



# Sources of Knowledge Newsletter

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

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## Board of Directors

While the summer was somewhat quieter for the Board of Directors, there are now significant activities going on. The Directors are individually and in committees reflecting on the success of last May's Forum and considering the directions we should go with Forum 2018. The Sources of Knowledge's Directors are currently:

John Greenhouse – Chair  
 Jace Weir – Vice Chair  
 Bill Caulfeild-Browne  
 Bill Graham  
 Bob Patrick  
 Brian McHattie  
 Cavan Harpur  
 Daryl Cowell  
 Esme Batten  
 Gordon Nelson  
 Graham Draper  
 Jacqui Wakefield  
 Lenore Keeshig  
 Lindsey Griffith  
 Tom Boyle

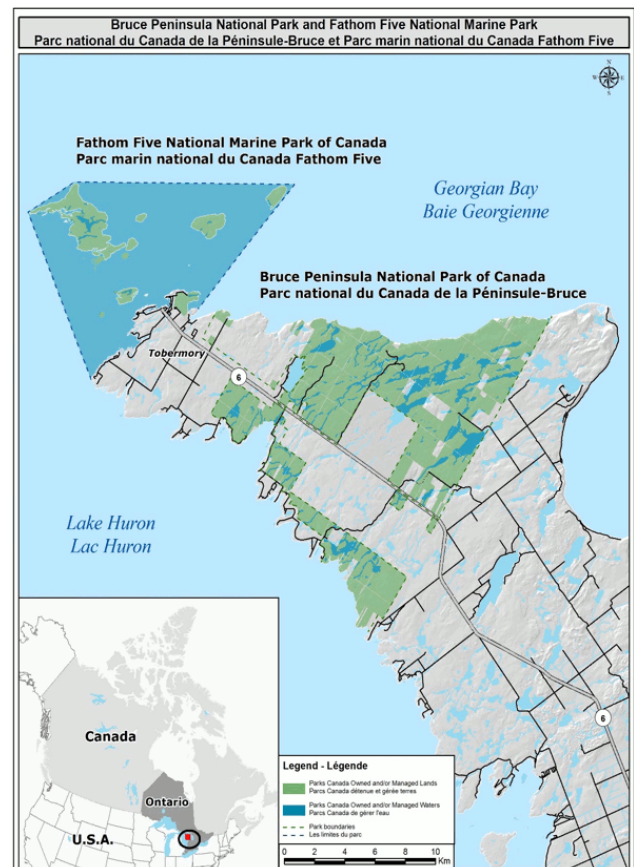
## Forum 2018

The success of the last two Forums has raised the bar very high for our next venture. Both Peoples of the Great Arc (2016) and A Seven Generations-based Framework for the Bruce Peninsula (2017) sold out and received very strong commendations from

participants. The Board has reviewed the feedback forms from last year, considered comments and suggestions made by our participants and speakers, and reflected on recent issues and trends in the area. It is too early to announce a theme, but some topics are beginning to look promising. Watch for articles in the local Press and notices on our website and Facebook page for details about the Forum as they become available.

## Our Tenth Forum: A Look Back

The Forum in 2018 will be Sources of Knowledge's tenth effort to share information and ideas and discuss issues related to the National Parks and the Bruce Peninsula. The concept for the organization



and the Forum grew out of the Parks Advisory Committee, a group representing academics, relevant organizations and local people who were interested in how the parks functioned in the community. One of the key voices at the table was Gordon Nelson. He represented both the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the University of Waterloo, beginning his tenure on the committee in 1990. Recently, Gordon was asked to reflect on the origin of Sources of Knowledge.

“During roughly the first decade of my membership, PAC’s emphasis was on a watchdog role, stemming from concerns in the local community about Parks Canada’s intention to strictly follow agreements reached when the National Park was established in 1986, notably the commitment not to purchase land for the Park outside its ultimate boundaries as mapped at that time. The practice in PAC meetings was, consequently, to review proposals for and progress on National Park plans and programs at each meeting. This provided for increasing amicable and useful comments and advice from the PAC members.

“However, in those years and the early 2000s, the mandate, policies and plans of Canadian National Parks changed considerably. Research and assessment of proposed and ongoing National Park programs became more and more the norm and ecological considerations rose in importance relative to the former emphasis on recreation, with the renewed National Park Act officially making ecological integrity the mandate --- and first consideration --- in policy and practice.



Gordon Nelson

*Photo Source: University of Waterloo*

“One significant change in those years was recognition that the Bruce and Fathom Five were part of an ecosystem that extended well outside their boundaries. Land use and other changes in the greater Park’s ecosystem often could be expected to have effects on the ecology, land use, conservation and educational programs in the Bruce National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park areas. Park staff members, such as Scott Parker, were aware of these interactions and of the need for greater research and assessment of land use changes, as also were some PAC members.

