

Township of Wilmot Arts and Culture Master Planning – Interim Report

Developed by STEPS Public Art



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Introduction

Culture plays a crucial role in building an attractive and vibrant community. Around the world, municipalities foster local cultural development through cultural plans that focus on identifying and managing cultural resources, while ensuring that culture is prioritized in decision-making processes.

In 2024, the Township of Wilmot embarked on the development of an updated Arts and Culture Master Plan that will replace the former plan completed in 2018, which provided direction from 2019 to 2024. The new plan aims at clarifying objectives and processes for the management of cultural resources, so that culture in Wilmot can continue to enhance quality of life, contribute to economic prosperity, and celebrate the unique characteristics of Wilmot.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the first phase of the Arts and Culture Master Plan Development, Phase 1 - Discovery, which took place from July 2024 to December 2024.

This first phase aimed at understanding Wilmot's culture through the following activities:

Background research examined the demographic, economic, and labor composition of Wilmot and the Region of Waterloo, alongside national and provincial trends in the cultural sector, as well as the contributions of local cultural industries.

The planning and policy analysis involved a review of local and provincial policies to identify best practices and opportunities for aligning with the updated Arts and Culture Master Plan. These insights help shape priorities for preserving and enhancing culture, with a focus on both cultural and natural heritage.

Community engagement involved over 200 conversations, with three key groups:

1. Township staff, Councillors, and Mayor
2. Cultural resource managers (i.e., businesses, organizations, event organizers, etc.)
3. Members of the public (i.e., local residents, workforce members, students, and visitors)

Through this process, the local definition of culture emerged, and 211 local cultural resources were identified. The engagement also resulted in the identification of key strengths, challenges and opportunities for culture in Wilmot.



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Findings from Phase 1 - Discovery will set the stage for developing a cultural plan that is community-driven and rooted in Wilmot's unique definition of culture, current trends, planning and policy, and community insights.



Background Research

The following section outlines background information on the Township of Wilmot that is relevant to the development of the cultural plan. Topics that are discussed below fall under the following categories: Demographic and Population Trends, Economic and Labour Market, and Cultural Profile.

The following table is an overview of key takeaways from preliminary research:

- Wilmot Township's total population was estimated at 22,000 as of 2023 and is expected to increase to 25,055 by the year 2034.
- The Township's diversity is limited, with approximately 90% of the population identifying as white. Nevertheless, the current population growth is accompanied by a gradual increase in ethnic diversity, a trend which is set to continue as the population grows.
- The income levels in the Township of Wilmot, specifically in areas like New Hamburg and Baden, reflect a relatively affluent population, with a median household income of approximately \$120,400 after tax household income annually. See chart below
- The township is bordered by the large urban centres of Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge and by Perth County, which encompasses municipalities such as Stratford and St. Mary's. This direct proximity influences Wilmot's demographic profile, with residents working in large neighbouring economic centres but residing in Wilmot. It also impacts local cultural participation trends, as Wilmot residents have nearby access to cultural offerings presented in neighbouring municipalities.
- Agriculture and manufacturing are leading local industries. These non-arts and services-related sectors shape how culture is perceived, produced and consumed by people living in and visiting Wilmot.



Demographics and Population Trends in Wilmot

This section provides an overview of the population demographics of Wilmot, based on the most recent census data from Statistics Canada¹ and the community profile information gathered by the Township of Wilmot development services².

Wilmot Township's total population was estimated at 21,825 as of 2024 and is expected to increase to 25,055 by the year 2034. Situated in Waterloo Region in proximity to Kitchener-Waterloo, the Township is comprised of a mix of farmland and urban areas, with the majority of residents living in New Hamburg (approximately 9,000 residents in 2023) and Baden (approximately 5,000), followed by the smaller communities of St. Agatha, Petersburg, Mannheim, New Dundee, Philipsburg, Shingletown, Wilmot Centre, Haysville, Luxemburg, Lisbon, Sunfish Lake and Foxboro Green. The current population density is 117 people per square kilometre.

Age

According to the 2021 Census, the Township of Wilmot has a diverse age distribution, with a significant proportion of the population in the working-age category (15-64 years), which suggests a stable labor force. The youth population, comprising children and adolescents aged 0-14 years, represents a smaller segment of the population, reflecting a common trend in rural and suburban areas where family sizes tend to be smaller. In contrast, the senior population (aged 65 years and older) is increasing, in line with national trends in Canada, which could have important implications for community services and healthcare. The median age in Wilmot is higher than the national average, indicating a demographic shift towards an older population. Specifically, about 18% of the population is aged 0-14 years, approximately 60% falls within the 15-64 age range, and roughly 20% of residents are 65 years or older.

Percentage of the population by broad age groups 2021³

Location	15-64 years Old	0-14 years Old	65 years and older
Wilmot Township	60.2%	18.8%	21.0%

¹ "Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population," Statistics Canada.

² Township of Wilmot Development Services, Population Estimates, December 31, 2023, <https://www.wilmot.ca/en/living-here/resources/Documents/2023-Wilmot-Population-Estimates.pdf>.

³ Statistics Canada, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population



Location	15-64 years Old	0-14 years Old	65 years and older
City of Cambridge	66.3%	17.7%	16.0%
City of Kitchener	67.8%	17.5	14.7%
City of Waterloo	70.1%	14.5%	15.4%
Township of North Dumfries	65.0%	18.3%	16.7%
Township of Wellesley	61.5%	24.5%	14.1%
Township of Woolwich	61.6%	20.8%	17.6%
Perth County	61.1%	17.7%	21.1%
City of Guelph	67.2%	16.3%	16.4%
Blandford-Blenheim Township	65.1%	17.5%	17.4%
Ontario	65.6%	15.8%	18.5%
Canada	64.8%	16.3%	19.0%

Working Age (15-64 Years) – 60.2%: Wilmot has a lower percentage of working-aged residents compared to most neighbouring cities like Cambridge (66.3%) and Kitchener (67.8%). That said, it is similar to rural townships like Wellesley (61.5%) and Woolwich (61.6%)

Children (0-14) – 18.8%: The percentage of children in Wilmot is higher than the Ontario (15.8%) and Canada averages (16.3%), reflecting the presence of numerous families in the area. This percentage is comparable to North Dumfries (18.3%) and slightly less than Wellesley (24.5%).

Seniors (65+) – 21%: Wilmot has a larger senior population than urban centers like Kitchener (14.7%) and Waterloo (15.4%) and exceeds both the provincial (18.5%) and national (19%) averages, aligning more closely with Perth County (21.1%).



Wilmot Township Income Analysis

Median Household Income

The median after tax household income in Wilmot is approximately \$120,400 annually, a figure that exceeds the provincial average, as outlined in the table below, based on the 2021 Canadian Census⁴.

Location	Average after-tax income of economic family in 2020 (\$)
Wilmot Township	\$120,400
City of Cambridge	\$104,400
City of Kitchener	\$102,600
City of Waterloo	\$120,800
Township of North Dumfries	\$131,400
Township of Wellesley	\$125,600
Township of Woolwich	\$125,000
Perth County	\$100,500
Blandford-Blenheim Township	\$111,800
City of Guelph	\$110,700
Ontario	\$112,200

The median after-tax income of Canadian families and unattached individuals was \$68,400 in 2021.

In comparison:

⁴ Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey, 2021,
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/230502/dq230502a-eng.htm>



- **Above Provincial Average:** Wilmot Township's average after-tax income (\$120,400) exceeds the Ontario average, highlighting its affluence.
- **Comparison with Urban Centers:** Wilmot's average after tax income is higher than nearby cities such as Cambridge (\$104,400), Kitchener (\$102,600), and Perth County (\$100,500), reflecting a more prosperous population.
- **Comparable to Nearby Affluent Rural Areas and to Waterloo:** Wilmot's income is similar to other affluent rural municipalities like Wellesley (\$125,600) and Woolwich (\$125,000), though slightly below North Dumfries (\$131,400). Wilmot's income is nearly equal to the City of Waterloo (\$120,800), a major economic and academic hub.
- **Regional Affluence:** Wilmot's economic stability is likely supported by high-income professions, suburban living, and lower housing costs compared to urban centers.

The income levels in the Township of Wilmot, specifically in areas like New Hamburg and Baden, reflect a relatively affluent population, largely influenced by the proximity to Kitchener-Waterloo and the availability of professional employment opportunities in that region. Its strong income levels, comparable to neighboring affluent areas, make it an attractive location for families seeking financial stability and a high quality of life.

The higher income level in Wilmot suggests a generally elevated standard of living and reflects the presence of professionals who, while employed in the rapidly growing industries of Kitchener-Waterloo, choose to reside in more suburban or rural communities such as Wilmot. Indeed, a high proportion of Wilmot residents commute to other communities for work: according to 2021 Census Data, 54% commute to a different census subdivision within the census division of residence and 14.6% commute to a different census division within their province of residence, as opposed 34.2% and 18.3% who do so in Waterloo Region and 17.3% and 23.5% who do so in Ontario.

Income Distribution

While the median household income in Wilmot is relatively high, income distribution is not uniform across all residents. Certain areas, particularly those with older or rural populations, may exhibit lower average income levels. Many households in the township are dual-income, contributing to the higher-than-average overall household income.

Additionally, Wilmot benefits from a long history of family-owned farms and agriculture-based businesses.



Ethnicity

The ethnic composition of the Township of Wilmot, particularly in areas such as New Hamburg and Baden, remains predominantly white, though increasing diversity has been observed in recent years. Below are detailed statistics on the region's ethnic demographics:

- **Caucasian Population:** Approximately 96% of Wilmot's population identifies as a non-visible minority⁵. This percentage, significantly higher than the Ontario average (62.8%), is comparable to other neighbouring small rural municipalities, such as the Townships of Wellesley (97.5%), North Dumfries (93.3%), and Blandford-Blenheim (96.8%).
- **Visible Minority Groups:** Visible minorities constitute roughly 4% of the population, with notable groups including:
 - **South Asian:** This group is the largest among visible minorities, in line with broader national trends in Canada.
 - **South East Asians:** This is the second largest visible minority.
 - **Black and African:** A smaller yet growing community, particularly among families who have relocated from urban centers in search of a suburban lifestyle.
 - **Latin American and Asian:** These groups are also present, though in smaller numbers.
- **Indigenous Population:** The Indigenous population, comprising First Nations, and Métis, represents a small fraction of the total population, approximately 2%. Efforts are underway to promote cultural recognition and inclusion through community initiatives.
- **Recent Trends:** The township has seen a gradual increase in ethnic diversity, driven by immigration and urban sprawl from the nearby metropolitan areas of Kitchener-Waterloo. This trend is expected to persist as the township continues to grow and attract new residents.
- **Languages Spoken:** While English remains the predominant language spoken at home (about 98%), there is a growing number of residents who speak other languages, including German, Spanish, Punjabi, and Mandarin, reflecting the multicultural composition of newer populations.

⁵ Township of Wilmot - Situational Analysis Report, 2024.



The below tables summarize the latest available census data for Wilmot, and for comparable municipalities⁶:

2021 Census Data – Ethnic or Cultural Origin			
Location	Total Caucasian Population	Total Visible Minority	Indigenous Population
Wilmot Township	96%	4%	1%
City of Cambridge	76.1%	23.9%	1.9%
City of Kitchener	66.4%	31.7%	1.9%
City of Waterloo	63.7%	35.0%	1.3%
Township of North Dumfries	93.3%	6.7%	1%
Township of Wellesley	97.5%	1.5%	1%
Township of Woolwich	95%	5.0%	1.2%
Perth County	96%	2.5%	1.5%
City of Guelph	72.3%	26.1%	1.6%
Blandford-Blenheim Township	96.8%	1.7%	1.5%
Ontario	62.8%	34.4%	2.8%
Canada	67.4%	26.6%	5.0%

⁶ Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population.



