



INFO ON THE GO

Guelph • The Royal City



Links to 174 resources appear on our website

These maps are designed to maximize orientation so that you can easily plan a day out, which may include art, history, breweries, hiking, and food. A link to **every resource on this map** appears on our website by location and theme. Just scan the QR Code or go to our website at communitymapco.com.

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Collingwood, Ontario, 2024



University of Guelph

The university's history dates back to 1874 when the Ontario School of Agriculture was established on a farm provided by the Ontario government. In 1903, a division of home economics was added with the introduction of the Macdonald Institute. The Ontario Veterinary College moved to the Guelph from Toronto in 1922. The University of Guelph was incorporated in 1964 - it was founded based on the merger of three colleges.

U of G is also one of Canada's most research-intensive universities. Core research is generated by a unique partnership between the university and OMAFRA. The relationship has become the basis for a cluster of agri-food research and technology resources around the university and its 30-acre Research Park. Guelph is well-known for its strengths in areas as diverse as agri-food and veterinary medicine, human nutrition & family development, environmental studies and engineering, rural development and planning.

The University of Guelph is one of the largest employers in Guelph. Its motto is *erum cognoscere causas* - a quote from Virgil meaning "to learn the meaning of reality." [3]

Art Gallery of Guelph

Over 95% of the AGG's artistic programming and collecting is focused on supporting Canadian artists. A key priority is the work of Indigenous artists. The AGG's sculpture park features 41 permanent installations. The Gallery Shop displays the work of local artists and makers. The AGG offers workshops, classes and camps. 358 Gordon St. [4]

Guelph Correctional Site

Originally known as the Ontario Reformatory, the Guelph Correctional Centre was a world leader in the move away from incarceration as a form of punishment toward the use of productivity to rehabilitate inmates. It was sited on 1000 acres of farmland along the Eramosa River. The first inmates constructed the facility beginning in 1909. By 1914 the industrial and farm operations were fully operational, and the centre became the largest correctional facility in Ontario with 660 inmates in 1916.

From 1917-1920, prison activity was suspended, and the site was used as the Guelph Military Convalescent Hospital, a home for more than 900 disabled veterans. In 1921 the facility reverted to its intent. By late 1940's inmates produced enough food for all the prisons in Ontario, they made wood and metal products, quarried stone, and worked on community projects.

In 2002 institution was decommissioned, while features were identified as being provincially significant. Today, the Yorklands Green Hub occupies part of the site, being devoted to environmental education and research. Yorklands has partnered with the Guelph National Urban Park Project (GNUPP), a grass roots effort to establish a National Urban Park at the former reformatory site. [6]

Rivers, Lakes and Water

The Speed River flows through Wellington County and the Region of Waterloo from its source near Orton, through Guelph, where it is joined by the Eramosa River, then through the towns of Hespeler and Preston, uniting with the Grand River in northwest Cambridge. The location of the Speed River was central to Guelph's founding. John Galt selected the site because of the river. Galt named it for the force with which it flowed - a fast river promised plenty of energy to power the gristmills and sawmills.

With the cutting of forests in the nineteenth century, flooding became worse throughout Guelph. The Eramosa River swept away the Gordon Street bridge in 1929. In the 1930s the city worked to widen the riverbeds. The devastating impact of Hurricane Hazel in 1954 was a mobilizing force in bringing a regional approach to flood control and water management in Ontario, including Guelph.

The Wellington Street Dam was built in 1957 by the Grand River Conservation Authority to control water flow. However, any flood control function the Wellington Street Dam might once have had was largely superseded when the GRCA built the Guelph Lake Dam on the Speed River north of the city in 1974. Each spring, melt-water runoff and seasonal precipitation is collected in Guelph Lake. During the summer, water is released slowly to regulate the flow of the river, while in autumn, the lake is drained to a much lower level, before it freezes over during the winter. There is a small hydroelectric power generating facility at the dam.

