

Community Enterprise at The Working Centre

supporting creative community projects

Community Enterprise at The Working Centre



The Working Centre is a volunteer-inspired venture that seeks to give individuals and groups access to tools and opportunities to become involved in the building of community. Our two main projects are the Job Search Resource Centre which helps over 3500 people a year with finding employment, and St. John's Kitchen which serves 300 people a lunch-time meal each weekday while hosting a range of outreach workers who walk with people experiencing homelessness.

For 30 years, we have responded to people experiencing poverty and unemployment with collaborative and innovative projects. Today, The Working Centre serves 1500 Kitchener-Waterloo residents daily in diverse areas, including housing, employment, mental health, transportation, financial literacy, income taxes, small business start-up, and more.

Our projects and activities are supported in part by The Working Centre's Community Enterprise Projects, which combine community service with social enterprise. The results are creative projects that foster inclusion and contribute tools to the community.

Our Community Enterprise Projects include The Hacienda Sarria Market Garden, GROW Greenhouse, The Queen Street Commons Café, Maurita's Kitchen, Books for Sustainable Living, Computer Recycling, The Commons Studio, The Green Door Clothing Store and Arts Space, Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares, Community Access Bikeshare, and Recycle Cycles Community Bike Shop.

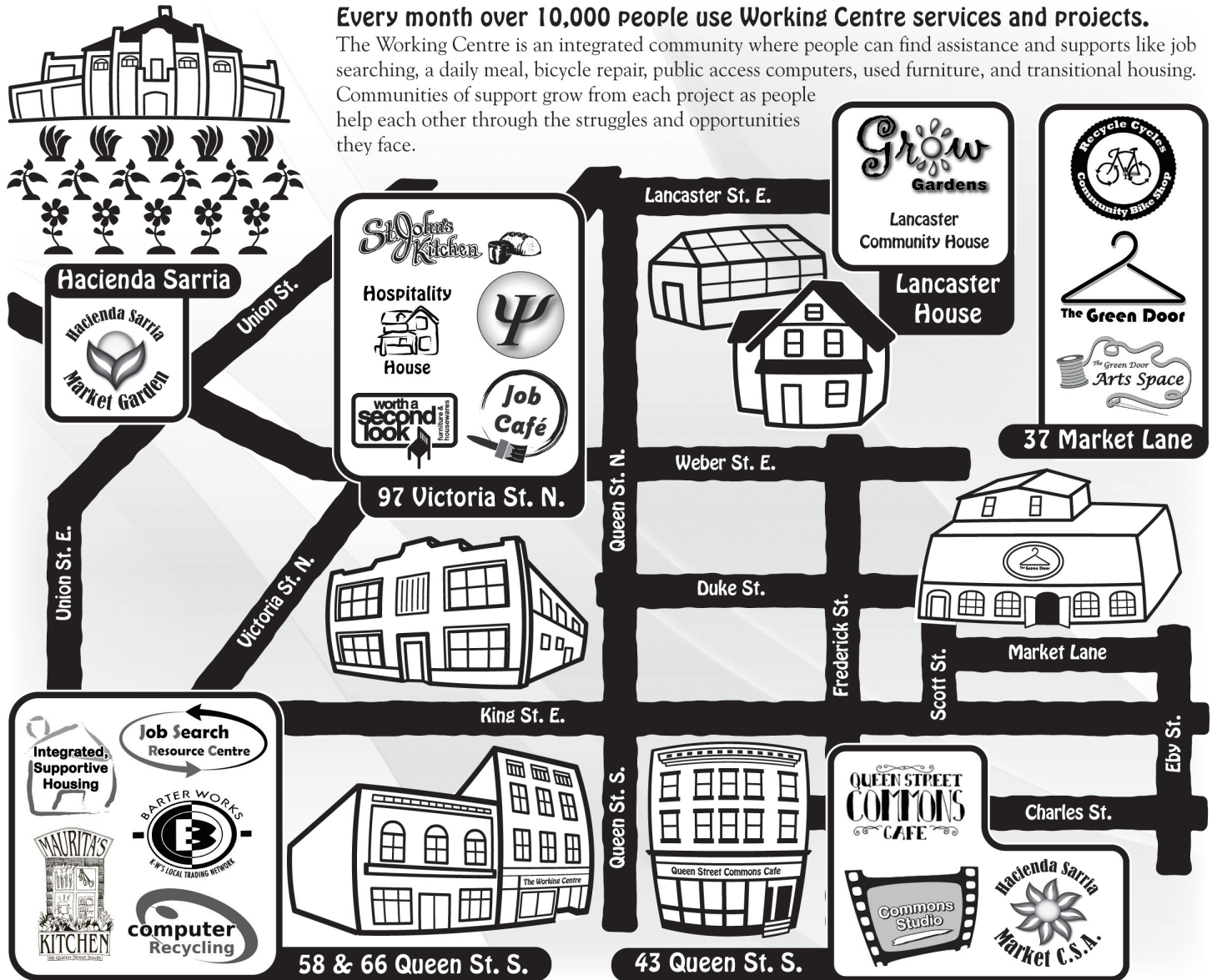
The Working Centre's social enterprises are hubs of productive activity. Every week 3000 furniture and household items are sold at Worth A Second Look. Every month 4000 pounds of electronic waste are diverted through Computer Recycling. And every year 5000 bikes are fixed, maintained or recycled at Recycle Cycles.

