

FIRE

RESPECT - KNOWLEDGE - BALANCE

SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE 15TH ANNUAL FORUM

FORUM AGENDA	
Friday October 24, 2025 – PARKS CANADA VISITOR CENTRE	
1:30 PM	PENINSULA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB HIKE TO VIEW CONTROLLED BURN. Join Brian Popelier, Bruce Trail Conservancy Land Stewardship Coordinator, for a guided hike to learn about the unique features of the Vanishing Streams Nature Reserve and the “controlled burn” method of meadow restoration. A controlled burn, or prescribed burn, is a controlled fire that consumes ground-level fuels. This practice is a widely used and scientifically recognized method of controlling invasive and weedy plant species, allowing for the growth and regeneration of native grassland species. Be prepared for variable weather - wear layered clothing, sturdy, water resistant footwear, gaiters. Maximum Registration: 20. Terrain: relatively flat, but uneven. Hike Start Time: 1:30 p.m. Please arrive a few minutes early. Duration: 1 ½ hour. Pace: Relaxed and leisurely. Hike Meet-up Location: Parking at end of Everett Rd off County Road 9 - Colpoy's Bay.
5:00 PM	SACRED FIRE kindled at 5 PM outside Visitors' Centre - with firekeeper from Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON), Lloyd Ritchie
6:00 PM	REGISTRATION OPEN Wine and Cheese Social
7:00 PM	WELCOME Land Acknowledgement & prayer from SON Elder <u>FIRE: Opening address</u> Indigenous Stories of Fire – from the Sun to the Earth's Core. <u>Speaker: David Roote</u>, firekeeper and elder, Saugeen Ojibway Nation
7:30 PM	<u>FIRE & WATER: how they are related in Indigenous understanding</u> – <u>Speaker: Teresa Roote</u>, teacher and elder, Saugeen Ojibway Nation
8:00 PM	AROUND THE HEARTH – <u>Speaker Dr. Michael Chazan</u>, Director & Professor of Archaeology, The Archaeology Centre, University of Toronto - <i>Our human / cultural relationship with Fire – from Stone Age hearth to the impact of wildfire on our present and future human story</i> ... The cultural, social, economic history of Fire as centre of warmth, gathering place, sacred centre ... Our personal relationship with Fire. Fire in our future ... Climate change
6:26 PM	Sunset
9:00 PM	Closing Prayer from SON Elder ... Invitation to spend time at the fire on the way home

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Saturday October 25, 2025 – PARKS CANADA VISITOR CENTRE	
7:56 AM	Sunrise – come early and spend time at the fire if you wish
8:00 AM	Registration and Refreshments
8:30 AM	WELCOME Opening prayer from SON Elder Land Acknowledgement and Formal Welcome, The Forum Planning Committee Ethan Meleg, Acting Parks Canada Superintendent Mayor Milt McIver, MNBP
9:00 AM	FOREST LANDSCAPES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH FIRE IN BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK – <u>Speaker: Sean Liipere</u> , Resource Conservation Manager, Parks Canada
10:00 AM	WILDFIRES IN CANADA – <u>Speaker: Natasha Jurko</u> , Wildfire Danger Science Specialist, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Natural Resources Canada, Sault Ste Marie. This talk will explore the increasing scale and impact of wildfires in Canada. We'll examine how recent record-breaking fire seasons are affecting communities directly, while their effects—like smoke and economic disruption—are felt far beyond local borders.
10:50 AM	STRETCH AND REFRESHMENT BREAK
11:10 AM	FIRE PREVENTION / EDUCATION – Speakers: Joint Presentation with <u>Ethan Meleg (Parks Canada) & Jack Burt (MNBP Fire Chief)</u>
NOON	LUNCH
1:15 PM	FIGHTING FIRE / FIRE MANAGEMENT IN NORTHERN SAUGEEN PENINSULA – Speaker: <u>Jack Burt</u> , MNBP Fire Chief
2:05 PM	WILDLAND FIRE: MITIGATION & RESILIENCY – <u>Kennith Cox and Zach DeCock</u> , Provincial Fire Advisors, Ontario Southern Region, Aviation, Forest Fire & Emergency Services (AFFES)
2:55PM	STRETCH AND REFRESHMENT BREAK
3:15PM	WEIGHING THE COSTS ... TRUCKS, FIREFIGHTERS, PREVENTION, EDUCATION? – Allocating limited resources <u>Speaker: Rod Anderson, Deputy Mayor, MNBP</u>
3:30 PM	GROWING OLD GROWTH: RESTORING DISTURBANCE. Why human intervention is necessary to bring back old-growth forests to protected lands, through the reintroduction of ecological disturbances such as fire. <u>Speaker: Thomas Heinrich</u> – Naturalist, designer and student of ecology at the University of Sherbrooke, Quebec

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Saturday Evening Event – TOBERMORY COMMUNITY CENTRE	
5:30 PM	SOCIAL HOUR – cash bar
6:24 PM	Sunset
6:30 PM	BANQUET MEAL – locally catered by <u>Princess Hotel, Tobermory</u> @ Tobermory Community Centre SoK Bill Graham Award of Excellence GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION: CANADA’S WILDFIRE WATCH – <u>Speaker: Natasha Jurko</u> , Wildfire Danger Science Specialist, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Natural Resources Canada, Sault Ste Marie. A look at the systems used to predict and monitor fire danger - This talk will look back at close to 100 years of forest fire science at the Canadian Forest Service and the development of Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System, a System adapted internationally for fire danger prediction. We will then look into the future, at how the Danger Rating System is evolving and how new tools and technology will provide valuable information for wildfire mitigation, prediction and monitoring. Closing Prayer from SON Elder
Sunday October 26, 2024 – PARKS CANADA VISITOR CENTRE	
7:58 AM	Sunrise – time at the Fire if you wish
8:30 AM	Refreshments
9:00 AM	Opening Prayer from SON Elder SUMMING UP – Speakers in Dialogue ... Speakers reflect together on what we have heard during the forum with their own closing statements. They will then engage with one another in an open, moderated public dialogue. Moderator: <u>Chris Sumpton</u>
10:15 AM	STRETCH AND REFRESHMENT BREAK
10:30 AM	PANEL & QUESTIONS – SPEAKERS RESPOND TO PARTICIPANTS’ QUESTIONS To gather participants’ questions ... a question box will be kept in the foyer of the Visitors’ Centre throughout the weekend, with cards and pens for participants to submit directed questions to speakers throughout the weekend. Moderator: <u>Rob Klea</u>
11:45 AM	FORUM WRAP-UP – 2025 Forum Chair Closing Prayer from SON Elder ... Final visit to the fire and prayers there.