2021 Census Data – Visible Minorities			
Location	Largest Visible Minority Group	Smallest Visible Minority Group	Other Present Group
Wilmot Township	South Asian (3.5%)	Japanese (0.1%)	Black: (1.5%) Chinese: (1.0%) Filipino (0.8%) Latin American (0.7%) Southeast Asian (0.5%)
City of Cambridge	South Asian (11.7%)	Korean population (0.2%)	Latin American (1.7%), Filipino (1.3%), Southeast Asian (1.2%), Arab (1.1%), and Chinese (0.9%) populations.
City of Kitchener	South Asian (9.9%)	Black population, (6.9%)	Latin American (3.1%), Southeast Asian (3.7%), Chinese (1.8%), Arab (2.4%), West Asian (1.3%), and Filipino (1.1%) populations.
City of Waterloo	South Asian (10.7%)	Filipino (1.0%)	Chinese (9.2%), Black (3.1%), Arab (2.7%), Latin American (1.9%), West Asian (1.7%), Southeast Asian (1.4%), and Korean (1.4%) populations.
Township of North Dumfries	South Asian (2.6%)	Japanese (0.1%)	Chinese (0.5%), Black (0.9%), Filipino



2021 Census Data – Visible Minorities			
Location	Largest Visible Minority Group	Smallest Visible Minority Group	Other Present Group
			(0.1%), Arab (0.6%), Latin American (0.7%), Southeast Asian (0.5%), and Korean (0.0%) populations.
Township of Wellesley	South Asian (0.5%)	Korean (0.1%)	Black (0.3%), Chinese (0.2%), and Filipino (0.2%) populations.
Township of Woolwich	South Asian (1.5%)	Japanese (0.1%)	Black (0.9%), Chinese (0.7%), Filipino (0.5%), Latin American (0.4%), Southeast Asian (0.3%), and Arab (0.2%) populations.
Perth County	South Asian (0.7%)	Filipino (0.2%)	Black (0.6%) and Arab (0.4%) populations.
City of Guelph	South Asian (6.3%)	Japanese (0.1%)	Black (3.6%), Chinese (3.0%), Filipino (2.1%), Arab (2.0%), Latin American (1.8%), Southeast Asian (1.5%), West Asian (1.0%), Korean (0.5%), and multiple



2021 Census Data – Visible Minorities			
Location	Largest Visible Minority Group	Smallest Visible Minority Group	Other Present Group
			visible minorities (0.7%).
Blandford-Blenheim Township	South Asian (0.5%)	Chinese (0.1%)	Black (0.4%), Filipino (0.3%), and Latin American (0.2%) populations.
Ontario	South Asian (10.7%)	Japanese (0.1%)	Chinese: 6.1% (approximately 867,000 individuals) Black: 5.5% (approximately 783,000 individuals) Filipino: 3.0% (approximately 426,000 individuals) Arab: 2.9% (approximately 413,000 individuals) Latin American: 2.6% (approximately 370,000 individuals) Southeast Asian: 2.2% (approximately 313,000 individuals) West Asian: 1.6% (approximately 228,000 individuals) Korean: 0.8% (approximately 114,000 individuals) Visible minority, n.i.e.:



2021 Census Data – Visible Minorities			
Location	Largest Visible Minority Group	Smallest Visible Minority Group	Other Present Group
			0.5% (approximately 71,000 individuals) Multiple visible minorities: 0.9% (approximately 128,000 individuals)
Canada	South Asian (7.1%)	Japanese (0.3%)	Chinese: 4.7% (approximately 1,715,770 individuals) Black: 4.3% (approximately 1,547,870 individuals) Filipino: 2.6% (approximately 957,355 individuals) Arab: 1.9% (approximately 694,015 individuals) Latin American: 1.6% (approximately 580,235 individuals) Southeast Asian: 1.1% (approximately 390,340 individuals) West Asian: 1.0% (approximately 360,495 individuals) Korean: 0.6% (approximately 218,140 individuals) Multiple visible



2021 Census Data – Visible Minorities			
Location	Largest Visible Minority Group	Smallest Visible Minority Group	Other Present Group
			minorities: 0.9% (approximately 331,805 individuals) Visible minority, n.i.e.: 0.5% (approximately 172,885 individuals)

Economic and Labour Market in Wilmot

The table below shows the percentage of the labour force aged 15 years and over by industry according to 2021 Census Data, in Wilmot, Waterloo Region, Ontario, and Canada:

2021 Census Data – Percentage of the labour force aged 15 years and over by industry				
Geographic Area/ Industry	Wilmot	Waterloo Region	Ontario	Canada
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	4.7%	1.4%	1.4%	2.3%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	1.2%
Utilities	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%
Construction	12%	7.1%	7.3%	7.6%
Manufacturing	11.6%	15.1%	8.9%	8%
Wholesale trade	3.5%	3.6%	3.3%	3.2%



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Retail trade	8.9%	10.4%	10.8%	11.1%
Transportation and warehousing	3.3%	4.7%	5.1%	5.1%
Information and cultural industries	2.2%	2.6%	2.3%	2.1%
Finance and insurance	6%	5.7%	5.4%	4.2%
Real estate and rental and leasing	1.6%	1.5%	2.1%	1.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	7.4%	9.2%	9.2%	8.1%
Management of companies and enterprises	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	3.2%	4.1%	4.4%	4.1%
Educational services	8.7%	8.5%	7.2%	7.3%
Health care and social assistance	10.8%	10%	11.6%	12.7%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.9%	1.3%	1.8%	1.8%



Accommodation and food services	4%	4.8%	5.3%	5.6%
Other services (except public administration)	3.4%	3.4%	3.8%	4.1%
Public administration	4.8%	3.1%	5.8%	6.2%

The construction and manufacturing sectors play a key role, employing approximately 12% and 11.6% of the local workforce.

The prominence of manufacturing reflects the vitality of this industry in the Waterloo Region overall: manufacturing is the region's largest sector, and the Waterloo Region manufacturing sector is the fourth largest in Canada⁷. Similarly, the high percentage of workers employed in the construction industry is explained in part by the rapid growth of Waterloo. Between 2016 and 2021, Waterloo's population grew by 9.7%, at a significantly higher rate than the national (5.2%) and regional (5.8%) rates⁸. In 2023, Waterloo was the fastest-growing community in Canada, boasting a remarkable growth rate of 6.15%⁹. This rapid expansion has directly contributed to a surge in construction activity, fueled by significant residential developments and ambitious infrastructure projects.

Other industries employing a significant portion of the local labour force include, in decreasing order, health care and social assistance (10.8%), retail trade (8.9%), educational services (8.7%), professional, scientific and technical services (7.4%).

Reflecting Wilmot's agricultural roots, the percentage of the workforce employed in agriculture (4.7%) is notably higher than regional (1.4%) and provincial (1.4%) percentages. In 2021, 264 farms were recensed in Wilmot, out of a total of 1,409 in Waterloo Region, with Wilmot being the

⁷ Region of Waterloo website, Diverse resilient economy, <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/doing-business/diverse-resilient-economy.aspx#:~:text=Waterloo%20Region%20has%20a%20vibrant.and%20insurance%2C%20and%20technology%20sectors.>

⁸ Statistics Canada, Censuses of 2016 and 2021.

⁹ Statistics Canada, data summarized by Waterloo EDC, "Waterloo is Canada's Fastest-Growing Population", published May 23, 2024, <https://www.waterlooeDC.ca/blog/waterloo-fastest-growing-community-canada-2024>



third community in the region, behind Wellesley (438) and Woolwich (442) in terms of number of farms¹⁰. Agriculture provided a total revenue of 181.9 million dollars in Wilmot in 2020¹¹.

Finally, the proportions of workers employed the arts, entertainment, and recreation (1.9%) and information and cultural industries (2.2%) are comparable to the regional, provincial and national rates.

Cultural Profile

Cultural Economic Landscape

Canada's Cultural Economic Trends

In Canada, the cultural industries are significant contributors to the Canadian economy. In 2023, the arts, culture, and heritage had a direct impact on GDP of almost \$61 billion.¹² The cultural sector generated approximately, 645,900 full-time and part-time jobs in 2023. Cultural contributors include, but are not limited to, the visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, audiovisual production, and their associated professions.

The Canadian government provides financial incentives to promote culture and has policies focusing on developing Canadian cultural content. These policies and guidelines ensure that these cultural assets and resources are accessible to all Canadians.¹³

Ontario's Cultural Economic Trends

Ontario's culture sector added \$26.4 billion to provincial GDP in 2022, which represents 45 percent of the country's culture sector GDP. It also helped support more than 270,528 direct jobs across the province – more than the combined jobs in real estate, auto manufacturing, forestry and mining.¹⁴ Additionally, tourism plays a vital role in Waterloo Region, driving almost 5

¹⁰ Region of Waterloo, Census Bulletin 2021, Agriculture.

¹¹ Ibidem.

¹² Hill Strategies, "Canada's cultural economy in 2023: A broad view", September 24, 2024, <https://statsinsights.hillstrategies.com/p/canadas-cultural-economy-in-2023>

¹³ "New Strategies for Culture and Trade Canadian Culture," The Cultural Industries Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade, Global Affairs Canada (February 1999), last modified November 27, 2015, <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/topics-domaines/ip-pi/canculture.aspx?lang=en>.

¹⁴ Ontario Arts Council, "Backgrounder – Arts Across Ontario preliminary results", October 10, 2024, <https://www.arts.on.ca/news-resources/updates-faqs-and-resources/updates-faqs-and-resources/2024/backgrounder-%e2%80%93-arts-across-ontario-preliminary-results>.



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million visitors to the region annually, resulting in \$557 million in spending¹⁵. The area's parks, trails, and cultural events enhance its appeal as a popular destination for both locals and visitors.

Wilmot's Cultural Sector and Attractions

Cultural Sector Highlights

Heritage

Castle Kilbride, in Baden, is the primary cultural landmark in Wilmot. This Victorian home, built in 1877 for flax industrialist and politician James Livingston, features Italianate architectural design and intricate trompe l'oeil murals and ceilings, created by German artist Henry Scharstein, and a belvedere for scenic views. The building was purchased by the township in 1993, with funding from the federal, provincial and municipal levels, as well as local fundraising efforts by the Friends of Castle Kilbride, and has been open to the public as a museum since 1994. It was designated a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada in 1995.



Castle Kilbride

¹⁵ Waterloo Region, Tourism Master Plan 2023-2030, p.2.



In 2023, Castle Kilbride saw a total of 9,031 tracked visitors¹⁶. Castle Kilbride has shown a consistent increase in visitor numbers each year following the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting a strong recovery trend. The Castle offers a wide range of programming aimed at all different age groups. This includes various curriculum-based programs for children, exploring history through the perspective of the Livingston family’s way of living (story times, hands on activities). Programming also includes several guided tours for older secondary and post-secondary students, such as a History of Furniture tour. The Castle has also presented Ghost Walk tours, plays, craft workshops on weekends, a tea and tour experience, concerts at the castle, Christmas events, and themed pet parades. Additionally, Castle Kilbride occasionally hosts art shows and, through a partnership with Stratford Festival, exhibits theatre costumes as part of permanent displays. As a flagship touristic attraction, Castle Kilbride is a member of Explore Waterloo Region and Destination Stratford.

Castle Kilbride Visitor Statistics

Total number of Patron’s	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
# of Patron	9,031	7,799	1,845	900	11,709

¹⁶ Report to Heritage Wilmot and Castle Kilbride Advisory Committee, Report Number HCAC 02-24, February 13, 2024.



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New Hamburg Water Wheel

In addition to Castle Kilbride, Wilmot includes other heritage assets. Notably, the New Dundee Bandshell, built in 1944 through the collaborative efforts of the New Dundee Board of Trade, the New Dundee Musical Society Band, the Women's Institute, and the Softball Association. The New Hamburg downtown core, a designated Heritage Conservation District, boasts buildings in the Italianate style – such as Puddicombe House – as well as Late Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Edwardian, Quebec Classic Revival and Beaux Arts styles, and is anchored by the Hartman Bridge. Along the Nith River, the New Hamburg Heritage Waterwheel – the largest extant in North America, standing at 50 feet – honours the township's industrial roots and highlights Wilmot's connections to green energy, as the birthplace of the founder of Ontario Hydro, Sir Adam Beck.

