

Manitoulin/North Shore Federation of Agriculture

June 23, 2025

Ms. Frances Heydeman
Chair, Canadian Geoparks Network

Dear: Ms. Heydeman:

The Manitoulin/North Shore Federation of Agriculture (MNSFA) represents the interests of over 200 farms and farm families on Manitoulin Island and along the North Shore. As a collective, we are sending this letter to you to express our opposition to the Georgian Bay Aspiring Geopark which would encompass our privately owned farmland on both Manitoulin Island and the North Shore.

Agriculture, one of the primary industries on Manitoulin and the North Shore, generates over \$18 million in annual farm cash receipts, contributes over \$35 million to the provincial GDP and supports over 560 employees in the agri-food sector. The farmers and the agricultural industry itself would be adversely affected by this proposed Geopark. Implementation of such a geopark within the area would restrict agricultural infrastructure development, implement controls on land access and use, increase the incidence of trespassing on private property, and negatively impact an already weak rural road network through increased traffic and tourism.

It is with these concerns in mind and the fact that the Georgian Bay Geopark group has simply not reached out to or consulted with farmers, municipalities, Indigenous groups or other local organizations on Manitoulin Island or the North Shore that the MNSFA is strongly opposed to the Georgian Bay Aspiring Geopark and request that Manitoulin Island and the North Shore areas be removed from the proposed area of inclusion.

Regards,

Bill Orford
President
Manitoulin - North Shore Federation of Agriculture