



MIDTOWN: THE STORIED TERRITORY BETWEEN UPTOWN WATERLOO AND DOWNTOWN KITCHENER

Start: Allen Station
End: Central Station

About a year ago I took a walk between Uptown Waterloo and Downtown Kitchener in the area known as "Midtown". I meandered off the main thoroughfare and kept to the straightaway on the return, taking notice of the invisibles along the way and how the journeys greatly differed. While this area "in-between" is ambiguous when experienced from the main thoroughfare, the meandering route told a rich story about Midtown.

My findings motivated a series of walks and recordings informing the mapping of a walk I had planned to lead at this year's Jane's Walk Waterloo Region. Our local festival has unfortunately been cancelled due to COVID-19 so I've had to get a bit more creative- hoping to maintain the essence of Jane's Walk without physically gathering or walking together.

We're all feeling cooped up so here's a reason to find some fresh air, exercise, and adventure!

1. Follow a route, detour from one route to another, or create your own route

• *Each line is a tracing via GPS tracking*

2. Look to find the vantage point at which an image was taken and observe any variations

• *Is the time of day different based on shadow cast? Is there seasonal variation based on tree foliage? Has anything since disappeared/been removed? How were certain vantage points accessed?*

3. Contemplate the significance of the images and the qualities that the locals value

• *Consider historic, socio-economic, and aesthetic significances*
• *Consider the writings from the local community on "what makes the neighbourhood great"*

4. Take inventory of your own observations

• *We all see the world through our own lens. What do you notice?*

The idea is that this map will provoke exploration. By reframing our surroundings we illuminate the otherwise unnoticed, connecting us to the world around us.



