



Sources of Knowledge Newsletter

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

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2014 Forum – Beneath the Waves: Underwater Discovery in Fathom Five National Park

The Sources of Knowledge Board of Directors is busy working on the sixth annual Forum. This year's event is titled **Beneath the Waves** and will take place May 2-4 at the Tobermory Community Centre.

A Review of Past Forum Topics

2009 – Coastal Heritage

2010 – Wildlife and Community Values

2011 – Dark Skies, Bright Minds

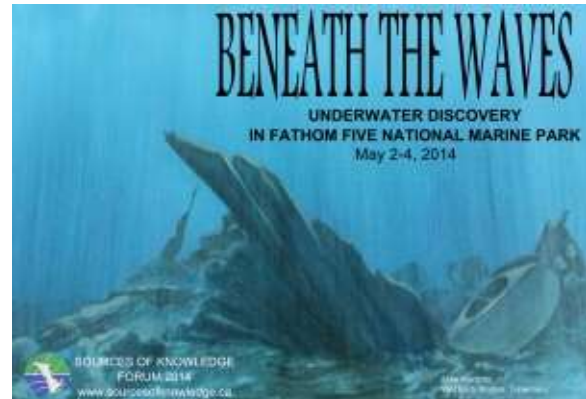
2012 – Climate Change

2013 – Challenges of a Changing Lake

The registration price of \$90.00 has been left unchanged from last year (with an early bird price of \$85.00 if registered by March 31st). This year, though, you will be able to pay by cheque, PayPal or by credit card.

As with last year, the registration fee includes dinner on Saturday evening. Dinner this year is catered by the Grandview, Tobermory. There will be a cash bar at this event. A “dinner only” option is available for \$35.00. A brown bag lunch is available for Saturday for \$8.00, with proceeds going to Bruce Peninsula District School cafeteria.

The image used for Forum 2014 was created by Michael Marcotte of Wet Rock Studios, Tobermory.



This Year's Field Trips

The appeal of last year's field trips has resulted in the scheduling of three trips for this year.

- On Friday afternoon there will be a demonstration of subsurface mapping and diving techniques from the dock – and weather permitting – from onboard ship. Members of the Canadian Navy's Experimental Diving and Underseas Group will join Scott Parker who will lead this field trip.
- Saturday afternoon, Holly Dunham will lead a group looking at the history of Fathom Five Park and the historical character of Tobermory that encouraged the establishment of the Park.
- Also on Saturday afternoon, there will be a hike to Burnt Point led by a Bruce Trail Conservancy member.

Some of This Year's Speakers

Here are some of the respected speakers that are part of the program:

Andrew Leyzack is an engineering project supervisor with the Canadian Hydrographic Service. He will be discussing his years of

collaborating with Parks Canada to conduct high resolution mapping of the Fathom Five area.

Lt(N) Troy Beechinor is currently posted with the Experimental Diving and Undersea Group of the Canadian Armed Forces. He will be reporting on advances in deep diving techniques.

Jim Rusak is a scientist with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment who is looking at aquatic ecosystems and remote sensing of lake processes. He will be reporting on monitoring work going on in the Lake Huron Basin.

Flora Davidson works in Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Section. She will be reviewing modern methods of surveying and preserving ship wrecks.

Marc-André Bernier is chief of Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Section and our keynote speaker. He will be reflecting on 50 years of marine archaeology carried out by the Section.

Scarlett Janusas is a resident of Bruce County and a professional archaeologist. She will be reporting on efforts in the area to preserve land and underwater artefacts.

Stuart Seldon is a highly skilled diver and photographer. He will share some of his experiences recording images from beneath the waves.

Stephen Scharper teaches anthropology at the University of Toronto. Each year he selects and leads discussions on interesting films related to the theme of the Forum.

Scott Parker is a resident of the Bruce Peninsula and an ecologist at Fathom Five National Marine Park. His presentation focuses on subsurface mapping techniques.



Scott Parker

Image from www.sourcesofknowledge.ca

Dr. George Harpur is the medical director for the Tobermory Hyperbaric Facility. He will reflect on the role of the hyperbaric facility for diving in our area.

Daryl Cowell is a geoscience consultant who lives on the Bruce. He will be advancing the establishment of a geopark on the Peninsula.

Jim Uhrinak lives and works in Wisconsin. He sees advantages in linking conservation efforts on both sides of the border through the Niagara Escarpment.

Eric Fowle is Executive Director of a planning commission in Wisconsin and a driving force behind the idea of the Great Arc. Eric will describe how the Niagara Escarpment creates a unifying theme for planning purposes.

Doug Elsey is a professional engineer and photographer and will discuss his involvement in the Sublimnos project.

The Sublimnos Project

In 1969, a team of volunteers led by Dr. Joe MacInnis set up the Sublimnos in 10 metres of water off Dunks Bay. The Sublimnos was a vertical cylinder 3 metres tall, with a diameter of 2.7 metres. It was designed as a shallow-water station for scientific work and could accommodate two divers for up to eight hours. Air was supplied by a compressor mounted on a 15-metre vessel.



Sublimnos

Source:

<http://stephenweirarticles.blogspot.com/2010/08/sublimnos-muse-for-james-cameron.html>

Built at a cost of only \$10,000, Sublimnos started life as a railroad tanker. It had an observation bubble on top and four acrylic ports on the sides. The interior was 9.9 cubic metres in size and offered drop-down tables and stools for divers. Divers entered through a hatch in the floor. A much bigger bottom pod provided ballast to the station and kept it from floating to the surface.

Originally Sublimnos was expected to be in service for only two years. During that time, over 2000 divers used the station. In 1975, Sublimnos was donated to Seneca College

and submerged in Lake Seneca to be used as diver training facility. In 1988 it was bought by a non-profit organization and sunk off Point Traverse in Prince Edward County where it was generally unused. It was retrieved in 2007 and sits in poor condition at a dive shop in that area.

The current state of Sublimnos is a sad comment on this research station. In its day, when it was beneath the waves of Dunks Bay, it was a marvel. It was the only fresh-water under-ice lab with an “open-hatch policy”. MacInnis invited any and all divers to use the facility, with support provided by volunteers. It played a key role in underwater research in the Great Lakes.

Bruce Talks

Sources of Knowledge is supporting Bruce Talks, a meeting of environmental leaders on the Peninsula. Bruce Talks takes place April 4th at the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre, Wiarton.