

Our Guelph



EXHIBITION PARK

- The City purchased the 33 acres for \$5,000 in 1871, now known as Exhibition Park.
- The Park was used as the Central Exhibition fairground, hosted by the South Wellington Agricultural Society.
- Access to the grounds cost 25 cents!
- The City appointed John Marriott as caretaker of the Park and all other parks.... Salary of \$250/year.

Water in the fountain was turned on at 9am and off at 11pm.

- Grounds contained:
 - 1872 - Octagonal Palace
 - 1886 - Greenhouse
 - 1892 - Grandstand built
 - 1894 - Baseball diamond
- 1902 - Fair attractions: dog circus, jugglers, pantomimes.
- 1909 - Grounds enclosed by 8ft board fence.
- The Exhibition closed for WW1 and never reopened.
- 1922 - Ratepayers approved a bylaw to spend 25K on an Athletic Field and grandstand.
- 1925 - The Athletic Field was opened by Mayor George Drew.
- Park updates:
 - 1946 - Floodlights added
 - 1965 - Arena opened
 - 1988 - Baseball grandstand replaced
- Today, Exhibition Park has: a baseball diamond, football field, arena, children's park, tennis courts, tennis wall & wading pool.

Exhibition Park continues to be one of the highly sought after neighborhoods in Guelph!

Source: Robert A.M.Stewart, 1916-2000, Guelph Public Library Archives

Did you know that Exhibition Park was the location for the Central Exhibition fairground from 1872 to 1915? It attracted 15,000 people/day!