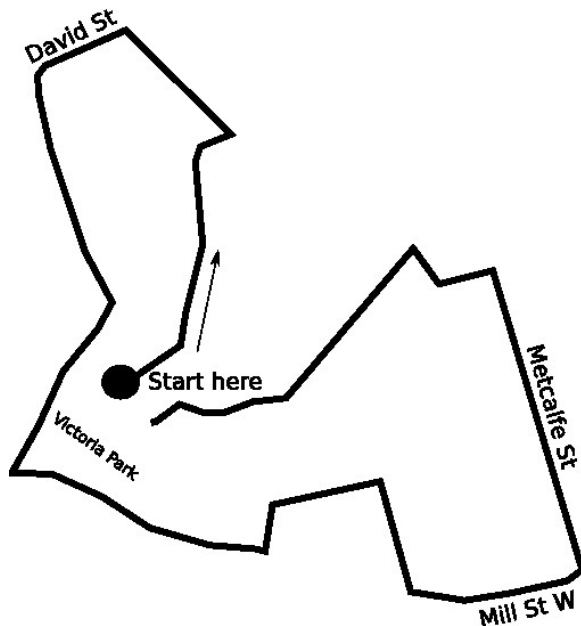


## Self-guided Walking Tour for an Overview of Elora

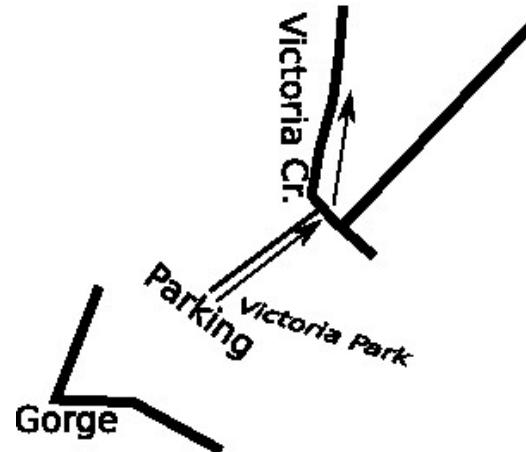
If Elora was a large, busy tourist destination, then you might read about “open from 10AM to 5PM, guides in period costume”, etc. However, Elora is a small town, and you don't visit A, then B, then C. You discover! Maybe you'll see a rescue crew practicing rappelling down a cliff, or maybe not. Maybe there will be 20 horses and buggies parked behind the town hall, or maybe zero. It's all about keeping your eyes peeled, and see what you can discover. Enjoy!

This loop begins at Victoria Park and starts following the edge of the scenic gorge. The shopping district is later in the tour, so that you won't have to carry your acquisitions very far to



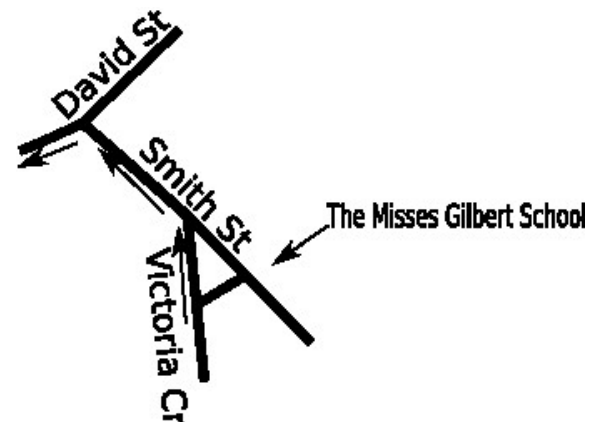
your car. The general loop is shown here.

After you park your car and take a quick look around, head uphill, away from the river. The first street you come to is Victoria Crescent.



Turn left and follow Victoria Crescent. On your left you will see the old homes with huge back yards that back onto the gorge. Soon, Victoria Crescent merges into Smith Street.

At the point where they join, take a look on the right and you'll see the Misses Gilbert School for Young Ladies. Keep going in the same direction now following Smith Street. You may want to cross the road because there is a

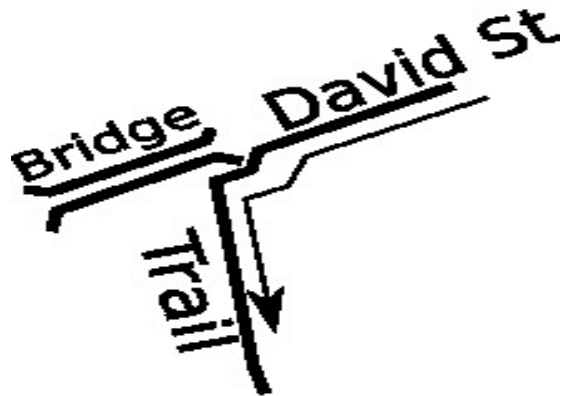


sidewalk only on one side.

Most of the homes along Smith Street are century homes.

When you come to the end of Smith Street turn left and go downhill on David Street.

As you come to the bridge the entrance to the trail forks off to the left.



Do take a walk out to onto the middle of the bridge to look at the view. Then go back and start down the trail. The river on your right, down in the gorge, is Irvine creek.

Follow the line of the river with the fence on your right hand side. As you follow the trail notice the caves on the other side of the river. They look like they're deeper than they really are; in fact they don't go into the cliff much farther than a few feet.

Soon you will arrive back at Victoria Park. Immediately as you enter the park area, on your right, there are stairs which will take you down into the gorge. Carry on along the edge of the gorge, and leave the stairs for another day.

As you approach the Lovers Leap area, notice the huge chunks of rock on the other side of the river that have been falling off the cliffs over a period of thousands of years.

When you get to Lovers Leap and you go down those few steps, you will be overlooking the point where the Grand River and the Irvine Creek flow together. From this point they go under the bridge and then enter the Elora gorge conservation area.

Continue following the fence and you will notice a small beach-like area on the far side of the river. People often launch their kayaks here.

Soon you'll come to the falls. At this point you'll have to walk away from the river. You'll see a high stone wall which goes around a large property here. The owner of the property

contracted to have a six-foot fence built, and went on a journey to England. When he returned after many weeks, the wall was much higher than he had wanted, but it didn't make sense to try to fix it, so it remains to this day.

Follow the stone wall around until you come to Price street. At Price Street turn right and go down the hill to the bottom. If you want a good view of Islet rock, also known as Tooth of Time, when you get to the bottom of Price street, turn right and enter the Elora Mill parking lot. Go past the building and take a look out of the river at that point. Notice that at some point Islet Rock has been reinforced to help it withstand the ravages of winter breakups and large floating debris. At one point they wanted to build a bridge here and use this island has a point of support. Fortunately, that plan was discarded. For some reason the lookout at the end of the parking lot is always closed.

As you walk away from the Elora mill along Mill Street West you will find many shops with unique items of every description. Don't miss out on the boardwalk that runs behind the buildings down near the river level.

Also, on the north side of the street, check the stores in Elora Mews. If it's time for a rest, stop for ice cream.

When you get to Metcalfe Street (at the traffic lights), turn left and start walking up the hill and either side of the street of you will find many more interesting shops. At MacDonald's Square, head towards the town hall, and on the right hand side of the building as you face it, there is a sidewalk which will lead you back towards your car. You will pass a small park with a playground, and if you continue a few more steps in the same direction you arrive back in Victoria Park.