Browse these pages for a glance through the Community Enterprise Projects at The Working Centre and what they have to offer.

The Working Centre Projects at a Glance

Every month over 10,000 people use Working Centre services and projects.

The Working Centre is an integrated community where people can find assistance and supports like job searching, a daily meal, bicycle repair, public access computers, used furniture, and transitional housing. Communities of support grow from each project as people help each other through the struggles and opportunities they face.



The Working Centre's projects are based in hubs in and around downtown Kitchener, centred around 6 heritage-type buildings that we have revitalized over 30 years. We welcome you to visit us at our various sites or contact us to find out how you can become involved.

Our mailing address is 58 Queen St. South, Kitchener, ON, N2G 1V6. For general information about The Working Centre, we invite you to drop in to our Resource Centre at this address, call (519) 743-1151, or visit our website at www.theworkingcentre.org.

Hacienda Sarria Market Garden & GROW Greenhouse



To receive fresh vegetables all season long, sign up for a CSA share in the spring. Pickup is available at downtown locations.



In 2011 the Hacienda Sarria, a local business, offered The Working Centre two acres of land to establish a community market garden located partway between the downtowns of Kitchener and Waterloo. This project built on our already-existing urban agriculture activities at GROW Greenhouse on Lancaster St, and has evolved into a productive teaching garden. All community members are invited to come volunteer, and learn about urban farming using sustainable and bee-friendly methods.

Produce from the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden and GROW Greenhouse is available in local shops, and is on the menus of local restaurants. To receive a weekly harvest box or regular bunch of flowers throughout our growing season, you can join our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project.



Fresh microgreens are available all winter long.

Queen Street Commons Café



The Commons Café is located at 43 Queen St. South, Kitchener.

The Queen Street Commons Café is the kind of gathering place that is central to community vitality.

We are a place for sharing space, inviting people into reciprocal relationships, and working to build respect, inclusion and conversation together.

We invite people to enjoy our affordable, vegetarian home-style meals, snacks, desserts, and fresh-roasted coffee. Prices are set low because we have created a space where people can come together on equal footing. By offering food that is affordable, we have a café where a diverse group of people gather each day.

The Café is also a place that provides opportunities for music, movie nights and community events. We welcome these events that help make the place come to life, and we invite you to come and join in the fun. See our community calendar on our website for details about upcoming events.



Come to visit us and watch as we roast green coffee beans in our fluid-bed coffee roaster. Enjoy a cup of coffee or take home a bag of freshly roasted fair-trade and single origin beans, including varieties from Ethiopia, Columbia, Thailand, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Buy our coffee in-store, or preorder online and pick up.

Maurita's Kitchen



Maurita's Kitchen is a lively hub of activity where volunteers and staff work together daily to prepare food for the Queen Street Commons Café.

