



## APGO Education Foundation Releases Louth GeoHike on GeoscienceINFO.com

- The Louth GeoHike is the 8<sup>th</sup> GeoHike developed by APGOEF in the Niagara Geopark

June 2, 2025, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) and the School of Environmental and Earth Sciences at McMaster University are pleased to announce the release of the **Louth GeoHike**, located on the Bruce Trail in the Niagara Geopark on the Niagara Peninsula, just west of St. Catharines (see Figure 1). This virtual walking tour follows 5 stops in the Louth Conservation Area and highlights the local geology and geological processes. To see all our GeoHikes in the Niagara Geopark visit our [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 Louth GeoHike (green star).

Tucked away among the vineyards that surround St. Catharines, Louth Conservation Area is a hidden gem perfect for lovers of hiking, geology, and nature. The area features a complex network of trails and is home to a wide array of geological features. As you move along the Louth GeoHike, you will see how the Niagara Escarpment has shaped the physical and agricultural landscape of the area, allowing the Niagara Peninsula to become a rich viticultural hub and a must-visit place for avid hikers. After learning about how the geology of the area affects wine growing in the area at Stop #1, move along to Stop #2 where you will see beautiful examples of rock fracturing and karsting (see Figure 2). Continue on to see evidence of erosion (Stop #3) and an imposing glacial erratic (Stop #4) that journeyed here from northern Ontario during glaciation. Finish your hike at Louth Falls (Stop # 5) where you will be treated to an excellent view of the local rock stratigraphy (see Figure 3).



Figure 2. Fractured limestone at Stop #2 on the Louth GeoHike.



Figure 3. Louth Falls at Stop #5 on the Louth GeoHike.

The Louth GeoHike was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the School of Environmental and Earth Sciences at McMaster University, led by Dr. Carolyn Eyles, Professor Emerita and Dr. Daniel Dick. 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://www.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™.

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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