



# Sources of Knowledge Newsletter

Sharing Perspectives on the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Bruce Peninsula

Like us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/sourcesofknowledge/](http://www.facebook.com/sourcesofknowledge/)

Follow us on our website at:

[www.sourcesofknowledge.ca](http://www.sourcesofknowledge.ca)

## Board of Directors 2014-2015

There have been some recent changes to the Sources of Knowledge Board of Directors.

The current Board is composed of:

Bill Caulfeild-Browne (Chair)

Bill Graham (Past Chair)

John Greenhouse (Vice Chair)

Gordon Nelson

Ray Rothenbury

Graham Draper

Deborah Diebel

John Francis

Gord Beal

Tom Boyle

Cavan Harpur

Lenore Keeshig

John Haselmayer (Parks Liaison)

Elizabeth Burrows (BPDS Liaison)

## Forum 2015

The Sources of Knowledge Board is hard at work planning next May's Forum. Titled "The Great Arc: Life on the (L)edge", the Forum will focus on the Niagara Escarpment and explore parallels between the Escarpment as we see it in the Bruce Peninsula and where it shapes the landscape of the Door Peninsula in eastern Wisconsin. The Great Arc is the name given to the limestone geological structure that demarcates the edge of the Michigan Basin and forms the Niagara Escarpment.



The Door and Bruce Peninsulas provide opportunities to explore the Great Arc.

The Forum carries the subtitle of "Opportunities to build communities along the Great Arc". Workshop topics will explore the shared aspects of our physical and human environments. While these topics are still being developed, they will deal with the geology and physical systems, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, First Nations, historical development, shared conservation challenges and tourism issues. Watch our website for details about workshop topics and presenters.

While field trips have been popular components of past Forums, they will be even more important in Forum 2015 as we explore the physical geography of the Escarpment. One field trip being considered is a tour of Cabot Head.

There is the possibility that the annual film festival will feature a newly developed film on the Wisconsin portion of the Escarpment, which would go a long way to establishing the comparative aspects of the theme.

An exciting part of the building of the Forum program is the opportunity to share ideas with planning partners in Wisconsin. There has been a fruitful process of bouncing ideas off Eric Fowle and his colleagues while we design our Forum. Eric Fowle is closely tied to the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network in Wisconsin, an organization that facilitates discussion on planning and conservation of the Escarpment. We are exploring the possibility of having people from Wisconsin attend our Forum as presenters and participants.



The Escarpment (locally called the Ledge) is not as pronounced in the Door Peninsula, but is a significant landform nevertheless. (photo by G. Draper)

## **Cabot Head Geopark**

One of the ideas that will get some discussion during Forum 2015 is the idea of establishing a geopark based on the Cabot Head area. A geopark is defined by UNESCO in its International Network of Geoparks program as “a territory encompassing one or more sites of scientific importance, not only for geological reasons but also by virtue of its archaeological, ecological or cultural value”. While protecting ecological values is important to

the idea, geoparks also have the goal of encouraging economic development and creating jobs. Eventually, the program hopes to identify 500 geoparks globally.

The Niagara Escarpment, or Great Arc, is a prime example of a geologic feature that could qualify for a geopark designation. The Niagara Escarpment corridor has long been known as a unique natural feature which contains rare geological, ecological, and cultural landscapes. The amount and variety of geoheritage sites which are recognized by existing programs and protected areas may help efforts that seek formal recognition of the Cabot Head area as a geopark.



Large lake wave-cut rock stack sitting on wave-cut platform of South Bluff at Cabot Head (photo by D. Cowell)

The geopark concept has been promoted locally by Daryl Cowell. According to Cowell, “The intent of UNESCO Geoparks is not to replicate provincial, state, or national parks but to include all regions of the world in a network of sites recognized principally for their geological significance. Although networked at a global level, the objectives are to integrate the preservation of geological heritage with a strategy for

local sustainable economic development. In other words, they are not intended to be put behind glass but to be appreciated in a controlled, structured way that safeguards the environment while stimulating local enterprises and local economic activity.”

The sixth annual conference on geoparks occurred this past September in Saint John, New Brunswick, very near Canada’s first and only geopark, Stonehammer Geopark.

### **Bruce Talks Proceedings**

Last April, Board member Deborah Diebel and the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre hosted a gathering of key people concerned about the environment on the Bruce Peninsula. The record of those discussions - Bruce Talks Proceedings – are available on the Sources of Knowledge website under the Other Resources button.

### **Sources of Knowledge Bursary**

The Sources of Knowledge Bursary remains an important aspect of the organization’s activities. The Bursary is available to students of Northern Bruce Peninsula and Saugeen Ojibwey First Nation who are continuing their education in conservation or environmental programs. Awards of \$1000 are available to graduating students, and also available in subsequent academic years. The goal is to encourage local students to pursue careers in subjects that could lead to employment in national parks. Local high school students are encouraged to consider applying for the Bursary in their graduating year. Announcements regarding criteria and application procedures will be available in the spring.