The Grandstand stands as an emblem of the rich history of the fairgrounds. It remains a vital and functional attraction, hosting major community events such as the Relief Sale, Moparfest, and the Fall Fair, which draw visitors from across the region. The rebuild of this important heritage site highlights Wilmot's commitment to preserving its historical identity while serving as a hub for cultural and social engagement.



Finally, the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades preserve the artifacts of Wilmot's firefighting history.

Events

A number of large-scale annual events hosted at the New Hamburg Fairgrounds draw in visitors to Wilmot and help celebrate local traditions and connections to agriculture.

The New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale, held annually on the last Friday and Saturday of May, features over 40 venues and engages 2,000 volunteers. Since its inception in 1967 by Mennonite churches in southwestern Ontario, the event has raised over \$12 million for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a not-for-profit relief and development agency. With activities like the flagship quilt auction, Treasure Trove Auction, and Voices Together Community Sing Hymn, the sale draws close to 10,000 attendees annually, generating over \$250,000 in revenue each year for more than 25 years.⁸

The New Hamburg Fall Fair, organized by the Wilmot Agricultural Society, is a cherished annual event held over four days in September at Norm S. Hill Park. Attracting over 10,000 attendees, the fair offers a vibrant mix of activities for all ages, including an educational day tailored for local students to explore agriculture, a vendor village with around 50 exhibitors showcasing crafts, produce, and services, and homecraft exhibits featuring community talent in baking, crafts, and horticulture.¹⁷ Traditional highlights like the Draft Horse Pull, Demolition Derby, and ProRider FMX shows draw big crowds, while live performances by local talents, including the New Hamburg Concert Band and dance studios, enhance the cultural experience. Children's activities, such as the Ultimutts Dog Show and the Reptile Kingdom Interactive Show, add family-friendly appeal. The fair underscores its agricultural roots while supporting local artisans and businesses and fostering community connections. With affordable admission and free entry for children under four, it remains accessible to all. Volunteers play a vital role in its success, with over 100 individuals contributing to its operations. The New Hamburg Fall Fair stands as a cornerstone of community life, celebrating rural traditions and cultural heritage.

¹⁷ New Hamburg Fall Fair, Vendor Information,
<https://commercialnhff.wixsite.com/vendorvillage/meet-the-vendors>



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The Canada Day celebration in Wilmot Township is an annual event held in New Hamburg. Organized by the Wilmot Canada Day Event Task Force, with support from council members, staff, and community volunteers, the festivities offer a variety of family-friendly activities. The day begins with an Indigenous Sunrise Ceremony, followed by an official opening featuring performances by the New Hamburg Concert Band and local artists. The event culminates with a fireworks display along the river, attracting 5,000 attendees. This celebration reflects Wilmot's strong community spirit and commitment to inclusivity.

The New Dundee Victoria Day Festivities kick off the summer season in Wilmot. This cherished event includes a parade, carnival games, and a fireworks display, drawing families from across the township to celebrate together.

In Petersburg, the Breakfast in the Park and Father's Day Car Show is a highlight of June. This event features a classic car showcase, live music, and a community breakfast, bringing residents together in a relaxed and festive atmosphere.





"Cruisin' at the Pond" is a popular weekly classic car show held every Wednesday evening during the summer in Baden. This event brings together car enthusiasts and community members to showcase vintage vehicles. The gathering fosters community engagement and celebrates automotive heritage, contributing to Wilmot's vibrant cultural scene.

Moparfest, established in 1979, is Canada's largest all-Mopar car show, held annually in New Hamburg, Ontario. The two-day event attracts over 1,000 Mopar vehicles and thousands of enthusiasts from across North America. Highlights include live music, children's activities like Power Wheels drag racing, food trucks, the Engine Blow event, and silent auctions. Beyond its automotive focus, Moparfest has contributed over \$3.45 million to community initiatives, showcasing its commitment to philanthropy. Organized by a dedicated team of volunteers, Moparfest remains a premier event for car enthusiasts.

Theatre

The main local theatre group, the Community Players of New Hamburg, performs two major shows a year. Created in 1989, the company is a beloved local institution.

The Community Players of New Hamburg (TCP), established in 1984, are a cornerstone of Wilmot Township's cultural, renowned for their community theatre. Each year, TCP stages two major productions: a spring musical and a fall drama. These shows not only entertain but also provide a platform for local talent and foster community engagement. TCP actively reinvests its profits into local projects and charities, emphasizing its commitment to both the arts and community development.

Visual Arts

Although Wilmot does not have a permanent public gallery for the presentation of visual arts, the township is home to many creators. The yearly New Hamburg Art Tour, held in September offers a display opportunity to local painters, photographers, and ceramics artists, and the Dundee Artisan Festival, held in May, presents local craftsmanship. In addition, several stores in the township, such as Kathie Jordan Design, present products by local creators. Residents can also access art classes at local studios, such as Dundee Pottery, Alder Creek Studios, and the Dundee Doodle Art Studio.

Literary Arts



The three public library branches operated by the Region of Waterloo Library in the Township of Wilmot are a valuable cultural resource for the township, offering a wide array of community services both in-person and online. These branches are located in Baden, New Hamburg and New Dundee.

Natural Heritage

Green spaces and designated parks highlight the township's open outdoor areas and natural beauty. In Wilmot, there are 33 township, settlement, and neighbourhood parks (not including open space lands), totalling approximately 226.8 acres¹⁸. In addition, in recent years, investments have been made to enhance natural areas and promenades. Notably, following the partnership established in 2019 between the Township of Wilmot and Mike Schout, the Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve was established. This 55 acre natural preserve hosting a vibrant ecosystem features a 1.6 km long boardwalk spanning multiple wetland ponds and several educational components¹⁹. In addition, the Nith River Promenade and Trail was recently enhanced, with construction finalized in early 2024. The promenade provides access to three key architectural landmarks of New Hamburg: the New Hamburg Reservoir Dam, the New Hamburg Waterwheel and the Hartman Bridge.

Beyond these developments, Wilmot is home to notable trails and protected natural areas that further enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. The Baden Hills Trails and Walker Woods provide serene hiking experiences, while trail linkages between the Wilmot Recreation Complex (WRC), New Hamburg, Baden, and Waterloo Region facilitate active transportation and connectivity. The Hydro Cut is a popular destination for mountain biking, offering some of the best trail systems in the region. Conservation efforts have also seen success with the rare Charitable Research Reserve facilitating the investment of Schneider Woods, a vital forested area that supports biodiversity and provides recreational opportunities.

In addition, community organizations like the Wilmot Horticultural Society and Let's Tree Wilmot play a vital role in supporting these green spaces. Their mission blends education, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship, teaching the community about the critical role native plants, gardens, and green spaces play in creating healthy, livable communities and a sustainable planet.

¹⁸ Township of Wilmot, Community Services Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2024, p. 75.
<https://facilities.wilmot.ca/?CategoryIds=&FacilityTypIds=1&Keywords=&ScrollTo=google-map-trigger&CloseMap=true>.

¹⁹ Township of Wilmot website, "Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve Grand Opening Event", posted May 24, 2023.



Community-Driven Organizations

Wilmot has many community organizations that support the art and culture scene. These include various community groups and service associations that play vital roles in fostering arts and culture in Wilmot. These community-driven organizations support local initiatives, events, and projects that celebrate Wilmot's heritage and creativity. They sponsor family-friendly cultural events, fundraise for community improvements, and provide platforms for local artists, performers, and creators to showcase their work. Organizing events such as festivals, art displays, and workshops, enriches the cultural landscape and strengthens community connections, making Wilmot a vibrant hub for cultural engagement.

Wilmot's Investment in Arts and Culture

Community Grants Program

The Township of Wilmot supports local community groups through the Community Grants Program, with a total yearly funding of approximately \$50,000. In 2023, cultural community organizations supported included the New Hamburg Art Tour, the New Hamburg Concert Band, and the Dundee Artisan Festival.

Facilities and Programming

The Township of Wilmot develops and maintains facilities, parks and trails and offers programs and activities within arts and culture

A significant recent project concerns the New Hamburg Arena. In 2022, the Ontario government granted the township \$4.18 million for the redevelopment of the former arena, with a required township contribution of \$1.52 million. The proposal included a plan for the space to host both recreation and culture activities, with a dedicated stage for local theatre company The Community Players (TCP). The project is currently on hold until further consultation and cost assessment.

Finally, the Township operates Castle Kilbride and provides educational programming and recreational events and activities on Castle grounds. These well attended, successful programs include the Summer Concert Series, Ghost Walks, Juried Art Show, and seasonal featured exhibits.



Planning and Policy Context

The following is a review of provincial and municipal planning and policy documents related to cultural development in the Township of Wilmot.

The key documents below were reviewed for their relevance to cultural planning in the Township of Wilmot.

Provincial Policies and Strategies		
Report	Overview	Importance to Culture
Provincial Planning Statement (2024)	The Planning Act is provincial legislation that outlines all land use planning rules and regulations in Ontario. The Act outlines the roles and responsibilities of the province and municipalities.	<p>The Planning Act outlines the overarching protection of cultural interests. The Planning Act has identified various cultural assets to be protected across the province of Ontario through provincial and municipal legislation.</p> <p>These cultural assets include, but are not limited to: agricultural resources, architectural significance, archaeological significance, scientific interest, and the development of safe and healthy communities.</p> <p>In addition, the Planning Act mandates that municipalities create official plans that include provisions for cultural facilities and heritage conservation and emphasizes transparency and public involvement by requiring municipalities to make planning information available to the public.</p>
Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 ²⁰	The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) outlines policy direction focusing on provincial interests, with a specific focus on the provincial policies related to land use and development.	<p>The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) encourages municipalities to protect their culture by developing planning documents. These documents include cultural plans, archeological management plans, and heritage plans.</p> <p>During planning processes, authorities must engage</p>

²⁰ Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, "Provincial Policy Statement" (2020), <https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-provincial-policy-statement-2020-accessible-final-en-2020-02-14.pdf>.



		with Indigenous communities to identify and protect cultural heritage. This process allows municipalities to preserve and enhance Indigenous culture and heritage.
Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990) ²¹	The Ontario Heritage Act provides a set of heritage standards and guidelines for the province of Ontario.	<p>The Ontario Heritage Act highlights the importance of supporting, encouraging, and facilitating the conservation, preservation, and protection of heritage across the province.</p> <p>This includes the preservation, maintenance, reconstruction, and management of properties with historical, architectural, archeological, recreational, and aesthetic interests.</p>
Ontario Culture Strategy: Telling our Stories, Growing our Economy, 2015 [Archived] ²²	The Ontario Culture Strategy: Telling our Stories, Growing our Economy reflects the input received from stakeholder engagement and research. The strategy outlines a set of four (4) overarching goals for Ontario over the next five (5) years.	<p>The Ontario Culture Strategy identifies that the province of Ontario has a rich and diverse culture. This diverse culture has resulted in unique communities across the province of Ontario, many of which have a unique identity, character, and an enhanced sense of place and pride. (p. 8)</p> <p>The Ontario Cultural Strategy outlines how these unique features will continue to be enhanced across the province. While Ontario's Culture Strategy has been implemented and is now archived, the basis of the plan can continue to help us understand the best practices for enhancing culture across the province of Ontario.</p>

Regional Policies and Strategies		
Report	Overview	Importance to Culture
Region of Waterloo		

²¹ Province of Ontario, *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90o18>.

²² Government of Ontario (Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport), "The Ontario Culture Strategy: Telling our Stories, Growing our Economy" (2015), https://files.ontario.ca/ontarios_culture_strategy_en2_aoda_final-s.pdf.



