

# HERITAGE SHOWCASE 2010

by  
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Did you ever wonder about the history of a particular old building that you pass by frequently in your neighborhood? Or about that old Gothic church down the street, when it was built, and by whom? Or what happened to that old baseball stadium we had?

What do you see in the architecture of the buildings in the downtown? What about the monuments and statues in the park or what's left of that old crumbling wall by the river and what it used to be?

You might find the answers at **Heritage Showcase 2010**.

**Heritage Showcase** is an annual event presented by the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation free to the public. The 20<sup>th</sup> annual showcase will be held on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Conestoga Mall, Waterloo. While you're doing some shopping at the mall you will encounter some 30 displays throughout the complex from various local organizations and groups. This event moves around each year between the major malls in the Waterloo Regional.

This is a great opportunity for you as well as your kids to learn about the history in your neighborhood, your city, and your region that you've wondered about. The children will be interested in different pictures and photos displayed, as well as videos that can be viewed. You can purchase pictures, books or post cards, and even pick up walking brochures of heritage districts or purchase driving brochures for the rural townships.

This year's theme presented by Heritage Canada is "Heritage of Sport and Recreation" to coincide with the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics from February 12<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver. Some of the groups will spotlight this theme in their displays.

Volunteers from each of the historical groups will be manning their tables and answer any questions you have. These people have contributed many hours over the years preserving the history of their organization's interest, and have a wealth of knowledge they would be eager to share with you. Just ask the question, and they'll be happy to provide you with an explanation. Heritage planners and staff from local municipalities will also be on hand and happy to explain "heritage designations", what they are and how to receive grants to improve your heritage home.

The history of our community is just over 200 years, and may not compare to that of European history. But it's ours. And we like to preserve it and make the community aware of the importance. Our history may be young, but it needs to be cherished and preserved.

The Regional History Museum, under construction at the Doon Crossroads at Homer Watson Boulevard and Huron Road in Kitchener, is a new building that will house many artifacts from the regional area that are currently in storage and not available for public viewing. This building is intended to be completed in May, 2010 and exhibits of artifacts won't be displayed until 2011. Staff from Doon Crossroads will be at the Heritage Showcase with their display, and eager to show you the details of the new museum.

Some of the other groups participating will be Heritage Kitchener, the Grace Schmidt Room from the Kitchener Public Library, Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Regional Post Card Club and many other heritage groups from the region.

There will also be a demonstration provided by the Spinners and Weavers Guild who will be working their old-fashioned, hand-operated, textile booms. It's always a fascination to watch how the ladies did it at home in the olden days. The spinners and weavers certainly have a knack and a creative talent in producing household art.

Heritage Day is celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of February. Heritage Showcase celebrates this event by inviting the public to browse the displays, chat with volunteers and learn something about our past.

So bring a friend and drop by Conestoga Mall on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, and reflect on our heritage.

For further information about the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, visit our website at [www.wrhf.org](http://www.wrhf.org).



(Photo from WRHF Showcase 2009)