



Sources of Knowledge Newsletter

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

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Forum 2015 Will be “Great”

The “Great Arc” is the focus for the 2015 Forum. This label is used to identify the Niagara Escarpment as it scribes a half circle across Southern Ontario, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and past the Door Peninsula of Wisconsin. This geographic feature impacts the environment of these places, and the human use of the land.



The Forum planning team has been joined in the preparation of this event by Eric Fowle, the Executive Director of the Central Wisconsin Planning Commission. Eric has recruited presenters who can share insights into planning and conservation issues from the perspective of the Door Peninsula. These presenters will be matched with speakers

from the Bruce Peninsula, giving Forum attendees the chance to compare approaches to issues and challenges in both places.

Topics that will be considered during the Forum include: geologic history and changing landscapes, cliffs and caves, shoreline issues, protecting wildlife, tourism and economic development, First Nations Peoples and landscapes, and the potential for a cross-border GeoPark.



Source: Parks Canada

Field trips are always a highlight of the Forum. This year's field trip opportunities are a geologic exploration of Cabot Head, birding at Singing Sands, historic walking tour of Little Tub Harbour, hiking the Burnt Point Loop, exploring the St. Edmunds Township Museum, and a one-hour boat trip to view the escarpment from the water. Some of these trips have limited space, so you will need to register early to reserve your spot.

Forum Registration

All the program information that you need to register is posted on the SOK web site at <http://www.sourcesofknowledge.ca/the-great-arc-life-on-the-ledge/>. An early-bird fee of \$90.00 applies until April 1st. After that, the registration fee is \$99.00, which

includes dinner on Saturday evening. A dinner-only option is available for \$35.00. Registration is done online. Payment can be made by cheque, using your PayPal account, or by credit card using PayPal.

OAGEE Spring Conference



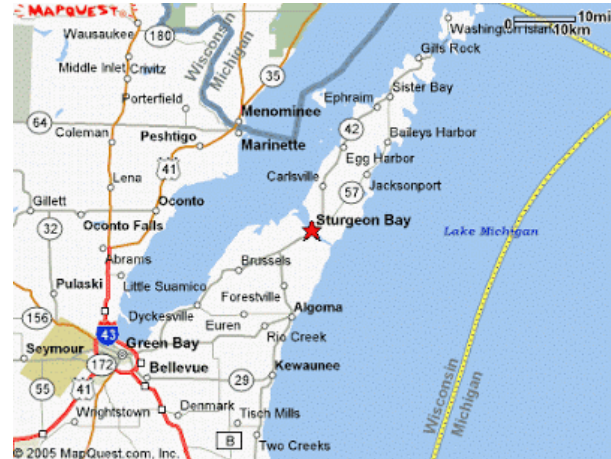
For this year's Forum, Sources of Knowledge is hosting the annual spring conference of the Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education. This subject association represents Geography teachers in the province. OAGEE members should register through the Sources of Knowledge website in the usual manner, but should tick the appropriate box to identify themselves as teachers.

Exploring the Door Peninsula

Situated on the other side of the Great Arc from the Bruce Peninsula, the Door Peninsula is in some ways the mirror image of the Bruce. Its similarities and differences make it an interesting topic for our Forum.

The Door Peninsula is located in the eastern part of Wisconsin and sticks out into Lake Michigan, creating Green Bay. It is 103 km long and 42 km wide at its base. The city of

Green Bay sits at the base of the peninsula. Sturgeon Bay is the Door's largest town.



The limestone layers that make up the Door Peninsula and the rest of the Niagara Escarpment were deposited in a shallow sea during the Silurian geologic period between 443 and 419 million years ago. These flat layers were later warped by geologic activity into a bowl or saucer shape. The cuesta that is the Niagara Escarpment was created when tougher dolomites resisted erosion while softer rock layers below were worn away.

On the Door Peninsula limestone cliffs are most prominent on the western side of the peninsula, rising to a maximum of 46 m at Peninsula State Park. Outcropping occurs on both shores. A string of island extends northward from the tip of the Door, marking a submerged part of the Niagara Escarpment similar to our own chain of islands.





Source: Door County Navigator

The shoreline of the Door is highly irregular with numerous bays. On the Green Bay side, these bays tend to have high headlands and bluffs and form good harbours for small boats. Picturesque towns line these bays. On the lake side, where the bedrock dips gently below the lake, the bays tend to be shallow and have sand beaches. Few large villages are located on this side of the peninsula.

As on the Bruce, the surface of the Door has been shaped by repeated glaciations. Generally deposits of glacial material on the surface are quite thin, although in some places a thick layer of glacial till covers the limestone bedrock. Wetlands in the form of swamps and marshes tend to occur in these deposits, especially along the shore of Lake Michigan. Other glacial features such as moraines and drumlins occur on the peninsula.



Source: The Nature Conservancy

The cliffs and bluffs (the “Ledge”) of the Door Peninsula have important ceremonial and sacred purposes for the First Nations of the area. Over 500 aboriginal sites have been identified along the length of the peninsula.

The scenic vistas and pretty towns have made the Door Peninsula an important tourist destination. However agriculture remains an important economic activity, especially in the flat, cultivated middle portion of the peninsula. The easily worked glacial tills, combined with distinctive microclimates, have encouraged specialty crops such as cherries and grapes.



Source: Inside the Huddle

Sources:

Deller and Stoelting, *Wisconsin's Door Peninsula and its Geomorphology*, <https://wisconsin geography.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/1986-volume-2-wisconsins-door-peninsula-and-its-geomorphology-by-howard-deller.pdf>

Joanne Kluessendorff, *A Look at The Ledge*, <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2010/10/ledge.htm>