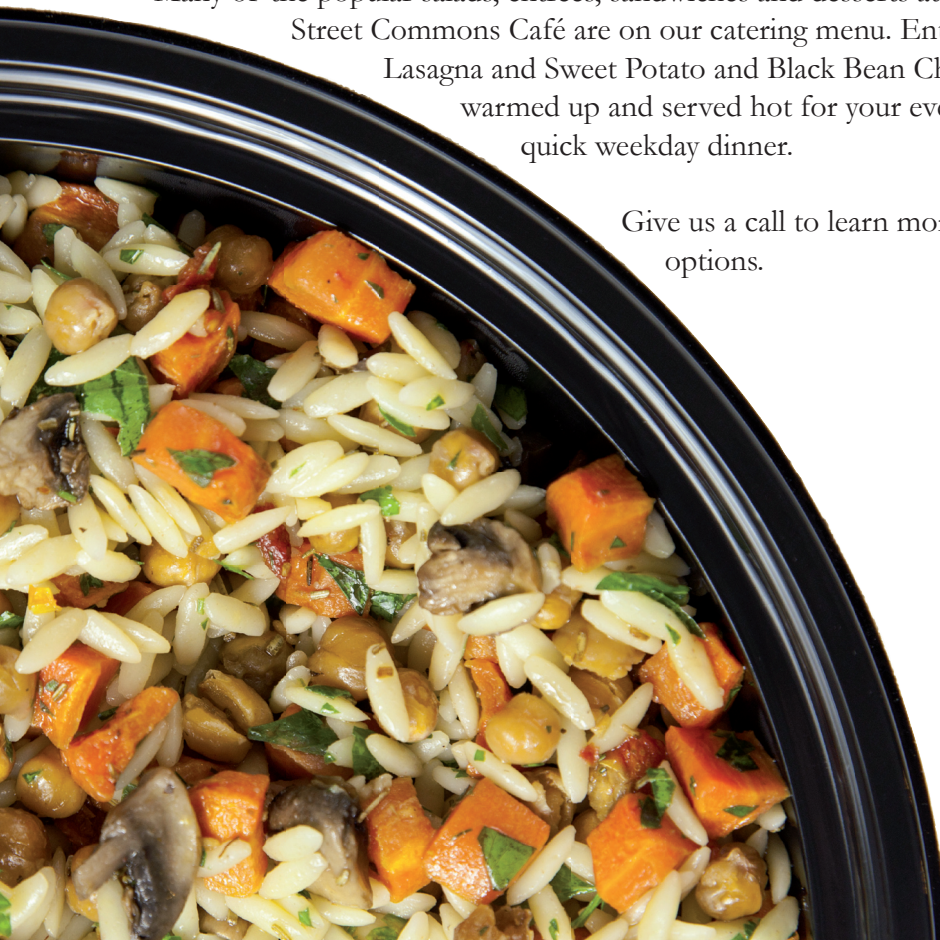
We use local food as much as possible, and adapt our recipes around what is available and what is affordable as we build on the communal nature of food preparation.

Everyone contributes to help prepare the food for the day, to work cooperatively together, and to practise the importance of including everyone in the activities of the kitchen.

Maurita's Kitchen not only keeps the Queen Street Commons Café well stocked, it also has a busy catering service. Our affordable vegetarian catering is adaptable and versatile. We cater lunches and dinners, business gatherings, workshops, family events and conferences. We can provide freshly roasted fair-trade coffee for large and small gatherings.

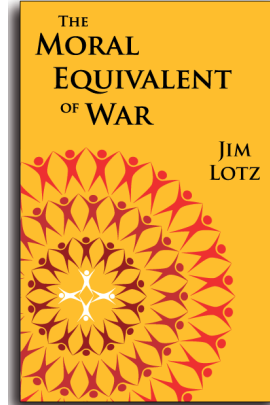
Many of the popular salads, entrées, sandwiches and desserts at the Queen Street Commons Café are on our catering menu. Entrées like Lasagna and Sweet Potato and Black Bean Chili can be warmed up and served hot for your event, or a quick weekday dinner.

Give us a call to learn more about our options.

