GEODIVERSITY
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

## Geodiversity Education Foundation Releases Perth & Vicinity GeoRoute

**October 26, 2026, Toronto, Ontario: Geodiversity Education Foundation** in partnership with the **University of Ottawa** is pleased to announce the release of the **Perth & Vicinity GeoRoute,** southwest of Ottawa (see Figure 1). This driving tour takes you to 11 stops in and around Perth and highlights local geology and the geological processes that led to the formations you encounter on the tour. All of our GeoRoutes can be viewed on our GeoRoutes page.




Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Perth & Vicinity GeoRoute (yellow star).

The area in and around Perth Ontario showcases a diverse collection of outcrops that were deposited over a large geological time span. The oldest rocks you will encounter on this tour are faulted, folded, and highly metamorphosed Precambrian igneous rocks and sedimentary rocks that form part of the Canadian Shield called the Grenville Structural Province. Overlying the Proterozoic Grenville Structural Province rocks are relatively flat-lying beds of quartz-rich conglomerate and sandstone of the Covey Hill and Nepean formations, both part of the more extensive Potsdam Group of sedimentary rocks. These sediments were originally deposited in the Cambrian and Ordovician periods, between approximately 521 and 470 million years ago. They formed in depressions in the crust called sedimentary basins that themselves formed due

to movement of Earth's continental plates. These sediments were deposited in terrestrial, then shoreline to open marine environments that rimmed an ancient continent consisting of the Proterozoic Grenville Structural Province rocks.

As you travel along the stops in this GeoRoute, you will encounter formations and features formed by the last glacial ice sheet that moved over this area, such as glacial striations at Stop #2 and polished bedrock at Stop #10. You will also see evidence of pseudomorph pits at Stop #3, where the shapes of ancient gypsum crystals were preserved in the surrounding sandstone (see Figure 2). Moving further back in time, you will encounter Precambrian rocks such as the marble-diorite outcrop at Stop #5 (see Figure 3) and a pegmatitic granite at Stop #7.



Figure 2. Pitted sandstone at Stop #3 on the Perth & Vicinity GeoRoute.



Figure 3. Marble-diorite outcrop at Stop #5 on the Perth & Vicinity GeoRoute.

The Perth & Vicinity GeoRoute was developed by the Geodiversity Education Foundation team led by Director of Public Education, Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and Dr. Quentin Gall from the University of Ottawa. It is part of a growing series of geoscience-based tours across Ontario that aims to enhance public knowledge of geoscience using a hands-on and virtually accessible approach. We plan to release more GeoRoutes in the future throughout Ontario.

GeoRoutes are virtual field trips that visit 5–15 stops in a particular region in Ontario and highlight local geology and describe the geological and environmental significance of features along the route. GeoRoutes can be used as guides while visiting each stop 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, GeoRoutes provide the user with an immersive experience. GeoRoutes 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 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™.

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

## To Donate

www.geodiversity.ca/donate/

DONATE

## For Further Information

**Bill Pearson**, Ph.D., P.Geo., Chair
Email: chair@geodiversity.ca

**Deana Schwarz**, Ph.D., P.Geo., Director of Public Education Programs
Email: dschwarz@geodiversity.ca

**Kyra Simone**, M.S.Com, M.Sc., Digital Communications Manager
Email: ksimone@geodiversity.ca

## Geodiversity News

SUBSCRIBE TO GEODIVERSITY NEWS

@geodiversityef