

VENUES Offering Free Programming

1. [Ken Seiling Region of Waterloo Museum](#), Kitchener

Especially for ONCD: Saturday, September 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free special tours: Go behind the scenes with Museum staff for an exclusive peek at our Curatorial Centre. Explore how we preserve our Region's history. Tours of our greenhouses, collections, costumes, and are available throughout the day. See website for more details and tour times. (Regular admission applies for Museum)

2. [Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery \(KWAG\)](#), Kitchener

[Planting One Another](#) Curated by Lisa Myers, Produced in partnership with the Woodland Cultural Centre (Brantford)

A project with care and coexistence at its core, *Planting one Another* features a twin re-planting of a Medicine and Butterfly garden by the late Mi'kmaq artist Mike MacDonald (1941-2006). Comprised primarily of plants that are indigenous to the Americas, the two gardens will be cared for by two organizations situated within the Haldimand Tract: the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery and the original site where the garden was first planted, the Woodland Cultural Centre.

Especially for ONCD: A [Family Sunday](#) will be featured. In collaboration with Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony – Barbara Coal, their Artist in Residence will do a talk on Indigenous medicinal plants. Indigenous music and instruments will be part of the program. 1-4 pm.

3. [Wellesley Apple Butter & Cheese Festival](#)

Saturday September 28, 2019. A 1-day annual free festival starting at dawn in the village of Wellesley. The festival is packed with local food specialties offered up for sale throughout an extensive street mall; there's also a huge craft area, and a carnival atmosphere throughout the entire town.

Free Tours at the Apple Butter & Cheese Festival: Tour the Wellesley Apple Cider processing plant to see firsthand how sweet apple cider is made. More details online:

<https://www.wellesleyabcfestival.ca/events-and-activities>

POINTS OF INTEREST Along the Way

1. [Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory](#), Cambridge

Stroll among thousands of free-flying butterflies in a year 'round, indoor tropical garden featuring over 150 species of tropical plants, waterfalls, streams and exotic birds. (Admission)

2. [Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario](#), St. Jacobs

This small exhibit in the historic Mill showcases the processes and artefacts of maple syrup production from earliest methods used by Indigenous peoples, to those of modern-day farmers. (Admission by donation)

3. [The Mennonite Story Interpretive Centre, St. Jacobs](#)

The Mennonite Story offers a well-rounded introduction to the culture, lifestyle, and history of “the Old Order” Mennonites and Amish, whom you may meet at a local farmers’ market or see travelling by horse & buggy on local roads. (Admission by donation)

4. [West Montrose Covered Bridge](#)

Find your way to Ontario’s last remaining covered bridge in the tiny hamlet of West Montrose, where time stands still. Walk the bridge and visit the parkette south of the bridge to learn more about the structure and the area.

5. **Saturday Farmers’ Markets**

Saturday Market culture is alive and well in the Region of Waterloo, so plan a visit to one of them during your visit. From the sprawling, year-round St. Jacobs Farmers’ Market, to Kitchener Market’s hip, urban setting, to seasonal markets like those in Elmira and Wellesley, this is where community meets, greets, and eats. Most open early and close by early afternoon.

[St. Jacobs Farmers’ Market](#)

[Kitchener Market](#)

[Cambridge Farmers’ Market](#)

[Wellesley Farmers’ Market](#)

[Elmira Farmers’ Market](#)

6. **Rural Country Stores**

If you enjoy a real country store experience, search out these stops. Although most are closed Sundays, drop in any other day to experience the kind of place you may have thought no longer exists!

[Lost Acre Variety, West Montrose](#) – this tiny store next to the West Montrose Covered Bridge packs in all things imaginable including home baking, pantry items, and ice cream.

[Kitchen Kuttings, Elmira](#) – features local summer sausage, cheese, local preserves.

[Wallenstein General Store](#) – everything from local home-style baking to fabrics, straw hats and rubber boots find their home on a shelf in this packed, authentic rural store.

7. **Farm Stores**

Throughout the Region signs point you to on-farm stores and fruit stands, including these favourites:

[Martin's Family Fruit Farm](#), St. Jacobs
[Five Chicks & a Farmer](#), New Hamburg
[Mountainoak Cheese](#), New Hamburg
[Oakridge Acres Country Meat Store](#), Ayr
[Farm Gate stands](#)

***Note:** Most Country General stores, farm gates, and on-farm stores are closed Sundays

8. Suggested Nature Trails

South end of Region

[Centennial Park, Ayr](#): A pretty park with easy walking trail and picnic area.

North end of the Region

[Kissing Bridge Trail, West Montrose](#): If you brought your bike, this is a perfect trail to ride out and back between Elmira and West Montrose, or beyond. Free parking at trailheads.

[Mill Race Trail, St. Jacobs](#) (2 km): Walk east along the Conestoga River, or west along the quiet Mill Race Trail, Ontario's longest remaining millrace, which once delivered water to produce electricity at the Mill in the 1800s

Floradale Dam Trail: A "forest bath" trail through pine and hardwood forests that wraps around a small lake and dam.

Use these resources to discover other Trails throughout Waterloo Region:

<https://www.explorewaterlooregion.com/listing/waterloo-region-trails>

<https://www.woolwich.ca/en/township-services/maps.aspx>

"LIKE A LOCAL" Food & Drink Suggestions

CRAFT BREWERIES

- 📍 [Block Three Brewing](#)
- 📍 [Biergarten, St. Jacobs](#)
- 📍 [Abe Erb Brewing](#), with locations in [Ayr](#), [Waterloo](#), and [Kitchener](#)
- 📍 [Red Circle Brewing Co.](#), Kitchener

COFFEE ROASTERS/Cafes

- 📍 [Red Circle Coffee Roasters](#), Kitchener

- ☐ [Monigram Café & Coffee Roasters](#)
- ☐ [Eco Coffee Roastery & Café](#), St. Jacobs
- ☐ [Local Renaissance](#), Elmira

LUNCH or DINNER

- ☐ [St. Jacobs Farmers' Market](#) food courts
- ☐ [Jacobs Grill](#), St. Jacobs
- ☐ [Borealis Grille & Bar](#), Kitchener
- ☐ [Nith River Chop House](#), Wellesley
- ☐ [The Olde Heidelberg Restaurant, Tavern & Motel](#), Heidelberg
- ☐ [Scran & Dram](#), New Hamburg
- ☐ [Sole Restaurant](#), Waterloo
- ☐ [Harmony Lunch](#), Waterloo

ACCOMMODATIONS

- ☐ [Best Western Plus, Waterloo](#)
- ☐ [Courtyard by Marriott, Waterloo-St. Jacobs](#)

If you enjoy a luxurious inn:

- ☐ [Langdon Hall Country Hotel & Spa, Cambridge](#)

If you prefer a trendy hotel in the city:

- ☐ [Delta Waterloo](#)

Many more options at <https://www.explorewaterlooregion.com/directory/accommodations/>

Remember to Bring: *Bicycle, binoculars, walking shoes, cooler for food purchases, camera, and an appetite!*