Official Plan		
Region of Waterloo Strategic Plan 2023-2027 ²³	The Region of Waterloo Strategic Plan 2023-2027 is a guide for the region as its population grows towards 1 million in the upcoming decades (currently at approx. 690,000 people).	The plan is divided into four key areas: addressing housing/homelessness crisis ; growing sustainably while adapting to climate change; making services and opportunities more equitable for all; cultivating an organization that supports staff wellbeing and service to better support residents. The 2024 budget includes increased investments in housing, transit services, paramedic services and more.
Region of Waterloo Tourism Master Plan 2023-2030 ²⁴	The Waterloo Region Tourism Master Plan (2023-2030) aims to position the region as one of Ontario's premier destinations for leisure, business events, and sport hosting.	The plan emphasizes resilience and sustainability post-COVID-19 and identifies key growth pillars: Brand, Product, Access, Sustainability, and Communication. These pillars guide strategic initiatives to enhance tourism offerings, strengthen regional branding, improve transportation connectivity, promote sustainable tourism, and align community efforts. Collaboration with stakeholders and alignment with government plans are crucial for success.

Municipal Policies and Strategies		
Report	Overview	Importance to Culture
Township of Wilmot Official Plan		
Township of Wilmot, Arts and Culture	The former Arts and Culture Master Plan was intended to	The former Master Plan recommended establishing a Municipal Arts and Culture Advisory Committee;

²³ Region of Waterloo, 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, Growing with Care, <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/regional-government/strategic-plan-2023-2027.aspx>

²⁴ Region of Waterloo, Tourism Master Plan, 2023-2030, <https://files.explorewaterloo.ca/uploads/2023/04/Explore-Waterloo-Region-Tourism-Master-Plan-2023-2030-Final-1.pdf>



Master Plan, 2018 ²⁵	<p>provide directions for culture in Wilmot over a period of five years (2019-2023).</p> <p>The plan was informed by engagement and by several municipal policies, foremost among which the Township of Wilmot Strategic Plan (2013), which lists goals for the community as well as strategies on how to achieve them.</p>	<p>providing an increment to the funding available to the arts, culture and heritage organizations; creating additional municipally-provided incubator facilities for artists and craftspeople; creating additional staff resources devoted to the arts, culture and heritage that are specifically dedicated, and exploring the possibility of creating a medium sized performing arts facility.</p> <p>Finally, the Master Plan proposed a balanced approach, noting that Wilmot's geographic location, surrounded by large-scale municipalities, while it offered a potential opportunity to draw in visitors from these centres, also meant Wilmot residents have easy access to activities in other cities, so that Wilmot does not need to be "all things to all people."²⁶</p> <p>The new Arts and Culture Master Plan will provide updated directions.</p>
Township of Wilmot Strategic Plan update, 2024 ²⁷	<p>The Township of Wilmot's Strategic Plan 2024 Update offered a roadmap for future growth and development.</p> <p>This update built on the 2020 plan and reflected extensive community consultations conducted throughout 2024. Key goals include Financial Stability, Healthy Community, Prosperous Business & Balanced Growth, Trustworthy Leadership. An</p>	<p>The plan included recommendations pertaining to support for arts and culture, as part of its list of actions to be implemented to support the first goal, "quality of life."</p> <p>Recommendations included in the plan were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Public Art Policy • Lead consultation on the Prime Ministers Path project • Assess the inventory of cultural heritage landscapes throughout Wilmot and promote their long-term conservation and protection • Identify and promote local history through external signage • Investigate the feasibility of a performing arts

²⁵ Township of Wilmot, Arts and Culture Master Plan, <https://www.wilmot.ca/en/living-here/resources/Documents/Wilmot-Arts-and-Culture-Master-Plan---COUNCIL-APPROVED-NOVEMBER-5-2018-.pdf>

²⁶ Ibidem, p. 18.

²⁷ Township of Wilmot, Strategic Plan Update, <https://www.wilmot.ca/en/township-office/resources/Township-of-Wilmot---Strategic-Plan-2020---Final---Rebranded-v3.pdf>



	<p>effective Strategic Plan needs to achieve these outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That incorporate input from the community, Council, and staff; • Clearly articulate overarching goals and priorities; • Establish a “roadmap for action” providing direction for budgets, projects, and operations; and • Accomplish buy-in and shared vision among Members of Council and the management team. 	<p>facility as part of the 2024 Arts and Culture Master Plan update.</p>
<p>Township of Wilmot, Community Services Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2024</p>	<p>The Community Services Parks and Recreation Master Plan, approved by Council in September 2024, will guide decision-making across all aspects of parks and recreation over the next five to ten years.</p> <p>The plan offers recommendations for the management of green spaces and recreational facilities, in the following areas: aquatics; asset management; community centres and halls; ice pads; parks and outdoor facilities; programming and events; policy, administration and communication.</p>	<p>The plan recognizes the central importance of culture for residents’ wellbeing, and outlines several recommendations that are directly pertinent to arts and culture.</p> <p>The plan includes a series of recommendations for the use of community centres. Two options suggested for the future of the New Hamburg Community Centre, which has been at the centre of discussions between the Township and The Community Players, and recommends as a preferred option the “redesign of the arena component of the facility, on its existing footprint, to proactively accommodate multiple uses.”²⁸ In the short term, the plan recommends for the Township to enter into a joint venture agreement with The Community Players.</p> <p>Additionally, the plan include recommendations for programming, oriented around five core principles:</p>

²⁸ Ibidem, p. 20.



		<p>something for everyone, affordability and accountability, partnerships, sustainability, quality assurance. Recommended actions are meant to ensure the continued assessment of service delivery, collaborative reasoning, and the provision of programs meeting community needs.</p> <p>This section also recognizes the role played by third-party event organizers in bringing together residents and drawing tourists. It suggests two key recommendations to increase Township support for event organizers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Meet with large event organizers twice annually (‘Event Fair’); once to assist with event preparation and administration, and once following the event to record opportunities to improve in subsequent years.”• “Create a database at point of Event booking for ‘recurring’ events that allow hosts to rollover requirements from year-to-year (where possible) with a view to reducing annual administrative burden.”²⁹ <p>Other recommendations pertinent to culture, which will be further explored in the updated Arts and Culture Master Plan, include³⁰:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansion of events programming, maximizing the use of resources when Castle Kilbride is closed for visitors: “consider options to increase the coordination and provision of events with Castle Kilbride. This could include outreach for event hosting in other locations, enhanced hosting of special events, filming, tours, movie nights etc. Consideration for more STEAM programs and events should be part of the master plan process.”• Increasing public art installations.
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²⁹ Ibidem, p. 61.

³⁰ Ibidem, p. 62.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancing tourism draw through increased communication on key assets: “Work with Economic Development (tourism) to assess options to promote destination day trips; Castle Kilbride, Mike Shout Wetlands Preserve, New Hamburg Water Wheel (in conjunction with the Grand River Conservation Authority)”• “Assess the provision of annual Canada Day celebration to ensure appropriate resourcing – both for the Township and if being supported by volunteers.”• “Work with Service Clubs and organizations to determine if similar events are needed in each settlement area, if there are options to share or merge resources, if some events have lost their historic appeal. Assist with new areas of focus as identified.”
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Community Engagement Summary

Community Engagement Process

Through the summer and fall of 2024, the Wilmot community was invited to contribute to the development of the Arts and Culture Plan.

The goals of engagement were to identify:

- The current governance and decision-making framework
- An asset map of Wilmot's cultural assets
- Strengths, challenges and opportunities for the Wilmot cultural sector
- A shared vision for Wilmot's culture

The following three (3) key stakeholder groups were engaged in Phase 1 of the development of the Cultural Plan:

4. Township staff, Councillors, and Mayor
5. Cultural resource managers (i.e., businesses, organizations, event organizers, etc.)
6. Members of the public (i.e., local residents, workforce members, students, and visitors)

STEPS employed the following engagement activities to connect with diverse stakeholders in order to understand Wilmot's current culture, identify cultural resources, and discuss future priorities to advance cultural development in Wilmot. In total, over 230 conversations about were conducted.

Process for Community Engagement

Through a series of diverse and inclusive engagement activities, the Township of Wilmot has gathered feedback from over 230 participants to inform the development of its updated Arts and Culture Master Plan. This engagement included 19 in-depth stakeholder interviews, a community survey, pop-up events, and interactive activities such as Memory Mapping and Visual Voting. These initiatives provided opportunities for residents, visitors, and key stakeholders to share their insights on Wilmot's cultural strengths, challenges, and future opportunities. By incorporating input from a wide range of voices, these efforts ensure that the master plan reflects the vibrant and evolving needs of the community.



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Data Gathering: At the Fall Fair, STEPS facilitated two interactive engagement activities to gather community feedback on art and culture in Wilmot as part of the Township's updated Arts and Culture Master Plan. These initiatives encouraged participation and provided valuable insights into community priorities.

The Data Gathering Station invited participants to respond to questions about Wilmot's current cultural resources, personal definitions of culture, and their vision for a more culturally vibrant future. Participants shared their thoughts by writing or drawing on colour-coded postcards, which were then deposited into transparent tubes. This visual display allowed participants to see the collective feedback in real-time, fostering a sense of connection and shared purpose. The event engaged 200 individuals, with 114 detailed responses collected, including input from approximately 40 youth, 20 seniors, and 20 visitors to Wilmot.



Site visit: On September 27, 2024, the STEPS team conducted site visits to seven key cultural resources in Wilmot, including the Fairgrounds, Castle Kilbride, Puddicombe House, New Hamburg Water Wheel, New Dundee Bandshell, Baden Hotel, and community hubs such as Meme's Cafe, Mountainoak Cheese, and Baden Coffee Company.

This exploratory tour served as a foundational step in understanding Wilmot's cultural fabric, contributing to strategic recommendations for the Arts and Culture Master Plan.

A Coffee Talk: The Coffee Talk engagement event, facilitated by Manny O'Kafka, Manager of Community Services, and Sherri Gropp, Castle Kilbride Curator, was hosted by the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and welcomed approximately 45 participants aged 55 and older. This session provided a relaxed, conversational setting for senior community members to share their perspectives on arts and culture in Wilmot. Participants discussed their experiences, identified



gaps, and shared ideas for enhancing cultural initiatives to better reflect their needs and interests. The event offered valuable insights into the priorities of an important demographic, contributing to a more inclusive approach to the Arts and Culture Master Plan.

Virtual Survey: From September to October 2024, the Township of Wilmot conducted a virtual community survey, available on the Wilmot website, to gather input on the meaning of arts and culture within the community. The survey invited participants to share their thoughts on topics such as culture, heritage, history, theatre, and events, while also identifying current cultural challenges and opportunities for growth.

This initiative was part of the Township's efforts to update its Arts and Culture Master Plan. The survey collected 50 responses from residents, visitors, and those who work, play, and learn in Wilmot, offering valuable insights into the diverse interests and priorities of the community.

The survey was promoted through online platforms, printed handouts distributed at the Fall Fair, and local businesses, including Castle Kilbride, to maximize community engagement. These responses will play a critical role in shaping the future of arts and culture in Wilmot.



Direct Interviews: STEPS conducted 45-60 minute interviews with 20 key stakeholders, including municipal staff, councillors, the mayor, cultural resource managers, and creatives. These interviews, held via Zoom or telephone, aimed to explore key aspects of Wilmot's cultural landscape. The objectives included clarifying stakeholders' roles and responsibilities related to culture, identifying governance and decision-making frameworks, mapping cultural resources, uncovering challenges and opportunities for cross-department collaboration, fostering internal and external partnerships, and defining a shared vision for the updated Arts and Culture Master Plan. These conversations provided valuable insights to shape a comprehensive and inclusive cultural strategy.



