

Nestled on the banks of the Grand, historic Fergus embodies its rich Scottish heritage through its natural limestone buildings, parks and public gardens, trail network, unique shops and excellent restaurants. So take a break from the trail and discover downtown Fergus.

1. Breadalbane Highlander

Carved from the trunk of a maple tree, Scottish Warrior Blairgowrie Fergusson heralds all who pass by to haste ye back! Just a short distance from the trail, the Breadalbane Inn and Spa continues to offer a warm welcome to trailweary travellers who can savour its rich Scottish history and traditional hospitality.

2. James Square and the Kissing Stane

The steep hill of Tower Street can be made more bearable by the impressive view of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. On the corner of Tower and St George Street West lies James Square and The Kissing Stane – legend said that if a young woman was seated upon it, her lover could kiss her in public.

3. Weigh Scale Building

Take note - this is where the public washrooms are! Tucked behind St Andrew Street on the edge of the parking lot on Provost Lane this was the original site of the cattle yards. In 1904 Grand Trunk Railway built a spur line along St Patrick Street and the weigh-scale building was erected the same year. During its sixty-one years of activity, coal, lime, grain, livestock and other commodities were weighed for shipping on the scales once housed in this building. This is the only surviving weigh scale building in Ontario.

4. Russell's Store

Known for many years as the "Big Store", Russell's department store was family owned and operated for over 100 years – from 1888 to 2008. The banner on the side of the building shows a photograph of St Andrew Street from circa 1890. Today, many of the original buildings still stand – home to unique shops, cafés and restaurants.

5. Fergus Grand Theatre

Originally a movie theatre dating back to 1928, today Fergus Grand Theatre is the region's premier live performance venue. Each season offers a diverse line up of events in this historic building.

6. Fergus Library

In 1839, two Fergus residents Elizabeth and A.D. Fordyce started a lending library out of their home. After several temporary locations, the library was established here in 1911 with funding from US tycoon, Andrew Carnegie whose funds established 5 such libraries in Wellington County. Fergus Library was extensively renovated in 2014 adding vibrant community space and an expanded collection. The building seamlessly blends old and new offering a quiet riverside retreat from the hustle and bustle of downtown.

7. Templin Gardens

Carved into the limestone cliffs, Templin Gardens was built in the late 1920s by John C. Templin, owner of the local newspaper. It remains an exquisite masterpiece to this day offering river access for fishing, views of the Whirlpool and numerous photo opportunities. The Whirlpool was the most popular swimming hole in town until the 1930s when the Beatty Brothers generously built a pool for the town (corner of Queen and St David Streets).

8. Milligan Footbridge

Looking upstream from the south end of the walking bridge, one sees the falls from the same vantage point that Fergus' founders Adam Fergusson and James Webster did in October of 1833. The bridge itself acts as a gateway to downtown and is a fantastic vantage point from which to view the river at its best. Throughout the summer, a lone piper plays here every Saturday at noon conjuring up images of Fergus' rich Scottish past. At dusk each night, lights illuminate the gardens, cliffs and the waters below.

9. Fergus Marketplace

The original site of the Beatty Brothers' stone foundry, then a thriving farmers' market, today Fergus Marketplace houses a selection of unique and charming stores. A great stop for picnic or fishing supplies or why not grab a bite overlooking the Grand at a nearby pub.

10. Confederation Park

The path through the park's forest has been used since the early days of the Fergus settlement. Running a short distance along the south bank of the Grand River the trail offers river access below Upper Falls as well as views across Monkland Mill Pond to Monkland Mills – a former grist mill now beautifully restored into a residential development.

11. Pierpoint Park

One of the lesser known riverside parks in Fergus, Pierpoint Park was the site of a fledgling African community founded by Richard Pierpoint in the 1820s. Today the park offers river access for fishing, views of the Grand River, along with a small trail network among the trees for hikers to explore.



Fergus

On the banks of the Grand



Discover Downtown Fergus

The historic Elora-Cataract Trailway zig-zags its way across the north end of Fergus. This guide offers you a downtown detour to discover the charm and majesty of picturesque downtown Fergus. Shop, dine, explore and rest, then hop back on the trail and continue on your journey. Please travel safely on our trails!

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



Map of Downtown Fergus