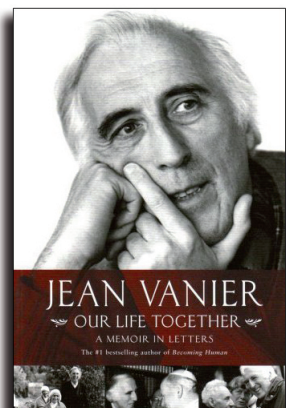
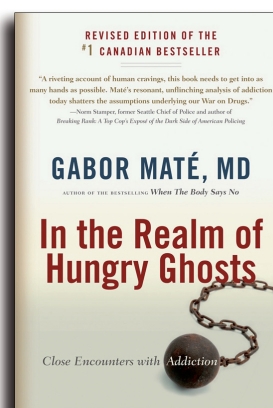
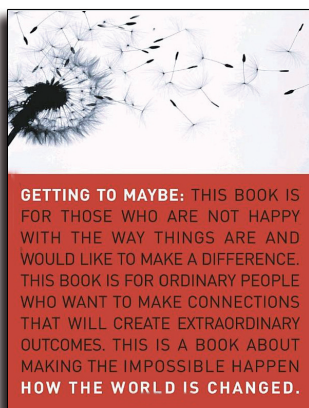
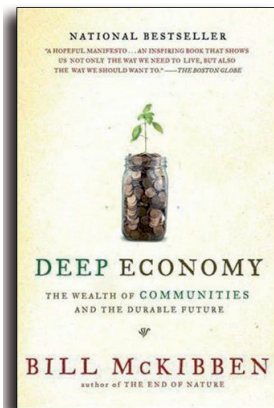
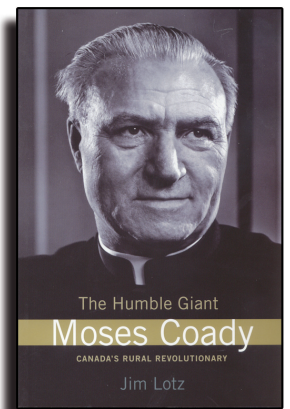
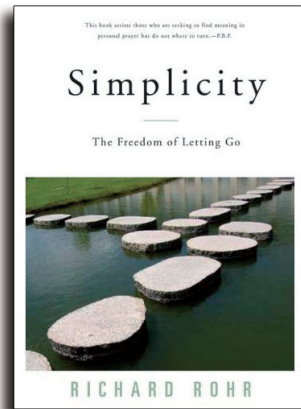
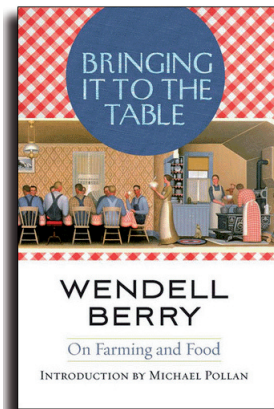


Books for Sustainable Living

Books for Sustainable Living is a catalogue of books that focus on ways we can learn to live in more ecological, neighbourly and sustainable ways. Ideas in these books include creativity and independence, earning less but living more, the integration of community and work, analysis of social issues, environmental concerns, spirituality, cycling, food and gardening



