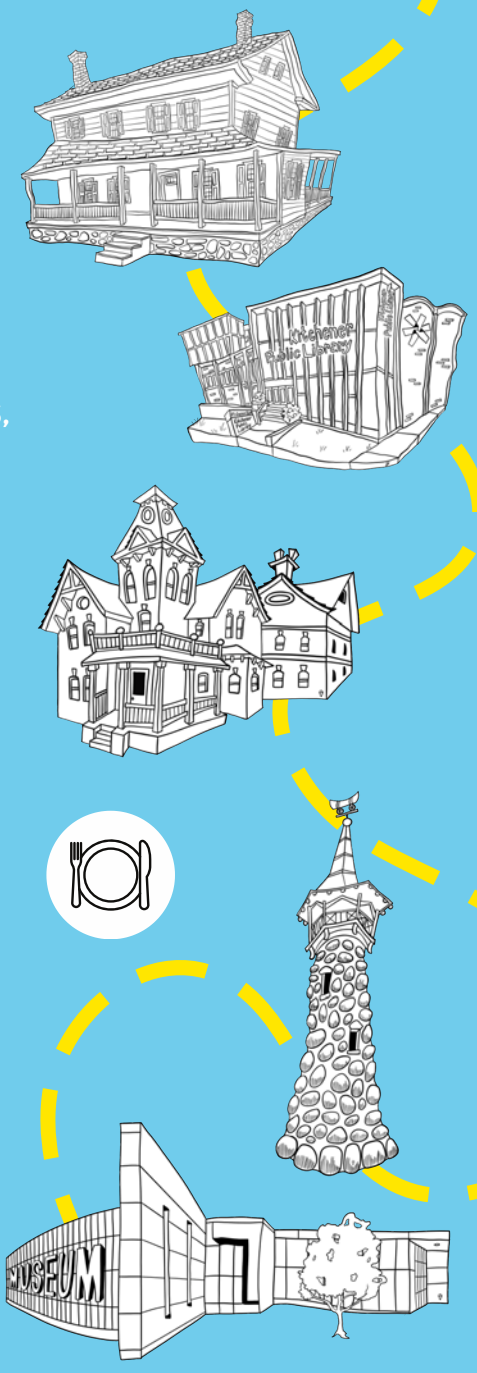
**11:15 a.m. – Grace Schmidt Room of Local History at Kitchener Public Library.** Browse maps, photographs, postcards, yearbooks and other resources for researching local people and places.

**12:15 p.m. – Waterloo County Gaol and Governor's House.** Step inside two of Waterloo Region's oldest civic buildings.

**1:15 p.m. – Lunch in downtown Kitchener.**
The Rose Cafe is a Middle Eastern-inspired café with vibrant, pink floral aesthetic and cozy atmosphere.

**2:10 p.m. – Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower.**
Learn about Pennsylvania-German settlement while taking in the Grand River landscape.

**Optional final stop – Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum.** Best for speedy visitors who want to place all that local history into a 15,000-year timeline.




A day of discovery.

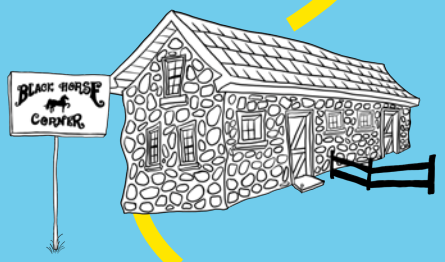
DOORS Open Waterloo Region

# 6. Stone, Stories and the Grand

A Cambridge-area route with Scottish heritage, historic stonework and dramatic river views.

Route: North Dumfries → downtown Galt

**10:00 a.m. — Ghost Village of Black Horse Corner.** Begin in rural North Dumfries, exploring the remains of a once-thriving crossroads community, including its barn, smokehouse and 1835 stone cheese factory.




**11:30 a.m. — Monigram Coffee Roasters, downtown Galt.** Pause for locally roasted coffee before continuing on foot or by car through the downtown cluster.





**12:00 p.m. — Ferguson Cottage.** Visit one of Cambridge's earliest surviving Scottish stone cottages.



**12:45 p.m. — McDougall Cottage Historic Site.** See its extraordinary hand-painted murals, enjoy Scottish shortbread and discover the families who lived there.

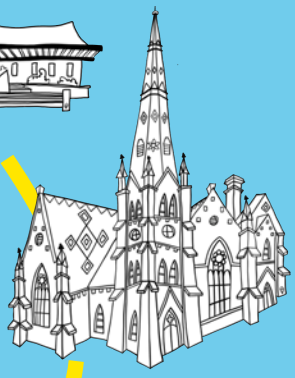
**1:45 p.m. — Lunch in the Gaslight District**



**2:35 p.m. — Tapestry Hall.** Experience industrial heritage and interactive contemporary art.



**3:25 p.m. — Cambridge Arts Theatre or Central Presbyterian Church.** Choose backstage theatrical history or a grand sanctuary and bell tower for the final stop.



