

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark, Canada, Canadian Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2015/2022



Evaluators Miguel Cruz and Hartmut Escher at Kinuseo Falls, one of our most visited geosites.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 6 (1 Geoscientist)

Number of visitors: 13,500

Number of Geopark events: 7 major events, plus 32 programs.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 24

Number of Geopark press release: 8

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- TRUGGp successfully passed its most recent evaluation with a green card, Miguel Cruz-Perez of Comarca-Minera UGGp in Mexico and Hartmut Escher of the Terra.Vita UGGp in Germany completed the evaluation.
- TRUGGp organized and hosted monthly sessions on zoom which was open to all Canadian Geoparks staff to present ideas, discuss issues, and develop collaborative activities across the network.
- Piloted a class of university students (undergraduate studies) under Dr. Tara Joly to use the TRUGGp as a field school location for the University of Northern British Columbia.
- Completed a Memorandum of Understanding document with BC Parks
- Updated a Memorandum of Understanding document with the local hiking and trails organization - Wolverine Nordic & Mountain Society.
- Launched new “GeoAmbassador” program, a 1-hr learning session with quiz for all ages to learn about TRUGGp and receive a badge of completion

- Launched a “GeoPartner” program that replaces the old ‘direct operator’ program, where qualified local businesses and tourism related industries can sign up through this program
- Hired a new Geoscientist on staff, Dr. Roy Rule.
- Nearing completion on the GeoInterpretive Centre - a brand new building that is housing the interpreted geology and culture of TRUGGp through its exhibit “Down to Earth”.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Executive Director Manda Maggs attended the European Geoparks Conference in Intra-Verbania, Italy and gave a presentation on “Health in Geoparks”, a new initiative that focuses on health-related themes and relating them to geological themes at geosites; this program can be adopted and adapted by other Geoparks.
- Manda Maggs has joined the GGN working group “Geodiversity and Biodiversity”
- TRUGGp invited and hosted 3 international scientists (Dr. Nadja Zupan, Dr. Franci Gabrovšek, and Dr. Bojan Otoničar) from the Karst Research Institute in Slovenia to assist scientific advisors Dr. Carolyn Ramsey and Dr. Paul Griffiths with the inventory and mapping of a new cave discovered in the Geopark and contributed to an overall survey of karst landscapes in our Geopark. Their work at TRUGGp was also presented to the Canadian Geoparks Network.
- Dr. Otoničar (from point above) is also associated with an Aspiring Geopark on the Slovenian-Italian border and we were able to show him many of our programs and geosites during his stay.
- Manda Maggs completed the Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks hosted by Lesvos.

Management and Financial Status

- In October 2022, a regional referendum vote (Peace River Regional District, or PRRD) that would allow the Geopark to receive \$125,000 annually in tax funds passed with success, ensuring long term financial stability.
- A new board of Directors was established at the annual general Meeting in November, bringing the management of the Geopark under a team of 9 dedicated local members instead of 7.

Geoconservation

- TRUGGp has been attending and contributing to the Province of BC’s Caribou Recovery effort through the development of their wildlife management plan for this species.
- TRUGGp co-hosted two provincial heritage experts (Drs Elizabeth Deome and Leanne Pyle) from the BC heritage branch and lead Paleontologists from the Royal BC Museum (Dr Victoria Arbour). They were toured around to palaeontological sites of interest so that total scope and significance could be ascertained for updating the Fossil Management framework for the Province of BC.
- The Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation - one of our closest partners - was involved in the successful prosecution of a person who intentionally vandalized/plundered a significant fossil site (not in the Geopark)

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- TR Geopark received grant funding to participate in the creation of a Virtual Reality library that is accessible to schools and the general public, so 6 geosites and their trails were captured in 3D and interpreted through a virtual tour by our Geoscientist. The program is set to launch in 2023.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- We have introduced “Marsh Mondays” where every Monday evening throughout the summer we meet at Bullmoose Marsh geosite and teach guests how to safely and ethically look for and identify birds.
- We have continued to deliver our established range of programs promoting avalanche and climate change awareness.

Strategic partnership

- TRUGGp has been appointed a standing seat on the Board of Directors for the newly-established Tumbler Ridge Outdoor Recreation Association in order to ensure that trail development for recreation and tourism is undertaken with sustainability in mind.

Promotional activities

- Hosted a virtual tour of the Geopark at the Canadian Geographers Conference and put together a panel of local geological experts to participate in a Q&A session
- Hosted virtual Indigenous Cultural tours for several student groups as well as the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the Indigenous Services Canada department in the Government of Canada.

4. CONTACTS

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