

Brubacher House Rentals Policy

Facility Information

Brubacher House was built in 1850 on the Haldimand Tract, the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario (MHSO) and Conrad Grebel University College proposed to preserve and restore one of the original farm homes on the University of Waterloo campus as a reminder of Mennonite settlement and agricultural activity on the land. Restored in the late 1960's, it is a preserved Georgian-style stone farmhouse built by the descendants of Mennonite farmers from Pennsylvania. Currently there is a museum on the main floor, host residence on the top floor, and event space in the basement. The Brubacher House museum and traditional four-square garden provide a natural learning centre with drop-in tours during the summer months and bookings available all year.

Event Space

The museum's beautiful fieldstone walkout basement offers a unique and flexible indoor-outdoor space for a meeting, family or community celebration, small house concert, or workshop. Book the space for the whole day or just a few hours all year round. In the summertime, use the space for an evening gathering before enjoying an outdoor campfire or BBQ overlooking beautiful Columbia Lake. In the winter months, warm up by the indoor fireplace after an afternoon of sledding or cross-country skiing on nearby hills and fields.

- Basement Event Space seats **up to 50 people** with chairs arranged in row-seating
- The covered verandah above, with views of the Four Square Garden, UW sports fields, and Columbia Lake, can also be used for outdoor events on the museum grounds

Rental Rates

The Event Space has a \$60 half-day usage fee or a \$100 full-day fee. A booking also includes a free tour (optional). The space is free for University of Waterloo groups to use (donations welcome).

Furniture & Equipment

The Event Space comes with the following:

- 50 folding chairs (indoor/outdoor use)
- 4 tables (indoor/outdoor use)

- Sink and small counter
- Projector and screen
- Wi-Fi
- Free firewood (indoor/outdoor use) - please request to ensure availability

Please note that there are only a few electrical outlets available in the basement Event Space.

Access & Parking

- Free parking is usually available in the gravel lot adjacent to Brubacher House. No parking along Frank Tompa Drive (tow zone).
- Enter the basement Event Space using the back basement door (under the veranda). The front door is used for museum tours on the main level.
- The building and grounds are not wheelchair accessible. There are stairs between the main level museum and basement event space.

Washroom

There is a single all-gender washroom available in the basement Event Space.

Garbage

You must remove your own garbage and recycling as part of the rental. We thank you for your cooperation.

Insurance and Responsibilities of Rental Groups

It is the responsibility of rental groups to use the space with the utmost respect (i.e. no damaging of property, keeping space clean, etc.). Conrad Grebel University College, Brubacher House and its employees, shall be held harmless from all claims or liabilities from all parties for damage or loss to any person or property arising out of or during use of the Brubacher House facilities. We recommend that persons or groups renting the facilities arrange for their own insurance coverage. Rental groups will be held responsible for all damage or loss to any person or property arising out of or during use of Brubacher House facilities.

Fireplace

There is an indoor fireplace in the Event Space available for your use. Please follow the fireplace guidelines as discussed with museum host. This is subject to availability.

Food and Beverages

Food and non-alcoholic beverages can be consumed on the property. It must be external catering only. Hot water can be provided upon request. We are not licensed to serve alcohol.

Cancelation

If you need to cancel your rental, our cancelation guideline under Grebel Policy 912 states: If a group cancels within 6 months of their booking with no reschedule date, we'll hold their payment for 1 year to apply to a future booking. If the group does not book within 1 year, they forfeit payment. If a group cancels and they want to reschedule the booking within a 6-month period of the original booking date, they can rebook with no additional charge. If they want to book after a 6-month period, an additional deposit may be required. If a booking is cancelled due to exceptional circumstances, it is up to the discretion of the Brubacher House hosts and Grebel's Director of Operations whether the deposit / payment will be refunded.

If the Brubacher House host needs to cancel your booking (due to illness, weather events, facility issues, or other reasons), they may need to cancel day of. If this occurs, the Brubacher House host will make every effort to inform you as soon as possible, and:

1. Discuss the possibility of moving your event to Conrad Grebel University College (subject to availability), or
2. Try to reschedule at Brubacher House for a later date (subject to availability)

Approved by AE June 26, 2025

Reviewed by Brubacher House Committee June 16, 2025