



APGO Education Foundation Releases Short Hills GeoHike on GeoscienceINFO.com

- The Short Hills GeoHike is the 9th GeoHike developed by APGOEF in the Niagara Geopark

August 5, 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 **Short Hills GeoHike**, located in the [Niagara Geopark](#) on the Niagara Peninsula, just southwest of St. Catharines (see Figure 1). This virtual walking tour follows five (5) stops along the Paleozoic Path in Short Hills Provincial Park and highlights the local geology and geological processes. To see all our GeoHikes in the Niagara Geopark visit the [Niagara Geopark Hub](#). All our GeoHikes can be viewed on [our GeoHikes page](#).

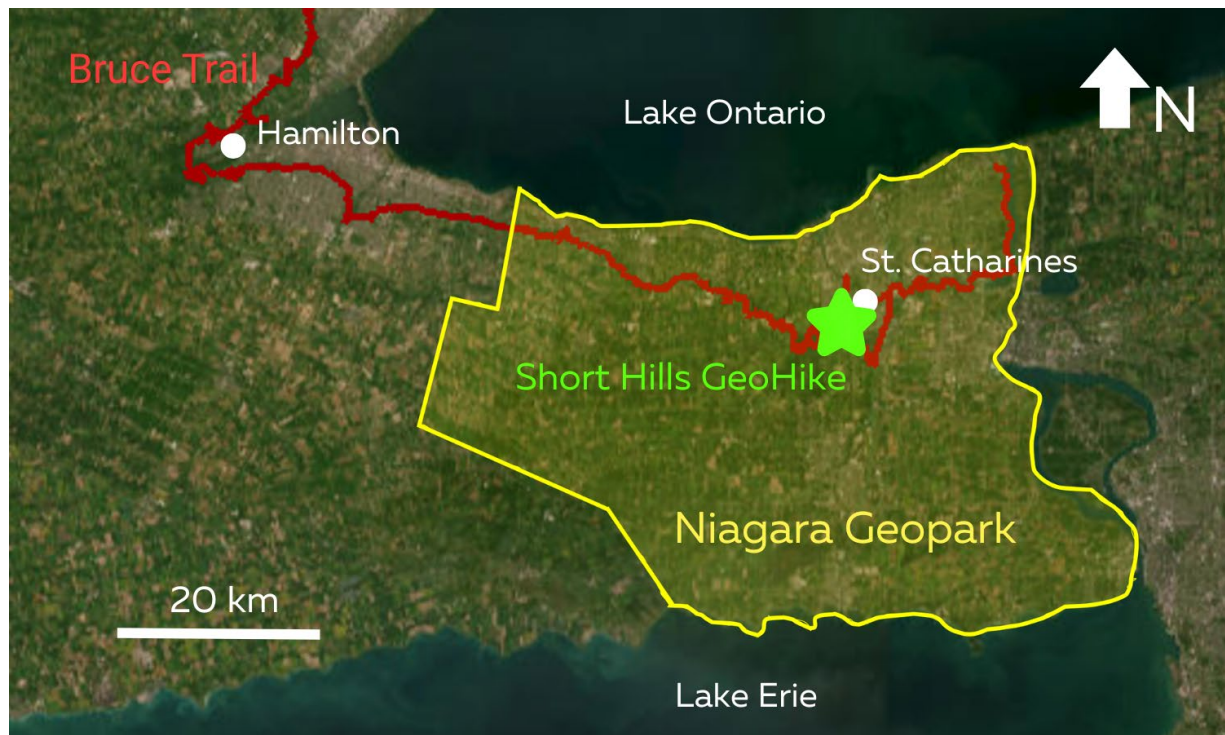


Figure 1. Map of the Niagara Geopark (shaded yellow) in the Niagara Peninsula, showing location of the Short Hills GeoHike (green star).

Short Hills Provincial Park is one of Ontario’s best locations to learn about the impacts of the last Ice Age, as the landscape was shaped by retreating glaciers and ancient versions of the modern Great Lakes. As you walk along the Short Hills GeoHike, you will visit five (5) stops along the Niagara Escarpment. Your tour begins by cleaning your boots off at the boot cleaning station, where you will learn how you have an important role in preventing the introduction of invasive species in Ontario’s parks. Moving along to Stop #2, here you will learn how erosion is mitigated by the construction of features such as culverts and see the effects of water after storms, such as imbrication (see Figure 2). At Stop #3 take a moment to rest and look at Short Hills from above on the satellite image on our site – the best way to see its branching network of streams, tributaries, and gullies. Learn more about how glaciers form and when we might expect them



to recur again on our writeup for Stop #4. Your tour ends at Stop #5, where you'll be treated to a beautiful view of the local rock stratigraphy at Swayze Falls (see Figure 3).



Figure 2. Limestone boulders showing initial signs of imbrication at Stop #2 on the Short Hills GeoHike.



Figure 3. Dolostone and shale cliffs at Swayze Falls, located at Stop #5 on the Short Hills GeoHike.

The Short Hills GeoHike was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the School of Earth, Environment and Society at McMaster University, led by Dr. Daniel Dick, Post doctoral fellow and Dr. Carolyn Eyles, P.Geo., 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 in 2025 and subsequent years, throughout Ontario.

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™.

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

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