



Rockwood: Cliffs, Caves and Potholes

Rockwood Conservation Area, home to stunning limestone cliffs and a multitude of potholes, boasts of one of the most extensive cave systems in Ontario. It's no surprise, therefore, that this area, located roughly 11 kilometres east of the city of Huelph, welcomes over 65,000 visitors a year.

The unique geological history of the Rockwood area—a result of the most recent ice age dating back approximately 11,000 to 16,000 years—provides the perfect backdrop for programs and activities for children, schools, and families alike.



Photo Credit: Grand River Conservation Authority

Visitors can hike along scenic hiking trails by the spectacular Eramosa River, and for those not afraid to get dirty, guided cave crawls can be arranged. This challenging, yet unique experience allows explorers to glimpse beautiful stalactite columns and flowstone within the conservation's network of 12 caves. Another spectacular natural feature of the Rockwood Conservation Area that should not go unnoticed is "Devil's Well," the conservation area's largest pothole. At just over 13.1 metres deep and 6.4 metres wide, it could fit two city buses side-by-side at the bottom!



The Conversation Area also features historical and architectural attractions in the form of the preserved ruin of the old Harris Woollen Mill, a dam and millpond, and Old Valley Road. The Rockwood Conversation Area, open from May 1 to October 15, offers an idyllic location for recreational and learning opportunities only a short distance from major metropolitan areas. With so much to offer, it makes a great destination for all ages.

Please Note: *Caving poses inherent risks, and should not be attempted without park supervision. The park program is very safety orientated and all the leaders are familiar with the caves and safety procedures.*

To arrange for a guided cave crawl for your class at the Rockwood Conversation Area, please contact Valerie Fieldwebster, Senior Resource Interpreter at the Grand River Conservation Authority, at 519-240-1402.