The Guelph Lake Conservation Area is along the north shore of Guelph Lake. It is managed by GRCA and offers two beaches, picnic areas, fishing and plenty of space for sailing, canoeing and kayaking. Guelph Lake is the home of the famous Hillside Festival in July which is centered on the Island Stage.

In the 1960-70s the Speed River was not a celebrated feature; rather, it was choked with algae, bacteria, sewage and industrial discharge. It was struggling to sustain aquatic life. One of the biggest problems was the Guelph sewage treatment plant, which was pouring effluent into the river. The construction of the Guelph Dam helped steady the flow of water and modernizing methods of sewage treatment played an important role in rehabilitating the river. A local activist group (OPIRG) initiated the annual Speed River Cleanup project in 1979. To commemorate this initiative 20 years later, an artist created Garbasaurus, a public sculpture erected in Royal City Park made from 647 lbs of trash – the same amount of trash the group pulled out of the rivers during its first clean up. See [X] on the map.

Guelph's municipal water comes from 21 operational groundwater wells and a shallow groundwater collector system called the Glen Collector System, a series of underground perforated pipes that collect shallow groundwater from the Arkell Spring Grounds in the Township of Puslinch. Each year, between April and November, the city pumps water from the Eramosa River into an engineered infiltration pond and trench where it soaks into the ground to replenish groundwater supplies.

Boat Rentals

At Guelph Lake, kayak and SUP rentals are available from **Grand River Rafting**, while in the Downtown canoe and kayak rentals are available at The Boathouse on the fork of Eramosa and Speed Rivers from **Speed River Paddling**.

Hiking & Mountain Biking Trails

Guelph has an incredible trail network. You can hike to Goderich (**G2G Rail Trail**) [A], to the Niagara Escarpment (**Radial Line Trail**) [B] and to the edge of Cambridge (**GHTC Speed River**) [C], but one can also hike north to south and east to west within the city.

Starting in the south, **Preservation Park** (Hanlon Creek Conservation Area) [D] contains over 12km of trails, with connections eastward into Hamilton Corner [E]. Moving north, the **Hanlon Creek Trail** (2km) [F] and **Silvercreek Trail** (4.9km) [G] [bypass the Stone Rd Mall] to arrive at the confluence of the Speed and Eramosa Rivers [H]. From there, one option is to head east on the **Eramosa Trail** to Stone Rd. (4.1km) [J], which also connects with the **Guelph Arboretum Trails** (11.5km) [K]. From the confluence, another option is to head north on the **Downtown Trail** (3.6km) [M] - this connects to the **Speed River Trail** (3.4km) [N], which leads to Victoria Road North. From there, the **Guelph Lake Trail** leads to the Guelph Dam and beyond (2.8km) [O]; GORBA manages this section of trail along with many kilometers of mountain bike trails.

Clubs

The volunteer-based Guelph Hiking Trail Club (**GHTC**) has established and maintains three main trails and their related side trails. The total length of these trails is approximately 80km. They organize hikes and engage in building projects. Similarly, the volunteers at the Guelph Off-Road Bicycling Association (**GORBA**) maintain two riding areas equaling over 1000 acres with almost 50 kms of varying trails.

Settlement & Rail Networks

In 1827 the city now known as Guelph was founded by the British development firm known as the "Canada Company". The Canada Company was chartered in 1825 as a land and colonization company based in London, England. In 1826, the company purchased from the British Crown 2.5 million acres of land extending from the shores of Lake Huron to Guelph. Facing the daunting cost of world imperialism, the Crown was relying on private companies to develop infrastructure for settlements. How the Crown acquired these lands is another story.

The superintendent for the company was a popular Scottish novelist named John Galt. Guelph is considered to be one of the first planned towns in Canada. Galt's city plan included a series of streets radiating from a focal point at the river and resembles a European city centre, complete with squares, broad main streets and narrow side streets, resulting in a variety of block sizes and shapes. Guelph was named after a member of the British royal family. Hence, the current use of the term "The Royal City" for Guelph.

