



APGO Education Foundation Releases Craigleith GeoHike on GeoscienceINFO.com

- GeoHike highlights one of Ontario's most exceptional collections of 450 million year old Late Ordovician fossils

June 25, 2025, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation ("APGOEF") and the School of Earth, Environment and Society at McMaster University are pleased to announce the release of the **Craigleith GeoHike**, located along the Bruce Trail, on the south shore of Georgian Bay (see Figure 1). This virtual walking tour follows five (5) stops in Craigleith Provincial Park and highlights the local geology and geological processes. To see all our GeoHikes along the Bruce Trail, visit our [Bruce Trail Hub](#). All our GeoHikes can be viewed on [our GeoHikes page](#).



Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Craigleith GeoHike (yellow star) along the Bruce Trail (red line).

Located on the southern shores of Georgian Bay, the rocks exposed here are home to one of Ontario's most exceptional collections of 450 million year old Late Ordovician fossils. Dating to immediately before the first mass extinction in Earth's history, the fossils at Craigleith Provincial Park tell a remarkable story about the resilience of life on Earth. Here you will learn how to spot and identify some of the most common fossils exposed in the area, while gaining an understanding of the myriad ways life has been shaped by the process of extinction.



The Craigleith GeoHike takes you to 5 stops along this rocky shore, showcasing exposed fossils in the black shales. Start your tour at the Visitor's Centre, where you will learn about the exceptional fossils on display, then head over to learn about oil shales at Stop #2. Check out a well-preserved crinoid stem at Stop #3 (see Figure 2), then learn about a rare and exciting preservation type called a lagerstätte. Finish your tour by visiting some trace fossils at Stop #5 (see Figure 3).



Figure 2. A segment of crinoid stem at Stop #2 on the Craigleith GeoHike.



Figure 3. Trace fossils of a burrowing animal called *Chondrites* at Stop #5 on the Craigleith GeoHike.

The Craigleith GeoHike was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the School of Earth, Environmental and Society at McMaster University, led by Dr. Daniel Dick, an expert paleontologist and post-doctoral fellow, and Dr. Carolyn Eyles, Professor Emerita. It is part of a growing series of geoscience-based hiking 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 GeoHikes across Ontario in 2025 and subsequent years.

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.



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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. The 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™.

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