



APGO Education Foundation Releases Toronto Mud Creek – Evergreen Brickworks Urban GeoWalk on GeoscienceINFO.com

February 25, 2025, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) and the University of Toronto are pleased to announce the release of the new **Mud Creek – Evergreen Brickworks Urban GeoWalk** on the **Toronto Geoscience Hub** on [GeoscienceINFO.com](https://www.geoscienceinfo.com). This project is supported by funding from the **Canadian Geological Foundation**.

Toronto, Ontario is a bustling metropolis in southern Ontario that is home to over three million people. Before this area was heavily urbanized with buildings and pavement, Toronto had many streams and brooks that coursed over and through the landscape. Many of these water channels now run strictly underground and are collectively referred to as Toronto's lost rivers. Mud Creek (also known as Mount Pleasant Brook) is one of Toronto's lost rivers, and runs from the Downsview neighbourhood north of Toronto, southeast until it joins the Don River.

The Mud Creek Urban GeoWalk is a pleasant two-hour stroll between Moore Avenue and the Evergreen Brick Works (Figure 1). On this GeoWalk you will learn about the different rock types found along the river, see fossils, and discover what the environment was like here when these rocks were formed more than 400 million years ago under water! Visitors will learn why erosion is a formidable force that requires on-going mitigation through the construction of features such as slope stabilizers. The GeoWalk highlights some of the geomorphic features of the river such as cut banks, point bars, riffles, and pools. At the Don Valley Brickyard (or Don Valley Brick Works) you can stand on the site where brothers John and George Taylor excavated clay deposits and water from Mud Creek to make award-winning bricks used in the construction of many of Toronto’s landmark buildings, including Casa Loma, Old City Hall, Osgoode Hall and the Ontario Legislature at Queen's Park.

At the last stop on the Urban GeoWalk, visitors will learn how this industrial area was transformed into the Evergreen Brick Works - a cultural environmental centre that has become a global showcase for green design and environmental stewardship. The centre is an excellent example of how a former industrial site can become successfully rehabilitated to a natural state.

This GeoWalk includes two additional resources, one called **Local Geology and the Rock Record** and the other called **River Processes Shaping the Landscape**. These resources will introduce you to the key concepts of geology and geomorphology that help tell the story of Mud Creek!

Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Geo., Founder and Chair of APGOEF, commented: “Dr. Heidi Daxberger and Dr. Sarah Peirce and their team at University of Toronto have done a terrific job assembling this remarkable Urban GeoWalk. I think that visitors will be amazed at how much interesting geology is right under their nose in the centre of the largest metropolis in Canada.”

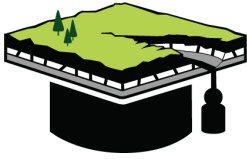


Figure 1. Map showing locations of stops on the Mud Creek – Evergreen Brickworks Urban GeoWalk

Below is a brief summary of the sections:

- 1) Section #1 - Beltline Trail at Moore Avenue**
Here you will evidence in the limestones and marine fossils that much of southern Ontario as was once covered by a shallow tropical sea (Figure 2).
- 2) Section #2 - Heath St. Bridge**
In Section #2, you will pass under the Heath St. Bridge, also known as Cat's Eye Bridge. This pedestrian bridge crosses the ravine between Moore Park and Bennington Heights (Figure 3).
- 3) Section #3: Crossing the Path**
Mud Creek crosses under the Beltline Trail and flows on the east side of the path along Section #3 (Figure 4).
- 4) Section #4: Creek Rehabilitation**
Section #4 of the Mud Creek Urban GeoWalk covers a portion of Mud Creek on the west side of the Beltline trail before crossing the CPR bridge (Figure 5).
- 5) Section #5: Don Valley Brick Works**
In this section you enter the Don Valley Brick Works Park, the historic site of the Don Valley Brick Works quarry. This section will take you along the northern trails of the park towards the Don Valley Brick Works Lookout (Figure 6).
- 6) Section #6: Evergreen Brick Works**
The final section of the Mud Creek Urban GeoWalk encompasses the buildings of the Evergreen Brick Works and the surrounding trails, ponds, and meadows of the Don Valley Brick Works Park (Figure 7).



Figure 2: Fossiliferous limestone blocks at Stop #1.



Figure 3: Heath Street Bridge (also called Cat's Eye Bridge) at Stop #2.



Figure 4: Cobbles and boulders strewn along Mud Creek at Stop #3.



Figure 5: Boulders placed along Mud Creek to stabilize the banks at Stop #4.



Figure 6: Beautiful view from the Don Valley Brick Works Lookout at Stop #5.



Figure 7: Abandoned heritage buildings at the Evergreen Brick Works at Stop #6.



ABOUT GEOSCIENCEINFO.COM

GeoscienceINFO.com is an innovative one-stop spot for the public to gather 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 is the highlighting of virtual field trips 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](#), our podcasts as well as on our social media.

GeoHikes

GeoHikes are 1-3-hour non-intensive hiking tours on maintained trails in Ontario that highlight local geology and describe their geological and environmental significance. GeoHikes can be used as guides while walking the trail 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, GeoHikes provide the user with an immersive experience. GeoHikes 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.

Urban GeoWalks

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.

GeoPaddles

GeoPaddles are 1-3-hour paddling tours in Ontario waters that highlight local geology and describe their geological and environmental significance. GeoPaddles can be used as guides while paddling, or as a virtual alternative at home or in the classroom.

GeoRoutes

GeoRoutes are virtual geology-based tours in Ontario that highlight local geology. Stops are accessed by car, or as a virtual alternative at home or in the classroom.



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.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 <https://apgoef.ca>.

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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