



APGO Education Foundation Releases Thames River GeoHike on GeoscienceINFO.com

July 23, 2025, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) and the **Department of Earth Sciences at Western University** are pleased to announce the release of the **Thames River GeoHike**, located on the beautiful Western University campus in London Ontario (see Figure 1). This virtual tour, which follows the Thames River, features seven (7) stops that highlight the local geology and geological processes. To see this as well as all our GeoHikes, visit [our GeoHikes page](#).

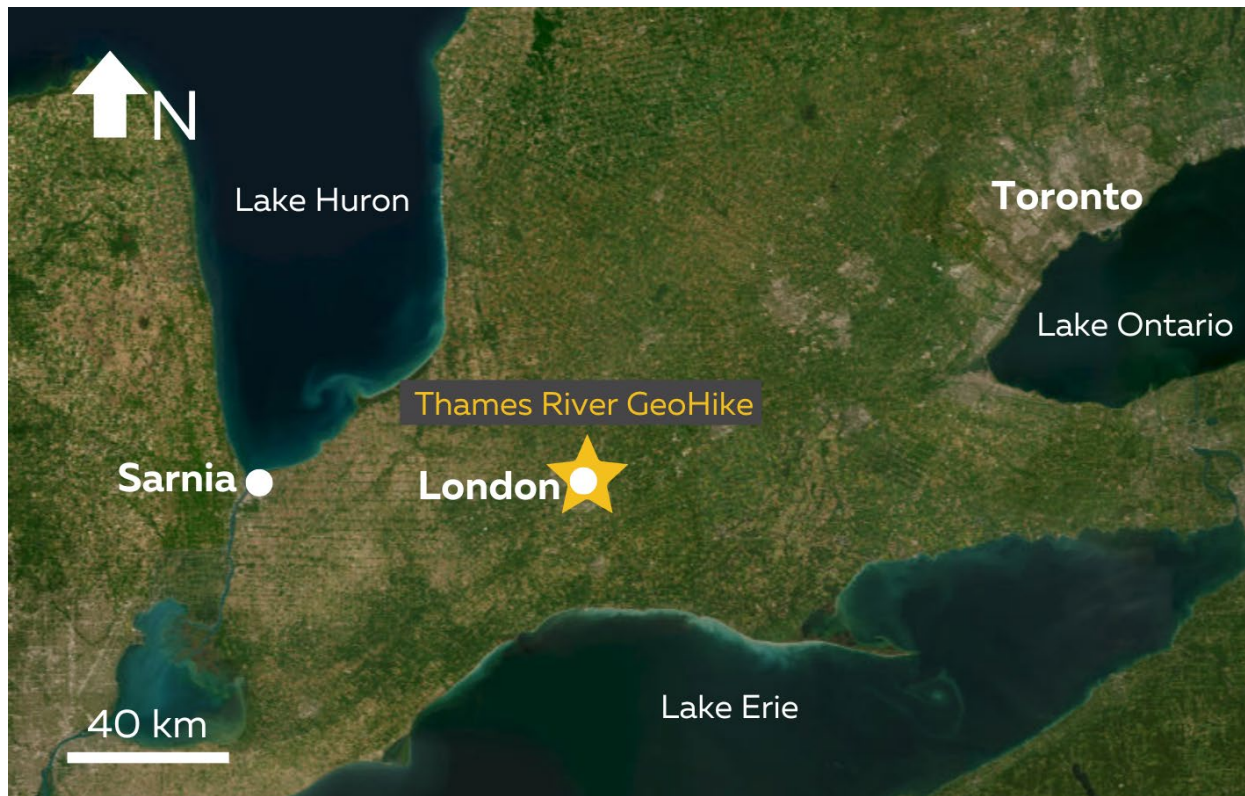


Figure 1. Map of southwestern Ontario, showing location of the Thames River GeoHike (yellow star).

The geology exposed at the surface in London, Ontario, tells a fascinating story about rocks that were deposited and subsequently reshaped by the last glacier to move over the area some 11,000 years ago. This glacier deposited till that created landforms such as rolling hills, moraines, drumlins and more. Later, rivers such as the Thames River cut through these landforms, reshaping the landscape. The Thames River GeoHike takes you to seven (7) stops along the Thames River on Western University’s campus and describes the geological features of each stop. Your tour begins by learning about the Thames River Valley itself and how the river has created multiple floodplains, including where you stand at Stop #1 (Figure 2)! Continue your hike from Stops #2 to #5 and learn about how the flowing water of the Thames River creates landforms such as point bar deposits (Figure 3). At Stop #6 you will see chute channels which are part of the natural flood prevention system. Your tour finishes at Stop #7 where some of the handywork of



London's very own beaver population is on display, as they continually gnaw away at trees, in their attempts to dam waterways.



Figure 2. The Thames River valley at Stop #1 on the Thames River GeoHike.



Figure 3. Gravelly point bar at Stop #5 on the Thames River GeoHike.

The Thames River GeoHike was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the Department of Earth Sciences at Western University, led by Dr. Alina Shchepetkina and her team. 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://apgoef.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 [GeoscienceINFO.com](https://apgoef.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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