

# geology tour



Photos: Evergreen

## INTRODUCTION:

For over 100 years, industrial excavation at the Don Valley Brick Works provided local geologists with a unique glimpse into Toronto's past environments, revealing a fossil-rich **interglacial period** that occurred between successive ice ages (see Figure 1 on reverse).

The discovery of this period, now known as the **Don Formation (120,000 years ago)**, made the Don Valley world-famous.

### A. Legacy (the mud beneath our feet)

*Artist: David Hind* Materials: reclaimed aluminum, wood, steel galvanizing and beeswax.

This sculpture is a tribute to Toronto geologist A.P. Coleman, who discovered the interglacial period that was preserved on site. He was a hands-on geologist that rarely had clean boots!

### B. Coleman's Notes and Photograph

Fossils were key to understanding geological periods. These entries, taken from A.P. Coleman's notebook, offer a glimpse into Coleman's discoveries as they unfolded.

### C. Deep Time

*Created by Ferruccio Sardella*

An artistic rendition of the glacial and interglacial periods that affected this particular region. As seen in Coleman's notes (on the Cistern), this region was once home to giant prehistoric beavers, bison, deer and catfish.

### D. Interglacial Photograph – East Wall, Bldg 10

On this image, each DV unit represents a separate layer of history with varying climates, ancient rivers and evolving life. (Drawing courtesy of Queen's Printer of Ontario.)

### E. Archival Photos – North Wall, Bldg 9

These photos highlight the excavation process, as it revealed the site's geological changes throughout history. The bedrock of Toronto is exposed at the bottom of the quarry. Workers on site played a crucial role in the discoveries on site—while digging out clay, they found fossils for Coleman to interpret!

### F. Where Rocks Talk

A representation of the north slope of the site's old quarry, Where Rocks Talk depicts hundreds of thousands of years of geological history in seven distinct layers. The exhibit shows a region shaped by recurring glaciers, giant lakes and ancient, fast-flowing rivers—long before the highways, streetcars and city neighbourhoods of today.

### G. North Slope

On this hillside, A.P. Coleman found evidence of the unique geological stages that occurred here over time. His findings revealed that, during the Don Formation, the climate in this area was over two degrees warmer than it is today.

### H. Rocks by Path

The fossils in these rocks are very old! They include species such as Mussels (Pelecypods) and Trilobites, and can be found in the bedrock of the Georgian Bay Formation, dating back over 450 million years.

### I. Watershed Wall

For approximately two million years, advancing and retreating glaciers have shaped the landscapes of Canada. Many lakes were carved out by the moving ice and filled with leftover melt water. Soil and rocks were scooped off the Canadian Shield and deposited over southern regions, such as present-day Toronto.

**Evergreen Brick Works** is a community environmental centre that inspires and equips visitors to live, work and play more sustainably. Get involved or donate today.

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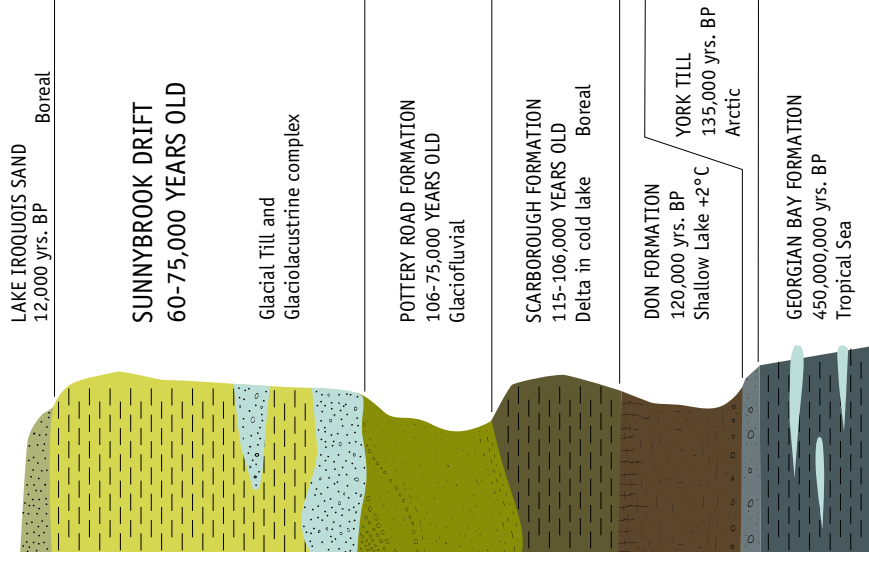
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G

Weston Family Quarry Garden  
a part of the Don Valley Brick Works park

## Geological Timeline of the Don Valley

Figure 1



Burrow

A-I Self-guided Tour

☉ Signs illuminating  
site features



FREE Daily  
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