The Priory was the first permanent structure built in Guelph. Designed by John Galt, the building served as living quarters for the Canada Company, civic chambers, and the first post office. It was later relocated, burned several times, and finally demolished; a small-scale model of the Priory was installed in Riverside Park in 1965, where it still stands.

Despite John Galt's grandiose plans, Guelph did not grow beyond village size until the Grand Trunk Railroad reached it from Toronto in 1856. Much of the city's early advancement would involve the introduction of rail networks.

The Grand Trunk at the time was the only option for moving freight, and the cost was considered too high, so competition was sought. Local merchants from Guelph came together and formed their own railway in 1885 - the Guelph Junction Railway (GJR). The goal of the new railway was to build from the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) tracks at Campbellville to Guelph. The line was built in 1887, and the GJR signed a 99-year lease with CPR to operate it. Plans grew to expand the GJR from Guelph to Goderich. The line would provide the community with a desirable link to a lakeport. From 1904-07 the CPR constructed a 130km rail line to Goderich. Throughout the 1900s declining traffic brought about its demise and the last run was made in 1988. What remained of the Guelph Junction Railway, south of Guelph, looked equally bad until the Ontario Southland Railway took over in 1998. Today, the Goderich-Exeter Railway manages the line on behalf of the City.

Two other rail initiatives have shaped the nature of Guelph. One was initiated by Silvercreek Brewery owner George Seeman to develop an internal streetcar network, while the other was a true interurban railway that connected Guelph to Toronto. In 1894, local businessman George Sleeman approached Guelph city council for a street railway charter. Sleeman sought a way for his employees to travel back and forth. The Guelph Railway Company was born. Two stone barns were built to house the streetcars. These barns, now converted into residential apartments, can be seen today at 371 Waterloo Ave. See [Z]

Sleeman continued to own the line until late 1902 when control passed to the bank. The name of the company changed to the Guelph Radial Railway. The city bought the system in 1903. Over the years, lines would be added, freight and Sunday service introduced, and connections to other rail systems were made. Ontario Hydro bought the system in 1921, renaming it Ontario Hydro Electric Railways. With growing operating losses, in 1937 City Council recommended the discontinuance of the streetcars in favour of bus transportation.

The Guelph Radial Railway is not to be confused with the Guelph Radial Line owned by the Toronto Suburban Railway. This too was a streetcar system. It began operation along a curvy right-of-way beginning in 1917. Travelers on the Guelph Radial Line often used it to commute to larger centers for shopping or socializing. Much like the demise of the streetcar network in town, the Guelph Radial Line ceased operations by the mid-1930s.

Rail Trails

The Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail (G2G) is 132 km of linear, multi-use green space. It requires about 6 hours to cycle and 30 hours (3-6 days) to hike it. The G2G Rail Trail website includes an amazing interactive map. **The Radial Line Trail** generally follows an abandoned railway line from Guelph to the Bruce Trail near Limehouse. Hiking only recommended. 37.5km length.

Points of Interest

- [5] Old Rail Bridge used by Guelph Radial Line to deliver Reformatory products to the Toronto area, "the milk run".
- [8] 42 Carden Street is home to 10C, a hub for community activators and changemakers.
- [7] 69 Huron Street is home to BIPOC Outdoor Gear Library, a lending library for people of colour.
- [1] Sleeman Retail Store & Taproom at 551 Clair Road West. Canada's 3rd largest brewery.
- [9] The Guelph Farmers' Market takes place Saturday 8am-1pm year-round. Back lot vending also takes place during summer. Farm-fresh food, artisanal products, & homemade goods. 2 Gordon.
- [10] Guelph Community Pottery Ctr. City-owned pottery instruction. 14 Edinburgh Rd. South.

Hammond Museum of Radio

The Hammond Museum is home to hundreds of receivers and transmitters, including one of the largest operational collection of Collins Radio equipment anywhere. Other collections feature The War Years, Early Broadcasting, and more. Over the years the Museum has evolved to become one of North America's premiere wireless museums. The Museum is open during normal business hours Monday to Friday and weekends by request. 595 Southgate Dr. [2]