



APGO Education Foundation Releases Upper Stony Lake GeoPaddle in the Kawartha Lakes area on GeoscienceINFO.com

March 18, 2025, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) and the Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering department at Queen’s University are pleased to announce the release of the Upper Stony Lake GeoPaddle, located on the north side of Upper Stony Lake, north of Peterborough in the Kawartha Lakes area (see Figure 1). This virtual paddling tour features 6 stops that highlight the local geology. To see this as well as all our GeoPaddles, visit our [GeoPaddles page](#).



Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Upper Stony Lake GeoPaddle (yellow star).

Composed of over 20 lakes, the Kawartha Lakes mark the geological boundary between the limestone-dominant bedrock that was deposited in the Paleozoic Era in southern Ontario, and the ancient rocks of the northern Canadian Shield. The Upper Stony Lake GeoPaddle takes you on a 6-stop geological tour through Upper Stony Lake – one of the eastern-most lakes in the Kawartha Lakes area. The rocks here are metamorphic rocks that formed over a billion years ago when the massive Grenville Mountains were rising in what is now North America. Begin your tour at Stop #1 by visiting the extensive calc-silicate rock – a dark grey rock unit found throughout the area (Figure 2). As you reach Stop #4, you will encounter another extensive rock unit – alkali feldspar granite (Figure 3). This pink-coloured igneous rock is part of a massive pluton in the area. Become intimately acquainted with the geology of this beautiful corner of Ontario while at the same time enjoying a pleasant paddle!



Figure 2. Dark grey calc-silicate bedrock at Stop #1 on the Upper Stony Lake GeoPaddle.



Figure 3. Pink-coloured alkali feldspar granite outcrop at Stop #4 on the Upper Stony Lake GeoPaddle.

The Upper Stony Lake GeoPaddle was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering department at Queen's University, led by Dr. Daniel Layton-Matthews, and the hard work of students Olivia Winslow, Chloe Brunton, and Vivian Wacheski. It is part of a growing series of geoscience-based paddling tours released across Ontario that aims to enhance public knowledge of geoscience using a hands-on and virtually accessible approach. We plan to release more GeoPaddles in 2025 and subsequent years, throughout Ontario.

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. 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, GeoPaddles provide the user with an immersive experience. GeoPaddles 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.



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About the APGO Education Foundation

The APGO Education Foundation is a registered charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, registration number 84604 5052 RR0001. A primary purpose of the charity is to advance the education of the public in the area of geoscience – see <https://apgoef.ca>. [GeoscienceINFO.com](https://apgoef.ca), developed by the Foundation, is an innovative one-stop spot for the public to gather information about the earth beneath their feet. This 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 in person or while traversing it digitally in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ and StoryMaps™.

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

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