



## APGO Education Foundation Launches Six Inaugural GeoHikes in the Kingston, Ontario area on GeoscienceINFO.com

May 9, 2024, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) in partnership with the Department of Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering at Queen’s University is pleased to announce the release of six (6) inaugural GeoHikes in the Kingston area (see Figure 1). These are Arrowhead Beach, Donevan Bay, Gould Lake, Marble Rock, Rock Dunder, and Sheffield Conservation GeoHikes. To see these as well as all our GeoHikes, visit [our GeoHikes page](#).



Figure 1. Map of Kingston, Ontario area showing the location of 6 new GeoHikes (yellow stars).

Kingston has a rich and beautiful geological past that is just waiting to be explored, and the APGOEF is delighted to release the first six of what will be many more virtual tours planned in the region. Known as The Limestone City, Kingston is built upon limestone that was deposited more than 445 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. Early inhabitants used this limestone to build most of Kingston’s buildings and this is visible at the Arrowhead Beach GeoHike. The Kingston area also has an intense and high-pressured past. The Frontenac Arch, just northeast of Kingston, is a region of metamorphic rock that is over 1 billion years old! This area was once part of a huge mountain chain known as the Grenville Mountains. The high temperatures and pressures exerted on the rocks below by these massive mountains resulted in their recrystallization to metamorphic rocks. We invite you to explore these rocks in all six of our new GeoHikes. From gneiss outcrops that are riddled with joint sets in Marble Rock (see Figure 2), to the potassium feldspar-rich pink syenite scenic outlooks at Rock Dunder (see Figure 3), you will get to know the geology of this beautiful corner of Ontario.



Figure 2. Gneiss outcrop showing almost vertical joint sets, on the Marble Rock GeoHike.



Figure 3. Beautiful scenery, standing atop a pink syenite outcrop, on the Rock Dunder GeoHike.

These GeoHikes were developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering department at Queen's University, led by Dr. Daniel Layton-Matthews, and the hard work of students Emma Pluister and Matt Fazzari. They are part of a growing series of geoscience-based hiking tours released across Ontario that aim to enhance public knowledge of geoscience using a hands-on and virtually accessible approach. We plan to release more GeoHikes in 2024 and subsequent years, both in the Kingston area and 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.



## 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 by:

- Holding lectures, presentations, and conferences on geoscience both in person and virtually to introduce geoscience to high school and university students as well as enhance the knowledge of the general public.
- Providing scholarships to post-secondary students for the study of geoscience in the final year of a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree program.
- 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 (P.Geo.s) in Ontario.

APGOEF provides funding to support innovative geoscience education projects working with university geoscience departments, community groups and not-for-profit organizations across Ontario. Please see our website at [www.apgoedfoundation.ca](http://www.apgoedfoundation.ca)

[GeoscienceINFO.com](http://GeoscienceINFO.com) an innovative one-stop spot for the public for information about the earth beneath their feet. This new website provides interesting information on all facets of geoscience. A particularly exciting feature of [GeoscienceINFO.com](http://GeoscienceINFO.com) is the highlighting of virtual fieldtrips in different areas in Ontario. This enables viewers to experience and learn about the geology of an area while traversing it digitally in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ and StoryMaps™. Information on the latest discoveries and news in the world of geoscience is featured on the website, on our blog [Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog](#), as well as on our social media.

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

**To Donate** - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/apgo-education-foundation>

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