

1. Victoria Park

Elora's Victoria Park evolved out of Park Lots 15 and 16 of the 1857 "New Survey". Village residents used the land to graze cattle and dump garbage, ashes and manure until an 1868 fire, lasting more than a week, burned all vegetation between the Irvine River Bridge and The Junction (of the Grand and Irvine Rivers). Indian Cliff Park emerged in the late 1870s as part of J.M. Shaw's "River Clean-up". It provided views of the falls, the cove, the junction and the bridge. In the 1880s a platform erected in "Council Grove", a plateau of stone above the caves, provided outdoor dancing on fine moonlit evenings during the summer months. From 1925-1975 a Pavilion (look for the foundations in the grass area near the white house) hosted annual carnivals, bi-monthly Lions' Club meetings and television viewings for 25¢.

2. Lover's Leap and the Junction

Lover's Leap, located at the Junction of the Grand River (to the left) and Irvine Creek (to the right) provides excellent views of the Elora Gorge. The origins of the aboriginal legends associated with Lover's Leap and Kim-Chim-A-Tik's cave were first recorded by David Boyle.

Lover's Leap Legend

Two First Nation lovers were denied marriage because they belonged to the same clan. Rather than face life apart, they chose death together by leaping off the point. The Gods, feeling pity for them, changed them into the two rivers so they could embrace each other forever.

Chief Kee-Chim-A-Tik's Cave Legend

The cave was a gathering place for First Nations Tribes on the warpath. Kee-Chim-A-Tik rescued a captive by declaring her his wife. The fair maid had been bound upon an altar in the cave, as a sacrifice to Manitou of the Falls. All did not end happily. Kee-Chim-A-Tik proved unfaithful and was killed by his wife, who was later ambushed on Islet Rock (see Tooth of Time) and found her final resting place in his cave.

3. Irvine River Gorge Staircase Access and the Irvine Promenade

The first pedestrian staircase to the bottomlands and Irvine River was constructed of wood in 1878 to facilitate Elora's 19th century heritage tourism and to provide access for Gorge-based recreational activities. The local paper, the Lightning Express, reported the new stairway "allowed ladies access to the delights from which they had heretofore been debarred." The current concrete stairs were constructed in 1859.

The Irvine Promenade is a pedestrian trailway located on the east rim of the Irvine Gorge between Victoria Park and the David Street West Connector Bridge. The trailway provides glimpses of the Irvine Gorge and the caves on its west face, the David Street Bridge and its 1867 Stone Pier, and the large park lots, gardens and historic homes of the Victoria Crescent Neighbourhood.

4. David Street West Bridge

The David Street West Bridge spanning the Irvine Gorge was first constructed in 1847 and the present bridge (built in 2004) is the seventh bridge on that site and the fourth bridge to use the historic stone pier which was constructed in 1867. The bridge originally facilitated farmers and their cattle access to the monthly market in the village common (Hoffer Park) but today it provides pedestrian access to important views of the Irvine Gorge from both sides. On the west side of the bridge is a stone cairn honouring Don Harris for his important contribution to saving the 1867 stone pier and retaining the historic appearance of the new bridge.

5. The Irvine Parade

The Irvine Parade Trailway is located on the west rim of the Irvine gorge between the David Street West Bridge and the Wellington Road 7 bridge. It was a designated feature included in the 1857 "New Survey". The trailway provides glimpses of the Irvine Gorge, The Junction, Victoria Park, and Lover's Leap.

6. Wellington Road 7 Bridge

The Wellington Road 7 Bridge offers spectacular views of the Elora Gorge and the convergence of the Irvine and Grand Rivers.

7. The Portage Trailway and the Cove Side-Trail

The Portage Trailway provides glimpses of Lover's Leap, Chief Kee-Chim-A-Tik's Cave, the Grand River Gorge, the Junction and Victoria Park. It's a short side-trail providing river access to the Cove below the falls, and is part of an ancient aboriginal portage trail which runs along the Grand River avoiding the perils of the falls and the Elora Gorge. The Portage Trailway and its Cove side-trails were used extensively from the mid-1870s to support Elora's early heritage tourism industry allowing access to both the Grand River and the intricate walking bridge system in the bottomlands.

8. Elora Mill, Falls, and Tooth of Time

There are a number of impressive views of the Elora Mill, the Falls, the Tooth of Time, and the back of the Mill St. Block as you progress along the Portage Trailway towards the Metcalfe St. Bridge. The ruins and the mill-race you pass reflect the water-based industry (particularly furniture manufacturing) that dominated Elora until the mid 20th century.

9. Metcalfe Street Bridge

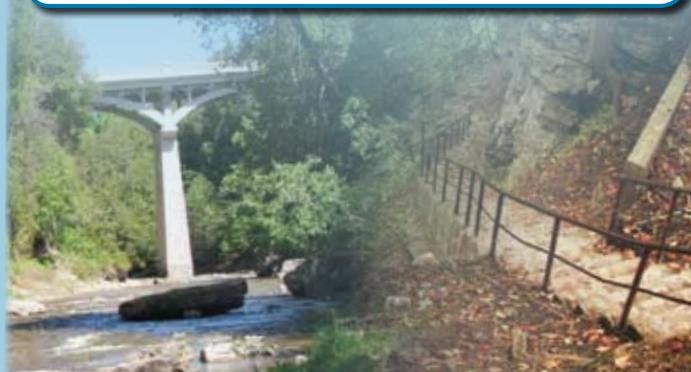
The Metcalfe Street Bridge was built in 1953 to replace the 1843 Victoria Street iron bridge, which was located on the stone pier in front of you as you look towards the Elora Mill.

