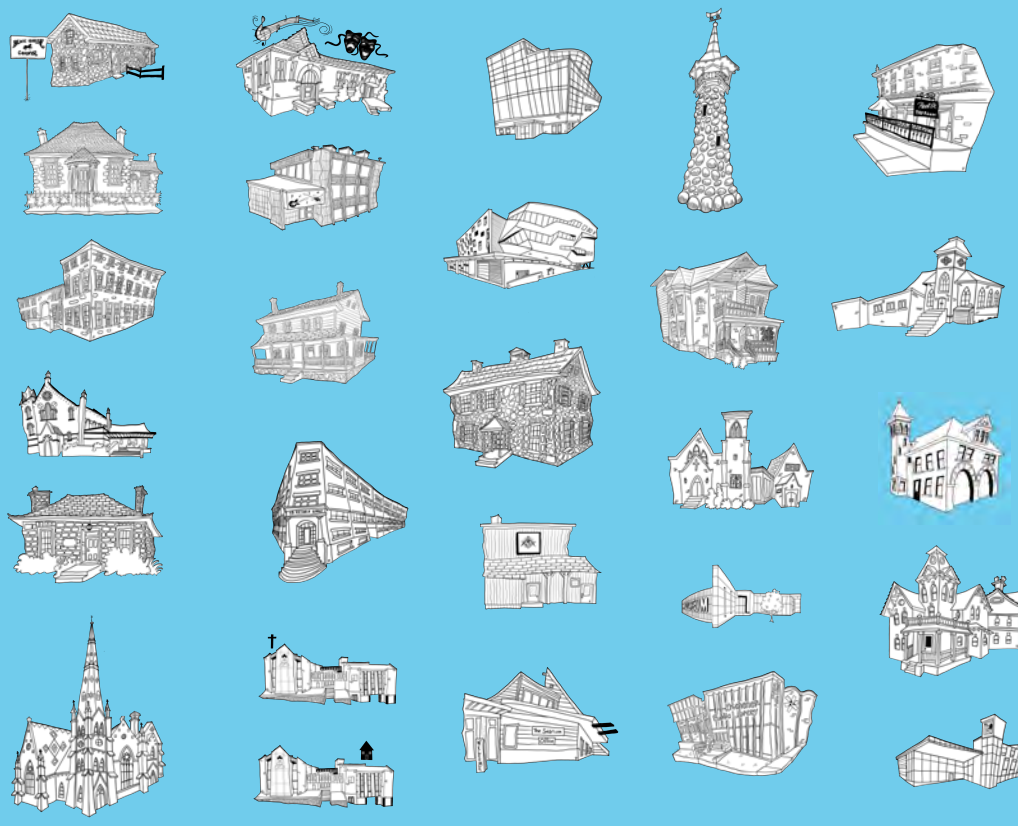
A day of discovery.







2026 Kids' Activity Guide

DOORS OPEN
WATERLOO REGION
Saturday, Sept. 19
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

DOORS Open Waterloo Region

DOORS OPEN ONTARIO
ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

Region of Waterloo



WHAT IS DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION?

It's a chance for you to explore cool buildings and meet neat people. You'll learn about these places and the stories of the folks connected to them.

Every year, on the 3rd Saturday of September (a few weeks after you return to school), 20+ of these sites open their doors for you.

It's free for everybody because we want you to explore as much of Waterloo Region as possible — and to share those experiences with your family and friends.

WHAT ARE THE BUILDINGS LIKE?

Some of the buildings are very old, dating back to the 1800s. Some of them are very new, such as the Perimeter Institute's building which is just 23 years old and looks very modern. Some of them are old AND new, such as Tapestry Hall which was built in 1847 but inside it's full of cool, modern spaces and a *living* sculpture!

And some of the buildings themselves aren't the main attraction; places like The JR Inc. and K-W Musical Productions are magical because of what happens INSIDE!

CAN I SEE THEM ALL?

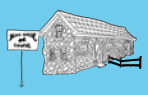
There are 27 sites located throughout Waterloo Region and there's 6 hours to see them all. So, unless you can fly, you'll have to choose the ones you like best! But, you can explore them all in this Activity Guide and that may help you decide which ones to select.

If you have questions or comments about this Activity Guide, send us an email at doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca

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



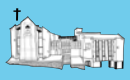
The JR Inc.
124 Sydney St. S., Kitchener



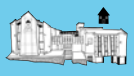
Schneider Haus National Historic Site
466 Queen St. S, Kitchener



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



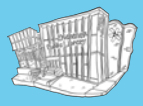
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
49 Queen St. N., Kitchener



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



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



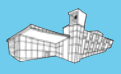
Grace Schmidt Room of Local History (Kitchener Public Library)
85 Queen St. N., Kitchener



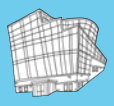
Holly's Neighbourhood Cafe & Bar
27 Roy St., Kitchener



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



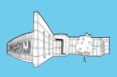
Elmira Masonic Centre
7 Arthur St. S., Elmira



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

MY NAME IS:

I'M GOING TO DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION WITH:

I'M GOING TO BRING:

__ sun hat
__ sunscreen
__ sunglasses
__ sweater/jacket
__ umbrella
__ camera
__ snacks
__ drinks
__ anything else?

I'M GOING TO WEAR MY MOST COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES!



DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR SHOES:

ABOUT THESE ILLUSTRATIONS

We hope you enjoyed colouring the buildings and people you'll see and meet during Doors Open.



The illustrations you coloured were created by Della vanDokkumburg, an artist living in Conestogo, ON. She has published many illustrated books, including books of her sketches of Conestogo, West Montrose, and St. Jacobs.

Maybe you're like Della and love drawing pictures of buildings. Give it a whirl . . .

DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR FAVOURITE BUILDING IN WATERLOO REGION!

HAVE YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN SNAP A PHOTO OF YOUR DRAWING AND TAG US ON INSTAGRAM AT @DOORSOPENWR & DELLA AT @RANDOMSKETCHESOFMYLIFE SO WE CAN SEE AND SHARE THEM!

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR

Look closely inside this beautiful 1898 church and you'll spot amazing woodwork everywhere—from carved oak pews and choir stalls to a detailed scene of the Last Supper. The woodwork was made by Waterloo's own Globe Furniture Company. Colour the church, then see how many murals, stained-glass windows and carved details you can find during your visit.



BRUBACHER HOUSE

Travel back to the 1850s inside this fieldstone Mennonite farmhouse. Its old-fashioned furniture, tools and family belongings show how early Pennsylvania German Mennonite settlers lived and worked in rural Waterloo. The house was carefully restored after a fire and opened as a museum in 1979. Imagine doing your daily chores here—without electricity or running water!



COLOUR ME!

CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE (HOME OF CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAYERS)

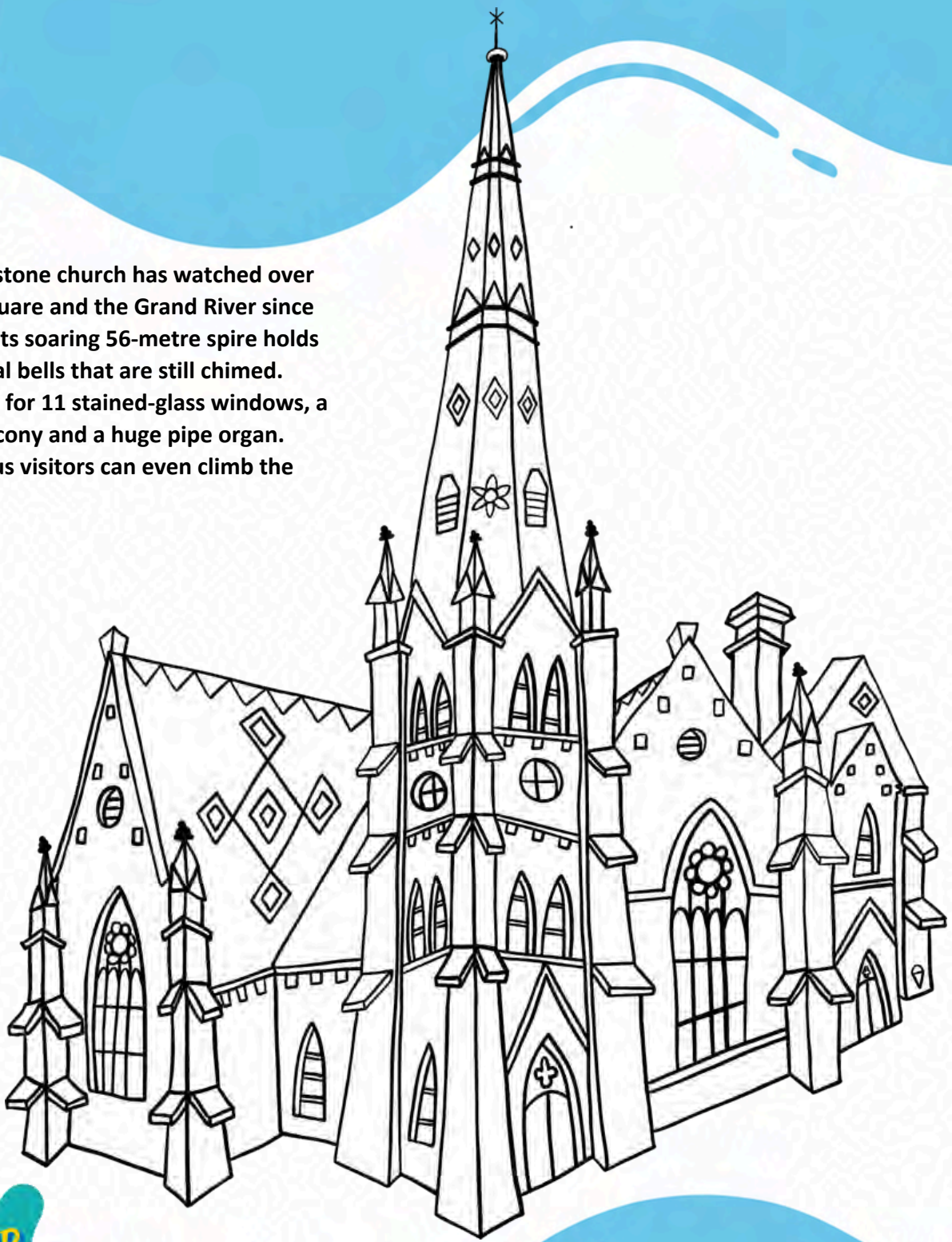
This colourful brick building began as a church in 1887, but today it is a theatre where actors bring stories to life. Go behind the curtain to explore the stage and backstage spaces. Here's a Hollywood-sized surprise: some of the theatre seats once belonged to the famous Grauman's Chinese Theatre in California!



