



APGO Education Foundation Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Release of New Geoscience Hubs on GeoscienceINFO.com

February 12, 2025, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) is pleased to announce the release of their new Geoscience Hubs on GeoscienceINFO.com. These Hubs bring together all our virtual field trip products within specific geographic areas for easy access on our newly designed home page (Figure 1). Currently, there are six (6) Hubs and we will be adding additional Hubs as our product offerings continue to expand. These six Geoscience Hubs include:

- **Bruce Trail Hub** – Twenty-one (21) GeoHikes along the full length of the Bruce Trail from Niagara Falls to Tobermory. Nine (9) GeoHikes are completed with twelve (12) more in production with all expected to be released by this coming April.
- **Niagara Geopark** – Eight (8) GeoHikes completed with a Niagara Wine GeoRoute under development
- **Toronto Hub** – Two (2) Urban GeoWalks completed in downtown Toronto with two (2) more in the “green areas” of Toronto to be completed and released by spring 2025.
- **Kingston Hub** – Eight (8) GeoHikes released including our first GeoPaddle at Wolfe Island.
- **Sudbury Hub** – Urban GeoWalk in the Laurentian University Campus and an extensive GeoRoute across the Sudbury area
- **Ottawa Hub** – Downtown Ottawa GeoWalk and Lime Kiln GeoHike.



Figure 1. Newly designed Home Page for www.GeoscienceINFO.com with Geoscience Hubs.



Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Geo., Founder and Chair commented: "APGOEF has grown remarkably over the past 10 years from an early concept of virtual field trips to today with the launch of our new Geoscience Hubs on our ever expanding website. Additional Hubs are planned for London where five (5) GeoHikes are under development as well as Northwestern and Northeastern Ontario where all previous GeoRoutes in the old format are being converted into ESRI StoryMaps™. We will continue to enhance and expand our innovative products to promote a greater understanding of geoscience for the public in Ontario."

ABOUT GEOSCIENCE INFO.COM

GeoscienceINFO.com is 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 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](#), 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 (Figures 2 and 3). 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.



Figure 2. Lower Falls at the Balls Falls GeoHike in the Niagara Peninsula.



Figure 3. Pink syenite outcrop at Arrowhead Beach on the Arrowhead Beach GeoHike.



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 (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 4. Whirlpool Sandstone at Old City Hall on the Downtown Toronto Urban GeoWalk.

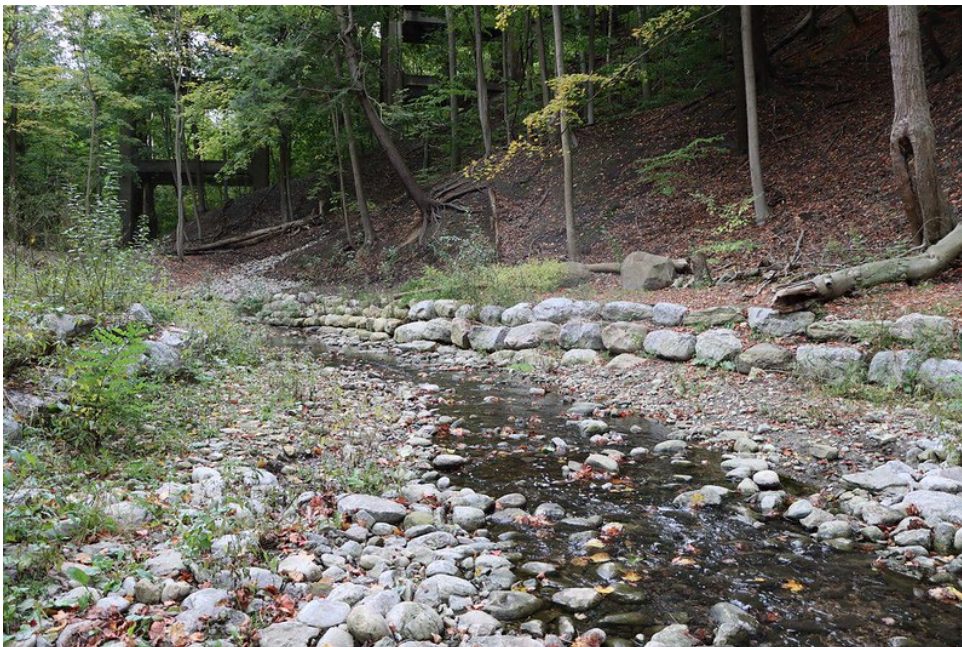


Figure 5. Limestone boulders directing water flow at the Mud Creek Urban GeoWalk.



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 (Figures 6 and 7).



Figure 6. Limestone shore at the Wolfe Island GeoPaddle in Kingston.



Figure 7. Gneiss outcrop at Gneiss Bay, on the Parry Sound GeoPaddle.



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 (Figures 8 and 9).



Figure 8. Horseshoe Falls at Niagara Falls, on the Niagara River GeoRoute.



Figure 9. Kakabeka Falls at the Thunder Bay GeoRoute.



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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.Ge.o.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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