10. Elora Green Space

From Gas to Grass! From the 1930s a gas station occupied this corner lot, then in 2012 the local BIA, Centre Wellington Township and many like-minded community members came together and created what is now the cornerstone of historic downtown Elora. A venue for many local festivals, it's a wonderful place to relax and watch the world go by, surrounded by art and nature.

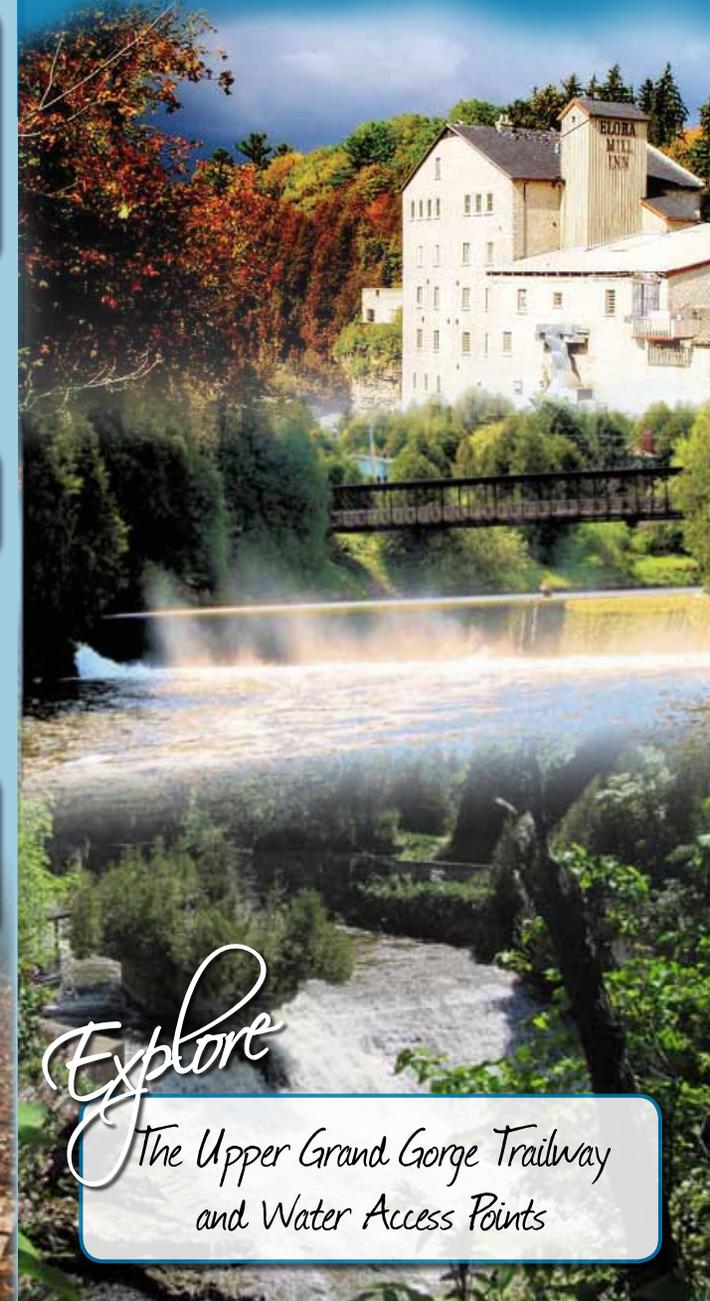
11. Victoria Park Trailway

Follow the stone wall which surrounds the original mill owner's home until you return to the gorge. A parallel trailway through a wooded area returns you to Victoria Park. As it reaches the gravel road turn right and see if you can find the foundations of the pavilion in the grassy area that fed and entertained tourists from 1925-1970.



Elora

Ontario's most beautiful Village

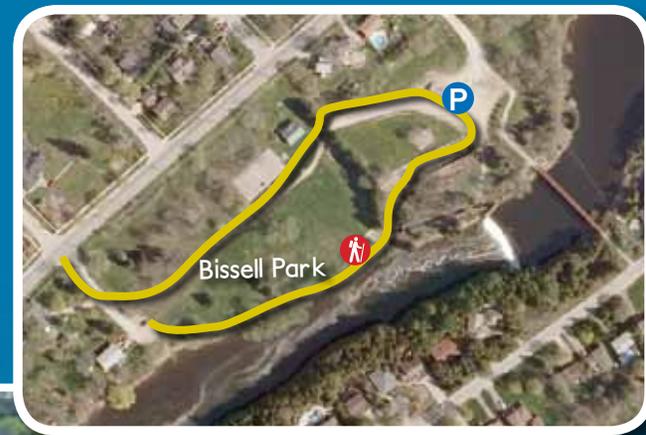


Explore

The Upper Grand Gorge Trailway
and Water Access Points

Map of The Upper Grand Gorge
Trailway and Water Access Points

For more to see and do in Elora and Fergus, please visit
www.elorafergus.ca, or scan the QR code with your
mobile device. Call toll-free 877.242.6353



Elora
Ontario's most beautiful Village

Thank you for visiting Elora, Ontario – one of Canada's most picturesque communities. Please enjoy exploring our historic town, trails, scenic gorges and waterways. Nature's handiwork has made Elora a charming spot to explore and experience. Please travel safely on our trails!
We hope this map will help determine if some of the access ways are best suited for your party.

(see legend opposite)



LEGEND

- Information Centre
- Municipal Office
- Library
- Church
- Water Access
- Viewpoints
- Zipline
- Car Parking
- Public Washrooms
- Trailway
- Sidewalk
- Footpath
- Waterway access points**
Irvine River/Gorge (stairway from Victoria Park Trailway)
- Zipline** Launch site:
behind Elora Community Centre