COLOUR ME!

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

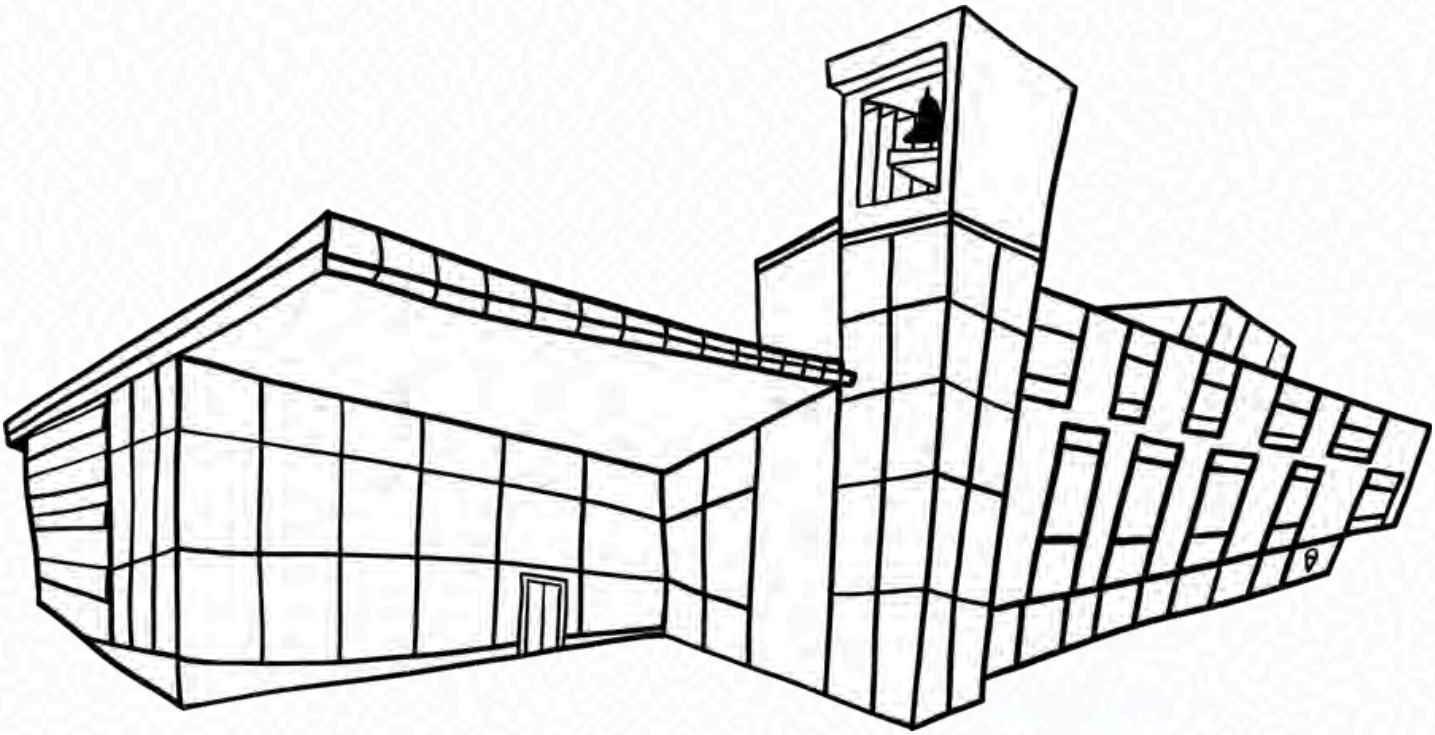
This grand stone church has watched over Queen's Square and the Grand River since the 1880s. Its soaring 56-metre spire holds 10 memorial bells that are still chimed. Inside, look for 11 stained-glass windows, a curving balcony and a huge pipe organ. Adventurous visitors can even climb the bell tower!



COLOUR ME!

CIGI CAMPUS

CIGI is celebrating 25 years of helping people think about big worldwide challenges. Its award-winning campus surrounds a peaceful courtyard and combines modern design with bricks that recall Waterloo's industrial past. Explore the building, listen to presentations and discover how ideas developed right here in Waterloo can help improve lives around the world.



COLOUR ME!

DOON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

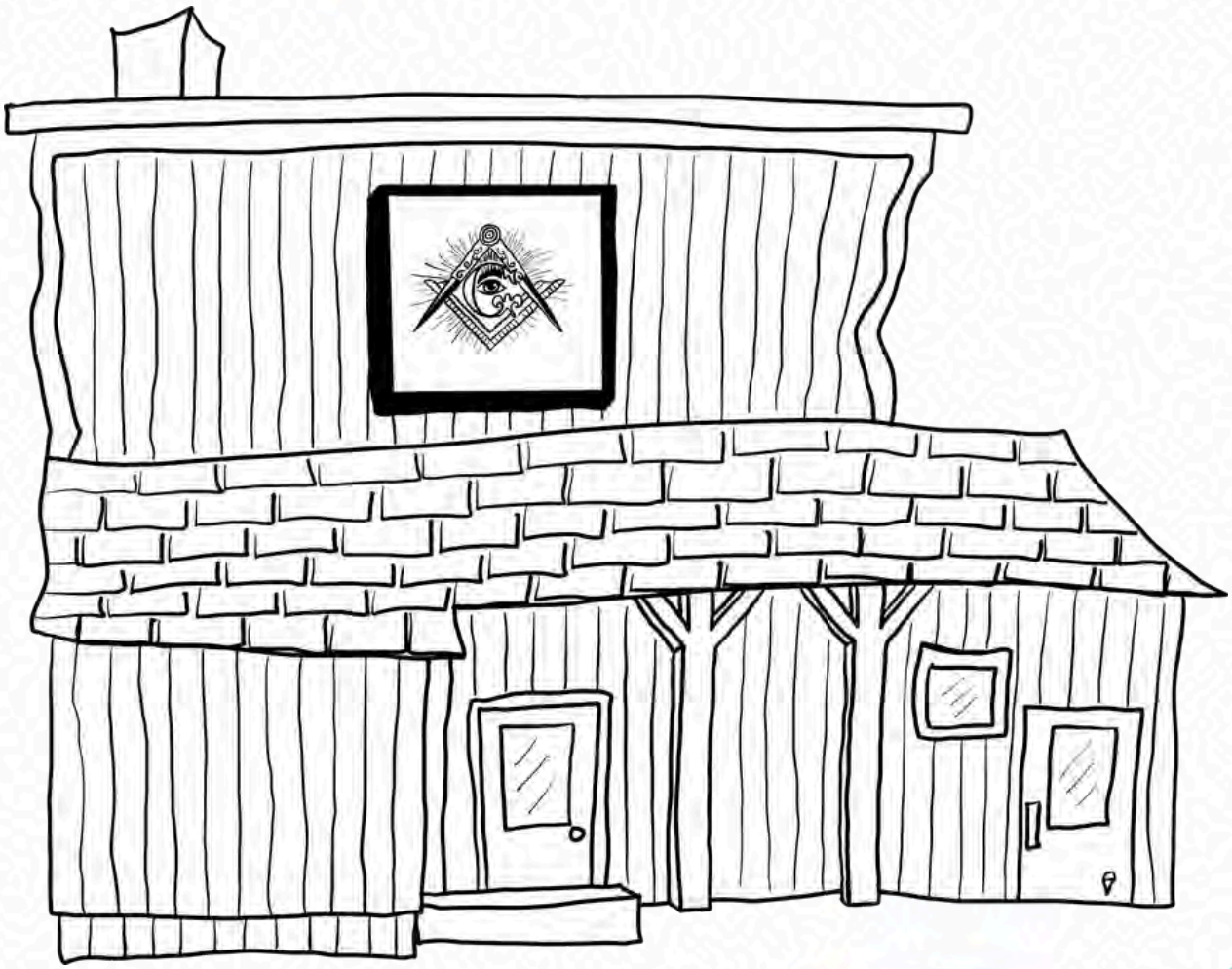
Scottish settlers founded this congregation in 1853, and the original church building is still used today. The land was donated by a local mill owner in the historic village of Doon. Step inside to find original features that have survived for more than 170 years, then imagine the families who once travelled by foot or wagon to worship here.