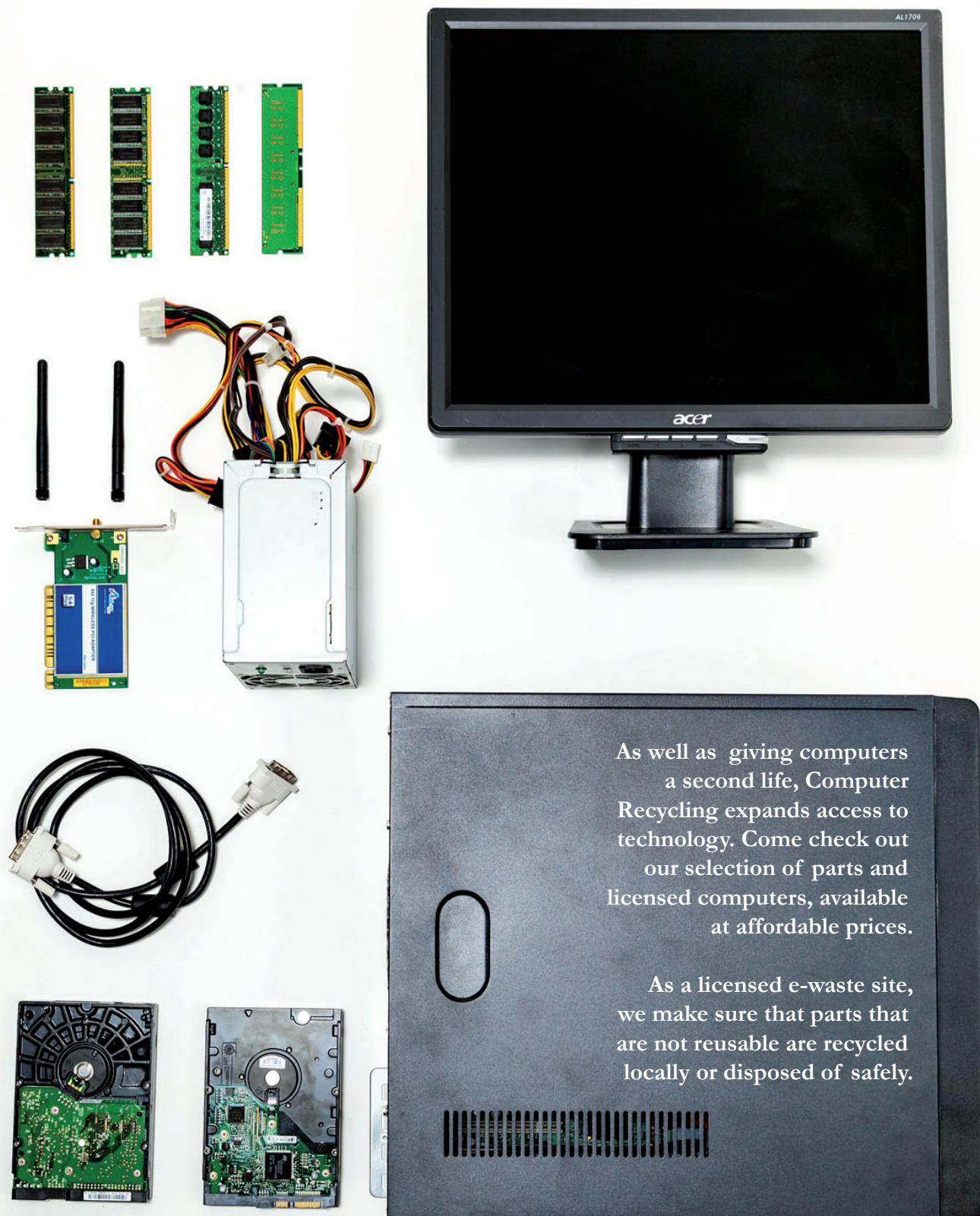
In **The Moral Equivalent of War: The New Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Community Development**, Jim Lotz teaches the principles of community development as the first steps social entrepreneurs should learn.



Looking for the perfect gift on environmental and community issues? Check out our full selection of books for purchase at the Queen Street Commons Café or order online at <https://catalogue.theworkingcentre.org/books>

Computer Recycling

Computer Recycling is a place where volunteers learn and teach each other how to refurbish donated computers. It is a space for people to come and build practical skills through hands-on experience.



As well as giving computers a second life, Computer Recycling expands access to technology. Come check out our selection of parts and licensed computers, available at affordable prices.

As a licensed e-waste site, we make sure that parts that are not reusable are recycled locally or disposed of safely.

Commons Studio



The Commons Studio encourages community filmmaking. We host a space where people come to share skills, knowledge, equipment and resources.

Whether you are new to filmmaking or have years of experience, you are invited to participate in the Studio space.

We offer equipment rentals and access to editing technology.

We also make movies, screen films, host discussions, and build connections in our wider community.

Membership gives affordable access to a wide range of video production and post-production equipment that includes a number of Camera Kits from RED, Sony and Panasonic. We offer specialized DSLR camera kits that come with a microphone, sound recorder and accessories that give you the tools to be a videographer. We also offer Lighting Kits, Sound Kits, Stands, Stabilizers, a Camcrane, Screens, Projectors and Video editing tools.

The Green Door Clothing Store and Arts Space



At The Green Door, we collect and sell used clothing with care and enthusiasm. Enjoy our welcoming and attractive shop – items include women’s, men’s, and children’s clothing, plus accessories, shoes, and more.

