

Teachers' Guide

Educational Programmes

Wellington County Museum and Archives



wcma.wellington.ca



Meet Mike, Emily and Katie. Our programming team.

Bring History to Life for Your Students

Visit us or invite us to your classroom for engaging, curriculum-aligned educational experiences. Our interactive programmes are designed to spark curiosity and deepen understanding of local history and culture.

Make it Your Own! Choose from our featured programmes or contact us to create a custom experience tailored to your class's specific needs and interests.

Programme Details

Duration: Flexible options from 2-hour sessions to full-day experiences

Cost: \$5 per student (teachers and parent volunteers attend free)

Group Size: We accommodate for classes of all sizes

Perfect for: School groups, home-school collectives, Scouts, Girl Guides, and more

Contact us to book your experience today!

Call 519.846.0916 **Email:** wcmprogramming@wellington.ca

Discover why educators across Wellington County trust us to deliver memorable educational experiences!



Programmes

Museums Come in All Shapes and Sizes

Calling all little collectors! Watch your kindergarteners’ eyes light up as they become museum curators for the day! In this playful programme, students will sort, organize, measure, and categorize our museum collection. Young minds will naturally engage with foundational math and literacy concepts while solving puzzles and making discoveries about our collection.

Curriculum Connections:

Kindergarten – Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours



Down on the Farm

Discover the history of our site as the House of Industry farm! Through imaginative play and hands-on activities, children will experience building structures, baking, caring for farm animals, and growing food. This interactive

adventure strengthens problem-solving skills and teamwork as students navigate life on a historic farm.

Curriculum Connections:

Kindergarten – Problem Solving and Innovation

Kindergarten – Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours



Art Explorers

Discover the magic of artistic expression - unleash your kindergarteners' creativity across multiple art forms, including drama, dance, music, and visual arts! With a focus on expressing thoughts, ideas, and emotions, students will act out historical stories, experiment with movement and rhythm, create visual artwork, and explore sound through music and our natural environment. Through hands-on play, creative movement, and visual expression, learners will discover how the arts help us communicate in different ways while building confidence and imagination.

Curriculum Connections:

Kindergarten – Belonging and Contributing



Maps and Map-Making

Dive into the fascinating world of maps with this hands-on adventure! Students will develop essential map skills including orientation, grid navigation, understanding relative location, interpreting legends, and recognizing symbols.

The excitement builds as they create their own personalized maps of community landmarks and important places.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 1 – People and Environments: The Local Community

Grade 1 – Mathematics



Our Local Community

Discover the government programmes and services that make our communities unique.

Through demonstrations and engaging activities, children will interact with Wellington County experts from Emergency Management,

Solid Waste Services, Green Legacy, Climate Change initiatives, Smart Cities projects, the Museum and Archives team, and more.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 1 – People and Environments: The Local Community

Math Mayhem!

Watch mathematics leap off the textbook page in this dynamic, interactive programme! Students will practice data management while exploring museum collections, apply fractions through hands-on baking activities, and discover patterns by creating a take-home craft. This playful approach shows young learners how math is woven into everyday life at the museum and at home.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 1- Mathematics



Life Systems

Students will explore the fascinating web of life and vital interconnections between food chains, plant life, seasonal changes, diverse habitats, and food production. Through hands-on activities, young scientists discover how living

things depend on each other and how humans participate in natural cycles through farming and food cultivation. Uncover the delicate balance that sustains life all around us!

Curriculum Connections:

Grades 1 – 4 – Life Systems



The Colours of Wellington County

Using our exceptional collection of local Wellington County artwork, students will develop an understanding of the elements of design, including line, shape, form, colour, texture, space and value. Featuring local artists, students will create their own artwork using the collection, the beautiful Museum outdoor landscape, and their own feelings for inspiration.

Curriculum Connections:

Grades 1 – 8, Visual Arts



Festival of Lights

Experience the joy of global celebrations in this colourful exploration of heritage and community traditions! Students will discover diverse cultural festivities including Christmas, Hanukkah, Eid-al-Fitr, Lunar New Year, and more (celebrations featured vary each year). This engaging programme includes storytelling, traditional games, a festive treat, and a special take-home craft that captures the spirit of these meaningful celebrations.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 2 – Changing Family and Community Traditions



Machines at Work

Simple machines are all around us! Students will explore the world of simple machines and gears and how they help make work a little easier. In our Heritage Barn and Museum, there are inclined planes, wedges, screws, levers, wheels and axels, pulleys and gears. We will be putting them all to the test and making our own!

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 2 – Simple Machines and Movement

Grade 4 – Machines and their Mechanisms



Strong and Stable Structures

Let's build! In this hands-on programme, students will investigate a variety of structures and their properties, including everyday objects. Students will examine both natural and human built structures and create their very own structures, discovering the importance of form, function, strength and stability along the way.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 1 – Structures and Mechanisms

Grade 3 – Strong and Stable Structures



Wellington County Rocks!

