

For Immediate Release

**Geodiversity Education Foundation Releases
Akandoowinini GeoHike**

October 22, 2026, Toronto, Ontario: The Geodiversity Education Foundation and the **School of Earth, Environment & Society at McMaster University** are pleased to announce the release of the **Akandoowinini GeoHike**, located in Bruce Peninsula, along Georgian Bay (see Figure 1). This virtual walking tour follows 5 stops in Akandoowinini and highlights local geology and the geological processes that led to the formations you encounter on the tour. All of our GeoHikes can be viewed on [our GeoHikes page](#).



Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Akandoowinini GeoHike (yellow star).

Also called “Devil’s Monument”, the Akandoowinini landform is found at the end of the Minhinnick Side Trail, on the west shores of Georgian Bay. This GeoHike will take you to the only known inland flower pot structure on the Georgian Bay side of the Bruce Peninsula. A flower pot is the erosional remnant of an ancient sea cave (technically called a freshwater seastack) that would have formed on the edge of Glacial Lake Nipissing (the precursor to modern Lake Huron and Georgian Bay). While on this GeoHike, you will learn how this surreal area formed, while also gaining an understanding of how interactions between biology and geology shape an area. Finally, you will come to a waterfall driven entirely by groundwater,

allowing you to understand the complex geology of the Bruce Peninsula and of southern Ontario more generally.

Begin the Akandoowinini GeoHike at Stop #1 and take a look at some large granite boulders that seem misplaced atop the surrounding dolostone and limestone (Figure 2). These glacial erratics were moved here by the last glacier to pass over this region. At Stop #2, learn how over time, slightly acidic water moving through carbonate rock can dissolve and carve away at the rock, leaving it with a wrinkled appearance. This process, called **karsting**, is visible along Akandoowinini. It's not just rain that modifies rock: at Stop #3, you will examine lichens growing on the rock and learn how they also contribute to the breakdown of rock over time! At Stop #4, you will encounter the Akandoowinini landform (also called "Devil's Monument") and learn how erosional processes ultimately form such a sea stack (Figure 3). Finish your hike by learning about groundwater at Stop #5 and enjoy a beautiful groundwater waterfall.



Figure 2. Karsted dolostone pavement at Stop #2 on the Akandoowinini GeoHike.



Figure 3. The Akandoowinini sea stack (also called "Devil's Monument") at Stop #4 on the Akandoowinini GeoHike.

The Akandoowinini GeoHike was developed by the Geodiversity Education Foundation team led by Director of Public Education, 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 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 2026 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 the geological and environmental significance of features along the hike. 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 Geodiversity Education Foundation

The Geodiversity 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 – www.geodiversity.ca, 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 Geodiversity.ca 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™.

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