



CANADA 150

To – Town of Grand Valley
Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors

From – Town of Grand Valley
Canada 150 Committee

Report on the Grand Valley Community
Information Centre/Museum/Art Gallery

Cost to rent the space -

Based on 2016 figures – 2956 population / 1145 dwellings:

\$1500/month
per dwelling = \$1.31
per capita = \$0.51

\$1500/month x 12 months – 18,000
per dwelling = \$15.72
per capita = \$6.08

Note: all HST charged on the rent is refunded to the Town.

Volunteers and volunteer hours –

A total of 35 volunteers “manned” the GVIC, welcoming visitors and providing information – a total of 1,007 volunteer hours between April 29th and November 16th.

This does not include the countless undocumented hours the volunteers spend gathering and sorting items and setting up displays; dismantling displays and returning items; maintenance of the space – sweeping and mopping floors, cleaning the bathroom, and cleaning the windows; and scheduling and recording volunteers to man GVIC.

From November 17 through December 9th members of the Riverbend Artists are scheduled to volunteer at the GVIC – a total of 142 hours.

GVIC Visitors –

We estimate that we had more than 1,600 visitors.

A total of 1,280 visitors signed our guest book up to November 16th. However, this is not a true reflection of the number as many people are reluctant to sign the book more than once even though they visit regularly to look at new displays and get updated community activity information. Also included in the 1,600 are approximately 400 who visited the GVIC when the Riverbend Artists had their art show in July.

We have had visitors from Alliston, Ancaster, Allenford, Aurora, Bowling Green, Brisbane, Bellfountain, Brockville, Belwood, Brampton, Bolton, Colbeck, Chicago, Calgary, Claremont, Delhi, Dundas, Dundalk, Dunroon, DuPont, Deep River, Duncan BC, Denmark, Edmonton, Espenola, Everett, Etobicoke, East Garafraxa, Erin, Elora, Emerald Lake, Georgetown, Guelph,

Huntsville, Holland, Hereward, Ingersoll, Ireland, Jackson Point, Keldon, Kitchener, Kelowna, Kimberley, Kentucky, Kuwait, London, Ont., Mississauga, Mexico, Milton, Mulmur, Monticello, Mount Forest, McKeller, Melancthon, Netherlands, New Lowell, Niagara Falls, North Bay, Orangeville, Owen Sound, Ohio, Ottawa, Peterborough, Richmond Hill, St. Louis, Shelburne, Scarborough, Stoney Creek, Schweiz/Bern, Tottenham, Thorold, Toronto, Vancouver, Vietnam, Waldemar, Windsor, Walkerton, Williamsport PA, Alberta and Waterloo.

List of events hosted at the GVIC –

Meetings – Canada 150 Committee, Splash Pad Committee, etc.
Display of Grand Valley Library photographs – voting on same
Minor Hockey registration
Canada 150 Scavenger Hunt photographs – display and voting
Masquerade on Main – colouring activity and treats – 150 visitors in 3 hrs
Quilting group – various times – completed one quilt and working on second
Riverbend Artists Yuletide Art Show
Three GVPS classes visited the GVIC prior to Remembrance Day to study the displays
Riverbend Artists held their Art-In-The-Park show at the GVIC due to Riverbend Park being too wet to use

List of promotional materials displayed –

Canada 150 Events
Historical Society Newsletters
Horticultural Society booklets
Churches – dinners, concerts, craft sales
Cadets – shopping night
Lions Club – various events, soup kitchens
Sports groups – registration information, Hockey Days
Riverbend Artists – Art in the Park, Yuletide Art Show
Grand Valley Library – activities and event announcements
CONCERN Food Bank
Dufferin County Museum and Archives
Headwaters Communities in Action
Orangeville Theatre
Friends of South Luther School
Fireside Club
Walking Group
Pickleball Group
Santa Clause Parade Group
Dufferin County Goods Co.

List of displays –

Riverbend artists of GV – revolving display of art work
Historical Society – changing displays (fall fair, Remembrance Day, tornado, etc.)
Sports memorabilia and photos
School memorabilia and photos, year books, etc.
Military/Legion artifacts and photos
Family photos and memorabilia
Wedding gowns and apparel
Books, pamphlets, business memorabilia
Quilt display
Tornado photo albums
Grand Valley newspapers
Dolls and toys
China and tableware
Agricultural implements and signage
Gas station memorabilia
Show horse photographs

List of window displays –

Canada 150
50th Anniversary of Grand Valley Community Centre
Halloween
Remembrance Day
Back to School
Fall Fair
Grand River Rodeo
Christmas

Reasons to keep the centre open –

Many activities are in the planning stage for 2018 including Family Games Nights, art classes, and storytelling events.

We plan to participate in Masquerade on Main in October, 2018 and would like to have a similar type of event for Christmas, 2018.

Grand Valley Public School classes will be encouraged to visit the GVIC to enable students to learn the history of the area.

We will continue to encourage quilters and others to work on their crafts/projects at the GVIC.

The GVIC draws people to the business district where they have the opportunity to shop.