“At a meeting of PAC, a proposal was made, with the support of the Chair, Ed Doadt, to hold discussions on what more positive and progressive role PAC might play in its work with Parks Canada. Several committees were appointed to examine possible approaches. One, chaired by myself, with

Bill Graham and Daryl Cowell as members, examined the need for more interaction on research and related matters between the Bruce and Fathom Five and the people in the North Bruce community. We suggested to the main body of PAC that this was a need that should be met and that we were willing to work to meet the need. Our proposal was accepted and in close co-operation with Scott Parker we planned and held a public meeting the following early May which was enthusiastically attended by about 120 people, mostly from the community.

For you, what was the most important purpose of SOK in the beginning?

GN: **Develop a research and environmental outreach program which would link Parks Canada, the Bruce and wider community.**

“I served as Chair for three years, with the Sources of Knowledge Forum (SOK) held successfully each of those years. I was succeeded as Chair by Bill Graham who, with his business and civic experience, saw the desirability of expanding the SOK Committee to include more community members and also to have it incorporated, in large measure to permit SOK to receive and manage its finances. This effort was aided by Bill Caulfeild-Browne, especially in terms of incorporation. In Bill Graham’s tenure as Chair, we were also aided by the tireless and dedicated service of Sylvia Elliot, who continued to work with and effectively implement the work of the Forum meetings and related activities for many years.

“So much for the early years of SOK. It has since grown in many ways and become more and more a community organization, with less emphasis on research and related activities relevant to both the Bruce and Fathom Five and the community. I believe this has helped bring the community together but at some cost to the relation with and needs of Parks Canada, notably a falling off in its work on research and ecological integrity and wildland conservation in Bruce National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park.



By 2015, the focus for Forums had shifted to include a broader view of the Peninsula.

Has the organization achieved what you hoped it would accomplish?

GN: **Yes, very well, but with concern about a drift away from PC and National Parks' issues at a critical time, the orientation being more to the community interest itself.**

What should SOK do to ensure that it stays relevant and energized over the next ten years?

**GN: Keep all Board members involved, include new people with a diversity of interests. Maintain and enhance the Newsletter as a vital link between Parks Canada, the wider community and the Board. Try and develop greater involvement of young people through participation, the SOK Bursary and other means.**

## Keeping Records – the Proceedings

From the beginning, SOK has looked for ways in which we can share the information and ideas offered by Forum presenters. Initially, from 2009 to 2014, the Proceedings were published in a paper format. While these were available on line as PDF files, it was felt that the Proceedings might get broader distribution as videos. From 2014 to the present, the sessions have been recorded as videos which can be accessed on SOK's website. Just recently, these videos have been organized on the Sources of Knowledge YouTube channel which can be accessed easily via the drop down Proceedings button on our website. So, if you recall a particularly interesting Forum speaker, you can now view the video of their presentation at your leisure.

## SOK Talks

An on-going initiative by Sources of Knowledge has also kept our Directors busy. SOK Talks are topics of general interest to the community that connect to our overall mandate to share information about the Bruce Peninsula. The upcoming SOK Talk is a bit of an experiment for the organization

in that we will be presenting a webinar – a live broadcast from the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo. It has an interactive component in that the audience can use Twitter to ask questions and make comments during the lecture. Here are the details about this event:

Date: **Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Location: **Bruce Peninsula National Park Visitor Centre, Tobermory**

Kindly **RSVP** your intent to attend to [info@sourcesofknowledge.ca](mailto:info@sourcesofknowledge.ca)

## Improbable Feats and Useless Discoveries: Pauline Gagnon

In her November 8th Perimeter Institute Public Lecture, Gagnon will explore the incredible (and improbable!) feats of ingenuity and cooperation that have led to one of humanity's greatest experiments, and why such pioneering research, albeit "impractical" in terms of everyday usefulness, has changed the way we live and is vital to our collective future.

Now retired from active research, Gagnon is dedicated to inspiring other curious minds of all ages to ponder the same big questions that fascinated her as a child. She is adept at explaining the complex science of particle physics in engaging, comprehensible ways. She has delivered nearly 100 presentations to audiences in nine countries on three continents.

Gagnon's popular science book, *Who Cares about Particle Physics?: Making Sense of the Higgs Boson, the Large Hadron Collider and CERN*, explains current issues in particle physics and explores the importance of fundamental physics in shaping not only our understanding of the universe, but society as well.