COLOUR ME!

ELMIRA MASONIC CENTRE

What do the unusual symbols inside a Masonic lodge mean? Climb to the second floor of the Elmira Masonic Centre to find out. Explore the lodge room, see historic furniture and displays, and talk with local Freemasons about their traditions and community work. Freemasonry has been part of life in this area for more than 150 years.



COLOUR ME!

FERGUSON COTTAGE

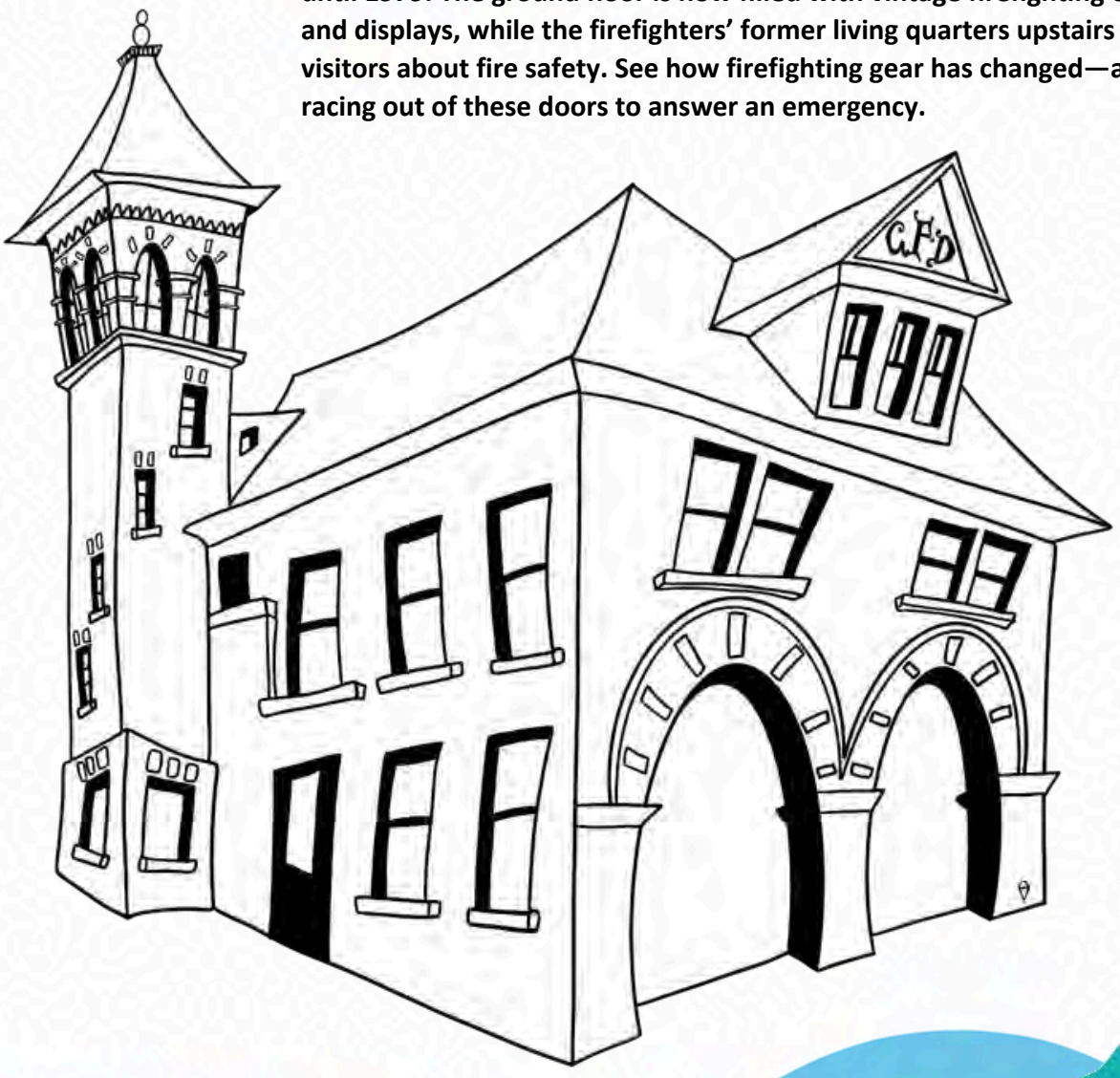
This tiny stone cottage was built around 1836 and is one of Cambridge's oldest surviving Scottish cottages. It was once home to William Ferguson, a blacksmith, and stayed in his family for about 80 years. Today, the Galt Horticultural Society uses it. Look closely at the local stone walls and imagine a whole family living in this snug little home.



COLOUR ME!

FIRE HALL MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTRE

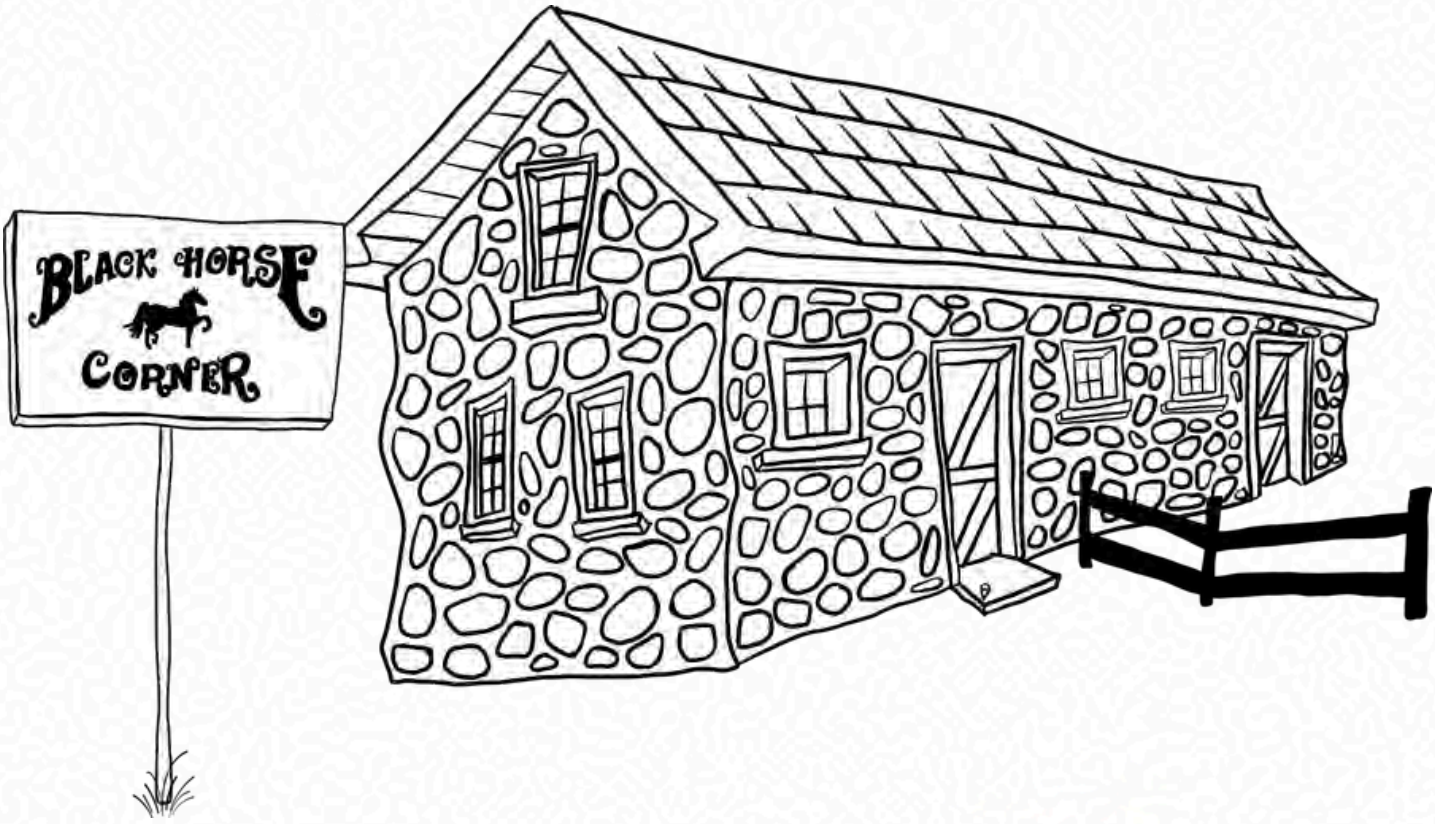
Sound the alarm! Built in 1898, this building served as Galt's main fire station until 1979. The ground floor is now filled with vintage firefighting equipment and displays, while the firefighters' former living quarters upstairs teach visitors about fire safety. See how firefighting gear has changed—and imagine racing out of these doors to answer an emergency.



