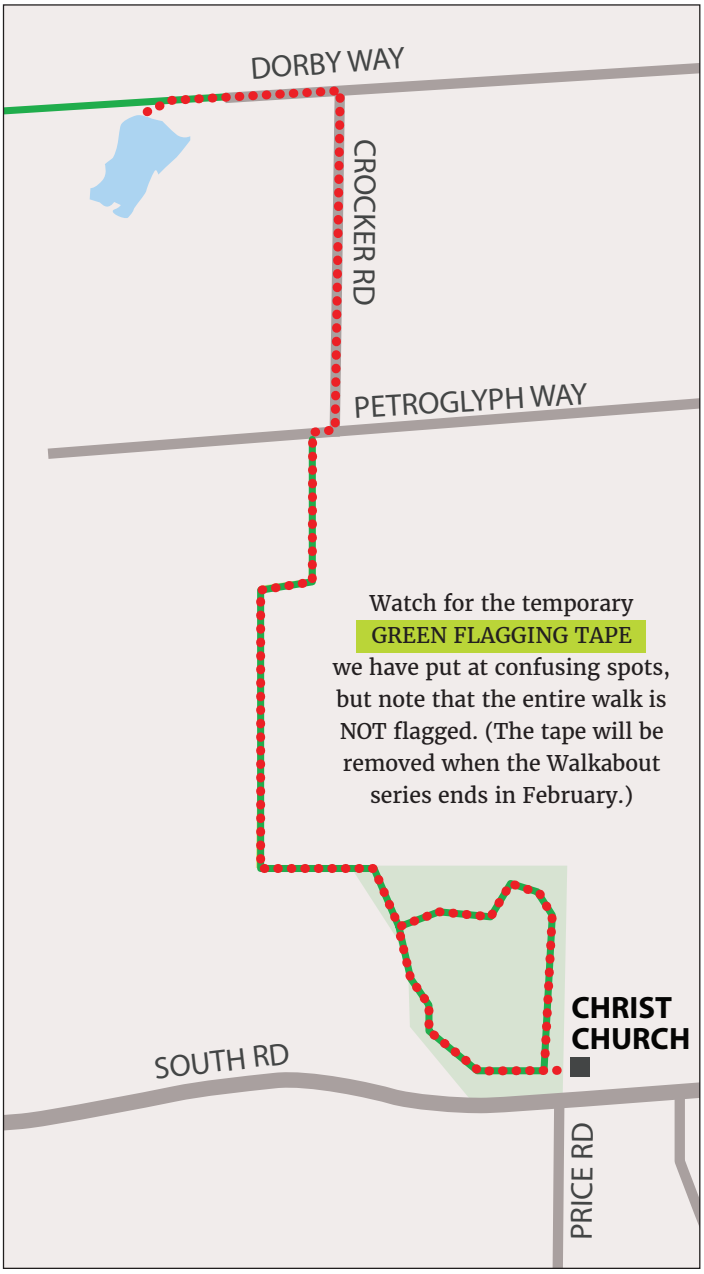
Walk #4

Petroglyph Trail

GaLTT's Great Winter Walkabout



You've got till February to complete at least 6 walks for a chance to enter to win a prize—it's not too late to pick up your Trail Journal from our prize donor North Road Sports!

What to expect

Approx time: 70 minutes
Approx distance: 3.2 km return
Difficulty: easy with a few moderate hills
Begin: Christ Church Gabriola parking lot, South Rd.

Bring your binoculars for this walk since you never know what you might see!

Directions

Read the interpretive signage about the petroglyphs, then follow the trail along the fenceline to the Garry oak meadow. These fragile petroglyphs, some of which are hard to see, were carved into bedrock by indigenous people, and some are sacred. Please don't step on them, and note that local Elders would prefer you don't take photos of them. More information about these remarkable carvings can be found at the Museum.

As you cross the meadow be careful not to slip, and walk in others' footprints to reduce trail braiding. Beyond the horizontal oak tree, enter the forest and turn right at the trail junction. Follow the path for about 15 minutes to emerge on Petroglyph Way. Turn right, then left onto Crocker Road. If the cattle are out in the Boulton fields as you reach Dorby Way, scan to see if our solitary Roosevelt Elk is among them. Continue past the gate at the end of Dorby and turn right to rest on the chairs by Nelder's Pond. Look for waterfowl and the beaver lodge. The Boulton family generously provides a trail licence on this side of the pond, please respect their wishes and do not walk all around it.

Return the way you came, but rather than turning left just past the Trail sign into the petroglyph meadow, continue straight to the church parking lot. (Come back to this area in April and May to see lovely shooting stars and chocolate lilies).

Gabriola RECREATION SOCIETY
THANKS TO THE GRS FOR PROJECT FUNDING!

PLEASE REMEMBER that even the easiest Gabriola trails may have mud and rough or rooty sections that make sections awkward or slippery.