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List of Stakeholders:

City Staff, Council and committees

1. Mayor Natasha Salonen
2. Stewart Cressman – Ward 1 Councillor
2. Kris Wilkinson - Ward 2 Councillor
3. Harvir Sidhu – Ward 3 Councillor
4. Lillianne Dunstall – Ward 4 Councillor
3. Steven Martin - Ward 4 Councillor
4. Chris Catania - Director of Community Services
5. Harold O’Krafka - Director of Development Services
6. Greg Clark - Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer
7. Manuela O’Krafka - Manager of Community Services
8. Amber Schenck - Project Coordinator for Community Services
9. Nick Bogaert – Chair of Heritage Wilmot and Castle Kilbride Advisory Committee
10. Sherri Gropp - Curator
11. Taylor Hynes- Museum Assistant

External Stakeholders

1. Caleb Jukes - President of the New Hamburg Board of Trade
2. John Reimer - Chair of New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale



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3. Marie Voisin - Local Historian
4. Nancy Taves - Chairperson for the New Hamburg Art Tour
5. Nicole Cotie - The Community Players, President
6. Rosemary Arthurs - Organizer of the Dundee Arts festival
7. Sherry Robinson - The Community Players, Head of Development
8. Stephanie Susz - Wilmot Agricultural Society Chair
9. Nancy Birss - Women's Institute
10. Lyle Cressman - New Hamburg Board of Trade Past President and Owner of Puddicombe House Restaurant, Spa and Inn

Participant Feedback on Cultural Offerings in Wilmot

Defining Culture in Wilmot

Throughout our engagement activities, we asked participants “what immediately comes to mind when you think of culture in Wilmot?” Key characteristics emerged, that characterize local culture for respondents.

Overwhelmingly, participants highlighted Wilmot's **rural and agricultural characteristics** and the small community feel. Regularly mentioned terms and items included “agricultural”, “hardworking”, “small town feeling”, “tight-knit community”, “friendly”, “farming”, “local food”. Participants also praised “locally owned, one-of-a-kind shops” and artisans, and spoke highly of local agricultural productions. These aspects were felt to contribute to a high quality of life and a sense of strong community well-being.

Notably, conversations showed that residents harboured strong local associations, with a more limited cultural identification with the Township: in many discussions, participants focused on the



area of which they were residents rather than on the Township as a whole, and in several cases, participants were unsure if a specific settlement area was part of the Township or not.

In addition, key cultural assets emerged from conversations with engaged community members:

- Heritage assets, especially the New Hamburg Heritage Conservation District, Castle Kilbride, and buildings and constructions such as the New Hamburg Water Wheel and Puddicombe House;
- The parks and trails system;
- Large-scale annual events;
- The local intangible heritage – encompassing non-physical cultural elements such as traditions, practices, knowledge, and values – includes Mennonite heritage, agricultural traditions, music, and communal stories.

We also sought to highlight gaps by asking what is currently missing in Wilmot.

- Responding to this question, a significant proportion of participants (70% of stakeholder interviewees) highlighted the need for a **dedicated cultural facility**. Of those who responded, 45% expressed a desire for a performance venue capable of hosting theatre, dance, music, and even martial arts. 30% identified the need for temporary spaces to accommodate exhibitions, while 20% advocated for the establishment of a museum or gallery in Wilmot. Several participants noted that the lack of a clearly defined "home" for cultural activities limited the growth potential of the local creative ecosystem.
- Many participants also wished to see an **expansion of investments and activities beyond the focus on the flagship institution of Castle Kilbride**. While highlighting the successful efforts undertaken by the Castle to provide varied programming, through well-loved events such as the summer concert series, interviewees hoped to see municipal support expand beyond this institution and warned that staff resources currently allocated to the operation of Castle Kilbride were insufficient to address broader cultural needs in the community. One participant summarized this feedback, noting the need for "a cultural shift from the mindset that 'if it's culture, then it's the Castle.'"
- Throughout the stakeholder interviews, several participants expressed a desire for **enhanced municipal coordination, support, and recognition of cultural events**. It was noted that there is currently no dedicated municipal staff member responsible for



liaising with community organizations that host events or for promoting cultural activities. Some interviewees felt that there was an opportunity to better harness the local resources available, such as space, people, and talent. As one participant observed, “There are many untapped resources locally” that could be leveraged to foster growth and creativity.

- Several participants in stakeholder interviews and community engagements hoped to see an increase in **diverse offerings**, specifically mentioning a lack of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ representation.

Wilmot Cultural Resources

The research and engagement resulted in the identification of 211 cultural resources. Cultural resources are understood as a place or item where Wilmot’s culture is reflected or produced.

There are two large types of cultural resources:

- Tangible Cultural Resources are physical spaces such as venues, gallery spaces, events, or places of worship;
- Intangible Cultural Resources include traditions, rituals, and stories that define a community’s unique identity and sense of place.

Items were selected in accordance with the local definition of culture. As such, in addition to assets such as museums, we have included notable local shops and restaurants, agricultural resources, and events.

The full inventory of resources can be found in Appendix B. This inventory should be regularly updated to reflect changes in Wilmot’s cultural ecosystem.

Overall Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities for Cultural Resources

Strengths

- When community members and stakeholders were asked their favourite cultural resources, the following were mentioned as vital elements of Wilmot’s culture:
 - **Heritage assets, which were noted as a source of local pride**, especially the New Hamburg Heritage Conservation District, Castle Kilbride, the New Hamburg



Water Wheel and the New Dundee bandshell. Notably, when asked, “Where do you think Wilmot’s cultural resources are found?”, 96% of survey respondents selected “Heritage facilities (Castle Kilbride, museums, archives, historic buildings)”, by far the leading answer to this question. Interviewees repeatedly mentioned Castle Kilbride as the flagship cultural institution in Wilmot.

- The **natural heritage**, including sites such as the Nith River, Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve, and trails, was another key asset mentioned, with 88% of survey respondents selecting “public spaces and parks” when asked, “Where do you think Wilmot’s cultural resources are found?” Interviewees often highlighted recent improvements to trails and the Nith River Promenade as a key source of satisfaction.
- **Events** were regularly mentioned, as opportunities for the community to come together: Canada Day, Fall Fair, Mennonite Relief Sale, Moparfest and other car events, such as Cruizin’ at the Pond, and Castle Kilbride summer concerts.
- **Intangible heritage**: as noted above, the agricultural knowledge and tight-knit community feel were presented as determining characteristics of Wilmot’s culture. Some participants also highlighted Wilmot’s German and Pennsylvania Dutch heritage.
- Overall, the local culture is strengthened by:
 - **The creative community**: participants in both interviews and community consultations noted the **strong presence of local talent** (musicians, artists, etc.), and the **positive impact of third-party organizations**, whose activities, often supported by community volunteers, offer opportunities for residents to come together, and experience culture.
 - The mix of a **rich rural and agricultural heritage with notable architectural heritage**.

Challenges

Stakeholders and interviewees highlighted key challenges limiting participation in cultural offerings:



- **The lack of awareness of existing offerings** was overwhelmingly mentioned as a factor impeding cultural participation. Despite existing efforts on the Township of Wilmot's website and social media, during stakeholder interviews, 80% of participants, including nearly 90% of external stakeholders, cited the absence of centralized communication at the municipal level as a significant challenge.
- **Transportation challenges:** among community participants, a lack of available transportation options, including public transit and ride-hailing services, was frequently mentioned as an obstacle to cultural participation.

Additionally, stakeholder interviewees and community members shared what they felt were key barriers impeding the full development of Wilmot's cultural potential:

- **Limited financial and human resources** were consistently identified the limited availability as a key challenge. The current resource pressures weighing on the township limit the ability to invest in cultural initiatives. Additionally, respondents pointed out the limited staff capacity dedicated to cultural activities at the municipal level.
- **Municipal coordination:** throughout the interviews, many stakeholders shared a desire for increased **municipal coordination, support, and recognition** when it comes to third-party organized cultural events. Several participants expressed that the absence of a dedicated municipal staff member to liaise with community organizations and assist in promoting activities or securing permits was a noticeable gap.
- **Navigating municipal permits, applications, and approval processes** was described as challenging for both event organizers and community members wishing to rent spaces in community centres, due to a lack of awareness about the required steps and to financial and technical requirements that were not easily fulfilled by smaller organizations. Event organizers also noted that the length of approval processes weighed on the timelines for event organization.
- **Lack of collaboration** between cultural resources: many participants pointed to limited awareness and insufficient promotion of the cultural resources available in Wilmot as key factors contributing to this lack of partnerships. As a result, valuable opportunities for collaboration and synergies remain unrealized.
- **Limited affordable and suitable venues** were described as barriers for community groups, cultural presenters and event organizers. Notably, the lack of a purpose-built



facility for performance art was highlighted by the local theatre company, The Community Players. More broadly, interviewees felt that rental fees for township-owned venues were above what could be provided by small community organizations, limiting the use of these assets.

- **Demographic trends** were felt to present a potential risk. Many noted that most current activities are organized by volunteers, many of them seniors, and identified the decrease in volunteerism, due to the changing age repartition and a lesser involvement of newcomers, as a risk. In addition, accessibility concerns were highlighted given the high proportion of senior residents.
- **Recent controversies:** Tensions around the Prime Ministers' Path were repeatedly referenced as negatively affecting the potential for new cultural initiatives and generating a lack of trust.

Opportunities

Overall, community participants expressed satisfaction with the level of cultural resources available in Wilmot: while only 4% of respondents selected "extremely satisfied", 38% were "quite satisfied" and 36% neutral. However, some survey respondents mentioned feeling neutral (38%) or unsatisfied (14%), among which a few mentioned being extremely unsatisfied (8%). When asked if they felt able to participate in all the cultural activities they would like to attend in Wilmot, 52% responded assertively and 36% negatively.

Throughout engagement activities, we asked how cultural initiatives could be improved in Wilmot, to better serve constituents. Interviewees shared the following recommendations, listed in descending order based on the frequency with which they were mentioned. These opportunities will be refined in the following stage of the planning process, to better identify practical actions that can address the gaps pointed out by engaged participants.

- **Removing barriers, leveraging, supporting and facilitating the programming offered by third-party organizations:** community organizations and cultural enterprises present a significant strength, which could be further leveraged. These stakeholders recommended increasing support to third-party organizers by facilitating access to Township-owned venues, whether through low or no cost rental fees and streamlined processes, coordinating activities and fostering collaborations between stakeholders, and increasing communication on cultural offerings.



- **Encouraging the use of currently underutilized physical assets**, such as recreation centres, parks, or the bandshell by third-party groups.
- **Ensuring the representation of cultural stakeholders and open communication with the Township**, to foster partnerships, build trust, and leverage the knowledge gathered by organizations. This could take the form of a dedicated advisory committee.
- **Enhancing the promotion of cultural resources.**
- **Investing in culture from an Economic Development perspective, leveraging existing assets and Wilmot's unique cultural identity and geographic position to establish the Township as a destination:** creating a dedicated position that would support promotion and coordination, promoting existing assets, encouraging the development of agro-touristic activities (e.g., farmers' markets, farm tours, agricultural education), leveraging the proximity to large urban centres, and to touristic destinations such as Stratford.
- **Increase recognition of, and support for, Indigenous history, culture, and community members.**
- **Ensuring accessibility**, and working with Regional partners to further develop transportation options.

Benefits of Culture and Community Desires

Participants regularly underlined the benefits and potential outcomes of cultural investment, beyond financial returns. Most focused on how events help connect people and contribute to community well-being. Some survey participant testimonials included: "CELEBRATIONS THAT ARE SHARED are key to the experience of life in the Township" and "I love New Hamburg and I would be so happy if we could have this happen to connect the people even more, these things bring joy."

Culture was seen as an essential tool to support community cohesion, and help bridge gaps between different groups. Additionally, many noted the importance of cultural offerings for children's education, noting that arts "bring a piece of joy" and are essential as part of a holistic education, contributing to creative thinking and bolstering social skills.