COLOUR ME!

GHOST VILLAGE OF BLACK HORSE CORNER

A busy village once stood at this rural crossroads—but most of it has vanished. Black Horse Corner grew around an inn where travellers stopped between 1853 and 1875. Explore three surviving outbuildings: a barn, a smokehouse and an 1835 stone cheese factory. Look for clues in the landscape and imagine the shops, workers, wagons and animals that once filled this place.



COLOUR ME!

GRACE SCHMIDT ROOM OF LOCAL HISTORY AT KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY

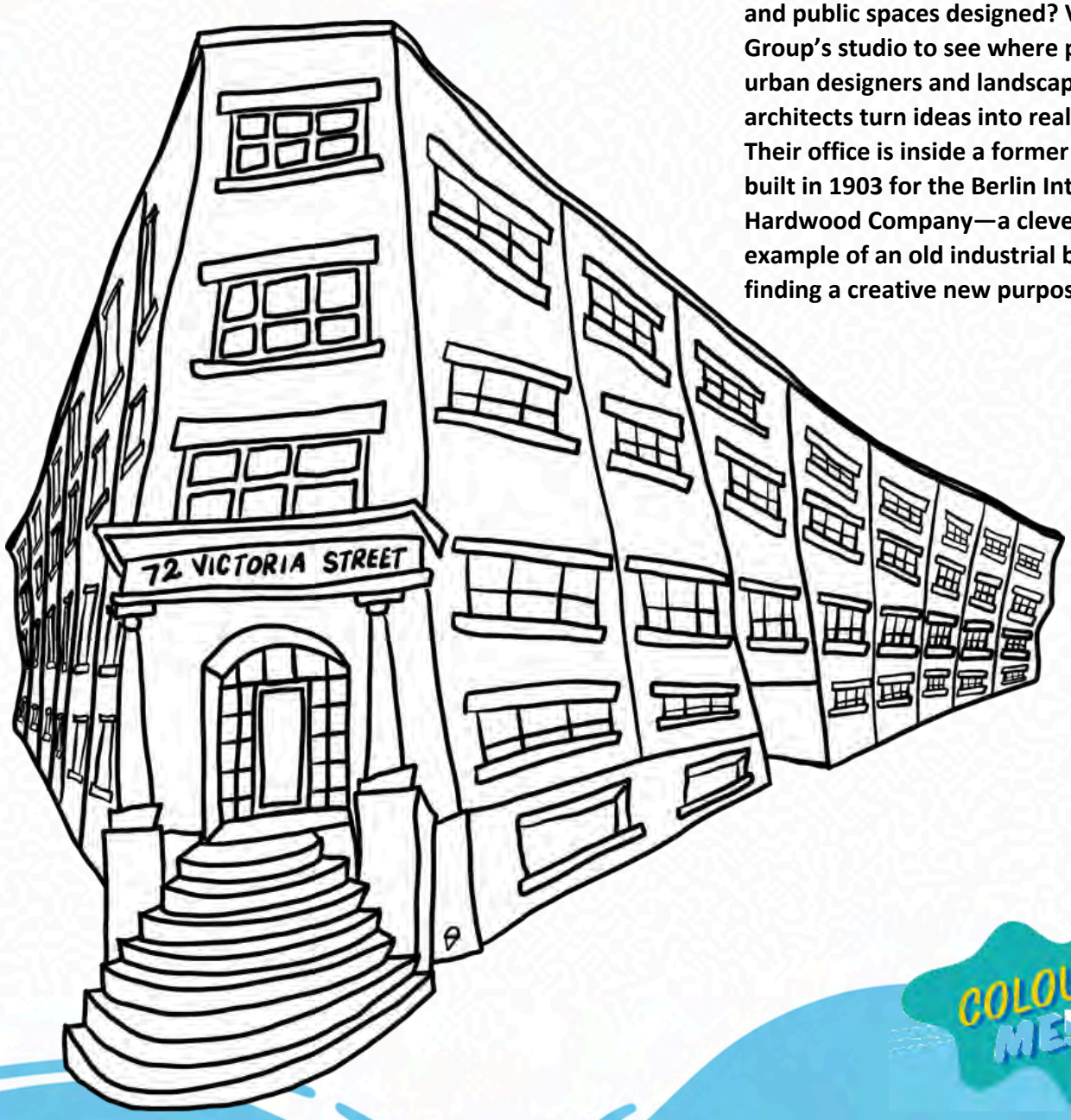
Become a history detective! The Grace Schmidt Room is packed with old maps, photographs, postcards, yearbooks and family records that tell Waterloo Region's stories. Discover special equipment that can scan and convert older photographs, films and recordings. What would you search for first: your family, your street, your school or a mystery from long ago?



COLOUR ME!

GSP GROUP

How are great neighbourhoods, parks and public spaces designed? Visit GSP Group's studio to see where planners, urban designers and landscape architects turn ideas into real places. Their office is inside a former factory built in 1903 for the Berlin Interior Hardwood Company—a clever example of an old industrial building finding a creative new purpose.



COLOUR ME!

HOLLY'S NEIGHBOURHOOD CAFE & BAR

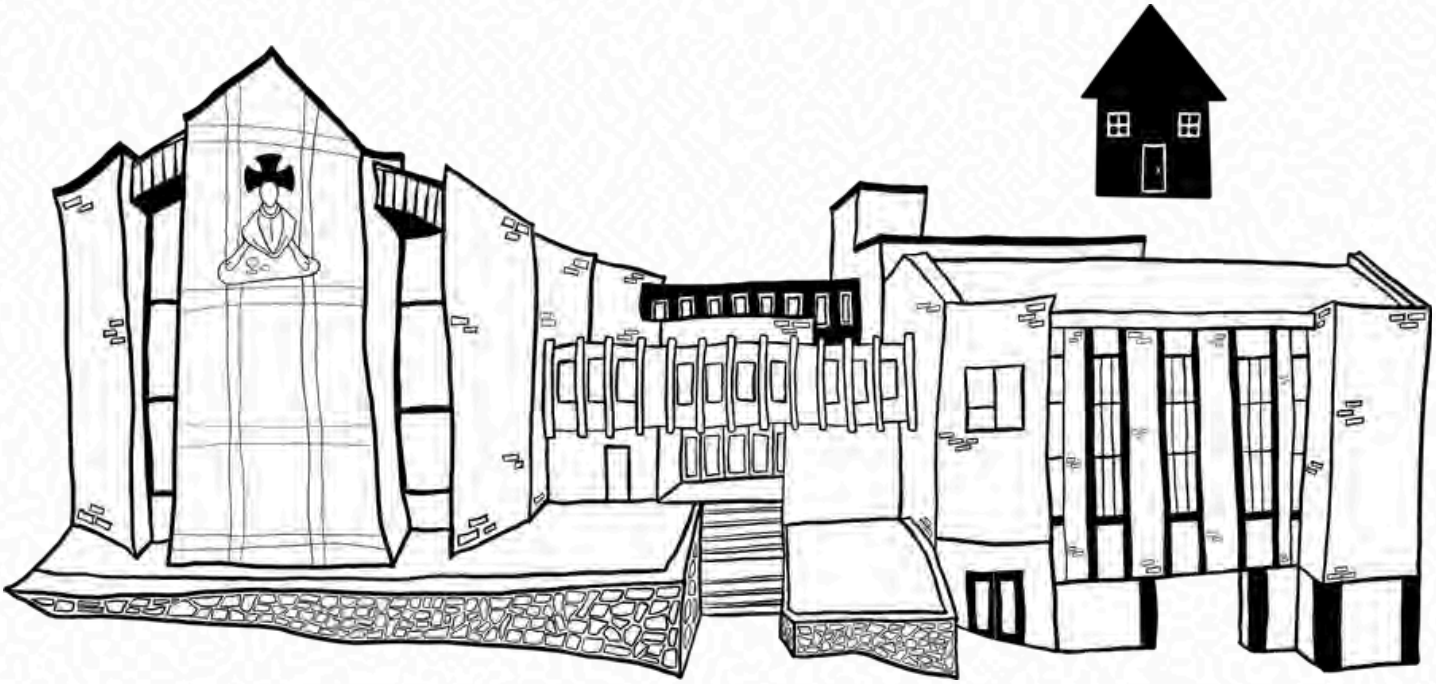
This 1895 heritage house has a surprising new life. Instead of being home to one family, it now contains apartments, a neighbourhood café and a gallery with changing art exhibitions. Explore the preserved house details and learn how designers carefully adapted the building for new uses. What would you keep if you were transforming an old house?



