

APGO EDUCATION FOUNDATION RELEASES A NEW-AND-IMPROVED VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP EXPERIENCE OF THE ARKONA AREA USING LATEST ESRI TECHNOLOGY

January 25, 2022, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“the Foundation”) is pleased to announce the release of an in-depth learning experience for the Arkona area, one of Ontario’s best known fossil localities (Figures 1-3 and Photos 1-3).

The new Arkona learning experience virtual field trip (VFT) was first presented at the Geological Association of Canada-Mineralogical Association of Canada Annual Convention (GAC-MAC 2021) in November 2021, providing delegates with an in-depth overview of the geological history and importance of the area. It was also featured as an educational tool in our first-ever Teacher’s Development Workshop developed jointly with Mining Matters and Western University, which was held during the GAC-MAC 2021 conference. The new Arkona learning experience is compatible with laptops, mobile devices and tablets.

This VFT provides users with a unique experience using the latest technologies from ESRI’s ArcGIS StoryMaps™-online platform. Visitors can take a map-based VFT that provides geological information and photos at each stop on the route. ESRI’s StoryMaps™ platform further enhances the VFT by providing users with an overall summary of the geological history and paleoenvironments recorded at the site, accompanied by photos, diagrams, videos, and 3D experiences. A number of short educational videos are provided by Western University professor Dr. Cameron Tsujita and local fossil expert Bob O’Donnell. Audio playback is also available for all content in the Arkona virtual field trip.

[Click to Access the Arkona VFT](#)

[Click to Access the Arkona Story Map](#)

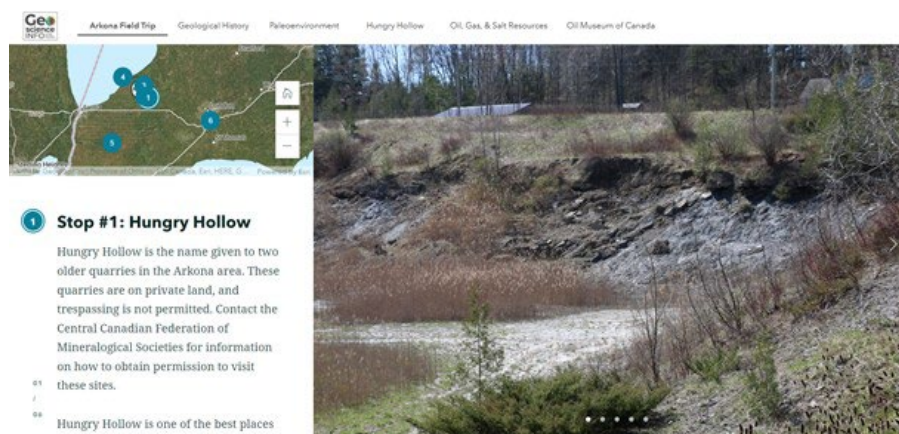


Figure 1: Map-based virtual tour of the Arkona area.

As a special bonus, this trip also offers virtual tours of the Oil, Gas & Salt Resources Library and the Oil Museum of Canada. The Oil, Gas & Salt Resources Library is a resource and data centre containing drilling and production data for all wells drilled under the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act. This tour provides a 3D experience of the facility and describes how data and material are stored and used. The Oil Museum of Canada is located in Oil Springs, Ontario, and is built on the grounds of one of the first oil fields in North America. Learn more about what this little known, but historically important museum has to offer.

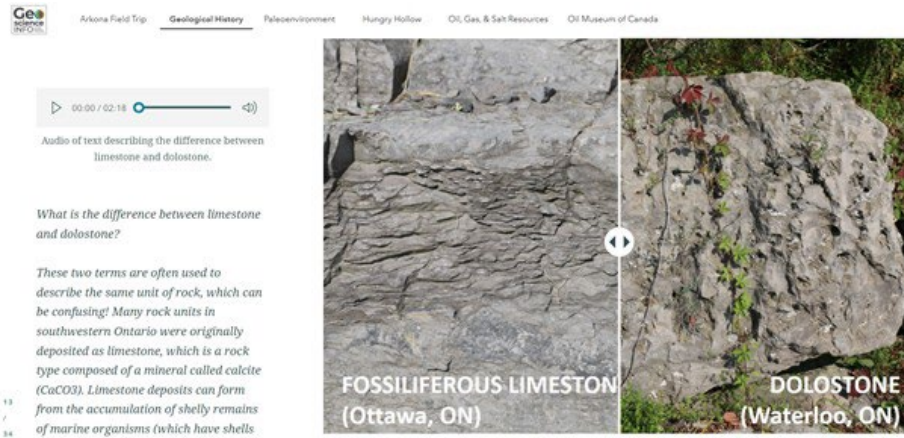


Figure 2: Geological history of Arkona using ESRI's new Story Maps™ technology.



Photo 1: Microscopic fossils from Hungry Hollow, in Arkona, Ontario.



Photo 2: Beautiful crinoid fossil found at Hungry Hollow, in Arkona, Ontario.



Photo 3: Arkona Museum and Information Centre

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 purposes of the charity are to advance the education of the public in the area of geoscience by 1) holding lectures, presentations and conferences on geoscience both in person and virtually to enhance the knowledge of the general public; 2) providing scholarships to post-secondary students for the study of geoscience in the final year of a bachelor of science (B.Sc.) degree program; and 3) providing bursaries to immigrants to Canada who are internationally-trained geoscientists and have demonstrated financial need for completion of licensure procedures for registration as professional geoscientists in Ontario.

For further information:

Please see our GeoscienceINFO.com website

Want to know more? Check out our new blog: [Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog](#)

For information on the APGO Education Foundation please see our website at www.apgoedfoundation.ca

If you like what we are doing, please consider donating to support our programs.

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