GEODIVERSITY
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Geodiversity Education Foundation Releases the Bruce's Caves GeoHike

November 17, 2026, Toronto, Ontario: The **Geodiversity Education Foundation**, in partnership with **McMaster University's School of Earth, Environment & Society**, is pleased to announce the release of the **Bruce's Caves GeoHike**, a new virtual hiking tour located in the Bruce Peninsula, along Georgian Bay (see Figure 1). This virtual hiking tour follows six (6) stops in the Bruce's Caves Conservation Area 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. Bruce's Caves is connected to the main Bruce Trail by a side trail.



Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Bruce's Caves GeoHike (yellow star).

Located north of Owen Sound, along the beautiful Georgian Bay, Bruce's Caves takes you through the preserved remains of an ancient shoreline that once bordered the shores of Glacial Lake Algonquin. The caves here form a complex relict sea cave system that formed over 10,000 years ago by wave action and offers the opportunity to see where the shore of Lake Algonquin was located during this time.

Begin your hike by examining some large boulders that don't quite fit in with the surrounding dolostone and limestone bedrock. These glacial erratics were moved here by the massive ice sheet that passed over the area over 12,000 years ago. Continue to Stop #2 and learn the predictable pattern that vegetation

follows when colonizing a newly formed landscape. Visit Bruce's Caves themselves at Stop #3 and learn how preferential erosion and weathering of various rock types can lead to the cave systems we see here today (see Figure 2). The powerful forces of erosion and weathering over time lead to many different landforms – venture to Stop #4 to see the Niagara Escarpment and how differential weathering has created narrow fissures in the rock. At Stop #5, you will learn about the formation of talus slopes, and how overhanging blocks of rocks pose a very dangerous risk to hikers. Finish your hike at Stop #6, where you will visit Colpoy's Cavern, another narrow opening formed through erosion and weathering (see Figure 3).



Figure 2. Dolostone cave at Bruce's Cave, at stop #3 on the Bruce's Caves GeoHike.



Figure 3. Dolostone cave at Colpoy's Cavern, at stop #6 on the Bruce's Caves GeoHike.

The Bruce's Caves 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, Postdoctoral Fellow. 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.

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.

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For Further Information

Bill Pearson, Ph.D., P.Geo., Chair
Email: chair@apgoedfoundation.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

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