We are also a hub for community arts. In The Green Door Arts Space, we make soap, repurpose fabric, silkscreen reused T-shirts, and teach and learn sewing, knitting and crocheting. Our handmade body products and accessories make beautiful gifts.



Keep your skin soft with our lightly fragranced body oils



Soaps are handmade in our Arts Space



Our bunting brightens a room

Worth A Second Look Furniture and Housewares



Worth a Second Look is located at 97 Victoria St. North, Kitchener

Worth a Second Look Furniture & Housewares provides people with the means to set up a home, while keeping reusable goods out of landfills. The store hosts many volunteers as well as our Job Cafe project, creating opportunities for skill-building, employment, and becoming involved in community.

Come on in to the store to browse our large selection of affordable used furniture and assorted houseware items. When you walk in, you will meet volunteers and staff chatting with people, and sorting, fixing, cleaning, testing, repairing and refurbishing donated pieces.

If you are looking for something special, come into the store to check out our continuous Silent Auction, featuring an always-changing selection of interesting vintage items.

Recently we added an affordable moving service and we are now building a work crew to provide cleaning services. Call the store to learn more.



Our Silent Auction features almost 100 interesting and treasured items. Come in and join the fun.

Community Access Bikeshare



Community Access Bikeshare (CAB) provides affordable public access to bicycles. Bikeshare members can access CAB bicycles at convenient locations in our community – use a bike as part of your daily routine, or hop on one spontaneously to get to a meeting, run an errand, or meet a friend.

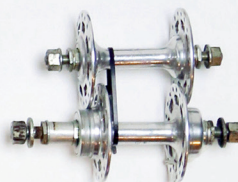
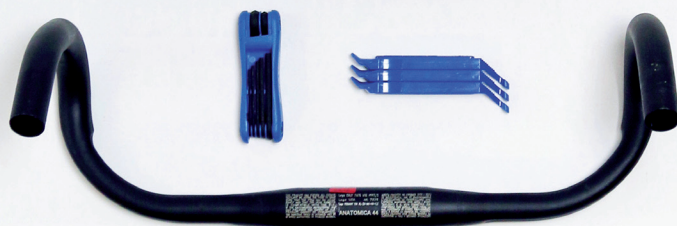
You can support CAB by becoming a member, advertising on CAB bikes, sponsoring a bike rack, or setting up a CAB station at your business.

Join us in creating a culture of sustainable transportation that has a focus on inclusivity.

Recycle Cycles

Recycle Cycles is a busy community bike shop that teaches bike culture through cooperation. Originally established by students in the mid 1990's, this project became a part of The Working Centre in 1999.

We offer a space and facilities for people to maintain and repair their bicycles with the help of volunteers. We invite you to participate in this sharing of tools and knowledge. Give us a call to find out more, or to book a time to come in and repair your bike.



Come on in
to the shop to
check out our
refurbished
bicycles and
large selection
of new and used
parts for sale at
affordable prices.

Wedding Ideas

Honour your significant occasion by celebrating with The Working Centre. Our many projects can offer creative ways to enjoy your wedding day affordably while contributing to a broad range of community work.

For a wedding favour, consider gifting beautiful handmade soaps from **The Green Door**, or fresh-roasted coffee from the **Queen Street Commons Cafe**.

If you are having a rehearsal dinner or family get-together before the wedding, talk to **Maurita's Kitchen** about catering.

If you would like to mark your wedding day by inviting your guests to contribute to The Working Centre, talk to us about setting up a custom page on our **donations website**.



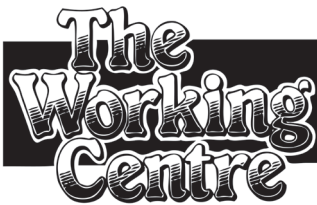
Brighten up your wedding day with beautiful, sustainably-grown flowers from the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden

Christmas Gifts

Celebrate Christmas by contributing to inclusive community spaces. At **The Green Door**, we sell holiday cards, stockings and bunting that will bring the festive season to life in your home.



↑ The Green Door's handmade bags are one-of-a-kind.



The Working Centre
58 Queen Street South, Kitchener ON
N2G 1V6
(519) 743-1151
www.theworkingcentre.org