

Update on Public Geoscience Education Projects and Activities 2023

Public Education

Public Education is a major area of activity for us, and **we are on the verge of connecting with the large population base in southern Ontario about the importance of geoscience.** Our major public education projects right now are:

- 1) **Geotrails on the Bruce Trail on the Niagara Escarpment** – five Geotrails have already been released with one more out shortly. See www.GeoscienceINFO.com
- 2) Geoscience Education partner for the proposed **Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Global Geopark** – seeking designation for UNESCO – expected in 2025. See <https://www.niagarageopark.com/>
- 3) **Urban Geotrail – downtown Toronto** – initial Geotrail of U of T Campus – See www.GeoscienceINFO.com

All these Geotrails are done in ESRI StoryMaps and use all the latest technology including 360° photos, drone images, 3D LiDAR imagery and digital split screens to bring the public knowledge of the exciting geological and environmental history in a fun and informative way. These Geotrails allow people who are unable to visit in person, the ability to experience the geology through a rich virtual experience.

Beneath Your Feet: Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog

We launched our blog **Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog** January 11, 2022. We were delighted to see that our articles have been very popular in PGO's Field Notes: the #1, #3 and #4 most accessed articles in 2022 were from our Blog along with five (5) of the next 11 to 20. The Blog provides a great forum for discussing any type of topic related to geoscience but not in a strict technical manner. We have articles by students, seasoned professionals, and several by our own staff. It is a great forum to put forward ideas in a less structured format as well as to bring in the humorous side of our profession. We distribute these articles on a wide variety of social media platforms and we have been getting very good traction on our articles in only a short time.

Public Events

Providing the public with free, accessible, and accurate information on geoscience is our highest priority. In addition to our wide range of virtual products, we reach the public directly in many public events throughout Ontario. This allows us to create connections with people, generate interest in the geosciences, and let people know about the many informative products we have available on our website. Our 2023 events schedule is as follows.

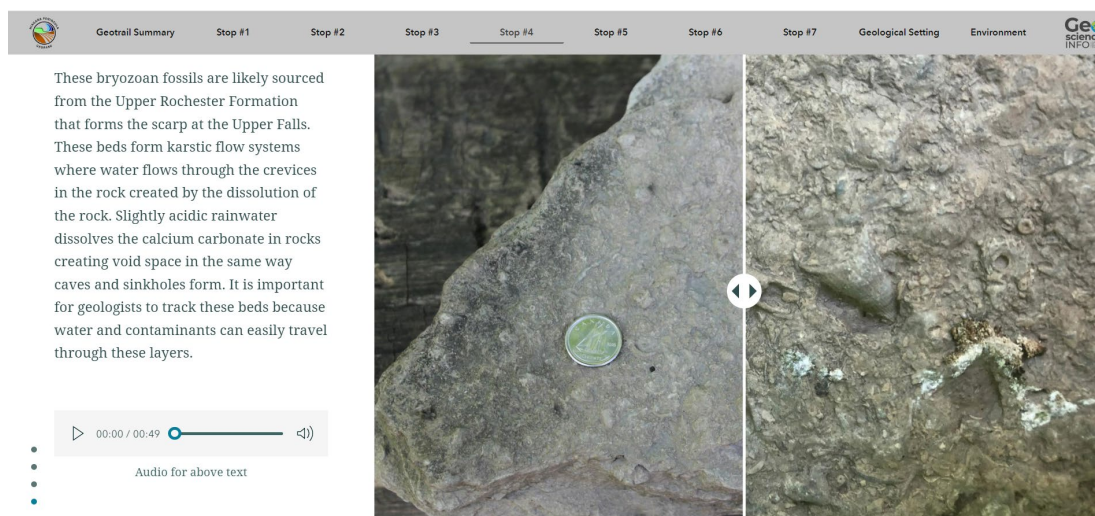
- In March we will be attending the **PDAC convention** in Toronto, to showcase our website to delegates. Look for us at the Mining Matters table just outside of the Trade Show.
- In May we will be at **Science Rendezvous Kingston** at the Leon's Centre for the third year in a row. This year our theme will be "The Fossils of Kingston", where we will have an educational display of local fossils to help initiate meaningful conversations with the 5,000+ people that attend this event each year. Last year we were voted the best booth in show by the attendees.

- We will also be attending **GAC MAC 2023** in Sudbury this May, where we will be hosting a full-day session on education in geoscience with Mining Matters. In addition, in partnership with Mining Matters, we will be delivering a full-day workshop for local educators that helps them to effectively teach geosciences in the classroom. We are also preparing a Virtual Field Trip of Geology of the Laurentian University Campus for this event.
- In August we will return to the **Rockhound Gemboree** in Bancroft. This event is touted as the largest gem and mineral show in Canada, and we are pleased to be an educational booth that appeals to people of all ages. We offer geology-based crafts for children that focus on rocks and minerals of the Bancroft area which allows us to talk about many aspects of geoscience.
- In September we will return to Ottawa for the 55th Annual **OLMC Gem and Mineral Show** at the Nepean Sportsplex. We offer crafts for kids of all ages and informational displays for everyone to learn and enjoy. In our 2022 booth, we had a lot of interest in having us do Geotrails and the Rideau Trail and we are exploring this possibility with Carleton University and Queen's University.
- In November we will be at the **London Gem and Mineral Show**. This show has been cancelled for three years due to pandemic-related reasons and we are excited to again be able to interact with people in London.

Photo Gallery

Below are some examples of sites on our Geotrails, GeoscienceINFO Blog and booths at our public events.

Geotrails



Slide bar showing two different fossiliferous limestones at Ball's Falls Geotrail.



Logjam at Tiffany Falls Geotrail.



3D LiDAR model showing boundary between Gasport and Ancaster members.



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Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog



Author Kassandra Del Greco from her Geocareers blog article.



Rare fossilized 28-armed starfish, *Arkonaster toporum*, from Hungry Hollow pit. From blog article "Fossils at Hungry Hollow" by Bob O'Donnell.

Public Events



The APGO Education Foundation booth at Science Rendezvous Kingston, 2022.



The APGO Education Foundation at the Mining Matters booth at PDAC 2022.



The APGO Education Foundation and Mining Matters booth at Bancroft's Rockhound Gemboree, 2022.



The APGO Education Foundation at the Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club rock and mineral show in 2022.



Hands-on learning for local educators at GAC MAC 2021 teacher's workshop in London, Ontario.



Fossil education for local educators at GAC MAC 2021 teacher workshop.