The GVIC acts as a community hub and gives a sense of belonging to the residents.

The GVIC fits in nicely with the EDC Communication Committee by providing a place to advertise and disseminate community information.

What will we lose if it closes –

Downtown will have one less occupied store contributing to the decline of a possibly viable business district.

We fear that if the GVIC closes, we will lose a valuable community resource forever.

Support for the GVIC –

Most visitors to the GVIC were unaware that the GVIC was not a permanent/ongoing fixture. The positive comments from the community have been exceptional and we have the support of many individuals and organizations including –

- Community Information Centre Volunteers
- Central Counties Tourism
- Headwaters Tourism
- Grand Valley Public School
- Riverbend Artists of Grand Valley
- East Luther Grand Valley Historical Society
- Grand Valley BIA
- Grand Valley Public School
- Jeanette McFarlane, Dufferin County Goods Co.
- Wayne Townsend, former Curator of Dufferin County Museum and Archives
- Errol Chambers, Chair, EDC Communications Committee

The following are comments from the Visitor Sign-in book

May

- A little gem – please keep it.
- How Wonderful.
- Wonderful place.
- Great place.
- Finally, the void has been filled.
- Brought back memories – wonderful displays.
- Wonderful and Interesting!
- Brings memories.
- Fabulous!
- Wonderful.
- Great idea.
- Great ladies – thanks for the help in finding my ancestors.

June

- Wonderful memories – enjoyed ++
- Wow!
- Great place!

Interesting. Thank you.
Great memorabilia.
Very interesting.
Nice.
Very interesting!
Awesome.
So interesting. Thank you for all of your hard work.
Wonderful treasures – well done.
Love the sports pics.
Really enjoyed the history “treasures”!
Wishing you the best of success.
Beautiful place.
Great idea.
Nice displays.??
Thanks!
Excellent displays.
Very Interesting.

July

Amazing!
Great space.
Great town.
A great place

August

I love our centre.
Wonderful.
Your town is beautifully kept.
Amazing.
Awesome.
Great service.
Cool place.
Great exhibits.
Great !!
Amazing !!!!
Really enjoyed it!
Beautiful wee town!!
Very interesting.
Fun! Fun!
Good addition to Main Street.
Interesting.
Brought back lots of memories.
Wonderful display.
Very welcoming staff.

Great place
Beautiful town.
Great place – beautiful and quiet.
Wonderful display.
Nice to see.
Excellent.
Fabulous collection!
Very nice!
So interesting!

September

Thank you!
Lovely town.
Great afternoon!!
Thank you for all your information that helped us make family connections.
Very interesting – lots of memories.
A wonderful walk back in time.

October

This is wonderful – thanks.
So glad you were open. Had a lovely chat with staff. What a great store!!
Grand Valley is so fascinating!
Amazing stuff.
Great town and museum.
Great place. Thanks,

November

Thank you!
Wonderful place of history art and sports.
Great small town experience!

Posted November 11, 2017 on Facebook



November 22, 2017

From the just published book Dufferin Hikes – Loops & Lattes by Nicola Ross. The “museum” is mentioned in the last paragraph.

Inside Grand Valley Loop

If you're interested in walking the entire Upper Grand Trailway, see that route on page 185.

OVERVIEW

You visit both Waldemar and Grand Valley on this route. Both are lovely communities, but I'm particularly fond of Grand Valley. It has perhaps the nicest entrance of any town around. County Road 25 winds down into the valley before it arrives in “downtown” Grand Valley. There is a lovely park along the river, and this is where I met Glenn Sterrett, the town's public works superintendent. Glenn knows all the local trails, ensures they are maintained and does his best to get people out using them. Without Glenn, I would never have put this loop together, so thank him when you walk it.

I love loops like this one because they combine a stroll in the countryside with a walk down a main street (where you can get a latte). In this case, you also walk along Amaranth Street. It now looks like a perfectly ordinary street, but when you learn about what happened on May 31, 1985, you'll see it with different eyes.

There are several good restaurants in Grand Valley, and with luck, the museum that was opened for Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017 will remain open. So, grab something to eat and head down to the riverside park. Maybe you'll find Glenn there.

All hikers are welcome at Marie's Valley Inn Restaurant at 47 Main St. S in Grand Valley. Take a break, have lunch, a coffee or ice cream. Like us on Facebook.

12

Nicola's Insider Info

LENGTH
10.6 kilometres

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY
Easy

LENGTH OF TIME
2.5 to 3.5 hours

% ON ROAD 33%

HIGHLIGHTS
Grand River, old railway line, Grand Valley, Amaranth St., Waldemar


PLACES TO EAT/DRINK
In Grand Valley: Brewed Awakenings, Caffè & Eatery, Grand River Chop House, Marie's Valley Inn Restaurant

ENTRANCE FEE
n/a

TRAILHEAD
N43° 53.493' W80° 17.068'

GPS

TRAIL MARKER
Loop 12



Respectfully Submitted,

Town of Grand Valley
Canada 150 Committee