This primary interest in culture as a community builder was similarly evident in the online survey. When asked, “What do you believe the role of cultural events/art should be in Wilmot?” participants, invited to check all applicable answers, overwhelmingly responded, “foster and strengthen community relationships” (selected by 80% of respondents), followed by “support local arts community” (72%). Other expected benefits, in descending order, included:

- “Enhance Wilmot's reputation as an art and cultural district” and “Commemorate the history of Wilmot” (both garnering 58% of responses);
- “Celebrate cultural diversity” (56%);
- “Beautify the township”, “Inspire creativity and innovation” (both 54%);
- “Create an identity for Wilmot”, “Showcase and celebrate Indigenous cultures, histories, and art”, and “Encourage tourism” (50%);
- “Support economic development” (40%);
- “Support social change” (34%).

Finally, investment in culture was seen as important to ensure that Wilmot would not be “just a bedroom community.” As such, participants wished for cultural investments to highlight unique markers of Wilmot’s cultural identity, such as the local history and agricultural knowledge, ensuring that newcomers and future generations can make these their own.



Appendix A. – Bibliography

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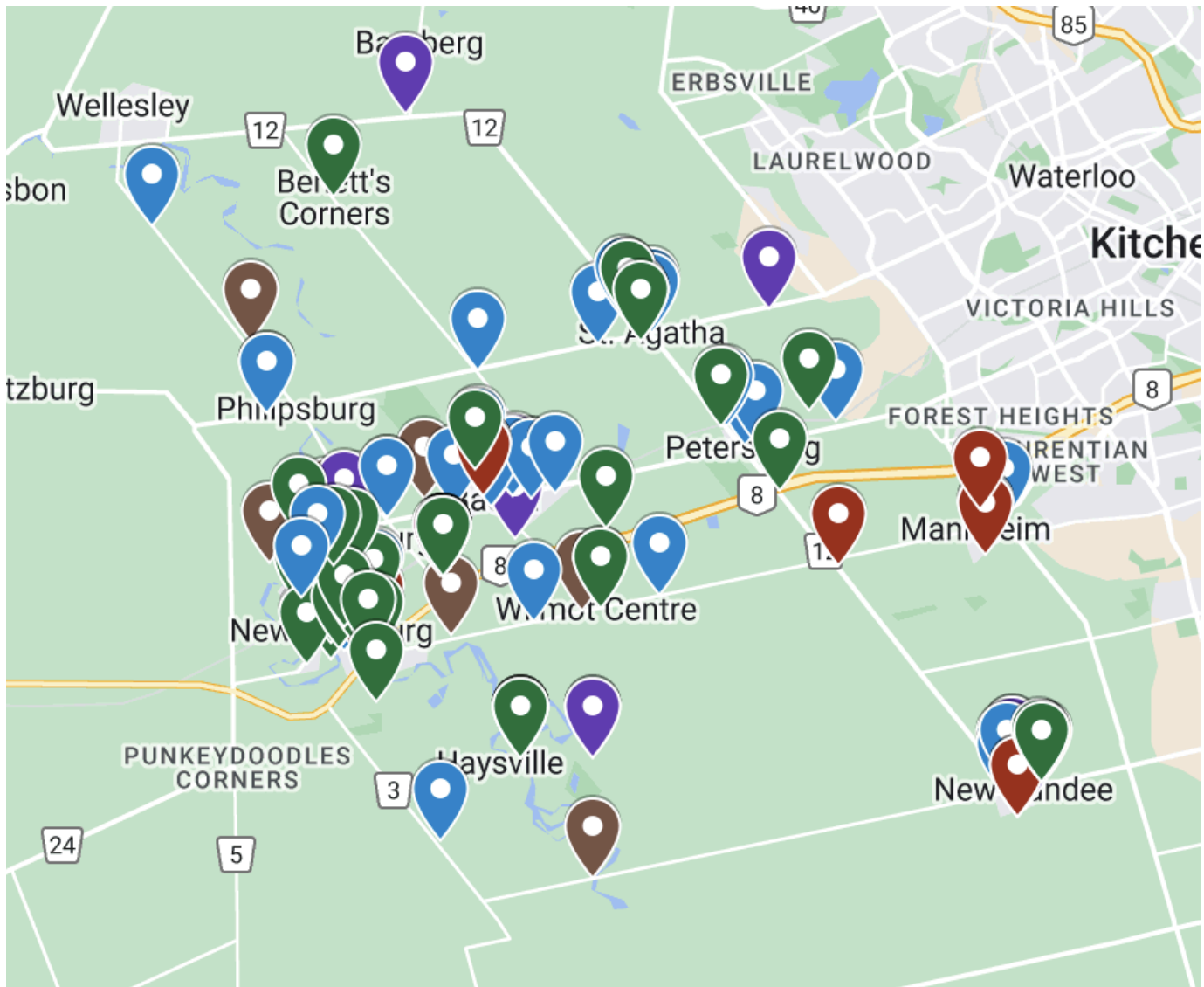
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Appendix B. – Cultural Resources Inventory

Wilmot Inventory Map 2024





The resources listed in the following pages are organized per category, using two frameworks:

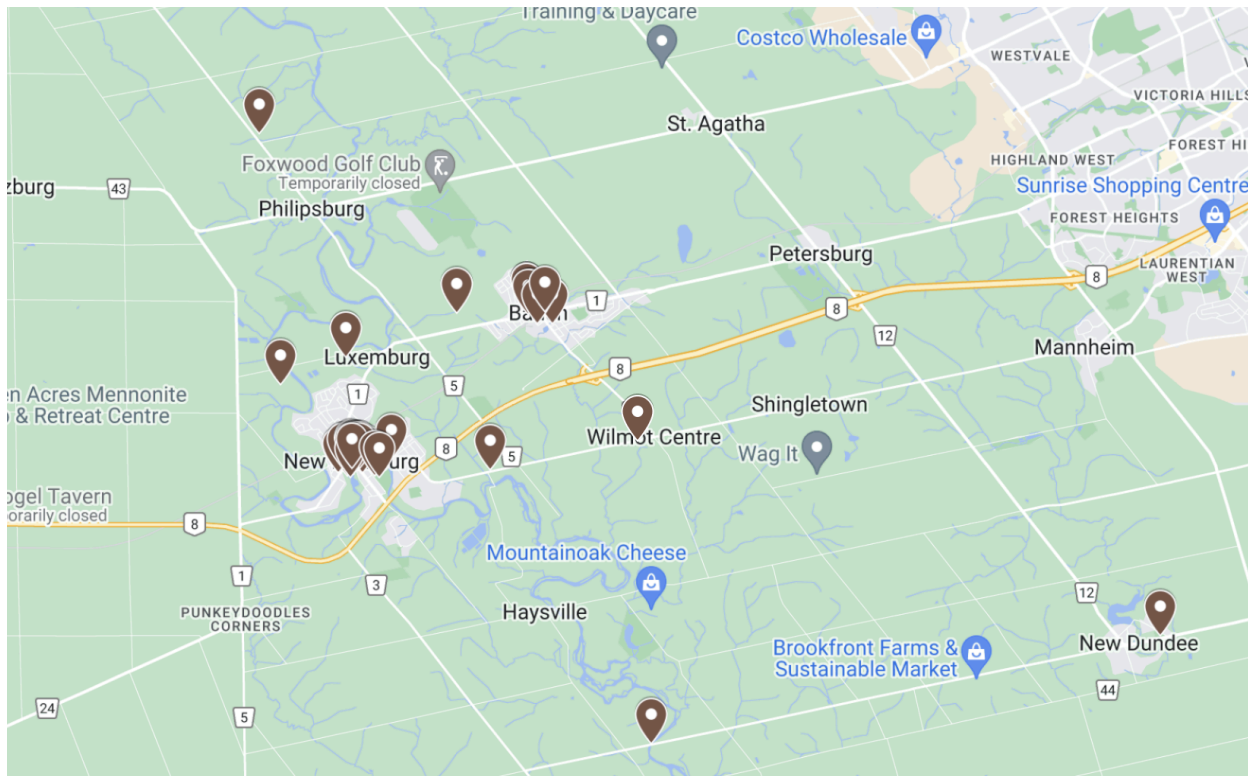
- Municipalities across Canada and Ontario have used the Cultural Resource Framework (CRF) classifications based on the Canadian Framework for Cultural Statistics (CFCS) since it was developed in 2005. The Framework is divided into the following categories: Cultural Occupations, Cultural Enterprises, Community Cultural Organizations, Cultural Festivals and Events, Cultural Spaces and Facilities, Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage, and Intangible Cultural Assets.
- To complement the CRF framework, the following subcategories were included to capture Wilmot's unique make-up of assets: organizations/businesses / Venues, Facilities, Spaces / Galleries and Museums Landmarks and Public Spaces / Events and Festivals / Art(s) Studios and Workshops / Places of Worship / Intangible Assets.



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Cultural Heritage



Cultural Heritage

Grandstand	251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg, Ontario, New Hamburg	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Castle Kilbride	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Heritage	Galleries and Museums
Puddicombe House	145 Peel St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E7	Cultural Heritage	Businesses



New Hamburg Water Wheel	315 Grandview Ave, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1L5	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigade	10 Bell Dr, Wilmot, ON N3A 2S2	Cultural Heritage	Galleries and Museums
Bridge Street Bridge	Bridge Street Bridge crosses the Nith River (Bridge Street and Tye Rd)	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The New Dundee Bandshell	1370 Bridge St, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
New Hamburg Heritage Conservation District	Boulee Street bounds the New Hamburg Heritage Conservation District to the south and the River Nith to the north, east and west, in the former Village of New Hamburg	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Sir Adam Beck Archives	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Heritage	Galleries and Museums
Wagler Property	1138 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 3K9	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Baden Hotel	39 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 2M1	Cultural Heritage	Businesses
Old General Store	55 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 2R4	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Livingston Linseed Oil Mill	76 Mill St, Baden, ON N3A 2N6	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Holwell House	35 Snyder's Rd E, Baden, ON N3A 2V3	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Scott/Schneider Home	3332 Bleams Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3G6	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces



Hamilton Bank Building	98 Peel St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E3	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Scott/Merner/Kirkpatrick Home/Waterlot	17 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Christner/Rudy House	1379 Christner Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3K7	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Hostetler/Ritz House	1145 Christner Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3K7	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Killer/Koch/Clarker House	2541 Nafziger Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3H1	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Zoeller/Wagner House	2791 Bleams Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3J3	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Merner/Shantz/Erwin Home	274 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1J5	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Hamburg Felt Boot Co.	166 Peel St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E3	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Carnegie Library	145 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Cenotaph	145 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Hartman Bridge	3 Waterloo St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1S3	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces



Luft Block	100-106 Huron St.St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1S	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Volksblatt and Independent Newspaper Office	84 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1J3	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Hartman Block	78-82 Huron St. New Hamburg, ON N3A 1J3	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Ernst/Hostetler Block	65-67 Huron StSt #65, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Imperial Hotel	60 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1J3	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Lautenschlager Block	91 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Commercial Hotel	13 Huron St #11, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Queen's Hotel	73 Peel St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E7	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
The Hamburg Hotel	87 Peel St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E7	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
New Hamburg Dam	Nith River Reservoir Dam, Unnamed Road, New Hamburg, ON N0B	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
William Tell Block	79 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces



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Lance Russwurm Mural	280 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1B9	Cultural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
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Cultural Festivals and Events



Cultural Festivals and Events			
Menonite Relief Sale	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1B9	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Fall Fair	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1B9	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Moparfest	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1B9	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
New Hamburg Art Tour	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E1	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Canada Day	William Scott Park 84 Bleams Rd W, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1G8	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals



New Hamburg Cruise Nights	68 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Castle Kilbride Concerts	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Dundee Artisan Festival	New Dundee Community Park 667 Main St #621, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Heritage Wilmot Heritage Day	New Dundee Community Centre 1028 Queen St, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Cruizin' at the Pond - Baden	76 Mill St, Baden, ON N3A 2N6	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Remembrance Day Ceremonies	145 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Christmas Parades	parade starts at the South entrance of Norm Hill Park	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Petersburg Optimist Breakfast in the park and Father's Day Car show	Petersburg Park 1338 Notre Dame Drive, St. Agatha, On,	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
New Dundee Victoria Day including New Dundee Community Fireworks	New Dundee Community Centre 1028 Queen St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3E4	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Doors Open	Various locations, in 2024 it was at Mountainoak Cheese 3165 Huron Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3C3	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Baden Firefighters tournament and concert	Sir Adam Beck Community Park 215 Snyder's Rd E, Baden, ON N3A 2V6	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals



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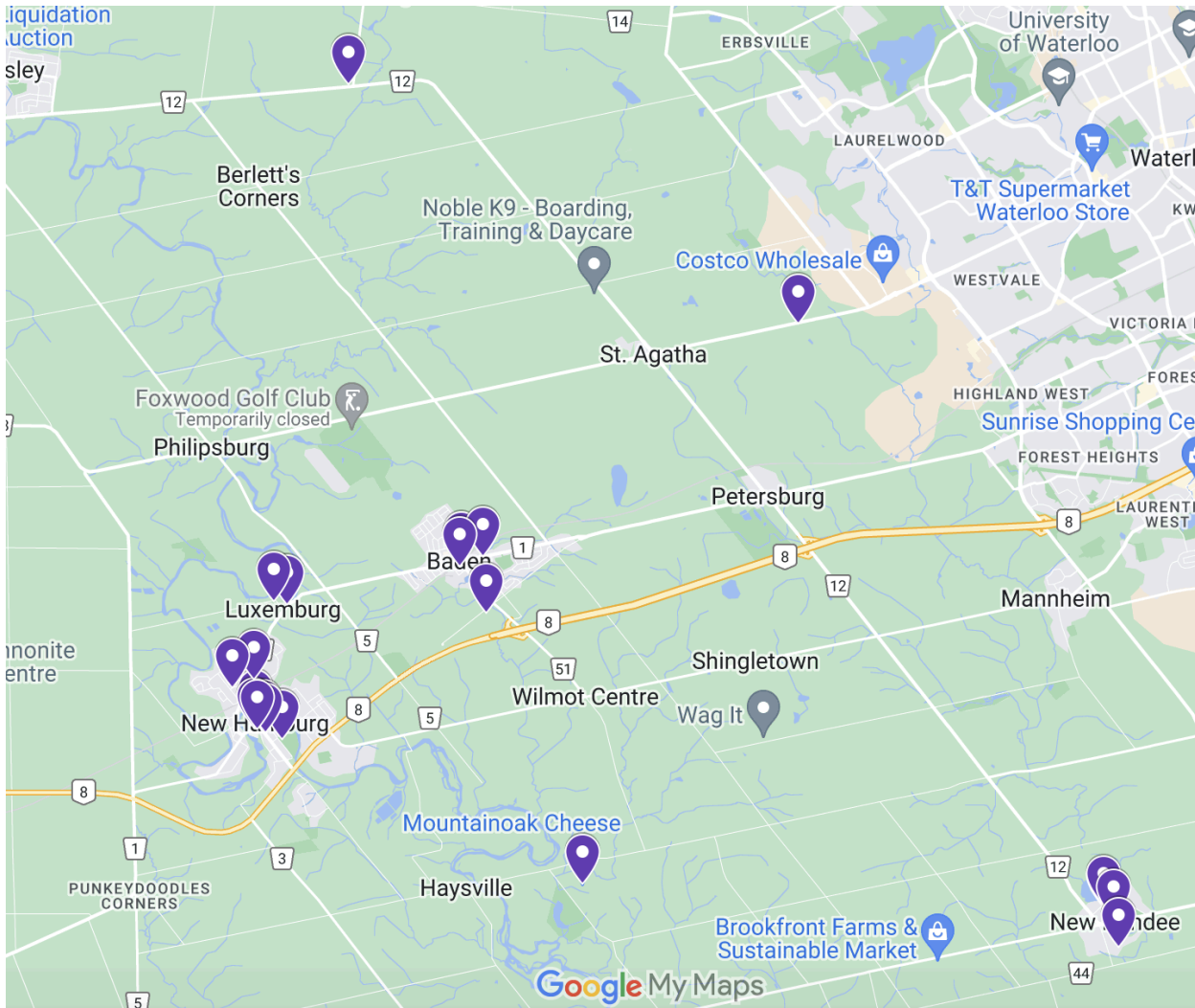
Terry Fox Run	1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden, ON N3A 0C4	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Wilmot Lions/Lioness Tree of Light	30 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1J2	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Swimming with Santa	1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden, ON N3A 0C4	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Christmas at the Castle	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Whimsical Weekends	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Ghost Walks	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Floating Pumpkin Patch	1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden, ON N3A 0C4	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals
Wilmot Recreation Complex Community Events	1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden, ON N3A 0C4	Cultural Festivals and Events	Events and Festivals



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Cultural Enterprises



Cultural Enterprises				
The Community Players (TCP)	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1B9	Cultural Enterprises	Art(s) Studio & Workshops	



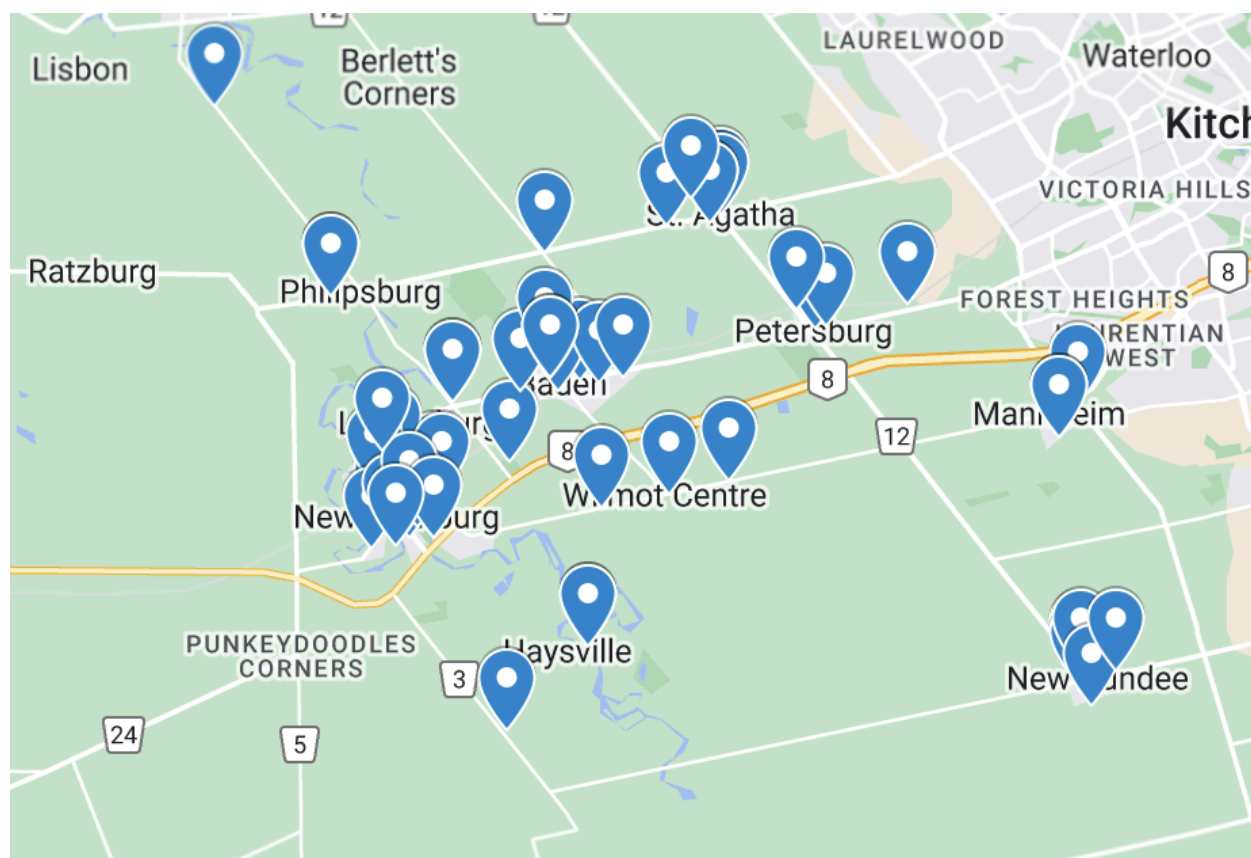
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Wilmot Seniors Woodworking and Craft Shop	27 Beck St, Baden, ON N3A 2P3	Cultural Entreprises	Art(s) Studios and Workshops
Dundee Doodle Art Studio	1454 Bridge St, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Entreprises	Art(s) Studios and Workshops
Alder Creek Studio	121 Casselholme Crescent, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Entreprises	Art(s) Studios and Workshops
Centre Stage Dance Studio	73 Hincks St Unit #3, New Hamburg, ON N3A 2A2	Cultural Entreprises	Art(s) Studios and Workshops



Cultural Facilities and Spaces



Cultural Facilities and Spaces			
Fair Grounds & New Hamburg Grandstand	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1G6	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Region of Waterloo Library - Baden Branch	115 Snyder's Rd E, Baden, ON N3A 2V4	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Facilities, Spaces
Region of Waterloo Library - New Dundee Branch	1176 Queen St N, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Facilities, Spaces



Region of Waterloo Library - New Hamburg Branch	145 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Spaces	Facilities,
Wilmot Recreation Complex	1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden, ON N3A 0C4	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Spaces	Facilities,
New Hamburg Community Centre	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E1	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Spaces	Facilities,
Kirkpatrick Park Gazebo	230 Wilmot St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1H5	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Spaces	
Livingston Square Gazebo	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Spaces	
Operating water wheel	315 Grandview Ave, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1L5	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Spaces	
Haysville Community Centre	3433 Huron Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3C4	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Spaces	Facilities,
Mannheim Community Centre & Park	1467 Mannheim Rd, Wilmot, ON N0B	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Spaces	Facilities,
New Dundee Community Centre and Doug Fischer Memorial Park	1028 Queen St, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Spaces	Facilities,
St. Agatha Community Centre	1791 Erbs Rd, St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Venues, Spaces	Facilities,
Baden/Sir Adam Beck Community Park	215 Snyder's Rd E, Baden, ON N3A 2V6	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space	
Brenneman Park	9 Brenneman Dr #93, Baden, ON N3A 4M9	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space	
Captain MacCallum Park	Captain MacCallum Drive, New Hamburg, Ontario	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space	
Constitution Park	Hincks Street, New Hamburg, Ontario	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space	



Goldschmidt Park	Goldschmidt Drive, Baden, Ontario	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Greenwood Park	Greenwood Dr, New Hamburg, ON N3A	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Haysville Community Park	3433 Huron Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3C4	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Heritage Park	75 Hunter St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1M1	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Kirkpatrick Park	230 Wilmot St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1H5	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Linear Park	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Livingston Square	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Mannheim Community Park	1467 Mannheim Rd, Mannheim, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
New Dundee Community Park	1370 Bridge St, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Norm Hill Flats	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1B9	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Norm Hill Park	75 Seyler St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E7	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Optimist Youth Park	200 Theodore Schuler Blvd, Wilmot, ON N3A 4N8	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Petersburg Community Park	1338 Notre Dame Dr, Baden, ON N3A 4H9	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Riverside Park	117 Riverside Dr, New Hamburg, ON N3A 2H6	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space