COLOUR ME!

INDWELL MAGNOLIA APARTMENTS

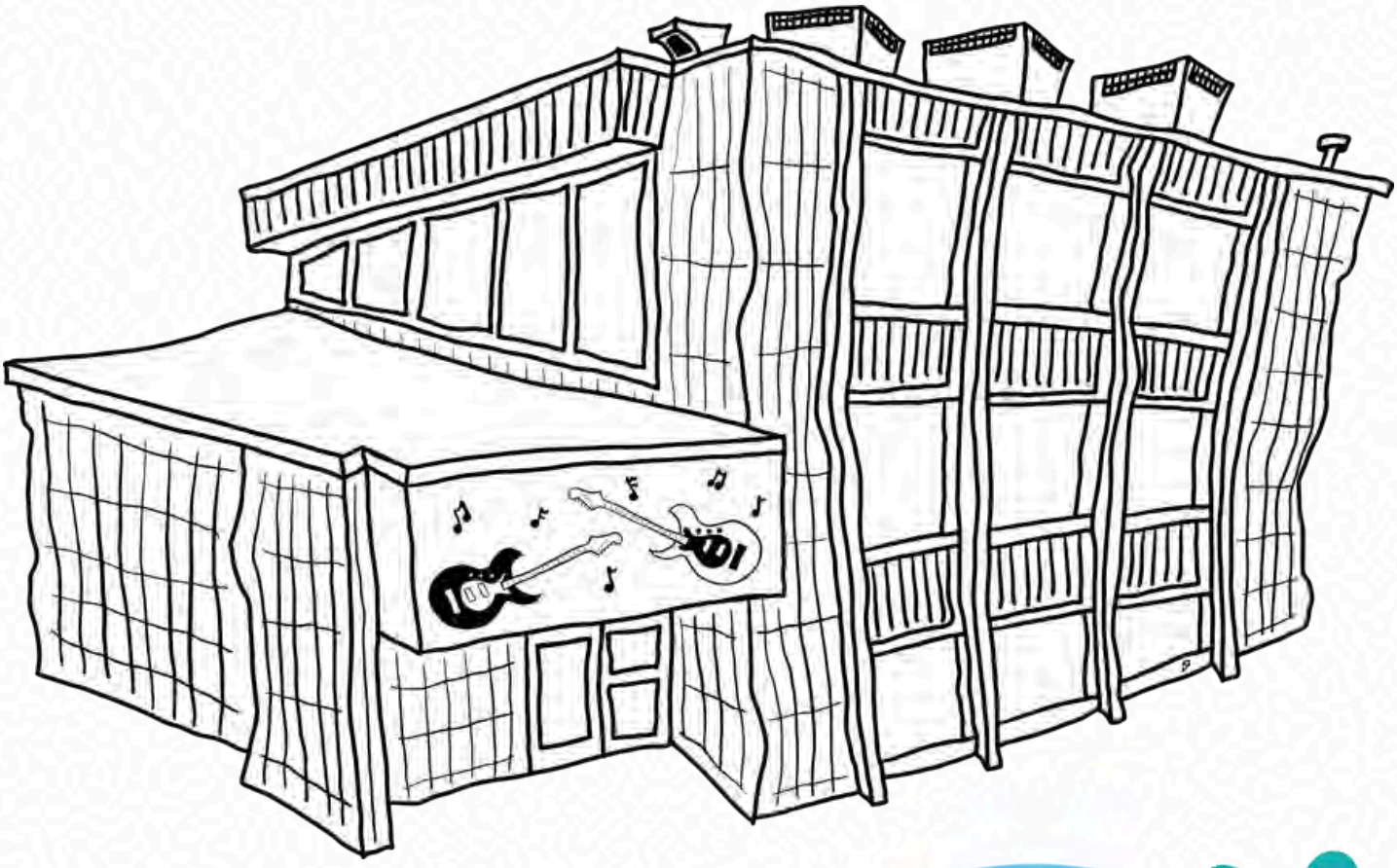
Can a church become a home? Most of this historic St. Peter's church complex has been transformed into 41 deeply affordable apartments, with shared spaces, supports and outdoor gardens. Explore how designers fitted comfortable modern homes into a much older building while keeping its special character. The project shows how imaginative reuse can help people and protect heritage at the same time.



COLOUR ME!

THE JR

This former office building now rocks! The JR is a community hub where musicians rehearse, learn, perform and connect. Peek inside rehearsal rooms, visit The Union performance venue and check out the skate-park-inspired common area. As you explore, imagine what sounds might come from each room—and how you would redesign an ordinary office for music and movement.



COLOUR ME!

K-W MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

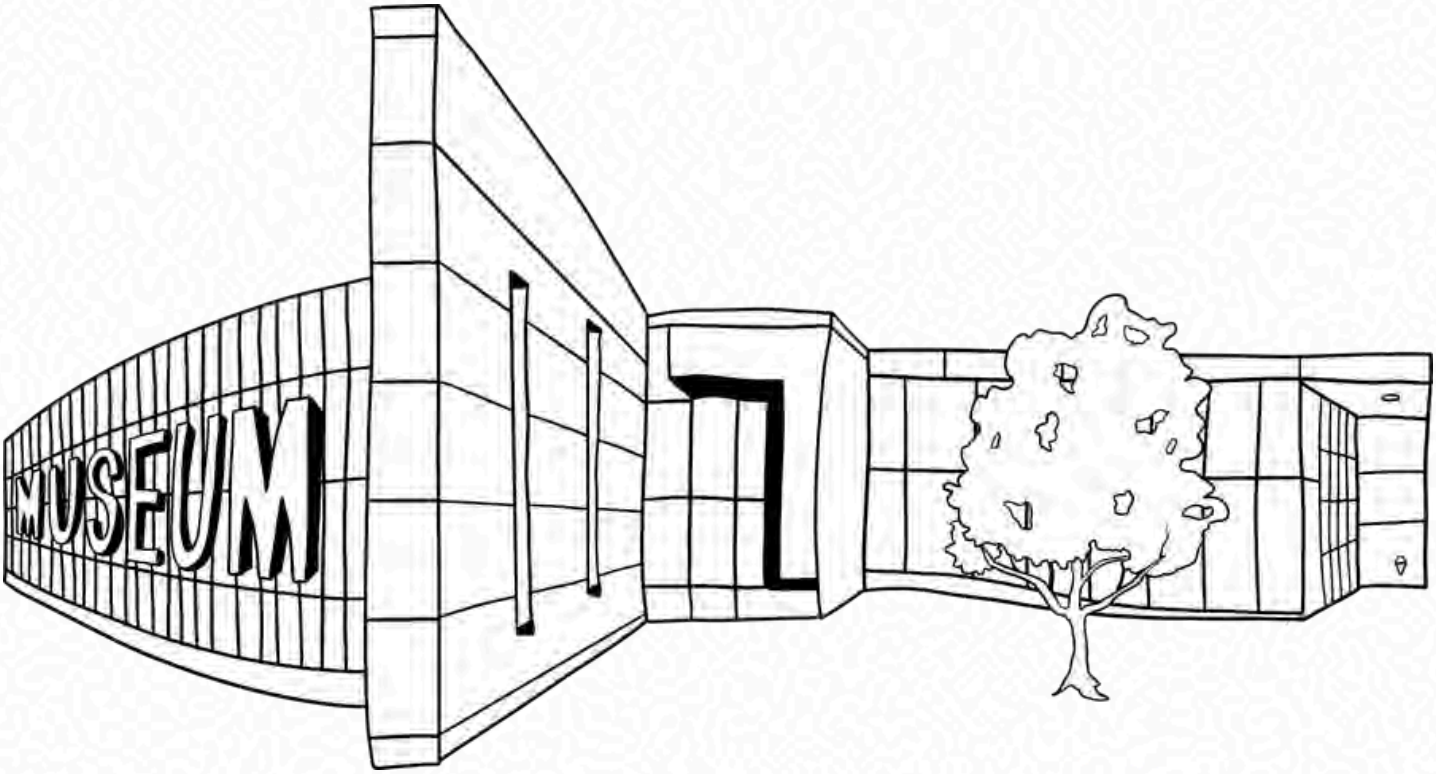
This 1925 school has become a place where musical theatre magic is made. K-W Musical Productions has used the building since 1964. Tour rehearsal halls, costume and prop storage rooms, and workshop spaces where volunteers build shows from the ground up. Which job would you choose: actor, musician, costume maker, set builder or backstage crew member?



