



APGO Education Foundation Releases the Medway Valley and Komoka Provincial Park GeoHikes in London, Ontario on GeoscienceINFO.com

- **New London Geoscience Hub added to GeoscienceINFO.com includes four GeoHikes and an Urban GeoWalk in the London, Ontario area**

October 27, 2025, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) and the **Department of Earth Sciences at Western University** are pleased to announce the release of the **Medway Valley** and **Komoka Provincial Park GeoHikes**, located in London, Ontario (see Figure 1). These virtual tours highlight the local geology and geological processes that shaped the landscapes. To view these, visit the new London Geoscience Hub at <https://geoscienceinfo.com/london-hub-welcome/>.

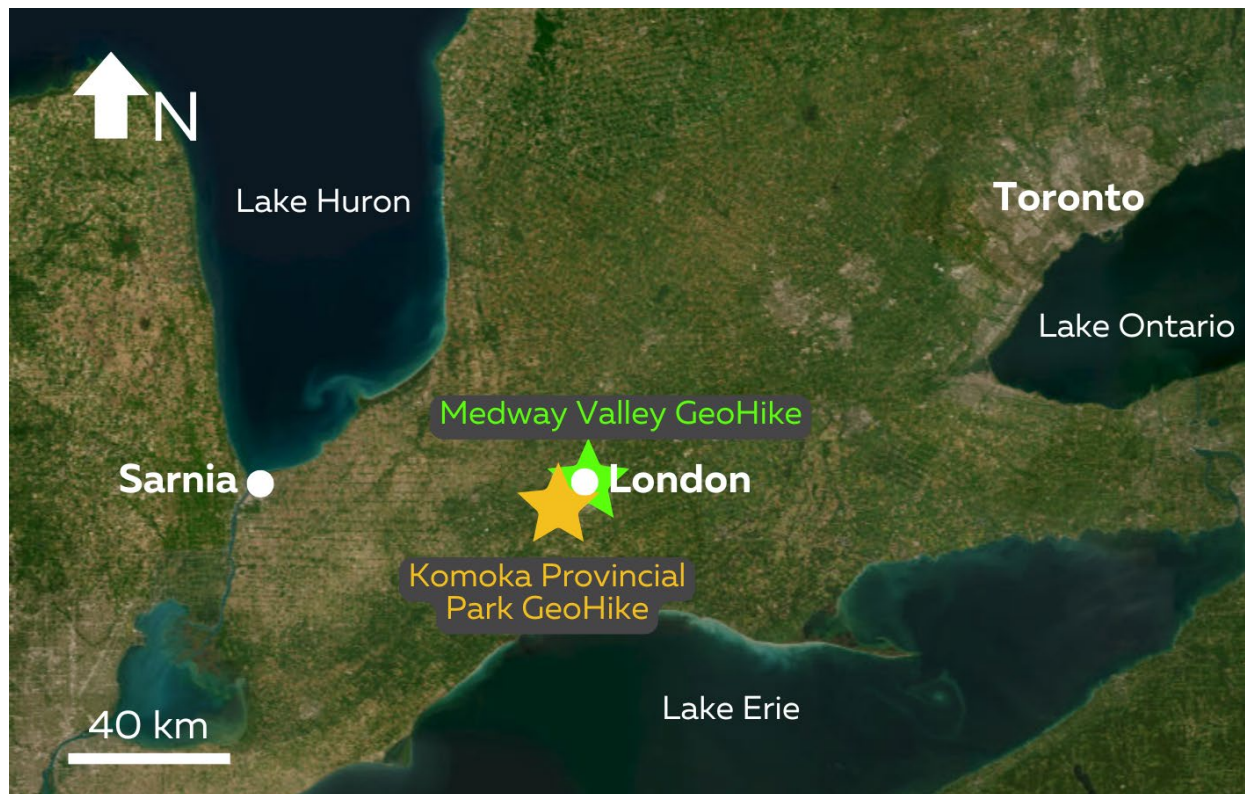


Figure 1. Map of southwestern Ontario, showing location of the Medway Valley and Komoka Provincial Park GeoHike (green and yellow stars respectively).

Medway Valley

Located in north London, Medway Valley is situated on the Arva Moraine, a glacial hill of sediments that was deposited by an arm of the Laurentide Ice Sheet called the Huron Glacial Lobe. As the glacier melted, massive volumes of meltwater formed, carving through the sediments of the Arva Moraine. These meltwaters created the narrow Medway Valley, which is only 300-500 metres wide today. This region in London is a great place to explore the preserved features of the past glacial activities that took place.



The Medway Valley GeoHike begins with a breathtaking view of the valley itself. As you move to Stop #2, you will discover the various rock types that make up the Dorchester Till. Take a rest on a fossiliferous limestone block at Stop #3 and learn what kind of environment this rock formed in (see Figure 2). If the water level is low enough, you can venture out on a fluvial point bar at Stop #4 and learn how water erodes channels in a classic meandering river system (see Figure 3). Your hike finishes off by exploring a fluvial mid-channel bar at Stop #5 and discover how river energy levels carry and deposit sediment downstream.



Figure 2. Fossiliferous limestone boulder at Stop #3 on the Medway Valley GeoHike.



Figure 3. Rocky fluvial point bar at Stop #4 on the Medway Valley GeoHike.

Komoka Provincial Park

Like the rest of southwestern Ontario, Komoka's surficial geology is largely shaped by relatively recent geological processes. As the Huron and Erie lobes of the Laurentide Ice Sheet began to melt over 12,000 years ago, they deposited all the sediment and debris such as rocks and gravel that they were pushing, creating two long, large, hill-like structures called the **Ingersoll Moraine** and the **Westminster Moraine**.

These two moraines created a damming effect near Kilworth, which led to the pooling of water and thus the formation of glacial Lake London. Eventually, drainage from Lake London breached one of the glacial moraines near Byron and vigorous meltwater streams poured through what is now Komoka Provincial Park, carving out large sections of the Thames Valley we know today. As you walk along the Thames River on the Komoka Provincial Park GeoHike, you will see how modern processes are carving out the landscape by making the large tributaries we see at Stop #3 (see Figure 4). In addition, you will see the structures that these meltwaters left behind, such as the glacial sediments at Stop #4 (see Figure 5).



Figure 4. A large tributary on the Komoka Provincial Park GeoHike.



Figure 5. Glacial sediments at stop #4 on the Komoka Provincial Park GeoHike.

The Medway Valley and Komoka Provincial Park GeoHikes were developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the Department of Earth Sciences at Western University, led by Dr. Alina Shchepetkina and her team. 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 (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 – see <https://apgoef.ca.GeoscienceINFO.com>, 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™.

APGOEF recently announced (see press release dated September 2, 2025) the release of a digital children's book "**Rocky the Racoon Explores the Niagara Escarpment**" on our new **Kid's Zone** on GeoscienceINFO.com at <https://kidszone.geoscienceinfo.com/>. The book can also be purchased in paperback on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/5bL3ktR>. Rocky is a curious racoon exploring the amazing world of rocks and fossils in the Niagara Escarpment. He meets his new friend Lily the Crinoid who takes him on a journey to learn about what life was like more than 400 million years ago. The Rocky the Racoon book aligns with the Grade 4 Ontario Curriculum and is accompanied by a **Teacher's Guide** including hands-on activities, posters, quizzes and more to make learning about rocks fun and accessible for everyone.

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

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