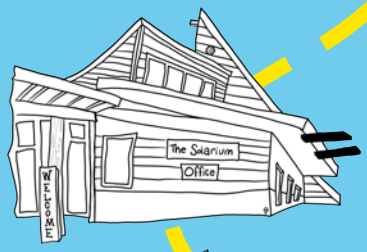
A day of discovery.

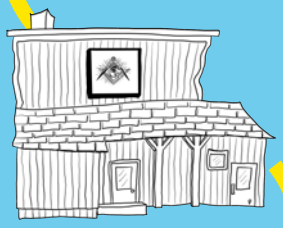
DTRS Open
Waterloo Region

# 7. Country Roads and Rural Stories

A scenic drive through the northern and western parts of Waterloo Region.

Route: St. Clements → Elmira → Waterloo → New Hamburg

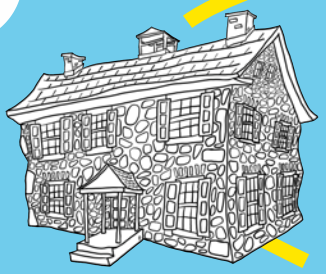


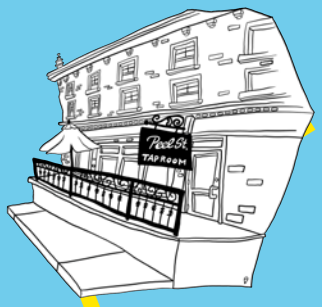
**10:00 a.m. — YMCA Camp Ki-Wa-Y, St. Clements.** Explore a century-old camp on Paradise Lake and sample its outdoor activities.

**11:35 a.m. — Elmira Masonic Centre.** Discover the symbols, traditions and community history of local Freemasonry.

**12:30 p.m. — Country-style lunch near Elmira** at the legendary Anna Mae's Bakery & Restaurant in Millbank. Worth the detour!



**1:40 p.m. — Brubacher House, Waterloo.** Tour a fieldstone Mennonite farmhouse and learn about early rural life.




**3:00 p.m. — Peel St. Beverage Company, New Hamburg.** End in an 1872 heritage building with a look inside its nano-brewery and taproom. Yummy non-alcoholic options for drivers!

This is the day's most driving-intensive itinerary, so visitors should keep the lunch stop fairly short.

A day of discovery.

DTRS Open
Waterloo Region

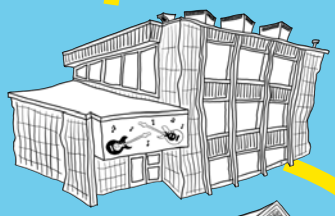
# 8. Behind the Curtain

For theatre lovers, music fans, performers and creative families.

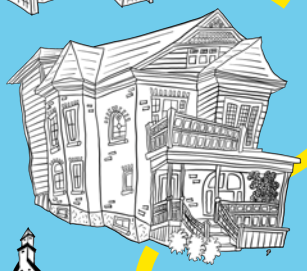
Route: Kitchener → Cambridge



**10:00 a.m. — K-W Musical Productions.** Tour a former 1925 school filled with rehearsal halls, costumes, props and theatrical workshops.



**11:20 a.m. — The JR.** Explore rehearsal studios, music-learning spaces, a performance venue and an indoor skate area.



**12:25 p.m. — Lunch at Holly's Neighbourhood Café & Bar.** Enjoy refreshments while seeing how a heritage home became a contemporary café, gallery and residential space.



**1:40 p.m. — Cambridge Arts Theatre.** Go behind the curtain in a former 1887 church—and look for seats that once belonged to Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.



**2:55 p.m. — Tapestry Hall.** Finish on a spectacular scale beneath the interactive Meander installation.

These routes are suggestions rather than rigid schedules. Tour lengths, lineups, parking and special presentation times may affect how many locations visitors can reach. Food-service hours should be reconfirmed shortly before the event, and visitors choosing the Perimeter Institute itinerary must reserve a free timed ticket.

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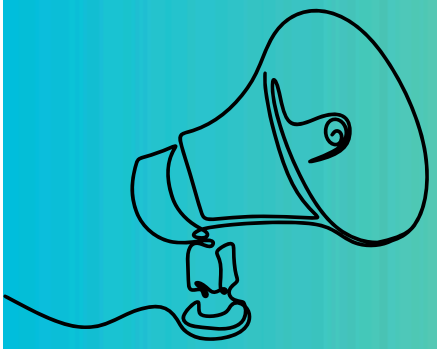

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2026 Kids' Activity Guide

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