Step into nature's classroom for an unforgettable geological adventure! Students will hike the dramatic Elora Gorge, explore and discover how it was created, the rock cycle and learn to identify rocks and minerals with their friends.

Note: this program is outside and weather dependent with limited accessibility. Available in the months of September – October and April – June.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 4 - Rocks, Minerals, and Geological Processes



Roots and Voices of Wellington County

(full or half-day programme)

Discover the diverse cultures that built Wellington County. This immersive program invites young historians to walk in the footsteps of the First Peoples and early settlers who faced

challenges, developed innovations, and created the foundation of our shared home.

Your class will explore two historical elements:

Traditional Longhouse - Connect with the rich heritage of the Attawandaron people, as well as the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee communities, their way of life, and how they adapted to the land and environment.

Early Settler Log Cabin - Transport your class to the world of early European settlers. Students will experience firsthand daily life, essential skills, and specialized tools that enabled newcomers to adapt and thrive in their new surroundings.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 2 – Changing Family and Community Traditions

Grade 3 – Communities in Canada, 1780-1850

Customize Your Experience by adding two of these engaging hands-on activities:

Traditional Medicines and Herbal Remedies: Examine how both Indigenous and settler communities used plants and the natural world for medicine, community, and daily life.

Wool Carding and Fur Trading: Learn how early settlers used furs and wools in their everyday lives, plus explore the role of animal furs in settler-indigenous relations.

Candle Making: Discover how settlers made candles for warmth, light, and safety.

Black Settlers: Learn about the life and contributions of Black settlers, including Richard Pierpoint, and the central role of the Queen's Bush Settlement in our history.



Government in Canada: It's Your Choice!

Travel back to 1886 when Wellington County faced a heated debate about the Poor House! Students will learn about elections, the different levels of government, and gather and organize a variety of information that present various perspectives on Canadian social issues.

The excitement builds as students organize campaigns, debate key positions, and hold an authentic election where every vote counts. Young citizens will discover how government decisions impact real lives while developing their own informed perspectives.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 5 – The Role of Government and Responsible Citizenship



History Detectives

Dive into the museum world through research, conservation and storytelling! Students will go behind-the-scenes with a visit to the collection storage rooms, explore and examine diverse communities and perspectives of families from

Wellington County, investigate historical artifacts and create a pop-up exhibit in the museum.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 6 – Communities in Canada, Past and Present

Grade 6 – Language: Applications, Connections, and Contributions



Crime and Punishment: A Wellington County Case Study

How do you plead? Step into the courtroom for an unforgettable legal experience!

Using the legal studies inquiry process, students will investigate a historical criminal case from

Wellington County before conducting their own mock trial. As they compare their verdict with the original verdict of the case, students will discover how Canada's legal system has evolved over time while developing critical thinking skills essential for understanding justice and citizenship. This programme is available both on-site and in the classroom.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 11 – Understanding Canadian Law



Freedom Fighters: Black History in Wellington County

Through this one-hour outreach programme, students will explore the history of Black settlers in Wellington County, focusing on Richard Pierpoint and the Queen's Bush

Settlement. They will learn about the impact of the transatlantic slave trade in Canada, the Underground Railroad, and the courageous freedom fighters who sought freedom and a better life.

Through compelling narratives and thoughtful discussions, students will learn more about the challenges Black communities faced in 19th century North America, the strength and resilience of those affected, and how their stories have shaped the history of Wellington County and Canada.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 6 – Communities in Canada, Past and Present

Grade 7 – Canada, 1800-1850: Conflict and Challenges

Grade 8 – Creating Canada, 1850-1890



Poor House to Social Justice: Society Shifts

From 1877 to 1947, the Wellington County Museum was Wellington County's House of Industry and Refuge, more commonly known as the Poor House, where hundreds of the

unemployed, the poor, women, children, and elderly residents sought refuge. Using authentic primary documents, students will discover the lives of the people that lived, worked, and died here. Students will also learn about Canadian society's views on charity, social responsibility, and the poor and marginalized over 100 years ago.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 8 – Canada, 1890-1914

Grade 10 – Canadian History Since World War 1

First World War Education Day

Full day programme! An interactive and immersive learning experience on Canada's role in the First World War.



Curriculum Connections:

Grade 10 History –
Canada, 1914-1929.

Cost: \$15 per student.
Teachers and
volunteers are free.



We look forward to seeing you!

To book your museum visit
or have the museum visit you, please email:
wcmprogramming@wellington.ca

Wellington County Museum and Archives

0536 Wellington Road 18, between Fergus and Elora

Alternate formats available upon request.

^{OM}Official Mark of the Corporation of the County of Wellington.