



## APGO Education Foundation Launches Second Downtown Toronto Urban Geotrail - Union Station to the ROM - on GeoscienceINFO.com

March 1, 2023, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) and partner institution University of Toronto, are pleased to announce the release of the *Downtown Toronto: Union Station to the ROM Urban Geotrail*. This second Toronto Urban Geotrail takes you on a delightful walk through the heart of downtown Toronto, Ontario (Figure 1), more specifically between two of downtown Toronto’s most architecturally iconic buildings: Union Station (Front Street) and the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM, Bloor Street). To see all other Geotrails, visit [our Urban Geotrails page](#).

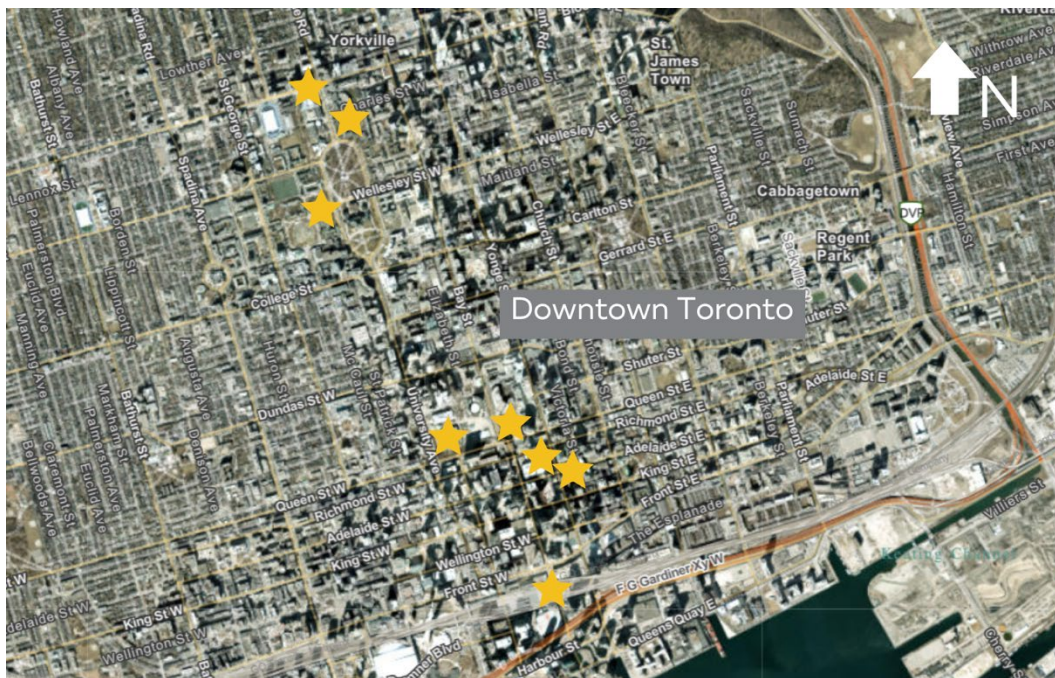


Figure 1. Map of downtown Toronto showing locations of the Downtown Toronto: Union Station to the ROM Urban Geotrail stops (yellow stars).

Toronto’s beautiful downtown area is made up of many new and historic buildings featuring a diverse array of architectural styles and building materials. This Urban Geotrail takes users on a geology-themed tour and lets them investigate some of Toronto’s well-known buildings. It begins at Union Station, built in 1927, for which predominantly local and non-local limestone in a Beaux-Arts style (Figure 2) was used, and takes you on a roughly 3.5-kilometre walk northward. Along the way one stops at six historic buildings before the tour ends at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) built in 1914, with its breathtakingly dramatic crystal addition on the North entrance added in 2007 (Figure 3). You can learn more about one of two surviving 19<sup>th</sup>-century post offices in Toronto, and Toronto’s original City Hall building, that is now used as a courthouse. Don’t miss this fascinating and educational walking tour through Toronto’s downtown!



Figure 2. The front exterior of Union Station, made of limestone.



Figure 3. The Royal Ontario Museum (Bloor Street entrance) showing its spectacular crystal façade.

This Urban Geotrail was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the team from the Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences at the University of Toronto led by Dr. Heidi Daxberger. We plan to continue to expand our geology-based walking tours of the Toronto/Hamilton area, to enhance public knowledge of geoscience using a hands-on and virtually accessible approach, by releasing more Urban Geotrails in 2023-2025.

By providing city or town-based 1-3-hour long walking tours rather than tours in the great outdoors, our **Urban Geotrails** allow people to experience geology in an urban setting without needing a car. Users can learn about the geological significance of the building stones, decorative rocks and minerals, and architectural stylings of a collection of buildings and surrounding gardens in a selected part of a city, and still use public transit. As we recognize that while visiting sites in person is a great way to learn, virtual tours are also exciting ways to expand our knowledge and horizon when direct investigation of buildings in person is not possible. Therefore, the Urban Geotrails are designed to be accessed in person in the field or city, from home, or from classrooms. Through the use of ESRI's innovative ArcGIS-StoryMap application and the integrated features, the Urban Geotrails provide the user with an immersive experience. The Urban Geotrails include:

- 360-degree photos and/or drone videos to provide a detailed overview of each site.
- LiDAR-based virtual 3D models that show locations of key features such as fossils, important structures and other geological features at the buildings or rock outcrops.
- Slide bars to show multiple images or overlays of important features or geologic information.
- Descriptions of the geological features written in a forthe public accessible manner.
- Audio descriptions of the written content.



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## About the APGO Education Foundation

The APGO Education Foundation (“the Foundation”) is a registered charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, registration number 84604 5052 RR0001.

The purpose of the charity is to advance the education of the public in the area of geoscience by:

- Holding lectures, presentations, and conferences on geoscience both in person and virtually to introduce geoscience to high school and university students as well as enhance the knowledge of the general public.
- Providing scholarships to post-secondary students for the study of geoscience in the final year of a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree program.
- Providing bursaries to immigrants to Canada who are internationally trained geoscientists and have demonstrated financial need for completion of licensure procedures for registration as professional geoscientists (P.Geo.s) in Ontario.

APGOEF provides funding to support innovative geoscience education projects working with university geoscience departments, community groups and not-for-profit organizations across Ontario. Please see our website at [www.apgoedfoundation.ca](http://www.apgoedfoundation.ca)

[GeoscienceINFO.com](http://GeoscienceINFO.com) an innovative one-stop spot for the public for information about the earth beneath their feet. This new website provides interesting information on all facets of geoscience. A particularly exciting feature of [GeoscienceINFO.com](http://GeoscienceINFO.com) is the highlighting of virtual fieldtrips in different areas in Ontario. This enables viewers to experience and learn about the geology of an area while traversing it digitally in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ and StoryMaps™. Information on the latest discoveries and news in the world of geoscience is featured on the website, on our blog [Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog](http://Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog), as well as on our social media.

If you like our work, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our programs.

**To Donate** - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/apgo-education-foundation>

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