COLOUR ME!

KEN SEILING WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM

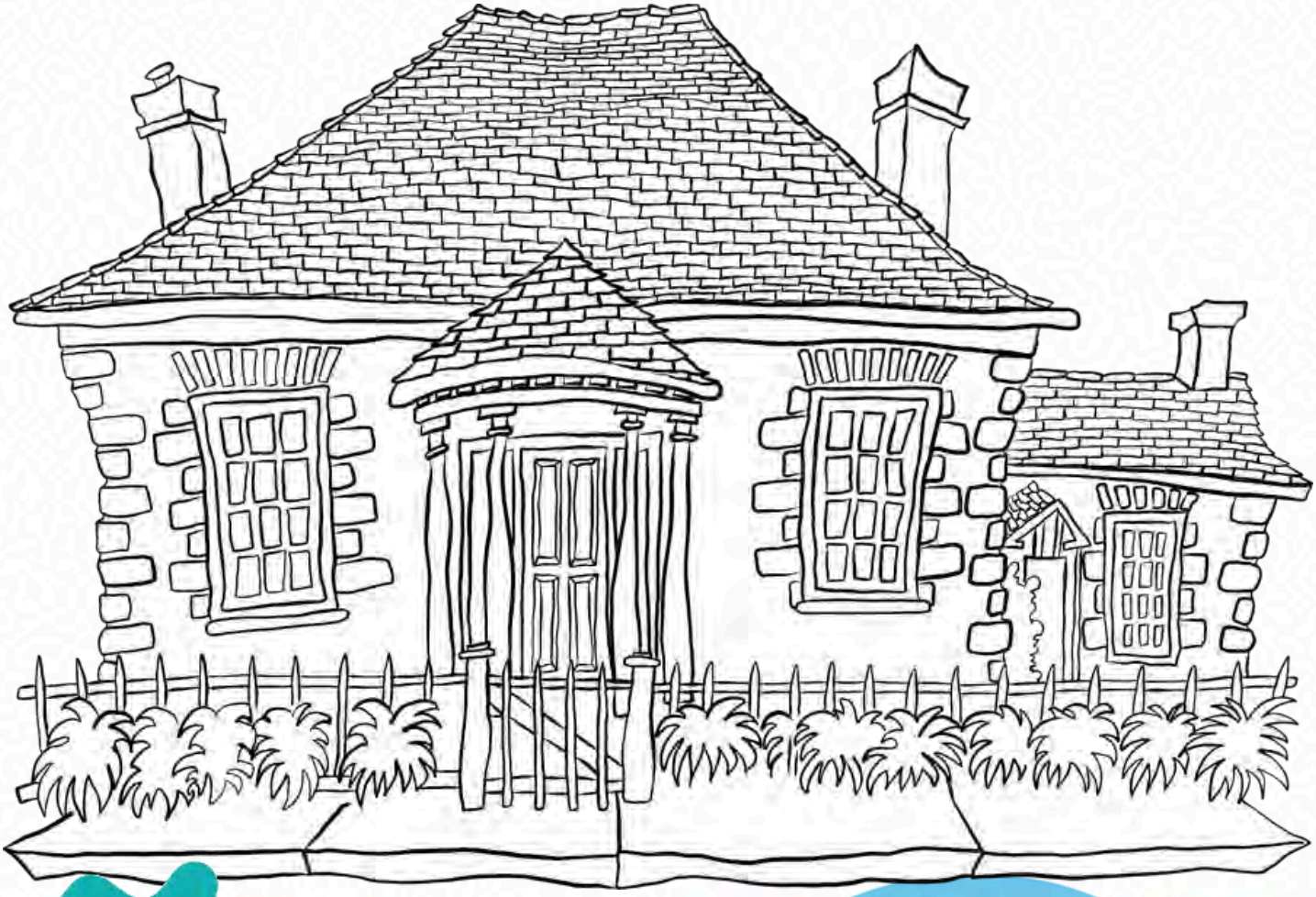
Ontario's largest community museum tells 15,000 years of stories about the land now called Waterloo Region. Explore the main exhibit, then visit three reopened buildings in Doon Heritage Village: the train station, blacksmith shop and Sararas House. Discover how each building changed over time—and look for clues showing how people once travelled, worked and lived.





MCDOUGALL COTTAGE HISTORIC SITE

This stone cottage beside the Grand River was home to two Scottish settler families. Inside, colourful hand-painted murals cover the walls like a family scrapbook. Explore the exhibit Snapshots in Time: Nostalgia and Memory, make a craft and sample Scottish shortbread. Which pictures, objects or tastes help you remember a special time?



COLOUR ME!

PEEL ST. BEVERAGE COMPANY

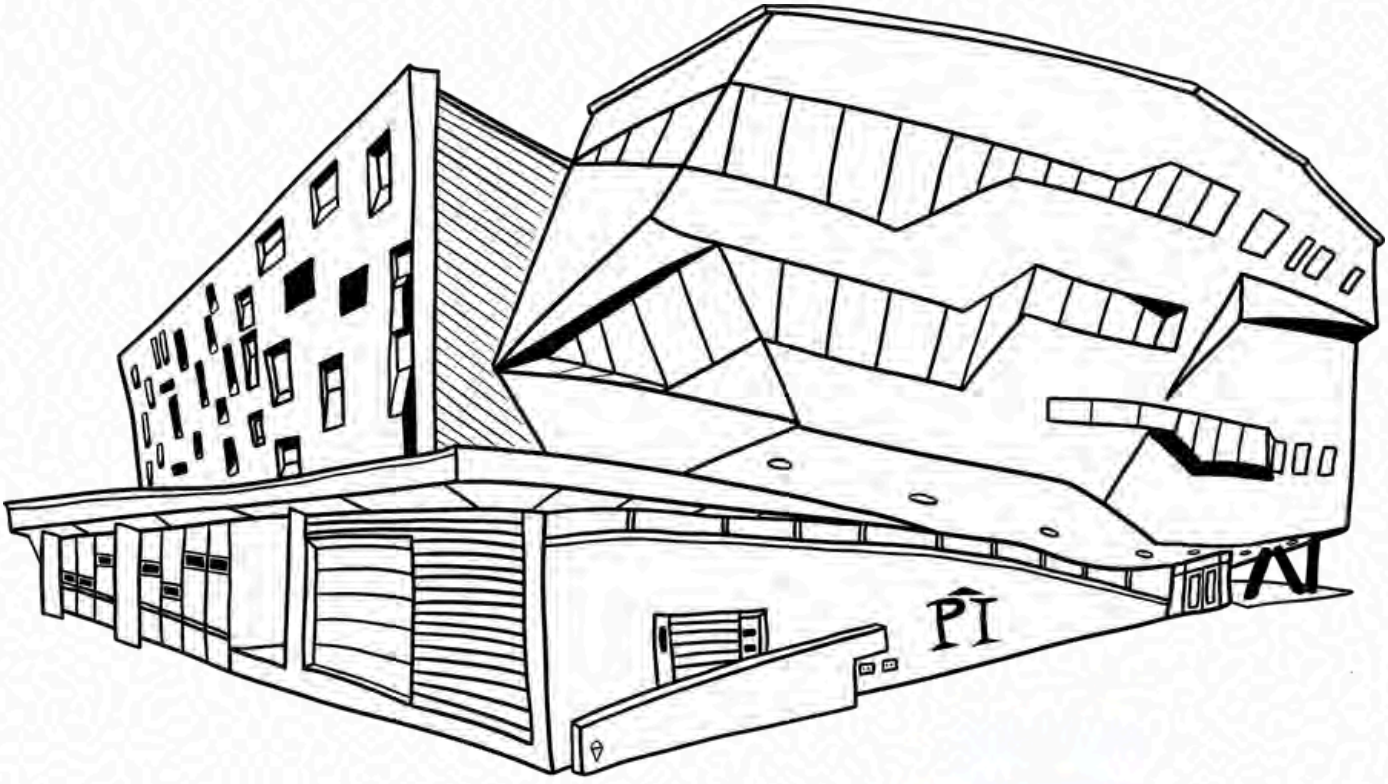
This 1872 building is now a friendly taproom and tiny craft-beverage brewery. Its name remembers Peel Street, an early road connected to the settlement that became New Hamburg. Explore the nano-brewery, notice the building's heritage features and learn how this part of town grew from an early settlement into a busy industrial and residential neighbourhood.



COLOUR ME!

PERIMETER INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

What are black holes made of? How did the universe begin? At Perimeter Institute, scientists use mathematics and imagination to investigate enormous questions—from the tiniest particles to the whole cosmos. Tour the institute's award-winning building and peek behind the scenes at a world-famous research centre. Free timed tickets are required, so plan ahead for your space adventure!



COLOUR ME!

