

# Guelph museum a cultural site

The Guelph Civic Museum is located in a restored 19th Century limestone building at the corner of Dublin and Waterloo streets.

The building was originally erected in 1847 as an Inn and Tavern. In 1852 the property was sold to George Warren, a merchant who continued to operate it as a hotel and/or store until 1860. It is believed the construction of the railway through Guelph in 1856 decreased the value of the hotel in its location.

The building went through a series of owners and operations including being a boarding house until 1921 when it was purchased by the Canadian Legion. In 1931 it was purchased by the Knights of Columbus who made massive alterations and improvements to the interior. For more than 40 years it would serve as the base centre for the Knights of Columbus.

In 1977 the city of Guelph purchased the building to make it into a Civic Museum. The Museum presents an easy-to-follow chronological history of the site - and surrounding area from pre-settlement times to the mid-20th century.

Lectures, films and tours can all be found at the Civic Museum. Two floors of exhibits await with special galleries dedicated to military history and temporary exhibitions.

Recipient of the Canadian Museums Association Award of Merit for excellence as a community museum, it is open daily from 1-5 p.m. The Museum can be found by following Highway 7 to Speedvale Avenue West, turn left on Edinburgh Road and follow to Waterloo Avenue. Turn left and follow for one block to Dublin. The Museum is housed on the corner of Dublin Street and Waterloo Avenue.



The Guelph Civic Museum has an interesting history, including once being an Inn/Tavern. This restored 19th century limestone building was built in 1847 and purchased by the City in 1977 for the purpose of becoming the Museum. The galleries present visitors with a chronological history of the site and surrounding area from pre-settlement to present day. (Photo submitted)

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(Photo submitted)

## Consumers advised to look around

Before renting a car, consumers should log a few off-road miles in the Yellow Pages to chase down a good deal, experts say. Advertised specials designed to grab attention often take a bigger swipe at your wallet than expected, says Tom Johnson of Ontario's Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (MCCR). "You can end up spending twice as much as stated in the ad, once all the extras are added on," says Johnson, assistant director of Consumer Services for MCCR. "It could cost even more if you don't want the car for exactly the time frame indicated."

So, calculator and phone book in hand, consumers should contact as many rental companies as possible, he says. Describe the car you want, give the dates and ask the following questions: What is the basic rate? What extra charges apply? The base rate usually includes some free kilometres, with a set fee charged - about 15 cents is common - for each additional kilometre. Unlimited mileage packages are also available, but the basic rate is generally higher. "If you know how far you'll be going, you can figure out which will be cheaper," Johnson says. "Don't guess. Do the math." How much is charged daily for the collision or loss damage waiver (LDW)?

This is a controversial form of protection - not real insurance - sold by rental companies for \$8 to \$13 per day. If the car is damaged or stolen, the LDW may save the renter from having to pay the costs involved. However, exclusion clauses in the contract can leave consumers liable, Johnson says.

"You may have to pay a large deductible or find yourself with no protection at all if you're at fault in an accident. Consumers can buy far more complete protection from their own insurance companies for \$25 to \$30 per year. It's even standard coverage in some policies, particularly if the rental's a replacement while your own vehicle is out of commission," Johnson suggests consumers contact their insurance agents before paying for LDWs.

Some premium credit cards also

provide coverage when they are used to pay for the rental. Although the waiver is generally sold as an extra, rental agencies sometimes price their specials as packages including the LDW. Customers who refuse to buy waivers may find they cannot get the special rate, Johnson says.

It's also important to know the rental company may want payment for any damages or losses immediately on return of the car, he says. They may not wait for an insurance settlement. "So, if you don't buy the waiver and something goes wrong, you might have to pay up front, then seek reimbursement through your insurer," says Johnson. "When calling around to rental companies initially, tell them you don't need the waiver and ask how that affects rates and liability."

If any of your affiliations - employer, business associations, club memberships - entitle you to discounts through particular rental companies, be sure to ask for the special rate.

Is advance booking required for advertised specials?

Is there a surcharge if more than one person will be driving? Even your own insurance may not apply if an unauthorized driver is at the wheel in an accident.

Can you take the car out of Ontario or out of Canada? Some firms even prohibit the use of their vehicles on unpaved roads. Many insist on getting a blank, signed credit-card imprint to be filled in with the appropriate amount upon return of the vehicle.

"If you object to this practice, you may have to hunt around to find an alternative," Johnson says. Once the best deal is chosen, be sure to read the contract carefully.

General advice on this and many other consumer issues is available from MCCR's Consumer Information Centre at 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M7A 2H6 - (416) 326-8555 or (toll free) 1-800-268-1142. Ontario residents with an (807) area code may call the (416) line collect. The TDD line for the hearing impaired is (416) 326-8566.

## Cliff Swallow Gallery caters to local artists

The Cliff Swallow Gallery located northeast of Orangeville, is owned and operated by accomplished artist, Linda McLaren.

The Gallery was created on the notion that many artists remain practically unheard of in their own communities. Although many have gone on to international fame in the U.S., Germany, Ireland, Japan, etc., each of these artists at the Cliff Swallow Gallery gains his/her inspiration on a local level.

The Gallery, in its country setting, is designed to further aid these artists in their inspiration for ideas or future pieces of work.

Original arts and crafts are sold to its patrons. Paintings, weaving, pottery, glass, wood and stone sculptures can all be found at the gallery, keeping in line with Linda McLaren's desire for the gallery to develop its own regional flavor.

The gallery is open from noon until

6 p.m. from Thursday to Monday. Many consider the scenic drive through Mono Township worth the effort.

From Toronto, drive north on Airport Road to Highway 9. Continue north to the 20 Sideroad and turn left, drive on for 6 km.

From Orangeville, go north on Highway 10 to the 15 Sideroad. Turn right and follow the signs to Mono Centre.

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