



Sources of Knowledge Newsletter

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

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Forum 2015

We are almost there! The 7th annual Sources of Knowledge Forum is fully planned and ready to go on May 8th to the 10th. The speakers are ready, the Tobermory Community Centre is booked, the wine and beer licence has been arranged, the caterer is preparing a great meal, and the art show is ready to be hung. As in the past, this Forum will be a great event, bringing together people from all over to consider issues and topics related to the natural environment and the Bruce Peninsula.

A Little History of SOK

The Sources of Knowledge organization grew out of the Parks Advisory Committee that supports the Bruce Peninsula National Park and the Fathom Five National Marine



Source: Suluk46

Park. Members of PAC sought ways to share the research and activities that were going on in the Parks and surrounding areas with the broader community. The environmental, ecological, artistic and cultural ideas were seen as “sources of knowledge” that would benefit many people. In 2008, the Sources of Knowledge subcommittee was formed to organize the first Forum. In 2013, Sources of Knowledge became an independent, legally incorporated organization and registered charity, which allowed it to broaden its activities in order to achieve its mandate. While the Forum is the longest running activity, the Board of Directors now provides a Bursary to graduating high school students (and for subsequent years in post secondary programs) and a Bus program to bring school children to the National Parks. Longer term efforts could include developing a research centre based on the Sources of Knowledge mandate.

Previous Forum Topics

Here is a quick review of the previous six Forum topics:

- 2009 Coastal Heritage
- 2010 Wildlife, Research, Management and Planning
- 2011 Dark Skies, Bright Minds
- 2012 Climate Change
- 2013 Changing Lakes
- 2014 Beneath the Waves

We invite people to suggest topics that could develop into themes for future Forums.

The Great Arc: Life on the (L)edge

This year’s Forum explores the Niagara Escarpment. The “Great Arc” comes from the shape of the Escarpment as it tracks

across Southern Ontario, Northern Michigan and Eastern Wisconsin. This map shows three key areas for us, (A) the Bruce Peninsula, (B) Manitoulin Island, and (C) the Door Peninsula, Wisconsin. (Source: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory)



Presentation topics have been selected to compare challenges and concerns in both the Door and Bruce Peninsulas. Each topic has two presenters, one from each peninsula. Participants will be able to develop insights into the approaches used in these two parts of the Niagara Peninsula. Please go to our website to see details about workshop topics and speakers. If you have not already registered for the Forum, you should do so now.

Joanne Kluessendorf – Keynote Speaker



Joanne Kluessendorf
Source: University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley

This year’s keynote speaker is Joanne Kluessendorf, Director of the Weis Earth Science Museum at the University of Wisconsin. She has titled her talk “Stories from Stone: Geotourism and the Niagara Escarpment”. Kluessendorf is the founding Director of the Weis Museum and was responsible for designing the programs and exhibits at the facility. She firmly believes that every rock has a story and set out to develop a museum that tells the story of Wisconsin and the Niagara Escarpment. Kluessendorf’s address follows Saturday’s dinner catered by The Green Door Restaurant.

Friday’s Mini-Film Festival

Once again, Dr. Stephen Scharper treats Forum participants to his mini-film festival, scheduled for Friday evening. There are two films this year. “Green Fire: The Story of Aldo Leopold” is the first biography of this pioneer environmentalist. Leopold became

influential through the publication of *A Sand County Almanac*, reflections on his life in farming in Wisconsin. The second film – “Activism 2.0” – is a brand-new film which is screening for the first time at our Forum. It has been produced by environmentalist Emily Hunter, the daughter of Greenpeace founder Bob Hunter. Both films promise to be interesting and thought provoking.

New Field Trip Options

The Forum field trips have always been well received by participants. Our feature field trip this year is the Cabot Head geology ramble lead by local expert Daryl Cowell. Unfortunately, it has been so popular that we are faced with a logistical problem – Daryl can only deal with so many people at a time. We are asking Forum participants who have been to Cabot Head before to select an alternative field trip and let people from out-of-town and those who have not been to Cabot Head before to take part in the featured trip. Two other field trip options have been arranged for Friday afternoon:

- High on the Bruce Trail – geologist Frank Brunton will lead a walk and talk on one of the most spectacular parts of the Bruce Trail.
- Rainbow Shining Deer Nature Reserve – Cara Copeland will take a group through the latest acquisition in the area by Nature Conservancy Canada.

See the on-line program for details about where and when to meet on Friday afternoon.

The New Bus Program

Nine dollars of every registration for the Forum is going to support a new Sources of Knowledge initiative – the Bus program. The goal of this program is to ensure that all students within 130 km of the Parks have the opportunity to visit the Parks at least twice while they are in elementary and secondary schools. Classes can apply for a grant to help defray the costs of transporting students.



Source: Parks Canada

It is expected that up to 500 students and teachers a year will be helped by this program. The benefit for the Parks, of course, is that students gain hands-on experiences with natural environments and conservation that will affect decisions they make throughout their lives.

Congratulations to SOK Director

SOK Board member Deborah Diebel has been honoured by the Bluewater Board of Education with the Excellence in Education Award. Deborah is the site manager of the Board’s Outdoor Education Centre. Congratulations, Deborah!