SCHLEGEL-UW RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AGING

Scientists here are exploring how people can stay healthy, connected and active as they grow older. Visit the modern research building and laboratory spaces, meet researchers and discover how their ideas become useful programs, resources and education. Think like a scientist: what invention, activity or community change would you create to help older adults live life to the fullest?



COLOUR ME!

SCHNEIDER HAUS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Built in 1816, Schneider Haus is Kitchener's oldest surviving home. Travel through different decades, handle replica artifacts and try traditional outdoor games. You can even play crokinole and see the world's oldest known dated crokinole board! Study its round board and wooden discs—then challenge someone to flick a piece toward the centre.



COLOUR ME!

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Peter's has been boldly redesigned to share its building with Indwell's Magnolia Apartments. Explore the renewed worship space, beautiful courtyard, multi-use rooms and upgraded Hallman pipe organ. Notice how the project preserved a place for faith, music, art and community while making the building modern and accessible. Visit both St. Peter's and Magnolia Apartments to see the full transformation.



COLOUR ME!

TAPESTRY HALL

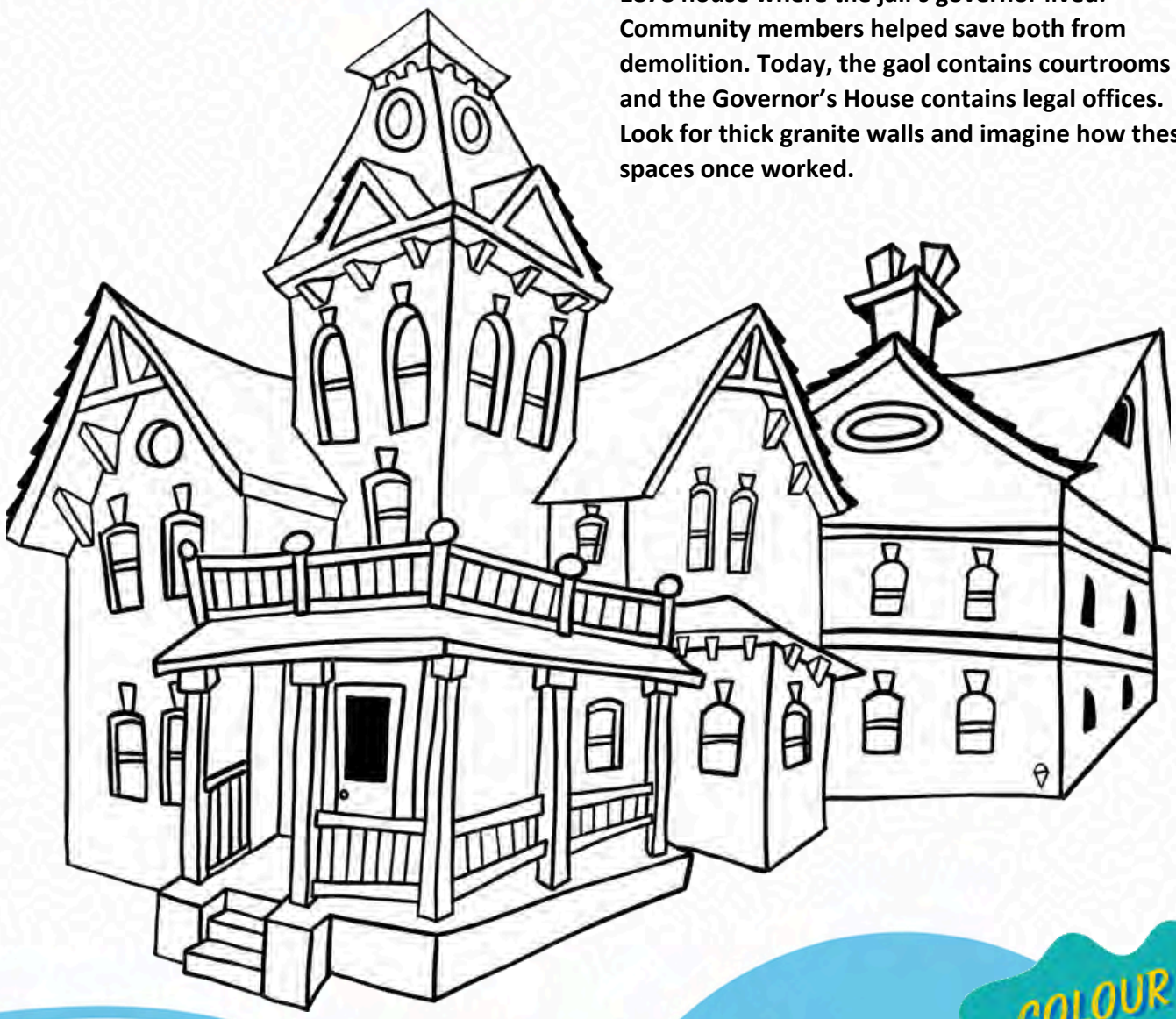
This huge limestone building began as part of a 19th-century foundry. Today, it is a spectacular gathering place with restored industrial details and a soaring two-storey hall. Look up to see Meander, a giant interactive living sculpture suspended overhead. Outside, explore Gaslight Square's stage, screen and public art. Can you spot where old industry meets new creativity?



COLOUR ME!

WATERLOO COUNTY GAOL AND GOVERNOR'S HOUSE

These are two of Waterloo Region's oldest buildings: an 1852–53 stone gaol (jail) and the 1878 house where the jail's governor lived. Community members helped save both from demolition. Today, the gaol contains courtrooms and the Governor's House contains legal offices. Look for thick granite walls and imagine how these spaces once worked.



COLOUR ME!

WATERLOO PIONEERS MEMORIAL TOWER

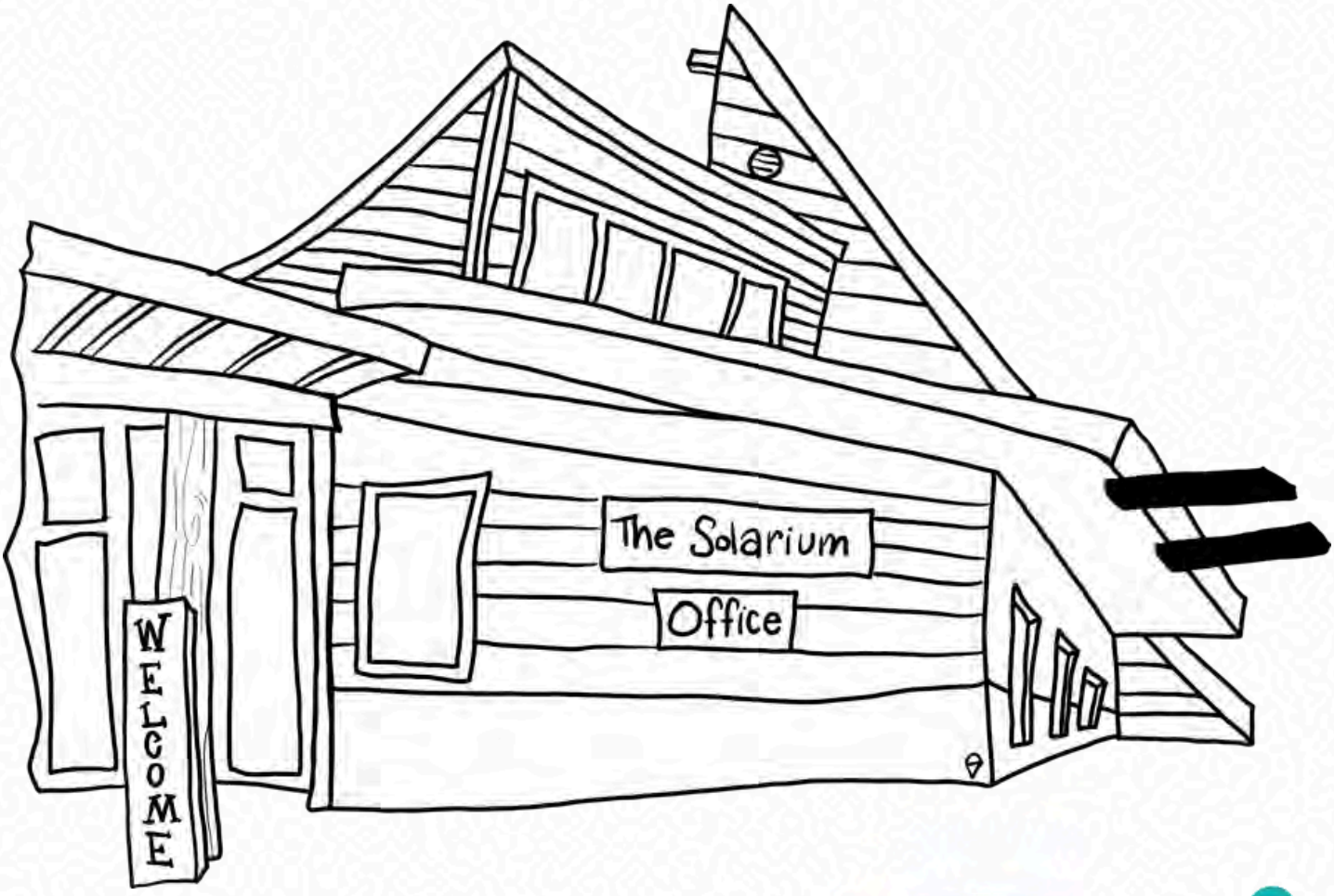


Built in 1926, this 18.9-metre stone tower honours Pennsylvania-German pioneers who settled Waterloo Region. It stands beside the Grand River near a historic cemetery. Climb the spiral staircase to the viewing platform for a wide view of the surrounding landscape. As you look out, imagine arriving here 200 years ago with no roads, bridges or city skyline.