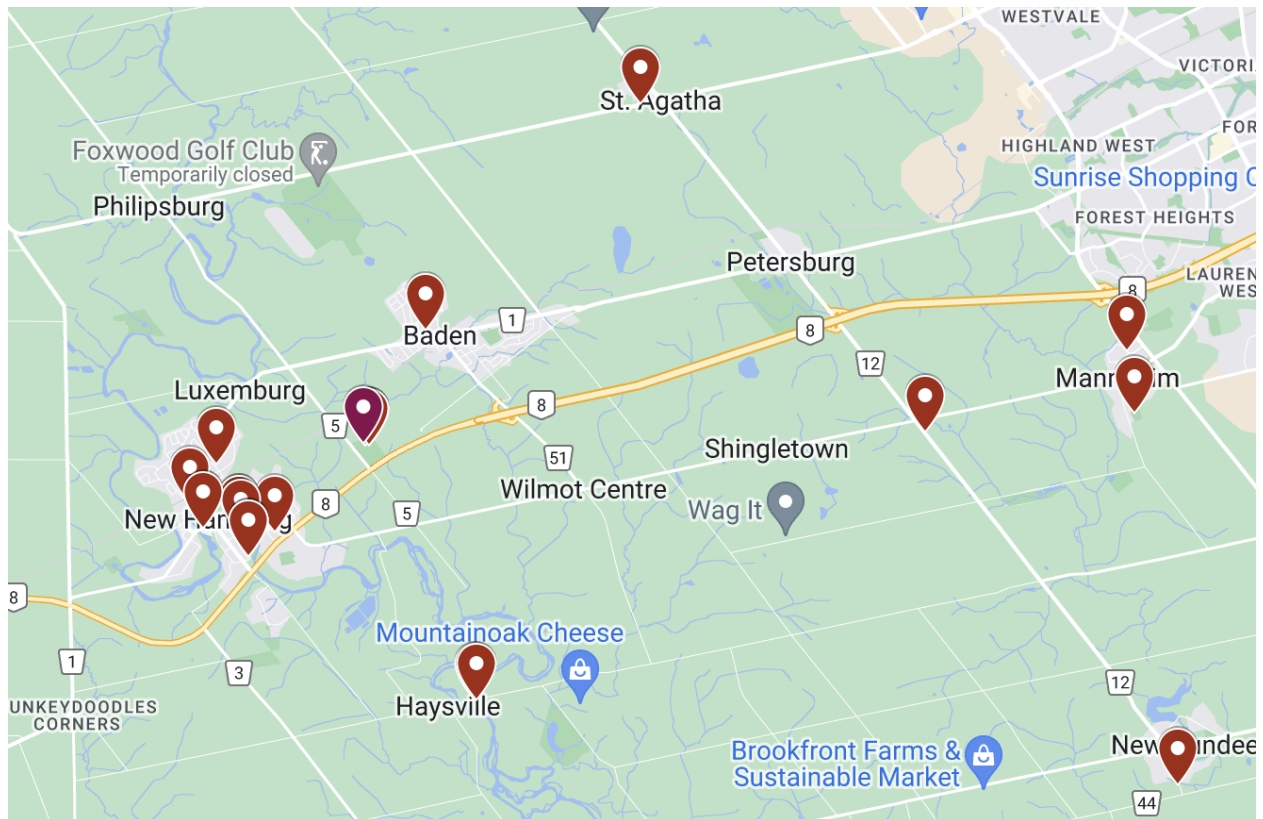
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SararusPark	8 Meadowview Pl #32, St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
Schneller Park	88 Schneller Dr, Baden, ON N3A 2L6	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
William Scott Park	84 Bleams Rd W, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1G8	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space
St. Agatha Lions Community Park	1791 Erbs Rd, St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0	Cultural Facilities and Spaces	Landmarks and Public Space



Community Organizations



Community Organizations			
New Hamburg Board of Trade	121 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Community Organizations	Organization
New Hamburg Optimist Club	1367 Victoria St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 2K2	Community Organizations	Organization
New Dundee Women's Institute		Community Organizations	Organization
Royal Canadian Legion, New Hamburg Branch	65 Boullee St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E1	Community Organizations	Organization



Wilmot Horticultural Society	28 Bleams Rd E, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1G4	Community Organizations	Organization
Wilmot Family Resource Centre	175 Waterloo St unit 1, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1S3	Community Organizations	Organization
Baden Community Association	60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1	Community Organizations	Organization
New Dundee Optimist Club	1028 Queen St, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Community Organizations	Organization
Mannheim Optimist Club	1467 Mannheim Rd, Wilmot, ON N0B	Community Organizations	Organization
Wilmot Optimist Club	67 Victoria St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1W1	Community Organizations	Organization
Wilmot Rotary Club		Community Organizations	Organization
Wilmot Lions Lioness Club	65 Boullee St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E1	Community Organizations	Organization
Wilmot Agricultural Society	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1B9	Community Organizations	Organization
Let's Tree Wilmot	Wilmot Horticultural Society c/o, 28 Bleams Rd E, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1G4	Community Organizations	Organization
New Dundee Board of Trade	121 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Community Organizations	Organization
Petersburg Optimist Club	P.O. Box 111, Petersburg, ON N0B 2H0, Canada	Community Organizations	Organization
New Hamburg Concert Band	121 Huron St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1K1	Community Organizations	Organization



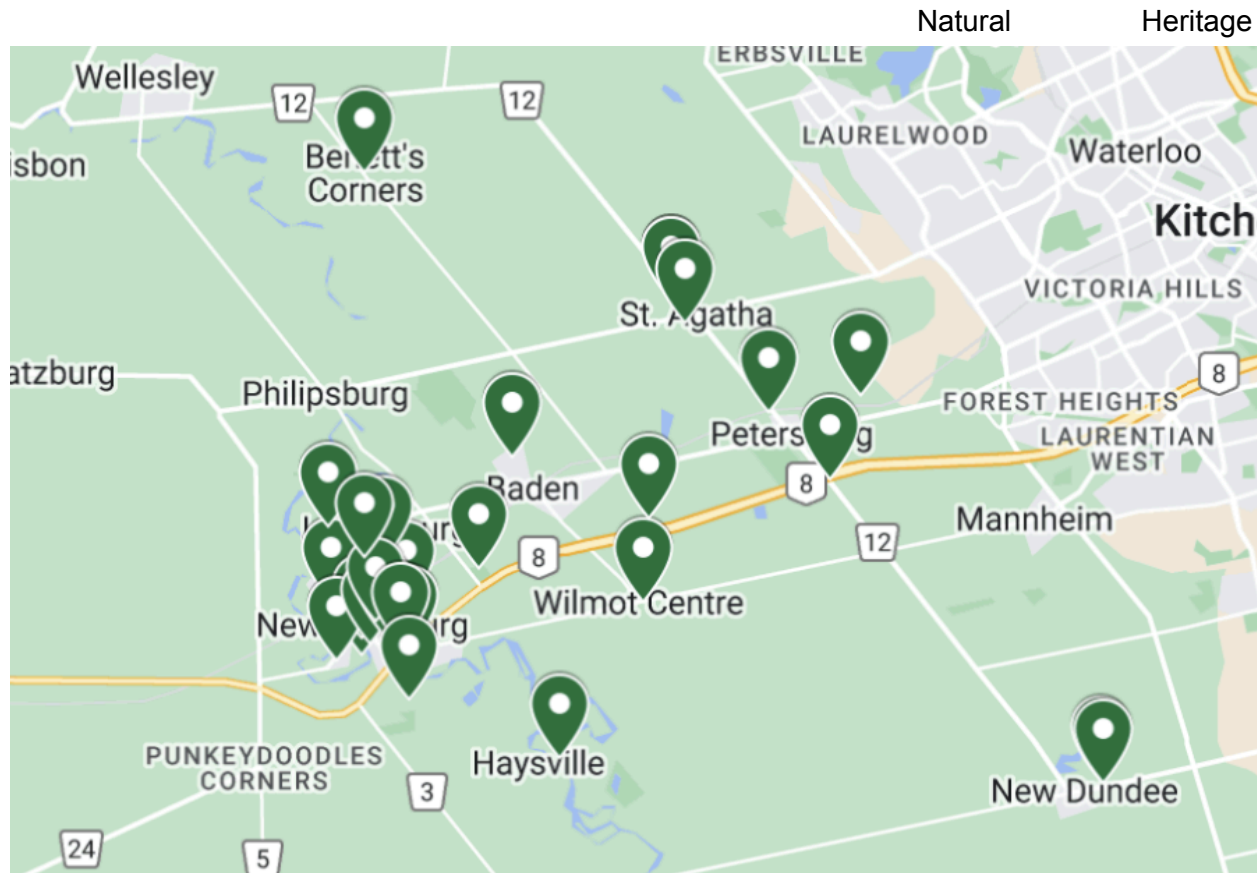
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4H Club	1791 Erbs Rd, St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0	Community Organizations	Organization
Girl Guides	1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden, ON N3A 0C4 and 3433 Huron Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3C4	Community Organizations	Organization
Scouts	3433 Huron Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3C4	Community Organizations	Organization



Natural Heritage



Natural Heritage			
Mike Schout Wetlands	28 Smith's Creek Dr, New Hamburg, ON N3A 0B3	Natural heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
William Scott Park	84 Bleams Rd W, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1G8	Natural heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Oasis in the Centre	1549 Wilmot Centre Rd, Baden, ON N3A 3K2	Natural heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces



Nith River Promenade and Trail	Unnamed Road, New Hamburg, ON N0B	Natural heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
New Dundee Community Park	667 Main St #621, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Captain MacCallum Park	Captain MacCallum Drive, New Hamburg, Ontario	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Christner Trail	Hostetler Road to Christner Road, New Hamburg	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Constitution Park	Hincks Street, New Hamburg, Ontario	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Goldschmidt Park	Goldschmidt Drive, Baden, Ontario	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Greenwood Park	Greenwood Dr, New Hamburg, ON N3A	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Haysville Community Park	3433 Huron Rd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 3C4	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Kirkpatrick Park	230 Wilmot St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1H5	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Laschinger Woods	Ingold Ave & Laschinger Blvd, New Hamburg, ON N3A 2G8	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Morningside Trail	Bergey Ct, New Hamburg, ON N3A 2E4	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Norm Hill Flats	251 Jacob St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1B9	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Norm Hill Park	75 Seyler St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E7	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces



Optimist Youth Park	200 Theodore Schuler Blvd, New Hamburg, Ontario	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Riverside Park	117 Riverside Drive, New Hamburg, Ontario	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Walker Woods	89 Bonaventure Drive, New Hamburg	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Petersburg Community Park	1338 Notre Dame Dr, St. Agatha, ON N3A 4H9	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Petersburg Crown Lands	2703 Queen St #2665, Wilmot, ON N0B 2H0	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
SararusPark	23 Meadowview Pl, St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
St. Agatha Lions Community Park	1791 Erbs Rd, St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
New Hamburg Arboretum	470 Waterloo St, New Hamburg, ON N3A 4M1	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
New Dundee Park and Bandshell	1370 Bridge St, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Avon Trail	2495 Township Rd 2 #2799, Wellesley, ON N0B 2T0	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Baden Hills trails	2733 Sandhills Rd, Wilmot, ON N3A 3B6	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Petersburg Regional Forest	1974 Snyder's Rd E, Petersburg, ON N0B 2H0	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces
Schmidt Woods	1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden, ON N3A 0C4	Natural Heritage	Landmarks and Public Spaces



Intangible Cultural Resources

Intangible Cultural Resources			
Creative community and residents	Key Intangible Resources	Cultural	Key Intangible Resources
Local German & Pennsylvania Dutch Heritage	Key Intangible Resources	Cultural	Key Intangible Resources
Wilmot's diversifying community	Key Intangible Resources	Cultural	Key Intangible Resources
Agricultural knowledge	Key Intangible Resources	Cultural	Key Intangible Resources
Indigenous Knowledge, History, Traditions and Culture	Key Intangible Resources	Cultural	Key Intangible Resources
Storytellers	Key Intangible Resources	Cultural	Key Intangible Resources
Amish and Mennonite history	Key Intangible Resources	Cultural	Key Intangible Resources
Local Live Music in Pubs	Key Intangible Resources	Cultural	Key Intangible Resources