

2024 Preliminary Agenda

FORESTS ONTARIO’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE



CONFERENCE DATE: February 28, 2024
LOCATION: Universal EventSpace, Vaughan, Ontario

Tuesday, February 27

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Evening Social

Come for an evening of networking and laughter with comedian Graham Chittenden! Drinks and food included.

Wednesday, February 28

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Conference Opening

- Speakers:**
- Jessica Kaknevicus | CEO | Forests Ontario
 - Elder Garry Sault | Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - The Power of Youth: Breaking Barriers and Carving New Pathways

Explore diverse youth perspectives across various stages of career development, including a high-school student with minimal sector background, a nearly graduated university student exploring career options with existing experience, and a seasoned professional who has achieved success in the forest and conservation sector. The youth on the panel will discuss the barriers to entering the workforce and what appeals to them about working in the sector.

- Speakers:**
- Catherine Langille (Moderator) | Indigenous Relations, Coordinator | Sustainable Forestry Initiative
 - Vanessa Nhan, RPF | Forest Resource Analyst | Silvacom
 - Gwekaanmad Pitawanakwat | Graduate, Indigenous Environmental Science & Studies | Trent University
 - Jasey Cheesaquay | OYEP Crewleader In Training | Outland

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Break

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - 2 Billion Trees: Seeds of Change (Concurrent)

Getting two billion trees into the ground is no easy feat. Explore the successes and challenges of the Government of Canada’s 2 Billion Trees program, the development of a new nursery association for tree growers, and hear results from Canada’s seed-capacity study aimed at understanding barriers and opportunities to achieving the program’s goals.

- Speakers:**
- Val Deziel (Moderator) | Director of Restoration Programs | Forests Ontario
 - Susy Domenicano | Executive Director, Natural Climate Solutions Division | Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada
 - Nairn Hay | Project Coordinator - Seed Supply Capacity Building Project | Forest Recovery Canada
 - Rob Keen, RPF | Executive Director | Canadian Tree Nursery Association

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Health & Forests (Concurrent)

From invasive species management and preventative measures that improve forest health to connecting communities with nearby nature to boost personal wellbeing, this session will explore management opportunities to care for our forests.

- Speakers:**
- Alexandra Farkas, RPF (Moderator) | Forest Analyst | Forsite Consultants Ltd
 - Madison Sturba | Program Development Coordinator | Invasive Species Centre
 - Dan Rowlinson | Forest Health Monitoring Provincial Program Lead | Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests
 - Dan Cooper | Director of Conservation Lands and Stewardship | Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch and Awards

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Calling All Landowners & Forest Managers! (Concurrent)

Learn about new opportunities for landowners as we look at urban and community forest certification and new guiding principles, available carbon initiatives to support improved forest management, and regenerative agriculture through holistic management practices.

- Speakers:**
- Glen Prevost, RPF (Moderator) | Program Manager | Ontario Woodlot Association
 - Meg Hanna | Director of Urban and Community Forestry for Canada | Sustainable Forestry Initiative
 - Meg Baskerville| Physical Science Officer | Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - Chris Kornacki | President | Hog Wild Farming

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - The Forest's History - Changing Forest Landscapes (Concurrent)

Explore the history of Ontario’s forests and their role in shaping our communities. How did we get here? Tales of hardship – and even a murder mystery – will aim to demonstrate the human impact on our landscape, and the importance of documenting these histories before they are lost.

- Speakers:**
- Dr. Amélie Roberge (Moderator) | Director General, Canadian Wood Fibre Centre | Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service
 - David L. Martell | Professor Emeritus | Institute of Forestry and Conservation, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto
 - Lacey Rose, RPF | County Forester | County of Renfrew
 - Ken Farr | Manager, Science Integration | Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada | Author of “The Forests of Canada”

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Break

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - SPOTLIGHT: A Cruel Summer

Join Jabee Wu, a Canadian firefighter working with Parks Canada , as she takes us through a photographic journey of this past summer and sheds light on the reality and implications of fire, sharing resourcing options and techniques to handle bad fire years.

- Speaker:**
- Jabee Wu | Fire Crew Leader | Parks Canada

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Fire and a Wildy Changing Climate

An important look into last year’s unprecedented forest fires and their impact on communities around the world. Hear about the historical role of fire suppression, reducing the incidence and intensity of fires, restoration in the aftermath, and economic implications of forest fires.

- Speakers:**
- Toby Heaps (Moderator) | CEO | Corporate Knights
 - Emily S. Hope | University of Toronto/Canadian Forest Service
 - Phil Green | CEO | First Resource Management Group Inc.
 - Joshua Mitchell | Technical Advisor & Operations Lead for Disaster and Emergency Management | Partnering 4 Resilience, ATCO Frontec

4:35 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. - Conference Closing

Content on agenda is subject to change