COLOUR ME!

YMCA CAMP KI-WA-Y

Adventure has filled Camp Ki-Wa-Y for more than 100 years. Explore camp buildings and the waterfront on Paradise Lake, then try activities such as archery or high ropes. Along the way, discover how camp helps people build confidence, friendships and outdoor skills. What camp challenge would you try first—and what would you pack for a day beside the lake?



COLOUR ME!

DOORS OPEN DETECTIVE CHALLENGE!

How many mystery sites can you identify?

1. I'm an old fire station filled with vintage firefighting equipment.
2. Most of my village has vanished, but a barn, smokehouse and stone cheese factory remain.
3. I'm a historic farmhouse where you can imagine life without electricity or running water.
4. My walls are decorated with colourful, hand-painted pictures.
5. Scientists here investigate black holes, tiny particles and the beginning of the universe.
6. I'm an old foundry with a giant moving sculpture named Meander hanging overhead.
7. I was once a school. Today, costumes, props and sets for musical theatre are created here.
8. Climb my spiral staircase for a view over the Grand River.
9. I have a tall spire containing 10 bells that are still chimed.
10. I began as a church, but actors now perform stories on my stage.
11. Visit me to see the world's oldest known dated crokinole board.
12. At my lakeside property, visitors can try outdoor adventures such as archery and high ropes.

You've learned so much about the Doors Open sites while colouring! Let's put your newfound information to the test with this fun puzzle.

Sites are on the next page and answers on the following page.



DOORS OPEN DETECTIVE CHALLENGE!



- Brubacher House
- Cambridge Arts Theatre
- Central Presbyterian Church
- Fire Hall Museum & Education Centre
- Ghost Village of Black Horse Corner
- K-W Musical Productions
- McDougall Cottage Historic Site
- Perimeter Institute
- Schneider Haus
- Tapestry Hall
- Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower
- YMCA Camp Ki-Wa-Y

. . . . ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE . . . .

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Answers!

1. **Fire Hall Museum & Education Centre**
2. **Ghost Village of Black Horse Corner**
3. **Brubacher House**
4. **McDougall Cottage Historic Site**
5. **Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics**
6. **Tapestry Hall**
7. **K-W Musical Productions**
8. **Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower**
9. **Central Presbyterian Church**
10. **Cambridge Arts Theatre**
11. **Schneider Haus National Historic Site**
12. **YMCA Camp Ki-Wa-Y**

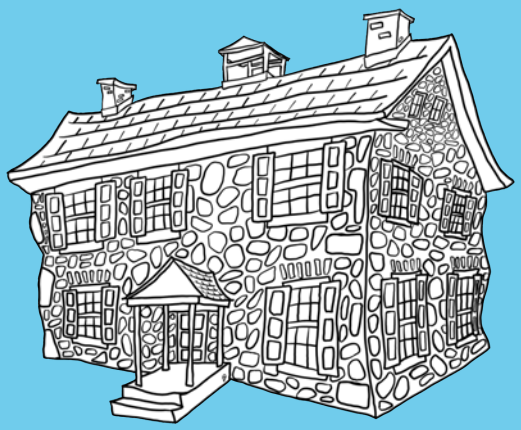


How Did You Do?

- **10–12 correct: Master History Detective!**
- **7–9 correct: Super Site Sleuth!**
- **4–6 correct: Curious Clue Hunter!**
- **0–3 correct: Your Doors Open adventure is just beginning!**

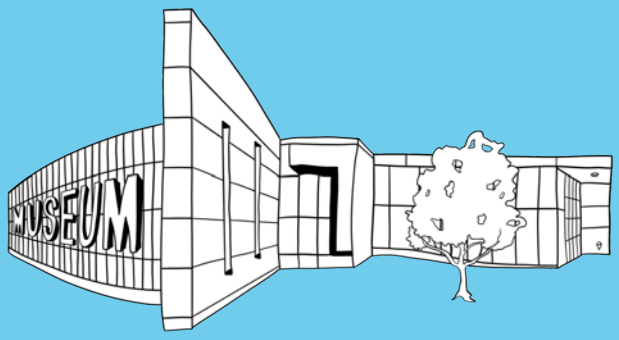
CAN YOU GUESS WHEN THESE BUILDINGS WERE BUILT?

BRUBACHER HOUSE

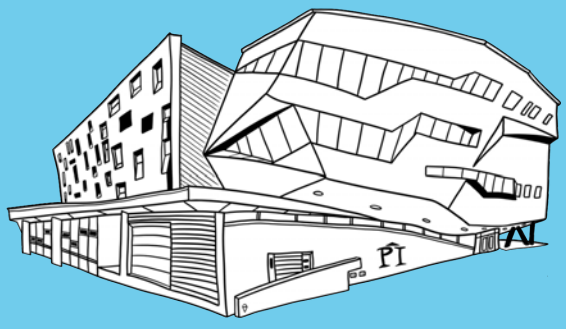


WATERLOO COUNTY GAOL & GOVERNOR'S HOUSE





KEN SEILING WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM



PERIMETER INSTITUTE

- BUILT IN 2004 _____
- BUILT IN 1852 _____
- BUILT IN 2011 _____
- BUILT IN 1850 _____

answers

BRUBACHER HOUSE 1850; WATERLOO COUNTY GAOL & GOVERNOR'S HOUSE 1852
KEN SEILING WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM 2011; PERIMETER INSTITUTE 2004

Types Of Buildings You'll See

Find all 12 words hidden in the letter grid.

Z	Z	V	K	C	B	C	X	V	G	L	W	R	C	M
V	V	V	D	X	O	A	A	X	U	Q	E	S	K	V
Q	P	Q	Z	D	C	T	D	F	K	S	Q	L	W	N
B	L	P	F	M	H	E	T	L	E	G	E	O	U	B
I	Y	B	M	E	U	Y	N	A	N	V	W	V	X	I
I	T	K	J	A	R	E	R	I	G	Y	D	J	W	S
L	A	K	I	S	C	C	S	A	G	E	B	H	G	A
X	Y	U	G	V	H	U	T	U	R	F	Q	G	F	N
X	V	M	W	L	O	H	Y	T	M	B	O	L	O	T
P	L	L	A	H	E	R	I	F	U	H	I	O	T	W
D	D	B	E	A	E	G	X	L	E	D	P	L	B	N
L	M	U	T	W	I	J	U	S	I	S	D	K	U	Q
M	T	R	E	W	O	T	C	K	R	T	Y	G	P	K
N	E	R	O	R	F	W	Z	E	I	W	P	I	A	P
D	B	Q	B	C	D	F	B	R	Z	Y	H	Z	D	D

WORD LIST

CHURCH
FIREHALL
RESEARCHLAB
MUSEUM
HOUSING
TOWER
CAMP
COTTAGE
THEATRE
CAFE
BREWERY
LIBRARY

Words may go across, down or diagonally—either way!

Types Of Buildings You'll See

Find all 12 words hidden in the letter grid.

Z	Z	V	K	C	B	C	X	V	G	L	W	R	C	M
V	V	V	D	X	O	A	A	X	U	Q	E	S	K	V
Q	P	Q	Z	D	C	T	D	F	K	S	Q	L	W	N
B	L	P	F	M	H	E	T	L	E	G	E	O	U	B
I	Y	B	M	E	U	Y	N	A	N	V	W	V	X	I
I	T	K	J	A	R	E	R	I	G	Y	D	J	W	S
L	A	K	I	S	C	C	S	A	G	E	B	H	G	A
X	Y	U	G	V	H	U	T	U	R	F	Q	G	F	N
X	V	M	W	L	O	H	Y	T	M	B	O	L	O	T
P	L	L	A	H	E	R	I	F	U	H	I	O	T	W
D	D	B	E	A	E	G	X	L	E	D	P	L	B	N
L	M	U	T	W	I	J	U	S	I	S	D	K	U	Q
M	T	R	E	W	O	T	C	K	R	T	Y	G	P	K
N	E	R	O	R	F	W	Z	E	I	W	P	I	A	P
D	B	Q	B	C	D	F	B	R	Z	Y	H	Z	D	D

SOLUTION

CHURCH
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LIBRARY

Highlighted letters show every hidden word.