

About Our Tours

Guelph Arts Council celebrates the cultural heritage of Guelph by offering six different walking tours on selected Sundays from April to October (excluding July). The tours are an opportunity for tourists and locals alike to learn about Guelph's history while taking in the beautiful architectural and natural features of the city.

During post-war expansion, many of Guelph's downtown stone buildings were destroyed. We aim to foster appreciation of the remaining buildings to help ensure their preservation. Guelph Arts Council thanks its dedicated volunteer Tour Guides for sharing their passion for Guelph's heritage.

Available on each tour are keepsake booklets, which are also available at **Guelph Arts Council**, **The Bookshelf**, 41 Quebec St., Guelph, and **Guelph Civic Museum**.

Special group tours can be arranged by contacting Guelph Arts Council.

Tour Details

Start Time: Sundays at 2 pm

Start Location: see each tour

Tour Duration: 2 hrs

Weather: rain or shine

Cost: \$5/person in cash to the guide (exact change appreciated), or book ahead at guelpharts.ca

Booklets: \$5/booklet, available for purchase from guide, or online at guelpharts.ca

Contact Information

Guelph Arts Council

Phone: (519) 836-3280

guelpharts.ca



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Cover Photo: Brendan Irving



Historical Walking Tours 2018



TOUR I: WHERE GUELPH BEGAN

Date: April 22, May 27, August 5, and September 9
Start Time: 2 pm
Start Location: Juice Inc, 25 Waterloo Ave, corner of Dublin Street

This tour encircles the original Market Square area of almost twenty-four acres laid out by John Galt in 1827.

Serving as the focal point for Guelph's early social and business life, the area also contains the sites of many of Guelph's first buildings.



Photo: Susan Ratcliffe

TOUR II: DOWNTOWN WALKABOUT

Date: April 29, August 12, and September 2
Start Time: 2 pm
Start Location: Juice Inc, 25 Waterloo Ave, corner of Dublin Street

The present downtown centre of Guelph, with its wide main street, provides a compact walking tour, which includes many buildings and sites of considerable historical and architectural interest.



Photo: Susan Ratcliffe

TOUR III: THE SLOPES OF THE SPEED

Date: May 6, June 3, and September 16
Start Time: 2 pm
Start Location: Guelph Youth Music Centre, 75 Cardigan Street

Participants will explore the slopes of the Speed River between Norwich and Macdonell Streets, where many of Guelph's largest and most distinguished historic homes are located.



Photo: Murray Taylor, Royal Lepage Royal City Realty

TOUR IV: ALTAR AND HEARTH (Exhibition Park and Catholic Hill)

Date: May 13 (CH), June 10 (EP), August 26 (CH), and September 23 (EP)
Start Time: 2 pm
Start Location: (Catholic Hill Tour) Juice Inc, 25 Waterloo Ave, corner of Dublin Street
(Exhibition Park Tour) Guelph Public Library, 100 Norfolk Street

Visitors will get a glimpse of the Victorian era in Guelph.

Covering the area west of Norfolk Street, between Essex Street and London Road, the tour includes several historic stone churches and many historic homes representing a variety of architectural styles.



Photo: Courtesy of Guelph Museums - Kyle Rodriguez

TOUR V: BROOKLYN AND THE COLLEGE HILL

Date: June 17, August 19, and September 30
Start Time: 2 pm
Start Location: McCrae House, 108 Water Street

Participants will be taken to the south side of the Speed River to explore one of Guelph's early industrial sections, formerly known as Brooklyn, as well as the College Hill area that developed around the Ontario Agricultural College. The tour includes some of the city's best examples of masonry and stone carving.



Photo: Susan Ratcliffe

TOUR VI: WARD ONE GUELPH

Date: May 20, June 24, and October 7
Start Time: 2 pm
Start Location: Tytler School, 131 Ontario Street, Toronto Street entrance (off York Road near York Road park)

This tour of the area southeast of the downtown, between the Speed and Eramosa Rivers, reveals the rich variety of historic architecture and the diversity of peoples who formed Guelph. Particular attention is devoted to residential/industrial proximity and the city's early Italian community.



Photo: Susan Ratcliffe