



APGO Education Foundation Launches New Urban GeoWalk in London, Ontario on GeoscienceINFO.com

September 9, 2024, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) and the Department of Earth Sciences at Western University are pleased to announce the release of the Western University Campus Urban GeoWalk in London, Ontario (see Figure 1). This Urban GeoWalk is the first virtual tour released by the APGOEF in the London area. To see this virtual tour as well as all our Urban GeoWalks, [visit our Urban GeoWalks website](#).



Figure 1. Map of southwestern Ontario showing the location of the Western University Campus Urban GeoWalk (yellow star), located in London, Ontario.

The Western University Campus Urban GeoWalk is part of an ongoing initiative to make interactive geoscience education possible within urban settings and not restricted to designated hiking trails. This Urban GeoWalk takes you to 11 stops on Western University’s beautiful campus, which is located in London, Ontario, beside the Thames River. Here, you will learn how the Thames River has changed over the past 11,000 years, leaving behind the flat terraces you walk and drive on today. You’ll also see some famous Tyndall limestone on the exterior of the Visual Arts Building (see Figure 2). This stone is highly fossiliferous and is used extensively in buildings across Canada. Make sure to stop by the Biological and Geological Sciences Building to check out their displays and rock and mineral collections (stop #7). Outside, you will encounter two spectacular rocks exhibiting banded iron formations (see Figure 3). Learn how these ancient rocks formed and why they are so important.



Figure 2. Tyndall limestone showing a large tabulate coral fossil, on the Western University Campus Waterfront GeoWalk.



Figure 3. Banded iron formation rock, on the Western University Campus Waterfront GeoWalk.

This Urban GeoWalk was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the Department of Earth Sciences at Western University, led by Dr. Alina Shchepetkina and her team. It is part of a growing series of geoscience-based hiking tours released across Ontario that aim to enhance public knowledge of geoscience using a hands-on and virtually accessible approach. We plan to release more Urban GeoWalks in 2024 and subsequent years, both in the London area and throughout Ontario.

Urban GeoWalks are 1-3-hour non-intensive walking tours in cities and towns in Ontario that highlight the geological significance of selected buildings, gardens, structures, and other features. Urban GeoWalks can be used as guides either in person, or as a virtual alternative at home or in the classroom. Visiting sites in person is a great way to learn but virtual tours are also an exciting way to expand one's knowledge when in-person access is not possible. Through the use of ESRI's innovative ArcGIS-StoryMap™ application and the integrated features, Urban GeoWalks provide the user with an immersive experience. Urban GeoWalks typically 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 geological features.
- Audio descriptions of written content.



APGO
education
foundation

Suite 1100
One Yonge Street, Suite 704
Toronto, ON M5E 1E5
Tel: 416-203-2746 Ext 40
info@APGOEF.ca
www.apgoef.ca

About the APGO Education Foundation

The APGO Education Foundation ("APGOEF) 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.Geos) 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 <https://apgoef.ca>.

[GeoscienceINFO.com](https://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](https://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](https://geoscienceinfo.com/blog/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>

For further information:

Bill Pearson, Ph.D., P.Geos., Chair

Email: chair@apgoedfoundation.ca

Deana Schwarz, Ph.D., P.Geos., Manager

Email: manager@geoscienceinfo.com



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